

Each piece of dialogue with a pause is given a break to ensure that audio isn't all fucked. To assist with the emotion of the voice, the context of the conversation is provided before each dialogue block. Brackets contain actions as well as portrait codes and in-game bubbles. Some are curly braces because I was doing something weird and I'm not sure if I want to go with it, but it's more or less the same thing. **Bolded text** is for new scenes and some background for context. **Green text** is my shitposting, but I've removed some of that because it's sometimes obtrusive. **Red Text** is dialogue that is or suspected to be incomplete and needs to be further investigated. This is due to stream lag. **Purple text** is dialogue that is spelled more slowly than the rest, but the streamer probably skipped many key points.

Note that Aubrey has an accent as a result of sex workers somehow. I don't quite understand it myself.

Below are what each bubble means.

<3 = Like

</3 = Swooning

C> = Sweat

<> = sparkle

mu = Music

* = Anger Ball

= Rage Vein

IQ = Idea

? = Question

... = ...

/// = blushing

! = surprise

angel = an angel I guess

[ugh]: Ugh, I guess. It's like all these blue lines of various lengths. They first appear at 32:08

[xp]: skull and bones

[sc]: Stellar collision

And here we go.

MONOLOGUE - ALTO(?) is speaking. The screen is black.

ALTO(?): It is said that ancient thinkers believed in a concept called Musica Universalis.

You have probably heard this term called the "music of the spheres".

According to this concept, everything in the universe moves according to a divine harmony and rhythm that human ears cannot perceive.

Nowadays humanity understands the workings of the universe in different scientific terms, but it's not difficult to understand why people thought that everything must follow the same principles as magic.

PROJECT QUINTET PRESENTS...

The world that we have been born into is bountiful.

Just thinking about everything that exists on our planet is enough to fill us with awe.

...But the thing humanity fails to understand about that "bounty" is that it isn't necessarily unlimited.

We have all these resources, but we struggle with using them in a way that will not deplete them utterly.

There are so many of us, but just as often as we come together and support each other, we hate and kill one another.

If those ancient philosophers were right and there is a music of the spheres--

Is there a way for the disharmony of humanity to not disrupt it?

And if we do disrupt it, what then?

CREATED BY FERAL PHOENIX

The balance of magic in our world is delicate.

That's why I--

UNCOMMON TIME

2:26 - DOCKS - ALTO and TEAGAN get off the ship. TEAGAN is looking at ALTO while ALTO is looking at the ITTY BITTY BOAT.

CAPTAIN: It's probably late in the game to keep worrying like this, but are you kids really all right with this?

We're the last supply ship that'll be running this far north all winter.

This port is going to freeze solid in a few more weeks, after all.

If you don't come back with us, you'll be stuck here until the bay thaws back out in the spring.

ALTO: [a1] Captain, you've been saying that over and over!

[a2] Don't worry, we'll be fine. We plan to stay over the winter, after all.

CAPTAIN: Now, it may be interfering of me to nag like this...

but you girls are just too lightly dressed to handle a winter this far north.

Even with those cloaks, you're going to need warmer clothes and better supplies.

TEAGAN: [a1] We're aware.

The plan is to buy some better supplies once we're in Solfège, before we head further inland.

ALTO: [a2] The mountain range keeps most of the cold air further north, anyway!

CAPTAIN: Hmm. And you're offering to carry our supplies to the Solfège inn even so...

ALTO: [A2] We're going there anyway, so we might as well carry them for you!

TEAGAN: [a2] You let us ride here without any fees. It's the least we can do in exchange.

CAPTAIN: Oh no, we should thank you for doing extra work as deckhands. And you've protected us from monsters all this way...

I admit that I was skeptical as to how much use we'd get out of two extra bodyguards. There aren't many pirates this far north.

But the monsters have been surprisingly violent this year. We might not have made it without your help.

I wonder if they're just reacting to the climate changes...

ALTO: [a1] It's probably something like that.

TEAGAN: [A2] Anyway, we'll be fine. Take care on the way back south.

ALTO: [A3] We'll see you again in spring!

CAPTAIN: If you girls are sure. Thank you for everything.

ALTO: [A2] Same here!

{CAPTAIN leaves and supplies are give}

TEAGAN: [B3] ...But really, I hope you appreciate what we're getting into.

[looks at TEAGAN]

ALTO: [a1] Hmm?

TEAGAN: [A3] We need warm clothes and supplies if we're going to last for this wild goose chase.

ALTO: [A4] We can buy those in town. Sure it's cold, but I can deal with it until then.

And this isn't a wild goose chase.

After seeing the change in how the monsters are behaving, and the way the weather's getting colder, I thought you

already believed me. This has all happened before. It's historical record.

TEAGAN: [A5] According to your family.

ALTO: [A4] [*] Who else would it be according to? It's my family that's been dealing with it all the time.

TEAGAN: [B3] *sigh*

[moves up to face TEAGAN]

ALTO: [A4] I know how you feel about my family. And I think your feelings are right, to a point.

But this is serious. I told you when I said I needed your help.

TEAGAN: [A4] [*] You only "need" me because I'm a violinist.

ALTO: [a1] No, I need you because you're the best violinist I know.

[A2] Y'know?

And besides, you're my friend. Who else would I have to count on?

TEAGAN: [A5] I'm here to babysit you precisely because you've got nobody else.

ALTO: [A3] [<3] No, you're here because you're my friend.

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] I give up.

ALTO: [A2] [mu] Ehehe.

TEAGAN: [a1] Anyway, we need to finish this errand and then get those supplies.

[B3] And then we've got to track down at least three more people who'll be willing to play along with your lunacy.

ALTO: [a1] I don't think that'll be too difficult.

Harmonia is a country that's famous for its musical traditions. And there'll be people here who still remember.

TEAGAN: [a1] But first we've got to actually get to Solfège.

ALTO: [a1] Yep. The forest of Preludes shouldn't be a difficult path.

TEAGAN: [A4] The problem is, now that we're leaving the ship, we've got no healer.

Our supplies are limited, so we've got to use them carefully.

We're in trouble if we run out before we get to town or suffer too many injuries.

ALTO: [A2] We'll be just fine!

ALTO: [A5] [C>] Probably.

SOLFEGE - The duo enters the town for the first time.

TEAGAN: [a1] We have to deliver those supplies first. The inn should be on the west side of town.

ALTO: [A6] [*] You don't have to remind me! I know.

SOLFEGE - INN - After entering the inn, they immediately engage the innkeeper (female) at the counter.

TEAGAN: [a1] Excuse us, but this package is for you.

{package GIVE!}

INNKEEPER (Female): Oh! Are you from the supply ship? Thank you! I was wondering what was taking them so long.

These are goods that we can't get except by importing. If we miss a shipment, it could cause trouble for all of Harmonia.

ALTO: [A2] It's a good thing we managed to bring it in time, then.

TEAGAN: [a1] Pardon me for the curiosity, but...

How do you work out payment with the couriers?

We're passengers who just brought the goods over since we have business further north,
and the ship left when we got off, so I wondered.

INNKEEPER (Female): I see. You girls pay attention to detail well, for errand runners.

You know that Harmonia's major exports are in lumber, musical instruments, and certain kinds of foods that grow best in the the northern climate, right?

We do seasonal trading in a predetermined schedule.

We import the things that other countries produce but we can't, and export the things that only we have.

TEAGAN: [A6] I see. That's a tidy system.

INNKEEPER (Female): Anyway, thank you.

Since you're planning on staying in Harmonia over the winter anyway, you should buy some warmer clothes!

ALTO: [a1] Ahaha...

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] We keep getting told that.

INNKEEPER (Female): Once you've come down with hypothermia or frostbite, it's too late.

{{C>} appear over TEAGAN and ALTO}

TEAGAN: ...Brr.

INNKEEPER (Female): Will that be all?

ALTO: [a1] [iq] Oh!

[A4] Actually, we're looking for strings players to join our quartet.

A violist and a violinist.

And if there are any good vocalists in this town...

INNKEEPER (Female): Haha, now that's a request right out of a fairy tale.

Unfortunately, there aren't many top-class performers here in Solfège. Although...

ALTO: [a1] Although?

INNKEEPER (Female): Come to think of it, I remember a traveler passing through here who played the viola.

{ALTO [!]}

He must not have had money, because he spent the whole day busking by the pond.

Even then, he decided to stay in the shelter instead of here. We don't charge that much, so he must have had some reason to watch his funds.

TEAGAN: [a1] [?] Shelter?

INNKEEPER (Female): Yes. You might have noticed the big building in the northeast corner of town.

It's a shelter for people who are too poor to stay at the inn or buy a house, or just don't have a currency we accept here.

We don't have banks or money changers in Solfège, after all.

And Harmonia is traditionally a neutral country, so oftentimes refugees pass through here.

In case someone loses their house in an accident, they might wind up staying there too.

It's funded by charity, so the accommodations aren't nearly as good as the inn, of course.

TEAGAN: [A6] I see.

ALTO: [A4] Never mind that, how long ago was this person in town?

INNKEEPER (Female): I've no idea. You should go to the shelter and ask the staff. If you're lucky, he might even still be here.

ALTO: [A2] Thanks!

TEAGAN: [A2] Thank you.

[faces TEAGAN]

ALTO: [a1] Teagan, let's go! We have to check out the shelter!

SOLFEGE - SHELTER - The duo enters shelter and talks with melanin-enriched man.

M.E.M.: How may I help you?

Oh, the funny boy with the viola? He left just this morning for the mountains.

I think he said he was going to Libretto.

ALTO: [a1] Libretto...

M.E.M.: It's a town that's famous for three things. Printing and binding books, the lumber trade, and the library.

The Libretto library is the biggest in the world.

Judging by that boy's stature, I'd expect he went there for the books, one way or another.

TEAGAN: [a1] I see...

M.E.M.: Honestly, if you have business with him, I'd be grateful if you went and caught him up.
You girls look like strong, healthy types who won't have trouble with monsters, but that boy...
I'm afraid for him trying to cross the Arpeggio Pass all by himself with the monsters getting more violent.

ALTO: [A2] We'll find him, don't you worry!

TEAGAN: [A2] Thank you for the information.

SOLFEGE - Immediately after they have left the shelter in search for this violist.

[mu]

ALTO: [a1] He said the Arpeggio Pass!

[A2] That's right north of here. If we hurry...

TEAGAN: [A3] Wait. You can't be hasty.

[a1] Especially if this is going to turn into a rescue mission, we need to make sure we have the right supplies and equipment.

[A3] Nothing we've done will have any meaning if we aren't able to take care of ourselves, let alone this person.

ALTO: [A5] [*] Hmm. I guess so.

[A4] Then let's make sure to stay at the inn and check the stores.

We can always come back to town if we have trouble with the monster on the mountain, too.

ARPEGGIO PASS - They encounter a Star of David on the ground, a rather foreboding sign.

TEAGAN: [a1] Hm? There's some kind of magic circle on the ground.

ALTO: [A3] Sometimes magicians set them up for adventurers like us to use. If you touch it, you'll be back to full health.

[A5] Only, they're actually pretty unlucky. If you see one, it's a sure sign that there's danger up ahead.

[A4] So we'd better save before going to the next area.

ARPEGGIO PASS - COCK FIGHT - They meet the violist for the first time fighting what is supposed to be a cockatrice, but is just a chicken sprite.

SAKI: [A3] [*] *huff* *huff*

Well, my goodness. You have no intention of letting me through here, do you?

[B3] *sigh* What a pain.

Traveling alone sure is inconvenient when you're a magic-user...

[ALTO realizes that this is the crossdressing violist they've heard so much about and a little bubble with an exclamation mark appears above her head]

ALTO: [a1] Oh!! Could that be the violist they were talking about?

[!]

TEAGAN: [A3] That thing he's trying to fight is a cockatrice!

ALTO: [A7] Seriously?! There are monsters that dangerous running around on this mountain?!

TEAGAN: [A3] Look at the scorch marks. If he's been fighting that hard and still can't get through...

ALTO: [A4] Then we've got to help!

{TEAGAN and ALTO rush to help Saki beat that cock}

[!]

SAKI: [A7] Oh? Who would you ladies be?

ALTO: [A2] Just some adventuring musicians.

TEAGAN: [A3] Pardon us if we got the wrong man, but the staff of the Solfège shelter asked us to help you out when we found you.

[C>]

SAKI: [A5] Ahaha... I knew I should have listened to him.

It's just that I think my business in Libretto can't wait.

TEAGAN: [A3] It's going to be all right.

Just leave this to us and rest.

You must be tired after fighting that hard, right?

[<3]

SAKI: [A2] My, how chivalrous! But that's all right.

[A5] In fact, I think you'd have as much trouble as I did.

ALTO: [a1] Huh?

SAKI: [A3] This monster has resistance to physical attacks.

I'm not strong enough to endure its attacks by myself, so I couldn't defeat it...

but if we can fight together, I think this may just work.

I know it's a little much to ask you to entrust your backs to a complete stranger, but...

ALTO: [A2] [mu] Oh, don't worry about that!

[A3] We were going to ask you to join our quartet anyway, so we won't be strangers for long.

{SAKI [?]}

[C>]

TEAGAN: [B3] Uh. Don't mind my friend, she's got a bad habit of getting ahead of herself.

[a1] Let's just take care of this monster first.

55:45 - Through the power of friendship, they beat that cock.

[...]

SAKI: [A3] (That technique...)

[mu]

TEAGAN: [A2] And that takes care of that.

[C>]

ALTO: [A4] ...Uwahh, that was pretty tough.

[walks up and faces TEAGAN and ALTO]

SAKI: [A2] [<3] Oh, thank you! Now I can make it to Libretto safely.

[A5] I apologize for not introducing myself before.

[a1] My name is Totoki Saki.

"Totoki" is with two wisterias and a tree, and "Saki" is written as "blooming season".

ALTO: [A2] What a pretty name.

SAKI: [A2] [<3] Why, thank you.

I'm a fortune teller.

[a1] May I ask for your names?

TEAGAN: [A2] I'm Teagan Almace.

ALTO: [A3] And I'm Alto Cantabile.

[!]

SAKI: [A7] "Cantabile"...!

[?]

ALTO: [a1] Hm?

[...]

SAKI: [A3] ...That technique you used in the battle earlier was "Bowing", wasn't it?

ALTO: [A2] [!] Oh! I'm surprised you could tell. No one outside of my relatives has ever known about it.

SAKI: [A3] [...] I knew it...

[A6] Then...

I had meant to keep this to myself for a while longer, but if you're a Cantabile...

and if you mean to gather a string quartet... then maybe I should explain...

[...]

ALTO: [A4] ...Say.

How come you're in such a hurry to get to Libretto anyway?

SAKI: [A4] I came to Harmonia more or less on a whim.

Sometimes I read my own fortune to keep in practice when I can't find work, you see?

[a1] And so I decided to rely on my reading and go to Harmonia,

since this place is said to be the home of musical theory as the world knows it.

A little like a pilgrimage

[small text] [A5] And since this country often helps refugees, I could at least stay in shelters if my luck with work stayed like this.

ALTO: [A5] Ahaha...

TEAGAN: [B3] That's pragmatic of you.

[*]

SAKI: [B3] If I hadn't learned pessimism at you girls' age, I would have starved to death by now.

[a3] But anyway, I found a certain document while I was staying in Solfege.

I was shocked.

[A6] I had heard tell of this, but the thought that it was true was so scary that I didn't know what to do with myself.

[A3] So I decided that I had to get to Libretto and verify it.

That maybe if I could find confirmation in the Great Library,
I would be able to find something to tell me what to do next...

ALTO: [A4] [...] ...What did you find?

SAKI: [A3] It would probably be easier to show you.

[A6] I don't think I need to tell you this, but... please handle it carefully. It's very, very old.

{Grand Score 1 GET! TEAGAN and ALTO [!]}

TEAGAN: [A3] No way...

ALTO: [A4] This is...!!!

SAKI: [A3] If my research hasn't deceived me, this is part of the Grand Score.

There ought to be four others like it, hidden all over Harmonia.

[...]

[A3] What do you think, Miss Cantabile?

ALTO: [A4] There's no mistake. This is the real thing.

[...]

[A4] This is - these are the "the other reason" [3 sec] that Teagan and I are here.

Something here I think

[...]

TEAGAN: [A3] No way. This is really ture?

[C>, *]

ALTO: [A5] ...So in the end you still didn't believe me.

TEAGAN: [A3] Alto, you're my best friend, but... your family is fucking insane.

Everyone back home was too afraid of their wealth and influence and history to say it, that's all.

You can't call the people who raised you "like that" [1.5 sec] based on some fairy tale justification sane.

{SAKI {?}}

ALTO: [A3] I know. I know, but - see, now you know.

[A4] It's not a fairy tale.

It's just that over time people forget that it's a real thing.

Admitting it's reality is too frightening for most people.

[A2] [...] And - as much as I hate it that you never believed me... I guess I just appreciated that you were so angry for my sake. My heart was never in proving you wrong.

{TEAGAN [...]}

SAKI: [A3] So...

ALTO: [A4] Yeah. I'm here to do the World Tuning.

That's why Teagan and I are here.

That's why we came running after you when we heard you played the viola.

SAKI: [A3] ...It seems that we have a lot to discuss. But...

ALTO: [A3] Oh, yeah. I don't think we ought to stand around talking about it either.

[C>]

[A7] Like, I really don't want to be around if another cockatrice shows up.

SAKI: [A2] Ehehe. Oh, you're a good girl. I think we three will get on just fine.

ALTO: [A2] Then let's get down from the mountain first off. We can stay at the inn in Libretto and decide what to do then.

SAKI: [a1] That sound slike a good idea to me. ...Oh?

ALTO: [a1] It's snowing...

[C>]

SAKI: [B3] Oh no! My veil is going to get wet. I don't have any clean spares!

ALTO: [A4] It's going to get colder fast... We should hurry.

{ALTO and SAKI walk up. TEAGAN [...], ALTO and SAKI [?]}

[a1] Come on, Teagan.

TEAGAN: [a1] Huh? ...Oh, yeah, okay.

{Saki joins and screen fades to black}

TEAGAN: [A4] ...You've got to be kidding me.

MOVEMENT 1: ALLEGRO CON BRIO

ARPEGGIO PASS - RED SUUUUUUN, RED SUN OVER PARADISE

ALTO: [A4] Whoa, it's really cold...

SAKI: [B3] Nooo, the storm's getting even worse!

TEAGAN: [A3] We need to hurry to Libretto.

LIBRETTO - The newly formed trio enter Libretto for the first time.

TEAGAN: [B3] Uwah, it's really coming down.

ALTO: [a1] Let's go to the inn and wait this out.

LIBRETTO - INN BEDROOM - The trio are in a room together with two beds ;^) and ALTO approaches the table.

TEAGAN: [A2] That's us out of the weather, at least.

SAKI: [A5] I'm sorry.

[?]

ALTO: [a1] What for?

[C>, looks to the left]

SAKI: [A5] I just hope it isn't too awkward to have to share a room with me.

[<3]

ALTO: [A2] Aw, you don't have to worry!

=====CUNT ZONE=====

[A2] [mu] We don't have to be afraid or anything when it's obvious Teagan and I could beat you up easy if you tried anything.

=====CUNT ZONE=====

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] ...Ouch.

SAKI: [A2] [mu] Ahaha.

As it happens, I'm 95% not interested in women that way.

[A5] I just meant that we've only spent a little time together, and yet now we have to sleep in the same suite.

ALTO: [A2] That's not a problem either!

[A3] Since we're going to have you join our quartet, we'll be traveling together anyway.

[A2] [mu] So it's really a good thing that we'll be able to get to know each other fast!

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] (She's already assuming he'll join...)

SAKI: [a1] ...When you mean that you want me to join your quartet, you mean for the purposes of the World Tuning, yes?

ALTO: [a1] Yeah. I play the cello and Teagan plays the violin, so we need another violin player and a vocalist still.

[A3] [?] It sounds like you already know about the World Tuning, so that saves some explanation.

SAKI: [A6] [...] Yes. I had always believed it to be a legend, until now.

[faces SAKI]

TEAGAN: [B3] That kinda can't be helped.

[a1] Alto's -- well, she's got her issues too, so even I thought that all this was just some blind belief in what she's been told

until I saw that sheet music.

ALTO: [A5] It's hard to describe the feeling of that being what's convinced you.

[faces ALTO]

TEAGAN: [A5] [C>] ...Leaving my feelings about your family aside for now.

{SAKI faces TEAGAN}

[A4] I don't know what else could make me feel the way that I did when I looked at the Grand Score.

ALTO: [a1] [?] Hm?

TEAGAN: [A4] I can tell. I can tell just by looking at the sheet music that this is an amazing piece of music.

[...] Even only looking at the first violin score, not knowing anything about the other parts, I want to play it.

I've never felt that way about any piece before. Either I'll have to sightread it once or listen to someone else play it.

SAKI: [A4] ...I see.

[A5] [...] Still -- are you really all right with inviting the first violist you've met along with you?

[?]

ALTO: [a1] Why? It's not like you're bad or anything, right?

{TEAGAN looks at SAKI, probably can't look at ALTO anymore for saying something so profoundly misguided}

SAKI: [A5] [...] Mmm. I would like to say that I have some measure of confidence in my playing ability.

[a1] [?] But that isn't any guarantee for you, is it?

TEAGAN: [A5] He still has a point.

[faces ALTO]

[A3] Look, Alto, you brought me into this because I am arguable the best violinist in our hometown.

Don't you think you ought to give Saki some sort of admission test?

ALTO: [A5] Maybe you're right.

[*] Hmmm...

=====RETARD ZONE=====

[A2] [IQ] Then!

Saki, why did you start playing the viola?

=====RETARD ZONE=====

TEAGAN: [A5] [C>] ...You're not going to make him play?

ALTO: [A3] Mm, I think this is even more important.

{TEAGAN []}*

SAKI: [A7] [?] Why, I think that the story of my involvement with music is an awfully ordinary one.

{TEAGAN looks at SAKI}

[a1] My magic manifested very suddenly when I was a boy, you see?

Probably because the initial manifestation was a shock, I had a great deal of trouble learning to control my power.

[A4] So the magic teacher in my birthplace brought me to the local music teacher,
and had me learn an instrument so that I could learn to regulate it.

[a1] I believe that this is a common method all over the world...

[..., C>]

ALTO: [a1] [?] ...Is it common?

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] I think this is the part where I'm supposed to say that I don't do magic so there's no point asking me.

{SAKI faces TEAGAN}

[A4] But he's right, it's common.

[a1] When I was learning to play, something like half the class was mage kids who were only there to pick up the basics.

A lot of them quit once they figured out how their magic worked.

ALTO: [a1] Oh.

[A3] But Saki, that's not what I was asking.

{SAKI [?] faces ALTO}

[A3] Why the viola?

[!, ...]

SAKI: [A4] ...Because.

{TEAGAN faces SAKI}

[A4] As soon as I held one in my hands, as soon as the teachers told me to try to play, I fell in love.

It was the most wondrous sound I had ever heard.

[A2] Even the music teacher praised me, asking if it was really the first time I had held an instrument.

[a1] To tell the truth, I think that the adults around me expected me to quit, just as Miss Teagan said.

[A2] But I enjoyed it too much to stop.

To be quite honest, it has helped me out a lot.

[A5] Fortune telling, magic, and music are about the only things I'm good for.

ALTO: [A3] Mm. Good! That's a good answer!

=====RETARD ZONE=====

You pass.

[A2] [<3] Welcome to our quartet!

=====RETARD ZONE=====

[faces ALTO]

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] That's good enough?

[A3] [*] And Saki hasn't even said anything about wanting to join!

ALTO: [A3] Well, no matter how good a player you are, I think it's probably no good unless your hear is in

it.

TEAGAN: [A5] [C>] That's pushing it.

SAKI: [A7] [!] My...

{TEAGAN faces SAKI}

[A5] Well, in the context of this being the World Tuning, I can't help but feel a little nervous.

I'm sure that there are many viola players more skilled than me, even in Harmonia alone.

Are you sure that one of them wouldn't be a better choice?

{TEAGAN hopelessly looks upon ALTO, enemy of common sense}

ALTO: [a1] But Saki, I've never met any of the other violists in Harmonia.

[A3] I only know you.

[A2] And you love music!

That makes you the best option.

TEAGAN: [A5] [*] ...That logic is full of so many holes I don't know where to start...

SAKI: [A4] [...] Then...

[A2] I will do my best to not be a burden for either of you.

[<3] It would be a shame to waste this opportunity to me when you're offering it so kindly.

TEAGAN: [A3] [C>] He doesn't care that it's illogical!

ALTO: [A2] [mu] Great! Welcome to the quartet, Saki!

[screen shake]

TEAGAN: [A5] [#] And now they're both ignoring me!!

ALTO: [a1] [?] ?? By the way, Teagan, who are you complaining to?

[...]

[?] Is Saki no good?

TEAGAN: [A5] [C>] I'm not going to say that he completely sucks, but...

ALTO: [A2] [mu] Then there's no problem!

{SAKI looks at TEAGAN}

TEAGAN: [A3] [*] Hey...

{faces ALTO}

SAKI: [A2] [mu] Ehehe. Long-lasting friendships must be wonderful.

[large text, screen shake, faces SAKI]

TEAGAN: [A3] [#] Exactly what part of them?

[, faces ALTO]*

SAKI: [A2] [mu] Then -- I believe that we should go to the library if the snow has stopped in the morning.

[a1] We might be able to learn more about the situation, or even clues as to where the rest of the sheet music is hidden.

ALTO: [a1] Good idea.

TEAGAN: [B3] [*] Sigh.

Teagan is literally saying "Sigh" I think. Normally, FP puts asteriks around things for actions, e.g. *giggle*

{SAKI looks at TEAGAN}

[A5] Then, as long as you two are getting fired up, will you let me see the Grand Score?

ALTO: [a1] [?] Sure, why?

TEAGAN: [a1] I don't want to make too much noise since we're here, but...

if it's pizzicato, maybe I can practice it a little.

ALTO: [A2] You just want to play it as soon as possible, right?

[C>]

TEAGAN: [B3] [*] I know how this sounds, but once you get the right sheet music, you'll understand.

ALTO: [A3] Okay. There's no rule I know of that says we can't practice before we do the actual World Tuning.

[faces ALTO]

SAKI: [A5] [C>] One would only hope...

I don't know how anyone could expect a decent performance without at least some rehearsal before the face.

TEAGAN: [A2] Right? We can't all be geniuses, here.

{TEAGAN magically shuffles diagonally on the floor and goes to her corner to unload while ALTO [mu] and SAKI [mu] get frisky}

LIBRETTO - INN HALLWAY - TEAGAN and ALTO are out in the hallway for more WORDSWORDSWORDS, TEAGAN faces ALTO.

[...]

TEAGAN: [a1] ...Alto.

[faces TEAGAN]

ALTO: [a1] [?] Hm?

TEAGAN: [A4] [...] How are you hands doing?

I mean, with the temperature.

ALTO: [A3] [...] I'm fine.

[looks down]

[A3] And I know what to keep an eye out for.

[faces TEAGAN]

[A2] Thanks for always worrying, though.

[turns away]

TEAGAN: [A4] ...I see.

[opens the door]

SAKI: [A7] Oh!

[closes that shit up and approaches]

[A2] Good morning, you two.

[a1] You're both up earlier than I expected.

[A5] As the adult here, I feel a little ashamed that I can't set a good example.

[faces SAKI]

TEAGAN: [A2] That's okay. We don't have any weird expectations or anything.

SAKI: [A2] [mu] Ahaha. That's a relief.

TEAGAN: [a1] We're going to the library today, right?

{ALTO faces TEAGAN}

[a1] That'll take a while, so we should at least get our shopping done first in case we find something and get caught up.

SAKI: [A4] Mm. Yes, that will be a good idea.

{ALTO faces SAKI}

[A2] [<3] Because we aren't leaving the library until we have results!

ALTO: [A7] [C>] Ehhh...

SAKI: [A2] [mu] Grownup's orders!

{ALTO [C>]}

TEAGAN: [A5] [C>] (This guy's saying something outrageous...)

[faces TEAGAN]

ALTO: [A5] (Um... also, we ARE all legal adults here...)

LIBRETTO - The trio are just about to enter the library before they are interrupted by SAKI.

SAKI: Are you two sure you have everything done?

LIBRETTO - LIBRARY 2ND FLOOR - They find a bookshelf that is slightly different from the others and go to pick up a book.

ALTO: [A2] [!] Oh! This is a book about the history of the World Tuning. Maybe there'll be something in here.

[faces ALTO]

TEAGAN: [a1] [?] ...What's this doing here? Isn't the nonfiction section supposed to be downstairs?

ALTO: [a1] Who knows.

[A5] [?] ...Huh? It won't come off the shelf.

{SAKI looks at ALTO}

SAKI: [A7] Really? Let me see it -- wah!

{The trio are all [!] when they discover a secret tunnel entrance, failing to note that it being directly above

the middle of the first floors defies Euclidean geometry}

TEAGAN: [A3] ...The bookshelf was fake...

SAKI: [A7] It's a hidden passage.

ALTO: [A3] ...No wonder the staircaase had an extra landing.

SAKI: [A3] We should investigate it.

It can't be a coincidence that the fake bookshelf handle was about the World Tuning.

LIBRETTO - LIBRARY DUNGEON - They enter to find a dungeon is awaiting them.

ALTO: [A7] [!] Whoa! This place is huge!

SAKI: [A3] ...We're most likely underground.

Yes, that's tends to be where things are when they're not on the surface.

TEAGAN: [a1] Yeah, we're underground. I can tell.

SAKI: [a1] ?

ALTO: [A3] It's just a little, but Teagan has a sense for earth magic.

SAKI: [a1] Ah, no wonder.

ALTO: [A4] But I thin you're right, Saki.

This place is so obviously suspicious that there must be something hidden here.

We should check it out.

**LIBRETTO - LIBRARY DUNGEON - BOSS ROOM - The trio enter and are shocked by a beam of light.
BRAVURA, the fire fairy, emerges.**

ALTO: [A7] Wah!

BRAVURA: ...

SAKI: [A7] A fire spirit...?

BRAVURA: [...] Thou art of the old blood.

ALTO: [A4] [!, ...] Yes.

BRAVURA: Hast thou come in order to avert thy impending doom?

ALTO: [A4] ...Yes.

BRAVURA: Know that thou dost struggle against the laws of nature itself.

For there is no undoing what humanity has wrought so easily.

So, I shall test thee.

If thou shouldst pass, I shall clear the way for thee, and thou shalt recover what thou seek.

If thou dost fail...

TEAGAN: [A3] [...] If she fails, then what?

BRAVURA: The text is one of combat.

It is natural to die if thou shouldst fall in battle, no?

{TEAGAN and SAKI are [!]}

ALTO: [A3] [...] It's okay.

We're not going to lose.

BRAVURA: [mu] A fine resolve.

Same place but BRAVURA got fucked.

BRAVURA: Hmm.

Thy blade is sharp and thy aim is true.

May thy heart waver as little.

{TEAGAN [...]}

BRAVURA: Go, with our blessing.

[mu] Work to complete thy mission, and know that the friendship of the spirits is with thee.

{BRAVURA disappears in a beam of light, trio [!]}

SAKI: [A7] That's pretty amazing.

I never thought that I would get to see a real spirit, since they're usually so shy of humans.

ALTO: [A3] I read before that sometimes they appear to us when we're on the way to perform the World Tuning.

[A2] [mu] Seeing one's made me kinda happy.

And it's nice to hear that the spirits support what we're doing.

{TEAGAN [...]}

SAKI: Let's keep moving.

What they said means that there must be another part of the Grand Score up ahead.

LIBRETTO - LIBRARY DUNGEON - GRAND SCORE ROOM - They get Grand Score 2.

TEAGAN: [a1] It's the sheet music for the second violin.

ALTO: [A5] ...We still need one of those.

SAKI: [A5] Yes. In the end, there aren't any outstanding performers in Libretto, either...

ALTO: [A2] But this way we'll be ready when we find one! We can try again in the next town.

SAKI: [a1] Yes. Thankfully, Dal Segno is close enough that we won't have to cross any more mountains to find it.

ALTO: [A3] Ahh, I was hoping we'd get to go to Dal Segno soon!

[A2] I can't wait to see all the instrument shops.

TEAGAN: [A5] We're not going there to play, you know.

ALTO: [A4] Teagan, you're no fun.

LIBRETTO - LIBRARY 2ND FLOOR - They exit the dungeon.

SAKI: [B3] I'm exhausted.

TEAGAN: [B3] Yeah. We ought to stay at the inn again before we leave.

[a1] It's late, anyway.

LIBRETTO - INN LOBBY - They approach the INNKEEPER (female) and talk to her.

INNKEEPER: Hello!

It's 50 Sil to stay one night

Will you be staying with us tonight?

{Yes}

INNKEEPER: Have a good stay!

LIBRETTO - INN ROOM - They be chillin'.

ALTO: [a1] So Saki, there weren't any spirits or anything when you found the first part of the Grand Score?

SAKI: [a1] No. First of all, the first violin part wasn't hidden nearly as elaborately.

ALTO: [A3] Hmm.

{SAKI look from ALTO, TEAGAN [...]}

SAKI: [a1] [...] Teagan, you've been quiet.

TEAGAN: [B3] [...] ...No, it's just -- it's been one thing after another.

[C>] I never thought elemental spirits actually existed, for one.

ALTO: [A2] We might see more, if there are others standing guard over the rest of the Grand Score.

SAKI: [A2] Not just that.

I have read that since Harmonia is still relatively removed from some of the industrialization in the south, there are actually still spirit villages here.

[A5] Though, their settlements are usually guarded against human entry,

so we likely wouldn't be able to even see them in the first place.

ALTO: [A3] Mmm.

[a1] Well, Harmonia is where the World Tuning takes place anyway,
so of course they don't really rely on the same kinds of technology as the rest of the world.

TEAGAN: [a1] [...] ...Hm.

SAKI: [A7] [?] What is it?

TEAGAN: [a1] I've been looking over this new sheet music.
This second violin part's almost as technically complicated as mine.

ALTO: [A3] That's only to be expected.

The World Tuning shares its melody between all the different parts.

[mu] This isn't like those pieces where the first violins get to hog the only parts that're interesting.

SAKI: [A2] [!, <3] My! Whoever composed this piece must have been a decent person.

TEAGAN: [A3] [*] ...You can't decide that based on something so simple!

ALTO + SAKI: A violin player wouldn't understand

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] Whoa, stereo.

ALTO: [a1] But it's probably like that because of practicality.

It's not like every Cantabile has played the same instrument, after all.

[faces ALTO]

SAKI: [A6] [...] ...Alto, there's one thing that I don't understand.

ALTO: [a1] [?] Hm?

SAKI: [A6] All of the records said that only the Cantabile bloodline can carry out the World Tuning.

The fire spirit's challenge was directed at you, too.

[?] Is there any specific reason why?

ALTO: [A3] [...] ...Mm.

[A4] We're the only ones that can use "Bowing", after all.

And it's "Bowing" that makes the World Tuning work. You'll see when we get there.

{SAKI [?]}

ALTO: [A4] And "Bowing is half technique, half inherited power.

Only the Cantabile family knows how to train someone to use "Bowi

Plus, even though even we don't know why anymore,

the Cantabile family has a special affinity with non-polarized magic.

SAKI: [A7] [!] But -- isn't non-polarized magic the most difficult kind to control?

[looks away]

ALTO: [A4] [...] Yeah. The physical and mental strain can be really intenes.

[faces SAKI]

ALTO: [A4] And we aren't even true mages, like you.

"Bowing" is the only way we can use any kind of magical power, which in combat means applying elements to our attacks.

It's all for the sake of the World Tuning.

We're the only ones with the capability to lead the ritual,
so over the course of history our family has poured everything into this.

{TEAGAN [...], SAKI looks away from ALTO}

SAKI: [A7] [?] Teagan?

You've been making a pretty scary face for a while now...

TEAGAN: [A4] [...] ...Sorry.

I'm gonna go get some fresh air.

{TEAGAN leaves the room, SAKI looks at ALTO}

SAKI: [A6] [...] Should I not have brought this up?

ALTO: [A3] You haven't done anything wrong, Saki.

[looks away]

[A3] Mm, back in my hometown -- the Cantabile family is rich and powerful,
but everyone else thinks we're old-fashioned and weird.

[walks away from SAKI]

[A3] You can probably tell by the way Teagan's been talking, but she always thought so too.

[faces SAKI]

ALTO: [A5] Learning that all this isn't just in our heads was probably a big shock for her.

SAKI: [A6] [... x3] Some of the things she's said... honestly, I'm a little worried.

ALTO: [A4] Hmm.

[turns away]

[A8] To be blunt, I don't really want to talk about it.

{walks away even further, SAKI [...]}

[A2] It's okay.

[faces SAKI]

[A2] I'm okay, so you don't have to worry about it.

[A3] [...] Right now we just have to give Teagan some time to settle down.

SAKI: [A6] [...] If that's what you two say is best, then I won't pry for now.

ALTO: [A3] I appreciate that.

SAKI: [A4] Anyway, I guess I'm going to go ahead and sleep.

2:21:04 - At this point there is a transition, but the stream was too laggy so I am unable to confirm if anything else before the cut

TEAGAN: [A4] ...Damn it.

LIBRETTO - The trio has left the inn.

ALTO: [A2] It's morning, so let's hurry and go to Dal Degno already!

[a1] It's the town to the west of here.

2:21:43 - The stream continues to lag, so I'm not sure if anything was missed after Alto's last statement

DAL SEGNO - They enter for the first time.

ALTO: [A2] Dal Segno... we're finally here!

Ahh, I wanna go to the luthier's right away!!

TEAGAN: [A3] Wait.

SAKI: [A2] We have to go to the instrument maker's hall and give it a proper homecoming.

TEAGAN: [A5] I have a feeling I've asked this before and got no answer, but...

Why am I the only one that's actually taking this seriously?

SAKI: [A5] Teagan, calm down.

[a1] We are taking the matter at hand seriously.

[A2] But that doesn't mean that there's no reason to enjoy ourselves.

[A4] As string players, this country is a special place for us.

TEAGAN: [A5] The only reason Harmonia's got this focus on music in the first place is because this is the site for the World Tuning.

I don't know if there's anything else after this because of lag

DAL SEGNO - INN LOBBY - They enter to see a violinist giving an impromptu performance.

ALTO: [a1] Oh?

SAKI: [A7] That girl in the front is pret

TEAGAN: [A5] [?] ...Wait.

Wait, wait.

Something seems off.

She shouldn't actually need to get her hand up into fifth position on her A string for a piece like that.

Is she just showing off?

SAKI: [A2] Whatever the case, it takes flexible hands and a high skill level to be able to play like that.

ALTO: [A5] [?] I guess I just don't have proper context,

because my hand positions have a lot more space in between and they're pretty hard on the arm.

SAKI: [A5] Well, no matter whether you're playing a small instrument like ours or a big one like yours,

A violin or viola's higher positi

ALTO: [A5] Hmm. I guess so.

I think something is missing from here

ALTO: [a1] What's wrong, Teagan?

TEAGAN: [A3] This idiot's playing with no E string at all.

[B3] She can't have been trained classically

[faces TEAGAN]

SAKI: [A5] [C>] Teagan, that's saying a little much.

TEAGAN: [A5] I'm trying to think of this in terms of our unity as a quartet.

[A3] If we don't have a unified sound and can't work together, we'll fall apart during the performance.

ALTO: [A5] [?] Really?

TEAGAN: [A5] What did they even teach you if you don't know that much?

ALTO: [a1] [?] But, Teagan. The music for the World Tuning isn't a strictly classical style.

[A5] [?] And I don't think that classical style is all there is to playing an instrument, is there?

TEAGAN: [B3] [*] ...I give up.

ALTO: [A7] [?] What? Did I s

[faces ALTO]

SAKI: [A2] Not at all.

[a1] I think that what both of you say has merit.

[A4] The style in which we play is very different based on the genre of the song.

And learning the historically respected classical and baroque style means that we obtain important technical knowledge.

[A2] But modern techniques and styles are interesting and worthy of respect too.

[a1] A member of the new guard, so to speak, can bring us new perspective.

TEAGAN: [A5] The problem is whether or not we can play cohesively when the time comes.

SAKI: [a1] Exactly.

At any rate, Alto knows the best what will be required, so this is Alto's choice.

[A2] I think that it's worth trying.

[A5] And besides, we haven't even spoken to her yet.

There's no way of telling if she'll even be interested.

[looks away and makes the worst decisions so far]

ALTO: [A3] [...] I think we should go talk to her.

[A2] Because -- she looks like she's having so much fun.

SAKI: [a1] Then, let's wait until they're done performing.

They engage with the violinist, MEIRIN.

MEIRIN: [A2] [mu] Thanks! It was nice playing with you.

ALTO: [A2] Hey! We were listening to you play. You're pretty good.

MEIRIN: [A2] Hehe, thanks!

ALTO: [a1] So, there was something I wanted to ask.

MEIRIN: [a1] [?] Oh? Are you hitting on me?

ALTO: [A2] Haha, what the heck? Of course not.

MEIRIN: [A5] [mu] Just kidding, So, what do you need?

ALTO: [A4] My friends and I are making a string quartet.

We're aiming for an important performance, but we still need a second violin. Would you be interested?

MEIRIN: [B3] Ohh! So are you all going to Polyphony for the Star Festival too?

ALTO: [A5] Mmm. We'll be going to Polyphony, but our actual destination is Bel Canto.

{MEIRIN [?]}

ALTO: [a1] [C>] This might be kind of a bad place to talk about it.

MEIRIN: [B4] [...] Just one thing.

If I went with you, would it mean I'd miss the Star Festival?

ALTO: [A3] I don't think so.

MEIRIN: [A2] [mu] Then, sure, tell me more about it.

[a1] But I've gotta go down to the instrument makers' hall to get my violin restrung.

I've just been killing time here until they open.

[A6] We can talk while they're working on it, so come with me if you want.

ALTO: [A2] [!, <3] Yesss!!!

I've been wanting to go take a look at the hall, let's go!

MEIRIN: [B3] [mu] Yeah!! If you're a strings player, why else go to Dal Segno, right?

TEAGAN: [B3] [*] ...Fuck my life.

SAKI: [A5] Ahahaha.

ALTO: [A3] I'm Alto Cantabile. I play the cello.

[a1] [?] I guess I'm also the quartet leader?

SAKI: [A2] [mu] My name is Totoki Saki, and I play the viola.

[faces TEAGAN]

ALTO: [A2] And the one over here making the "I'm surrounded by idiots" face is Teagan Almace.

{TEAGAN [C>]}

MEIRIN: [A2] Cool!!

[a1] I'm Otowa Meirin.

[A2] "Otowa" is written as "feathers of sound", and "Meirin" is "strawberry bell".

SAKI: [A2] [<3] My! What a cute name!

MEIRIN: [A2] [mu] Hehe, thanks.

[a1] The instrument makers' hall is at the north end of town, so let's go.

DAL SEGNO - MUSIC HALL MAIN ROOM - The newly formed quartet enter the shop you can't buy anything from.

ALTO: [A2] [!] Look! Look!! Look at this place!!!

TEAGAN: [B3] Yeah, I see it.

ALTO: [A2] But are you really looking?!

They have violas da gamba!

And that's an octobass! I've only read about those in books before!

SAKI: [A7] Some of the violas on display here only have three strings.

[A2] A lot of their choices in woods seem very interesting, too.

MEIRIN: [a1] The workshop's in the back corner.

DAL SEGNO - MUSIC HALL LUTHIER WORKSHOP - They enter and see various instrument sprites and a girl.

MEIRIN: [A2] Excuse me, I'd like to get a new E string, please.

LUTHIER: Hmm, let's see.

The wear and tear on your other strings is getting pretty bad too. Would you like to get them replaced while we're at it?

MEIRIN: [a1] Sure.

[B2] This is the first time I've had to get my strings replaced, so I've wanted to be picky about where I get new ones from.

LUTHIER: Is that so? Then, you'll want to be careful, since new strings go out of tune quicker.

MEIRIN: [a1] Yeah, I know.

And I loosen my strings whenever I'm done playing, so I'm used to having to retune a lot.

[C>] My E string broke when I was tuning, actually.

TEAGAN: [a1] Yeah, that'll happen with your thinnest strings.

LUTHIER: What about the rest of you? Would you like your instruments examined too?

TEAGAN: [A2] I guess so, between one thing and another.

LUTHIER: Hmm. This violin is in very good shape. There's nothing that we need to do here.

TEAGAN: [A2] [mu] Thanks. I've always done my best to look after it.

SAKI: [A5] Then, if you would be so kind...

LUTHIER: Let me see. Hm, this viola is one of ours, isn't it?

SAKI: [A4] I had heard so.

This little one has passed through many pairs of hands before it was given to me.

LUTHIER: No wonder. It's looks like it's been run through the mill, but you can trust our workmanship to hold up under stress.

It looks like the bridge is a bit bent and the wood finish needs to get touched up.

Since we're adjusting the bridge, we'll need to replace the strings anyway. Should I get to work on it?

SAKI: [A5] [C>] Mmm...

I'm a little worried about the pricing with all of that...

LUTHIER: Don't worry, we give a discount for instruments we've made.

SAKI: [A2] [<3] Thank goodness. Then, would you please?

MEIRIN: [A5] What about you, Alto?

ALTO: [A5] [...] ...I don't actually have my own cello.

MEIRIN: [a1] [..., ?] Huh?

SAKI: [A7] [...] Come to think of it...

MEIRIN: [B6] [?] Then, what, were you planning to buy one here or in some other city?

[faces the rest of the quartet]

ALTO: [a1] No.

Carrying a big instrument around would be too much trouble when we're all running around in areas with monsters.

We won't be performing with our own instruments anyway.

It's just convenient to have one with you to practice.

{MEIRIN [?] and SAKI don't know how to respond to ALTO actually being intelligent for once}

SAKI: [A7] [...] My...

TEAGAN: [A3] [...] You're underestimating the underlying issue here.

[faces SAKI and MEIRIN]

[A3] Alto's **never been allowed [GET TIME]** to have her own cello.

And here I was thinking ALTO had half a brain

{MEIRIN [?], SAKI [!]}

ALTO: [A3] [...] Mm.

The family house has got plenty of instruments,
and the more I learned, the more they let me pick and choose which one I got to use,
but none of them was ever really "mine".

[A2] [!] Ah, but because of that I'm pretty good at compensating for the difference between
instruments

when I play using a new one.

[mu] And I can rent a cello for rehearsals, so there's nothing to worry about there.

{MEIRIN [?]}

SAKI: [A6] [...] ...Alto.

LUTHIER: [...] Would you happen to be...

No, I'm probably just imagining things.

Anyhow, it'll take a while to perform maintenance on these two instruments.

It's not much compared to the inn, but we have an in-house patisserie at the other end of the hall where
you can wait.

There's a transition, so I think we're back to the game, but it might be part of the scene

LUTHIER: This will take a while, so come back later, alright?

**DAL SEGNO - MUSIC HALL PATISSERIE SHOP - There happens to be a sweets shop within the same
building, making it feel more like a strip mall. They are all seated and served by the CLERK (female).**

MEIRIN: [B3] [<3] This place is really heaven.

ALTO: [A2] [<3] It really is!

SAKI: [A7] Instruments and sweets... That's a pretty interesting combination.

CLERK: Apparently the founders of this hall were big sweet tooths.

Right now, this place is used as a restaurant by guests and townspeople,

but originally, it was little more than a kitchen for the instrument makers when they were too busy to return home.

SAKI: [A2] That's a nice story.

And it will never come up again.

CLERK: I'll be here to bring you whatever else you need, so make yourselves at home.

MEIRIN: [A2] [mu] Ooh, in that case, can I have another strawberry crepe?

CLERK: [mu] Coming right up!

TEAGAN: [A5] [C>] Eating so much sweet stuff isn't good for you.

MEIRIN: [B1] [#] Maybe so, but that's my problem.

[a1] So, what are you performing at in Bel Canto?

ALTO: [A5] Technically we're not actually performing in the city.

[A4] We'll be playing at the top of Metronome Tower.

And it's not really a "normal" performance either, with an audience.

We're doing a ritual there.

{MEIRIN [?]}

CLERK: [...] ...Then -- miss, are you a Cantabile?

ALTO: [A4] ...Yeah.

CLERK: [...] I thought so.

Um -- then you don't need to worry about paying here, all right?

There isn't much else we can do to support you, so please allow us to do what we can.

ALTO: [A3] Mmm. If you insist.

{TEAGAN [...]}

MEIRIN: [a1] [?] ?????

ALTO: [A4] ...Hey Meirin, have you ever heard of the World Tuning?

MEIRIN: [A2] Nope.

ALTO: [A5] Oh.

Hmm, explaining the whole thing will take a long time,

so I guess the main point is that if this ritual doesn't happen every few centuries, the whole world is fucked.

[A4] So when the time comes,

a string quartet and a vocalist have to get together and perform a certain piece at the top of Metronome Tower.

[screen shake]

TEAGAN: [A3] That explanation is too vague!

How do you expect to convince anybody of anything like that?!

[faces TEAGAN]

ALTO: [A6] Well, I can't help it!

Explaining the whole thing would take too long,

and it'd only seem more surreal when we're sitting in a cute patisserie eating sweets.

TEAGAN: [A5] [*] ...Ugh, you've got a point, but still.

MEIRIN: [a1] [?] What kind of piece is it?

ALTO: [a1] Here.

{MEIRIN is given it and then [?]}

ALTO: [A3] This is the second violin score. It's the part you'll be playing if you come with us.

MEIRIN: [B6] Hmm...

TEAGAN: [B3] [..., C>] Alto. Are you really sure about this?

ALTO: [a1] Hm?

TEAGAN: [B3] Even setting aside what I told you before,
I really don't want to be responsible for a kid while we're trekking all over the countryside.

[large font]

MEIRIN: [A4] [#] Excuse you?

TEAGAN: [A5] [*] Do you want to know how interested I'm not in having to convince your parents to let
us drag you all over the country,
even if that ridiculously abbreviated explanation somehow convinced you?

[screen shake, large font]

MEIRIN: [B1] [#] Uh, seriously, excuse you?

[#] I happen to be an adult.

TEAGAN: [A5] [C>] You expect me to believe that with your stature and outfit?

MEIRIN can't handle the bantz,

[screen shake, large font]

MEIRIN: [A4] I'm sixteen, you jackass. Look at my ID.

TEAGAN: [B3] [*] This has gotta be fake.

SAKI: [A2] No, it's real. I can vouch for that.

[a1] Real personal identification cards have a magical imprint on them to make forgery all but impossible.

That's why you have to go to census takers to get them done, you see?

That's also why these are valid in every country.

[A2] Miss Otowa's ID has the proper imprint. She's sixteen, and a legal adult.

TEAGAN: [B8] [C>] ...Wait, seriously?

MEIRIN: [B2] [mu] Hehen.

Serves you right.

Don't go assuming people are kids just 'cos they're short or because they like fashion.

ALTO: [A7] [...] Actually, how are you still okay this far north in clothes like that?

MEIRIN: [A2] Oh, that?

[a1] [mu] I can use fire and wind magic, so I can maintain my body temperature and the layer of air right around my skin at reasonable levels.

[A5] [<3] It's pretty easy once you get the hang of it.

[screen shake]

TEAGAN: [A5] [C>] Whoa, talk about a waste of talent!

My girl Teegs shows that she can use fire magic too by roasting the FUCK outta jailbait

SAKI: [A5] [C>] Teagan, you don't need to be so strict.

ALTO: [A4] So, what do you think?

MEIRIN: [B6] [...] This piece looks interesting, but it might be a little hard.

[B4] I'd need to have enough time to practice it. And are you sure you'd want me on second violin?

ALTO: [A4] Yeah.

For one thing, Teagan's actually really really good.

The first violin part's harder than the second violin,
so I don't know if anybody other than Teagan could play it properly.

MEIRIN: [B1] [C>] I guess she'd have to be really good for you to ask her along with this personality.

[screen shake, large font]

TEAGAN: [A3] [#] What was that, you little brat?

ALTO: [A2] Oh, don't mind her.

She just has trouble taking musical styles less than a hundred years old seriously.

MEIRIN: [B1] [C>] Uwah, I should've figured.

[A4] Look, I'm strictly avant garde. I play how I do because I don't like a lot of the old academy styles.

ALTO: [A3] I know. We could tell that just from watching you play at the inn.

MEIRIN: [a1] [?] Then, why ask me along for something like this if that's the case?

ALTO: [A3] I'm asking you because of that.

I think you'll be able to bring something to this performance that Teagan and Saki and I don't have.

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] And like I said with Saki, is it really okay to decide something this important just with your intuition?

[faces TEAGAN]

ALTO: [a1] [?] Why wouldn't it be?

=====RETARD ZONE=====

SAKI: [A5] Now, now.

Alto is the leader here. Shouldn't we just trust her?

=====RETARD ZONE=====

ALTO: [A2] And anyway, I think you'd be a good fit with the second violin part.

It's not as ornate as the first violin score, so you'll have more room to play freely.

MEIRIN: [B6] [*] Hmmmm...

I'll have to think about it for a little while.

[a1] You guys are going to Polyphony after this, right?

ALTO: [a1] Yeah.

MEIRIN: [A2] I'm headed there too, so let's go together.

[a1] I'll give you my answer once I know if we'll be okay traveling together.

ALTO: [A3] I guess that's fair.

To play together, we've got to be able to trust each other.

SAKI: [A4] I think so, too. It's a very sensible decision.

[screen shake, large font]

ALTO + SAKI: Right, Teagan?

TEAGAN: [A5] [C>, *] Shut up.

MEIRIN: [a1] Anyway, they should be done with our instruments by now, so let's go pick them up.

{JAILBAIT joins the party!}

DAL SEGNO - MUSIC HALL - LUTHIER WORKSHOP

LUTHIER: Here you go. Take care.

MEIRIN: [A2] Thanks!

DAL SEGNO - They leave the music hall.

SAKI: [a1] Should we leave right away?

ALTO: [A5] Mmm.

[A4] I guess let's make sure that we have all the right gear
and check around town to make sure we haven't missed any clues first.

MEIRIN: [A5] It's not like I'm in a hurry, so I'll just follow you guys.

PIZZICATO TRAIL - They enter for the first time.

ALTO: [A4] According to the map, Polyphony should be on the other side of this mountain pass.

SAKI: [A5] Ahaha... more mountain climbing...

TEAGAN: [a1] The Pizzicato Trail is supposed to be longer than the Arpeggio Pass.
We'll probably wind up having to find somewhere to take shelter for the night.

SAKI: [B3] Ehh, really?

TEAGAN: [a1] It's the only way from here to Polyphony.

This is a pretty mountainous region.

On the other hand, there ought to be some caves or lean-to or something that have been sealed from
animals

and monsters so that travelers can use them safely.

ALTO: [A2] See, it'll be okay!

And there might be enough space to start a fire.

SAKI: [B3] I've decided. I don't like to travel.

MEIRIN: [B2] No need to worry, my prince! I shall escort thee.

SAKI: [A5] Ahaha. YOu're a funny girl. How do you stay this cheerful.

MEIRIN: [B3] Because Polyphony is waiting for us! Polyphony!!

[A6] Allons-y!

TEAGAN: [B3] Uwaah... are we gonna be okay like this?

ALTO: [A2] Heheh. I'm glad we met such fun people.

TEAGAN: [B3] If you say so.

MEIRIN: [A2] C'mon! Allons-y!

SAKI: [A2] Allons-y~

PIZZICATO TRAIL - CAT FIGHT - There's an almost-chimera along the way that was up to no good, started making trouble in the neighborhood, so they got into one little fight.

ALTO: [A7] [!] Wah, there's another big monster in the way.

SAKI: [B3] [*] Ehhh... I want to take a break already...

TEAGAN: [A3] It's hard to see past the monster, but that looks like a cave back there.

If we can beat it, we can probably stop for the night.

SAKI: [B3] [C>] ...Is waiting for it to go away no good?

ALTO: [A5] Well, it's already noticed us, so...

MEIRIN: [a1] [C>] Yeah, I guess with the way the monsters are getting more violent, we're already out of luck.

SAKI: [B3] [*] ...Why was I born into an era like this?

ALTO: [a1] [C>] Who knows.

[looks briefly at MEIRIN, ALTO, and then focuses on SAKI]

TEAGAN: [A5] [*] Okay, you guys, enough complaining.

[faces not-chimera]

[A5] It's four against one, this won't be so hard.

PUSSY PULVERIZED

MEIRIN: [A6] [mu] And stay down!

ALTO: [a1] Let's check out the cave.

PIZZICATO TRAIL - CAVE OUTPOST - With the oncoming night, the quartet huddle up in a cave, which includes multiple resting areas, a fire pit, and a statue.

TEAGAN: [A2] Yeah, this seems like a good enough place to rest.

Let's set up our camp stuff.

They set up the campfire. Saki is in bed resting.

SAKI: [A5] [C>] Finally, we can rest...

[moves to campfire]

ALTO: [mu] I'm kinda surprised.

You travel a lot, so I thought you'd be better at hiking.

SAKI: [A5] I usually take the train or hitch a ride with a caravan or so when I have to travel long distances.

[B3] [*] I'm an indoors type.

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] (Somehow... I get the feeling I know where this guy's money troubles come from...)

MEIRIN: [A5] [mu] Then you've actually done pretty good for somebody who doesn't like exercise.

SAKI: [A5] [*] I suppose so.

[C>] This is a lot colder than the Arpeggio Pass, and I'm not in a hurry, so I guess it bothers me more than it did then.

ALTO: [A3] Well, starting tomorrow everything is downhill, so it should be easier that way.

SAKI: [B3] One can only hope!

[... x2, and looks repeatedly at all of them]

MEIRIN: [A2] So, hey, now that we've got some time, can I hear more about the World Tuning?

[screen shake]

TEAGAN: [A5] I told you that explanation was no good.

ALTO: [A6] [C>] Ehhh...

[A5] [*] Then, where should I start?

MEIRIN: [a1] [?] You said it's bad for the world if somebody doesn't do the ritual, but why?

ALTO: [A5] [...] Hmm...

[A4] [IQ] How much do you know about the Musica Universalis Theory?

MEIRIN: [a1] [?] The wha?

SAKI: [A5] [C>] I suppose it isn't exactly common knowledge...

[faces MEIRIN]

TEAGAN: [B3] [*] The Music of the Spheres.

MEIRIN: [B2] [IQ] Ohh. I've at least heard of that.

MEIRIN: [B4] [C>, ?] I don't know much about it, though.

[faces MEIRIN]

SAKI: [A4] It's an outdated theory that proposed that the universe works on the same musical principles we use to understand magic.

TEAGAN: [a1] I've heard that technically it hasn't been proven yet that magic obeys musical theory either.

SAKI: [A2] Oh, no, of course not.

There are types of magic that can't be understood by music theory.

[a1] Just like with science,

we're stabbing the dark by using research and trial and error to try to make sense of forces too large for us to understand.

[faces TEAGAN]

MEIRIN: [A2] Yeah, pretty much.

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] How should I put it... the world's a pretty scary place.

SAKI: [A2] [mu] Oh, but I think it's very interesting, don't you?

The more we learn about magic and science, the more we understand about the world around us.

[a1] You never know when there will be new discoveries that shed light on why things work the way they do.

ALTO: [a1] This probably seems like a non sequitur, but how much do you know about the history of industrialization?

[looks downward towards SAKI and supposedly ALTO]

MEIRIN: [B4] [?] Yeah, that does seem like a big topic change, but... Huh.

[B6] The reason why the world tries to industrialize is to make life easier for people, but every new advancement winds up with problems.

[B4] Like, trains and things that run on coal make harmful smoke.

[A3] And using oil as a fuel source would mean using up a country's supply of oil too fast, So either the technology would be useless or they'd have to start wars to steal oil from other countries.

[a1] Or buy the oil from countries that don't use it.

[B6] And making technology rely on magic isn't cost-effective, any anyway the point of technology is so that people who can't use magic will have easier lives.

[B4] So it's basically still in a stage of, it's a good idea, but we don't know how to make it work.

ALTO: [A3] Yeah. That's a good explanation.

{TEAGAN and SAKI turn from facing MEIRIN to ALTO}

[A3] Humans evolved so that we have to use tools to survive.

[A4] But the more we struggle to make good tools, the more we damage the rest of the world.

Overusing natural resources puts stress on the rest of nature.

And every advance in technology depletes magic from natural sources.

If we just used human magic, it would mean killing hundreds of people, so they probably thought that using natural magical reservoirs would be better.

But all that did was destroy the world's stability even worse.

MEIRIN: [a1] And?

ALTO: [A4] So, eventually people noticed that the weather was getting colder and colder.

Summers kept getting shorter, and eventually that affected people's ability to farm food.

People were afraid that it would cause famines.

Monsters and animals that aren't domesticated started to get more and more violent, too.

The magicians of the time determined that the climate of the whole world was going to keep getting colder.

It was going to be the beginning of a new ice age.

MEIRIN: [A7] [!, ...] ...Huh? But...

ALTO: [A4] And if things went on like that, every living thing that couldn't adapt would die.

That went for humans, too.

MEIRIN: [B6] [...] But that's happened every couple of centuries, right?

[B4] It's always been a false alarm, hasn't it?

ALTO: [A4] It's not.

MEIRIN: [A7] Eh?

ALTO: [A3] But at the time -- the first time that all this happened -- while everyone was in a panic, there was one person that decided to do something about it.

This was a time that people still believed in Musica Universalis.

The theory was that humanity's reckless overuse of natural resources and magic had caused a disharmony in the Music of the Spheres.

So, that person thought that as a human, she ought to take responsibility for what had happened.

She thought that if the harmony of the earth had gone wrong --

MEIRIN: ...Then she would have to tune [GET TIME] it.

ALTO: [A3] Yep.

It's like after you've been playing and playing and playing,
and suddenly you notice that a string you've been using a lot sounds a little bit off.

So you have to stop and use your pegs or your fine tuners to adjust it.

Like that.

If magic and the rhythms of the universe worked the same way as music, she thought,
then why couldn't you just do that?

MEIRIN: [A7] [...] Wow, that's...

ALTO: [A2] It sounds pretty crazy these days, doesn't it?

Since we don't think Musica Universalis is true anymore.

[A3] But that was what she thought.

So she thought, how do you tune the magic of the whole world?

And she went to the spirits for help.

SAKI: [A7] [!] ...That's why that fire fairy appeared to us.

ALTO: [A4] Yeah. At first, the spirits didn't want to help.

They thought that humans had meddled with nature enough, and everybody just had to accept it.

Too many spirits had already died because of human industrialization, so even if humans died out,
this would only be justice.

[A3] But in the end, she convinced them.

And with the help and advice of the spirits, she developed a method, and then she wrote a song.

MEIRIN: [B6] [...] ...A song for five people to play.

ALTO: [A2] Exactly.

[A3] And she gathered the best performers she could find, and traveled far into the north where there was still magic left,

and she asked for the people's help in building a tower high enough

to be a stage where she could influence the whole world.

[A4] That was Metronome Tower.

It took years to build, and a lot of people died building it.

But in the end it was complete.

So she and her performers went to the top of the tower,

and using her own ability to use non-polarized magic, she tuned the world.

I think that as long as someone has the ability and concentration,

and they're smart enough to wrap their mind around it,

they could fix the world from the top of Metronome Tower without performing the ritual and playing music.

But right now, that's still too much for us to comprehend.

By using music as a medium, we can just barely carry out the ritual without destroying ourselves.

{TEAGAN [...]}

[A4] The woman who tuned the world was a Cantabile.

And I'm her descendant.

The way that humanity is going right now, every few hundred years we destroy the balance of nature again.

So we've preserved that piece in the Grand Score,

and it's hidden here in Harmonia to keep it safe until someone else needs it again.

The reason that the world always goes back to normal

is because the Cantabiles have been holding the new ice age back with all our power.

[A3] And I just happened to be born at the right time, so now it's my turn.

{MEIRIN [...]}

TEAGAN: [B3] Yeah, it's pretty unbelievable.

SAKI: [A4] But it's also true that there's copious historical record, especially here in Harmonia.

[A2] And more than anything else, we've recovered the first and second violin parts of the Grand Score.

MEIRIN: [B6] [...] But -- especially with all that in mind, why me?

ALTO: [A5] [*] Mmm.....

[?] Instinct, I guess? Maybe intuition?

[screen shake]

MEIRIN: [B1] Is that okay?

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] I'm sorry. I'm really sorry. She's sheltered and an idiot. She doesn't know better.

ALTO: [A6] [*] That's mean.

SAKI: [A5] [C>] A...haha...

=====IRONY ZONE=====

ALTO: [A3] It's true that mistakes aren't allowed.

[A2] But no one's ever failed the World Tuning before, so neither will I.

=====IRONY ZONE=====

[A5] And I don't really know how to decide except based on how I feel]

[A2] [mu] I love the way you play. I love how much you love music.

And I think we need someone like you to give us perspective.

MEIRIN: [A3] But...

ALTO: [A3] Also, there's no need to worry. All you all have to do is just play.

[A2] The actual tuning part is my job, so you're all just there to help.

{MEIRIN [...]}

[A2] [?] You want to play the Grand Score, right?

MEIRIN: [A3] I do. But if it's for something that important... like I said, I think it might be a little hard for me.

=====RETARD ZONE=====

ALTO: [A2] [mu] That's okay, though!

=====RETARD ZONE=====

Even if something's hard, that just means that all you have to do is practice.

MEIRIN: [B4] If you say so...

SAKI: [A4] It will be all right.

I felt a bit nervous at first to. Why choose me?'

Is it rally all right for someone like me to have this responsibility?

But... I think it's all right to just trust Alto.

If anyone can make this work, it's her.

Traveling with her has just given me that feeling.

{TEAGAN [...]}

[A2] Besides, you don't get an opportunity like this every day.

I had my worries at first, but now... as if I would just give my place over to someone else!

MEIRIN: [a1] ...Okay. Okay. I'll do it.

{SAKI [<3]}

ALTO: [A2] [mu] Yeah!!

SAKI: [A2] Welcome to the quartet, Meirin.

MEIRIN: [A2] [<3] Eheheh. Thank you.

TEAGAN: [A4] [* , C>] ...Sigh.

[A5] Now that that's settled, can we sleep?

We've got more hiking to do tomorrow.

SAKI: [B3] [C>] Don't remind me.

ALTO: [a1] [mu] Hahaha.

They are all in bed, but MEIRIN is restless.

MEIRIN: [B1] [..., C>, *]I can't sleep.

[gets up]

[B4] Maybe if I at least take another look...

[B6] [*] Hmm, I never got far enough to learn what some of these notations mean.

[*] Mmmm...

[B4] I guess I'll have to ask Saki what they stand for later.

TEAGAN: [B3] [...] Hey. You can't practice that pizzicato.

[jumps and faces TEAGAN]

MEIRIN: [A7] Wah?!!!

[gets up]

TEAGAN: [a1] [...] No need to be that startled. I sleep light.

[turns away and goes to bed]

MEIRIN: [B1] [*] Sorry to bother you, then.

TEAGAN: [A5] [!] Hey, don't go back to sleep.

MEIRIN: [A4] [*] Why? Do you want something?

TEAGAN: [B3] [*, #] ...Ah, fuck it. I'll teach you.

[faces TEAGAN]

MEIRIN: [...] Eh?

TEAGAN: [B3] [*] Which parts were you having trouble with?

[a1] I'm saying, I'll teach you how to read them and play them.

[A2] And since we already have both our parts, let's practice.

[gets up]

SAKI: [A2] [<3] Oh? Then would you let me sit in, perhaps?

[jumps and faces SAKI]

MEIRIN: [a1] Saki!

SAKI: [A5] I'm not used to sleeping out in the open. I couldn't get to sleep either.

MEIRIN: [a1] [...] I'd... actually, I'd like that, but what about Alto?

TEAGAN: [A5] Don't worry about her.

[C>] That idiot could sleep through a tornado.

[B3] Anyway, what were you having trouble with? Show me.

MEIRIN: [B4] Well...

{TEAGAN walks over to MEIRIN, ALTO [...] indicating she might not actually be asleep}

PIZZICATO TRAIL - It's now morning. They are outside the cave outpost.

ALTO: [A2] Everybody ready?

TEAGAN: [A5] ...What are you so chipper about? Did something good happen?

ALTO: [A2] I guess you could say that.

MEIRIN: [B3] C'mon! We'll be in Polyphony by the afternoon if we hurry!

SAKI: [B3] Hiking...

TEAGAN: You too. Why are you so exuberant at this hour?

MEIRIN: [A2] Shut up, Teagan.

ALTO: [A2] Heheh.

POLYPHONY - They enter for the first time.

MEIRIN: [A2] [mu] We're here!!

SAKI: [A2] [<3] No more hiking!

TEAGAN: [A2] All right, then let's hurry up and start looking for --

SAKI: [B3] The Star Festival's pretty soon, so that means the whole town's getting ready!

Everything's gonna be lower-priced!

[A5] [<>] Which means...

ALTO: [a1] [?] Which means?

=====THOT ZONE=====

MEIRIN: [A6] [<3] Time to hit the red light district!!!

=====THOT ZONE=====

[BIG TEXT]

TEAGAN: [A5] What.

ALTO: [A7] Huh?

[faces MEIRIN]

SAKI: [A7] Goodness, why?

[faces SAKI and back up]

MEIRIN: [A5] [angel] 'Cause!

Polyphony's the first town I've been to since I turned sixteen that has one.

[A2] It's only natural to be curious!

TEAGAN: [A5] [C>] And this can't even wait until we're done looking around town for clues?

MEIRIN: [A2] Nope!!!

TEAGAN: [B3] [*] Do you have money and your ID? You're gonna get carded for sure.

MEIRIN: [A5] [mu] Well duh! It's not like I came unprepared or anything!!

TEAGAN: [A5] [C>] (So she's been planning this...)

SAKI: [A2] It's all right. I 'll go along and look after her.

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] Here comes Mr. Ulterior Motives.

[A5] You just wanted to go with her from the start, didn't you?

SAKI: [A8] [C>] W-when did I ever imply that?

TEAGAN: [A5] [#] You didn't have to. It's written all over your face.

MEIRIN: [a1] [mu] Aw. You and Alto should come too!

C'mon, it'll be fun! We'll enjoy ourselves better if we go together!

[faces SAKI]

MEIRIN: [A5] Right?

SAKI: [A2] Right!

ALTO: [A5] [...] Mmm... thanks for offering, but...

[A2] I'm technically a noble lady.

[A7] [C>] If I went along and it ever got back to my family, they'd kill me.

MEIRIN: [A3] Really?

ALTO: [A5] They're really old-fashioned about this kind of thing.

SAKI: [A5] That's too bad...

[moves next to ALTO]

TEAGAN: [a1] So, there you go.

[A5] I've got to stay and babysit this idiot,

so I guess if you two really have to go get laid right this minute, you should go on without us.

MEIRIN: [A2] [mu] Don't mind if we do.

SAKI: [a1] We'll meet you in the park, all right?

TEAGAN: [A3] Don't cause trouble for the escorts, you hear?

SAKI + MEIRIN: We know better than that!

[exit stage left]

=====THOT ZONE=====

ALTO: [A5] [...] (...I might actually have wanted to go.)

=====THOT ZONE=====

[faces ALTO]

TEAGAN: [B3] [...] ...Sorry for making you come along with me.

[faces TEAGAN]

ALTO: [A3] No, it's okay!

[A2] Besides, my excuse was true.

[A7] If anybody actually did find out, I have no idea what they'd do to me.

TEAGAN: [B3] Still.

ALTO: [A2] Really it's okay!

[A3] Although... y'know?

I think they'd understand if you explained that you just don't care about that kind of thing.

[looks away]

TEAGAN: [A5] [*] It'd be annoying.

ALTO: [A2] Okay. It's up to you.

[a1] Anyway, let's see if we can find anything.

POLYPHONY - TOWN CENTER - Talking with MEIRIN.

MEIRIN: [A2] Ahh, that was nice.

SAKI: [A2] It feels like it's been forever since I could kick back and mess around.

[A5] [C>] But now I'm tired.

ALTO: [A2] Oh, there you guys are!

TEAGAN: [A2] We found something interesting, c'mon and let's check it out.

MEIRIN: [a1] Wow, already? That was pretty fast.

SAKI: [B3] [C>] Ehh... we're going exploring right away?

ALTO: [A5] [?] Why wouldn't we?

SAKI: [A8] [*] Grownups take longer to bounce back from these things.

TEAGAN: [A5] So walk it off.

ALTO: [A2] Well, we do have to make sure we have the right items and weapons and whatever first, so...

TEAGAN: [A5] That's all the rest you're getting, though.

POLYPHONY- TEMPLE GROUND LEVEL

ALTO: [A4] This place is really clean, considering how overgrown the outside is.

MEIRIN: [a1] Yeah, it's super suspicious.

It's so obviously suspicious it's like we're being told "there's treasure here, please come investigate~" or something.

TEAGAN: [A3] But it's also really damn quiet.

SAKI: [A3] ...I can sense the presence of monsters nearby. We must stay on guard.

POLYPHONY SHRINE - THRONE ROOM - The group find a sleeping AUBREY.

ALTO: [a1] Eh?!

TEAGAN: [A3] What the --

MEIRIN: [A7] There's somebody passed out!

SAKI: [A7] [...] ...? Thos clotehs...

MEIRIN: [B6] [?] What should we do? Should we try to wake them up?

TEAGAN: [A3] [...] ...I don't like this.

Why would there be a person in a place like this?

From the looks of it, this shrine has been avoided by the townspeople for years.

MEIRIN: [a1] Do you think they're a spirit?

TEAGAN: [B3] I don't know. I've only met one spirit. I'm just aying, this could be a trap.

[faces group]

ALTO: [A4] Maybe, but what if it's not?

There don't seem to be any monsters on this floor,

but what if the spells that keep this place safe break because we're stirring things up?

It'd be pretty heartless to just leave somebody asleep for monsters to come attack them, don't you think?

TEAGAN: [A5] [*] So do you just not understand the risk you're taking, or what?

ALTO: [A3] If it's a trap, all we have to do is get out of it, right?

It's the possibility that this isn't a trap that I'm more concerned about.

TEAGAN: [A5] [*] It's because you're like this that...

MEIRIN: [a1] [?] So, Alto, you and Teagan are childhood friends, right?

ALTO: [a1] Yeah.

MEIRIN: [B1] [C>] Has she always been this much of a jerk, or what?

[faces MEIRIN]

TEAGAN: [A5] [#] Hey.

ALTO: [A2] [C>] Well, she's trying to look out for our safety in her own way. Don't be too hard on her.

[large font]

TEAGAN: [A3] [#] Hey.

[turns to group]

SAKI: [A5] Now, now, you three. Alto and Teagan both have a point. But...

ALTO: [a1] [?] But what?

SAKI: [A3] Meirin, Alto -- if you pay attention to the atmosphere of the room, what do you feel?

MEIRIN: [B4] Huh? I think we can all tell that the room's warded against monsters.

SAKI: [A3] No, aside from that.

MEIRIN: [B6] [*] Huh? Hmm...

ALTO: [A7] [C>] Well, I can really only use magic in "Bowing", so I don't know what you're getting at.

MEIRIN: [A7] [!] Eh? There's some other magic present in this room.

[B6] But it's really weird. I've never seen a magical style like this before.

SAKI: [A6] From what I can tell, these spells are very old. Much older than the wards against monsters.

[A3] That they're still active indicates that they are strong.

[A6] [...] And don't you think it's odd? We have made plenty of noise since arriving, but that person isn't waking up.

[A3] At any rate, there are definitely forces at work here beyond our knowledge.

TEAGAN: [A3] This is definitely weird. My vote's still that we don't meddle with things we don't understand.

MEIRIN: [A2] Teagan, you worry too much!

[B3] For all you know, this could be something out of a fairy tale. Like Sleeping Beauty!

TEAGAN: [A5] [C>] ...I really want to argue with that. You can't appreciate how much I wanna argue with that.

[B3] But the last time I argued that this was too fairy-tale to be real, I had to eat my words, so I can't.

ALTO: [A2] Heheh. Either way, I think we should try to wake them up if we can.

SAKI: [A3] Then, just be careful. We don't know what could happen if we disrupt these spells.

TEAGAN: [a1] This is your quest and we're all just along for the ride.

You're the one with the most knowledge about what we're supposed to be doing or whatever.

[A5] But I still reserve the right to say "I told you so" if this goes south.

ALTO: [A6] Yeah, yeah.

[approaches AUBREY]

[A3] Hey, are you okay?

[wakes up]

AUBREY: [B2] [...] Nn...

ALTO: [A2] Oh, you actually woke up! How are you feeling?

AUBREY: [B2] Eh?

ALTO: [A5] (Oh no, that's really cute.)

AUBREY: [B2] [...] This... is the Euphony Temple, right?

ALTO: [a1] Huh? Yeah, I guess.

TEAGAN: [A6] ...Whoa, that's a really thick accent.

AUBREY: [B2] [?] You're not... the doctor.

ALTO: [A7] No, I'm not a doctor.

AUBREY: [a1] [?] ?? And you're not the Great Magician...

ALTO: [A7] ??? No, I'm just a cellist...

AUBREY: [a1] ...??

ALTO: [A2] Can you stand?

AUBREY: [A7] Eh... ah, y-yes.

ALTO: [A3] Be careful, okay? You've been sleeping in a weird place, so you might be stiff.

AUBREY: [A2] [<3] Thank you. I'm fine.

ALTO: [A2] That's good. I'm Alto Cantabile.

{AUBREY [!]}

[a1] My friends and I are a string quartet.

TEAGAN: [A2] I'm Teagan Almace.

SAKI: [A2] My name is Totoki Saki.

MEIRIN: [A2] And I'm Otowa Meirin!

AUBREY: [a1] Um, my name is Aubrey Spica. It's nice to meet you.

ALTO: [A5] We came to search the temple for something. Do you know how much deeper this place goes?

AUBREY: [A3] Umm... um, this should be the second basement level... and there are four underground floors.

ALTO: [A1] Hmm. In that case, this should take much longer, so do you want to come along for now?

We should be almost done, and there are monsters all over the place. It might be dangerous to go by yourself.

AUBREY: [A3] [!] Eh? Monsters -- here?

TEAGAN: [A5] [C>] ... Don't tell me that you somehow didn't notice them on your way to take a nap down here.

AUBREY: [B1] I -- um, I...

MEIRIN: [B1] Don't mind her, she just has a naturally suspicious personality.

[screen shake, large font]

TEAGAN: [A3] [#] HEY.

SAKI: [A6] ...Do you know how long you've been asleep?

{ALTO, TEAGAN, and MEIRIN [?]}

AUBREY: [A3] No. Um -- the Great Magician and the doctors didn't have an estimate, since I was meant to be the first test, so...

SAKI: [A6] [...] (Then...)

[A3] This may seem like a strange thing to ask, but... do you remember the date from when you went to sleep?

AUBREY: [A3] It was December the... um, I don't remember, I'm sorry.

MEIRIN: [B6] [?] December? But it's only November right now.

SAKI: [A3] What about the year?

AUBREY: [A3] It was 751.

ALTO + TEAGAN + MEIRIN: Huh?

SAKI: [A6] I knew it.

[A3] Say, Alto, do you remember reading anything about the alternatives proposed to the World Tuning ritual?

ALTO: [A5] Huh? I'm pretty sure that none of the alternatives were pursued since the ritual worked, but -- oh.

MEIRIN: [B1] [C>] Okay, so for those of us who are still lost, what's going on?

AUBREY: [B1] [C>] Um... I'm having a difficult time following this conversation myself, but...

[a1] I'm a volunteer test subject for long-term hibernation magic.

SAKI: [a1] We've read a little about it, haven't we?

TEAGAN: [B3] This is ridiculous, but I guess it does make a certain kind of sense.

AUBREY: [A3] I was part of the very first test.

I was told to be prepared for the possibility to never wake up, since the spell was still experimental, but...

ALTO: [A4] Then, that means that you're from the era when the World Tuning was first being carried out.

AUBREY: [a1] When it was -- first?

ALTO: [A5] [C>] Yeah, uh -- I guess humans being humans, we keep needing the ritual every couple hundred years.

[a1] I'm this generation's Cantabile, so it's my turn to do it.

AUBREY: [A2] [IQ] Oh... I see. You do look like Lady Arietta.

ALTO: [a1] [!] R-really? I do?

[A2] Oh, wow. There were never any portraits or anything that survived. I didn't know.

{AUBREY [..., ///]}

TEAGAN: [A5] [C>] Heeyyy. What are you two turning red for?

MEIRIN: [B6] [...] Umm... But then. If this was back in the 700s...

SAKI: [A6] Yes. That is to say -- excuse me, Aubrey?

[jumps]

AUBREY: [A7] Ah -- yes?!

SAKI: [A6] And, before we get too far.

=====SAFE SPACE=====

[A5] [...] Um. Pronouns?

=====SAFE SPACE=====

AUBREY: [a1] Oh...! I'm agender, so use "they" please.

SAKI: [A5] Thank you. I'm sorry to be so blunt.

AUBREY: [A2] Oh, no, thank you for asking.

SAKI: [A6] Anyway. Aubrey, I don't know how to put this, but...

MEIRIN: [A3] Yeah. I can see the problem here too.

ALTO: [A4] You -- should come with us.

If you try to go up to the surface on your own, I think it'll just be confusing for you.

{AUBREY [?]}

TEAGAN: [A4] The last you remember it was 751.

Well, the same calendar's in use now as it was in the era of the first World Tuning.

[A3] There's no easy way to break this to you, so I'll just tell you straight out.

[...] ...The year right now is 2513.

AUBREY: [a1] [!] ...!

[... x3]

ALTO: [A4] Yeah. So -- you ought to come with us.

[A3] We're the ones who woke you up, so it's our job to take responsibility for you now.

SAKI: [A5] It's going to be dangerous, but we've managed to muddle along so far.

[a1] You'll probably be all right so long as you stay safe behind us.

AUBREY: [a1] Thank you, but I will be able to handle myself in combat at least.

I'm no Lord Altair, but I'm used to magic.

If I am to accept your generous offer, please allow me to support you as best I can.

TEAGAN: [B3] [*] At least this kid's polite.

[look at TEAGAN]

SAKI + MEIRIN: Shhh.

{TEAGAN [, C>]}*

ALTO: [A2] That's good to hear, thanks. If things get to be too much just say so, okay?

[screen shake]

AUBREY: [A7] [</3] Y-y-yes!!

ALTO: [A7] ? (They're getting all red again?)

MEIRIN: [A5] [mu] (Aww, it's puppy love.)

SAKI: [A2] [<3] (That's adorable.)

TEAGAN: [A5] [* , C>] ...Give me a break.

{AUBREY joins the party}

POLYPHONY - TEMPLE - OUTSIDE BOSS ROOM - They find a door in a damaged room. It's shut.

ALTO: [A5] [?] Eh? This door won't open.

POETICO: Ah, hello~

TEAGAN: [A5] What.

MEIRIN: [A7] That door just spoke.

POETICO: I'm very sorry, but only persons who meet certain qualifications get to pass this point.

TEAGAN: [A5] What.

AUBREY: [a1] ?????

ALTO: [a1] How do you get qualified?

POETICO: Ummm~~

Oh, I know~

Let's play riddles!

[/large font]

TEAGAN: [A5] What.

SAKI: [a1] Do you mean a quiz?

POETICO: Oh yeah, one of those!

Because that way it can be a test to see if you know about music.

ALTO: [A2] Sure, let's try it.

POETICO: There are five of you, so there will be five questions, okay?

And you have to get them all right, okay? If you mess up, you'll have to start over from the beginning.

ALTO: [A2] That sounds fair.

POETICO: And you'll have to defeat some scaaaaaaary monsters too.

ALTO: [A7] --Eh?

POETICO: But you can try as many times as you like~

AUBREY: [B1] (That's a typical spirit for you.)

MEIRIN: [a1] (...So it IS a spirit on the other side.)

TEAGAN: [B3] ...This just got really ridiculous.

SAKI: [A5] Oh, come now. Why don't we humor them?

If we get the answers right, we can have them let us through with no fuss.

POETICO: Okay~

I left hints upstairs if you need them, so check them out!

Okay~ Let me know when you're ready~

Speaking with POETICO again, who is only known as VOICE for now.

POETICO: Are you ready?

{Yes}

POETICO: Q1: Which of these time signatures is known as Common Time?

Correct~

Now for the next question!

The history books always leave me out! Which am I?

Correct~

Now for the next question!

Q3: Which is the fastest?

Correct~

Now for the next question!

Q4: When playing scales on a cello in the key of G in the first position, which finger do you use to play Fa on the A string?

Correct~

Now for the final question!

Q5: Half of the choir is men. Half of the choir is women. Everyone thinks that the high parts are all for women and the low ones are for men.

But there's a point where the lines start to cross. Who's closest to the crossing point on the women's side?

You got them all right! Come on in~

Note that the fail state hasn't been transcribed.

POLYPHONY - TEMPLE BOSS ROOM - The quintet are surprised by a beam of light as they enter.

MEIRIN: [A7] Wah!

{POETICO appears}

SAKI: [A3] So you are a spirit after all.

POETICO: [mu] Sorry~

We're supposed to test people that come for the Grand Score and all,

but I don't like to spend all my time beating people up like some of the others do.

So I decided to do some riddles to narrow it down.

TEAGAN: [A5] [C>] I'm asking just for the sake of things, but how many people have you had poking around down here?

POETICO: [mu] You guys are the first!

TEAGAN: [B3] [*] I figured.

{POETICO [?]}

ALTO: [A3] If there were others, then that'd mean that they all went past Aubrey. Isn't that a good thing then?

POETICO: [IQ] Ohh? There's five of you.

So you have a full quintet already, that's nice.

AUBREY: [A7] [!] Eh? I...

TEAGAN: [A3] Hey. Aubrey's not involved in this.

POETICO: [?] Hmm? But that human child has the right potential.

AUBREY: [A3] [?] Do you mean -- for the World Tuning?

[faces AUBREY]

ALTO: [a1] Yeah. We don't have a vocalist yet.

[A3] And your magic comes from music too, so I think it's like the spirit says and you would be a good fit.

[A3] But you've already got a lot of things to worry about, so I meant to bring it up later, once we were through here.

[A2] And most importantly, it's still your choice.

{AUBREY [...]}

MEIRIN: [A4] [C>] Yeah, it's kinda much to make Aubrey take part in the fight too when they just woke up.

I think they should get the choice to opt out if they don't want to.

POETICO: Ohh? Are you okay with that?

I'm pretty tough despite my looks, you know~~~?

[mu] If you don't use all the help you can get, you might die, you know?

SAKI: [A3] Don't pressure them.

AUBREY: [A4] No -- it's all right. Please, allow me to support you.

[A3] In regards to the World Tuning... I want to think a little longer, but...

ALTO: [A3] Okay. Thank you.

[180]

POETICO: Child of the old blood, do you still desire to do this thing even though the laws of nature are against you?

ALTO: [A4] ...Yes. That's what I'm here for.

POETICO: [mu] Hmm.

Then, it's time for the real test. If you defeat me, you can have what you came for.

ALTO: [A4] Okay. Let's do it.

POETICO: Then let's go~

They win.

POETICO: [mu] Good~ Try your best, okay?

We do have to test you, but we're watching over you too.

[<3] I hope your heart stays as unwavering as your sword.

{POETICO fucks off, TEAGAN [...]}

[faces quintet]

ALTO: [a1] Is everybody okay?

SAKI: [a1] Yes.

MEIRIN: [A2] [mu] No problems!

AUBREY: [A2] Yes... thank you.

POLYPHONY - TEMPLE - GRAND SCORE ROOM - They enter and get the thing to do the thing.

SAKI: [A7] My...! This is the viola sheet music.

MEIRIN: [A2] Now you can practice with Teagan and me.

TEAGAN: [A2] Good thing, too.

We're almost to Metronome Tower, we need to be able to practice together or we won't be able to perform.

AUBREY: [A3] ...

ALTO: [a1] What's wrong?

AUBREY: [A3] Oh, no, it's just... the paper looks so old.

It was just the other day for me that I saw this score being worked on, and now I'm looking at the finished version.

It's so strange. I wonder if I'm still dreaming.

ALTO: [A4] It's not a dream.

AUBREY: [A3] ...

ALTO: [A3] I don't know how scary it is for you to be in this world with nobody you know.

But I'm right here with you, and so is everybody else.

[A2] Things have changed, but you're not alone.

AUBREY: [A8] That's right. Thank you.

ALTO: [A2] Still, that's really cool that you got to see the Grand Score being made!

You've gotta tell us more about it later!

[A2] Ehehe. Okay.

MEIRIN: [A6] (Oh no, they're so cute.)

SAKI: [A2] (My...)

TEAGAN: [B3] C'mon, kids, break up the romcom and let's get out of here already.

ALTO: [A7] Eh?

AUBREY: [a1] Um... what is a romcom?

SAKI + MEIRIN: Don't worry about it.

AUBREY: [a1] ???????

POLYPHONY - They are outside the temple now. AUBREY is in distress.

AUBREY: [A5] ...!!

ALTO: [A4] Whoa, are you okay?

AUBREY: [A5] The -- the town.

It's -- everything's different.

SAKI: [A3] Alto, they're hyperventilating.

This must be too much, too soon.

MEIRIN: [B4] Aubrey, hang in there, okay?

TEAGAN: [A4] ...Looks like we'd better not loiter around here for long.

[a1] There's a village to the north, right?

It should be quieter.

[A4] Maybe Aubrey will have a better chance to calm down there. Let's relocate for now.

ALTO: [A4] That sounds like a good plan.

Aubrey, c'mon, we're getting out of here.

Hold on to my hand and look at the ground, okay? Just breathe with me until we're out the front gate.

AUBREY: [A5] ...I'll try.

STAVE

ALTO: [A4] Let's hurry to the inn for now.

STAVE - INN - REC ROOM - TEAGAN, SAKI, and MEIRIN, are loitering around until ALTO walks down from the stairs.

MEIRIN: [A4] [!] Oh, Alto.

{SAKI [!]}

ALTO: [a1] Hey.

[sits at table]

SAKI: [A6] I hope Aubrey was able to calm down properly.

ALTO: [a1] [C>] Who knows? They went straight to sleep.

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] Well, there's no helping that.

[A4] They agreed to some experiment, went to sleep, and then woke up to hear that two thousand years have passed.

[a1] Everything in their hometown's different. I'd be more worried if they hadn't been shaken by all that.

SAKI: [A6] But there are a lot of practical complications to do with all this.

{TEAGAN faces SAKI}

MEIRIN: [a1] [?] Like what?

[faces MEIRIN]

SAKI: [A3] For instance, Aubrey has no personal identification.

[A6] Even if we were able to explain things somehow to the nation census takers,
making Aubrey an ID would mean having to falsify some information to avoid questions.

[A5] [C>] No one outside this country would ever believe that they're the survivor of an ancient
civilization

kept in hibernation for so long.

ALTO: [A2] I'm surprised. You really are considering all the practical stuff.

[faces ALTO]

SAKI: [A5] Well, I AM the adult here. And this is my personality.

MEIRIN: [B4] But hey Saki, worrying that much is really bad for your health.

[a1] You shoulders will get all stiff and stuff.

TEAGAN: [a1] I'm with Saki on this one.

All the problems that've popped up since Aubrey woke up aren't going to go away if we ignore them.

[A4] We need to figure out what to do, especially if they don't want to come with us.

ALTO: [A5] If that happens, I think that things will more or less work out if we can take them to Bel Canto.

[A3] We'll have some time before we have to go to Metronome Tower anyway,
and we can't practice all day, so we can help them get settled in.

[faces ALTO]

TEAGAN: [B3] That's a lot better than your usual plans, I guess.

ALTO: [A2] Really?

TEAGAN: [A5] Not a compliment.

[faces TEAGAN]

SAKI: [A5] ...Teagan, you're always so strict with Alto and Meirin.

[faces SAKI]

TEAGAN: [B3] In Meirin's case I at least hope she'll improve with age, but...

MEIRIN: [A4] [#] Hey!

TEAGAN: [A5] [C>] You guys don't know Alto like I do.

She's an airhead and sheltered already, and this is her first time out in the world.

She wouldn't be able to function on her own.

MEIRIN: [B1] [C>] Yikes.

[faces ALTO]

MEIRIN: [B1] Alto, I think you're allowed to get angry at her for that one.

ALTO: [a1] [C>] Mmm. But then again Teagan's only acting like this because she cares and is worried, so...

MEIRIN: [B1] And you're really okay with that?

[faces ALTO, MEIRIN, and back at ALTO]

SAKI: [A5] Now, now.

ALTO: [A4] But to be honest, I do hope that Aubrey will want to come with us.

TEAGAN; [B3] Yeah, we still don't have any other options for a good vocalist.

{MEIRIN looks at TEAGAN}

[a1] Without the score, we won't even be able to be specific about what vocal range we need.

ALTO: [A4] It's not just that. Teagan, you were joking about me just now, but...

TEAGAN: [A5] [*] I was serious, you know.

ALTO: [A4] ...but I think it's Aubrey being on their own that we should be concerned about.

TEAGAN: [A3] She ignored me!!

Teagan's acting like a cunt tbh

[faces MEIRIN]

SAKI: [A5] (I've been thinking all this time that Teagan is good at handling Alto, but...

maybe that goes for the other way around, too?)

MEIRIN: [A6] (I know, right?)

{SAKI + MEIRIN [mu]}

TEAGAN: [A5] [#] Wipe those damn grins off your faces or I'll do it for you.

{SAKI looks at TEAGAN}

MEIRIN: [A6] Ooh, scary.

ALTO: [A6] [C>] C'mon, guys.

[faces ALTO]

SAKI: [a1] We're listening, we're sorry.

ALTO: [A4] Even with Aubrey panicking and all,

I think that we're probably underestimating the seriousness of all the time that's passed since they were last awake.

How many new inventions have been created since then? How much has the world changed?

How many new laws have been passed, and how are world politics different now? Things like that.

There are probably a lot of things that we take for granted that Aubrey doesn't know about.

They need someone who can be understanding and explain when those things come up.

MEIRIN: [B6] [...] Oh. Yeah, you're probably right. I didn't think of it like that.

ALTO: [A3] And we were the ones who woke them up, so it won't feel right unless we take responsibility.

[A5] I don't want to push them into coming along out of my own sense of obligation, or anything...

MEIRIN: [a1] [C>] Even though you kept saying it'll be fine, it'll be fine to me?

ALTO: [A5] Mm, I think in your case it was a little different.

There's a big difference between encouraging somebody that you think they're good enough when they're not

feeling confident and manipulating someone who's feeling lost and vulnerable.

{MEIRIN [...]}

SAKI: [A7] [?] Meirin?

MEIRIN: [B4] ...How the heck were you able tell that that was why I was hesitating?

ALTO: [A2] [?] Instinct.

MEIRIN: [B1] [C>] Like I just said, how?

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] Well, I guess the advantage to being an idiot
is that the simple things are extra clear without complicated stuff to get in the way.

[faces TEAGAN]

SAKI: [a1] [C>] Teagan, that's mean.

TEAGAN: [A5] [*] It's true though.

ALTO: [A6] [*] Guys, I wasn't done.

{SAKI faces ALTO}

MEIRIN: [a1] Sorry.

ALTO: [A5] Well, the thing you wanted to talk about was important. Anyway, though.

SAKI: [a1] Anyway?

ALTO: [A3] I do want Aubrey to come with us, and it's not just that.

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] Instinct again?

ALTO: [A5] [*] Hmmmmmm. I guess. It's hard to explain.

TEAGAN: [A5] [#] Try.

ALTO: [A5] Mmmmm~

[A3] Well, we don't know much about the vocal part of the Grand Score yet, but Aubrey's vocal range is pretty big.

And their voice is beautiful.

It's already hard to imagine that we'd be able to find anybody better.

They've also traveled with us for a little bit, so we know that we can get along with them.

SAKI: [A2] That's certainly true.

ALTO: [A2] Besides, it can't hurt to have someone with specific knowledge of how the Grand Score was written.

You never know if that'll come in handy.

TEAGAN: [B3] We still don't know how much of the Grand Score's creation that Aubrey knows about, but yeah, I guess that's fair.

ALTO: [A3] And... I just want them to come along because I like them.

{SAKI and MEIRIN [!]}

MEIRIN: [B3] [mu] Oho?

ALTO: [A7] [?] ?? Yeah. Their reactions to things are pretty funny.

[A2] Being around them just feels nice. Like... sunny and fluffy.

TEAGAN: [A5] [C>] What the heck?

ALTO: [A3] [...] And when Aubrey is around, I kind of feel -- gentler somehow.

MEIRIN: [A2] [mu] But Alto, you're already nice.

ALTO: [A6] [C>, *] You guys said to explain.

[A5] I'm not good with words, so this is the best I can do.

SAKI: [A5] [mu] ...No, well -- it was a bit vague, true, but I think I understand the gist of how you feel.

[A4] I hope that Aubrey decides to come along, too. It would be sad to say goodbye so soon.

MEIRIN: [A3] ...Yeah.

ALTO: [A3] Anyway, I'm gonna go back up and keep an eye on them. You guys should get back to practicing.

[a1] Teagan, I'm leaving things to you.

TEAGAN: [a1] Sure.

STAVE - INN - BEDROOM - ALTO is at AUBREY's and sees her wake up.

AUBREY: [B2] [...] ...Nn.

ALTO: [a1] [!] Oh! You woke up.

AUBREY: [B2] ...Alto?

ALTO: [A2] Yep! Haha, I'm kinda getting déjà vu here.

AUBREY: [a1] Heheh.

ALTO: [A4] How do you feel?

AUBREY: [a1] A little better than before. Thank you for doing all this.

ALTO: [A2] Oh, no need to thank me. I'm just happy I could help.

AUBREY: [A3] [...] ...I don't want to go back to sleep.

ALTO: [a1] [?] Hm?

[sits up]

AUBREY: [A3] [...] When I volunteered for the hibernation experiment,

I thought that it wouldn't matter because I'd already lost everything.

I didn't have anything else worth losing, so it wouldn't even matter if I didn't wake up.

But now I know that it was wrong to think like that.

I went to sleep, and when I woke up --

Lord Altair and all the other kids at the orphanage, and even Lady Arietta... all of them are gone now.

They've faded away into history.

No one is alive that will remember them except for me. Everything I knew is gone now.

And even now -- I've just met you and the others, and you've been kinder to me than I deserve.

If I go to sleep -- it may only be a one in a million chance, but I'm afraid.

[A6] I don't want to wake up and find that the "new things" I've just found are gone too.

ALTO: [A3] [...] ...It's okay.

AUBREY: [A3] Eh?

ALTO: [A3] Even if you go to sleep and don't wake up -- I'll just have to wake you up again, like before.

I can't bring back the things that you lost, but this much is something I can do.

AUBREY: [a1] ...Oh.

ALTO: [A3] [...] Until then -- if you're scared, you just have to hold my hand. I'm with you, so it's not so scary.

AUBREY: [A8] I'm -- glad.

ALTO: [a1] [?] Hm?

AUBREY: [A8] I'm just very happy that it was you.

ALTO: [a1] [?] ???

AUBREY: [A2] Don't worry about it.

ALTO: [A2] [IQ] Oh, I know.

[a1] The others should be practicing on the next floor down.

[A2] Want to go to the top of the stairs and listen?

AUBREY: [a1] All right.

STAVE - INN - BEDROOM HALLWAY - Switches over to a drawing of the two of them having their little gay moment at the top of the stairs.

ALTO: Oh, they sound good.

It's pretty nice to get to hear the practices kind of getting bigger and bigger as we get the music for each new part.

At first it was just Teagan playing alone.

And then we got Meirin to join in.

Their styles are different, but I think they've found a balance.

And now Saki is able to play with them.

They're all still getting used to each other and making mistakes, but it feels like I'm watching them all grow.

AUBREY: ...It really is a strange feeling. Getting to listen to the finished version, I mean.

ALTO: Did you ever get to hear the Grand Score when it was still a work in progress?

AUBREY: Not really.

Or at least not as it's meant to be played, like this.

Sometimes Lady Arietta would bring the drafts in and Lord Altair would play two of the parts at once on the organ or the piano.

That was late at night like this, too.

ALTO: What's it like, knowing them?

I've only ever heard them talked about and seen their names in the history books, so it's not like I can tell what kind of people they were.

AUBREY: Lord Altair took care of us.

He was kind, and we all love him.

On the other hand, I think there were a lot of people like me who felt jealous of Lady Arietta for being his friend.

Even though I know now that it was silly, and that we weren't competing with her.

And there were some people that didn't like Lady Arietta.

ALTO: Because of Metronome Tower?

AUBREY: Yes. The disasters weren't her fault. We knew that, but the tower was still her idea.

ALTO: That's fair.

AUBREY: But she wasn't a bad person. And -- I liked her music.

ALTO: ...Hey, Aubrey.

AUBREY: What is it?

ALTO: Do you like to sing?

AUBREY: ...I said before that I didn't care if I died in the experiment.

But there was one thing.

I did realize even then that if I died, that would mean I would never be able to sing again.

I didn't want that.

Singing in the choir -- with the other orphans, and with Lord Altair playing the piano -- that made me happy.

Being with them made me happy, and just feeling myself melt into the music made me happy.

It was the one good thing in my life.

ALTO: Yeah.

You know, I... I think you have a beautiful voice.

It's clear and strong, and I thought that it felt like you really put your heart into it.

So I love to hear you sing.

And I'm glad that you told me all that.

I know how that feels.

AUBREY: Alto...

ALTO: Hmm?

AUBREY: I want to come with you. I want to join your ensemble and do the World Tuning.

ALTO: Really?

AUBREY: I couldn't live my life with the others. I couldn't watch over Lady Arietta's success, or be there at Lord Altair's funeral.

But this is something that I can do. I think it will be a fitting tribute to them. And...

ALTO: And?

AUBREY: It's a really nice piece.

So I want to play it with all of you.

And I want to go together with all of you, as long as I'm not a burden.

ALTO: You're not a burden. You could never be.

Thanks. I'm really glad that this is how you feel.

AUBREY: ...

{Scene cuts to ALTO waking up}

ALTO: [A7] [C>] Eh? Am I the last one up?

[a1] ...Oh well, I guess I'll go find everybody else.

We can meet back here in the inn to talk about what to do next.

STAVE - INN - DOWNSTAIRS - ALTO needs to collect everyone. Starts off with AUBREY.

AUBREY: [A8] Thank you so much for last night, Alto.

[A2] I was able to sleep without any worries because you were there.

[A7] [?] Oh? What am I doing?

[B1] Well, there were so many things I've never seen for breakfast that it was a little overwhelming...

So I had Saki help me.

[a1] But I'm glad that there are also things that are the same.

I'm ready to go when you are.

Talks to SAKI, eating at the breakfast bar.

SAKI: [a1] Oh, Alto! Good morning.

[A2] [mu] The sweets here at the breakfast bar are excellent. You should really try some before we have to leave.

[<3] And the coffee is magnificent.

Why, just one sip and I felt more awake than I have in longer than I can remember.

STAVE - Finds Teagan chatting with the villagers.

TEAGAN: [A2] Oh hey, you're finally up. I thought you were gonna sleep past noon.

[A6] Some of the villagers were going ice fishing -- have you heard that's one of the big sources of income for Stave?

[A2] When I said I'd never seen it done, they said I could come watch.

The people here in Harmonia sure are friendly.

STAVE - Finds MEIRIN in a snowball fight with some kids.

MEIRIN: [A2] Good morning!!

ALTO: [A7] Whoa, you've got snow all over your shirt.

MEIRIN: [A5] [mu] Hehe, yeah, I was duking it out with some of the little kids in a snowball fight.

[B2] I won, by the way.

ALTO: [A2] Isn't that a little unfair?

MEIRIN: [A6] Hey, it was like ten against one. They nearly got me. But we all had fun, which is what's most important.

[a1] Are we gonna talk about what we're doing next now?

STAVE - INN - LOBBY/RESTAURANT - The Quintet are at the table talking about their next course of action.

ALTO: [A2] We're almost to Bel Canto.

Just a little more work and we'll be ready to sit down and practice for the real deal.

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] Hey, isn't it a little worrying that we're still missing two parts of the Grand Score?

ALTO: [a1] Not necessarily. The last part of the sheet music will be in Bel Canto.

MEIRIN: [a1] [?] How do you know that?

SAKI: [a1] No, she's right. I've read about this too.

TEAGAN: [a1] So, why will it be in Bel Canto then?

ALTO: [A3] The sheet music that was used by the last Cantabile to perform the ritual is always kept in Bel Canto.

[A2] So we really only need to find one more.

[A5] We've looks all over the country, so it's probably hidden somewhere in Minuet Forest.

[A3] And we need to pass through the forest to get to Bel Canto anyway.

MEIRIN: [A2] Oh, that's convenient.

ALTO: [A4] We have no idea what else is going to be barring our way.

We could have another spirit guarding the last part of the scor, or there could be more strong monsters.

We just need to stick together and not let our guard down and we'll be fine, so let's be careful and not tempt fate.

AUBREY: [a1] I have mentioned this before, but I'm going to be participatign in the ritual as the vocalist.

Please look after me and bear with my incompetence.

SAKI: [A2] Oh, no. It's an honor to have you with us.

MEIRIN: [a1] If you have trouble with anything, let us know, okay?

AUBREY: [A2] Thank you, everyone.

TEAGAN: [A2] If that's settled, then let's stock up and get going.

MINUET FOREST - BLIND JUSTICE - Just when you think you're out of it, TACET spawns to fuck your shit.

{Quintet [!]}

TACET: ...

ALTO: [A4] So it's another spirit.

TACET: ...

MEIRIN: [a1] ...??

{Quintet [!], TACET [C>] as POETICO appears in another blinding flash of light}

POETICO: Hello again~

AUBREY: [A7] Ah!

TEAGAN: [A5] What, two at once this time?

POETICO: [mu] No, no, I'm here to interpret~

{TACET [] faces POETICO}*

POETICO: Aw, don't make that face~ If it's just you, it's gonna take forever for them to understand.

ALTO: [A7] [?] ???

POETICO: 'Cos Tacet isn't very good at talking.

TEAGAN: [a1] [IQ] Oh, so you can't talk.

POETICO: She can sometimes, just not always.

TACET: [*] Poetico, shut up.

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] I see.

SAKI: [a1] Now, now.

POETICO: Anyway!

We're here to do that thing, the usual thing.

ALTO: [A3] Okay.

[faces the Quintet]

TACET: ...

POETICO: You have no intention of turning back, right?

ALTO: [a1] No. I'm going to do this, even if it goes against nature.

[A4] It's why I'm here.

TACET: ...

AUBREY: [a1] We're here to support Alto, so... please give us your best regards.

MEIRIN: [A6] [mu] Yeah! We'll take on any fight picked with us!

[faces MEIRIN]

SAKI: [A5] Now, now.

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] ...Is this really gonna be okay?

[faces TEAGAN and then the rest of the Quintet]

ALTO: [A2] What are you talking about?

{SAKI looks at ALTO}

[A3] I wouldn't want to do this ritual with anybody else. We'll do great!

[A2] Probably.

{ALTO and MEIRIN [mu], TEAGAN []}*

POETICO: [<3] Ehehehe~

Then, go ahead!

TACET: [C>] ...Poetico, shut up.

They win.

TEAGAN: [B3] That was pretty tough.

MEIRIN: [A2] But we won! High five!

TEAGAN: [B3] [*] Yeah, yeah.

SAKI: [a1] [<3] My!

AUBREY: [A2] [mu] Ehehe.

ALTO: [A3] ...

[moves to ALTO]

TACET: ...

ALTO: [a1] [?] What is it?

TACET: ...Here.

[gives ALTO Grand Score 5]

ALTO: [A2] [!] Oh! This is the vocal score.

TACET: ...(nod)

SAKI: [a1] And now we really do only have one left.

POETICO: [...] You have nice friends.

ALTO: [A3] Yeah.

POETICO: Stay strong-willed.

TACET: ...(nod)

{The fairies (except SAKI) leave}

AUBREY: [a1] They left.

MEIRIN: [a1] [mu] Spirits are pretty cool.

[moves up, faces the Quintet]

ALTO: [A3] There's only a little further until we reach Bel Canto.

We'll be settling in there for a couple of days ,so think of it as just one last push until we can take a break.

[turns away]

[a1] Let's go.

BEL CANTO

ALTO: [A3] We're finally here...

SAKI: [A7] So this is Bel Canto.

MEIRIN: [B3] It's huge!

AUBREY: [A3] ...It's funny. Polyphony seemed so different, but Bel Canto is just the same as ever.

{TEAGAN [...]}

MEIRIN: [a1] [?] So hey Alto, now that we're here, what do we do?

[faces the Quintet]

ALTO: [A5] Hmm. First we should go see the mayor... I mean, the Prime Minister.

[A4] They ought to be the one with the last part of the Grand Score.

We'll also need to decide where we're going to stay.

We can stay at the in if we have to,

but I don't think we'll be able to practice there now that there's five of us.

We'll definitely get yelled at for being noisy.

That's also something we can ask the Prime Minister about.

And after that, I need to get a rental cello to practice with.

SAKI: [a1] [?] And then?

ALTO: [A2] [<3] Rehearsal hell.

MEIRIN: [B4] [C>] Wah, when you put it like that it makes me nervous.

ALTO: [A2] [mu] We'll take breaks and stuff, so it'll be okay.

SAKI: [A5] [C>] Yes, it would be terrible if one of us were to be injured at this point.

[looks at ALTO and AUBREY]

MEIRIN: [A3] But will you two really be okay, joining rehearsals this late?

[faces MEIRIN]

AUBREY: [B1] Well... since I've heard the in-progress version, I think I'll be more or less alright.

And just from looking at the sheet music, I can tell that this won't be too difficult.

=====RETARD ZONE=====

ALTO: [A2] [mu] Yep. We're gonna make this thing performance ready in three days.

=====RETARD ZONE=====

{SAKI, MEIRIN, and AUBREY look at ALTO surprised [!]}

MEIRIN: [A7] Three days?!

SAKI: [A7] My...

ALTO: [A2] You and Saki have already been practicing with Teagan, and Aubrey says it'll be okay, so it'll be okay.

MEIRIN: [B4] But what about you? You haven't even got your sheet music yet!

ALTO: [A3] Mm, well, you can get just about any piece down if you practice eight to twelve hours a day for three days straight.

MEIRIN: [A7] [C>] Oh my god.

SAKI: [A5] [C>] Even so...

ALTO: [A2] [mu] It'll be okay! You'll see.

[A5] Hmm... from what time it is already, I'd say that we should start group practice tomorrow.

[a1] If everyone wants to practice on their own or in groups until then that's fine, but take care of yourselves.

[A5] Well, if you say so with such confidence.

[faces TEAGAN]

MEIRIN: [a1] ...Hey Teagan, you've been awful quiet. Is there anything wrong?

TEAGAN: [a1] Huh? Ah... no, it's nothing.

MEIRIN: [B4] Really?

TEAGAN: [A5] Allow me to rephrase myself. It's not anybody else's business.

MEIRIN: [B1] Rude!

AUBREY: [a1] ...Shall we go, then?

ALTO: [a1] Yeah, let's hurry up and do it. We've got a lot to take care of.

BEL CANTO - PARLIAMENT BUILDING (?) - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE - They surprise the Prime Minister (female) and I don't really know what else to type I'm so fucking tired.

PM: [!] You're...

ALTO: [A4] My name is Contralto Canabile. I'm here to perform the World Tuning.

PM: I see. We've been waiting for your arrival since word came in from Dal Segno.

This is for you.

{Grand Score 4 get!}

ALTO: [a1] [...] This is...

[A3] I see. So the one before me really did play the cello too.

[A2] That makes me kinda happy.

TEAGAN: [A5] Hey Alto, don't you have something you need to ask about before you get all starry-eyed?

ALTO: [a1] Oh, right.

[A5] I know that this is imposing, since we've already had you keep the Grand Score for us,
but my quintet and I need a place to stay and to practice.

[A4] We don't want to cause the guests at the inn trouble playing.

PM: In that case, why not stay at the Cantabile mansion?

ALTO: [a1] Eh?

MEIRIN: [B4] There's a thing like that here?

PM: Yes. Although the Cantabile family no longer lives in Harmonia, their ancestral family property has
been maintained.

From what I hear, it's typical for the World Tuning performers to stay there.

ALTO: [a1] ...Is it really okay for us to stay there?

PM: Of course it is. It's the least we can do.

Feel free to use the mansion for as long as you're staying here. It's in the northwest corner of town.

Here's the key.

ALTO: [A2] Thank you.

BEL CANTO - CANTABILE MANOR

[runs in and jumps and shit]

MEIRIN: [B3] This place is huuuge!

ALTO: [A2] [mu] Ahahaha. I think it's smaller than our estates at home, but it should do.

MEIRIN: [A7] Smaller?!

ALTO: [A7] [?] How come you're so surprised?

MEIRIN: [A7] [C>] No, um... I think it finally sank in that you're a rich noble lady.

{ALTO [?]}

[B4] [C>] You always seemed so normal before.

ALTO: [A2] [mu] Ahaha, really?

TEAGAN: [B3] [*] I know.

{The others look at TEAGAN}

She acts like just any other airhead and is totally ignorant of her own status,
but back where we come from, the Cantabiles are just a few steps down from royalty.

ALTO: [A7] [C>] What do you mean, totally ignorant?

[A5] That's a problem, since I do mean to behave as a proper Cantabile all the time.

MEIRIN: [A1] [C>] Um, that's not really what Teagan and I mean.

{ALTO [?] looks at MEIRIN, everyone looks at ALTO}

SAKI: [A5] [mu] I think what they're implying is that you don't put on airs or act like you're better than the rest of us.

[?, faces SAKI]

ALTO: [A1] Why would I do that? I'm not better than you guys.

TEAGAN: [A4] The main house didn't really bring her out into society much.

She never got taught "how nobles ought to act" or that she should be proud of her heritage.

ALTO: [A2] Yeah, 'cause I spent most of my time inside practicing music or traing to use Bowing.

SAKI: [A6] [...] ...I see.

ALTO: [A5] [?] Is that a bad thing?

MEIRIN: [A2] No, it's a good thing.

{ALTO looks at MEIRIN}

[B1] A lot of nobility are really self-important, so it's good to be different from that.

AUBREY: [A2] At least in this regard, Alto's both similar to Lady Arietta and nothing like her at all.

{ALTO looks at AUBREY surprised [!]}

SAKI: [A1] Oh?

AUBREY: [A1] I think that Lady Arietta was very conscious of how nobles were expected to act.
But she went out of her way to not be like that.

ALTO: [A2] I don't really get it, but it makes me happy to hear that I'm like her.

TEAGAN: [A1] Anyway, do you think this is a good enough place to stay and practice?

[faces TEAGAN]

ALTO: [A3] Yeah. This is perfect.

[faces MEIRIN]

[A1] All that's left is to get a cello.

BEL CANTO - MUSIC SHOP - They go say hello to RENTAL DUDE.

ALTO: [A1] Um, I need to rent a cello for the next three days.

RD: All right. What size?

ALTO: [A1] Full size, please. Oh, and if possible, I want a mixed-hair bow.

RD: We have a few different cellos available, if you'd like to try them.

[...]

ALTO: [A5] Hmm. It's just for three days, so I'll find with whatever.

[faces ALTO]

TEAGAN: [B3] Hey, are you sure about that?

ALTO: [A3] I mean... if I pick it out myself, I'll probably just get attached.

It's not like I'll be able to buy it and bring it home with me.

AUBREY: [A3] ...Alto.

MEIRIN: [B4] [?] Huh? Why the heck not?

Once we're done the monsters should calm down,
so it's not like it'll be dangerous to bring it all the way back or anything.

ALTO: [A8] The people at home won't like it.

[..., faces ALTO]

SAKI: [A3] Alto, look at me.

[faces SAKI]

ALTO: [A8] Eh?

SAKI: [A4] This is very important.

I know you've said that we won't be using our own instruments,
but our performance will be affected by the practice sessions.

You need to be able to play your best just like us,
so you ought to try everything these people have to offer and choose an instrument that suits you.

[...]

ALTO: [A8] ...But I think I'll just end up regretting it.

SAKI: [A2] If you do wind up wanting to buy it, then you should forget about your parents and just do it.

ALTO: [A8] Eh?

SAKI: [A6] I don't know your family circumstances, so my ability to give advice is limited, but...

[A1] it isn't as though your parents will be the heads of the Cantabile house forever, right?

[A2] Even if you can't bring it home with you right away, I think you're quite old enough to have your own instrument.

[...]

ALTO: [A5] Maybe you're right.

SAKI: [A2] Right? So, you go choose.

ALTO starts testing, the screen goes black.

TEAGAN: [B3] You know she's just gonna fall in love with the first one she picks up and refuse to try any of the others.

[A4] She's not used to making decisions for herself, you know. She can't do it in a smart way.

SAKI: [A3] And what's wrong with that?

TEAGAN: [A5] ...What the hell? Weren't you just talking about how important the rehearsals are?

SAKI: [A4] Now, Teagan.

[A3] I haven't traveled with Alto as long as you have.

But I've still seen enough to know that having opportunities like this is important for her.

How else is she to learn, if she can't make her own decisions and learn from their results?

TEAGAN: [A3] Maybe so, but this isn't the time and place.

SAKI: [A3] If not now, then when?

TEAGAN: [A3] Hey...

SAKI: [A4] Alto chose me.

She could have overlooked me and picked any other violist, but she chose me.

This is the least I can do to repay her for that.

MEIRIN: [B5] ...Saki, you're so nice.

SAKI: [A2] My, my, you're going to make me blush.

AUBREY: [A3] ...Alto.

TEAGAN: [A4] ...

The screen returns and ALTO comes back, with everyone looking at her.

ALTO: [A2] Sorry to keep you waiting!

SAKI: [A2] Were you able to pick one?

ALTO: [A3] Yeah. I'm ready, so let's go back to the mansion and rest.

[A2] [mu] Rehearsal hell starts tomorrow, so you better sleep while you can.

MEIRIN: [A7] [C>] Are we gonna be okay?

ALTO: [A1] Yep! Teagan's done a good job leading the practice sessions so far, but now it's my turn.

[A3] I'll look after you all, so there's nothing to worry about now.

REHEARSAL DAY 1

BEL CANTO - CANTABILE MANOR - REHEARSAL ROOM - The screen is black.

ALTO: [A1] Okay, everybody stop.

Fades up to the messy room.

MEIRIN: [A7] [C>] Ughh... my fingers are killing me...

[screen shake]

TEAGAN: [A3] [#] This is pathetic.

[A5] Meirin, every time you get into sixteenth notes you go to pieces.

And you're still missing about half your grace notes.

[glances at TEAGAN]

MEIRIN: [B4] [C>] But Teagaaaaan...

[screen shake]

TEAGAN: [A3] [#] No whining!

And Saki!

[jumps]

SAKI: [A7] Yes?!

TEAGAN: [A5] You've been consistently under tempo all day.

[B3] [*] We've talked about this before. You can do better, so you have no excuse for this!

SAKI: [B3] [C>] Ouch...

TEAGAN: [A3] And Aubrey!

AUBREY: [A7] Eep...

[screen shake]

TEAGAN: [A3] [#] You need to sing louder!

[A5] [*] I can barely hear you, and it's not like we're brass players or anything, so that shouldn't be happening.

Your fortes are barely pezzopiano. You sing much louder in combat when you're casting magic.

[A3] [#] Step it up!

SAKI + MEIRIN + AUBREY: [C>] (She's evil...!)

[...]

ALTO: [A4] Teagan.

TEAGAN: [A5] [*] What?

ALTO: [A5] It's good that you're paying close attention to everyone else,
but whenever you get the melody you keep rushing, you know?

{SAKI, MEIRIN, AUBREY [!]}

TEAGAN: [A5] [C>] Erk.

ALTO: [A5] And once you get up past third position, you've been playing kind of sharp too.

TEAGAN: [A5] [C>] Erk.

ALTO: [A5] Also, you've been getting kind of lazy on your vibrato when someone else has the melody,
you know?

[A4] They're simple parts, so even if you're conserving energy, you don't really have an excuse.

[screen shake]

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] Ugh.

[faces ALTO]

SAKI: [A7] ...

[faces ALTO]

MEIRIN: [A7] ...

[faces ALTO]

AUBREY: [A7] ...

ALTO: [A5] Teagan's been having everybody start on a down bow, right?

SAKI: [A7] Yes...

ALTO: [A4] Gauging from this morning's practice and the sheet music,

I think everybody would have an easier time on the more complicated sections if we started with an up bow.

[A1] I had a tutor that taught me that once.

TEAGAN: [A3] ...You're right. Shit, why didn't I think fo that?

ALTO: [A2] Don't be too hard on yourself.

[A3] You've been trying to micromanage everybody else, so of course it wouldn't occur to you.

[A2] Oh, and Meirin, if you're having trouble with the really fast bits with lots of notes, try working on them at half tempo.

[A1] When you can play them that way, then try going faster. I'll practice together with you later.

MEIRIN: [A1] Um, sure...

ALTO: [A2] Saki, you should try playing with a metronome to keep your temp stable.

[A3] Oh, and Aubrey, just concentrate on your breathing
and make sure your mouth is open wide enough when you sing.

[A5] That should be good enough for now, until we get the chance to sit down and really work out group dynamics.

[C>] We've all been kind of a mess at that today.

SAKI: [A7] ...

MEIRIN: [A7] ...

AUBREY: [A7] ...

ALTO: [A4] [!] And one last thing, be sure you're looking to me for signals.

I know it's more typical for the first violin to lead an ensemble, but your lead this time is me.

This will be especially important during the World Tuning.

{Pregnant pause}

[A7] [C>] ...Um, and why are you all looking at me with such surprised faces?

MEIRIN: [A1] Um...

[C>] I guess I've just gained a lot of respect for you in a short amount of time.

{ALTO [?]}

SAKI: [A7] She's right. You only just got your sheet music yesterday, and you're already outperforming all of us.

On top of that, you've been paying attention to the rest of us,
and you're even able to correct Teagan's mistakes...

MEIRIN: [B4] I'm sorry for thinking poorly of you up until now. You've actually really got it together.

TEAGAN: [B3] [*] Only when it comes to music. She's the same old Alto otherwise, you know.

[faces TEAGAN]

MEIRIN: [A1] [C>] You're so cavalier about this.

TEAGAN: [A5] I'm used to it.

SAKI: [A1] Even so, that's probably the best cello performance I've ever heard.

{MEIRIN looks at ALTO}

ALTO: [A2] I've been playing since I was five.

If you practice for hours every day for thirteen years, of course you'll get good at playing.

AUBREY: [A1] Since age five... no wonder.

MEIRIN: [A7] [C>] Whoa.

ALTO: [A5] Umm -- anyhow.

[A4] We need to take a break. Everyone's frustrated and tired, so it'd be useless to keep playing now.

[A1] It's back to practice after dinner, so we all need to meet up back here at around... how does seven

sound?

SAKI: [A2] That's fine with me.

MEIRIN: [A2] Same here.

AUBREY: [A2] All right.

ALTO: [A2] Okay. You can practice a little on your own if you want, but don't push yourself if it starts to hurt.

[A1] Oh, and try to stay in town unless something big comes up.

BEL CANTO - CANTABILE MANOR - ALTO engages AUBREY.

ALTO: [A2] Oh, hey Aubrey.

AUBREY: [A1] What is it?

ALTO: [A1] The rest of us were talking about this before,
but now that we're here in Bel Canto, do you want to go get an ID made?

AUBREY: [A1] [?] ...ID?

AUBREY: [A1] Identification papers.

[A5] They didn't have those back when you were born, but you need them nowadays to prove your age and stuff.

Anyhow, not having one is a pain.

AUBREY: [A1] [?] I don't really understand, but...

[A8] [///] (If it means I get to spend the day with you, then...)

All right.

ALTO: [A1] The census office should be on this side of town, so let's go see if we can persuade them into this.

BEL CANTO - CENSUS OFFICE - The office is empty, with the exception of a single attendant we'll call CENSUS WOMAN.

CW: Hello, how may I help you?

ALTO: [A5] Um... it's kind of a long story, but...

{Fade to and from black}

...So that's the case, but is there anything we can do about it?

CW: Hmm~. Yes, that certainly is a problem.

AUBREY: [A7] Eh? You believe us?

CW: Well, someone telling such an outlandish story is probably telling the truth.

There isn't much to gain from lying, and besides, the young miss is a Cantabile.

Man, if only every person in a position of authority was like this.

AUBREY: [A3] I see...

CW: But this is troublesome. If we had the whole country's birth records from the 700s, we could get to creating an ID right away, but...

Records prior to the 1000s would either be kept in a person's hometown or perhaps in Libretto.

If you can bring us Mx Spica's birth records, we'll get right to work.

>Mx

ALTO: [A5] What if the birth records are being kept in a way that we can't bring them?

CW: A copy would be fine.

ALTO: [A5] Hmm~

AUBREY: [A3] I spent most of my life in Polyphony.

Lord Altair would have had a copy of my birth records and such, so we can probably ask around there.

ALTO: [A4] Would you be okay there?

AUBREY: [A1] I think so.

ALTO: [A1] Okay. Let's try Polyphony first.

AUBREY: [A1] Should we gather the others?

ALTO: [A3] Nah, this won't take long, so we might as well go by ourselves.

AUBREY: [B1] Um... willl we really be okay crossing the forest and the mountains alone?

ALTO: [A2] We have Quick Jump, we'll manage.

AUBREY: [A1] ?????????

POLYPHONY - TOWN HALL - They find and engage GREEN-HAIRED GUY.

GHG: Historic documents? Hmm.

Lady Rebecca might know. She's not sociable, so you'll probably find her upstairs.

Talking with REBECCA.

REBECCA: [?] Huh? Old records?

...I'm pretty sure we sent all that off to Libretto. It was just gathering dust here.

ALTO: [A3] Okay, we'll try Libretto then. Thanks.

LIBRETTO - LIBRARY GROUND FLOOR - They talk to LIBRARIAN 1 (female).

L1: Birth records from the 700s? We have them collected here, but...

AUBREY: [A1] Um... we need the records from the 730s specifically, so...

L1: I have the book right here, but it's a reference book, so you shouldn't be taking it out of the library, let alone the town.

[*]

ALTO: [A5] Mmm~ Then, is there a way that we can get a copy of the relevant pages?

L1: I can give you special permission to take this down to the printing press. But be sure to bring the book back right away.

ALTO: [A2] Sure~

L1: Our fines are scary, y'know?

ALTO: [A6] [ugh] I'm not gonna forget!!

{Census records GET!}

LIBRETTO - PRINT SHOP - Talking with PRINTER

PRINTER: These pages, right? Just a moment.

{Census copy GET!}

LIBRETTO - LIBRARY GROUND LEVEL - They talk to Librarian 1 again.

ALTO: [A2] Here you go!

L1: Thank you~

BEL CANTO - CENSUS OFFICE - They engage CENSUS WOMAN.

ALTO: We found it!

CW: Oh! Let's see...

Then, this ID will be for Mx Aubrey Spica, agender, born September 9, 734, currently age 17... correct?

AUBREY: [A1] Yes.

CW: All right. Then, please come this way, and we'll get to work.

{Screen fades to and from black}

This ID will be for tuse in Harmonia, and this one is for the rest of the world.

AUBREY: [A2] Thank you very much.

ALTO: [A3] Yeah, thanks for going to all the trouble.

CW: Oh no, thank you for coming to us.

AUBREY: [A8] And... Alto, thank you for going out of your way for me.

ALTO: [A2] What are you talking about? It's no trouble at all.

AUBREY: [A8] ...

(Ahh... what a brilliant smile.)

ALTO: [A1] ???

[A3] Anyway, our break will be over soon, let's go back.

AUBREY: [A2] Alright.

REHEARSAL DAY 2

BEL CANTO - CANTABILE MANOR - REHEARSAL ROOM - Screen is black.

ALTO: [A1] Okay, break time.

Fades up to the familiar room.

[looks downward]

MEIRIN: [A7] [C>] Waaah... I'm gonna die...

SAKI: [B3] [C>] It's hell... it's really rehearsal hell...

[screen shake]

TEAGAN: [A5] [#] You two are pitiful.

[A3] You've both been performing for years, so you shouldn't have this much trouble keeping up.

[screen shake]

MEIRIN: [A4] [*] I haven't performed in a formal concert or anything in ages! Give me a break!!

[screen shakes, large font]

TEAGAN: [A3] [#] No!!

ALTO: [A4] Teagan, calm down. There's no point in pushing them until they hurt themselves.

[A2] And besides, as irritable as you are right now,

I don't think you could keep up with a literal all-day practice either.

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] ...Ugh.

[faces ALTO]

SAKI: [A5] How should I put this... it's amazing how you can spot these things in Teagan.

ALTO: [A3] [mu] Well, we've been performing together since we were kids. So I know what to look for.

[A5] [C>] I'm not as good at that with you and Meirin and Aubrey.

If I were, I could probably time breaks better so that you'd look less defeated whenever we stop.

TEAGAN: [B3] [C>] ...Ugh.

Anyway, we've still got a lot of problems to fix.

ALTO: [A2] Yeah, but you and Saki have both been better at keeping to the tempo today.

[A1] Meirin hasn't missed as many notes either. And Aubrey's been louder.

[faces ALTO]

MEIRIN: [A1] I think that that up bow trick has helped a lot. Like... I dunno, our articulation seems better?

[B4] I wish I'd known about it earlier.

[looks down]

SAKI: [A5] I don't think there's any helping that. But you do know it now.

MEIRIN: [A1] [*] I guess so.

[...]

AUBREY: [A3] ...I wonder if we can make tea.

MEIRIN: [A1] [?] Ehh? Well, we should have tea stuff in the kitchen, I checked. What's up with that?

AUBREY: [A3] It's just, my throat hurts a little, so...

{everyone [!] faces AUBREY}

TEAGAN (I think): [A3] [*] Hey, hey, say stuff like that sooner!

AUBREY: [B1] I'll be fine if I can get a little rest.

ALTO: [A5] [ugh] Ugh. See? I still have a long way to go too. We're done until tonight, so go ahead. Sorry for pushing you.

AUBREY: [B1] No, it's alright.

TEAGAN: [A5] ...Actually, I'll make the tea instead.

{AUBREY [?] looks at TEAGAN}

[A5] Kitchens have changed a lot in the past couple thousand years.

You're gonna burn the house down if left to your own devices, so I'll do it.

ALTO: [A2] Heheh. Look after them, Teagan.

BEL CANTO - CANTABILE MANOR - MAIN ROOM - ALTO steps in and is immediately engaged by MEIRIN.

ALTO: [A1] [?] Where did Saki go, anyway?

MEIRIN: [A1] I think he said he was going to go set something up in the town square...

ALTO: [A1] [?] Wonder what that's about.

MEIRIN: [A5] I was going to go check it out on my way to do some errands, so do you want to come with?

ALTO: [A2] [mu] Sure.

BEL CANTO - OUTSIDE CANTABILE MANOR - ALTO and MEIRIN talk about their quest.

ALTO: [A1] What errands were you gonna do?

MEIRIN: [A1] I need to go to the market that's supposed to be on the east side of town.

[A2] But let's go find Saki first.

BEL CANTO - TOWN CENTER - The two of them are a ways off, catch SAKI doing cartomancy with a stranger.

SAKI: [A5] Thank you!

{The stranger walks away while ALTO and MEIRIN move up}

SAKI: [A1] [!] ...Oh, Meirin and Alto.

{ALTO and MEIRIN move to SAKI}

ALTO: [A1] So this is what you were doing.

SAKI: [A2] My, you don't sound very surprised.

ALTO: [A2] Now that I'm seeing you here, somehow it feels like I should've figured.

[A3] I did hear that you spent most of your time in Solfège performing for money, after all.

MEIRIN: [A1] I've never seen anybody tell fortunes with playing cards, though.

SAKI: [A1] Oh?

It does seem like the tarot is more well-known in worldwide cartomancy,
but in some countries the tarot is better known for playing card games with.
I'm more used to using playing cards.

ALTO: [A1] [?] Are you any good?

SAKI: [A5] [C>] Hey, now. This is my actual job.

[A4] I would have to be good at this to make a living on it.

[A2] [<3] Are you interested in getting your fortune read?

ALTO: [A5] [...] Hmm... I think I'll pass this time.

MEIRIN: [A1] Me too.

[A3] [C>] I can kinda understand why people like to get their fortunes read,
but I'd be too worried that my fortune would be bad.

SAKI: [A4] A card reading is usually very general advice.

[A1] All of the cards are associated with different symbols in different situations.

and you get a "fortune" once you combine those symbols in a way that holds personal meaning for you.

[A4] So it's not quite the same as a prophecy, and it's not as accurate.

[A2] But the people who come to me to get their fortunes told find comfort in it,
so that means that my abilities have done some good.

MEIRIN: [A1] [!] Oh, so you use your magic too?

SAKI: [A2] Just a touch. Aside from healing and combat magic, this is all my power is good for.

If you can call it that.

ALTO: [A1] You sound kinda cynical.

SAKI: [A2] Perhaps it is a little less romantic than you might have expected.

MEIRIN: [A1] [?] But you do tell your own fortune. I remember you said so before.

SAKI: [A1] Yes, but...

[A2] In my case, I can only understand my clients' perspective, or yours for that matter, by conjecture.

[?]

ALTO: [A4] What do you mean?

[...]

SAKI: [A2] Alto, do you remember during my interview when I said that my magic manifested suddenly?

[?]

ALTO: [A5] Yeah. You said it came as a shock, and you started learning to play the viola as a way to learn how to control it.

MEIRIN: [B4] [!] Oh, so that's how it was for you?

[A1] My parents had me tested by a mage-finder when I was little,
so we knew that I was going to develop it sooner or later.

SAKI: [A4] Even if we had been able to afford to get me tested, I don't think that would have been of much help.

My magic came late -- I was twelve, nearly thirteen. And it was very, very sudden.

[A1] ...Tell me, both of you, how did your powers first manifest?

ALTO: [A5] Mmm. My magic's overspecialized, so it can only be used in "Bowing".

[A1] My parents knew I'd have the ability, so they started me in training exercises before I could use it.

And when my magic came in, I didn't have trouble controlling it.

MEIRIN: [B4] I think for me it was the usual.

[B6] Like moving things around when I got upset or in my sleep when I had nightmares.

SAKI: [A1] I see...

[A5] Well, it sounds like the both of you had it tough in your own ways, but I can't help but be a little envious.

[A4] When my magic manifested, I saw my own future.

And precisely because I was old enough to understand what I was seeing, it was very traumatic.

[...]

MEIRIN: [A3] Saki...

SAKI: [A6] When I was sent to take music lessons, my parents were about at their wits' end.

[A2] If I hadn't fallen in love with music at that time, why...

I would likely never have learned to accept my own magic.

[...]

ALTO: [A4] You said you saw your own future.

Like a prophetic vision? Did it come true?

SAKI: [A2] Yes.

[A5] And... it's a little hard to say.

{ALTO [?]}

[A4] At least, the facts that my vision revealed to me have all been true.

[A2] Whether or not everything will occur just as I saw it... that, I do not know.

ALTO: [A4] And you still tell fortunes even so.

SAKI: [A2] [<3] *giggle* I have my viola to thank for my ability to do it.

[A1] But telling a fortune with cards is different from a vision. It's open to interpretation, and besides...

ALTO: [A4] Besides?

SAKI: [A4] I have been able to help many people with this.

[A2] I think that this is a good way to use power like mine.

[...]

MEIRIN: [B4] ...When this is all over.

SAKI: [A1] Hm?

MEIRIN: [B4] [///] I mean -- I think maybe I'll work up for the courage to ask you for a fortune once this is all over.

[A5] With the World Tuning so close, it feels like if I ask about it now, I'll wind up jinxing it.

[...]

SAKI: [A2] All right. I'll be waiting.

MEIRIN: [B5] ...Make sure you come back tonight, okay?

You're spending your break time working, so I'll have something nice for you when you get home.

SAKI: [A2] [<3] My! I'll look forward to it.

BEL CANTO - PRODUCE SHOP - MEIRIN begins shopping.

MEIRIN: [A2] [mu] Hmm~ Let's see.

[A1] We have sugar and butter at the house, so I need flour, vanilla extract, and fruit.

[faces MEIRIN]

ALTO: [A1] Are you going to cook something?

[faces ALTO]

MEIRIN: [B2] [mu] Yep. More precisely, I'm going to bake something.

[A5] We've always been eating out or buying food all this time.

But now we're staying in a real house, with a real kitchen, so I figure it's time we had something home-cooked.

ALTO: [A2] I didn't know you can cook.

[looks at the produce (not at ALTO's voluptuous breasts)]

MEIRIN: [B1] [*] ...Ugh, I bet Teagan's gonna be all suspicious and not wanna eat it if I make it.

[..., looks at the produce (not at her breasts)]

ALTO: [A5] Mmm... I want to deny that, but it's Teagan.

[A8] [C>] I kinda... I'm sorry about her.

[faces ALTO]

MEIRIN: [B4] It's not something you should have to be sorry about.

ALTO: [A8] Sometimes I get the feeling that she only got this bad because of me.

MEIRIN: [A4] Hey Alto, it's not up to you how Teagan acts.

She's the one who decides to say mean things and treat people bad.

[]*

ALTO: [A8] [C>] I don't know.

[looks at produce]

MEIRIN: [B2] So anyway, if she decides not to eat my cooking, she's missing out.

[A6] I'll get to bake again, and it can be something nice for Saki, so my objective will be accomplished anyway.

[..., looks at MEIRIN]

ALTO: [A2] You really like Saki, don't you?

[jumps and faces ALTO]

MEIRIN: [B4] Eh?

I-I guess.

[looks up, ///]

[B4] I don't know if it's that kind of "like".

{ALTO [?]}

I mean, it's not like I want to bang him or anything.

[A7] [ugh] That'd be a little weird anyway, 'cos he's like ten years older than me, y'know?

[B5] [...] But Saki's the first... grown-up, I guess?

The first person older than me who's ever really taken me seriously instead of looking down on me.

ALTO: [A2] [mu] I'm older than you too.

[faces ALTO]

MEIRIN: [A1] Yeah, but not by much. We're close to the same age.

[looks at produce]

[A2] It's just.. I dunno, Saki's a lot of fun. I've never had a friend like him before.

[A3] He's been acting kind of down lately, so I wanna do something for him if I can.

[..., looks up]

ALTO: [A5] Now that you mention it, you're right.

MEIRIN: [B3] [<3] So let's look around and get some ingredients.

[looks at ALTO]

[A6] [<>] You're helping me when we get back!

[looks at MEIRIN]

ALTO: [A7] [!] Eh? I've never cooked before. Are you sure you're okay with that?

MEIRIN: [b2] [mu] It's okay! You've been teaging me how to play better, so I can teach you a little about baking as thanks.

ALTO: [a2] [mu] That sounds like it'll be fun.

{baking ingredients are aquired}

BEL CANTO - MANOR - KITCHEN - MEIRIN starts to show ALTO how to cook.

MEIRIN: [a2] It's a shame that we couldn't get any strawberries.

I guess since they're out of season there's no helping it though.

ALTO: [a2] You really like strawberries, huh? Even a lot of your skillls are called strawberry something.

MEIRIN: [a6] [<3] Of course. Strawberries are cute and delicious!

[a5] Heheh.

[faces ALTO]

[b5] They're in my name, so of course I like them.

ALTO: [a1] I see.

MEIRIN: [a1] I never really got along with my family from the start, but I'm grateful that my parents gave me this name

[b5] I love my name, and I love the things that are related to my name.

Sometimes it feels like a struggle to love myself, but this is something that I'll always have.

ALTO: [a3] ...I see.

[faces counter]

MEIRIN: [a6] Anyway, c'mere, I'll show you how to fold tarts!

ALTO: [a7] [!] Eh? You're really gonna teach me?

MEIRIN: [b2] Of course!

[b3] [mu] We're gonna stun Teagan into speechlessness with how good they are!!

ALTO: [a2] Ehehe.

Fade to black.

MEIRIN: [b3] Oh hey, here comes everybody!

[a2] We have a surprise for you!!

{Obtained 15 berry tarts}

REHEARSAL DAY 3

BEL CANTO - MANOR - REHEARSAL ROOM - Screen is black.

ALTO: [a1] Okay everybody, instruments down. It's time to take a break.

Fades up to the room again.

MEIRIN: [a7] [xp] I'm dead... I'm dead and the afterlife is pain...

SAKI: [a5] Meirin, Meirin. Come back to us. Don't go to the light~

MEIRIN: [b4] Ehh? And hey, shouldn't you be complaining with me?

SAKI: [a2] Oh... it's the third day, so I've gotten used to the pace.

TEAGAN: [a5] Finally.

MEIRIN: [a7] [!] Ehhh? Then it's just me?!

Aubrey, what about you?

AUBREY: [b1] [C>] I've been all right from the beginning...

MEIRIN: [a7] [C>] What?!

Then it's like it's just me that's been holding everybody back all this time!

TEAGAN: [b3] You finally caught on.

[Screen shakes]

MEIRIN: [a8] [ugh] Noooooooooo?!!

You're evil! Alto, she's evil!!

ALTO: [a6] [*] Teagan, stop being mean to Meirin.

[a4] She's been working really hard, and she knew less about formal notation than we did to begin with.

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] ...Well, I guess since we're finally doing this well, it doesn't matter as much.

ALTO: [a4] Yeah. We've solved most of the problems,

so tonight all we have to do is go over the piece a few more times to make it stick.

=====FUUCKING MORON BOX=====

SAKI: [a2] [iq] Since tonight's our last rehearsal, why not go out and have a drink to celebrate?

TEAGAN: [a2] I guess we might as well.

=====FUUCKING MORON BOX=====

MEIRIN: [b4] ...But me an Aubrey aren't old enough to drink yet.

ALTO: [a2] I don't like alcohol, so I'll be drinking juice with you.

MEIRIN: [a2] Oh. That's okay then.

{AUBREY [?]}

[a1] I dunno about what you're used to, but these days the legal drinking age is 18.

AUBREY: [a1] Oh, I understand now.

ALTO: [a4] But anyway, we'll have to do it after the last rehearsal. And no over doing it. Does that sound

okay?

SAKI: [a1] It's alright with me.

TEAGAN: [b3] Yeah, yeah.

ALTO: [a2] Then let's meet back up here at the usual time.

BEL CANTO - MANOR - MAIN ROOM - TEAGAN and AUBREY are having tea.

ALTO: [a1] I have a couple places I want to go today.

TEAGAN: [a5] So why are you telling me?

ALTO: [a1] Because they're places I think you ought to see too.

TEAGAN: [a5] [C>] What the hell?

ALTO: [a2] It's not like you've got anything better to do, right?

TEAGAN: [b3] I guess so.

AUBREY: [a1] May I come along too?

ALTO: [a2] Sure. I think you might be interested too.

{TEAGAN and AUBREY join}

BEL CANTO - GRAVEYARD - They assemble at ARIETTA's headstone.

AUBREY: [a3] [!] This is...

{TEAGAN [...]}

ALTO: [a3] Yeah.

This is Arietta Cantabile -- my ancestor's grave.

I wanted to come here no matter what.

{TEAGAN [...]}

[a4] This is probably really strange for you, Aubrey. But I needed to come here.

[...]

AUBREY: [a1] You really do look up to her, don't you?

ALTO: [a3] Yeah.

[a2] I grew up learning about all the things that she did.

I only know her through stories, but I think she was amazing.

[a3] So it's hard for me to put into words how much it means that I get to follow in her footsteps.

[...]

TEAGAN: [a4] You really still think that, despite everything.

ALTO: [a3] I do.

AUBREY: [a1] ...?

ALTO: [a3] If there's really a life after death or anything... I hope she's watching over us.

She gave me hope and courage when I was a kid, so I want to do right by her legacy.

{TEAGAN [...]}

I think that I was able to make it this far because I had Arietta to look up to.

And I had you with me, Teagan.

For all the things you never believed in or accepted, you still know a lot of things I don't.

So I'm grateful to her, and I'm grateful to you.

TEAGAN: [a4] ...That so.

AUBREY: [a1] ...??

TEAGAN: [a3] Still. Genius or not, no one in the Cantabile family is worth admiring.

ALTO: [a6] [*] You still think so, even now that you know that all this is real?

[...]

TEAGAN: [a5] Alto, you just don't get it, do you?

[faces TEAGAN]

ALTO: [a1] Hm?

TEAGAN: [b3] ...Never mind.

AUBREY: [a3] (????)

[faces AUBREY]

ALTO: [a1] Aubrey.

[jumps and faces ALTO]

AUBREY: [a7] Y-yes?!

ALTO: [a5] This is probably really disconcerting for you, still.

[a4] And I know that at least at one point, you had conflicted feelings about Arietta.

[a3] But I hope it helps to know that the people who remember her still treasure what she stood for and did.

Just like the Great Magician is still celebrated in Polyphony today.

[///]

AUBREY: [a8] ...Thank you.

[...]

TEAGAN: [b3] Are we done with this graveside visit, then?

[faces headstone]

ALTO: [a3] I guess. But there's one other place. Come with me to the north gate of the city.

BEL CANTO - STATUE AREA - They all look at a statue of ARIETTA, someone who supposedly doesn't have any recorded depiction like Muhammad.

AUBREY: [a7] There's a statue of Lady Arietta...

ALTO: [a2] Oh, so it really is here. It's just like they said.

TEAGAN: [a1] What?

ALTO: [a1] Look at the plaque on the podium.

TEAGAN: [a1] ...? What's this list?

ALTO: [a3] This is a monument that memorializes the names of every Cantabile who's ever performed in the World Tuning and their ensemble members.

After our performance, our names will get carved into this statue too.

AUBREY: [a3] The ritual has been carried out this many times...

ALTO: [a4] Yeah. I know I'm bad at explaining things, but it really is every couple hundred years that this happens.

I guess people still have a long way to go.

[a2] But on the other hand, it's not just the five of us alone.

[a3] All these people in history played this piece and did this same ritual. We're not alone.

{TEAGAN [...], AUBREY [...]}

[faces AUBREY]

ALTO: [a1] [?] What is it?

AUBREY: [a1] The statue really looks like Lady Arietta. I'm surprised it's this accurate.

[faces statue]

ALTO: [a2] [!] Oh...! So this is actually pretty close to what she looked like, then... that's really cool.

[...]

TEAGAN: [a4] Alto, I know what you're trying to do.

[faces TEAGAN]

ALTO: [a1] Eh?

TEAGAN: [a3] Just because there's all this historical record here,
that doesn't mean the way I feel about your family is going to change.

{ALTO [...]}

I only came with you because I knew you'd need somebody to look after you.

It's not like you've ever had the chance to learn any real life skills.

{ALTO faces statue, [...]}

I can still perform perfectly well without any of this.

My pride as a violinist won't allow me to do less than my best.

My feelings on your family won't change, and it's useless to try to make me feel differently.

[a4] But don't forget that I'm here for your sake. You need someone to look out for your best interests.

ALTO: [a3] ...I see. Okay.

[a2] My feelings won't change either, but -- I'm glad that you care. I just want you to know that.

[looks at ALTO, ...]

AUBREY: [a3] (I don't really understand what's going on, but...

Even though Alto's smiling, I feel like...)

ALTO: [a2] Let's go back. I'm sure everybody wants to get dinner and the rehearsals done with so they can party.

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] Saki and Meirin are a little too into partying.

ALTO: [a2] [mu] Hahaha. Tomorrow's a big day, so just humor them for now, okay?

TEAGAN: [b3] [*] Sigh. I guess there's no harm as long as nobody overdoes it.

[...]

ALTO: [a1] All right. Let's go home.

{return home to do drinking}

BEL CANTO - INN/PUB - TEAGAN, drunk, is at the counter with ALTO. A portrait of a rosy-faced TEAGAN is put on screen.

TEAGAN: ...And yet somehow I wound up drinking by myself.

ALTO: Hey, now. I may not be drinking alcohol, but I'm still here with you.

TEAGAN: Gee, thanks.

ALTO: I guess regardless of what Aubrey's been saying, they still have trouble staying awake for too long.

They're so cute.

I didn't expect Saki to get so sleepy when he drinks, though.

TEAGAN: I guess even though Saki's whole plan was to wear Meirin out to get rid of her nerves, she wound up having to take care of him right away.

ALTO: So you noticed, too.

TEAGAN: Yeah. Those two are so... I dunno, weirdly well-matched.

They're exhausting to be around, though.

ALTO: Really? I think they're fun to be around.

TEAGAN: You would.

ALTO: Hahaha.

TEAGAN: I've got a headache.

ALTO: You should probably stop drinking.

TEAGAN: I know I've had too much.

ALTO: No more, or you're going to get a hangover.

TEAGAN: It's just that once I start drinking, I always wind up having the same thought.

If only I hadn't run into that time, back then.

ALTO:Come on, that hurts.

TEAGAN: Because I couldn't leave you be after seeing you like that. By the time we met, it was already too late.

ALTO: ...You're such a softy.

TEAGAN: Shut up.

ALTO: C'mon. Finish your one last beer and let's go back.

TEAGAN: One of us is clearly making a big mistake about the power balance of this relationship.

ALTO: 'Scuse me, bartender? She's done.

TEAGAN: Hey! Don't you ignore me!

BEL CANTO - MANOR - TEAGAN'S ROOM - TEAGAN [zzz] is sleeping in her room thanks to ALTO's assistance.

ALTO: [a3] (Let's let her sleep.)

GROUND FLOOR

ALTO: [a5] [?] ...Eh? Where is everybody else?

BEL CANTO - GRAVEYARD - ALTO finds AUBREY at ARIETTA's grave.

AUBREY: [a1] Oh...

ALTO: [a2] Hey! Sorry I wasn't there when you got up.

AUBREY: [b1] It's all right. I know you had to look after Teagan.

ALTO: [a1] How come you're all the way out here?

AUBREY: [a3] ...I was just wondering. This is Lady Arietta's grave.

So I wonder where Lord Altair is buried.

ALTO: [a5] Come to think of it, there wasn't a grave for him in Polyphony, huh.

AUBREY: [a3] I looked here, too.

There are graves for peopel that I knew at my orphanage, but... I couldn't find Lord Altair anywhere.

ALTO: [a3] ...Once we're done with the World Tuning, we can try to find him.

AUBREY: [a1] Eh?

ALTO: [a2] No matter what, we're going to be stuck here all winter.

AUBREY: [a1] I guess that's true.

[a8] Thank you.

{AUBREY goes back to the manor}

BEL CANTO - TOWN CENTER - MEIRIN is up, anxious about tomorrow's performance.

MEIRIN: [a3] Alto...

ALTO: [a1] Trouble sleeping?

MEIRIN: [a3] Yeah. I guess I'm just nervous.

ALTO: [a1] Wanna talk about it?

MEIRIN: [a3] [...] It's just...

[b4] I dunno, I have a lot less classical training than everybody else.

[a3] So I'm worried about holding you all back.

ALTO: [a3] You'll be fine.

[a2] You've been doing great this whole time, and all of us are here.

MEIRIN: [b6] I really hope so.

ALTO: [a2] Want to do some last-minute practice together?

MEIRIN: [a1] Mm...

[C>] I think at this point we'd just wind up staying up all night.

I don't think it's a good idea.

[a2] But thanks a lot. I feel a little better.

{MEIRIN heads back to the manor}

BEL CANTO - STATUE AREA - SAKI is waiting around, distraught over something.

SAKI: [a1]Oh, it's you.

ALTO: [a3] C'mon back. Meirin's gonna worry if she notices you're missing.

SAKI: [a2] Haha.

[a4] I'm sorry, I was just thinking.

ALTO: [a1] What about?

SAKI: [a6] ...I wonder -- after tomorrow, will things change?

[...]

ALTO: [a5] You're not talking about the world or the climate or anything.

SAKI: [a2] My. No, I'm not.

ALTO: [a3] ...I don't know.

{SAKI [...]}

But I think that it's hard for things to change if someone somewhere isn't trying to do something to change them.

SAKI: [a4]I suppose you're right.

{SAKI: heads back to the manor}

BEL CANTO - MANOR - ALTO'S BEDROOM - The screen fades to black once she enters the bed.

ALTO: [a8] (..... Swallow that feeling down.)

(Right now -- I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be, doing exactly what I'm supposed to do.)

(That's right.)

(Right now, there's nowhere I'd rather be --)

[ALTO sleeps]

BEL CANTO - STATUE AREA - The Quintet is about to enter METRONOME TOWER YARD.

ALTO: [a4] ...It's finally time.

SAKI: [a3] Is everyone ready?

MEIRIN: [b3] Yeah. Let's go! We're gonna save the world!!

AUBREY: [a3] Lord Altair... Lady Arietta... watch over us.

TEAGAN: [a3] Right. Let's go do this.

ALTO: [a4] Yeah. Everybody, follow me.

{as they head up, ARIETTA'S [...] ghost appears}

METRONOME TOWER - SOMEWHERE IN THE DUNGEON - They read some statue with a riddle on it about something.

ALTO: [a7] ??? What's this thing?

MEIRIN: [b6] Is this...?

[a3] Hmm...

TEAGAN: [a5] What? Have you got something to say here?

MEIRIN: [b1] Forget it.

ALTO: [a5] I guess we're supposed to finish the line, but...

[a4] Well, let's try it.

{enters the answer}

ALTO: I think I heard something move somewhere.

METRONOME TOWER - ROOF - After ascending the tower, they admire the scenery

ALTO: [a3] We made it.

SAKI: [a5] Somehow.

AUBREY: [a3] This is -- Lady Arietta's tower.

MEIRIN: [b3] Hey, look! There are music stands.

TEAGAN: [a4] ...But I don't see any instruments.

[a5] Hey Alto, I thought you said we wouldn't need ours.

MEIRIN: [b4] Now that you mention it...

ALTO: [a3] We don't.

[a2] Teagan, Meirin, Saki, hold your hands out.

MEIRIN: [b4] Eh? Ah!!

Cut to black.

ALTO: [b2] ...hff.

PORTRAIT - MEIRIN has an electric fucking violin what the fuck.

SAKI: Amazing... these are electric, aren't they?

ALTO: Yep.

MEIRIN: They're so light!!

Cut to game.

{MEIRIN: [arrow]}

[C>]

AUBREY: [a3] Alto... you made them with your power, didn't you?

{everyone but ALTO and AUBREY are [!]}

ALTO: [a2] [<>] Heheh. What do you think? "Bowing" is pretty awesome, isn't it?

TEAGAN: [a2] ...I gotta admit, that's actually kinda impressive.

I didn't even know you could do that.

ALTO: [a2] [mu] Ehehe.

[looks down]

MEIRIN: [a7] [ugh] (Ahh... I guess it takes something like this to impress Teagan...)

[]*

SAKI: [a5] [C>] Teagan, don't look now, but you're being sulked at.

TEAGAN: [b3] [*] ...What? Why?

SAKI: [a3] Well, I can only guess that it's because you aren't properly grateful when people make you food.

TEAGAN: [a5] [#] Shut up. I hate nuts.

[xp, looks away]

MEIRIN: [b1] [</3] ...Fine! I'll just make some without walnuts especially for you next time!!!

ALTO: [a1] [C>] Heheh...

[a5] C'mon, you guys, think a little about where we are.

[...]

AUBREY: [a3] Alto, are you all right?

Isn't it a burden to have to maintain the shape of all four instruments?

ALTO: [a3] Not really.

This's what I've been trained to do. I've got to be able to handle at least this much.

[a1] C'mon guys, calm down and let's play.

MEIRIN: [b6] (I'm kinda nervous...)

SAKI: [a4] (It will be all right. Just play like we always did in practice.)

TEAGAN: [a5] Seems like we're already in tune.

[a1] Alto, we're ready when you are.

ALTO: [a3] Okay.

[a4] Five, six, seven, eight --

Cut to black

ALTO: [a4] ...

AUBREY: [a3] ...Did it work...?

TEAGAN: [a4] (We definitely made mistakes... this isn't good.)

MEIRIN: [b6] ...

SAKI: [a6] ...

ALTO: [a4] ...

MEIRIN: [b4] [ugh] Hey... hey, why isn't anything happening? Is this how it's supposed to go?

ALTO: [b2] Something --

SAKI: [a3] [!] Hm?

ALTO: [b2] Agh --

[moves up and faces ALTO]

AUBREY: [a3] [!] Alto?!

ALTO: [b2] My ears are ringing --

[gets up]

TEAGAN: [a3] Alto, what the hell --

{everyone is [!] by a blinding light, they turn to face it except ALTO, WINTERSPIRIT emerges and turns to face them}

MEIRIN: [a7] Eek?!

{WS [...]}

ALTO: [a8] -- Eh? But --

SAKI: [a3] There's no time to think! It's coming!!

{ALTO [!], rushes towards them}

WINTERSPIRIT WHIPPED

TEAGAN: [a3] We managed to beat it, but what the hell's --

{Screen shake, Quintet [!]}

AUBREY: [a5] ?!!

{OH FUCK IT'S RAINING NOW, LIGHTNING STRIKES MAKE EVERYONE JUMP}

MEIRIN: [a7] Heeek!! The lightning is --

[MEIRIN'S GAYNESS ACTS LIKE A METAL ROD, EVERYONE JUMPS]

[turns to MEIRIN]

SAKI: [a3] [!] Meirin!

[MIKE PENCE ENLIGHTENS AUBREY]

AUBREY: [a6] Ah!

TEAGAN: [a3] Alto!! What the hell is this?!

ALTO: [b3] ...

SAKI: [a3] If we don't take cover, we're going to get hit!

{rushes to the exit}

TEAGAN: [a3] Let's get out of here! Alto!!

ALTO: [b3] ...Why?

[SAKI MORE LIKE ZAPI]

SAKI: [a3] Ah!

[NOT EVEN TEEGS IS SAFE]

TEAGAN: [a4] Ugh...!

ALTO: [b3] (...I don't understand, but -- I have to get the others out of here...!)

METRONOME TOWER - YARD - ALTO rushes down the tower within a minute carrying four people.

ALTO: [b2] *pant* *pant* *pant*

We made it...

[ALTO fucking dies]

BEL CANTO - MANOR - BASEMENT - Everyone is pretty bummed about the world ending.

ALTO: [b3] ...

AUBREY: [a5] ...

TEAGAN: [a4] ...

SAKI: [a6] ...

MEIRIN: [b7] I'm sorry... I'm sorry...

SAKI: [a6] Shh, shh. This isn't your fault.

TEAGAN: [a4] ...Like hell.

SAKI: [a3] Teagan...

TEAGAN: [a8] She fumbled every single complicated passage.

You were behind.

I couldn't even hear Aubrey at all.

It's no wonder the World Tuning failed.

MEIRIN: [b7] I'm sorry...

ALTO: [a5] ...

SAKI: [a6] Teagan, stop...

[SCREEN FUCKING SHAKE]

TEAGAN: [a7] No!

I told you!e

[looks at everyone]

I told you all over and over!

This is what you get when you entrust an important performance to a bunch of amateurs!

This is why I kept saying that it's no good to just keep picking up the first person you find on the street!

MEIRIN: [b7] I-I'm sorry...

TEAGAN: [a8] What a fucking joke.

SAKI: [b1] Teagan!!

TEAGAN: [a8] But the biggest joke of all is that a broken person like Alto got saddled with this in the first place.

ALTO: [b3] ...

TEAGAN: [a4] Oh, so you're finally reacting to something? But it's too late now.

[faces TEAGAN]

ALTO: [b3] ...

TEAGAN: [a4] In the end, you are only doing this because your family told you that you had to.

It's not like you wanted to come here or even save the world.

They've been telling you that this is your only purpose in life for years.

[a8] And you're just stupid enough -- you're just fucked-up enough to take them for their word.

ALTO: [b3] I --

TEAGAN: [a7] And yet you dare to keep telling me that everything they did is justified?

That there's nothing wrong with this picture?

That fake smile of yours makes me fucking sick.

ALTO: [b3] I...

TEAGAN: [a8] Well, that's just fine. The Cantabile house is finally gonna get what it deserves.

They used you as a puppet until you broke.

They never treated you like a human being even once.

And then they thought that they could send you out into the world like that without any repercussions.

[a4] You don't know how to make a sensible decision.

You can't even take care of yourself.

So of course you failed when it counted.

ALTO: [b3] ...

TEAGAN: [a7] I tried to warn you.

I tried telling you that this wasn't gonna work.

I tried telling you that those people weren't worth listening to.

But somebody whose sense of free will is as atrophied as yours just couldn't consider that, huh?

ALTO: [b3] ...

TEAGAN: [a8] A defective hero can only recruit a defective party, huh?

I only went along with this because you can't function without me.

And your other picks were a beggar that can't keep up with the expected tempo,

a squeaky brat that can't get up the courage to sing,

and a fucking stuck-up hipster that doesn't even know how to play.

SAKI: [b1] --

AUBREY: [a5] ...

MEIRIN: [b7] ...

TEAGAN: [a4] So this is the result.

It's only natural for you to fail.

[a8] How's it feel, being the first to fail the World Tuning in all your family's precious history?

ALTO: [b3]There has to be something that we can still do.

TEAGAN: [a8] No.

ALTO: [b3] Eh?

TEAGAN: [a8] You're done.

ALTO: [b3] No.

TEAGAN: [a7] You're fucking done.

ALTO: [b3] No!

TEAGAN: [a7] We tried doing this your way once!

You never listened to me when I told you that you're just dancing on your family's strings!

Where did that get us?!

We failed!

We nearly died!

If we keep groping around in the dark like this, somebody's just gonna get hurt!

You never should've had to carry the world on your shoulders!

And if you still mean to try carrying out your so-called duty --

then I'm just gonna have to make the decision for you!

[rips up her part of the World Tuning, Grand Score 1]

ALTO: [b3] !!

TEAGAN: [a8] ...There. Can't carry out your precious ritual without the score, can you?

SAKI: [b1] Teagan, what have you done?!

[gets up]

TEAGAN: [a8] I'm out. I'm fucking done. I'm not playing with you sorry fucks any longer.

ALTO: [b3] Teagan --

TEAGAN: [a7] Don't. The whole world can freeze fucking solid for all I care.

[a8] I don't want to see any of your faces ever again.

[exit stage left]

ALTO: [b3] ...

MEIRIN: [b7] ...!

[runs out]

SAKI: [a3] Ah! Meirin, wait!

[leaves]

ALTO: [b3] ...

AUBREY: [a5] ...

ALTO: [b3] ...

AUBREY: [a5] ... I -- I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

ALTO: [b3] ...

AUBREY: [a6] I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

ALTO: [b3] ...

AUBREY: [a6] I can't stay here. I feel sick.

I can't -- I'm sorry.

[goodbye]

ALTO: [b3] ...

{TEAGAN, SAKI, MEIRIN, and AUBREY left the party.}

ALTO: [a8] I have to... pick up the pieces.

{Grand Score fragments GET!}

BEL CANTO - MANOR - ALTO'S BEDROOM - ALTO is staring out the window.

ALTO: [a8]Now what do I do?

.....

[a4] I can't leave things like this. That's for sure.

I have to bring the others back.

[b2] There has to be something we can still do.

[a8] Even like this, there has to be something.

[a5] Even if I can't figure it out by myself, if we're all together, I'm sure we can think of something, so...

[a8] I have to give the cello back.

And then the key.

[a5] And then...

[a4] Let's start with Aubrey.

If once wasn't good enough, we can try again.

If that's no good, we can try something else.

I have to try.

I have to keep trying.

[a3] I... don't want to give up.

BEL CANTO - MUSIC SHOP - ALTO engages RENTAL DUDE.

RENTAL DUDE: No, that's fine. You can keep it.

{ALTO [...]}

You don't have one of your own, right? Then you can keep hanging onto this one until you buy one for yourself.

ALTO: [a8] Are you just doing this because I'm a Cantabile?

RD: I guess there's that too, but just look at yourself.

ALTO: [a8] Eh?

RD: I can tell by the way you're holding it that you don't want to give it up.

ALTO: [a8] ...

RD: Call it a permanent loan if you want. You've taken such good care of it that I doubt the cello wants to be given back either.

ALTO: [a5] If that's really okay...

RD: I insist. You do your best, all right, miss?

ALTO: [a1] ...Yeah.

BEL CANTO - PARLIAMENT BUILDING - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE - ALTO goes and returns the Manor key to the PM.

PM: Eh?

ALTO: [a5] We're having a little trouble, so I'll be leaving the city for a while.

[a4] I'm going to bring everyone back and get this under control for sure.

[a3] I hope I can ask for this key back then.

{PM [...]}

BEL CANTO - ALTO is about to leave Bel Canto before being stopped by the PM.

PM: Contralto, wait.

{ALTO turns to PM, [...]}

Take this back.

{Manor key GET!}

ALTO: [a8] The key? But --

PM: The house belongs to you. No matter how things turn out, you can always return there.

It's free real estate

[!, ...]

ALTO: [a3] ...Thank you.

PM: I understand that there was a problem with the World Tuning, but... do you really intend to bring your ensemble back and try again?

ALTO: [a4] The World Tuning is my duty.

It's the reason I was born, and I've trained for it for as long as I can remember.

It won't feel right to leave it undone.

[a3] But... a lot of good people are going to be in a lot of trouble if I can't do it right.

I don't want that. So I'll keep trying.

PM: ...You can find other performers to play with here in town. I know that it's not the same, but...

ALTO: [a2] Thanks, but that's okay. It has to be the ones I chose.

{PM [...]}

[a3] You see, I... have a bad habit of getting attached.

PMEIRIN: ...All right. Good luck.

ALTO: [a3] Yeah. Thanks for everything. And...

PMEIRIN: [?] Yes?

ALTO: [a2] ...You can just call me Alto. That's what my friends do.

[!]

PM: ...All right. Do your best, Alto.

ALTO: [a2] I will!

MOVEMENT 2: GRAVE CON GRAZIA

STAVE

ALTO: [a5] Hmm... I guess I ought to ask around at the inn first...

INN - LOBBY/RESTAURANT - ALTO speaks with the INNKEEPER (male.)

ALTO: [a4] Excuse me, but I'm looking for a friend of mine.

Would you let me know if you've seen them around lately?

INNKEEPER: Sure, can I have their description?

ALTO: [a5] White hair, red eyes, probably wearing a grayish purple dress and a white coat with burgundy lining.

[a4] Their name's Aubrey.

INNKEEPER: [iq] Hmm. Would this friend of yours wear a lot of star-shaped hairpins?

ALTO: [a2] [!] Oh! Yeah, that would be them.

INNKEEPER: You're in luck, then. The rest of their party left the other day, but your friend Mx Spica is still staying here.

[!]

ALTO: [a5] (...Wait.)

The rest of their party?

Would that be a girl with short hair, a man with a veil, or a girl with her hair up in a pigtail and a bun?

Right, because Teagan and Saki are easily identified as girl and man respectively. Also, Alto is delegitimizing Teagan and Meirin as adults by calling them girls.

INNKEEPER: Just the last two, I'm afraid.

They were having breakfast downstairs yesterday morning and I overheard a few snatches of conversation --

It sounded like Mr. Totoki and Ms. Otowa were headed south, but Mx Spica wanted to stay here.

ALTO: [a5] (So Saki and Meirin are together... If they're leaving, then if I hurry...)

[a4] (...No, I decided I was going to start with Aubrey.)

[a8] (And if Saki is with Meirin, she'll probably be okay.)

[a4] (There's no way for anybody to leave Harmonia, anyway. I need to keep it together.)

[a8] Then -- have you had a Teagan Almace staying here before them?

INNKEEPER: I do recognize your party, young lady; we don't get that many travelers at all, let alone in this season.

Ms. Almace hasn't been here since you passed through here on the way to Bel Canto.

ALTO: [a8] [...] Oh, I see...

[...]

INNKEEPER: Now, it may be nosy of me, but I need to ask.

Has something happened? I can't speak for Mr. Totoki, but Ms. Otowa and Mx Spica seem to be awfully upset.

[ugh]

ALTO: [a7] [ugh] Umm...

[a5] [C>] There's been some stuff, but I'm taking responsibility and sorting things out.

[a1] Anyway, thanks for letting me know. Is Aubrey here now?

INNKEEPER: Yes, they're upstairs.

I will have my staff keep an ear out, so don't cause any trouble.

ALTO: [a2] Heheh.

[a3] I don't think you need to worry about that, but thanks all the same.

STAVE - INN - BEDROOM - ALTO enters AUBREY's room abruptly.

[...]

ALTO: [a4] Aubrey.

[!]

AUBREY: Alto...

[!]

SNAKE: LIQU!!ID!

[walks to AUBREY]

ALTO: [a2] I came to get you.

AUBREY: [a3] I... I'm very sorry for running off like that.

ALTO: [a3] You don't have to apologize. You didn't do anything wrong.

AUBREY: [a6] But I -- during the performance, I.....!

I've turned my back on Lord Altair and Lady Arietta and shamed their legacy, and I've even failed you --

ALTO: [a8] Aubrey, Aubrey, listen to me.

[a4] What happened back there wasn't your fault.

AUBREY: [a6] But I...

ALTO: [a3] It's a challenging piece, and even professionals make little mistakes during performances sometimes.

ALTO: [a8] Besides, flaws as little as those shouldn't have messed up the World Tuning that badly.

AUBREY: [a3] [!] Eh...?

ALTO: [a2] But I think I want to go over that in depth with everyone all together, so I can answer questions and be sure I'm explaining clearly.

[a1] [C>] You know I'm bad at stuff like that.

AUBREY: [a3] Everyone -- together?

ALTO: [a3] Yeah.

AUBREY: [a7] [?] ...? Eh? But --

ALTO: [a4] I can't give up yet.

This is my job, and you know what's at stake as well as I do.

There should still be something that we can do.

I'm going to get everyone back together and figure out what went wrong so that we can try again.

AUBREY: [a3] Try -- again?

ALTO: [a3] Yeah.

AUBREY: [a3] You still... want me as part of the quintet?

ALTO: [a2] [<3] Of course I do. I wouldn't want anyone for the vocal part but you.

AUBREY: [a3]Why?

ALTO: [a5] [?] What do you mean, why?

AUBREY: [a6] [...] Because I... I'm just a coward.

I'm gloomy and I'm awkward with people.

I never know to appreciate the things I have until I lose them.

Lord Altair was kind enough to take me in and raise me, but I was never properly grateful to him for it.

I knew that my parents dying wasn't Lady Arietta's fault, but I blamed her about it anyway.

When Teagan was saying all those horrible things to you, I couldn't speak up to defend you.

I'm a weak and petty person.

And even just from a musical stance, there are so many vocalists that are better than me...

So I don't understand.

I don't matter, so why -- ?

[...]

ALTO: [a2] That's not true at all.

Of course you matter!

[a3] It's okay to be quiet, and it's okay to be scared.

Everybody's got things and people they take for granted, even if they try to be mindful.

I think it's natural to have trouble opening up to a new family when you're grieving for your old one.

[a8] And whether she meant it or not, Arietta's plans did cause a lot of lives to be lost.

[a4] It's okay to resent that.

[a5] And you weren't obligated to put yourself on the line to get in Teagan's face.

You're not in charge of what she says and does.

[a3] You have a beautiful voice, and you can do amazing magic.

You come from a different perspective than me, so you know a lot of things I don't.

[a2] [<3] That helps me a lot!

[...]

[a8] I know that you regret volunteering for the experiment.

And I know that I'll never be able to understand just how much you miss your adoptive family.

[a3] But you know what?

Even though it's selfish for me to think so... I'm glad you did.

[a2] Because if you hadn't, we'd never have been able to meet.

AUBREY: [a3] Alto...

[...]

ALTO: [a4] I won't force you if you don't want to.

But if you don't want to give up either... I want you to come with me and keep trying.

You do have other places you can go.

The people of this country are good and kind, so they'll take you in if you don't want anything to do with this anymore.

[a3] But I'd be really happy if you decide to stay and keep playing music with me.

The world I want to save is a world that has you in it.

[///]

AUBREY: [a1] I-I...

[a8] Of course I'll stay with you.

ALTO: [a2] [!] Really?

[mu] Ehehe. I'm glad.

[a3] Thank you.

[...]

AUBREY: [a3] I --

ALTO: [a1] [?] Hm?

AUBREY: [b4] I love you.

[!]

ALTO: [b5] Oh.

[a3] Thank you.

[a2] [<3] I like you, too.

L M A O

[...]

AUBREY: [a7] [///] Eh? R-really?

ALTO: [a2] Yep.

AUBREY: [a7] [sc] Romantically?

ALTO: [a2] Yep.

AUBREY: [b3] R-really?

ALTO: [a3] Yeah. I like you.

[a2] [<3] You're pretty and cute and being around you is fun.

AUBREY: [b3] ...

ALTO: [a3] Haha.

You know, when we first found you before you woke up, Meirin was joking around and compared you to Sleeping Beauty.

[a2] I laughed about it but inside I was really nervous, like what if it is like that?

[a7] I mean you were really cute, and if I had to kiss you without knowing if you were okay with it, I was sure you'd hate me for that.

AUBREY: [b3] You really...

DRAWING - ALTO literally rapes AUBREY by kissing her without consent. What is she, Harvey Weinstein?

ALTO: Yeah, I like you.

AUBREY: ...!

CUT TO GAME

{AUBREY [sc]}

[...]

ALTO: [a8] But, you know.

AUBREY: [a1] [?] Eh? What is it?

ALTO: [b4] There is one thing.

I -- even though we like each other, I may not be able to stay with you.

AUBREY: [a7] [!] Eh? W-why not?

ALTO: [a8] [...] I don't know, because I've never been in a position where I had any right to ask before.

But.

[b4] I don't have any siblings.

I'm the only Cantabile in my generation.

So to make sure that the world has a future, I have to have children.

That means I have to marry someone I can have kids with whether I like it or not.

And my family won't allow a marriage to someone whose bloodline and abilities they don't approve of.

[b2] [...] I think that with your skill at magic and music you might meet the criteria, but -- if your body --

[a8] If we can't have children, it'll be just like Arietta and Lord Altair.

Jesus Alto slow down at least buy it dinner

[b4] We won't be able to be together.

[...]

AUBREY: [a4] That doesn't matter.

ALTO: [a8] [!] Eh?

AUBREY: I don't care what your family says.

ALTO: ...Eh?

DRAWING - Basically Chaika.

AUBREY: You know what? I love you.

And my feelings of love are invincible.

FUCKING INVINCIBLE

From now on I'll be with you no matter what, no matter who tries to oppose us.

...So it's okay.

CUT TO GAME

ALTO: [a2] ...Ehehe.

[arrow] You sound really reliable right now.

[a3] ...Thanks.

If that's how it's going to be, then...

CUT TO BLACK

ALTO: I have nothing to worry about, right?

AUBREY: (...?)

DRAWING - Fades up to a naked, sleeping ALTO with her big ol' funbags center stage.

AUBREY: (This is...)

STAVE - INN - HALLWAY - ALTO and AUBREY are awake and outside their bedroom.

ALTO: [a2] [angel] Oh man, I haven't slept that well in ages.

{AUBREY [///]}

Heheh.

[mu] If I'd known it would be like that, I'd've talked to you about this before.

AUBREY: [a2] [///] ...Hehe.

ALTO: [a1] Okay. We're gonna do this.

[a4] Next is Meirin.

[a5] And Saki too, since he'll probably still be with her.

[a1] Did you get to hear where they were going?

AUBREY: [a3] No... but Meirin was very upset.

[a1] I think Saki meant to take her to a place where she could calm down, but...

ALTO: [b4] Well, they can't leave Harmonia, so...

[a5] either a place like Solfège that's quiet, or a place that has good memories for her...

{{iq}}

[a7] ah.

AUBREY: [a1] [?] ?? What is it?

ALTO: [a7] ...I bet I know where this is going.

AUBREY: [a1] [?] ???

ALTO: [a1] Come on. I bet you anything they're in Polyphony.

AUBREY: [a2] [?] ??? I don't understand, but all right. Let's go.

ALTO: [a3] Yeah. We're gonna fix this.

{AUBREY re-joins}

POLYPHONY

AUBREY: [a1] Where should we start looking...?

ALTO: [a1] Mmm. Follow me.

BROTHEL - MAIN ROOM

ALTO: [a1] Excuse me. We're looking for some friends of ours.

[a5] I know they've come here before, so...

TOP THOT: [iq] Oh? Would you be talking about Miss Otowa Meirin?

AUBREY: [a7] ?! Yes, how did you know?

TOP THOT: Her companion gave us a description of you and said there's a chance you'd be coming along to pick her up.

{ALTO and AUBREY [!]}

ALTO: [a1] Oh!

AUBREY: [a1] Saki...

TOP THOT: I don't know what happened, but good luck.

That girl's a mess right now.

She spent all her time either sleeping or crying and she refuses to leave, even just to go next door to the inn.

I'm a little worried about her mental state.

Also, she's getting in the way of my escorts' work, you know?

It's hard for them to take clients with her there, and we can't very well toss her out when she's like this.

[*] We're down a room until someone can convince her to leave.

{ALTO and AUBREY [C>]}

ALTO: [a5] Ahaha...

AUBREY: [a4] We can't make any guarantees, but... we'll try.

POLYPHONY - BROTHEL - BEDROOM 1 - MEIRIN is crying alone on the bed.

MEIRIN: [a4] [#] Go away! I keep saying to leave me alone!

ALTO: [a3] Hmm. I don't want to.

MEIRIN: [b4] [!] Eh?

{ALTO and AUBREY move to bedside}

ALTO: [a2] Hey.

AUBREY: [a3] Um, pardon us for barging in...

MEIRIN: [a3] [...] Alto... Aubrey...

ALTO: [a2] Yep, it's us.

[...]

MEIRIN: [a3] ...So Saki was right.

ALTO: [a1] Hm?

MEIRIN: [a3] He was so sure you'd be coming after me despite everything.

I told him there's no way you would and that he didn't have to try so hard, but...

ALTO: [a2] Heheh. It's nice to hear he believes in me.

[a5] I don't blame you for not being able to, though.

[faces ALTO]

AUBREY: [a1] I was so surprised when you came for me, too.

I thought for sure that you would have lost hope like us.

[faces AUBREY]

ALTO: [a5] Mmm... I don't know about hope.

[a4] I just don't want things to end like this,

and I won't be satisfied with giving up until I've tried everything I can think of.

{MEIRIN [...], ALTO and AUBREY look at MEIRIN}

[a1] So, hey Meirin. I want to try to get everything worked out and keep trying.

[a3] I need your help for that.

So I want you to come with us again, if that's okay with you.

[...]

MEIRIN: [a3] ...Hey, how can you be this nice?

ALTO: [a1] Hm?

MEIRIN: [a3] You've been sticking up for me all this time.

You took so much time to help me and teach me,

but when it was time to play for real I was too nervous to do anything right.

AUBREY: [a3] Meirin...

MEIRIN: [a3] You know I'm no good. So why are you still trying to make me come with you?

You don't have to force yourself to be this nice to a failure like me,

not when I already ruined everything for everybody.

[a4] Or are you just stupid?

I'm not worth your time. That ought to be clear by now. I don't get it.

ALTO: [a5] [*] Hmmm.

[...]

[a4] I don't think that's true.

That you're a failure, or that you ruined everything, or that you're not worth my time.

MEIRIN: [a4] Huh? I know you know how much I messed up back there!

ALTO: [a4] You know, small mistakes in the World Tuning --

like missing a note here or there or playing a bunch of sixteenth notes really messily --

those shouldn't affect the ritual enough to cause what happened back there.

MEIRIN: [a7] [!] Eh?

ALTO: [a4] There's definitely a problem that caused all of that, but it wasn't the actual performance.

[a5] I know there's record of people having made worse mistakes and everything still going just fine, you know?

MEIRIN: [a4] Then -- then how do you explain it?

ALTO: [a5] [C>] Mmm...

[a8] I don't know how I should explain it except that whatever the anomaly is, it runs a lot deeper.

[a4] I'll have to talk to everybody together so that we can try to figure it out that way.

MEIRIN: [a3] That makes no sense...

[...]

ALTO: [a4] But, Meirin, I really want you to know this.

[b4] Teagan may not believe most of what I've told her about the World Tuning.

But she knows that errors here and there in the performance don't matter.

MEIRIN: [a3] [!] ...

ALTO: [a4] She knows better than to blame it all on any technical problems that you and Aubrey and Saki might have had.

[a8] Meirin, you're the one that told me that her sALTOying mean thing sto people is her own choice.

And you're right that her own actions are up to her.

But it's still because of me that she said those things to you, and I'm really sorry.

She was mad at me and she just took it out on everybody.

[b4] That wasn't fair or right.

[a8] I'm going to have her apologize to you for that too, and I know the damage is already done, but...

[a4] I need to tell you, and you need to hear, that none of that's your fault.

[...]

MEIRIN: [a3] Look, I -- I appreciate the thought.

I appreciate that you're trying so hard.

But you really don't have to.

This isn't anything new, okay? I've been like this my whole life.

I've been a burden to everyone, and I've never been able to give anybody anything.

With Saki, I understand. But I just don't get why you're going so far to try to be nice to me.

There are probably a billion violinists who are better than me here.

I think you should go pick one of them instead.

ALTO: [b4] I can't.

MEIRIN: [a3] Eh?

ALTO: [a4] It has to be you, Meirin.

MEIRIN: [a3] ...What the heck does that even mean?

ALTO: [a3] And that's not true at all.

MEIRIN: [a3] What isn't?

ALTO: [a2] That you're just a burden and you've never contributed. That's not true.

MEIRIN: [a4] Like I said, stop trying so hard to be nice. I don't want to be pitied, so --

ALTO: [a1] It's not pity, I'm being honest.

{MEIRIN [...]}

[a3] I'll prove it to you.

MEIRIN: [a3] [!] ...Eh?

ALTO: [a4] If I can prove to you that you have made a difference, then will you think about coming with us again?

MEIRIN: [a3] I don't think that's possible.

ALTO: [a4] But if I can do it, will you think it over?

MEIRIN: [a3] I guess.

ALTO: [a2] Okay. I'll be back as soon as I have things ready.

[faces AUBREY]

[a1] Aubrey, will you help me?

[faces ALTO]

AUBREY: [a7] Eh?

[a2] Oh... okay, I don't mind.

ALTO: [a2] [mu] Ehehe, thanks.

[faces MEIRIN]

We'll be heading out for a little while then, but we'll be back soon, okay?

MEIRIN: [a3] ...

CUT TO BLACK

AUBREY: [a3] ...Meirin, I... I think you can tell, but Alto is.

She's not just forcing herself to be kind for your benefit or out of pity.

MEIRIN: [a3] ...

AUBREY: [a3] For better or for worse, that's the kind of person she is.

MEIRIN: [a3] ...Look, even I can tell that much.

But -- but this is one of the disadvantages to that, okay?

Whatever loyalty or stubbornness or altruism that make her stick with me, it --

I'm just gonna ruin everything again.

She'll just get hurt because of me again.

I'd rather push her away than weigh her down forever.

AUBREY: [a3]I can't say that I know how you feel exactly.

But I did feel guilty too, for not being able to help Alto or protect her at all. I still feel guilty about that.

I thought for sure that even if she could stand back up after everything Teagan said to us,

she would never come back to me.

And I was determined that even in the off-chance that she did, I would take the high road and not be swayed.

[a1] But here she is, and here I am.

MEIRIN: [a3] ...

AUBREY: [a1] Maybe Alto is right and it still is too early to give up.

As long as she has faith in me... as long as she says she needs me... I can't help but want to believe in her.

MEIRIN: [a3] ...

AUBREY: [a1] Anyway... that's how I feel.

And if you don't feel the same... I think you'll understand after this.

MEIRIN: [a3] ...

AUBREY: [a2] We'll be back soon.

CUT TO GAME

AUBREY: [a1] So, what are we going to do?

ALTO: [a2] I think there's still stuff left, so let's go back to the mansion at Bel Canto.

[a3] This shouldn't take long.

BEL CANTO - MANOR - KITCHEN - They're making poptarts.

ALTO: [a1] [mu] Have you done this much cooking before?

AUBREY: [a3] Umm...

[a1] Well, we all rotated chores at the orphanage and with Lord Altair, so I've done some.

But not any baking...

ALTO: [a2] Well, I watched Meirin do it and she taught me while I did it with her, so it'll probably be fine.

AUBREY: [b1] [ugh] (I'm worried... when you say it like that I'm really worried...)

ALTO: [a2] Heheheh.

[a3][<>] It might take a couple tries, but I'm sure we can figure this out if we're working together.

AUBREY: [b1] [C>] I admire your optimism, but let's be careful...

ALTO: [a2] [<3] I will!

{AUBREY [ugh]}

{Scones GET!}

ALTO: [a2] [<3] All done!!

AUBREY: [b1] Whew...

[ugh] (That was dangerous... that was dangerous in so many different ways...

[faces AUBREY]

ALTO: [a1] [mu] Now all we have to do is go back to Meirin.

POLYPHONY - BROTHEL - BEDROOM 1 - They return with their shitty poptarts.

ALTO: [a2] We're back!

{MEIRIN [...]}

[move to bedside with AUBREY]

ALTO: [a3] Here.

MEIRIN: [b6] This is --

ALTO: [b2] It took a couple tries and they came out a little burnt still,

[a3] but even so they're the sweets you taught me how to make.

[a2] They're for you.

MEIRIN: [b4] [...] You guys...

AUBREY: [b1] [C>] It was a bit of a debacle.

[ugh] I was afraid we would wind up burning the mansion down for a while in the middle.

[a2] But it was a lot of fun to do.

{MEIRIN [...]}

ALTO: [a1] You know what?

[a3] That time in Bel Canto when you had me help you make tarts was the first time I ever cooked anything.

It was the first time anybody even let me in the kitchen at all.

I was always told that there was too much danger of it damaging my hands,
and training was hard enough on them already.

I'd never really been interested in it, and I didn't think I ever would wind up doing it.

I only had a vague idea of how you do it.

[a2] So I was surprised by how much fun it is!

That's something I definitely would never have realized without you.

[...]

MEIRIN: [a1] ...They really are burnt.

[b4] And you didn't put enough salt in these, did you?

[C>] That's a mistake people make a lot, and it dulls the taste.

[b6] The shape is really uneven and lumpy.

[...]

[b5] But... they're really, really delicious.

They're almost as good as mine.

ALTO: [a2] ...Ehehe.

DRAWING - MEIRIN is a youngling. Looks like her dumb-lookingness isn't just a phase.

MEIRIN: You know, I... actually I come from a noble family.

Not one as old as Alto's sounds like it is, but we're still rich and have a long history.

My parents were always concerned with being dignified and talented.

I have a brother and three sisters -- I'm right in the middle -- and, I dunno.

My older brother and sister were always the ones that my parents took seriously and treated with respect.

They're good at everything they do.

And my little sisters are still little kids, so they need a lot of attention and looking after.

But I haven't got any special talents or anything, and I'm old enough that aside from tutors and things I'm expected to look after myself.

So I always felt as though nobody really cared about me.

The mansion staff were kind to me.

And it's not like my parents were cruel or anything.

I just wasn't as good at anything as my older siblings were, so nobody had any expectations of me.

And it wasn't something that could be helped, so I meant to accept it as just the way things were.

But in the end, it still hurt.

I felt like I was invisible, like nobody would ever need me.

CUT TO BLACK

MEIRIN: Learning to play the violin was something I'd always wanted to try, so I was happy when my parents let me take lessons.

DRAWING - Cuts to an angry Meirin.

MEIRIN: But I never got along with my teachers.

They always just wanted me to play certain kinds of music in certain ways, and never let me experiment.

In the end it got to be too much for me.

I got mad, blew up and said that fine, I didn't want or need their help, I'd just do it my own way.

And that just got me scolded for causing trouble, offending people, and wasting my parents' time and money after I'd begged to be allowed to learn.

CUT TO BLACK

MEIRIN: It'll probably sound silly to you guys, but that was just rock bottom for me.

I didn't have any place there, and I didn't need that rubbed in my face any more.

DRAWING - MEIRIN is now wearing her current travesty of fashion. It looks really dumb and edgy, amplified by the rain.

MEIRIN: So I packed up my violin and my things and ran away from home.

There was a group of traveling musicians in town, and I lied about my age and asked them to take me with them.

I've been on the road ever since then.

Everything I've learned about music since then has been from freelance and folk performers like that.

And I had the money that I took when I left the family to support myself with whenever I'm not making enough.

Being on the road has taught me a lot and I feel a lot more alive than I did in my family's shadow, so I'm glad I ran away.

But I still can't help but second-guess myself all the time.

CUT TO BLACK

MEIRIN: I was happy when you chose me, and it's been nice to have the chance to learn more classical notation from you and Saki.

But... I don't know.

Teagan being so critical of everything about me has been, it's been really rough.

I've never had that much confidence in myself to start with, y'know?

It felt like I was being told to walk a line too thin for me to see.

I'd be shaming the only things I think are good about myself if I couldn't keep up,

but I have no talent and there are such big gaps in my knowledge that I knew it was only a matter of time until I screwed up and let you all down.

CUT TO GAME

[...]

ALTO: [a8] ...I see, so that's why.

[...]

MEIRIN: [a1] You know, when I still lived with my family,

the only person who really paid much attention to me at all was the head cook.

My parents were busy with governing the town

and my older brother and sister were busy with their hobbies and with helping my parents.

[b5] So when I wasn't taking lessons or anything, all I ever did was get underfoot in the kitchen.

[a2] The cook was the one who taught me basically everything I know about food and cooking.

[a1] She did it for new workers and not just for me, so it wasn't like she especially felt sorry for me or anything.

[b5] But thinking back on it, that was probably the happiest I ever was back at my family's house.

So when you said that I got to share my feelings from back then with you -- I dunno, it just made me really happy.

ALTO: [a3] I'm glad.

[gets out of bed, ALTO makes space and AUBREY looks at her]

MEIRIN: [b4] I've only been able to talk about this with Saki up until now.

[a5] He's really patient and nice, and we've had some similar experiences, so we've told each other about a lot of stuff.

AUBREY: [a1] [?] ...Speaking of Saki, where is he?

It seems as though he was here with you, but we haven't seen him in town.

MEIRIN: [a1] Oh. He left just a little before you guys showed up.

[b4] He said he was going to go look something up and that he'd be back when he was finished.

AUBREY: [a1] Look something up? That must mean he wanted to go to the library in Libretto.

ALTO: [a5] Hmm...

[..., looks at ALTO then back at AUBREY]

MEIRIN: [b4] [?] ...By the way.

[a6] You two are acting kinda different. Did you guys finally hook up or something?

{ALTO [!]}

[jumps]

AUBREY: [a7] ?!?!!!

ALTO: [b6] Heheheh.

=====LUCKY NERD ZONE=====

[!]

MEIRIN: [b3] [mu] Seriously? Oh my god!!!

Congrats on the sex, you lucky nerds!

=====LUCKY NERD ZONE=====

ALTO: [a5] [?] Ehh? But you've been getting laid too, haven't you?

MEIRIN: [b2] I have!

[b6] But, mmm.

[b4] I dunno how to explain it,

but sex as part of a relationship is a little bit different from sex just for the sake of it.

ALTO: [b5] [?] It is??

MEIRIN: In a best case scenario you won't really need to find out how, but yeah, that's my experience with it.

ALTO: [b5] Huh, that's kinda interesting.

AUBREY: [b5] [///] can we please stop talking about this it's really embarrassing

MEIRIN: [a2] Hehe, okay.

[...]

ALTO: [a2] So, Meirin, do you feel a little better now?

MEIRIN: [a1] Yeah. I guess I do.

[b1] [*] ...Ahh, dammit Aubrey, you were right.

[b6] I still -- I don't know how confident I can be.

[a3] I always feel like I'm falling short of everyone's expectations, especially mine, and that makes me anxious.

[b4] But if you really still want me with you...

ALTO: [a4] Yeah. Like I said, it has to be you.

MEIRIN: [b5] ...Then, okay.

I'll give it one more try.

AUBREY: [a2] ...Heheh.

ALTO: [a1] ...Okay.

[a5] As for what to do next... hmm.

[b4] I'm kind of worried that Saki isn't back yet.

[a4] It's not like him to leave you on your own for so long, especially if it means mountain climbing by himself.

MEIRIN: [b4] ...Yeah. Now that you mention it. I think we should try to catch up to him.

ALTO: [a1] All right. Let's go.

{MEIRIN joins and more scones}

PIZZICATO TRAIL

MEIRIN: [b4] I wonder where Saki managed to wander off to...

AUBREY: [a4] It's all right. I'm sure we'll find him.

[a1] And Saki can take care of himself.

MEIRIN: [b6] I hope so...

ALTO: [a3] Well, this is the only way east.

[a1] If we don't find him on the way, we'll just have to check Dal Segno and Libretto.

MEIRIN: [a3] ...

CORRIDA DE TOROS - SAKI thinks he can ride the bull and gets punished for it.

{everyone [!] but SAKI}

AUBREY: [a4] That's...!

SAKI: [b1] ...*pant* *pant* I-it's strong...!

MEIRIN: [a4] Saki!!!

SAKI: [a7] [!] Eh? Meirin? And --

MEIRIN: [a7] You're hurt!

SAKI: [a3] It's just a scratch -- kh...

{the gang rushes to form a line in front of SAKI to protect him}

ALTO: [a4] We'll handle this, just stay back!

SAKI: [a6] No, this monster is very strong. Unless you have some way of weakening it...

AUBREY: [a4] Don't be reckless! You're injured, so you must stay back. We will protect you.

[#]

MEIRIN: [b8] Y-you, how dare you hurt Saki! I'll make you pay for this...!

FIGHT START - There's text within the battle, apparently.

AUBREY: [a4] It's tough...!

ALTO: [b2] And we can't afford to waste time...

ALTO: [b5] Oh!

MEIRIN: [b6] Do you have an idea?

ALTO: [a5] Mmm, we don't have an easy way to weaken it like Saki said, so...

[b4] If we can use Aubrey's magic to soak it, then Meirin's wind spells'll be more effective.

AUBREY: [a3] It might take a few tries for this to work...

MEIRIN: [a4] This is still the best plan we've got! So let's do it!

ALTO: [a5] (I'm going to have to be careful with fire attacks, then, 'cause there's a chance I'll dry it off by accident...)

BULL FUCKING EXPLODES HOLY SHIT

[faces SAKI]

MEIRIN: [b3] We won! Saki!

SAKI: [a2] Ahaha. That's my Prince Meirin.

[a6] I should have known that -- all of you...

DRAWING - SAKI coughs up blood, possibly from all the BBC deepthroating he did back in Polyphony. They don't call it an esoPHAGus for nothin', folks.

SAKI: ...ugh --

CUT TO GAME - I can't believe SAKI is fucking dead.

{the gang is [!]}

MEIRIN: [a7] ?! Saki!!

ALTO: [b2] Whoa, hey, are you all right?!

S'COOL ALTO I'M ONLY CRYING BLOOD

SAKI: [b4] ...I think that monster's fangs -- must have been venomous...

[!]

AUBREY: [a3] But if you've let the poison set for that long without treating it...

ALTO: [b4] Yeah, I don't think that a Natural or a simple healing spell is going to help if we're at the point where he's coughing up blood.

[a4] We need to get him to somebody that knows medicine.

[[...], moves to SAKI's side]

MEIRIN: [a4] Why...

Why would you do something so stupid?!

[b4] You already can't afford to be reckless, so...!

SAKI: [b4] There was no time to waste... and I had a condition to worry about, too... I wasn't thinking of myself.

ALTO: [b4] That's enough. What's done is done, there's no taking it back.

[a8] Saki, you shouldn't push yourself to talk.

[a4] I think there was someone in Dal Segno we can ask for help, and it's closest, so we should hurry up and go there.

I can carry Saki, but you two need to take over fighting until we get there.

{AUBREY and MEIRIN [!], MEIRIN looks at ALTO}

AUBREY: [a3] B-but... will we really be all right like that?

ALTO: [a4] We don't have any other choice.

Neither of you will be able to carry him and still climb down the mountain.

[b4] Meirin, try to keep it together for Saki's sake, I'm leaving things to you.

MEIRIN: [a3] [!] (Saki...)

DAL SEGNO - WITCH'S HOUSE - The screen is black.

ALTO: [b4] ...

MEIRIN: [a3] ...

AUBREY: [a3] ...

CUT TO GAME

MEIRIN: [b4] Well? Can you save him?!

WITCH: ...This doesn't look good. Behemoth poison is hard to get out of a person's system at the best of times.

And most of the herbs I would use for an antidote are too strong for a patient in this condition...

AUBREY: [a3] Isn't there anything we can do...?

[...]

WITCH: There's an alternative potion that's easier on patients with a weakened constitution that I think I might be able to make.

But there are two ingredients I'm out of. And both of them will be difficult to get in this season.

I don't think I would be able to travel to the places where they still grow, it's much too dangerous for me.

[...]

MEIRIN: [b8] Where...

WITCH: [!] Hm?

MEIRIN: [b8] Where should I go?

Just tell me what to do and I'll do it, I'll do anything, please just tell me what to do so I can save him,

[b7] I'll do whatever it takes, I swear on my life, so please --

[...]

WITCH: All right.

I need a plant called Althaea -- it's common mallow, the flowers are white -- and a blue flower called borage.

You can find Althaea flowers in the northern section of Minuet Forest.

ALTO: [a5] The northern section? I didn't see a part north when we went before.

WITCH: It tends to get overgrown easily, but if you search the big clearing in the middle of the forest, there ought to be one.

Just keep going north. There's a ruin there where everything is always green.

AUBREY: [a3] [!] A ruin... do you mean the remains of Maggiore?

WITCH: [...] Yes. It's a creepy place and the seasons never seem to change there.

It's said to be due to the influence of spirits that live there, but I don't know if that's true.

It was dangerous even before the monsters started getting more violent, so I rarely ever went to pick wild mallow there.

But we won't be getting any more shipments of herbs this year, so that may be our only chance of getting any fresh.

ALTO: [a4] ...And what about the borage?

WITCH: That's... hard to say.

I am told that it only grows in the hidden fairy villages.

But most humans likely wouldn't be allowed into a place like that. And I don't know where you would be able to find one.

ALTO: [a5]About that, I think we'll be able to figure something out.

WITCH: All right. I'll write up some instructions on how to identify the right flowers and which parts of them I need.

I can start up the rest of the potion soon, since it needs time to brew before the Althanea and borage need to go in anyway.

ALTO: [a8] How much time do we have?

WITCH: ...At this rate, two weeks at best. The longer it takes, the less likely the potion is to work, too.

So time is of the essence. You have to do this quickly.

[...]

MEIRIN: ...I'll definitely -- I'll save you. So just wait right here...

SAKI: [b2] ...

ENDING 6 - SAKI FUCKING DIES

DAL SEGNO - WITCH'S HOUSE - Screen is black.

ALTO: [b3] It's been two weeks...

MEIRIN: [b7] ...

AUBREY: [a5] ...

CUTS TO GAME

WITCH: ...I'm sorry. I did everything I could, but...

MEIRIN: [c1] ...

SAKI: [b5] ...

INN - BEDROOM - MEIRIN has her back to ALTO.

MEIRIN: [c1]

ALTO: [b4] ...

MEIRIN: [c1] It's all my fault...

ALTO: [b4] ...

MEIRIN: [c1] If I hadn't been like that, then...

Saki would never have gone off on his own...

ALTO: [a8] Meirin.

MEIRIN: [c2] I could've protected him...

ALTO: [a8] ...

MEIRIN: [c2] Saki...

ALTO: [b4] (Let's leave her alone for now...)

RIGHT, BECAUSE THAT'S SMART

DAL SEGNO - ALTO engages AUBREY at an obelisk.

AUBREY: [a3] I know we did everything we could, but everything just feels so meaningless right now...

ALTO: [a8] ...Yeah.

AUBREY: [a3] You should... stay with Meirin right now. I think -- she needs you more than I do.

ALTO: [b4]

Come with me.

AUBREY: [a3] ...If you say so.

INN - BEDROOM - The screen is black.

ALTO: [b4] Meirin, we're coming back in.

AUBREY: [a3] ...?

CUT TO GAME - MEIRIN tripped and spilled ketchup everywhere! Get your shit together, MEIRIN.

ALTO: [b3] [!] ...!!

[moves to MEIRIN]

MEIRIN: [c3] ...

AUBREY: [a5] M, Meirin...

[...]

ALTO: [b2] It's no good... There's already nothing that we can do.

AUBREY: [a5] ...

CUT TO BLACK

ALTO: [b4] ...

AUBREY: [a6] ...

ALTO: [b4] ...

AUBREY: [a6] ...

ALTO: [b4]There's no way that we can complete the World Tuning anymore.

AUBREY: [a6] ...

ALTO: [b4] There's no one else that can replace Saki or Meirin, and with both of them gone...

AUBREY: [a6] ...

ALTO: [b4] ...Aubrey.

AUBREY: [a6] ...

ALTO: [b4] We're going to restart research on hibernation magic.

AUBREY: [a5] ...

ALTO: [b4] The World Tuning has ended in failure. In the end, we couldn't carry on our ancestors' legacy.

AUBREY: [a5] ...

ALTO: [b4] This is all that we can do for the world now.

AUBREY: [a3] ...Yes.

ALTO: [a8]I'm sorry.

AND NOW, BACK TO OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

MINUET FOREST

ALTO: [a5] She said to look from the clearing in the middle, but...

MEIRIN: [b4] Let's just hurry and check it, okay? Saki can't afford to wait!

ALTO: [a4] ...Yeah.

AUBREY: [a3] ...

TREE AREA - I guess that'd actually be called a forest.

ALTO: [a1] [!] Oh! I can see a path behind this tree.

AUBREY: [a3] But it's blocking the way...

MEIRIN: [b1] ...Can't we just burn it?

[faces MEIRIN]

AUBREY: [a7] [C>] Eh?!

ALTO: [a5] Yeah, that seems like it'll be fastest.

AUBREY: [a7] [C>] Eh?!! You too?

[looks at AUBREY]

ALTO: [a7] [?] Eh? I mean, we don't exactly have forever to poke around, right?

[b1] [C>] We have Saki to think of, that's true, but...

MEIRIN: [b1] [#] so why are we standing around talking imma just burn the thing

I AM THE GOD OF HELLFIRE

{ALTO and AUBREY turn to see the tree fucking explode and are [!]}

AUBREY: [a7] Ah...!

[!]

ALTO: [a2] [mu] Oh, you didn't even get the rest of the trees, that's pretty nice control!

MEIRIN: [b2] [<>] Heheh.

[b3] [<3] Come on, let's go find that flower!

AUBREY: [b1] [ugh] (Ahh... I hope that the spirits in the forest are willing to forgive us for barging in like this.....)

[*]

OUTSIDE MAGGIORE - This part of the forest is in an eternal spring.

[!, moves up]

ALTO: [b5] Eh?!

MEIRIN: [a7] What the --

AUBREY: [a7] ...

ALTO: [a3] It's all green...

MEIRIN: [b4] The temperature's about what I'd think normal for spring or early fall too... could a spirit really do this?

AUBREY: [a4] If this is a spirits doing... then it must be a strong one.

MAGGIORE BOARDER

ALTO: [a1] By the way, what's this Maggiore that you asked the lady about? I've never heard of it.

AUBREY: [a7] You haven't?

MEIRIN: [a1] Neither have I.

AUBREY: [a3] Hmm... I wonder if it's just forgotten history nowadays.

[a1] There used to be seven towns in Harmonia. Maggiore was the seventh one.

But... I think some fifty or sixty years before I was born,

during the time when the fighting between the spirits and the humans was at its fiercest...

[a3] the spirits attacked the whole town and kidnapped or killed most of the people.

The survivors fled to Stave and Bel Canto.

The kidnapping victims were rescued and spirits were taken hostage in retribution, but...

Even after that, no one would return to Maggiore. The people thought that it was a cursed town.

[a1] By the time I was born, the ruins were almost completely reclaimed by the forest.

The trail wasn't so narrow and overgrown, though...

ALTO: [b5] Wow. I never knew.

AUBREY: [a2] Actually... I think that the Cantabile family used to live in Maggiore before the main family moved to Bel Canto.

ALTO: [a7] Really?!

AUBREY: [a1] Yes... I heard Lady Arietta talking about it to Lord Altair once.

ALTO: [a5] Wow, I wonder why I've never heard any of that.

MEIRIN: [b4] We can talk about history later, can't we? Right now we need to hurry...

ALTO: [a4] Yeah. I guess I'll try to look it up later.

MAGGIORE - These are supposed to be ruins, but it looks pretty good for some 2,000 years of decay.

ALTO: [a4] This is...

AUBREY: [a4] There's no mistake. This has to be the ruins of Maggiore.

MEIRIN: [a7] It's really creepy...

That witch lady has serious 'nads to be able to come looking for herbs here at all, even without the monsters.

ALTO: [b4] Let's hurry up and find the flower so we can get out of here...

Something about this place makes me really uneasy.

BOSS FIGHT - They interact with a flower.

ALTO: [a4] This matches the description. We just have to take some, and --

{they are [!] by a bright light and the entrance of SOLENNE, the Wood Fairy}

SOLENNE: So you come again, humans..

MEIRIN: [a7] Wah!

SOLENNÉ: [xp] Filthy, cowardly, destructive scum...

Why do you continue to tread where you are not wanted?

Have you not done enough to us?

AUBREY: [a3] Please, o great spirit, be calm.

We apologize for intruding on your territory.

We will leave in peace and tell no one that you are here.

So please...

SOLENNÉ: [xp] As if I could ever believe any of that drivel, when you come bringing filthy Cantabile blood into my private domain!!

{the trio [!]}

ALTO: [a8] ...Eh?

SOLENNÉ: [xp] You, how dare you look at me with that ignorant expression, aberration!

The stain of your name on the history of the world is an insult that I shall not tolerate!!

ALTO: [a8] What are you talking about?

SOLENNÉ: Be silent!

MEIRIN: [a8] ...No, you shut up.

SOLENNÉ: [!] What?

MEIRIN: [b8] We're just here to pick some fucking mallow, all right?

Get out of our way and we'll leave and you'll never have to look at us again!

SOLENNÉ: [#] Impudent human wretch!

MEIRIN: [b8] [#] If we don't get those flowers, the most important person in my life is going to die!

SOLENNÉ: [#] Good! Burn the human scum out at the roots, that we may take back our world!!

MEIRIN: [b8] How dare you.

SOLENNÉ: [!] What?

MEIRIN: [b8] [#] How fucking dare you!

Either move by yourself or I'll move you by force!!!

FIGHT IS WON

SOLENNÉ: I-I -- I lost?!

ALTO: [b2] We managed to beat them somehow...

SOLENNÉ: [ugh] What -- what do you intend to do with me, human scum?!

MEIRIN: [b8] [*] Nothing! Just get out of my way!

{SOLENNÉ [...], then all [!] by another bright light, BRAVURA appears}

BRAVURA: Solenne, that is more than enough.

[faces BRAVURA]

SOLENNE: Bravura!

ALTO: [b5] It's you again!

[faces ALTO]

BRAVURA: [mu] Well met, child of Cantabile.

{MEIRIN [?] and AUBREY [?], look at ALTO}

ALTO: [a1] That's the first spirit who tested me.

{all look at SOLENNE}

BRAVURA: Solenne. These humans mean no harm to us.

SOLENNE: [#] Where is our guarantee of that, sister?!

You know what that wretched family is capable of!

BRAVURA: [*] Arietta Cantabile and her kin who have followed after her have ever been our friends.
Doth the children inherit the sins of the parent?

{sins of the father starts playing}

[C>] It is bad enough already that thou dost shirk the duties given unto thee by our great master.

ALTO: [a5] [?] (Duties...?)

{[...]}

[a7] [C>] (Don't tell me that the reason Saki didn't have to fight for his piece of the Score was because...)

SOLENN: [*] ...That Luminoso has gone senile, siding with humans like this.

=====THIS SOUNED SOPHISTICATED IN MY HEAD ZONE=====

BRAVURA: That is not for thee to decide. Let the children pass unmolested, or thou shalt make me thine enemy.

=====THIS SOUNED SOPHISTICATED IN MY HEAD ZONE=====

{SOLENN [!]}

[faces ALTO]

BRAVURA: Forgive her, child of Cantabile. She does not forget wrongs easily.

ALTO: [a7] I don't really follow the topic of conversation, but it's fine.

[a4] Actually -- I've been wanting to talk to you or some of the others.

BRAVURA: [!] Oh?

ALTO: [b4] One of my performers has been poisoned and will die if he isn't treated.

[a4] There is a flower called borage that we need for the antidote, but we've been told it only grows in spirit villages.

[a8] Will you grant us permission to enter a village for long enough to search for it?

BRAVURA: That is a very small favor to ask.

Very well. I shall grant thee, and all who travel with thee, the ability to sense and bypass our barriers.

It so happens that our leader doth desire to speak with thee.

ALTO: [a2] ...! All right.

If there's time, we'll go and see them while we're there.

SOLENNNE: [#] Sister, are you mad?

[faces SOLENNNE]

BRAVURA: If either of us be mad, I fear it be thee.

Linger not in these sad places. Come home. Our people long to see thee.

[...]

SOLENNNE: I-I... All right. Just this once.

AUBREY: [a1] Um... Where should we look for the village?

[faces AUBREY]

BRAVURA: Search the Tenuto Grove and thou shalt find the path.

AUBREY: [a1] [iq] Tenuto Grove... that's to the south of Polyphony.

ALTO: [a3] Thank you.

BRAVURA: [mu] We shall wait for thee.

{SOLENNNE [], they both teleport outta there}*

AUBREY: ...Phew. That was very tense.

MEIRIN: [a3] ...

ALTO: [a4] Okay. Let's rest and restock, and then head straight to Tenuto Grove.

[a8] We don't have time to waste.

MEIRIN: [a3] ...Saki...

{Alethia GET! even though they were supposed to get Althaea}

TENUTO GROVE

[!, moves up]

ALTO: [b5] Whoa!

MEIRIN: [a7] We've... definitely never seen this before even though we've passed through here plenty, right?

ALTO: [a1] Incredible... this forest must have been shielded ever since my own time.

[a2] I lived close nearby, and still had no idea...

MEIRIN: [b6] Well, the last flower we need is in here somewhere.

[a4] Let's go.

BOSS FIGHT - They meet SCHERZO, the white dark fairy.

SCHERZO: [mu] Ohohoho~? What do we have here?

MEIRIN: [b1] [C>] ...Wow, people still use that line?

[///]

SCHERZO: [C>] I'm just gonna ignore that.

Hmm... looks like we've got us a couple of nosy humans!

What are you guys doing in here?

[mu] This ain't a place where it's okay for your kind to just stomp around, see?

AUBREY: [b1] Umm... about that...

SCHERZO: [?] Hm? Hmm?

And one of you has really weird mana.

Are you really a human?

ALTO: [a7] [C>] ???

AUBREY: [b1] [*] (Ah... they ignored me...)

SCHERZO: [mu] Well, I'mma show you what we do with uninvited humans around her! Let's get 'em!!

MEIRIN: [b1] [#] Oh, please .We're kinda in a hurry.

[screen shake, large font]

SCHERZO: I DON'T CARE!

{ALTO and AUBREY [C>]}

[]*

MEIRIN: [b1] I see.

ALTO: [a5] Let's just tidy this up quickly then.

They win.

[ugh]

SCHERZO: [C>] Owie! You're pretty strong for just a bunch of jumped-up humans! What's your deal?!

MEIRIN: [b1] That's what we wanna ask you, dumpling head!

SCHERZO: Whoa, talk about a pot calling a kettle black! You better change your hairstyle before you call somebody names like that!

{they're all [!] by POETICO and TACET appearing}

POETICO: Scherzo, what are you doing?

{TACET [...]}

SCHERZO: [C>] Wah, it's Poetico and Tacet! What's up?

POETICO: Why are you bullying the new Cantabile and their other humans? Don't you know Luminoso gave them permission to come in?

SCHERZO: [ugh] Eh? ...Seriously?

MEIRIN: [b1] [#] Uh, duh, that's what we've been trying to tell you for a while.

SCHERZO: [C>] Oh.

AUBREY: [b1] Umm... will you let us through then?

SCHERZO: Yeah, I guess.

POETICO: [*] You shouldn't skip out on meetings so much! Luminoso will get mad at you.

TACET: (nod)

SCHERZO: [*] Ugh, shut up. Can't a guy play hooky in peace anymore?

>guy

[looks at group]

POETICO: Don't mind him, he's just silly.

[looks at group]

TACET: (nod)

SCHERZO: [C>] ...When you two both agree on things like that, it really hurts...

ALTO: [a6] ...Uh, then do you guys mind if we hurry up and pass?

POETICO: [mu] No problem! Actually, you gotta come to say hi to Luminoso first. It's thanks to them that you can even come in here at all.

Bravura and Solenne are waiting at their house too.

ALTO: [a5] As long as it doesn't take too much time, I guess.

POETICO: [<3] Great!

[faces SCHERZO]

C'mon, you.

[phases through SCHERZO like the Flash]

SCHERZO: [*] Wahhh! I'm innocent!!

[get's dragged by POETICO off screen]

TACET ...Follow.

{the trio [C>]}

TENUTO SPRING - LUMINOSO'S HOUSE - All the fairies are there, excluding SAKI.

LUMINOSO: ...Ahh. So you have arrived. I have heard many things about you from my people.

ALTO: [a4] So you are...

LUMINOSO: I am Luminoso. I am the ruler of the spirits who dwell here in the far north of the world.

POETICO: They're the one that assigned all of us to hide the Grand Score and test you.

BRAVURA: Though Solenne disobeyed that command.

[looks at SOLENNE despite being fucking blind]

TACET: (stare)

SOLENNE: [C>] H-hmph.

ALTO: [C>] (Though I guess we should be thankful for that in the end...

(There's no way Saki could've defeated a spirit as strong as Solenne on his own.)

{TACET faces toward the trio again}

LUMINOSO: Long have we cooperated with your family, since the generation of Arietta Cantabile herself.

SCHERZO: [mu] Yeah, though I gotta say, it's pretty unusual for somebody to mess up the Tuning AND wreck the Score AND lose their members on top of it.

[C>] Actually, isn't this, like, a first?

ALTO: [a6] [ugh] Ugh. It really is, isn't it?

[...]

LUMINOSO: What I intend to ask is thiSAKI: Do you have a plan to handle what comes next?

ALTO: [a5] ...Sort of.

[b4] I need to get everyone back together, first things first.

[a4] I think that once I do, part of the reason that the World Tuning failed will probably resolve itself.

[a8] The rest... I don't know yet.

And first of all, I don't think I've been able to recover all the parts of the ripped-up score.

We've definitely got to deal with that before we try again.

MEIRIN: [b4] But Saki comes first, shouldn't he?

LUMINOSO: [!] Oh?

ALTO: [a4] We came here to find a flower that's supposed to grow in your village.

[a5] We need it for an antidote... well, it's a long story.

LUMINOSO: I see. Well, if that is the case, then please go ahead and search for it.

ALTO: [a1] ...Once I've got my members back, is it okay if I come back here to ask for advice?

LUMINOSO: Yes, of course. I can think of one suggestion in particular that may be of help to you.

MEIRIN: [a3] But we have to save Saki first, okay?

ALTO: [b4] Yeah, I know. We haven't forgotten.

POETICO: [<3] Now that you've come here once, you'll always be able to visit again. Isn't that great?

ALTO: [a5] Will I need to have someone allow everyone else in, or...?

BRAVURA: All who travel with thee shall be able to enter this place.

The protections have been dissolved specifically for thee, and none other: That grace simply passes to thy companions.

AUBREY: [a2] That's very convenient.

ALTO: [a3] Okay. I'll come back once I've got things sorted out, then.

[...]

LUMINOSO: Do have a care. It is not only the life of your friend that hangs in the balance, and it is not only his time that threatens to run out.

ALTO: [b4] ...I know.

LUMINOSO: The flower field behind this dwelling may harbor what you seek. Go with my blessing.

ALTO: [a2] Thank you.

TENUTO SPRING - LUMINOSO'S GARDEN - They find the final flower.

MEIRIN: [b3] This is it...!

{borage GET!}

DAL SEGNO - WITCH'S HOUSE - Screen is black.

MEIRIN: [c2] Please, let us have made it...

UNKNOWN VOICE (probably WITCH): You can come in now.

MEIRIN: [b4] ...! Saki, is he...

DRAWING - SAKI is getting out of bed, and he's wearing bloomers.

SAKI: Good morning. Or -- dear, should that be good afternoon?

MEIRIN: ...!!

SAKI: It appears I've caused you all a great deal of worry. I'm sorry.

MEIRIN: I-just don't do anything that reckless and stupid ever again!

CUT TO GAME

AUBREY: [a1] How are you feeling?

SAKI: [a2] It seems that I've made a full recovery. There isn't any need to worry any more.

{MEIRIN [...]}

ALTO: [a2] That's good to hear.

SAKI: [a1] Aside from that, thank you for coming to help Meirin so promptly -- both for her sake and for my own.

[a5] If you had shown up any later, I don't doubt that I would have been beyond help.

AUBREY: [b1] (He's awfully cavalier about it...)

SAKI: [a3] I'll hazard a guess -- you still intend to continue with the World Tuning, yes?

ALTO: [a4] Yeah. And sorry to ask you when you're just out of bed, but will you stay on with us as our violist?

SAKI: [a2] Of course. I had no intention of quitting from the start.

[a4] As lojng as you intend to keep trying, I will be with you.

It will take quite a lot more than a bully's temper tantrum to dissuade me.

ALTO: [a3] ...! Thank you.

AUBREY: [a3] Um... why were you in such a hurry to cross the mountains?

SAKI: [a7] Why... I know that we made a few mistakes in our performance,

[a6] but I can't believe that that was the only cause of the disaster.

It's a slim chance,

[a3] but I thought that maybe there would be some reading at the Great Library that could give me a little insight.

ALTO: [b4] You're right about the mistakes we made not being enough.

[b2] But I don't think that anything down at Folio will be able to help,

[C>] because as far as I'm aware a failure like this is unprecedented.

AUBREY: [a3] ...There's the matter of the Grand Score, too...

ALTO: [a5] Mm, I think there isn't really any use in looking at the immensity of the problem, because we'll just get overwhelmed. We've got to take this bit by bit if we want to fix it properly.

[a4] In any case, will you all come to the inn with me? I want to talk about what I intend to do next.

[a7] [C>] And we're technically still intruding in someone else's space, so...

{the rest of the group [C>]}

MEIRIN: [a7] Oh, whoops.

WITCH: [mu] Haha, yeah, don't mind me.

AUBREY: [b1] We're very sorry...

WITCH: Don't be! I know you guys have an important job to take care of.

And I've got enough herbs to keep making this potion if I have to --

plus, my work here is good enough that it should get me into an apprenticeship with the master in Stave

come spring, no problem.

[<3] I should really be thanking you guys for your cooperation too.

SAKI: [a4] Thank you very much for your care and hospitality.

WITCH: Come back if you ever need anything else, okay? Good luck!

ALTO: [a2] Yeah, thanks!

{SAKI joins}

DAL SEGNO - INN - BEDROOM - ALTO is looking out the window [...], AUBREY and MEIRIN are at a table, and SAKI is fixing flowers.

AUBREY: [a3] ...Alto.

MEIRIN: [b6] You said you were going to talk about what we're going to do next, right?

[b4] You've been kinda quiet for a while, are you okay?

[..., turns around from the window]

ALTO: [b4] ...Mm.

[moves to the table]

[a1] Just thinking about where I should start.

[moves to the table]

SAKI: [a3] [...] Then, may I ask something?

ALTO: [a2] Sure, go ahead.

SAKI: [a6] ...As things stand, we are still missing one performer.

[a3] It's just a feeling of mine -- but don't tell me that you mean to bring Teagan back into this, as well?

ALTO: [a4] Yeah.

[...]

MEIRIN: [a3] ...Why?

ALTO: [a1] Hm?

MEIRIN: [a4] Why do we need her? What good would bringing Teagan back into this do?

She's been nothing but horrible to you and me this whole time.

[b1] And she said herself that she was done with us.

[a7] I don't want to be around her anymore if I can help it.

ALTO: [b4] ...Mm. Yeah. I'm sorry.

[a8] Of course that's how you'd feel.

But it just -- it has to be Teagan.

AUBREY: [a1] [...] ...You've said things like that before. That it "has to" be each of us.

[a3] But I'm afraid I don't understand your reasoning.

ALTO: [a5] [*] This's really hard for me to put into words.

It's not based on logic.

Reasoning is something that you attach to gut feelings afterwards to make them make sense.

W R O N G

[b4] [...] I just know that it has to be Teagan.

[a4] For the same reasons I knew it had to be each of you, it has to be Teagan.

MEIRIN: [a3] [*] ...I don't get it.

ALTO: [a8] The World Tuning...

SAKI: [a7] [!] Yes?

ALTO: [b4] The World Tuning has to be performed by a group of five people.

The ritual itself is too complex for one person to have absolute control over everything.

[a4] I told you about this once before, Saki, but the whole point of the ritual, the musical elements, and the ensemble is so that the strain won't be so terrible as to crush the Cantabile doing it.

MEIRIN: [b4] [?] ...So what's this got to do with Teagan?

ALTO: [a6] [C>] I'm working my way there, so be patient, okay?

MEIRIN: [a3] Sigh.

ALTO: [a5] Anyway.

[b4] Creating the instruments that the ensemble member use, maintaining their shape, actually playing my own part,

using the music as a guideline to control the flow of magical energy at the pole...

[a4] All of those things are my job. I'm taking care of about eighty percent of the actual work in the World Tuning.

[a8] But the other twenty percent comes from the rest of you, and from our cohesiveness as a group.

And it's as vital an element as anything else.

SAKI: [a6] [...] What do you mean by cohesiveness?

ALTO: [a5] Musical style isn't really a part of it. It's -- I think the technical term is that we have to be in sympathy.

[a1] That's more important than being synchronized.

[b4] Our thoughts and feelings, at least towards each other and the World Tuning, have to be at least a little similar...

[a4] I have to have a connection with each of you.

[a8] The discord between Teagan and me, and the ill effects that had on everybody else, are definitely **one [GET TIME]** of the reasons why the World Tuning failed.

MEIRIN: [b4] [?] ...It's just starting to sound more and more like we ought to get another first violin instead.

ALTO: [a8] Maybe that would be more practical in the long run. But I really, really don't want it to have to come to that.

AUBREY: [a3] Alto...

SAKI: [a6] Is there a particular reason why you feel so strongly about having Teagan in this quintet?

MEIRIN: [b6] ...Yeah. It feels like there has to be more than just her ability to play.

[...]

ALTO: [b4]There's a reason.

[b2] It's kind of complicated, so I hope you'll all bear with me,

[a5] but I think I probably wanted to clear the air on this anyway.

[...]

MEIRIN: [b6] [?] (...Probably?)

[...]

ALTO: [b4] I'm going to explain about the Cantabiles, and about Bowing, and about Teagan.

But I need to show you this first.

DRAWING - You wanna know how I got these scars? My parents were tough, real fiends. And one night, they go off crazier than usual. Mommy gets the kitchen knife while daddy holds me down. I didn't like that. Not. One. Bit. So, me crying, she points the knife at me, laughing while she does it. My father looks me in the eye and says, "Why so serious?" Grabs my hand and twists it a bit to give her a better angle. "WHY SO SERIOUS?" She sticks the blade against my forearm... "Let's put a SMILE on those wrists."

AUBREY: This is...!

MEIRIN: ...!!

SAKI: These scars are...

ALTO: The first time I ruined my hands, I was eight.

DRAWING - An eight-year old ALTO with sunken eyes, looking absent.

ALTO: Up until now, my life has literally revolved around learning "Bowing" and training to be ready for the World Tuning.

It's the most important duty of our family, so this is how it always is.

As soon as a child is born, as soon as that child is able to walk and talk, that child begins training.

And because our main instructor is always our Cantabile parent,

their life is so caught up with ours that there's no time to try to have and then train a second child.

So from the time I was five years old, I spent eight to twelve hours every day playing the cello,

and another eight to twelve hours learning to control my power.

All my spare time was spent learning other things that would be important to my quest -- reading, writing, history, geography, logistics.

>logistics

The handling and maintenance of converted bows, and how to make them --
because that's an art only practiced in Harmonia, and it's even dying out here.

I barely had time to eat or sleep.

I didn't go to school.

I was never allowed out of the mansion unless I had no choice but to appear at some societal function.

And I want to make this clear, but it's not that my parents were especially cold and cruel.

As far as I can tell, the Cantabile family has been like this for hundreds of years.

Because it's the fate of the world, you know? Every living thing in the entire world depends solely on our abilities.

So I don't know when, but at some point down the line,

my ancestors reached the conclusion that they had to sacrifice their humanity for the sake of the world.
That that was a small price to pay.

I can understand that logic, and I can accept it. I think it's an accurate view of things.

But it's also true that no one in my family, none of the servants or staff or anyone, has ever treated me warmly or kindly.

The only times I can remember being praised are when I produced superior results in training.

The circumstances being what they are, it can't be helped. We don't know any other way.

And these methods have produced many successful performers and heroes.

But at the same time, I have been abused my entire life.

Aside from our magic, the Cantabile family tends to pass down another thing. It's not as convenient.

Almost all of us have hyperflexible wrists -- I guess you'd say we're double-jointed.

That means that our hands and wrists are extra vulnerable, and our training put enough stress on them as it is.

I'm like that too.

So the first time I stopped being able to move my hands, I was eight years old.

From that point in time I've been through surgery after surgery, because magic alone only did some much.

That's why I have so many scars on my hands.

Part of the reason I keep them covered most of the time is because people always tend to get the wrong idea about them.

Recovering from surgery put big gaps in my training.

It was the only time that I was ignored and allowed to run free, but it didn't give me any relief.

I was in pain, and I was useless and knew it.

CUT TO BLACK

ALTO: That was when I met Teagan.

DRAWING - Nine-year old TEAGAN with an umbrella and a scarf. Cute as fuck.

ALTO: Teagan has been my only friend ever since then.

And honestly, up until we left home to go on this journey, she has been my only view of the world outside our courtyard.

To put it one way, when she first learned about my family she was horrified and furious for me.

And it's not that I didn't believe her that my life was abnormal, I just had no concept of "normal" to measure myself up to.

so it was more that it took me a long time to understand what she meant.

Teagan's not perfect. You know what her personality's like. She hasn't always been able to do anything for me effectively.

But all this time, she's always acted from the desire to help and protect me in whatever way she can.

So when it was time for me to leave, it was obvious to me that I had to bring Teagan along as my first violinist.

I've always known that it has to be her.

All my life up until now, she's been my only real, solid human connection.

CUT TO GAME

SAKI: [a6] ...

MEIRIN: [a3] ...

AUBREY: [a3] ...

ALTO: [a8] But at the same time, even if we just dragged Teagan back and everything went back to the way it was, it'd be no good.

[b4] Teagan may be acting based on what she thinks are my best interests, but she doesn't get to decide what those are.

And she's never asked me what I really want to do or think we should do and fully trusted me when I answer.

[a4] She needs to acknowledge me as her equal and as a person with a right to make decisions.

She needs to acknowledge that she's just been taking her frustration out on all of us, that that's wrong, and that shee needs to act differently.

[a8] ...So, it's a problem.

[b4] I know that it has to be Teagan who does this with me.

It's not just that I'm used to her or need her around, I want her to be around.

But she can't play with us if all she's going to do is hurt us.

SAKI: [a3] ...So, what do you intend to do?

[...]

ALTO:; [a4] I'm going to track her down and give her a piece of my mind.

I'm going to make sure that she listens to what we have to say for once.

[a8] After that... I think it'll depend on how she reacts.

[b4] If she understands that she's done something bad and is sorry and wants to change...

then I think we'll be okay with bringing her along again.

[...]

[a8] If not... well, it won't be the same, and I'm not sure how I'll feel about it,

but I guess we'll have to find somebody else.

MEIRIN: [b5] Yeah. Okay.

ALTO: [a1] [!] Meirin?

MEIRIN: [b5] I think that's fair.

[b6] I -- honestly, I'm afraid of seeing Teagan again, but...

[b4] I was able to save Saki, so I have proof that I'm not powerless after all.

[a3] And even though she's hurt me, you've probably been suffering for a lot longer.

[a2] If that's what you want to do, I'm willing to give it a try.

ALTO: [a5] [?] ...Suffering... hmm. I don't really know.

I've never thought of it that way. It's just been what's "normal" for me up until now.

[b2] Because of that, I'm honestly more worried about you.

[a8] I can deal with Teagan, but I know that me wanting her to be here doesn't give me the right to hurt you by making you have to deal with her again.

MEIRIN: [b5] It's enough for me that you're taking that into account, okay?

[b2] You may not be used to being in charge of things like this yet, but I have got at least some faith in your judgement.

[a2] This is important to you, so I'll give it a try.

ALTO: [a3] ...Okay. Thank you.

[a2] I'll do my best to not let you down.

MEIRIN: [a1] Yeah. That's good enough for me.

ALTO: [a1] Aubrey, Saki, what about you two?

AUBREY: [a1] I feel the same way.

[a4] I've told you that I will be with you from now on, and I will prove to you that I mean that no matter what.

MEIRIN: [a5] Teagan has never really bothered me that much personally.

[a1] I think it's most important for you to decide what you want and follow through with it.

[a4] So, I will support you to the best of my ability.

ALTO: [a3] ...Thanks.

SAKI: [a7] But...

ALTO: [a3] Hm?

SAKI: [a2] [<3] My, my! "I will be with you from now on"? How bold!

[jumps]

AUBREY: [a7] ?!?!?!?!!!

MEIRIN: [a6] Oh, yeah, so hey Saki! These two went and hooked up when our backs were turned!

SAKI: [a7] [!]

[a2] Well, congratulations!!!

ALTO: [b6] Ehehehe.

AUBREY: [b5] [///] why

===== "YOU NEED JESUS" ZONE =====

SAKI: [a2] If you ever have any questions or concerns, do come to me and ask!

It is an adult's solemn duty to explain these things to young folk!!!

[smol font]

AUBREY: both my parents were sex workers so i REALLY think we'll be fine

I guess it really is the world's oldest profession

SAKI: [a7] Oh, my, but you're still this embarrassed about it even so?

[a2] There's no need to be shy; this is something to be proud and happy about!

===== "YOU NEED JESUS" ZONE =====

AUBREY: [b5] WHY THIS

MEIRIN: [a5] [mu] We're just natural busybodies, don't mind us.

AUBREY: [b5] hhhhhhhhhhhhhh

I think I got that right

ALTO: [a2] There, there.

SAKI: [a1] To get things back on topics -- what's our plan of attack, Alto?

ALTO: [a5] Well, first we have to find Teagan. We haven't run into her yet, so we should probably check Libretto and Solfège.

[a1] She'll be there, somewhere or other.

[a4] ...It may turn into a fight. It may get really ugly. Are you all still okay with that?

SAKI: [a5] Oh, what are you saying?

MEIRIN: [b3] We already said we're with you.

AUBREY: [a2] ...No matter what, right?

ALTO: [a3] ...Yeah. Okay.

We're gonna go find Teagan.

[a2] Let's do something about that hard head of hers.

holy fuck that took forever to type

SOLFEGE - TEAGAN is around the town brooding.

[!]

ALTO: [b5] Ah...!

{TEAGAN [...]}

[moves on up]

ALTO: [a4] Hey, Teagan!

{TEAGAN [...]}

We've been looking all over for you!

TEAGAN: [a4] ...Whatever it is, I don't want to hear it.

ALTO: [b3] ...!

TEAGAN: [a7] I told you I don't want to see any of your fucking faces again.

[a8] Keep your distance, or you're gonna get what's coming to you.

[her back is turned this entire time, and she walks away as ALTO tries to talk]

ALTO: [a4] ...Hey, wait!

[b2] [*] Dammit, don't ignore me!

[a6] ...Agh, she went.

SAKI: [a6] ...Are you three all right?

MEIRIN: [a3] Yeah.

AUBREY: [a3] ...Yes.

SAKI: [a6] Alto?

ALTO: [a4] ... [GET TIME] Now I'm mad.

MEIRIN: [b1] ...Yeah, jeez, what is her PROBLEM?!

ALTO: [a6] You're not getting away from us that easy, you damn Teagan.

MEIRIN: [b3] Yeah!

ALTO: [b6] Yeah!!!

SAKI: [a2] ...Heheh.

AUBREY: [a1] She's headed south...

ALTO: [a5] The only place to go from there is the Forest of Preludes.

[a2] C'mon! We're gonna corner her so she's got no choice but to listen!!!

DOCK - TEAGAN is at the end of it. This is where the encounter should've started.

{TEAGAN [...]}

ALTO: [b4] Teagan.

[a4] You've got nowhere to run away from me now.

[...]

TEAGAN: [a4] I cannot fucking believe you.

[faces them]

[a8] Are your ears broken or something?

[moves up]

ALTO: [b4] Yeah, I know you don't want to listen to me. That's nothing new.

[a4] But this is too important for me to let things stand like this.

TEAGAN: [a4] "Too important"... right.

ALTO: [b4] I'm not giving up. And you're smart enough to know why I'm here.

[a4] But there's something I need to say to you first.

[...]

TEAGAN: [a4] ...Is this really all I can do for you anymore?

[...]

ALTO: [a8] ...So this has to turn into a fight, then?

TEAGAN: [a8] You don't listen to anything I've ever told you.

If you still want to keep ramming your fucking head against this impossible task your family's set for you...

ALTO: [b4] Teagan, I've always listened to you. Always. Every time.

[b2] But just because I do, that doesn't mean --

TEAGAN: [a7] And you three! Don't any of you care enough to stop her?!

She can't think for herself, she can't feel for herself, all she can do is follow her parents' orders --

SAKI: [a3] You and I have already had this discussion. I respect Alto's judgment enough to support her choices.

AUBREY: [a3] ...Teagan, it may be true that none of us can know how you've felt, being Alto this long...

[a4] but do you really think that it's okay to say those things about her just because she doesn't agree with you?

MEIRIN: [a4] You're the one...

[b8] You're the one that's not listening!

It's BECAUSE we care about Alto that we're staying with her!

TEAGAN: [a8] You don't know anything about Alto or about me. You're in no position to judge.

MEIRIN: [a8] [#] And who's to say that you are?!

ALTO: [a8] I've already told them everything. The only one that still needs to hear me out... is you.

TEAGAN: [a4] You have no intention of giving up, do you?

ALTO: [b4] No.

TEAGAN: [a4] Then, fine.

[a7] If this is the only way -- I'll stop you with all my strength!!

[moves directly in front of TEAGAN]

ALTO: [b7] If that's what it'll take to calm you down, fine!

But you better shut up and listen to us when you lose!!!

FIGHT!

ENDING 5 - ALTO FUCKING DIES

LOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOSEESEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEERRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

ALTO: [b2] [*] ...D-damnit, you really are strong...

TEAGAN: [a4] Alto.

{ALTO [...]}

I'm sorry.

ALTO: [b3] Wha-

TEAGAN: [a4] I was hoping it wouldn't have to come to this.

[RIP AND TEAR YOUR GUTS]

ALTO: [b1] ?!!

[gets on the floor and does the dinosaur, as in goes extinct]

SAKI: [b1] ...!

MEIRIN: [c1] A-Alto --!

AUBREY: [a5] ...

DRAWING - Punish Teagan: A Woman Despised by her Friends

TEAGAN: I told you to stay away from me, idiot.

SAKI: Teagan -- what have you --

TEAGAN: It's the least I could do.

The only thing I could do, as her friend.

I've put an end to this.

That's all.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE

TEAGAN LOSES - This next part actually hurts to write.

TEAGAN: [b1] [!] N-no way.

[...]

ALTO: [b7] You have no right to make my decisions for me!

TEAGAN: [b1] I --

ALTO: [b8] No! You need to shut up and listen to me!

[b7] For once in both our lives, you are going to listen to everything I have to say to you!

TEAGAN: [b1] ... *tiny boat*

ALTO: [b7] Yeah, you know what? You're absolutely right that my parents are terrible!

That the Cantabile duties and ideals are propped up with a few hundred years' worth of mystery and abuse!

I have scars for every surgery, for every time I've been pushed past the limits of my body, even as a kid!

You don't have to count them for me to prove to me what they mean!

You're right that I'm fucked up!

[b8] BUT I AM STILL A FUCKING PERSON!

TEAGAN: [b1] I --

ALTO: [b8] I said, shut the fuck up!

TEAGAN: [b1] ...

ALTO: [b7] Where the hell do you get off talking about me

like I have no feelings and no mind and don't deserve any agency in my own life?!

Because I know as well as you do that this is it!

When I leave this country and go back home, my parents are going to control me for the rest of my life,
just like they have up until now!

I'll be forced to marry whoever they choose, forced to have a kid I don't want,

and I'll be forced to torture that kid just like I have been!

This journey, right now, is the only time in my life I'll be able to make choices for myself!

And the whole time --

you won't shut up about how I'm doing everything wrong, that this and that aren't what YOU want!

[b8] Who the hell do you think you are?!

TEAGAN: [b1] I just thought --

ALTO: [b8] Yeah, what?

TEAGAN: [a4] You don't know any other way to live.

So at least if I was in charge of taking care of you --

if the person controlling you had your best interests at heart --

ALTO: [b8] What the hell is that?!

TEAGAN: [b1] I --

ALTO: [b8] Who ever gave you the right to decide what's "best" for me?

You won't even spend five minutes listening to me about what I want for myself!

You don't even think I'm a human being!

TEAGAN: [b1] I don't --

ALTO: [b8] How are you any different from my parents at all?!

TEAGAN: [b1] I-I never meant --

ALTO: [b8] It doesn't MATTER what you "meant"!

You could have all the good intentions in the world and it doesn't change the fact that you are hurting me!

TEAGAN: [b1] ...

ALTO: [c1] And all this time I've just been trying to hold it in because up until now you've been my only friend --

I've been telling myself that it doesn't matter and to just ignore you, and I've been apologizing to the others for you

because I know deep down that you'd never've turned out this twisted and abusive

if seeing the way I lived hadn't driven you to it --

TEAGAN: [b1] Alto...

ALTO: [b8] But you know what! You and your SHITTY CONTROLLING MANIPULATIVE BULLSHIT! Are not! My fault!!

[b7] So fuck you!

I am so fucking done with burying my feelings out of fear of my parents or of you or whatever!

THAT'S ALL TEAGAN FUCKING W A N T E D

Fuck that!

TEAGAN: [b1] ...

ALTO: [b8] I have ALWAYS listened to you!

I have ALWAYS taken your worries and your concerns and your stupid, SENSELESS complaining into account!

You just think that "listening" means I have to obey you no matter what!

TEAGAN: [b1] ...

ALTO: [b4] ...

TEAGAN: [b1] I -- shit, Alto, I'm sorry --

ALTO: [b7] "Sorry" isn't going to make this better!

[b8] I am never ever in my entire life going to forgive you for what you've done to me!

TEAGAN: [b1] ...

ALTO: [b8] But I -- but it still has to be you, Teagan!

I still cannot even imagine doing this without you!

TEAGAN: [b1] I -- what?

ALTO: [b8] I don't understand it either!

[c1] But until we came here? Almost all the happiness in all eighteen years of my life? That was thanks to you!

Our friendship wasn't perfect, it's not even healthy, but when my parents chose you for my practice partner?

That made me so happy!

I'm so used to playing music that I can't calm down unless I do it regularly,

but I wouldn't have been able to still love it if I hadn't been able to share that with you!

And you're still the one that let me know what was happening to me was wrong!

I was never really safe with you, but --

but I was still one fucking hell of a sight safer with you than I was at home!

TEAGAN: [b1] ...

ALTO: [b8] I still care about you! I still want you to be around me and to play music with me, I can't turn that off!

[c1] But the way it's been until now is just, I can't, we cannot do that anymore.

=====IT GETS EVEN WORSE ZONE=====

You hurt me, you hurt Meirin, you scared Aubrey half to death, Saki nearly died because of what you did to us --

and you've been angry and miserable the whole time too.

This has to change, and if it can't then you cannot be around us for our safety.

IGNORING THAT ALTO GOT THEM ELECTROCUTED BY LIGHTNING

[c2] But I still want you to be with us, god FUCKING damn it!

=====IT GETS EVEN WORSE ZONE=====

TEAGAN: [a4]Shit.

ALTO: [c2] Yeah?

[illegible]

TEAGAN: [b4] I fucked up.

[illegible]

[screen shakes]

ALTO: [c2] [#] You can say that again!!

$$[\dots]$$

TEAGAN: [a4] Can I just -- ask one thing?

probably wanted to say "say", but changed her tone

ALTO: [c2] What?

TEAGAN: [a4] You understand that your family are a bunch of crazy douchebags.

[a3] So why are you still so set on carrying out their quest?

ALTO: [c2] ...Just because they're jerks doesn't mean that the World Tuning itself is bad.

It's not a justification for everything they've done, any more than the way you feel excuses what you did to us.

[c1] But I think there's still worth in doing it.

[b4] I get to be free, and I get to help people. Those aren't bad things.

{TEAGAN [...]}

ALTO: [b2] [C>] Ow.

TEAGAN: [b4] [!] ...Are you okay?

Like, I know we've been fighting, but -- is anything broken anywhere or --

ALTO: [a7] [ugh] No, it's just been a long time since I yelled like this. My throat hurts.

{TEAGAN [...]}

[walks up to ALTO]

AUBREY: [b1] [C>] Um... I think I have candy, for now?

[looks at AUBREY]

TEAGAN: [a2] Thank you.

[moves up a bit]

SAKI: [a4] Alto, I'm proud of you.

AND THEN THE WHOLE BUS CLAPPED

[turns to SAKI]

ALTO: [b5] [?] Hm?

ALTO: [b4] You can't.

I already said this isn't something saying you're sorry will fix.

And that I'm never going to forgive you anyway.

=====HOW CAN IT GET EVEN WORSE FROM HERE OH MY FUCKING GOD
FERAL I'M GONNA NEED TWO LINES FOR THIS ZONE=====

TEAGAN: [a4] ...Yeah.

Even if it were -- I don't know where things started going wrong, and --
ten years' worth of this just isn't something you can make up for that fast.

you probably know that it actually does get worse by now

ALTO: [b4] I don't care about that.

All that matters is that you change, and don't do these things to us or to anyone anymore.

TEAGAN: [a4] ...And the World Tuning.

ALTO: [a4] And the World Tuning.

{TEAGAN [...]}

Do you still think that the World Tuning is a bad thing to do?

TEAGAN: [a4] For me, it's still hard to separate the ritual from your family.

I didn't even think it was real until we got here. And after we failed like that...

ALTO: [b4] Well, we've probably just now dealt with one of the main reasons it did.

We'll deal with all the other problems too, one by one so they aren't overwhelming.

[a4] There are already people we've found who we can ask for advice.

TEAGAN: [a1] Since when did you learn to talk all responsible?

ALTO: [a3] I've always been able to. You've just been too busy trying to micromanage to pay attention.

TEAGAN: [b3] Ouch.

ALTO: [a3] Haha.

TEAGAN: [b3] No, I deserved that one.

ALTO: [a1] If we're going, we should get started.

[a4] If we don't get this dealt with before spring, there's not going to be a spring.

TEAGAN: [a4] ...I've got something to say first.

[walks to talk to the rest of the group with everyone looking at her]

{MEIRIN [...]}

DO NOT GO BEYOND THIS LINE. NOTHING GOOD AWAITS YOU.

=====

TEAGAN: [b4] I'm really sorry about basically everything.

You never did anything to deserve me going after you for every little thing like I did.

I was just taking my frustration out on you because you were an easier target than Alto,
which was a shitty thing to do.

[a4] Especially when I ought to have been helping you instead.

I don't want you to have to be afraid to ask for help.

{MEIRIN [...]}

TEAGAN: [a4] I know this is too little, too late.

[a3] I'm still -- I'm gonna do this better.

[b4] You deserve better, too.

{MEIRIN [...]}

MEIRIN: [a3] I...

TEAGAN: [a1] [!] Hm?

MEIRIN: [a3] I really looked up to you.

We play the same instrument, and you're older and better than me at classical stuff, and you're responsible and cool...

So I didn't...

When you went after every little thing I did wrong, I just felt like --

[c2] like I'd been exposed as some shabby, second-rate thing that could never compare.

It was humiliating and dfrustrating and I-I just wanted you to approve of me most of all.

TEAGAN: [b4] ...Shit.

MEIRIN: [a3] ...?

TEAGAN: [a1] I have a bunch of little brothers and sisters.

[a4] A lot of them are around your age or younger.

So many of them have gone through the same thing from people they admire.

And I've always kicked those people's faces in for that.

[b4] I should really have known better than to act the exact same way. I'm sorry.

[...]

MEIRIN: [a1] ...Thank you.

TEAGAN: [a1] What? What for?

MEIRIN: [a1] Adults never apologize about anything even when they're wrong.

[b5] So it's nice that you're admitting that what you did was bad and apologized.

Alto seemed to think there was a chance you would, but I was afraid you wouldn't.

TEAGAN: [b3] I'd like to think that even I'm not that bad...

MEIRIN: [a2] [mu] Hehe.

TEAGAN: [a1] And, hey --

MEIRIN: [a1] What?

TEAGAN: [b2] I probably can help you with unfamiliar stuff as well as the others can, but...

The next time we're stuck at some inn with nothing to do?

[a2] How about you teach Alto and me some of the things you can do?

{MEIRIN [!]}

ALTO: [b5] Oh, that's a great idea!

MEIRIN: [b4] I-is that really okay?

[looks at MEIRIN]

SAKI: [a2] [<3] Oh, yes. I'd love to learn them, too.

[a5] I still know classical techniques better than modern ones.

MEIRIN: [a2] [///] Ehehe... If you really want to, sure.

ALTO: [a2] [mu] Great. We might have to make some stops on the way, so maybe then.

{looks up}

[a3] For now... we'll head back to Tenuto Spring and talk to Luminoso.

[a4] They said they had an idea, and I have a theory that I want to ask about.

TEAGAN: [b4] [?] ...We're going where to talk to who?

ALTO: [a1] Some stuff happened after you left. We'll explain on the way.

{TEAGAN joined}

MOVEMENT 3: PRESTO VIVACE ALLA CANTABILE

TENUTO SPRING - LUMINOSO'S HOUSE

LUMINOSO: I see that you have successfully reassembled your ensemble since last we spoke.

ALTO: [a2] Ehehe. Yeah.

[a5] ...So I'm getting straight to the point, but it's still okay to ask for advice, right?

LUMINOSO: [...] Yes. I take it by phrasing that there is something in particular you would like to ask?

ALTO: [b4] Mm.

[b2] There's the Score to worry about too,

[a8] but I don't think that will have any meaning if we don't take care of this first.

TEAGAN: [a1] [C>] ...So what's up? YOU've never been the most articulate person ever, but that's a lot vaguer than usual.

SAKI: [a3] Teagan...

ALTO: [b4] No, it's fine. I'm not too sure myself.

AUBREY: [a3] Um... in what way?

ALTO: [a5] [*] Mmm.

[C>] I'm not always good at putting this kind of thing into words beyond saying that it's intuition or instinct or whatever.

[a4] In regards to things like choosing each of you as ensemble members,

I've always been a hundred percent sure that my choices are right.

[b4] I was told before leaving home to trust my instincts about these things because of how important unity is.

[a8] But this is more like a hunch. I'm pretty sure, but not completely.

MEIRIN: [b4] Alto...?

ALTO: [b4] The thing with Teagan was definitely **one** of the problems that made the World Tuning fail.

But I know there has to be more to it than that.

I've been thinking about it all this time.

[...]

[a8] I think the rest of the anomaly might be because of me.

{TEAGAN [...], AUBREY {?}}

SAKI: [a6] ...How do you mean that?

ALTO: [a8] I mean that -- feelings are important to the ritual.

Our feelings towards each other, towards music, towards the World Tuning itself.

[b2] And there have been -- a few times over the course of the journey when there's been...

[a5] [*] some kind of restlessness or -- unease? I think?

[b4] Like background noise in my head, or the winds just before a storm in my chest...

[a8] I don't know what to call it, but sometimes I've had feelings like that and don't know why.

Kind of like... a sense that there's something wrong here, but I don't know what or why.

AUBREY: [a3] Hmm... That is kind of vague.

Like misgivings?

Or reluctance?

ALTO: [a8] That's the thing, I don't know.

At first I thought I should just ignore it. Because I've been doing everything that I'm supposed to --

I've followed my family's directions and I'm fulfilling my duty.

[b4] But there's a chance that whatever that feeling is,

it created enough of a distortion for me to mess up the World Tuning.

MEIRIN: [b6] [ugh] ...I'm lost.

It's not that I don't believe you, it's just that this is so far beyond my comprehension that I can't really keep up.

SCHERZO: [?] That's normal for humans.

The ritual is like that. You're using tools you don't understand to manipulate forces you don't understand.

MEIRIN: [b1] Wow, that was helpful.

ALTO: [a5] It's like the flow of magic all around the world is a bunch of strings
that all have their ends floating around at the poles.

[a1] By doing the World Tuning, we organize the strings and play them as our instrument strings...

[a5] [?] or maybe they're the staff lines on sheet music?

Hmm~

TEAGAN: [b3] [*] I... almost understood that and then it went back to making zero sense.

MEIRIN: [b4] I'm glad I'm not the only one.

ALTO: [a6] [C>] The important part is that I understand it.

[a3] Besides, the World Tuning's kinda one of those things,
y'know, the ones where if you think about them too hard you lose.

FP is just trying to excuse herself for the utter lack of world building

AUBREY: [b1] ...I get the feeling that I heard Lady Arietta speak of it in terms like that, too.

ALTO: [b5] [!] Really?

[a2] [mu] ...Ehehe.

TEAGAN: [b3] (She's easy to please.)

[...]

SAKI: [a7] Hmm.

[looks at SAKI]

MEIRIN: [a1] You look like you actually understood that.

[looks at MEIRIN]

SAKI: [a5] Perhaps.

[a4] It would make an alarming amount of sense if the "strings" Alto refers to are actually ley lines.

[a6] but as far as modern scientists know, those kinds of power sources only exist underground.

{SAKI and MEIRIN look back up}

[mu]

POETICO: That's close, but it's not really right!

Things like ley lines don't just exist in the ground, they're also in the water and the air.

Also they blow around and shift a lot. They're more like spider webs, or like veins.

SAKI: [a7] [iq] Oh, really? That's fascinating.

[faces POETICO]

SOLENN: [C>] I say this knowing that you are a fool, but do you really believe that this knowledge should be bandied about so in front of humans?

[faces SOLENNE]

POETICO: [?] Hmmm? Why?

I don't think you need to worry about this one.

{POETICO and SOLENNE look back down at the group}

SAKI: [a5] I think I've seen theories like that proposed a few times when I read about current science discoveries.

I'm sure it will be tested and proven eventually anyway.

SOLENNÉ: [*] Hmph.

ALTO: [a5] Anyway.

[b4] The earthquake, the storm, the sudden bad weather that won't let up...

[a4] We've resolved the discord caused by Teagan, at least as well as we can.

[a8] But if there's still a significant distortion remaining,

then we'll probably cause similar climate problems and natural disasters again even if we restore the Grand Score.

[b4] [...] The World Tuning doesn't work by human logic, it works by instinct and feeling. Feelings are so, so important.

[a8] But... the more I think about it,

the more I've realized that I can't always interpret my own feelings well when they're complicated.

[b4] Teagan said that I don't know how to feel for myself...

TEAGAN: [b4] [C>] Yeah, uh...

ALTO: [b4] ...and while I know that was just her being a jerk and that that's wrong?

I do know that whatever I'm feeling right now, it's not something that I understand.

[a8] I just don't know what to do about it. I think.....

AUBREY: [a3] Alto?

[...]

ALTO: [b4] Mm.

I think this is also probably because of how I grew up, and how much time I spent training.

There wasn't time for me to think or feel.

[a8] And then as Teagan got more and more controlling...

I think I've spent a lot of time and energy suppressing any dissatisfaction because I didn't want to estrange her

[a5] or let myself be... disillusioned, I guess? With her.

[b4] She was my only friend.

So that left me with more reason to push the things I felt away, or at least not look at them.

[a8] And the end result of all that is that I don't understand my own emotions a lot of the time unless they're simple and clear-cut.

[b4] I'm almost certain that the rest of the anomaly in the World Tuning comes from me.

[a8] But I don't know how to pinpoint the problem or how to fix it.

So at least in this case, I think it's like Teagan said.

I'm defective.

I don't know what to do about this, so I was hoping that there's some way, but...

[faces ALTO]

SAKI: [a3] Alto, you are not defective. There is nothing innately wrong with you.

ALTO: [a8] [...] But I... How else could something this big be my fault too if --?

[faces ALTO]

TEAGAN: [b4] Saki's right. That was me being an ass.

[a4] The way you are about your own emotions is --

[b4] it's probably something you've done subconsciously just not to break down.

SAKI: [a6] Yes. You're an abuse survivor[SEMICOLON] that sort of thing leaves scars just like surgeries do.

ALTO: [a5] Hmm...

[faces ALTO]

AUBREY: [a3] Well... You've been able to be more open about things with Teagan.

I think that since you're away from your family, this is just something that will improve given time...

ALTO: [a8] Mm. That might be true, but we don't have time to waste.

So I don't know how likely it is that there'll be any kind of solution to be had here, but...

LUMINOSO: [...] As a matter of fact... the suggestion I had for you was in regards to this very problem.

{the quintent looks at LUMINOSO and is [!]}

ALTO: [a7] Eh, really?!

LUMINOSO: Yes. I think the same solution as last time may provide you with the insight necessary.

[...]

ALTO: [a4] ... "Last time"?

LUMINOSO: Yes. What do you know of the history of the World Tuning?

ALTO: [a7] [?] Umm...

[a5] I'm pretty sure I've studied the history pretty thoroughly,
but I don't think anyone but me has ever had problems like this.

TEAGAN: [a4] Unless someone's falsified historical records. I still wouldn't put that past your family.

ALTO: [a5] [*] Mm... I know how you feel,

but I don't think they'd do that when so much of our training methods are understanding of what we're
doing

comes from those historical records.

[a4] Whatever else can be said about them, they do care about our duties too much
to risk compromising our effectiveness like that... I think.

TEAGAN: [b3] I see.

SAKI: [a3] Teagan...

MEIRIN: [b1] Hey Teagan, what was that about doing better?

AUBREY: [a4] I do think that Alto would know about this better than someone outside her family...

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] Okay, okay, I'm shutting up now.

ALTO: [a5] Anyway, as long as the ritual's been established, I don't know of any record of this happening before.

That's why it's so troublesome.

LUMINOSO: That is not the history to which I am referring.

ALTO: [a7] [!] Eh?

LUMINOSO: Do you know the story of how the Grand Score was written, and how the World Tuning came to be?

[...]

ALTO: [b4] I know that... Arietta Cantabile left Harmonia when she was younger than me.

She traveled the world to do research and find performers,

and she came home to collaborate with Altair Bonheur, the greatest magical genius of that time.

I know that she took her knowledge and her intuition and convinced your people to lend your help and wisdom.

I know it took her about ten years or so,

between the traveling and the theorizing and research and making Metronome Tower and writing the

Grand Score.

I know she thought of things no one else had thought of, or considered to be too absurd to work.

It was only because of her social influence and the people's desperation that she got the support she needed.

[a1] I've grown up learning about the things she accomplished. I still think she was amazing.

{[...], looks at ALTO}

AUBREY: [a1] Still, it surprised me that you never knew your family originally came from Maggiore.

[...]

SOLENNÉ: It should not surprise you.

Humans are like that.

Always, they sweep their wrongdoing out of sight so that they can play innocent.

[...]

ALTO: [a8] ...It's true. We don't know very much about the Cantabile family before Arietta's generation.

[b4] Only the basics, like their having been an old family that hadn't had noble status for very long when she was alive.

[a8] ...That's kind of funny, the idea of history being in fragments. Missing pieces, like me.

{turns to ALTO}

TEAGAN: [b4] Alto --

ALTO: [a3] I know that I love the sensation of playing with a mixed hair bow,

the way the dark hairs hold rosin differently and grip the strings harder.

[a2] I know that when I get to play after a long blank, I feel so relieved and happy it's almost better than having sex.

[a1] I know I'm happiest when I'm playing music with all of you.

I know when I need to trust my instincts.

[a3] I know I've wanted to grow up to be just like Arietta since I was little.

[b6] I know I love Aubrey and think they're the cutest ever.

[...]

[b4] I know that I care about Teagan and want her to be happy, but I'm still angry at her and won't forgive her.

[...]

[a8] And I know that figuring out how I felt about the whole thing with Teagan has taken me my whole journey.

There's so much about me and my feelings that I don't know or understand. It does feel like I'm missing pieces.

[...]

Now that I'm looking at it straight on, it does feel like there's something wrong with me.

AUBREY: [a3] ...

[...]

ALTO: [a4] Is there something I should know that I don't? If you can tell me about it, I want to hear it.

{TEAGAN looks back up}

DRAWING - Stained glass(?) of ARIETTA. Black as a berry.

LUMINOSO: Arietta Cantabile was truly a rare individual.

She did not think like a human, she did not use magic like a human, and she did not innovate like a human.

She was the first Cantabile to possess the powers that are now considered emblematic of that house.

...From what I understand it, the two humans who gave birth to her were nothing special, and it just took two generations for those traits to manifest.

...Have you heard the truth of Maggiore, and the wars that have been fought immediately before the climate change set in?

ALTO: ...I've heard a little from Aubrey and the spirits in town.

That Maggiore was attacked by spirits, and that the human survivors and their allies didn't stop at rescuing the hostages,

but did horrible things to the spirits in retribution...

And that the end of the war was like that in general...

LUMINOSO: I am the only spirit in the village who was alive at the time.

And I was very young then. So there is a limit to what I know, and a limit to what I can explain to you...

Nevertheless.

There were Cantabiles amongst the hostages taken in the pillage of Maggiore. And there were Cantabiles amongst their rescuers.

The Cantabile family was raised to nobility due to their -- "outstanding" performance and leadership in their attack on our villages.

ALTO: ...

LUMINOSO: The individuals in question died when Arietta Cantabile was still in infancy.

If her own parents knew anything, they kept as silent about it as the spirit elders of that time.

And I do not know how long she herself was aware.

But by the time she came in contact with us, Arietta Cantabile already knew that she was the grandchild of a spirit and a human.

ALTO: ...What?

so;: You see? Of course all knowledge of such a thing has long been destroyed.

But we have not forgotten. We have not forgotten that your blood is anathema, that it is an abomination...

ALTO: ...

LUMINOSO; Solenne. There is no one alive who knows the truth. It has been lost unto time.

She could have been the result of a human crime, or a spirit one.

And given the times, even a consensual relationship between human and spirit would have been considered taboo and not spoken of in exactly the same way.

Although... the chances of that are sadly slim.

ALTO: ...

LUMINOSO: Arietta Cantabile knew that the powers she meant to use to save the world had likely come at a price most terrible.

She knew that she would never have been born at all if not for the ugliness of our two societies.

I do not know if she had known her entire life, but by the time she and I met, it was a burden she had carried for many hard years,

one she struggled with every day.

AUBREY: ...I never knew. I never heard of any of this...

LUMINOSO: That cannot be helped. The most that you might have heard were whispers.

It was too anathema a concept for even humans, and I believe part of Arietta's silence might have been out of concern for her own safety.

ALTO: ...

LUMINOSO: I do believe that you are aware that the creation of the World Tuning and especially Metronome Tower were plagued with disasters.

Yes... much like the ones you have experienced, but on a much more dramatic scale.

AUBREY: But --

LUMINOSO: Hm?

AUBREY: I always -- everyone always said that all of that -- that it was acts of terrorism by groups of spirits who still protested the alliance, and...

SOLENNÉ: Preposterous! Don't go blaming everything on the doings of our kind! You humans are always the same.

ALTO: ...Then --

BRAVURA: Yes. Those disasters were caused by mistakes on the human side.

It is the consequence of tampering with the very fabric of the world's magic with uncertainties or a troubled mind.

It isn't that one's distress distracts thee from thy proper task. Thy subconscious influences the world just as powerfully.

AUBREY: ...

LUMINOSO: Even we were initially at a loss as to what caused the Metronome disasters and the rapid climate change.

Arietta Cantabile's magic and mind were equal parts spirit and human. None of us were entirely sure how differently she functioned from either.

In the end -- yes. I remember that she herself was the one who realized it.

She confided in me that she often wondered if a world that had produced a creature like her could ever be worth saving.

ALTO: ...

LUMINOSO: Her case was still different from yours in that she knew the nature of her own worries.

But they were not something that she had confidence she could process and overcome.

After a great deal of consultation, I and several other spirits, together with the help of Altair Bonheur, collaborated to create a self-contained dimension... a neat rip in space-time, nested inside the temples and the earth of this country.

W H A T

It is a specialized phenomenon for the purpose of meditation, a way to grant form to thoughts, feelings, and memories.

CUT TO BLACK

Arietta named it "Uncommon Time".

ROLL CREDITS

CUT TO GAME

ALTO: [b4] Uncommon Time...

LUMINOSO: Arietta Cantabile used it to come to terms with her doubts.

If you would like, we can open it again for you.

It has lain dormant for nearly two thousand years, but the passage of time should not impact its function.

ALTO: [a5] [...] Hmm...

MEIRIN: [b6] Will it be dangerous?

LUMINOSO: Only as dangerous as the user's own heart.

{TEAGAN [...]}

SAKI: [a3] Alto, what do you think?

ALTO: [b4] ...I think it's the best option we have. I'm not afraid of dangerous situations.

[a4] I don't think that I'll be able to figure this out any other way,

considering how long it took me to work out just how I feel about Teagan.

If you can open it up or start it up for me, I'd be grateful.

LUMINOSO: Understood. I will do so.

ALTO: [a1] So where is this Uncommon Time, and how do I get into it?

BRAVURA: The entrance we will open for thee rests at the bottom of the underground library, where thee and I first met.

If thee and thine can travel to the depths of the passage, thou shalt be able to enter thine own heart.

SAKI: [a4] [iq] The library... I see.

ALTO: [a3] Okay. We'll go there right away.

[a4] Once we've gotten all the anomalies taken care of... then we can start on restoring the Grand Score.

[...]

AUBREY: [a3] Um...

[faces AUBREY]

ALTO: [a1] What is it?

AUBREY: [a3] I'm sorry to impose, but... could I have a little time to think?

ALTO: [a2] [?] Hm? Sure, it's no big deal.

AUBREY: [a3] ...Thank you.

[leaves to go to LUMINOSO's garden]

ALTO: [a7] ??? I wonder what that was about?

[looks at ALTO]

TEAGAN: [b3] ...Hey. Think a little.

[a4] Aubrey's parents died in the Metronome disasters, right?

And now they learn what the real cause of those was, out of the blue.

Depending on when all this stuff was getting figured out,

this could mean that the Great Magician was keeping secrets from them.

[b4] It's only natural they'd be shaken up.

ALTO: [a5] [!] Oh. Ohh.

[a8] You're right, I wasn't thinking of it like that.

[looks at ALTO]

MEIRIN: [b4] Don't you think you ought to go after them?

ALTO: [a7] Eh?

MEIRIN: [a5] [<>] It's what a good girlfriend's supposed to do, right?

[looks at MEIRIN and ALTO]

SAKI: [a5] [mu] Now, now, let them go at their own pace.

[...]

TEAGAN: [a5] What.

MEIRIN: [a6] [<3] Oh, didn't we say? Alto and Aubrey got together! It's so cute~

[large text]

TEAGAN: [a5] [ugh] What.

did she not gather this when calling AUBREY the "cutest?"

MEIRIN: [b4] Aw, c'mon, you could act a little happy for them, couldn't you?

[large text]

TEAGAN: [a5] [#] No.

MEIRIN: [b1] [*] Killjoy...

SAKI: [a5] [C>] Now, now.

=====LOL ZONE=====

ALTO: [a6] [C>] C'mon, don't pick on Teagan.

=====LOL ZONE=====

MEIRIN: [a2] [mu] Tch.

ALTO: [a1] I'll go get Aubrey. Let's go once we're back.

TENUTO SPRING - LUMINOSO'S GARDEN - AUBREY is out there depressed as shit.

AUBREY: [a3] Alto...

ALTO: [a2] Hey.

AUBREY: [a3] I'm sorry... for always making you chase after me like this.

ALTO: [a3] It's no big deal. And you're not making me do anything.

AUBREY: [a1] Thank you.

[...]

[a3] ...What do you think about all this?

ALTO: [a5] Mm... Well, either way it's hard for me to think of it in immediate terms. 'Cause it's still just the past to me.

[a8] I'm -- I dunno, I wish that we'd known this ahead of time.

Maybe someone in history thought it would be easier for us Cantabiles now to not have to worry about that.

But it feels a little rude to the people that were affected to not pass down the truth.

[...]

AUBREY: [a3] The people that were affected... right.

ALTO: [a5] It's -- I dunno if I wanna use the word "nice"?

[b4] But I'm glad that I'm not the only one that's ever had to deal with this.

If I have that in common with Arietta... then I'm not a freak.

[a1] She managed to figure this out, so maybe I can too.

[a5] But I guess from your perspective, that's selfish, huh?

AUBREY: [a1] I don't think so.

[a3] Besides, at this point, it's not that it changes anything.

Just like before... the deaths of all our families was Lady Arietta's fault, but at the same time it wasn't.

It's just...

ALTO: [a1] Yeah?

AUBREY: [a3] It's not as though I can't understand. I guess... I'm just conflicted.

ALTO: [a3] That's okay.

AUBREY: [a1] [!] Eh?

ALTO: [a3] Because this's really complicated. It's okay to worry about it and be conflicted.

You have the room to do that and come to a conclusion slowly, so there's no rush.

AUBREY: [a1] ...That's true.

ALTO: [a3] Yeah. It's not something you've got to decide right away.

[a1] So don't push yourself, okay? Let's just do what we can do right now.

AUBREY: [a2] ...Yes.

TENUTO SPRING - LUMINOSO'S HOUSE

LUMINOSO: You will know the entrance to Uncommon Time when you see it.

ALTO: [a2] Okay. Thanks for everything.

LUMINOSO: Arietta Cantabile was a friend to my people and I. If there is anything else that we can do to assist you, do not hesitate to say so.

LIBRETTO - LIBRARY DUNGEON - GRAND SCORE ROOM - They find that Uncommon Time thing.

ALTO: [b5] [!] This is...!

SAKI: [a3] The jewel on this stone tablet is lit up... This must be the entrance, then.

[...]

AUBREY: [a1] ...?

[a3] (This looks -- familiar somehow. Where have I seen something like this before...?)

[looks at AUBREY]

ALTO: [a4] Aubrey?

[jumps and looks at ALTO]

AUBREY: [a7] Yes?!!

ALTO: [a7] You seemed really lost in thought, are you okay?

AUBREY: [b1] [C>] Yes... I'm sorry, thank you.

TEAGAN: [b3] [?] So what are we supposed to do?

{ALTO and AUBREY look back at the tablet}

SAKI: [a1] My guess is that we just have to touch the tablet and we'll be able to go inside.

MEIRIN: [a7] [ugh] ...Are we gonna be able to come back out?

ALTO: [a5] We should be able to leave once we're done, but until then I don't know.

TEAGAN: [a1] ...Guess we'd better take care of any unfinished business first.

ALTO: [b4] Yeah.

SPACE SYNAGOGUE - It's pretty fucking cool.

{everyone but AUBREY is [!]}

MEIRIN: [b3] Whoa!

TEAGAN: [b1] This is...

[walks to the edge, spins around, and jumps a few times but unfortunately not off into the void]

MEIRIN: [b4] [...] It's so weird.

[b6] This walkway thing doesn't have rails and it's even kinda see-through, but it doesn't feel like we're high up at all.

Why don't you test that out for us?

TEAGAN: [a6] [?] How does this place even work?

[a1] It's like we're really up in the night sky... but shouldn't we not be able to breathe if that were the case?

SAKI: [a7] [...] ...This entire place is infused with magic.

[a4] And the spirits said that it was a neat tear in space-time...

So would that make this phenomenon like a separate dimension?

[looks at SAKI]

ALTO: [a7] It's reeeeeeally one of those things where if you think about it too hard, you lose.

[...]

AUBREY: [a1] ...Lord Altair.

[looks at AUBREY]

ALTO: [a1] [!] Hm?

AUBREY: [a1] The stars... that's Lord Altair's magic.

[looks at AUBREY]

TEAGAN: [a1] Come to think of it, the history books did say he was kind of a star fanatic.

[a2] He named you and all the other kids after stars too, didn't he?

AUBREY: [a1] Yes... Making stars in miniature was his favorite spell.

He would use it to entertain the little children,

or help the ones who had trouble with anxiety or flashbacks calm down...

No one else could do star magic like him.

[...]

[b6] This entire space is infused with his magic.

It feels almost like he's still close by...

ALTO: [a8] ...Will you be okay?

AUBREY: [b6] Yes.

[looks at ALTO]

[a2] I'm happy.

[looks at AUBREY]

MEIRIN: [a2] Still, that's really amazing. I could never do anything like this, even if I studied my whole life.

SAKI: [a6] [...] Yes...

[looks at SAKI]

MEIRIN: [a3] ...

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] So... now that we're here, what are we supposed to do?

ALTO: [b4] Luminoso said that the real entrance should be further in... Let's go.

SPACE SYNAGOGUE - They read a plaque from ALTAIR and it has something about how the key is your favorite poem. He also tells you it's SHIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIT.

AUBREY: [a1] It's Lord Altair's handwriting...

They read some poetry on a faded plaque. All that wear and tear from the interdimensional space weather must've done a number on them because they can hardly be read.

TEAGAN: [b3] What the?

MEIRIN: [b6] Hmm...

TEAGAN: [a1] What is it?

MEIRIN: [b4] No, um...

[b6] I thought maybe I recognized this, but so much of it's missing I'm not sure.

TEAGAN: [b2] Well, you tried.

[b4] It's not your fault the words are too faded to read.

MEIRIN: [a3] Thanks, I guess.

ALTO: [a5] It looks like we have to enter a word, like the statues in Metronome Tower, but...

{entering the incorrect answer}

ALTO: [a5] Nothing happened... I guess that wasn't it.

{entering the correct answer}

ALTO: [a4] I think I heard something move somewhere.

SPACE SYNAGOGUE - UNCOMMON TIME - All but TEAGAN are looking at the stone to the Uncommon Time.

ALTO [b4] ...There's no mistaking it. This is it.

[faces the group]

[a4] ...From this point on, I have to go alone.

AUBREY: [a3] [!] ...Alto, are you sure about that?

Wouldn't it be safer to bring even just one of us with you?

ALTO: [b4] Maybe, but I don't know if I can.

[a4] I'm going to face myself.

[b4] I get the feeling that I have to do this part alone.

[a2] If only because it's my problem -- right?

SAKI: [a5] Aubrey, I know how you feel, but...

{MEIRIN and AUBREY look at SAKI}

[a4] If Alto wants this to be private, I think she has that right.

[a6] [...] All of us... know what it's like for there to be things in our minds and hearts that we don't want others to see.

{TEAGAN [...]}

AUBREY: [a3] ...I suppose so.

[looks at ALTO]

I'm sorry.

{MEIRIN looks at AUBREY}

ALTO: [a2] It's okay.

[a3] I don't know if I'll be able to talk about the things I'm going to see, at least not right away, but...

[a1] I hope I can, someday.

[rotates counter-clockwise to face ALTO]

TEAGAN: [b4] Alto...

{everyone faces TEAGAN}

ALTO: [a3] What is it?

[...]

TEAGAN: [a3]I think you ought to reconsider this after all.

SAKI: [a6] Teagan...

$$[\dots]$$

ALTO: [a3] Hmm. Why?

TEAGAN: [a4] The spirits said that this is only as dangerous as your heart.

That's bothering me.

[b4] And I know I bear some responsibility, but this -- you've been through a lot worse than most people.

And there's no way to know how deep the aftereffects run.

[a3] It's too risky. I think we should try to find another way.

[...]

ALTO: [b4] No.

[a4] I appreciate that you're concerned about me, but no. We don't have the time to try to find some other way.

[a8] And this has been happening to me all my life, you know?

[b4] I might not be able to undo that damage even if I take a whole other eighteen years to do it.

Even if I take twice that time.

[a4] I'm tired of it taking me weeks and weeks to realize that i'm feeling something negative.

[b4] I think this is the best thing I can do for myself right now.

[a4] And I still do know myself better than you do.

TEAGAN: [a3] But, Alto --

=RECEIVED-

ALTO: [b8] No!

```
=RECEIVED=====
```

TEAGAN: [b1] [!] ...

ALTO: [b4] If you have something to say to me, I'll listen.

[b7] But you don't have the right to make decisions for me, Teagan.

[b4] We've been through this before. I won't forgive you.

[a4] Regretting the damage after it's done doesn't change a damn thing.

TEAGAN: [a4] [...] ...Yeah. I know I can't stop you.

Even if I tried to keep you from doing this by force, I wouldn't be able to stop you. I know that much.

You've gotta decide this for yourself. I know.

[b4] I've just got a bad feeling about it. For your sake, I hope I'm wrong.

ALTO: [b4] But in the end, you don't know any better than me about this.

[a4] So -- I'm going.

You need to let me go and do this thing, even if you don't want to.

TEAGAN: [a5] [*] You'll go anyway no matter what I say.

ALTO: [a3] Yeah, but I think it'll be better for both of us if you can accept it.

[turns her back to ALTO]

TEAGAN: [a5] [#] Ggghh. Do what you want, okay?

[a4] Just make sure I'm not going to have to say I told you so.

[b4] [...] I don't want anything bad to happen to you.

ALTO: [a5] [*] Sigh. I guess that's better than nothing.

{SAKI, MEIRIN, and AUBREY turn to face ALTO}

SAKI: [a1] We'll be all right by ourselves, so go ahead and don't mind us.

ALTO: [a1] Okay. Look after the others, I'm leaving it to you.

SAKI: [a2] [<3] *giggle* Well, that's my job as the grown-up, so leave it to me.

MEIRIN: [b4] [...] Come back safe, okay?

ALTO: [a2] Heheh, I will.

AUBREY: [a1] [...] ...Take care.

ALTO: [a3] ...Yeah.

[turns around]

...I love you.

[light flashes, teleports away]

CUT TO BLACK

MEIRIN: [a3] ...Hey, Teagan.

TEAGAN: [a1] What?

MEIRIN: [b4] What do you actually want Alto to do?

TEAGAN: [a1] ...What do you mean?

MEIRIN: [b6] This is just something I've noticed, but...

[b4] When you disagree with something Alto wants to do, you usually just tell her not to do it.

[a3] Maybe it's just because of the things that you argue with her about, but you never say what you want her to do.

You just tell her "no" and "don't".

TEAGAN: [a3] She -- she's reckless. And when she gets excited she's forgetful and gets ahead of herself.

[b4] She's an idiot like that, so I've always just -- wanted her to use her head more instead of living on impulses...

MEIRIN: [a3] I know you're worrying about her. But...

Look, I can't speak for Alto's feelings.

But when someone just tells me that my choices are no good over and over...

If all I know is what the other person doesn't want me to do, and I never know what to do to gain their approval?

looks like she needs to mind her d's and t's

Especially if I valued that person's opinion... I'd be scared and stressed out all the time.

I'd be suspicious of everything, since there has to be some kind of "right answer" that they're just not telling me,

but I would have no idea as to what that is.

[b4] Alto's a lot stronger than me,

so even if it's bothered her like that she's always done what she wants to do anyway, but...

TEAGAN: [a4] ...

MEIRIN: [b4] So hey, you tell Alto "no" and "don't" a lot, but what do you actually want her to do?

What is she supposed to do to actually make you happy and not get angry with her?

Do you just want her to quit the World Tuning?

TEAGAN: [b4] I don't -- I don't know what the right thing to do is either. It's just -- the way she does

things is --

MEIRIN: [a4] What? It's not how you would do it, so it's no good?

YES BECAUSE SHE'S A RECKLESS CUNT HOLY FUCK

TEAGAN: [b4] ...

MEIRIN: [a4] That's -- that's messed up.

SAKI: [a6] ...It's as Meirin says.

[a3] Teagan, I know you're smart enough to be able to perceive the contradiction in that way of thinking.

TEAGAN: [b4] ...

SAKI: [a6] Alto has confronted you that you've been hurting her.

And I can see that you're trying to hold back.

Forgive me if this is too forward, or if I'm coming at this from the wrong angle.

[a3] But Teagan, Alto isn't your daughter. From the beginning, it wasn't your place to try to hold her back.

YOU BETTER BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT SOMEONE HOLDING ME BACK, SACK-OF-SHIT

TEAGAN: [b1] ...!

SAKI: [a4] You said you have little siblings, right?

[a5] Then, it's not like I can't understand how used you are to take responsibility for other people.

[a4] But you must have had times like this with your family already.

Times when you knew you had to step back and let your siblings make their own choices,
even if you couldn't imagine what they were thinking.

[a3] It's far past time for that to happen with Alto.

She said herself that you've been hurting her.

It's gone too far, and you know it.

[a6] The only way you can be around her anymore is if you be brave and be kind, and let her go.

TEAGAN: [b4] ...

AUBREY: [a3] (...Alto.)

TEAGAN: [a4] ...I'll think about it. About what you guys are saying. It makes sense and all.

[b4] I just... I don't know.

SAKI: [a1] Alto will be back sooner or later.

[a6] You have a lot to work through too, but...

[a3] it would be nice if you were able to gather your thoughts by the time she returns.

TEAGAN: [b4] ...

MEIRIN: [b4] Yeah. Saki's right.

[a3] I'm glad things are already starting to get better, but... the way it is now still isn't okay.

TEAGAN: [b4] ...That's probably true.

[a4] But yeah. I'll think about it.

SAKI: [a4] All right.

AUBREY: [b6] Alto...

MUSIC BOX - Everything is black, except ALTO's sprite is laying down on the ground.

ALTO: [b2] Nn...

[gets up]

[b5] Hm?

[a5] ...Where am I? Everything's dark.

Thassil is playing over the game with Linkin Park, so apparently there's some music or some shit

[a8] [?] That sound...

[a4] That's someone tuning a cello.

[...]

[a3] ...That's nostalgic.

After walking up, a familiar voice is heard.

YOUNG ALTO: [a1] My hands... hurt.

{ALTO [!]}

[a2] Mother and Father say it's because I'm not practicing hard enough.

[a1] It's important to practice.

Or else I won't learn in time.

But I can still remember.

Great-grandmother's hands stopped moving at all.

Grandmother can't move hers very well.

Father's hand are swollen and covered in lines.

looks very shiggy diggy right now

ALTO: [c3] ...

After walking up a little more.

YOUNG ALTO: [a1] My hands hurt.

I can barely even pick up my bow.

Yesterday my tutors whipped me with the baton when I complained.

But today they looked at my fingers and their faces turned a funny color.

They let me out of lessons early and told me to go study quietly.

Nobody will tell me what's going on.

[a2] I'm not stupid.

I can tell that there's something wrong.

{ALTO [...]}

MORE WALKING WHAT IS THIS GONE HOME?

YOUNG ALTO: [a2] They woke me up in the middle of the night and dragged me into the yard.

They made me get into a carriage.

I don't get to go Outside much, but when we got to the city I stopped being excited.

We were at the doctor's but I didn't have an appointment or anything.

Mother and Father tell me when I'll have to make up for extra practice and study time for one.

The doctor looked at my hands.

The doctor told me to breathe into a funny-smelling cloth.

I said no.

I wanted to know what was going on.

They held me down and covered my face.

ALTO: [c3] ...

YOUNG ALTO: [a1] When I woke up my hands hurt.

My hands hurt.

[a2] They're covered in white bandages and they hurt.

They're full of threads and they hurt.

Hey.

I did everything I was told to, didn't I?

Did I do something bad?

Is that why this is happening to me?

[a3] ...This is just a bad dream, right?

OH SHIT IT'S A BOSS FIGHT - Some boss battle with some version of YOUNG ALTO bleeding profusely and having ribs protrude from her back like they're tentacles.

ALTO: [c3] ...

[walks to a door with something sparkling on the ground]

What's this...? A key?

{Fear GET! Yes, it's literally called Fear}

[..., enters door]

NON-HARMONIA CANTABILE MANOR - PRACTICE ROOM

[b5] This is -- the practice room at home...

[...]

[c3] What's going on?

ALTO'S REAL BEDROOM

turns around

ALTO: [c3] [!] ...It's locked.

bloody handprint appears on mirror after inspection, FREAKY GHOST BABY

ALTO: [b3] ...!

checks bookshelf

ALTO: [a4] These are all textbooks and stuff on advanced music theory.

goes to tea table

ALTO: [a4] It's sweet tea.

[b2] ...Tea with sugar and honey in it is disgusting. I wish they'd let me drink coffee instead.

[a8] [*] No one would listen when I said I liked that better.

goes to underwear draw

ALTO: [a5] There's not much stuff in here aside from underwear, I think.

goes to another draw

ALTO: [b4] ...I never really had much aside from "necessary" things, so these are pretty empty.

another bookshelf

ALTO: [b4] All of my story books are from Teagan and her family.

in front of the closet

ALTO: [a4] It's the closet.

[b4] [...] ...Come to think of it, the outfitters are the ones that always design and choose my clothes.

[a8] It's not like I hate the ones I have, but...

cello

ALTO: [b4] They let me keep this one in my room to practice with, even though it still wasn't "mine".

[a8] They said it was old and cheap, so it didn't matter if something happened to it.

[...]

[c1] ...I hated when they said things like that.

[c2] It's not okay to treat something like it doesn't matter just because it isn't perfect.

TO THE WINDOOOOOOOOOOOWS

ALTO: [b4] The stained glass is pretty, but the iron between the glass panels is like bars.

[a4] They don't open, either.

[b4] [...] ...I think Teagan suggested I sneak out through the window once.

[a8] Until then, I never thought of it as though they were trying to keep me inside.

[b1] [*] ...There's no way to get out, but...

[...]

[c1] I guess I might as well rest.

CUT TO BLACK AND THEN BOSSFIGHT - went to bed, dreaming about eating nails without any milk, crystals that ARE TEARING ME APART, slitting wrists with glass from the windows, and getting strangled, and it's all apparently pretty dope, but then fighting a body severed from the torso down, but at least she still has some good knockers on her, also the portrait is [c3] for this fight.

ALTO: [c3] ...Eh? This is -- a mirror...

DON'T TRUST ANYBODY, NOT EVEN YOURSELF

{Despair GET!}

CANTABILDERBURG MANOR - GARDEN

ALTO: [c3] [...] This -- is the house garden.

YOUNG ALTO: [a2] This is where I met her.

{ALTO [!]}

[a1] Sometimes I would see her around the gardens when I looked out my window.

If the gate was open I could go talk to her.

[a2] I was... happy.

Nervous, but happy.

I'd never talked to somebody my age before.

[a1] But eventually I saw her less and less.

I thought she'd stopped coming altogether.

But then my parents told me they'd chosen my practice partner.

They'd been looking for someone in the local schools to get me used to playing duets with someone outside the family

for a while...

They told me they would bring my partner to my next practice sessions.

And it was her.

[b2] I couldn't believe it.

I was -- happy.

I was so happy I didn't know what to do with myself. But...

{ALTO [...]}

GARDEN GATES

ALTO: [b4] It's locked...

[a4] If I could break it down, I could get out.

[b2] I don't think just ramming into it is gonna do much, but...

[a5] There should be a tool shed here somewhere. Maybe I can find something there...

TOOL SHED DOOR

ALTO: [a4] This is it...

YOUNG ALTO: [a2] During breaks, Teagan talked about her family and what she was doing at home and school a lot.

{ALTO [!]}

I wonder what school looks like.

I still don't really get what you do there.

Teagan complained about it a lot, but it didn't sound like she really hated it.

{ALTO [...]}

She said she has a bunch of brothers and sisters.

...I wonder what it's like to have a big family.

If I had siblings, and it wasn't just me...

{ALTO [...]}

[a3] ...I bet that's really nice...

TOOL SHED - 2ND FLOOR - ALTO finds a crowbar and then escapes Black Mesa.

ALTO: [a4] It's a crowbar. I bet I can break the door down easy with this.

{Crowbar GET!}

GARDEN - She's at the gates.

ALTO: [a4] All right, then --

YOUNG ALTO: [a1] Sometimes my parents let Teagan take me to her house for the sake of getting our biological rhythms to match.

It's so we'll be able to have better teamwork and play together better.

{ALTO [!]}

[a2] The first time I went it bewildered me.

I never knew people could live like that. I never knew people could smile from the heart that much.

...Her siblings really are noisy, but they're all good kids. And her parents seem to be nice people.

{ALTO [...]}

It must be nice.

I should be happy for her that she lives in a place like that, surrounded by people like that.

...So -- I shouldn't have these murky feelings even if she takes it for granted that that's "normal".

[a3] But I -- I guess I'm just a bad girl.

BOSS FIGHT - ALTO is fighting some severed hands. They have keys sticking out of them.

ALTO: [c3] ...

CUT TO BLACK

ALTO: [c3] There's a flower growing in the gate...

{Envy GET!}

CUT TO GAME - This room is completely black with a bunch of music stands in a circle. Each can be accessed in any order.

ALTO: [c3] This -- what the hell is going on?

first stand

YOUNG ALTO: [a2] Teagan still doesn't think that any of this is real.

No matter what I try to tell her, she's certain that my whole family and I are insane,
or too stupid to tell the difference between reality and fairy tales.

I keep trying to tell myself that she's just concerned for me.

But for whatever that's worth, she never listens to or values my words at all.

second stand

YOUNG ALTO: [a2] The other day my parents made me come with them to some formal ball. And there was this really, amazingly cute girl.

I was too busy watching her to even think to go say hello.

...She came and asked for a dance.

She was so pretty and good at dancing that I felt like I was dreaming.

I wanted to spend the rest of the night talking to her, at least get to ask for her name, but...

My parents saw and forced me to spend the rest of the party at the table with them.

Because I "have to have children".

They say it's for my sake and that they just don't want me getting invested in a relationship I can't continue.

[a4] ...Give me a fucking break.

third stand

YOUNG ALTO: [a1] I don't think my parents even love each other.

I guess that's only natural when Father didn't have any say in marrying Mother.

Grandmother and Great-Grandmother just chose her by themselves because she's an outstanding performer and mage.

[a2] But they've been together all my life, and they never show any affection for each other.

They hardly even speak unless they have to.

[a3] Is this what my future is going to be like?

I don't want my only experience with sex to be with some, some middle-aged man I've been married off

to

because my family's determined that his magic is best suited to keeping the family powers strong in my offspring.

I am so goddamn tired of never having a choice.

fourth stand

YOUNG ALTO: [a2] I wonder how long Teagan's going to stay mad at Tristan.

[a1] It's up to her if she wants to give him the silent treatment I guess,

but there's so much I want to ask him about his job and she won't let me talk to him either.

[a2] I've known for a while Teagan's one of those people that thinks just because she's grossed out by sex and love and

stuff, no one else is allowed to do either, especially the people she knows.

My parents still only let me go out with Teagan. And it's not like I'm that close with any of her siblings anyway...

This really sucks.

It's up to Tristan if he wants to go into sex work because it's his own body and life.

And I think I have the right to want to know about sex, too.

It's not like the way Teagan feels about it is wrong, it's just...

fifth stand

YOUNG ALTO: [a2] Father hit me for looking at the expensive cellos today.

He said if I had that much free time I need to spend it practicing or studying,

or I'll never be worthy of even touching them.

sixth stand

YOUNG ALTO: [a2] When I was out with Teagan the other day,

some assholes came up to us and started asking if I cut myself like it was some big joke.

They wouldn't leave us alone. In the end Teagan got pissed off and beat them up, but...

[a3] My hands are so covered with scars it looks like they're stitched together.

I hate it when people make fun of this. I didn't ask to be born with these hands.

[a1] ...I don't think I'm going to go out without long sleeves anymore.

JoJo reference

YOUNG ALTO: [a2] I wish it was winter already.

The cold hurts my hands at first, but I stop feeling any pain after that.

I wish it would snow.

Eighth stand

YOUNG ALTO: [a2] I don't understand how things wound up like this.

When did saving the world start demanding that we live like this?

[a3] Why did I have to be born as a Cantabile instead of as a normal person with parents and siblings who love me?

I try to tell myself that I don't want to drag other people down to my level

because I'm so mad at them for taking all the wonderful things they have for granted.

But I'm so angry that I'm not allowed to live a life free from pain.

[a2] I just don't know.

[a1] Once upon a time my ancestors were kind and good,

and even if they made mistakes that hurt people, they still did everything they could to make up for it.

[a2] I want to be strong and brave and brilliant like Arietta.

She's the only way I can live with what I come from.

I think about dying all the time, but even if I killed myself,

there'd just be a new child born after me who'd have to go through all the same things I am.

[a4] Because someone has to save the world. Because the world is supposed to be worth all of this.

[a3] Isn't it?

{ALTO is [!] and jumps when a staircase spawns in the center}

SPACE AGAIN - ALTO meets up with a young girl at the end of the space pathway.

ALTO: [c3] You... Are you the one that's been calling to me all this time?

YOUNG ALTO: [a2] I...

ALTO: [c3] [!] ?

YOUNG ALTO: [a4] I hate my family.

I hate Teagan.

I hate the bedroom I spend my time locked in, I hate the town, I hate the world so much I can't stand it.

[a2] Even though I'm supposed to save it.

[turns around clockwise]

{ALTO [!]}

[a5] Isn't that funny?

Isn't that just so laughable it makes you want to cry...?

BOSS FIGHT - I have no fucking idea how to explain what this boss looks like, but it's super edgy so check it out at 6:24:25 I guess and ALTO has [b3] as a portrait for this battle.

{YOUNG ALTO WAS A HOLOGRAM}

ALTO: [b3] ...

[...]

{Hatred GET!}

This is -- it's ice.

No matter how long I hold it, it won't melt.

[...]

SUPER SPACE SYAGOGUE

ALTO: [b4] This is...

This place is different than the others.

[c3] ...What is all of this?

NEXT ROOM

ALTO: [a5] [*] The door won't budge.

[a4] [?] ...Hm? There's writing?...

[b4] "Display the true nature of thy heart..."

[a5] ??? I guess I'll take a look around and see what I can find.

ALTO does some more riddles.

failing

ALTO: [a5] Nothing happened. I guess that was wrong.

passing

ALTO: [b4] ...I can feel a change in this place's magic.

ALTO finds Malice, a mask, somewhere.

ALTO: [b4] It's a white mask...

[b5] [!] Hm?

[a5] True nature... true nature...

[b4] A mask is something to hide that with.

Or it can be...

[..., iq]

[b2] Let's try that door in the main hall again.

BOSS FIGHT - ALTO meets her inner demons for the first time, LIQUID ALTO.

highly recommend watching this whole part listening to Snow Halation

{ALTO [!]}

LIQUID ALTO: [a1] Hey.

ALTO: [b3] You're --

LIQUID ALTO; [a2] You've already figure it out, haven't you? I'm you.

[a1] To be more specific, I'm the buried parts of you. Your subconscious.

I'm your true desire,

the self that you've had to suppress so that you wouldn't be overwhelmed by the contradiction.

[a2] ...Don't go looking guilty, now.

[a1] We didn't have a choice. You had to splinter a little, or you wouldn't have been able to survive.

{ALTO [...]}

[a2] Are you going to ask that question that's on your mind? Or should I go ahead and answer it for you?

[...]

ALTO: [b3] The reason the World Tuning failed. Is it because...

LIQUID ALTO: [a2] That's right.

But it's also wrong.

[a1] ...Hey, what's our favorite season?

[...]

ALTO: [a8] ...Winter.

LIQUID ALTO: [a1] Yeah.

ALTO: [b4] I love the beautiful snow, and I love the cold that makes my hands numb so I don't have to worry about them hurting.

And...

LIQUID ALTO: [a1] Because winter's ice is deadly.

If left unchecked, it will spread on unending, and bring an end to human civilization.

ALTO: [a8] ...

LIQUID ALTO: [a2] It's not that you did anything wrong. Or that the others did, either -- aside from what you already know, anyway.

[a1] It's just that deep down? Your true wish was never to save the world.

ALTO: [a8] ...

LIQUID ALTO: [a3] I hate the world, and I hate humans.

I despise it.

I never had a choice in being raised as a tool to prevent people from destroying the climate.

So I defy that so-called duty.

First of all, it's ridiculous that this has been going on for two thousand years.

[a4] Two thousand years!

And people haven't even tried to change their way of life to protect the world themselves.

[a3] They've just decided to leave everything to the convenient tool called the Cantabile family.

They've forgotten the seriousness of the problem, and that there's even a problem in the first place.

They turn a blind eye to our suffering and treat our struggles like a fairy tale.

ALTO: [a8] ...Yeah.

LIQUID ALTO: [a4] Besides, human society is filthy anyway.

[a3] Everything is split between the people who have and the people who have not.

[a4] If all of that freezes over and disappears, then good riddance.

[a3] There's something fundamentally wrong with a world where it's decided before people are even born

whether they'll have the chance to be happy.

ALTO: [b4] ...Yeah. I know.

LIQUID ALTO: [a3] My entire life. My entire life, I've just been an object in the eyes of everyone around me.

Even Teagan, who claimed to want the best for me, never lifted a finger to actually try to save me.

She bound me and abused me just like all the adults.

...And even if I were to follow through with what I've been told and obediently go back home?

I'd never have anything like freedom ever again.

ALTO: [b4] ...I know. I know.

LIQUID ALTO: [a3] So why save a world like that? Why save a world that I hate so much?

[a2] I would rather everything turn to ice and fade away into cold and silence.

[a1] We shouldn't be pushing the winter back.

[a5] We should be welcoming it.

We should be guiding it along.

[...]

ALTO: [a8] ...But are we really in the position to make a choice like that?

LIQUID ALTO: [a3] There is no one more qualified to just this world than us.

We've been made a tool of the world. We've been abused and subjugated in the name of the world.

[a1] When a victim turns on her attacker, the attacker has no right to complain.

ALTO: [b4] I do hate the world.

I hate the world with my entire body.

It took me this long to trace back my memories and realize that "hate" is what this emotion is called.

[a8] And I'm so, so sorry I left you and the "me" of yesterday to bear this burden all by yourselves.

But... I wonder. Does the whole world and everything in it really deserve to go extinct?

LIQUID ALTO: [a2] [?] Hey. You have realized, haven't you?

[a1] Even if you asked all the others, they wouldn't argue. They would agree with us.

ALTO: [b3] [!] ...!!

Oh.

Oh. So that's -- why.

LIQUID ALTO: [a2] You have never -- made a wrong choice.

[...]

ALTO: [b2] ...God. Everything makes sense now.

LIQUID ALTO: [a1] You see? There's no use in trying to fight what you really want for morality's sake.

[a2] How many times have we just wished that everyone would die and disappear?

[a1] Let's go.

[a5] I will make that wish come true.

ALTO: [a8] ...

LIQUID ALTO: [a1] What is it?

ALTO: [b4] ...What about Harmonia?

LIQUID ALTO: [a2] What about it?

ALTO: [a4] The people here have been nothing but good to us.

I can't accept that it's right and just for them to die too when they haven't done anything wrong.

LIQUID ALTO: [a2] Harmonia is the closest country to the North Pole.

[a1] I will make their end swift, painless, and gentle.

[...]

[a3] Just because they've been kind to us doesn't mean that this country is free of sin.

[...]

ALTO: [b4] Yeah. I know. This country's history is as bloody and unsightly as any other.

[...]

[a4] But still. Even so.

I've spent eighteen years full of hate and despair and thinking that there's nothing for me except the path that's been set out before me by my family.

[b7] But when I ventured out into the world for the first time? I found good here!

[b4] This world is full of bad things.

[a4] But there's still things left that are worth protecting.

[a8] Maybe... maybe before, I would agree with you completely.

[b4] But I don't want what's good destroyed along with the bad.

I don't think the whole world is just like the people at home.

[a4] If we can only erase all the bad in the world by taking the good with it, that's not worth it.

[b7] That makes us just as bad as everyone that's ever hurt us.

LIQUID ALTO: [a1] [!] Oh?

ALTO: [b4] ...I know. I know.

I can't blame you. Because you're me.

And I finally understand how you feel.

[a8] It hurts so bad and it's so terrible that you just want it to end as soon as possible.

You're so tired out by everyone hurting you all the time that you don't have enough energy to care about others.

[b4] That's how I stopped being able to recognize all my difficult feelings.

I've survived up until now by malice and sheer stubbornness.

[a4] I'm only here because of you, so I'm grateful to you for that.

But this is a good place filled with good people.

And... I know that everyone would agree with me when I say this, too:

As long as there are people I want to protect, I think that saving the whole world is worth doing.

LIQUID ALTO: [a2] Hmm? But it's already started. You invited the winter in yourself. All that's left to do is help it spread.

ALTO: [b4] ...That's true. Because the last time we tried the ritual, my feeling swere still uncertain.

Like they are right now, with the two of us arguing about it.

[a4] But... There's still time to stop it. I know that we can find a way.

LIQUID ALTO: [a2] I see.

[a3] ...Well, it looks like you're trying to find your own answer, but I have no intention of just giving up.

Because the best thing I can do for myself and the others is to just hurry up and bring everything to an end.

[a1] If you still say that you desire to save the world even so, then...

[a5] We'll just have to see whose wish is strongest.

ALTO: [b4] Sure. I don't mind, if that's how you want it.

[a4] ...I have to prove this to myself before I can prove it to anyone else, after all.

[b7] I... will continue to fight as long as I can find something worth fighting for...!

ENDING 4 - LIQUID ALTO ASSUMES DIRECT CONTROL

ALTO: [b1] Gh...!

[falls over]

pomf

LIQUID ALTO: [a1] ...Oh? Are you already done?

[a2] Hmph, so much for your so-called wish to save people.

[a5] I told you the only salvation for us now is in ice.

ALTO: [c4] The others -- you can't --

LIQUID ALTO: [a2] I won't lay a finger on them. They'll accept it quickly enough.

ALTO: [c4] ...

LIQUID ALTO: [a2] Rest easy. I'm going to make our wish come true.

{everyone is [!] by LIQUID ALTO's emergence from Uncommon Time and faces the tablet}

TEAGAN: [a3] Alto!

{everyone walks up to LIQUID ALTO}

MEIRIN: [b4] That took a long time. Did everything go okay? Did you find out what you needed to know?

LIQUID ALTO: [a1] ...I did.

{SAKI [!]}

TEAGAN: [a4] (...Hm? Something about her seems off...)

LIQUID ALTO: [a2] What I've been suppressing all this time... is hatred.

{TEAGAN, MEIRIN, and AUBREY [!], SAKI [...]}

TEAGAN: [a3] Alto -- what the hell are you saying?

LIQUID ALTO: [a1] I'm saying, now that I understand everything, I reject the duties my family has selfishly forced on me.

[a2] Aren't you happy, Teagan? I'm abandonin the World Tuning, just like you always wanted.

{TEAGAN [!]}

Thanks for sticking with me up until now, but I can take it from here by myself.

I'm disbanding the ensemble.

You're all free to choose whatever ending you like.

[a1] Even with me here to usher in a new winter, it's going to take a while, see.

TEAGAN: [b1] You... you're fucking crazy.

[a7] I don't know what the hell happened in there, but I'm not going to let you --

[gets knocked back by an attack]

[b5] Guh?!

LIQUID ALTO: [a3] You're hypocritical as ever, I see.

Don't try anything stupid.

After the last time, you should already know that you can't win against me in a real fight.

[a2] If you keep trying... You're going to make me break my promise not to hurt you.

[a1] I have no intention of dying before my work is done.

TEAGAN: [b1] ...!!

[...]

SAKI: [a6] ...I see. I had a feeling this might happen.

{MEIRIN and AUBREY look at SAKI}

MEIRIN: [b4] ...Saki?

SAKI: [a3] Alto, what's most important is that you came to this decision of your own free will.

[a6] I'm sure you've had enough of adults trying to bend you to their whims.

So I won't try to stop you or convince you otherwise.

LIQUID ALTO: [a2] I knew I could at least count on you to be reasonable. It was good playing with you.

SAKI: [a4] ...Thank you for choosing me.

{MEIRIN and AUBREY look back at LIQUID ALTO}

MEIRIN: [a3] Alto, are you gonna leave?

LIQUID ALTO: [a1] Yeah. There's nothing left for me to do here.

[...]

AUBREY: [a4] ...I'll go with you.

LIQUID ALTO: [a6] [!] Oh?

AUBREY: [b6] I promised that I would stay with you no matter what.

[a1] Do you really think that my feelings would change just because you made a different choice about what to do?

LIQUID ALTO: [a6] ...Now that's a surprise. I thought you would want to stay with the others.

AUBREY: [a2] My feelings are invincible. You remember that, don't you?

[a1] Please. Take me with you.

LIQUID ALTO: [a2] Okay.

[moves up]

TEAGAN: [a7] Wait! Where the hell do you think you're going?!

LIQUID ALTO: [a1] I'm going to conduct the winter.

[a3] But that's not your concern anymore.

[a2] It's been fun traveling together while it lasted.

{teleports away, taking AUBREY with her}

TEAGAN: [a7] Hey! I said wait!

[a3] [*] ...Dammit, she left.

[b4] Since when did she learn to teleport?

SAKI: [a6] [...] ...It's only a guess, but...

{TEAGAN and MEIRIN look at him}

[a3] This meditation technique was meant to help Alto access her subconscious.

So I believe that she may have somehow gained access to her latent spirit abilities.

[looks at TEAGAN and MEIRIN]

[a6] [...] I would theorize that as she is now, Alto is at least as powerful as the leader of the spirits in this country.

Teagan, even if you mean to oppose her by force, I don't think you'll be a match for her.

TEAGAN: [a4] [*] Tch...

[a3] ...And what do you mean "you"?

Are you seriously okay with this? We're talking about the world ending, you know.

SAKI: [a3] I already told Alto that I have no intentions of interfering with her choice, didn't I?

TEAGAN: [b4] ...Look. I know you're all up for respecting Alto's autonomy because of how she's lived up until now.

I get that it's important. But this is -- she's really clearly made the wrong choice.

SAKI: [a6] I don't know about that.

[moves to the tablet]

Personally... oh, I get the feeling I know where she's coming from.

There are people who have every reason and every right to hate the world.

TEAGAN: [b3] [*] Meirin, you've got to help me talk some sense into him.

MEIRIN: [a3] [...] ...Mm. I know in my head that what you're saying isn't wrong.

[b6] And I'm not sure if things are really okay like this, but...

[b4] I can't blame Alto. I know how she feels.

TEAGAN: [b3] [ugh] ...God. Okay. We don't have to argue about it right now.

[a4] Let's just get the hell out of here and back to town for now.

[b4] It's been a damn long day, and we need to rest.

POLYPHONY - INN - BEDROOM - TEAGAN is lost in thought before confronting SAKI and MEIRIN at the table.

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] ...You two are about as bad at hearing reason as Alto. You're seriously okay with this?

MEIRIN: [a3] It's more like that... I kinda feel like it's out of our hands now.

We can't even go ask the spirits for help, because Alto was the only one who could get us into their village.

[b4] And I don't want to fight Alto, or even argue with her.

The only really good things that have happened in my life recently are because of her.

[a3] And it really is like Saki says. Alto has every right to hate the world.

And this whole time, it's been up to her to decide what to do about the climate change stuff.

[looks to TEAGAN and MEIRIN]

SAKI: [a6] Even if you were to go and stop Alto, there's no one other than ehr that can perform the World Tuning.

[a6] You can't force her ito if she's unwilling. That really would be hypocrisy.

TEAGAN: [a5] [C>] ...Ggh.

SAKI: [a2] Oh, my.

[a4] From that expression of yours, I'd say you've realized the sense in what I'm saying but just don't want to admit it.

[a1] Am I right?

TEAGAN: [b3] Whatever.

[a4] Look, I'm still not willing to throw the towel in yet.

[a3] I don't know what went wrong where that things turned out like this, but there still ought to be something we can do.

[...]

MEIRIN: [a3] ...I wonder.

TEAGAN: [b4] If we could at least convince Aubrey...

MEIRIN: [b1] Now that's REALLY a lost cause.

TEAGAN: [a5] What the hell?

SAKI: [a6] I do realize you're not always very skilled at empathizing with other points of view, but...

[a3] Please do think about it.

[a6] Aubrey's world already came to an end when they went into hibernation.

It's why they're so attached to Alto.

From Aubrey's point of view, Alt oi slikely all they have to cling to anymore.

No matter how you try to convince them, I doubt they'll be willing to leave her.

TEAGAN: [b3] [*] ...Sigh.

Whatever. I'm tired, so I'm going to go to sleep for now.

[walks to the bed]

[a4] We can try again to figure out what we're doing next in the morning.

[turns to MEIRIN]

[a1] Meirin, if you want the other half of the bed, that's fine with me.

MEIRIN: [a3] I'd rather stay with Saki.

TEAGAN: [b3] Suit yourself.

NEXT DAY...

TEAGAN: [b3] [*] ...Ugh.

[b4] ...I guess yesterday was no dream after all.

[a5] ...It's officially too early to deal with this bullshit ever again.

[gets out]

[b3] ...And I can't believe those two are still in bed.

Saki maybe, but Meirin is always awake earlier than this.

Whatever.

[walks over to the table]

[b4] [?]What is that, though?

[a4] The air smells -- weird and stale in here. I didn't notice that last night.

[turns to the bed where they're sleeping]

[a3] Hey, you two --

[b1] !!

DRAWING: SAKI and MEIRIN are dead.

TEAGAN: They're...

CUT TO GAME

[..., turns to dresser]

TEAGAN: [b5] There's an envelope on the dresser...

[reads letter, which is about how he has some terminal illness, regrets MEIRIN being dragged into this, saying that he's happy about the end of the world, and that ALTO can't be blamed]

[...]

[read second letter, which is not quite as dumb]

[...]

TEAGAN: [b5]damn it.

VARIOUS OUTDOOR LOCATIONS- TEAGAN has buried the two and is [...] for it. Then she's walking back through the Forest of Preludes and ends at the dock.

TEAGAN: [b5]

[b6] That time... If only I'd been able to kill Alto back then...

.....

[a4] No, that wouldn't have solved anything.

.....

[b5] Where did this all go wrong?

What -- what should I have done?

What the hell was I supposed to do to keep this from happening, Alto?

[a4]Damn it.

METRONOME TOWER - AUBREY is walking and sees LIQUID ALTO looking through the stained glass at the world she's intent on destroying.

AUBREY: [a1] [!] Oh!

[walks to LIQUID ALTO]

[a2] Alto, that's where you were.

[faces AUBREY]

LIQUID ALTO: [a6] What is it?

AUBREY: [a1] I was thinking of going to the roof to take a look at how things are going.

[a2] I thought it would be better go go with you.

LIQUID ALTO: [a2] Sure, I don't mind.

METRONOME TOWER - ROOF - They're looking over the edge, but not jumping unfortunately.

AUBREY: [a8] The snow is so beautiful. It's sparkling like a jewel.

[turns to AUBREY]

LIQUID ALTO: [a2] You know what? I've always loved winter the best out of all the seasons.

{AUBREY faces her}

It numbed my pain for me, and I've always felt most at peace looking at the ice and snow.

AUBREY: [a8] I'm glad that I'm able to see this with you.

{they both look out}

LIQUID ALTO: [a1] It won't be much longer now until everything is covered in white,
and all the things that made us suffer will disappear.

[a2] Then... I'll finally be able to be at peace.

AUBREY: [a8] Yes.

{pregnant pause}

[a1] Alto?

LIQUID ALTO: [a6] Hm?

AUBREY: [a2] I love you.

LIQUID ALTO: [a2] ...I love you, too.

IT AIN'T OVER 'TIL IT'S OVER

MUSIC BOX - BOSS FIGHT - ALTO has prevailed over LIQUID ALTO.

LIQUID ALTO: [a6] ...

ALTO: [b4] ...

LIQUID ALTO: [a6] ...So -- this is how strong your new desire is.

[moves to LIQUID ALTO]

ALTO: [b4] ...Yeah.

DRAWING - ALTO and LIQUID ALTO are reconciling.

ALTO: I think -- I think maybe just like I couldn't comprehend the depths of my own malice, you haven't been able to feel the same hope as me.

But that ends now.

You and I are one and the same. So we have to carry all the good and the bad together from now on.

LIQUID ALTO: ...Yeah.

ALTO: I've gotta go now. Everybody's waiting.

But... thank you for everything you've had to carry for me up until today.

LIQUID ALTO:Yeah.

CUT TO GAME

LIQUID ALTO: [a2] Show me -- what it is in this world that makes you say it's still worth saving.

ALTO: [a3] ...I will.

{and then LIQUID ALTO was a sword; Contralto GET!}

THE VOID - ALTO is in a completely black space, but is [!] when ARIETTA appears behind her.

ARIETTA: [a2] ...

ALTO: [b5] ...!

{pregnant pause}

[a3] ...

SPACE SYNAGOGUE - ALTO emerges, to the relief of everyone except the audience of course.

{everyone [!] but ALTO}

TEAGAN: [a3] Alto!

{everyone walks up to ALTO}

MEIRIN: [b4] That took a long time. Did everything go okay? Did you find out what you needed to know?

ALTO: [b4] ...Yeah.

You know what? I actually really hate the whole world a lot.

[c6] There's a part of me that even just wants to let it freeze right on over.

[...]

DRAWING - Oh God what am I looking at.

ALTO: But... after thinking about it and arguing with myself a lot... I've decide that I really will save it.

I've been miserable for my whole life, cooped up in that glorified cage that's supposed to be my hometown.

But ever since I've left... I've found people and places that have been good to me and that I care about.

And that's enough to make the world worth saving for me.

CUT TO GAME

{TEAGAN [...]}

SAKI: [a7] ...Alto...

MEIRIN: [b5] ...I had no idea you even could smile like that.

AUBREY: [b3] (Oh, no... I think I just fell for her all over again...)

ALTO: [c5] Heheheh.

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] I... don't know if that was supposed to be a compliment.

=====SPOILING THE MOOD ZONE=====

[screen shake]

ALTO: [c7] [#] Fuck off, Teagan.

=====SPOILING THE MOOD ZONE=====

MEIRIN: [a7] Even her comebacks are snappier!

ALTO: [a1] There's a lot of other stuff I found out, but we might as well go back to town first.

[a7] [ugh] That was pretty violent and taxing for meditation, so I kinda want a rest.

MEIRIN: [a1] Yes... There's a lot we still need to decide how we're going to fix.

[a5] The Grand Score, for instance.

[...]

AUBREY: [a1] Alto...

ALTO: [b5] [?] What is it?

AUBREY: [a2] Welcome back.

[!]

ALTO: [c8] ...Thank you.

now at this point you'd expect ALTO to use some of that fancy new teleportation magic that she SHOULD know, but the game can't be that nice, can it?

LIBRETTO

ALTO: [a1] Anyway, let's go to the inn first.

INN - This is a different bedroom that can only support four people, so I guess MEIRIN will either have to sleep outside like the tramp she is, or whore herself out to some lonely patron.

ALTO: [b4] When I was in the music box, the "other me" inside my mind explained it to me.

[c6] The World Tuning went wrong because I'm not the only one whose feelings were uncertain.

[...]

[a4] Everyone here -- all of us have some reason to hate the world and wish for it to end.

GEE, GREAT FUCKING TEAM SELECTION

[c6] And I was drawn to that, as much as I was drawn to your personalities and your music.

[b4] In one sense, this is what I was supposed to do --

by finding like-minded people, I was able to guarantee that we would be unified.

[c6] But our doubts, our hatred and despair and resentment --

they all resonated and combined and our "other wish" opened the door to the winter.

[c7] It's not too late to fix things, but if left as is, there will never be another spring in this country,
and the whole world will eventually follow suit and freeze.

TEAGAN: [b5] ...

SAKI: [a6] ...

MEIRIN: [b6] ...

AUBREY: [a3] ...

ALTO: [c6] I don't know about the rest of you.

I don't know if your feelings run as deep as mine, and I don't think I have any right to ask.

[b4] I guess -- in my case, I couldn't even start to weigh the question of whether or not I want to save the
world after all

until I acknowledged my feelings for what they are and accepted them.

This whole time, I think...

[a8] I'm not sure, but I think I've backed myself into a corner all this time

thinking that having these negative feelings means that I'm a failure as a hero.

[c6] But they're still my feelings. They're mine and I'm allowed to have them.

[c7] They don't mean that I'm a bad person, and they don't have to dictate what I'm going to do either.

[c6] Being able to tell myself that is a relief.

[...]

MEIRIN: [a3] You really are strong, Alto.

ALTO: [b5] [?] ?? What do you mean?

[*]

MEIRIN: [b4] [C>] I mean... like, just say hypothetically that I did feel things kind of like that?

[a3] I wouldn't... want to acknowledge that as a part of me. Let alone accept it.

I would rather get rid of my flaws and faults than jsut decide it's okay to live with them forever.

[...]

[a3] ...Compared to you... I bet that just sounds cowardly, doesn't it?

ALTO: [b4] ...No, I don't think so.

[a1] You and I are different, so the best and healthiest solution for me might not work for you at all, y'know?

[c6] We all come from different places, and I can't speak for anybody but me.

[a4] ...Anyway, my point is that now that I understand everything,

I've still made the choice to try to save the world regardless.

[a8] This won't work ideally without all of us, but...

[c6] Now more than ever, I have no right to pressure you into coming with me.

[b4] If we've suffered similar doubts, you all have to make your own choices by yourselves.

And if you don't want to do this anymore, I'll accept that

[a4] So... what do you all want to do?

[c7] Do you still want to save the world?

[...]

AUBREY: [a3]It's horrible, isn't it? I just can't make myself care about what happens to "this world" yet.

[...]

[a1] But I do care about you, Alto.

[a4] Whatever you decide, I will always be with you.

[a2] If that means saving the world, then I will gladly go as long as I'm by your side.

ALTO: [b4] ...Yeah. For now, that's fine.

[c6] I don't know if the losses you've suffered are something you'll ever be able to live with comfortably.

[b4] But you need time if you want to get to know this world and find a place in it, too.

[a1] At least, I want you to have that.

[c5] So I'm happy to have you with me.

[...]

SAKI: [a6] Whether we choose to save the world or not, there are things that won't change.

The bitterness in my own heart can't be cured so easily.

[a3] But from the beginning, I have wanted to make sure that you and Meirin have a future.

[a4] You're both bright and wonderful girls who deserve much better than the experiences you've had.

[a1] And just like you said to Aubrey,

that will take time that will only be available if we do something about this winter.

[a2] So don't worry. I still intend to see the World Tuning all the way to the end.

MEIRIN: [a3] ...I...

[b4]I saved Saki once.

I was able to save someone important to me once.

[b6] I don't think that's proof that I'll be able to do it again, but it's something.

[a3] I can't be certain that I can face down the ugly and petty parts of me.

I can't be confident about hoping for things to get better.

[b4] But... I want to be the kind of person that can do that.

[a4] Saki -- I don't want you to give up on the things you say won't change.

{SAKI [...]}

ALTO: [a4] ...Teagan? What do you think?

[*]

TEAGAN: [b4] [C>] I don't know what the right thing to do is.

[b3] But I've never known that, so it's not like that changes anything.

[a4] I've never known from the start. But...

[a3] You say you still want to save the world, despite everything.

[a4] Even though if there's any one person that'd ever have the right to abandon it, that'd be you.

[b4] If... I dunno, if that's what you've decided, I guess I can get behind that.

[b3] The things I don't like about society aren't big or unchangeable enough

that it calls the whole world's worthiness of salvation into question for me, honestly.

[...]

[b2] And... I want to try to have faith in your decisions.

ALTO: [b5] Teagan...

[...]

[b4] I really... wish that you'd been able to say that kind of thing from the beginning.

{you mean when you were a schizophrenic piece of shit?}

TEAGAN: [b3] [ugh] Ugh. I know. I took the long way, unlike the rest of you.

[b4] ...I wonder if it'd have changed anything.

[b5] [...] If I'd gotten all that bad shit out of my head sooner.

[...]

ALTO: [b4] ...Who knows. This is the path we've taken to get here. For better or for worse, we can't take that back.

TEAGAN: [b4] Yeah.

ALTO: [a1] ...I'm glad we're all on board, anyway.

[c5] Well, I've got my shortcomings as a leader too, so please bear with me from here on out like always.

SAKI: [a2] [<3] Yes, yes, and please bear with your eccentric ensemble members too.

ALTO: [c5] [mu] Heheh.

[a5] Okay, changing gears here, the next problem we have to work with is the Grand Score.

[a7] I, uh, tried to recover as much of the first violin score as I could, but I'm pretty sure I'm still missing pieces.

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] Uh. I'm sorry.

ALTO: [a5] So even if we manage to fit these together correctly...

I dunno what we'll do for the missing bits, let alone how to stick it back together.

TEAGAN: [b4] [ugh]I'm really sorry.

ALTO: [c6] If anyone has any ideas.

[...]

MEIRIN: ...Mm...

ALTO: [b5] [?] Oh? Meirin, what is it?

MEIRIN: [b4] I... actually have how it's supposed to sound memorized.

{everyone is [!] by the rather convenient savant}

ALTO: [a7] Eh? Really?!

MEIRIN: [b4] Yeah... Well, I'm a street performer really. And I also do a lot of jam sessions.

[a1] So aside from modern techniques and improvising, the most important thing I've learned in the past three years

is how to play by ear and memorize music even when I don't have the score.

I wouldn't be as sure if this were your part or Saki's or Aubrey's, but Teagan and I play the same instrument.

[b4] I'm pretty sure I have it memorized correctly.

TEAGAN: [a6] Seriously? That's amazing...

MEIRIN: [b6] The only thing is... I don't know if I'd be able to write it down correctly.

[a3] I hardly understood what some of that notation even meant, so copying it down would just be...

SAKI: [a1] I think I could help you with that.

MEIRIN: [b4] Saki...

SAKI: [a1] It's like Meirin says.

[a5] It's a rare street performance that you can actually set up a music stand to --

it's much more convenient and safe to just play from memory.

[a1] I have my part memorized too.

[a5] Meirin's memory is better than mine, so I wouldn't be confident in my memory of the other parts...

[a4] but at the very least, if someone can describe the effect of play a part back to me, I should know how to mark it down.

MEIRIN: [a3] [*] Mm... I don't know if I could actually play all of Teagan's part even though I have it memorized.

My own part was hard enough...

TEAGAN: [a1] Then... I might be able to help with that, too.

[a2] We don't memorize our parts the way I learned to play, but I still ought to be able to remember bits and pieces.

And if I play back the parts that are written down, I'll at least be able to tell whether or not they're right.

ALTO: [b5] Wow. That actually got solved a lot easier than I thought it'd be.

MEIRIN: [b1] [C>] Don't go counting your chickens before they're hatched.

I don't know if I'll be able to do it a hundred percent right.

ALTO: [a5] Then...

[a7] [C>] I dunno if you could put it back together right, but I can at least give you what's left of the sheet music.

[a1] You might be able to use it to check your work.

MEIRIN: [a1] [xp] It's better than nothing.

[...]

[b5] Alto... thanks for picking it up. I don't know if anyone's told you that yet, but...

[...]

ALTO: [c6] ...I just couldn't leave it there.

[c1] I don't like... leaving things behind just because they're broken or someone's decided they're worthless.

[c2] I know what that feels like.

AUBREY: [a3] Alto...

MEIRIN: [b5] Well... it's not worthless. It might save us from making mistakes. Right?

ALTO: [c6] Yeah.

[b2] ...Anyway, Aubrey, do you think you might be able to help them?

AUBREY: [b1] Um... I wish I could be of use, but even though I saw the original being worked on... the bits and pieces I am more familiar with might not be the same as the final version.

ALTO: [b4] Thought so.

[a7] Does it make me bad to be relieved that I'm not the only one that's not going to be of any help whatsoever?

AUBREY: [a2] Ehehe. No, I feel the same way.

TEAGAN: [a5] [*] Earth to stupid couple.

[jumps]

AUBREY: [a7] Wah?!

TEAGAN: [a1] Then, do you mind if we find a quiet place to work?

If we're all in the same room but you two are off doing something different, we might wind up bothering each other.

ALTO: [a1] Sure, that sounds reasonable to me.

[a2] Meirin, Saki, if Teagan's just being a nuisance and not contributing, scold her firmly and kick her out of the room.

I'll also allow smacking her very lightly with something thin like a folder or thin book or rolled-up paper.

[large font]

TEAGAN: [a5] Hey.

MEIRIN: [a6] [mu] Hehe, okay.

[a5] We'll come get you when we're done, okay?

ALTO: [c5] No problem. Good luck, and don't push yourselves too hard.

LIBRETTO - INN - YET ANOTHER BEDROOM - ALTO is with AUBREY by the fire.

[...]

AUBREY: [a3] It's been a while, hasn't it...

ALTO: [a1] Teagan and Meirin are both perfectionists, so it wouldn't surprise me if they take all night.

[...]

[turns to AUBREY]

[a4] ...Actually, there was something that I wanted to talk to you about in private.

AUBREY: [a7] Y-yes?

ALTO: [b4] When I was leaving the music box... I saw Arietta.

[!]

AUBREY: [a7] Eh, you did?

ALTO: [b4] Yeah.

[a3] She looked like the statue in Bel Canto...

[c5] Her hair was the same color as mine and she had green eyes.

[a1] She didn't say anything, she just smiled at me.

[...]

AUBREY: [b6] Do you think... it was really her?

ALTO: [c6] I don't know for sure, but I want to think so.

[b4] Because I felt like she really had been watching over me the entire time, and that she'd accepted me

for who I am.

[c6] Even though deep down I'm nothing but a mess of resentment and hate, you know?

AUBREY: [a3] ...

ALTO: [b4] I thought about how you felt the Great Magician's magic all throughout Uncommon Time.

[a4] If she's there -- I wouldn't be surprised if he's still there too, somehow.

AUBREY: [a3] ...I don't understand, though. I don't know how they would still be alive after all this time.

ALTO: [a5] That place is a weird sort of half-existence, and I don't think that time passes the same way inside and out.

[c6] Like I said, I don't know. But it really does feel like they're still there, looking out for us.

AUBREY: [b6] ...It would be nice if you're right.

[looks back into the fire place]

ALTO: [b4] I don't know if we'll ever be able to investigate it, but I wanted to tell you.

[a1] Maybe once things settle down and we can start looking for Altair's grave.

{AUBREY [!]}

[looks at AUBREY]

I did tell you that we would. I mean to keep that promise, if you're up for it.

AUBREY: [a2] ...Yes.

[..., does a 180 clockwise before snapping back to AUBREY]

ALTO: [b6] [<3] Well, anyway, it seems like those guys are gonna be busy for a while, so wanna mess around?

[...]

AUBREY: [b5] [///] A-Alto.

[b7] There was a nice atmosphere up until now.

[*] Way to mess that up.

ALTO: [a2] [mu] Hehehe, sorry.

AUBREY: [b7] [C>] Oh, honestly. You and your one-track mind.

ALTO: [a7] Is that a no, then?

[...]

AUBREY: [b1] Well, we are alone together for once...

[a8] [///] so, just a bit is okay...

{ALTO [<3], and then fade to black for some HOT WORM SEX}

LIBRETTO - INN - HALLWAY - The ones who aren't getting cooch tonight are outside the door.

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] That took a while.

[turns to TEAGAN]

SAKI: [a5] But at least it's finished, yes?

[turns clockwise to face the two of them]

MEIRIN: [a2] [<>] Yeah, finally.

{everyone faces the door again}

MEIRIN: [b3] Hey, guys...

[...]

{TEAGAN and SAKI are [?]}

[faces the two of them]

MEIRIN: [b4] [C>] Hm, I think we should probably let them have their alone time.

SAKI: [a2] *giggle*

TEAGAN: [a5] [ugh] ...seriously?

MEIRIN: [a1] It's really late anyway, we might as well sleep on it and talk about the Score when we've had some rest.

[a5] Right?

SAKI: [a2] Right~

{SAKI and MEIRIN [mu], TEAGAN []}*

LIBRETTO - INN - In TEAGAN, SAKI, and WHORE's room.

ALTO: [a1] So how did it go?

TEAGAN: [b3] We were actually finished by around midnight.

[a5] [*] We just couldn't actually talk about it because --

[screen shake and large font]

AUBREY: [b5] [///] UWAHHHHH DON'T SAY IT

TEAGAN: [a5] [C>] Ow, that was my ears.

SAKI: [a5] Now, now, you all.

MEIRIN: [a1] [C>] ...Yeah, anyway, we finished copying the Score.

[b4] It's all copied out right to the best of our knowledge, but... We want you to take a look at it.

ALTO: [b5] [?] Hm?

[looks at is briefly]

[a5]Mm. Aubrey.

AUBREY: [a1] [?]??

[looks at it]

[a3] This is...

ALTO: [a4] Teagan, would you mind just running through this real quick? Just a little of it is fine.

TEAGAN: [a1] Nah.

CUT TO BLACK

ALTO: [a5]Mm..

[b4] Okay, just for reference's sake. Meirin, would you do the same with your part?

MEIRIN: [b4] E-eh? Me? Well, okay...

CUT TO GAME

[...]

ALTO: [b4] Hmm. Yeah, this is weird.

[b2] I'm pretty sure that the music is exactly right, but it's missing something.

[a5] When Teagan played, it didn't have that... Grand Score-ness to it,
y'know, the part that pulls you in and makes you want to play too.

[a4] When Meirin played, it did.

[...]

[c6] Teagan, what about you?

You said you knew the Grand Score was the real thing because of how it drew you in just looking at it.

Do you get that feeling when you look at the new sheet music?

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] That's the thing, I don't.

SAKI: [a6] When it was done, all of us sensed that something was off.

[a5] [C>] But by that point we'd all been staring at it for so long that none of us were comfortable trusting only our own judgment.

[...]

MEIRIN: [a3] ...I'm sorry. I ran my mouth like I could take care of it, and yet...

ALTO: [b4] I don't htink you did anything wrong.

[c6] Like I said, the music has been copied perfectly. I never could've done this myself.

[a5] I think... there's got to be something about how the original Score was written.

[a8] Maybe the materials, or the magic used to preserve it...

[a4] Aubrey, do you know anything?

AUBREY: [a3] I'm sorry... I don't.

ALTO: [a5] [*] Hmm~~~ Now this is throwing a wrench into my plan B, too.

MEIRIN: [b4] [?] What plan B?

ALTO: [a4] I thought that maybe if we couldn't restore the Score, we might as well just write a totally new piece.

{everyone else is [!]}

TEAGAN: [b1] Whoa, what?

ALTO: [a5] Mmm~.

[b4] The Grand Score that's been passed down all this time is a wonderful piece of music, it's true.

And being able to play music that Arietta composed herself makes me really happy.

[a5] But... I don't think it suits us very well.

SAKI: [a7] My... what do you mean?

ALTO: [a7] [C>] Mm. I get the feeling I'm gonna be really bad at explaining this,

[a8] but the Grand Score...

[b4] just the feel of the melody and the way it's set up with such a steady measure and tempo makes it like...

[...]

[a4] This is a piece that's meant to be played by people who've already conquered their doubts and insecurities.

[b4] Whatever "answer" they're meant to find, they already have it. It's really confident and filled with hope.

But that's not why we're going to perform the World Tuning.

[c6] We're still struggling with our doubts, and none of us are willing to save the world for our own sakes.

[a4] But we want there to be an answer.

[a1] I thought that if we could express that in music, and maybe change up the style a little to suit our strengths more,

[a5] then when we try again we'll have a much higher chance of success... or something like that.

{YEAH, LET'S WRITE A FUCKING SYMPHONY BEFORE WINTER ENDS; IT'S ONLY NOVEMBER GUYS}

[...]

TEAGAN: [b3] That... made about as much sense as usual, yeah.

[a2] But... I get the feeling I sorta understand where you're coming from.

[...]

MEIRIN: [a2] I actually really like that idea.

[a1] Especially the part about playing with the style.

[a7] I just can't wrap my head around a lot of that fiddly little Baroque stuff even when I like it.

[...]

AUBREY: [a1] I would feel a little sorry that we wouldn't get to use Lady Arietta and Lord Altair's music, but...

[a2] I think that's a wonderful idea.

[...]

SAKI: [a4] ...To be able to leave something like that in the world.....

[a6] I almost feel like that opportunity is wasted on someone like me, but I can't say I don't want to.

ALTO:[a2] Right?

[a5] But at this rate it seems like even if we were able to write something, it wouldn't work.

[c6] There's something about the old Score that we can't duplicate as we are now.

[a4] Either way, I think we should go back and ask Luminosos and the other spirits about it.

TEAGAN: [a1] Assuming that there's something we can do about the whole not-rightness thing, do we want to ask about fixing the old Score or writing a new one?

SAKI: [a1] Judging from everyone's opinions... shouldn't we ask if writing our own piece is plausible?
It sounded as though everyone wanted to do it.

ALTO: [b4] Yeah, I think we should at least run it by them.

[...]

[a8] Sorry, Meirin. I asked you to do all that work for nothing.

MEIRIN: [b5] No, it's okay.

[a2] Saki and Teagan taught me about a bunch of things,
and I'm really happy that I was able to duplicate the music correctly.

[b5] I like your idea, so don't worry about it.

[b3] Besides, this way we'll have a whole complete piece we can use as reference, right?

ALTO: [a3] Heheh, I guess so.

[c5] Okay... Let's go back to Tenuto Spring!

TENUTO SPRING - LUMINOSO'S HOUSE - They consult the fairies again.

ALTO: [a5] ...So, that's the situation, but do you guys know anything?

[c6] About why our fixing the Score didn't seem to work.

SCHERZO: Well, the paper and ink used to record the Score are special.

Using flimsy human stuff's not gonna work as good, y'know?

ALTO: [b5] [C>] ...Oh, really?

LUMINOSO: The paper that Arietta used was prepared in rituals particular to our people, and made from the hearts of trees that volunteered their wood.

ALTO: [a7] [ugh] ...Mm, that doesn't sound like anything we'd be able to do...

BRAVURA: We will be able to procure and provide the paper if thou dost need it.

ALTO: [a3] That'd be really great, if it's not too much trouble.

[a1] [?] What about the ink?

POETICO: There's a spirit that lives in the lake west of Polyphony who can make it.

They're kind of a weirdo and like to be alone, but that's the kind of ink we use for any big ceremony, so they're used to someone coming to bother them every now and again.

You can go and bug them and they oughtta be able to help you.

TEAGAN: [a6] ...The materials really make that much of a difference?

LUMINOSO: Once the Score is transcribed with the proper materials, there is a ceremony used to consecrate it.

The compulsion to play it, and how well it stays preserved, are the result of that ceremony.

ALTO: [c5] Okay. Thanks.

[...]

[b4] And... we did have one other question.

LUMINOSO: [?] Yes?

[...]

ALTO: [a4] We thought we might try to write our own Score, one that suits us better.

Would we be able to make that work?

LUMINOSO: [iq] A new Score... I see.

You would have to rely on your instincts more than ever before.

The part of you that understands the World Tuning and the fabric of our world will know how to write a piece with similar properties.

...I expect that it will take much more trial and error in that case. Even Arietta took many years to complete the existing Grand Score.

ALTO: [c6] [...] And we don't have that kind of time... right.

[b4] I still think it's worth a try.

LUMINOSO: Either way, once you have procured the materials and recorded a working piece, come to us and we will seal it. Good luck.

ALTO: [c5] [mu] Okay. Thanks.

FADE TO BLACK

SOLENNÉ: ...It isn't as though I care, but.

Doesn't Shale hate humans even more than I do?

POETICO: Hm? Didn't I say so?

SOLENNÉ: No.

POETICO: Ehhh?

LUMINOSO: ...It will be all right. As they say, adversity builds character.

yeah, because that's obviously what they need more of right now

SOLENNÉ: I wonder.

POETICO: Ooh, are you actually worried about them?

SOLENNÉ: Why would I be?!

POETICO: Hehehe~

TACET: (...sigh)

WESTERN TRAIL

ALTO: [b5] Wow... This is a really pretty place.

MEIRIN: [a2] I bet it looks great in spring and fall too... actually, I bet it's pretty all year.

TEAGAN: [b3] It does look nice, but shouldn't we get going?

SAKI: [a2] Now, now, no need to rush them... We only live once, after all.

TEAGAN: [a1] I guess.

AUBREY: [a3] ...Still... I can feel an ominous presence.

Maybe it's just the monsters, but I can't help but feel as if we're unwanted here.

ALTO: [c7] Even so, we've got no choice.

{brief pause}

[b6] ...We can hold hands if you're scared.

AUBREY: [b7] Thank you, but I think I'll be okay.

WESTERN TRAIL - SHALE'S SHELTER - They go poke the hornets nest.

ALTO: [a5] [?] I guess this is it? Hm...

[a1] Excuse me, is the spirit who lives in this forest here? I'm here on an errand...

{screen shakes, everyone is [!] by the appearance of SHALE, a naga}

SHALE: ...Humans, here? Well, you're bold little rats if nothing else.

[#] Now get lost, if you don't want me to make stone statues out of the lot of you.

ALTO: [a7] [C>] Um... Sorry, we can't really leave.

[a4] You're the ink-maker Luminoso was talking about, right?

SHALE: [C>] I don't know how you came by that knowledge, I don't really want to know, and I don't care.

[*] I highly advise you to scram. Get. Shoo.

ALTO: [a6] Okay, I know spirits have got every right to not like humans, but I really need you to make ink for us.

[a7] We'll leave after that, but --

SHALE: [xp] I did warn you. Now get the hell out of my forest.

[...]

ALTO: [a7] Umm. It doesn't look like they're listening.

MEIRIN: [b1] Once upon a time I had this mental image of nature spirits being peaceful guardians of the earth.

I really did. I was so naïve.

ALTO: [a5] Shh. At this point I think it's maybe a cultural thing. We're just ignorant humans and shouldn't judge.

TEAGAN: [a5] [xp] Stop joking around like assholes. What are we doing about the situation at hand, here?

SAKI: [a5] Well, we need that ink if we're going to get a working Score. I don't think we have much choice.

AUBREY: [b1] So, the usual...

ALTO: [a2] Yep.

[c7] Fight until they're in the mood to listen.

THEY VIOLATE THE NAP

SHALE: [*] Tch.

ALTO: [a7] All we really need is that ink! If we can have some we'll go away, really!

SHALE: [xp] Even for a human, you're a bad listener. I really will turn you to stone, you here?

ALTO: [a6] [#] ...No, I think the one that's not listening here is you.

{POETICO and TACET warp in}

POETICO: [C>] Oh wow, you really did wind up fighting?

{TACET [...]}

MEIRIN: [b1] [C>] ...Uh, what are you guys doing here?

[faces MEIRIN and the rest of the quintet]

POETICO: Hey, I'm here to drop off your paper with you 'cause we finished it! If you're rude, I'm not giving it to you.

TACET: *sigh*

[looks at TACET]

POETICO: [C>] D-don't look at me like that, I'm gonna give it to them! I'm gonna!

SHALE: [*] why is my yard overflowing with damn noisy kids

[C>]

TEAGAN: [b3] I... understand you completely and I'm sorry?

[turns to SHALE]

POETICO: Shale, this is the new Cantabile! We're supposed to help them with stuff like fixing the Score, right?

SHALE: [xp] Why?

[*]

POETICO: Because Luminoso made a contract with --

[C>]

SHALE: I know why we're supposed to be obligated to help the humans or whatever, even if I don't actually give a damn.

I mean why does that human brat's Score need fixing?

inb4 more TEAGAN bullying

ALTO: [a7] It's a long story.

TEAGAN: [b4] [ugh] I'm really sorry.

wew

POETICO: Anyway, Luminoso says to make some ink for them, so do it!

[*]

SHALE: *sigh* I just have to make it, right?

ALTO: [c5] [!] Oh, you're actually going to do it! Thank you.

TEAGAN: [a2] I gotta admit, I'm curious about the process.

[<>]

[a6] What makes this kind of ink so different from what humans can make? Would you mind if we --

SHALE: [*] No, you can't watch, you'd just get in the way.

[xp] And there'd be no point in having this be a secret procedure if I let nosy kids come in and be observers.

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] That... is true.

SAKI: [a5] Now, now.

[..., walks over to ALTO]

TACET: Here.

{ALTO looks at TACET}

{Shell paper GET!}

ALTO: [b5] Hm?

[a3] Oh, this is the paper... I see, it does have a different texture than the stuff we usually use.

MEIRIN: [b4] Haven't you given us kind of a lot?

[looks at the MEIRIN and the rest of the quintet]

POETICO: Luminoso said just in case. 'Cause even if you're not using this paper for drafts, what would you do if you made a mistake?

AUBREY: [a1] I see.

ALTO: [a1] Should we just bring it back to you guys if there's extra?

POETICO: [mu] Sure, I don't see why not.

SHALE: [*] I'm getting a headache.

TACET: [...] *sigh*

SHALE: I'm going inside to start working.

ALTO: [a2] Okay, then we'll wait here.

{ALTO turns to SHALE, quick transistion, SHALE goes to ALTO}

{Ink GET!}

SHALE: This is it. This amount ought to be more than enough to write a few pages of sheet music.

ALTO: [c5] [<3] Thanks!

SHALE: [xp] If I see any of you lot here again, I really WILL turn you to stone this time, I don't give a damn who you are and what you're doing.

ALTO: [a7] [C>] Okay, okay.

POETICO: [mu] 'Kay, then we'll be going back home too. Come see us when you have something written!

{POETICO and TACET teleport away}

TEAGAN: [a1] Right. Where do we want to do this?

[turns to face the group]

ALTO: [a5] I bet it's gonna take a couple days' work to do this, so let's just go back to Bel Canto.

BEL CANTO - PARLIAMENT - PM'S OFFICE

PM: Alto... I see you've been able to get your ensemble back.

ALTO: [c5] Heheh, yeah.

[a1] We're going to be staying down at the mansion for a few days again, if that's okay.

PM: I don't see why it wouldn't be. That is your home and your property, after all.

ALTO: [a3] ...Thanks.

BEL CANTO - CANTABILE MANOR - FRONT YARD

ALTO: [a4] Everyone ready?

[c7] One we get started, we're staying in town for however long it takes to get this thing written.

{yes}

[a2] Okay.

Tonight let's review the old Grand Score.

[a5] Then I think we'll sleep on it, and get to work on writing the new one in the morning.

COMPOSITION DAY 1

MANOR - REHEARSAL ROOM - Screen is black.

ALTO: [b4] ...Okay.

[transitions back to in-game; in the practice room]

[a5] So, I think that to start out with the right atmosphere, we ought to be in a minor key...
and we should probably start with softer dynamics that get louder as the piece goes on.

TEAGAN: [a1] What are we going to do with the tempo?

ALTO: [a5] [?] ...Hmm?

Should we start slow and get fast, or start fast or at a middle tempo and then get slow and fast again.

MEIRIN: [b4] [C>] You tell us. Does it make a difference?

ALTO: [a1] Nah, it shouldn't. I mean, finishing fast is the part that actually matters here.

We just have to have the "threads" in place by that point, and any tempo will do for that.

TEAGAN: [a5] ...Are we actually going to have to do this by writing a bit and then checking with you or the old Score the whole time?

[...]

ALTO: [a4] ...Teagan. I'd like you to think about what you just said, and how and why I know if things are right.

Do you really want the same abilities as me?

TEAGAN: [b3] [*] I didn't mean it to come out that way. It's a little inconvenient, that's all.

ALTO: [c7] [xp] Sorry about that! I really am!

It's too bad that you don't also have spirit blood most likely thanks to a rapist ancestor,
preserved to the present day thanks to centuries of eugenics,
and learned how to use those physically taxing abilities thanks to a lifetime of abusive training!

All so that you won't have to double-check your ideas with me!

Wow!! How very terrible!

my heart can't take this TEAGAN abuse

[C>]

TEAGAN: [b4] I'm sorry, I'm sorry already, I wasn't thinking when I said that.

ALTO: [a4] [#] Okay, good, but please think before you say rude things like that in the future.

[*]

TEAGAN: [b3] ...I'm just gonna shut up and tune, okay.

MEIRIN: [b1] That sounds like a good idea, maybe.

ALTO: [a5] Anyway, I was thinking maybe at points we could add in some percussive bits for the harmony parts

to bring out depth and emphasis in the main melody.

MEIRIN: [b4] You mean, like the cello players that actually use their instruments as a drum?

ALTO: [a1] Maybe, but also with stuff like col legno and martellato. Aubrey can use their bells too.

MEIRIN: [a1] Col legno's the thing where you hit the strings with the stick part of your bow, right?

SAKI: [a2] [<3] Yes, and martellato is hammering -- using extra force when you play a note.

MEIRIN: [a2] [iq] Okay. Okay, I understand.

AUBREY: [a1] So, we'll be starting with adante or allegro...

Hmm, should we make these parts with the different moods into movements, or have them all connected?

ALTO: [b4] That's a good question.

[a5] I guess let's just write the piece first,

and if the transitions don't seem like they're enough, then we can divide them into movements.

[a4] How should we decide who gets the melody when?

MEIRIN: [b4] I thought we'd just be starting with the melody on cello. I mean, you being the leader and all.

SAKI: [a1] Yes, I thought so too.

ALTO: [a6] [C>] We are ideally going to be leaving this Score with the spirits for our successors, you know?

[a7] Even if only as an alternative to the old one.

[a5] I dunno about actually having it tell the story of our journey.

TEAGAN: [a1] ...Why not?

For all we know, the old Score was actually meant to reflect Arietta and her ensemble's journey and feelings too.

It's not necessarily like anybody else who played this piece would know.

ALTO: [b5] [!] Hm, that's a good point.

AUBREY: [a3] Yes...

I don't actually know either, I only saw Lady Arietta and Lord Altair working on it together a few times...

ALTO: [b4] Anyway, I want to make sure that every part has the meolody at least once during each section.

[a5] And, hmm...

[c5] [iq] It might be cool to have the main melody get passed from instrument to instrument every measure or so in the second part.

MEIRIN: [b4] [C>] That sounds like it'd be really tough.

[a7] We'd have to get our synchronization down perfect or else it'll be a mess.

ALTO: [a1] We'd just have to practice it carefully.

[a5] That also might be a good place to have the harmony be doing percussion, or at least be minimal as possible.

SAKI: [a7] Considering we've mentioned that section being a slower one, that would be a very interesting effect.

ALTO: [a2] AND then it would be cool if we had everyone playing the melody in fifths or thirds or some intervals by the end of the piece.

SAKI: [a4] ...All right, I've written down all of our ideas.

[a5] [C>] I expect that now we ought to devote some time to actually writing something, since this has taken all morning.

MEIRIN: [b6] [ugh] I hope we'll be okay. All our ideas are pretty ambitious.

[C>]

ALTO: [a2] Well... we've all got at least a little composition theory, right?

[a7] We just have to keep things in the realm of "things that are actually playable" and we'll be fine.

AUBREY: [b1] ...

SAKI: [a5] Hahaha...

[jumps]

TEAGAN: [b5] [!] Ow, shit!

ALTO: [a4] [?] What's wrong?

TEAGAN: [b4] [xp] My A string snapped.

[turns a bit to TEAGAN]

MEIRIN: [b4] [!] You okay? Did you get cut or anything?

TEAGAN: [b3] No, just hit.

[a5] [*] Dammit, now I've gotta take it in to get restrung.

ALTO: [a7] At least there's a store across town. And hey, we could probably stand a break by this point anyway.

SAKI: [b5] Yes, I suppose.

TEAGAN: [a1] Okay, then I'm heading out to get this fixed. Does starting back up after that and food sound good?

ALTO: [a1] Fine with me. You guys?

MEIRIN: [a1] Yeah... actually, can I come with? I've been sitting around too long, I need to get out.

TEAGAN: [a2] No, that's fine with me.

ALTO: [a2] Okay, I'll go too. What about you two?

SAKI: [a2] I'll stay here and get tea and coffee started.

AUBREY: [a1] I... think I'll stay with Saki.

[b1] I've been meaning to ask someone to teach me how to use the tea things anyway.

SAKI: [a4] [mu] I'd be happy to, if you're all right with just me.

ALTO: [a1] Sounds like that's settled. C'mon, Meirin, Teagan.

BEL CANTO - MUSIC SHOP

RENTAL DUDE: Oh hey, welcome back. Need anything today?

[C>]

TEAGAN: [b3] Yeah, my A string's busted, I need a new one.

RENTAL DUDE: We've got kind of a queue lined up today, but leave your violin here and we'll have it done within the hour. How's that sound?

TEAGAN: [a1] Yeah, fine.

[turns to TEAGAN and MEIRIN]

ALTO: [a1] Should we loiter in the store, or should we loiter outside?

[turns to TEAGAN and ALTO]

MEIRIN: [a1] Let's go outside and wait at the town square. I want fresh air.

[does a 180, not really facing either ALTO or MEIRIN]

TEAGAN: [a2] Yeah, I don't have a problem with that.

BEL CANTO - TOWN SQUARE

TEAGAN: [b4] ...Still, are we gonna be okay with all this?

MEIRIN: [b4] [C>] I think at this point if we worry about it too much, we're just gonna get sucked into another negative spiral.

TEAGAN: [b3] (...I can see that happening to YOU in particular...

If I said that I bet these two'd get mad, so let's not.)

MEIRIN: [b2] Instead, let's think about something more fun!

[b3] [C>] Like, what are we gonna do to party once we're done?

{brief pause}

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] We're going to party?

MEIRIN: [a6] [mu] Why not? We did last time!

ALTO: [a7] I guess that makes sense.

TEAGAN: [a5] [*] As long as we're not going to the bar again. I just wound up drinking by myself and it sucked.

MEIRIN: [b6] I don't think Saki should be drinking anyway... Too bad.

[b4] If we were on the road I'd drink with you, but...

TEAGAN: [b4] Wait, you drink? Aren't you too young?

[!, C>, looks around frantically]

MEIRIN: [b4] ...I've been lying about my age until I was actually legal. So yeah.

[a1] The guys I first traveled with taught me a lot about drinking and staying safe,
so I'd like to think I'm pretty responsible.

[b6] Still, this is the capital, and there's a real census office where they can check IDs and make sure they're not fake.

[b4] Besides, enough of the townspeople know I'm only sixteen that it's too late to pretend.

[a3] I don't wanna get you guys in legal trouble either. Oh well.

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] I guess at least the part of you that thinks your law-breaking through rationally is responsible, if nothing else.

I cannot believe I'm writing this next portion

MEIRIN: [b1] I'm gonna be nice and ignore that remark.

[b6] [<>] So, anyway! This time let's really all go to Polyphony and hit the red light district together!!

HAH HAH LET'S HIT THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT!

CAN'T WAIT TO HIT THAT RED LIGHT DISTRICT!

[a2] [mu] It was fun last time and it will definitely be more fun now, c'mon!

[!]

TEAGAN: [b4] [ugh] (...Erk.)

ALTO: [a5] I am kinda curious, but I'd have to talk it over with Aubrey first.

[c6] I think it's possible they'd object either because they want to keep our sex life more private.

or because they want it to just be the two of us.

I SEE THE CRYSTAL RAINDROPS FALL

[a7] They might be fine with it, but I'd be prepared to get told no just in case.

MEIRIN: [a3] [*] Aw...

[b2] Oh well. Fine, you guys can stay at home and it can just be me and Saki and Teagan partying then!

[turns to ALTO]

TEAGAN: [b5] [ugh] (A little help here?)

[...]

ALTO: [b4] (I'm not gonna cover for you this time.)

SOME FRIEND YOU ARE

[a6] [*] (Come up with an excuse or tell the truth, whichever, but do it yourself for a change.)

TEAGAN: [b3] Sigh.

[?]

MEIRIN: [b4] ? What's up with all the whispering?

[faces MEIRIN]

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] Nope.

MEIRIN: [b4] Yes?

TEAGAN: [a5] I'm not going.

MEIRIN: [a7] Come again?

TEAGAN: [a4] I'm not really interested in that kind of thing. Like. Sex and shit.

[...]

[b4] I'm ace, okay.

Only interested in the mile high club, gotcha.

MEIRIN: [b6] [iq] Oh... ohhh.

TEAGAN: [a5] [///] What?

I like how everyone who doesn't want to fuck whores is either hostile towards sex, or simply doesn't want to threaten their relationship.

MEIRIN: [a7] [ugh] Oh god, then have I just been making you uncomfortable all this time and you just haven't been able to say anything?

TEAGAN: [b4] [C>] Yeah, uh.

MEIRIN: [b4] I am so sorry! Oh my god. I'll try to cut it out then.

[a3] I mean like -- just tell me to shut up or something.

[...]

TEAGAN: [b4] No, it's... it's not a big deal as long as you're not expecting me to join in the activities or discussions or whatever.

MEIRIN: [a3] [...] But... you've been kinda mad whenever the rest of us talk about sex or love or whatever all this time.

[C>] Actually this explains so much, I should've realized earlier, I'm so stupid.

[...]

TEAGAN: [b3] That's... okay, I personally can't see why anybody would want that kind of thing? It's gross?

[...]

[b4] But somebody told me I should take it out on other people when they do something I wouldn't want for myself,

and, well.

I'm not hardheaded enough to completely disregard good advice when I hear it.

MEIRIN: [b4] [!] ...! Teagan...

[...]

ALTO: [a3] See, I told you it'd be fine to tell everybody else.

TEAGAN: [a5] [///] Shut up, you.

[...]

MEIRIN: [a3] ...I see. Okay, then.

TEAGAN: [a1] ??

MEIRIN: [c4] [</3] (Tch. ...Too bad.

.....Oh well.)

[a1] We can figure out something else to do for a party, then. It's not much of one if it's just gonna be me and Saki.

ALTO: [a1] ...Anyway, it's been long enough that we should probably go back and pick up Teagan's violin.

{1:13:53 - back at the music shop}

RENTAL DUDE: Oh, right on time! Here you go.

TEAGAN: [a2] Thanks.

ALTO: [c5] Let's go back some so we can have lunch and get back to work.

COMPOSITION DAY 2

BEL CANTO - MANOR - MAIN ROOM - the quintet with the exception of SAKI are outside the practice room; TEAGAN is blocking the door.

ALTO: [a5] Okay, we got all the key changes and the basic melody outline yesterday.

[a1] Now we have to start filling it in with harmony lines and such.

[b4] We should be able to finish this if we work today and tomorrow...

TEAGAN: [a1] Yeah, I don't think that's too lofty an estimate.

[a2] I'm honestly amazed that we've managed to come this far,
and actually come up with something that sounds decent on top of that.

AUBREY: [a2] Well... we've all been tempered by our own experiences with music in a lot of ways, so...

[a1] You two and Saki all learned a little music theory, and Lord Altair taught all of us the basics of composition.

And Meirin is very good at improvising.

ALTO: [a7] [C>] Speaking of Saki, I know he tends to sleep late, but I hope he comes down here soon so we can get started.

[...]

MEIRIN: [a3] ...I'm a little worried, so I'm going to go check on him.

[faces MEIRIN]

ALTO: [a3] Okay.

CUT TO BLACK

[a7] ...And it's been a whole, what, fifteen or twenty minutes?

[c6] I think I'd better go see what's going on.

MANOR 2ND FLOOR - ALTO is walking to SAKI's room. MEIRIN comes out of it.

MEIRIN: [b4] [!] Ah...

{they face each other}

ALTO: [a4] What is it?

[...]

MEIRIN: [b6] Could you watch Saki for me for a minute? I've got to go out and get medicine...

ALTO: [b5] Eh? Eh?

[c6] What happened, is he sick?

MEIRIN: [a4] Just do it, okay? If you want an explanation you'll have to ask him.

ALTO: [a5] Sure, I guess...

MEIRIN: [a4] I'll be back as soon as I can!

[she leaves]

SAKI'S BEDROOM

ALTO: [c6] Saki, are you okay?

Meirin seemed pretty flustered, but...

SAKI: [a4] Yes, it's not that big a deal.

I'm a little feverish and dizzy, that's all -- it ought to clear up by this afternoon if I rest.

ALTO: [a4] Meirin went to go get you medicine, though?

SAKI: [a1] Just in case.

[a5] Well... I do feel a little sorry, because I can't take most common medicines.

Meirin knows what to look for, but it might take her a while to find the right kind.

ALTO: [a5] Do you think you're coming down with something or what?

SAKI: [a5] Mm...

[C>] I think it's more likely that I've just overexerted myself recently, what with the whole poison episode.

[a6] I've never exactly been hardy, so this has happened to me in the past sometimes.

[a5] I'm used to it and know it's not a big deal, but from the perspective of you all this must be worrisome, right?

ALTO: [a8] I think Meirin just doesn't want anything bad to happen to you.

[c6] I haven't seen her this worked up since you were poisoned.

[...]

[a3] ...Given the circumstances it can't be helped, but I kinda wish you could've seen how she was back then.

She was... brilliant.

SAKI: [a7] Oh?

[...]

ALTO: [b4] Yeah. Like -- you know she has trouble standing up for herself.

[c6] Most of us have problems like that, so that's not unusual.

[...]

[c5] But I think she'd stand down just about anything if it was for you.

SAKI: [a4] Haha... Meirin is better than I deserve.

ALTO: [b5] Hm. You think so?

[...]

SAKI: [a6] ...There are things that can be changed and fought against, but some things can't be.

ALTO: [c6] I told you this before, but you never know until you try.

[...]

SAKI: [b6]This is nostalgic in a bad way.

ALTO: [a4] Oh?

SAKI: [a6] I've been physically weak for a long time now. Since I was young.

[...]

[b6] Especially when I was sick... I spent so much time lying in bed, watching the light from outside the curtains.

[a4] I only knew the world through books.

[a6] They were supposed to take my mind off things, but... Oh, I don't know.

[a4] They were a way to stave off boredom and an escape,

but I knew that even if I had all the time and money in the world...

[a6] With my constitution, I knew that there were so many things I would never be able to see and do.

[...]

I'm lucky just to have made it to Harmonia.

[b6] And even here... the weather and all the walking are very tough.

[a5] This is probably the most exercise I've ever had.

[a3] I told you before that I'm used to taking the train or hitching rides.

[a6] I had no other choice then. Now...

Well, there are no trains here, and no one is traveling because of the monsters.

[b6] Thinking about it like that, it's amazing that I haven't collapsed before.

{ALTO [...]}

[a5] I'm sorry, I'm just complaining, aren't I.

ALTO: [a2] I don't mind. Sometimes it makes it better to say something than to just hold it in.

SAKI: [a2] ...Haha. Perhaps.

[...]

SAKI: [b7]But even I... hate it.

You know?

It's not a good feeling, just lying around uselessly in pain,

resenting yourself and the world and that you were even born.

ALTO: [c6] Would you rather go downstairs?

SAKI: [a5] When I sit up the room starts spinning, so I don't think that's a good idea.

I don't know how I would manage the stairs.

ALTO: [a5] What about food? If you ate something it might help.

SAKI: [a4] Mmm. I'm not hungry.

ALTO: [a5] Oh, well.

[a7] [ugh] ...Yeah, if I left you to go to the kitchen and Meirin came back then, she'd probably get really mad.

SAKI: [a5] [C>] I wouldn't mind if you left. It's boring just sitting with a sick person, isn't it?

ALTO: [a3] I don't think so. What, would you rather be left alone?

[...]

SAKI: [a1]If I answered yes, you'd know I was lying, wouldn't you?

ALTO: [a2] [mu] Yep.

SAKI: [a4] Then there's no point in doing that. I would rather you stay.

ALTO: [a1] Okay.

[...]

SAKI: [b6] ...Alto...

ALTO: [b5] Hm?

=====SURPRISINGLY GOOD WRITING ZONE=====

[...]

SAKI: [a6] They say that flowers are beautiful because they fade and wither so quickly.

[...]

[b7] But... I wonder how a flower would feel about platitudes like that.

ALTO: [b4] ...Who knows.

[c6] I think... that's something that only the flowers could appreciate.

=====SURPRISINGLY GOOD WRITING ZONE=====

I'm probably a fag, but I liked that part unironically.

[...]

SAKI: [b7] ...People are so self-centered, aren't they?

ALTO: [b4] Yeah.

[a3] At least you didn't grow up to be a selfish adult.

SAKI: [a4] Oh, but I am selfish.

[a6] I'm more selfish than anyone.

[b7] The only difference... is that I know there's no point in my acting on it.

{ALTO [...]}

SAKI: [a2] Do you know the story of the fox and the grapes?

ALTO: [a4] No.

SAKI: [a4] The hungry fox gave up on the grapes it could reach no matter how high it jumped by convincing itself that the grapes must be sour anyway.

[a2] It would be nice to be able to do that, don't you think?

[b6] But I... covet the things that I cannot have because I can appreciate their value.

ALTO: [b4] ...Yeah.

[...]

SAKI: [a5] ...I'm sorry. I must sound so melodramatic.

ALTO: [a3] I don't think so.

SAKI: [b7] You've advised me that I ought to try to change things, but I'm very good at talking myself out of it.

ALTO: [b4] That's okay.

[a8] ...All of us -- none of us could save ourselves all by ourselves.

[c6] We couldn't... grow up into the kinds of people that could do that.

[...]

SAKI: [a6] That's a funny thing for you to say.

When you faced yourself, you did it alone.

[a3] When Teagan left us, you came after us without anyone having to pick you up.

[...]

ALTO: [a8] ...That's not true.

[c6] Because even before that... Aubrey loved me, even though I'm like this.

Meirin made sure to tell me that Teagan being like that wasn't my fault.

[a4] You did your best to value my agency and encourage me.

[a8] And even Teagan... at least she confirmed for me that what was happening to me was wrong.

[b4] Besides, the "me" I'd buried was there, and made sure I was angry enough to fight back.

[a4] I couldn't leave any of you alone because I needed you,
but also because I wanted to pay you all back for helping me.

{SAKI [...]}

ALTO: [c6] Right now... There's still too much about your situation that I don't know.

I understand your feelings, but if I tried to encourage you it might just be like the people
who only value flowers because they're fleeting.

So... you don't necessarily have to believe me.

But Meirin... she knows you better, and she cares about you so much and is desperate to help you.

It's... okay to accept her help.

SAKI: [b6] I don't want to drag her down with me.

[...]

[b7] ...I told you, I'm very good at talking myself out of trying.

ALTO: [b4] ...Well... I can't just tell you not to be scared.

[c6] So... I think for now it's fine if you just try to push yourself a little and think about the other possibilities.

[...]

SAKI: [a6] Maybe.

ALTO: [b4] Yeah.

SAKI: [b3] [*] ...Sigh. I do so hate being sick.

ALTO: [a5] Can I feel your forehead?

SAKI: [a1] Go ahead.

ALTO: [a7] [C>] ...Hmm, yeah, that's a fever all right.

[appears at the doorway]

MEIRIN: [b4] I'm back.

[does that impossible diagonal sliding thing again to SAKI's bedside that has only happened once, though I said it would never happen again; faces ALTO]

ALTO: [b5] Oh, Meirin!

Just in time, did you get the medicine?

MEIRIN: [b6] [C>] Yeah, finally.

[faces SAKI]

[b4] The lady said two of these every four hours, okay?

SAKI: [a1] Yes, I'll take them.

[a4] [...] ...And, Meirin. Go ahead and take what you paid for these out of my drawer.

[!]

MEIRIN: [a7] !!

But -- but that's your money for...

[...]

[a3] I can't take that.

SAKI: [a5] I should be paying for this medicine anyway.

[...]

MEIRIN: [b8] No way.

SAKI: [a7] Oh?

MEIRIN: [a4] You don't have to be so reserved!

[a3] I may not be strong enough to carry you all the way to town when you get hurt, but...

[a4] I still want to help you however I can.

[b4] And we're not...

Our relationship's not the kind where we should have to worry about little stuff like who pays for what.

SAKI: [b6] ...

MEIRIN: [a4] Jeez.

Saki, you're a delicate flower, so you just need to let me take care of you so you don't wilt.

SAKI: [a4] A flower...

[...]

[a2] Yes, I see what you meant, Alto.

She is... brilliant.

MEIRIN: [b1] [*] Stop making fun of me and take your goddamn medicine.

SAKI: [a5] ...I'll take it, don't get angry.

[faces MEIRIN]

ALTO: [a1] Do you want to stay here with him instead?

[...]

[faces ALTO]

MEIRIN: [b4] I... think you should stay instead, if you don't mind.

[a3] This isn't Saki's fault, but if I stay here I might wind up yelling and making things worse.

[...]

And I.....

[starts walking away]

[c5] I want to put what I'm feeling right now into music. While it's still immediate in my head.

ALTO: [a3] Okay.

[a1] We'll come down later once Saki's feeling better, so you go ahead and take charge for now.

[a2] If Teagan doesn't want to listen to you, go ahead and kick her out.

MEIRIN: [c5] ...Yeah, okay.

[MEIRIN does her moonwalk outta the room and SAKI [...], quick transition to SAKI sitting up in bed]

ALTO: [a1] Feeling any better?

SAKI: [a1] Yes, much.

ALTO: [c5] Let's go down and meet up with the others then.

OUTSIDE PRACTICE ROOM

ALTO: [b5] Oh! This is...

SAKI: [a4] The sound of her violin is so clear. It's like the walls are singing with it.

ALTO: [a3] ...This is definitely not something we need to interrupt by walking in.

SAKI: [a2] Good, you think so too.

[a1] Instead... why don't we go to the kitchen and put on some tea and make something to eat.

[a2] We can get Meirin and the others once we have things ready.

ALTO: [c5] Sure.

COMPOSITION DAY 3

PRACTICE ROOM - Screen is black.

ALTO: [b5] This is...

CUT TO GAME

MEIRIN: [b3] We're finally done!

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] Don't get hasty. We still need to run through it and edit it, it's bound to be messy here and there.

Especially the transitions.

[kinda sorta looks to TEAGAN]

MEIRIN: [b1] [*] Teagan, you are such a killjoy. Can't we just be happy about this?

TEAGAN: [a5] There's nothing wrong with feeling accomplished, I just don't want us to get complacent and mess up.

MEIRIN: [b4] Ehhh... Can't we at least take a break then?

ALTO: [a5] I think we probably should, at this point.

[a4] Saki was sick yesterday, and we've been working pretty hard.

We need some time off for people's health and tempers and stuff.

SAKI: [a3] [*] I'm fine now, you know.

AUBREY: [b1] Maybe so, but that's no reason not to res. We've all been up since very early fixing the time signatures.

TEAGAN: [a6] Hey Alto, how'd you come up with the idea to use all these weird time signatures anyway?

[a2] It feels like it's just what we needed, but I'd never have come to that conclusion by myself.

ALTO: [c5] [mu] Oh, well... I just thought of Uncommon Time and then it seemed obvious.

TEAGAN: [b2] Seriously, how do you think of these things?

MEIRIN: [a2] Anyway... as long as we're taking a break, I think I wanna go take a walk.

[a5] [mu] Alto, Aubrey, you wanna come with?

AUBREY: [a1] ??? I don't mind...

ALTO: [a2] Okay.

TEAGAN: [a2] Then, I'll stay here and make sure this guy doesn't do anything too stressful.

SAKI: [a5] [*] I told you, I'm fine...

TEAGAN: [b3] Just in case.

Keep on like that, and you're gonna lose your place as the sensible one.

SAKI: [b3] [C>] Sigh... Oh, all right.

MEIRIN: [a2] We'll be back in a bit.

OUTSIDE I THINK - ALTO and AUBREY leave the manor to walk the dog.

ALTO: [a2] So, what are we up to?

MEIRIN: [a6] Strategy meeting for what we're going to do for the party!

AUBREY: [a2] Ah, I understand now...

ALTO: [a5] We probably can't just sneak off to some other place in the house, huh...

MEIRIN: [b6] No, then they might get suspicious or walk in on us while we're plotting.

AUBREY: [a1] Then, how about going to the inn? If we're just wandering around outside it will be cold, so...

MEIRIN: [a2] Yeah, that'll be a good place!

[b3] Okay everybody, allons-y!

BEL CANTO - INN - LOBBY - The trio sit at a table, plotting.

MEIRIN: [a2] Okay, while Teagan is keeping Saki busy! What are we gonna do about the party tonight?

AUBREY: [a1] Is going out to the bar or to eat like last time no good?

MEIRIN: [a1] Teagan said she didn't wanna 'cause she wound up drinking by herself.

And making food is more fun than going out, honestly.

AUBREY: [a3] That is true... It was a little too bad that I can't drink now.

ALTO: [a7] (They used to drink?)

MEIRIN: [b6] Besides, Saki fell asleep right away then anyway.

[b4] And we can't go down to Polyphony to the red light district 'cause even if Teagan didn't want to go, Saki has to take it easy.

ALTO: [a5] ...That's true.

AUBREY: [a3] He seems to be doing much better, though...?

ALTO: [a5] Well, he said he's had a pretty weak constitution all his life,
so having been poisoned and all this running around have probably been a big strain.

[a4] Once we're done here we're going to be heading right back to Tenuto Spring.
to do the ritual for consecrating the new Score...

We've got to let him rest while we still can.

AUBREY: [a3] Hm... That's true.

MEIRIN: [a3] ...So, yeah.

AUBREY: [a1] Some kind of activity that isn't strenuous... and probably something that we could do here in Bel Canto...

MEIRIN: [a1] Preferably, yeah.

AUBREY: [b1] If we just exchanged stories about ourselves... well, it might be a good team bonding exercise, but...

ALTO: [a7] It'd just bring everybody down, yeah.

AUBREY: [b1] What about stories about music?

ALTO: [a5] I think that'd bring everybody down too.

[a7] And just in case, we wouldn't want Teagan and Meirin to get in an argument about whether old or new stuff's better.

MEIRIN: [b4] [C>] I... don't know if we'd argue at this point, but yeah.

ALTO: [a5] What about making dinner all together?

MEIRIN: [a2] Mmm~ That might be kinda fun...

AUBREY: [b1] But with five of us in the same kitchen, it would be very cramped and chaotic...

And they do say that too many cooks spoil the broth...

ALTO: [a5] We could have a jam session?

AUBREY: [b1] Oh! Maybe...

MAYBE YOU COULD SAVE THE PLANET FIRST

MEIRIN: [b6] Mmmm~ I think in that case we'd just wind up picking at our Score even more, don't you?

[b4] If we come up with something good, someone's bound to suggest we try to stick it in somewhere...

ALTO: [a7] Oh, that's a really good point.

MEIRIN: [b4] ...Aw man, isn't there anything?

{AUBREY [...]}

ALTO: [b5] [?] Aubrey, what is it?

AUBREY: [a1] Something that's not strenuous, that's quiet and fun and that we can do here...

[a2] I think I might have something.

MEIRIN: [b3] Ooh, what?

AUBREY: [b1] It's not very exciting, but...

[a1] If we go just far enough away from the town border that we can get away from the lights,
we might be able to go stargazing...

MEIRIN: [a1] Now that's something I wouldn't have thought of.

AUBREY: [a3] I'm sorry... It's really too plain for something to do as a party, isn't it?

MEIRIN: [a2] No, I don't think so! Aubrey, do you know a lot about stars and stuff?

AUBREY: [a1] Not as much as Lord Altair... but a little. I should be able to identify the major constellations and such.

MEIRIN: [a2] Oh, that's pretty neat.

[a1] I did get a lot of time to look at the stars while I was traveling, but I don't know any of that stuff.

[a2] It'll all be new to me.

ALTO: [c5] And I've never been stargazing at all.

AUBREY: [a3] Do you think it will be enough for Teagan and Saki...?

ALTO: [a1] They're both huge nerds, I'm sure they'll enjoy it.

MEIRIN: [a5] I think it's a really good plan!

[///]

AUBREY: [a2] Ehehe... thank you.

ALTO: [b6] Okay. Should we go ahead back home to have food and finish things up?

MEIRIN: [b3] Sure! Let's get this done so we can go party!!!

OUTSIDE THE MANOR - All of them are ready for their stargazing trip.

AUBREY: [a2] I know a good spot outside of town, so let's leave and I'll show you.

[REDACTED] - they leave Bel Canto and arrive at the edge of a cliff for some stargazing at the super secret location; MEIRIN rushes to the edge and jumps (around excitedly, not off it unfortunately), TEAGAN and SAKI walk over, and ALTO and AUBREY walk together like a couple I would assume.

AUBREY: [a2] This will be a good place. Everyone gather around, and try to look where I'm pointing.

MEIRIN: [a2] This is kinda cool.

[a1] I think my parents took me and my big brother and sister to the royal planetarium once when I was really little,

but it was so long ago I can barely remember it.

[a5] So it'll be nice to get to hear from an expert for once.

[b3] [mu] Teach me, Professor Aubrey!

[/[/[/

AUBREY: [a2] Ahaha... I doubt I'll be as informative as Lord Altair, but I will do my best.

TEAGAN: [a6] [<>] Yeah, this is pretty neat.

[a2] All I know about the stars comes from books, I've never tried to identify whole constellations in the actual sky.

ALTO: [a1] Yeah, all I know is how to find Polaris.

SAKI: [a1] I did do a little bit of studying as a child, but...

The stars visible from my homeland are very different from the ones here.

[a5] We're much, much closer to the equator.

AUBREY: [a1] All right, everyone. Take a look.

DRAWING - TEAGAN, SAKI, and MEIRIN are all staring at the sky.

AUBREY: If you look up, you can see Cassiopeia and Cepheus... And over there is Draco.

You might be able to recognize Ursa Major and Ursa Minor now I'm pointing them out, since they're very famous.

And over there, that's Canis Major.

That one there is Cetus, and you can sort of make out Perseus too...

And you can tell Orion because of those three stars lined up closer together, you see?

DRAWING - Transitions to another drawing, this time of AUBREY pointing at the sky and ALTO following their finger (oh god I typed their unconsciously the infection is spreading)

AUBREY: You can also see Gemini and Taurus at this time of year.

None of the other zodiac are visible yet, I'm afraid...

If we're still here come April, we'll be able to see Virgo, and the star that I'm named for... Spica.

CUT TO GAME

[...]

TEAGAN: [a4] Will we still be here in April?

ALTO: [b4] Maybe. It depends on the snowmelt and how easily the ships can make it here.

[a4] The ships probably wouldn't be able to make it here any earlier than the end of March.

MEIRIN: [a3] March, huh...

SAKI: [a6] ...

ALTO: [b4] But it's pointless to plan too far ahead right now.

[c7] We've just got to focus on the task ahead of us...

[a4] And then we can figure out what we're doing after that.

SAKI: [a1] ...Yes.

[a2] On the bright side of things, the task ahead of us seems a lot more doable now, doesn't it?

MEIRIN: [b5] Yeah.

AUBREY: [a1] ...Yes.

TEAGAN: [a1] I guess so.

[...]

ALTO: [c8] ...The night sky is... really beautiful.

AUBREY: [a8]Yes.

BEL CANTO - MANOR - NEXT MORNING

ALTO: [a4] Okay, let's take this down to Tenuto Spring.

TENUTO SPRING - LUMINOSO'S HOUSE

LUMINOSO: Ah... I take it that things went well?

ALTO: [c5] Yeah. We were able to get the materials --

MEIRIN: [c4] [*] Even though it ALWAYS seems to turn into a fight when we go bother some spirit for something --

BRAVURA: Luminoso and Poetico are very sorry about that, by the way.

[turns to the spirits in question]

Aren't they?

[turns to the spirits BRAVURA brought up]

SOLENNÉ: [xp] Yes, aren't they?

[turns to the spirits BRAVURA brought up]

TACET: (Stare)

[C>]

POETICO: Aw, jeez, it was fine in the end though, wasn't it?

ALTO: [a7] [C>] I guess so? Technically speaking.

[looks at the three spirits staring at her]

POETICO: See, she says it's fine, so it's fine!

ALTO: [a5] But maybe some warning would have been nice.

[C>]

[turns to ALTO and the quintet]

POETICO: [ugh] I'm sorry...

[turns away from the screen]

ME: [ugh] Fucking Jesus fuck.

{all the spirits and quintet [C>], not including POETICO}

ALTO: [a4] Anyway, we've completed our Score. What are we supposed to do in order to make it ready?

LUMINOSO: About that, we will need to be in a special place in order to avoid outside interference.

TEAGAN: [a1] But if we're here in the village anyway and the others know what we're up to,
none of them are going to be thick enough to come bother us, will they?

LUMINOSO: When I speak of interference, I mean the currents of magic in the atmosphere.

In order to increase our chances of success, it is best to perform the rituals in a place where we have as much control as possible over those variables.

And the only thing about the village is, between the barrier and all of us magically powerful life forms clustered around,

there's a whole bunch of magical static. Does that make sense?

TEAGAN: [a6] [iq] Yeah. That's kinda interesting, I hadn't thought of it like that.

SAKI: [a5] I get the feeling that the "static" they refer to is on a level so subtle that even human mages would have trouble perceiving it.

SCHERZO: [mu] Yeah, got it in one.

ALTO: [a4] So, what, will we have to go to another enclosed space like Uncommon Time?

LUMINOSO: Something similar, yes.

Rather than a constructed dimension that reflects the user's mind, we will be entering a land called Anacrusis.

It is a land deliberately kept free of the kind of "static", as Poetico calls it, that would interfere with important rituals like this.

SOLENNÉ: [*] I doubt that you humans will fully understand this, but Anacrusis is a sacred ground to our people.

I have mixed feelings about allowing you all entrance to such a place, but if it is Luminoso's will, there isn't anything I can do to prevent it.

ALTO: [a3] ...Okay, I understand.

[a7] Well, I don't understand, not really, and I don't think I really can,

[c5] but we'll try to be respectful and not break things.

SOLENNE: Hmph.

AUBREY: [a3] Umm... About the ritual itself... how will it be conducted?

LUMINOSO: I was only an assistant performer in the ritual back then, but I still remember.

Having one spirit of each elemental alignment is important to proper consecration, so each of us in this room will participate.

[looks at LUMINOSO]

SCHERZO: [!] Me too?

[turns to SCHERZO]

LUMINOSO: Yes.

[jumps]

SCHERZO: [<3] Sweet!

{LUMINOSO and SCHERZO turn back to the quintet}

LUMINOSO: We will be using three layers of Anacrucis, and we will perform the ritual in three parts, with two of us presiding over each stage.

There will be a traditional test of strength, and we will then use your hereditary power and our own magic to imbue the score with command.

SAKI: [a7] "Command"... over the elements, or to attract those with the ability to perform the music?

LUMINOSO: Both.

MEIRIN: [a7] [ugh] ("Traditional test of strength"... It's totally their culture...)

ALTO: [a5] (Haha...)

SAKI: [a2] (Now, now.)

ALTO: [a1] All right. So how do we get to this Anacrusis?

LUMINOSO: There's a magic circle in the back room that will take you there.

You will not be able to leave Anacrusis until we are finished, so first make sure you are ready.

Once you have been transported safely into the first layer, we will depart so that we are waiting for you.

ALTO: [b4] And then we just have to find you and do the ritual. Okay.

BRAVURA: One thing. Even though Anacrusis is cut off from magical interference, animals and monsters will still be present there.

They are a part of nature too.

ALTO: [b4] So, expect to fight even before we find you.

[a1] That's fine with us, we're used to it.

LUMINOSO: It sounds like you're ready, then.

ALTO: [a4] Yeah.

[...]

[b4] ...This is... how Arietta and her ensemble created the old Score, huh...

LUMINOSO: Actually... Arietta did not bring her ensemble. During the original consecration, she came alone.

ALTO: [b5] [!] Eh, then do I have to go alone too?

LUMINOSO: Oh, no. The presence of your ensemble members won't affect the consecration itself either way.

And the only assistance they can provide is during the tests of strength. Whether you want them to come or not is up to you.

[looks at the rest of her group]

ALTO: [a1] ...I think they ought to come along.

[a3] Because... this has always been about all of us together.

AUBREY: [a8] Alto...

LUMINOSO: All right. If you need time to prepare, you can take that now.

LUMINOSO'S HOUSE - THE BACK ROOM - ALTO and her chaverlim slither their way to the menacingly large Star of David, about to return to the Homeland.

ALTO: [c7] Once we go to Anacrusis, we won't be able to come back until we're done...

Is everyone ready? No errands anybody's forgotten?

"All ready to go!" is chosen, meaning that the negative line of dialogue, if there is any, is missing

[b4] ...Okay, here we go.

ANACRUSIS - WOODS

ALTO: [b2] ...Everybody okay?

AUBREY: [a3] Y-yes.

MEIRIN: [b6] Whoa. So this is Anacrusis?

TEAGAN: [a4] What the hell? It's warm here.

SAKI: [a3] Yes, the temperature and surrounding growth are something like
what I would expect from late spring or early summer...

AUBREY: [b6] It's similar to the northern part of Minuet Forest and the ruins of Maggiore, isn't it...

ALTO: [a5] Although it doesn't have the same hostility.

MEIRIN: [a1] Well, I guess what with that place all being kept like that by Solenne's influence,
and Tenuto Spring being like this too...

Maybe it's just another spirit thing? Being able to change a place's climate.

SAKI: [a1] Perhaps.

TEAGAN: [a6] It is pretty interesting to think about.

ALTO: [a2] Yeah.

[a1] Right now, we need to move forward and carry out the consecration, though. Let's go.

FIRST BOSS FIGHT - They meet up with BRAVURA and SOLENNE.

ALTO: [b5] [!] Oh? You guys...

BRAVURA: [mu] I see thou hast made it to us safely.

SOLENNE: [*] Hmph.

ALTO: [b4] So... I guess we have to fight, then.

BRAVURA: Yes. Prepare thyself, for this time I shall not make it easy for the.

SOLENNE: For once, our sentiments are shared.

[?]

ALTO: [a5] ...Hm.

[a7] Bravura I can understand, but... you were holding back when you fought us then?

[jumps]

SOLENNE: [!] I was not!

[#] I just misjudged the amount of power defeating you would take because I was looking down on you!

[///] So don't expect it to be the same this time!!

[*]

TEAGAN: [C>] (No... isn't that pretty much admitting she held back?)

[...]

MEIRIN: [a3] Hey. I know it's traditional and all, but do we really have to fight?

[b4] I mean... it just seems kind of senseless to hurt each other at this point.

ALTO: [a3] ...I don't really get it either, but... I can tell that it has meaning.

[a1] We might as well just go with it, right?

because who doesn't love filler?

MEIRIN: [c4] I guess so.

BRAVURA: Thou art a kind girl. Worry not for us.

SOLENN: [*] ...Hmph.

ALTO: [a7] Unfortunately you're going to have to talk me through what I'm doing after this, but...

[a1] Let's get the duel over with.

They win.

BRAVURA: [mu] Hahaha. As I expected, it seems our trial provided no difficulty for thee.

SOLENNNE: [C>] Tch.

ALTO: [c5] [mu] Heheh. Well, we couldn't have made it this far without all your help and guidance anyway.

SOLENNNE: ...Please. Let's get this over with.

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] (She's really...)

MEIRIN: [a6] (...not honest, yeah...)

ALTO: [a4] Okay. What should I do?

BRAVURA: First, take out the finished Score.

ALTO: [a4] Okay.

SOLENNNE: ...Focus your power in it. As you would your instrument, if you were to play it, or your sword.

ALTO: [b4] Okay.

{contrast is boosted}

BRAVURA: We spirits of nature doth impart our blessing.

SOLENNÉ: We invoke the right of command --

BRAVURA: Of fire and of brimstone --

SOLENNÉ: Of stone and of sprig --

BRAVURA: That thou shouldst restore the rightful balance --

SOLENNÉ: And set right what human hands have twisted --

BRAVURA: That thy path may be lit evermore --

SOLENNÉ: For those who should later walk in your footsteps --

BRAVURA: So mote it be.

SOLENNÉ: So mote.

{contrast goes back to normal, but then a red flash}

ALTO: [b1] ...!!

{BRAVURA and SOLENNÉ slump over, exhausted}

AUBREY: [a3] [!] A-are all of you alright?

ALTO: [b2] I'm fine... you guys?

BRAVURA: We will be all right. The consecration demands a great deal of power...

SAKI: [a3] ...Yes. That incantation and command were deceptively simple.

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] Really?

[turns to TEAGAN]

SAKI: [a6] You have traces of earth magic... were you able to sense anything during the blessing?

TEAGAN: [a1] [?] A little. Just a surge of power. So?

MEIRIN: [b1] [C>] Like, wow. How often do you usually feel it when people are doing magic that doesn't affect you?

TEAGAN: [a6] [iq] ...Huh. That is a good point.

{SAKI and MEIRIN turn back to their original position}

ALTO: [c6] Will you two be able to make it back all right?

SOLENNÉ: If we rest, we'll be fine.

[*] ...Hmph, I never asked for pity from you, human.

ALTO: [b4] ...Okay. As long as you're sure.

BRAVURA: Thou canst travel to the next layer through the magic circle past here. ...Good luck.

ALTO: [a3] Thank you for everything.

ANACRUSIS - FLOATING ISLANDS - BOSS FIGHT 2

POETICO: Oooh, hi! I guess you got past Bravura and Solenne fine.

{TACET [...]}

ALTO: [b4] So, I guess it's time for round two then?

POETICO: Yup, that's how rituals like this work, so that's how it's gotta be.

[mu] But this time it's me and Tacet together, and we'll be using closer to our full strength, so don't let your guard down or you're gonna be in trouble!

TEAGAN: [a1] [?] "Closer to"? What, so you won't be going all out then?

POETICO: Well, that's just common sense, isn't it?

TEAGAN: [a5] [C>] I... don't see what you're getting at, so no.

POETICO: [?] Oh, it isn't? Hmm.

Well, human bodies are made out of solid matter and stuff, but spirit bodies are made out of mana. Get it?

Humans use energy for everything, so you have to eat food and stuff to get new energy. We take in mana and expend it just by existing.

But if we use up all of the magical power in our bodies all at once, we lose the ability to keep our bodies together and disappear.

That's why we can't live in places where human technology uses up natural magic reservoirs. There's not enough magic for us to survive.

SAKI: [a7] [iq] I see... That does make sense.

MEIRIN: [b6] Then, this ritual...

POETICO: So yeah. We do have to hold back just a little, for self-preservation.

'Cause even just doing the consecration without the ritual fights would take a lot of energy.

That's why we do this here, in Anacrusis.

There not being a lot of big sources of power means there's no interference, but there's a lot of pure natural magic around,

so it's easier for us to bounce back. Get it?

AUBREY: [a2] Yes, thank you for explaining.

[turns to POETICO]

TACET: [*] ...Poetico, shut up.

POETICO: [C>] Yeah, yeah.

{TACET turns back}

POETICO: So, let's do it!

ALTO: [a1] Okay.

They won.

POETICO: [<3] You've gotten a lot stronger!

ALTO: [c5] [mu] Hehehe.

POETICO: You know how to do this from the others, right?

ALTO: [a4] Yeah. This is... the Score.

POETICO: Okay. Ahem.

{higher contrast again}

We spirits of nature impart our blessing. We impart the right of command of water and ice --

TACET: Wind and lightning --

POETICO: That you may restore the rightful balance and set right what human hands have twisted,
that your path be lit evermore for those who should later walk in your footsteps.

So mote it be.

TACET: So mote.

{contrast goes back to normal and a red flash}

ALTO: [b1] ...!!

{the spirits slump over}

AUBREY: [a3] [!] Is everyone all right?

ALTO: [b1] Yeah.

POETICO: [ugh] I'm nooot.

TACET: [*] Shut up.

POETICO: [</3] Waaaah, you're so coooooold.

TACET: [#] ...Shut up.

MEIRIN: Should we leave you two alone?

TACET: [xp] ...

POETICO: [<3] Tehe. Go ahead through the next magic circle.

[...]

...Luminoso's strong. Don't underestimate them.

ALTO: [a3] We'll be fine.

ANACRUSIS - MORE WOODS - They find a black ring in a grave because there's a cemetery there. They're [!] when a pissed off ghost appears. Did you know the difference between a cemetery and a graveyard is that a cemetery isn't adjacent to a church? I think I say this later on, but just in case I haven't. I'm pretty sure I used the terms interchangeably earlier, though.

MEIRIN: [a7] Eeeek?!!

GHOST: Death... to graverobbers...

ALTO: [c7] Here it comes...!!

They win.

GHOST: Ah...

MEIRIN: [a7] (I-it's not going away...)

GHOST: Ah... ah...

Ahh...

{IT WAS A HOLOGRAM}

MEIRIN: [a8] That was scary...

TEAGAN: [b3] What did you guys expect? Don't take other people's stuff.

AUBREY: Is it all right to leave things like this...?

SAKI: [a5] Well, we've removed the ties those wraiths had to life, so... probably?

CLIFFSIDE - LUMINOSO and SCHERZO are there I am fucking tired.

LUMINOSO: ...So you have arrived.

SCHERZO: Took you long enough!

ALTO: [a2] Well, we probably won't be coming back here ever again,
so can you blame us for taking our time to admire the scenery?

SCHERZO: [mu] Haha, you humans sure are funny.

[...]

LUMINOSO: This is... very nostalgic.

ALTO: [b5] Oh?

LUMINOSO: I think I mentioned it earlier, but I participated in the consecration of the original Score, too... I was even younger than Scherzo at the time.

It... was not granted for me to fight alongside Arietta, because we spirits of nature could not survive performing the World Tuning.

But I was allowed to fight her as an equal at the time. It must seem strange to humans, but it is a precious memory for me.

ALTO: [a3] ...You really cared about her.

LUMINOSO: I counter Arietta as a very dear friend.

She passed from this world in the end as humans do, but while she lived, I considered her a close peer and did what I could to help her.

SCHERZO: [*] Tch. I know I'm sickening sounding just like Solenne and all, but I really don't get what's so good about some old human.

[C>] ...Uh, no offense to any of you guys or anything.

LUMINOSO: [<3] *giggle* There's no need to be jealous. Having had one fine friend does not make me appreciate any of my others any less.

{BIG THINK}

TEAGAN: [a5] [xp] (If this doesn't cease and desist sometime soon, I very well may vomit.)

MEIRIN: [b4] [C>] (Sorry, Teagan.)

LUMINOSO: ...Now, then. I expect you to use your full strength. We would not insult you by showing mercy.

ALTO: [a4] Same here.

Victory Royale.

LUMINOSO: ...Well done.

SCHERZO: I thought so the last time we fought too, but you guys are pretty tough for humans.

ALTO: [a7] Thanks, I think.

LUMINOSO: This will be the last stage of the consecration. When we are done here, we will send you back to the village.

ALTO: [a4] Okay.

LUMINOSO: Take out the Score.

{high contrast again}

ALTO: [b4] ...Okay.

LUMINOSO: We spirits of nature impart our blessing.

SCHERZO: We invoke the right of command --

LUMINOSO: Of light and star --

SCHERZO: Of night and shadow --

LUMINOSO: That you may restore the rightful balance --

SCHERZO: And set right what human hands have twisted --

LUMINOSO: That your path be lit evermore --

SCHERZO: For those who should later walk in your footsteps --

LUMINOSO: so mote it be.

SCHERZO: So mote it be.

{contrast returns to normal}

SCHERZO: ...Phew.

{red flash}

ALTO: [b1]!!

{two more red flashes}

ALTO: [b2] Ugh --

{ALTO passes out while LUMINOSO and SCHERZO slump over; two more red flashes...}

CUT TO BLACK

LUMINOSO'S HOUSE - BACK ROOM - ...before fading back up to the back room in LUMINOSO's with

the magic circle where ALTO is lying in the bed and TEAGAN is at her side.

ALTO: [b2] [?]? What the hell?

TEAGAN: [b3] [*] Finally.

ALTO: [b4] Teagan. What happened?

TEAGAN: [a5] You passed out and fell on your damn face, is what.

[a4] Before you ask, we're back in Tenuto Spring. You've been asleep for half a day.

[sits up]

ALTO: [b2] [C>] Uwah, my back's all stiff and everything.

TEAGAN: [a3] [#] You need to stop forgetting that using your magic too much fucks you up.

[...]

[b5] ...Damn it, I've been worried about htis happening from the start.

ALTO: [c6] I'm fine though, just tired.

TEAGAN: [a5] Are you really?

ALTO: [a4] Yeah. I mean, it could be worse.

[b4] Well, I'm stiff all over from sleeping weird, but there's nothing wrong with my hands for once.

[a4] And it's not like I'm the only one that ritual was hard on.

[c7] I know you're just worried, but honestly? You need to mind your own business.

STOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOP

TEAGAN: [b3] It's really hard to do that in cases like this.

[...]

ALTO: [b4] Hm?

[a2] Then I guess you have two choices, which are to stop nagging or for me to get up and make you.

[c7] If you're actually worried, then I guess you'll just have to deal with the guilt of

making somebody who just collapsed from overdoing it get up and kick your ass, but that's not MY problem.

TEAGAN: [a5] ...Were you always this hostile?

ALTO: [a2] I've learned that trying to suppress anger is bad for me, so I'm not doing that anymore.

TEAGAN: [b3] [*] I see.

[a4] Well, it is your own health, I guess, but I don't know about neglecting your own well-being just to spite me.

[a3] I'm not the only one who'll get mad at you anymore.

ALTO: [a4] Whatever, where's everyone else?

TEAGAN: [a1] In the main room with the fairy brigade, waiting for you to wake up.

[b4] Aubrey was in here most of the time, but Saki dragged them out in the end for the sake of getting them rest.

[a1] ...Anyway, it looks like Luminoso's got some more to say once you're ready, so come out when you feel up to it.

ALTO: [a1] Okay.

{TEAGAN begins to walk out}

[...]

ALTO: [b4] ...One more thing.

[faces ALTO]

TEAGAN: [a1] [?] Yeah?

[...]

ALTO: [a4] How's the Score look?

TEAGAN: [a4] ...The whole consecration thing worked, if that's what you mean.

ALTO: [b4] Mm. That's good to hear.

{New Grand Score GET!}

CUT TO BLACK

LUMINOSO'S HOUSE - MAIN ROOM - ALTO enters.

AUBREY: [b6] ...Alto! You're all right...

ALTO: [a2] Yeah, I just fell asleep, it's not big deal.

MEIRIN: [b4] Jeez, next time tell us if you're getting tired!

We can take a break and keep this from happening, it's no trouble.

ALTO: [a3] Haha, yeah, thanks.

SAKI: [a6] Yes, that would be a good idea. WE don't want anyone getting injured.

ALTO: [a8] Yeah.

CUT TO BLACK BEFORE CUTTING BACK TO GAME - Only ALTO's sprite is on screen with the fairies.

LUMINOSO: This is likely the last time we can be of assistance to you.

ALTO: [a3] ...That's fine. At this point, all we have to do is do the performance over, so we'll be fine by ourselves.

ALTO: [c5] Thank you for everything you've done for us up until now.

LUMINOSO: We will be praying for your success.

POETICO: [mu] Come and visit even when you're done, okay?

SOLENNÉ: [*] ...If I'm not needed here anymore, I'm going home.

[turns to SOLENNE]

SCHERZO: Ehhhh? Don't be a stranger, c'mon! We've even got guests now, guests!

[turns to SCHERZO]

SOLENNE: Exactly. I hate humans and I hate noise.

ALTO: [a2] So, if we need you we can find you in Maggiore, right?

[turns to ALTO]

SOLENNE: [#] Who said you could come?

[xp]

ALTO: [a3] [mu] Hahaha.

[a1] Well, anyway, if any of you need us for anything, we'll be in Bel Canto for a while to rehearse.

BRAVURA: Yes... good luck.

TACET: (nod)

BEL CANTO

ALTO: [c5] Then let's get to work, shall we?

AUBREY: Will we be doing the usual...?

ALTO: [a2] Three-day rehearsal, yep.

[a1] It's all that's left to do, so let's go straight to the mansion.

OUTSIDE MANOR

ALTO: [c5] Everyone ready?

{yes}

REVENGE OF THE REHEARSAL DAY 1

REHEARSAL ROOM OR PRACTICE ROOM FUCK - Screen is black.

MEIRIN: [b6] ...Hmmm.

CUT TO GAME

MEIRIN: [b4] [C>] I was hoping that this would be easier than last time, since this at least is our own composition...

SAKI: [a5] Now, now.

Even when we were writing the piece, we only played thing in bits and pieces to make sure of how they would sound.

It's inevitable that there would be a few problems when we try to play it all together.

ALTO: [a1] And at least we know that they're all issues on our end rather than problems with the piece,

right?

MEIRIN: [b1] Still...

[turns to TEAGAN]

[a6] [mu] How should I put it, this is still pretty different from the last time.

SAKI: [a2] Yes, isn't it?

[<3]

[turns to TEAGAN]

AUBREY: [b7] ...

[ugh]

TEAGAN: [a5] [*]Look, I'm pretty sure I've said before that I'm BAD at all this stupid modern stuff.

MEIRIN: [a2] I don't think you're bad...

AUBREY: [a2] Yes, it's more that you lack experience than that you lack talent.

TEAGAN: [a5] Telling me it's just because I don't know how to do it isn't making me feel any better.

ALTO: [a2] [mu] Hahaha.

[large font]

TEAGAN: [a5] [xp] Don't 'hahaha' at me!

ALTO: [a7] Well, it's not my specialty either, so I don't know why you're looking at me here.

MEIRIN: [b3] [<>] You can practice with me a little later.

TEAGAN: [b3] [*] Tch.

ALTO: [a5] Let's ee, what else...

[everyone facing TEAGAN faces ALTO]

I think we're having the typical problems with tempo again.

Teagan, you keep rushing, and Meirin winds up tripping over anything complicated trying to keep up.

Saki, you're not fast enough.

[a7] I think we're going to have to go back on the metronome tonight.

MEIRIN: [a7] [C>] Bleh.

ALTO: [a3] It worked pretty well last time, so I think we'll be able to fix things pretty fast this time too.

[c5] Anyway, we should probably take a break until then.

SAKI: [a1] Great. Saki and I have an errand to run, you should come with us too.

ALTO: [a7] Eh? Why?

SAKI: [a2] Oh, it's all right, you'll see.

ALTO: [a5] I guess it's not like I had anything planned.

[a7] [C>] But really, we do need to be back at the usual time.

SAKI: [a1] I don't think that will be a problem.

MEIRIN: [a2] Great, then we'll hold the fort. Right, Aubrey?

AUBREY: [a1] Yes. Come back safe.

OUTSIDE MANOR

ALTO: [a2] What kind of errand are we on?

SAKI: [a5] Well... I don't want them to overhear, so why don't we tell you when we get to Libretto?

ALTO: [a7] Libretto?!

...Also, is it just me, or am I getting invited on an awful lot of secret errands lately?

SAKI: [a2] My... Well, why not take it as a sign that this is how much everyone likes and trusts you?

ALTO: [a1] Mmm. Yeah, it is a lot harder to get annoyed when you put it like that.

TEAGAN: Sorry. We can explain when we get there, but Saki and I both thought you'd want to be let in on this, so...

ALTO: [a2] Okay, let's go.

LIBRETTO

ALTO: [a1] So, what are we doing?

TEAGAN: [a1] I think you might've noticed this already.

but Saki and I have been trying to get Aubrey up to speed on world history and stuff in our down time.

[b3] We've been buying them books and such, but it's been pretty hard to make sure they're getting a coherent picture.

SAKI: [a5] Especially when it's not just history, but science and magic...

And getting a balanced perspective is important too.

ALTO: [b5] You guys...

[c5] That's really thoughtful. I'd been wondering who bought all that stuff in Aubrey's room.

TEAGAN: [a2] It may not be much, but at least it'll be something for them to do after we're done with the World Tuning.

SAKI: [a1] That being said, we've pillage the stores in Bel Canto enough.

[a4] There ought to be a nicer selection here at the printing press, so...

TEAGAN: [a1] We want your input, yeah.

SAKI: [a2] It ought to be a nice way to score some points, yes?

ALTO: [a7] Hahaha, what the heck?

[c5] But yeah, sure, let's go. I'd love to help.

LIBRETTO - PRINTER - TEAGAN and SAKI are looking over books while ALTO stand in the corner like the dunce she is.

TEAGAN: [a1] Let's see... history books... history books...

[a6] [<>] Oh, hey, this is one I'd actually like to read when I have time.

SAKI: [a7] Then, let's see... There ought to be some books on modern astronomy here...

ALTO: [b4] (They both seem pretty used to this.)

[a7] (And they're also both smarter than me, so I don't know how much help I can actually be.)

[*]

[a5] (Hm... Books about the world that Aubrey would like... That Aubrey would like...)

[b2] (Judging by everything that Aubrey had in their room... Hmm...)

[iq]

{walks over a bit before the screen fades to black}

LIBRETTO - RED SUN.

TEAGAN: [a1] Okay, that didn't take as long as I expected.

[a2] I'm definitely gonna have to come back some other time to shop for myself, though.

SAKI: [a2] *giggle* You sure are passionate about learning, Teagan.

TEAGAN: [b3] I don't know about that. I mean, I don't read as much as you do.

SAKI: [a1] Oh, my, what's the use in being modest?

[a5] I just pick up and read anything I see out of habit, and for pleasure.

[a4] That's different from doing research out of curiosity about the world.

TEAGAN: [a1] ...You think so?

ALTO: [b6] Well, Saki's Team Nerd #2, so if he says so I'd trust him.

TEAGAN: [a5] What the hell?

[b3] ...And hey, are you really sure about having bought that?

ALTO: [a4] Yeah, I'm sure. If I hadn't been, I wouldn't have bought it, you know.

TEAGAN: [b3] I guess so...

SAKI: [a3] Now, now, we're finished shopping, so let's go back to Bel Canto.

BEL CANTO - MANOR - AUBREY'S ROOM - They corner AUBREY.

AUBREY: [a1] [?] What is it, everyone?

TEAGAN: [a1] We went to go pick up some more books for you.

AUBREY: [a2] Oh! Thank you.

TEAGAN: [a2] It took some digging, but I found the next volume in that series on world history. I hope this helps.

AUBREY: [a1] Yes, thank you. These have been very easy to understand.

SAKI: [a4] As for me,

I found a few volumes on modern astronomy and the history of how it's developed over the past few centuries...

[a5] Maybe you'll find them interesting.

AUBREY: [a2] Oh, thank you so much. I've been hoping for something like this since you gave me those new star charts.

SAKI: [a2] Alto came with us to get you something, too. Come on, now.

{AUBREY is [!] and ALTO walks up}

ALTO: [a5] Well... I don't know, this is nothing special like Teagan and Saki got you.

And I don't know if it'll be any help.

[c6] But I thought about all the books you've found for yourself, and, well, this is a story I liked.

[a3] So if you read it a little when you're taking breaks from studying, that'd make me really happy.

AUBREY: [b3] Alto...

[a2] [<3] I will! I promise, I'll take good care of this book...!

ALTO: [c5] [///] Ehehe. I'm just glad you like it.

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] (...Tch, I can't believe she went and stole our thunder just by buying fiction when that's not even the point.)

SAKI: [a5] (Now, now, it's actually something to Aubrey's own taste, so let's forgive them.)

[a4] (Reading something out of interest and because you have to are very different experiences, after all.)

TEAGAN: [b3] [*] (...I guess so.)

ALTO: [a7] But it's already evening, so we should really get back to practicing.

AUBREY: [b1] Haha... that's true.

ALTO: [a1] Come on, everybody.

REVENGE OF THE REHEARSAL DAY 2

REHEARSAL ROOM - Screen is black.

ALTO: [a5] ...Okay, I think we're doing a lot better with tempo than before. But...

{fades back up to in-game}

MEIRIN: [a7] [C>] But there's still more that you want to fix?

ALTO: [a7] Yeah, pretty much.

TEAGAN: [b3] Like dynamics...

ALTO: [b4] Yeah, but aside from that, the col legno sections are still a huge mess.

[a4] I want a clear sound from everyone hitting their bows in unison, not everyone playing half a second apart.

MEIRIN: [a7] [ugh] Ehhh...

TEAGAN: [b3] Even I think that's nitpicky. It won't make a difference in the actual World Tuning, will it?

ALTO: [a4] [*] ...Honestly, why do you guys think I didn't say anything about that the first time we tried?

[iq]

[turns to ALTO sort of]

SAKI: [a5] Ahh. That does make sense. Essentially, you didn't want us to get complacent.

ALTO: [b4] Yeah. There is a point when things will start to impact the effectiveness of the ritual itself.

[a4] And just because we don't HAVE to be perfect doesn't mean there's not reason to actually put effort in.

[a6] Like, it's still a serious performance, so why not do our best anyway?

AUBREY: [a1] Yes... When the other children in the choir and I had concerts,

Lord Altair told us that we must be perfectionists during rehearsals so that we could be lenient on stage.

[a2] I still think that that's good advice.

MEIRIN: [a3] [C>] Ugh. I guess that makes sense and all.

[b1] I'm just getting really bored 'cause we've been sitting around all morning and haven't even played the whole piece through once yet.

ALTO: [a7] Yeah, I know, it's break time.

MEIRIN: [a8] [ugh] ...But we will be doing a full run-through later, right? Right?

ALTO: [a7] Mmmm. Who knows?

[a2] I think that depends on how much effort everybody puts in when we reconvene.

MEIRIN: [a7] You know when I was complaining last time? Let me correct myself. YOU'RE the evil one here.

ALTO: [c5] [mu] Hehehe, you're making me blush.

TEAGAN: [b3] I don't think she meant that as a compliment.

SAKI: [a5] Now, now.

AUBREY: [a2] *giggle*

ALTO: [a2] [<>] You know what they say. When conducting, one must be ruthless!

TEAGAN: [a5] ...Do they say that?

SAKI: [a4] My. Well, whether or not it's a legitimate saying, I do think that Alto's mindset has had excellent results.

[a1] Think about how well we all work together now.

ALTO: [a1] Mm.

[a5] I think part of that's that we trust each other more, and Teagan's not constantly picking on Meirin now.

[b4] But yeah, we've gotten better in these rehearsals much faster than in the last ones.

[b6] And even though you all still whine, you do listen. It's nice.

MEIRIN: [a5] You give good advice, and you know what you're doing. We'd be stupid not to listen.

ALTO: [a2] Hehehe, that's nice to hear.

[a3] Okay, anyway, let's go ahead and take a break.

MEIRIN: [a2] Yesss. I'm going out.

[b3] You should come too, Alto!

[a1] I didn't get to play with you at all yesterday 'cause everybody else was monopolizing you!

TEAGAN: [b3] Is it a monopoly when it was Saki and me together?

[turns to TEAGAN sort of]

MEIRIN: [a2] You know what I mean, shut up.

TEAGAN: [b3] Yeah, yeah.

{MEIRIN turns back to her original position}

ALTO: [a7] Does anyone else need me for anything?

TEAGAN: [a1] Nope.

SAKI: [a1] I intent to rest today, so not particularly.

AUBREY: [a1] Go ahead and have fun outside.

ALTO: [c5] Okay. Sure then, I'll go with you.

MANOR - YARD - ALTO and MEIRIN go somewhere I wanna sleep but I gotta finish.

ALTO: [a1] What do you want to do?

MEIRIN: [b4] I dunno, I don't have any plans in specific.

[a1] ...Hm, should we go food shopping while we're out here anyway?

ALTO: [a1] Sure, I don't mind.

PRODUCE SHOP - AGAIN

MEIRIN: [b6] Hmmm~. I know what Saki and Aubrey and Teagan drink, but what kind of tea do you like?

[turns to MEIRIN]

ALTO: [a5] Oh... I'm not really a tea drinker, to be honest.

[b2] My grandmother loves really sweet tea, so we mostly have that at home to keep her happy.

[a7] I really hate it though, I can only drink tea when there's nothing in it.

MEIRIN: [a7] Ew, yeah, I can see why that'd put you off.

{they walk over to some produce}

ALTO: [c6] [C>] And then I'd go over to Teagan's house and they'd always have really fancy tea, and I got weird looks when I only drank like one cup to be polite...

[looks at ALTO]

MEIRIN: [a3] [C>] She's always been like that, huh...

ALTO: [a5] Yep. It's a little better than my family in that at least she'll acknowledge that you hate something she likes,

[a7] but she tends to think of her tastes as being "right" and not sharing them as "wrong", so...

MEIRIN: [a7] Yeahhh...

ALTO: [a4] It even started causing trouble in her own family, for about a year or so before we left.

[a8] Her brother Tristan, who's closest to her in age.....

[...]

[a5] [?] Hm, actually I don't know if I should be gossiping about this.

MEIRIN: [b4] [?] Oh, so it's more of a private kind of thing?

ALTO: [a7] Maybe.

[faces MEIRIN]

Like, Teagn complained about it to me a lot, but maybe that's just because we've known each other so long.

[a5] It's hard for me to tell.

[a2] If you asked her about him though, she might tell you about it.

MEIRIN: [a3] I... wonder if she would.

ALTO: [a1] I dunno. It seems like Teagan's starting to relax and get a bit less rigid about things having to be her way anyhow.

{they walk over to a fruitbowl}

MEIRIN: [b4] Actually... I'm sure I've seen you using the nice tea set before. What were you drinking if that wasn't tea.

[turns to MEIRIN]

ALTO: [a3] Saki made coffee when I said I liked that better.

MEIRIN: [a2] [iq] Ahh.

ALTO: [a5] I really like the kinds of really fancy coffee that you can get in cafés,

[?] but I guess you have to have special equipment to make those.

[a7] I don't even know how to make normal coffee.

MEIRIN: [a5] Really? I bet Saki would teach you if you ask.

ALTO: [c5] I ought to do that later. Once we're done with all this we'll have time.

MEIRIN: [a1] Mm.

*{they walk over to another thing
jesus fuck YOU DON'T WINDOW SHOP AT THE FUCKING GROCERY STORE}*

ALTO: [b5] ...That reminds me, I was curious. When did you learn to drink?

>learn to drink

{turns to ALTO}

MEIRIN: [a1] [?] What brings this on?

ALTO: [a1] I dunno, since we're talking about drinks. And the other thing they always had at my house that I hate is wine.

MEIRIN: [a2] Heheh, okay.

[b5] I've been on the road since I was what, thirteen, fourteen,

and before I split up with the street performers I started traveling with, they let me try it.

[C>] When they, uh, thought I was turning eighteen, so that's not their fault.

ALTO: [a1] ...I see.

MEIRIN: [a2] They were good people, and they taught me a lot about drinking safely.

[a1] Like, making sure to eat enough beforehand,

and making sure that I have some people I trust around if I'm drinking something unfamiliar in case I get drunk.

[a5] And if we were in some town where they had really fancy drinks at the pub and I wanted to try something,

they were always like, go ahead, we'll look after you.

ALTO: [a3] Sounds like they were nice.

MEIRIN: [a2] They really were.

[b5] I was very lucky.

[b4] Sometimes I wonder if they didn't know that I was faking my age and who I was.

[a7] [ugh] 'Cause, I mean. I'm sure you had the same problem, coming from nobility.

ALTO: [a7] The going out into the real world and realizing your family and tutors somehow neglected to teach you stuff normal people think is common sense?

[a5] [C>] Oh, yeah.

MEIRIN: [b4] They were never, like...

[b6] Oh god, can I just be mean here and say they weren't like Teagan is, or at least used to be, about it?

ALTO: [a7] I... think you've got that right by now, yeah.

MEIRIN: [b5] If there was something I didn't know, or had only got a garbled explanation of through books or siblings,

they were just patient and explained it.

[a2] And they never made fun of me for stuff that I liked.

[a7] They must've been biting their tongues a lot

[ugh] 'cause even I'll admit I kinda went crazy when I got the chance to buy my own clothes for the first time.

[b2] [<>] It took me a little while to develop my current good taste.

ALTO: [c5] Heheh.

MEIRIN: [b6] And... Okay.

[c5] Being with Teagan has taught me that I was only solving my issues temporarily by running away from them.

But.

[b5] The people I used to travel with helped me gain confidence and learn how to stand on my own.

They let me feel like it was safe to mess around with things and figure out who I am and who I want to be.

They let me be free, I guess.

{STOP WALKING I'LL BREAK YOUR LEGS}

ALTO: [b5] ...If they were that important to you, how'd you end up not traveling with them anymore?

MEIRIN: [a1] About a year or so ago, everybody pretty much wanted to go to different places and do different things.

So we all just split up.

[a2] And at that point I wasn't, like... totally dependent on them anymore.

[a1] I traveled with other musicians sometimes, and was on my own others.

[a6] And hey, that wound up giving me even more freedom in the end.

[b2] To practice magic, and play music how I want...

[a2] and I doubt I'd have wound up coming to Harmonia if I was still with those guys.

[b5] And that means I wouldn't have met you guys. I wouldn't want that.

ALTO: [a3] ...I see. Thanks.

I wonder how many more times they'll say "I see" and "anyway"

[..., turns to ALTO]

MEIRIN: [b4]I'm just being boring, right? Sorry.

ALTO: [a3] I don't think it's boring.

[c5] I'm the one that asked, and I wouldn't ask if I didn't want to know more about you.

MEIRIN: [b5] [///] Hehe.

[a2] ...Wanna go back?

ALTO: [a7] If we're done. I'm not the one keeping track of what we're shopping for.

MEIRIN: [a5] [mu] Oh, right.

{they buy that shit and GTFO}

REVENGE OF THE REHEARSAL DAY 3

REHEARSAL ROOM

MEIRIN: [a2] [angel] Ahh... After yesterday, it's really nice to actually get to play the whole piece.

SAKI: [a2] Oh, yes.

[a5] Though, it's still preferable to a full orchestral rehearsal...

[a3] since so many pieces won't even give us the main melody or even anything interesting.

MEIRIN: [b1] [#] Right??

TEAGAN: [b4] [C>] I can feel the animosity coming off you guys in waves.

AUBREY: [a3] Is it usually that bad, in instrumental pieces?

MEIRIN: [b4] Yeah, we... don't have the luxury of everybody having to sing the same words.

AUBREY: [b1] Ah...

[turns to ALTO]

SAKI: [a7] Alto, you've been quiet for a while. Is anything wrong?

ALTO: [a5] No... I'm thinking of what else we still need to work on.

MEIRIN: [a8] Still???

ALTO: [b4] We can do a lot better on the changes in time signature than we are.

I also think it'd be a good idea to go through the whole piece a couple times with different people sitting

out.

TEAGAN: [a1] What for?

ALTO: [a4] Well, we've written the second movement specifically so that we're passing the melody to each other.

[a5] So far we're making sure of the timing by matching up with each other,
but I want us to be able to recognize the harmony cues for these parts too.

[a1] If all of us can still play no matter who's missing,
I don't think we'll have any problems on the real performance.

TEAGAN: [b3] You ARE evil.

[kinda sorta faces TEAGAN]

MEIRIN: [b1] See?

ALTO: [a6] [*] Oh, come on, it'll take maybe an hour or two at the longest.

And after that we'll just have to play the whole thing a couple of times.

[a5] ...Besides, it's pretty much break time.

SAKI: [a5] For a moment I was actually afraid that you would want to do that right away.

ALTO: [a7] Haha, no, everybody's tired and not in the mood for more work.

[c5] I wouldn't do that when you're all so unmotivated, it'd be counterproductive.

AUBREY: [b1] That's a relief.

ALTO: [a2] Then... I know, why don't we meet up an hour earlier than usual, at six?

[a1] that way we can have a dinner break between the last touch-ups and review.

TEAGAN: [a2] That sounds fine by me.

SAKI: [a2] Yes, I have no objections.

MEIRIN: [b3] Okay.

AUBREY: [a2] I think it's a good idea.

ALTO: [a3] Right, then everybody's dismissed until then. Take your time doing whatever.

OUTSIDE REHEARSAL ROOM - AUBREY snipes ALTO before anyone else can have their way with her.

AUBREY: [a3] Um... A-Alto?

ALTO: [a1] What is it?

AUBREY: [b4] I-if... you don't already have something planned... do you want to do something together?

[/[/[/

I don't care what anyone else says AUBREY is cute af it's a shame that her love interest is quite the opposite

ALTO: [b5] Hm? No, I don't have plans, so sure.

AUBREY: [a2] Ehehe... I'm glad.

ALTO: [c5] Did you have something specific in mind?

AUBREY: [a3] No, but...

[a1] The last time we went somewhere together it was to get my ID, and you bought me a book just the other day, so...

Is there anything in particular you want?

ALTO: [b5] That I want?

[a5] [C>] Hmm...

[iq]

[a2] Oh, now that I think of it...

AUBREY: [a1] [!] Is there something?

ALTO: [a1] Yeah. It's not anything big, but...

You know how Saki and Meirin have cute stuff on their instruments and their cases?

And your handchimes have got pretty patterns on them and stuff.

[a3] Well, the people at the rental place said I can keep this cello if I want, so...

[c5] I want to get something put on it.

AUBREY: [a1] Accessories for your cello... I see.

I guess it took that long.

ALTO: [a1] Yeah. I mean, I guess it's kinda silly,
[a5] but between my family and Teagan all thinking that kind of thing's beneath me or whatever,
I never even got to look at what there is.

AUBREY: [a2] It's not silly at all.

ALTO: [a7] Haha. I'm glad you think so.

AUBREY: [a3] Hmm... I don't think they sell that kind of thing here in Bel Canto...
[a1] Maybe they have some at the luthier's in Dal Segno?

ALTO: [a5] I think I did see some there.

AUBREY: [a3] Will we be able to make it there and back in time?

ALTO: [c5] [mu] Haha, what are you talking about?
[a3] Between the two of us, it should be no problem.

DAL SEGNO - MUSIC HALL

ALTO: [a2] Hmm, let's see~

AUBREY: [a2] There seems to be more than I would have thought.

ALTO: [c5] Oh, these charms are really cute...

[a5] Mm, but I'm worried about actually hanging them off anything in case they make noise or leave scratches.

AUBREY: [a1] It looks like you can have the luthier paint or carve a design into your instrument, too...

ALTO: [a1] That'd be expensive and take a while. And it's kind of like tattoos, you know?

You've got to make sure that it's something that will still be meaningful to you later.

[a5] You'd have to replace everything that got altered if you want it changed.

[b4] Like... I don't know what they mean,

but the flowers that Saki and Meirin have on their viola and violin are probably really important to them.

[c6] I don't have anything like that.

AUBREY: [a3] ...I see.

ALTO: [b5] Hm. How about this? It's small, but it's cute.

AUBREY: [a7] This? ...I do think it's cute, yes.

ALTO: [a7] You sound surprised.

AUBREY: [a1] I don't think I expected anything, but... I guess I didn't think you would pick something this plain.

ALTO: [a7] [?] Really? I think it's probably better to start small.

[turns to ALTO]

AUBREY: [a2] All right. Then, please let me pay for it.

ALTO: [b5] Eh? I can --

AUBREY: [b1] No, I really want to pay for it! I mean, you've given me so much all this time.

[...]

ALTO: [a3] ...Okay. Then, let's go back.

BEL CANTO - MANOR - REHEARSAL ROOM

ALTO: [a5] I get the feeling that as dates go, this has been pretty tame, huh.

[a7] Then again, it beats the last one for being romantic.

AUBREY: [a1] [?] That last --? Oh, getting my ID?

[a2] That's all right -- it's the first thing we specifically went out to do together, so that's enough for me.

ALTO: [b5] Hm, you're pretty easy to please.

AUBREY: [a2] I could say the same for you.

ALTO: [b6] But really, this is perfect, you'll see.

{fades to black}

ALTO: [c5] ...Done.

DRAWING - fades up to ALTO's cello with a little bow attached to the tailpiece and then switches to a drawing of ALTO pointing at her own bow in her hair

ALTO: See, we match!

{back to game, with both characters looking at each other}

AUBREY: [a8]That's so like you.

ALTO: [c8] Heh.

{pregnant pause, AUBREY turns to the door}

AUBREY: [a1] ...I think I hear the others coming.

ALTO: [a2] Good thing we were on time.

{fades to black}

MEIRIN: [a1] What are you guys already doing in herre?

ALTO: [a3] Waiting for all of you, of course.

[c5] C'mon, let's get this done with so we can go to dinner and do the last review.

{fades back up to ALTO sleeping in u's(?) room in the middle of the night}

ALTO: [b2] Nn... It's really hard to get used to sleeping in somebody else's bed.

[b5] ...Huh?

[gets out of bed]

[a4] Where's Aubrey wandered off to at this time of night?

[walks downstairs]

[a7] Nobody else is here...

[a6] Sheesh. I was like this last time too.

[a5] Guess I'd better go find them then.

BEL CANTO - CEMETARY - AUBREY is at ARIETTA's grave.

AUBREY: [a1] Oh, Alto...

ALTO: [a7] ...You leave in the middle of the night to visit the grave of somebody you didn't even like?

AUBREY: [b1] Haha... I'm sorry.

ALTO: [c5] [mu] I'm just teasing.

[...]

[b4] Is something wrong?

AUBREY: [b6] No... Well, yes and no.

[a3] I feel like there's something I ought to be remembering, but I have no idea what it could be.

ALTO: [a4] Remembering something? About the World Tuning?

AUBREY: [a7] Oh... no! I didn't mean for that to come out so ominously, I'm sorry!

[b6] I mean -- I keep thinking about Lord Altair.

[a3] You've offered to help me find his grave, but we have so few ideas of where to start...

[*] And t here's something that's been bothering me, but I'm not sure what it could be.

So I came here to clear my head.

ALTO: [a8] I see...

[c6] Well... I don't know if this will help or not, but... We've got plenty of time, still.

[b4] It's only the beginning of December, and we won't be leaving here until March or April.

[a1] If you can't remember, you don't have to try to force yourself. I mean, you'll think of it when you think of it.

AUBREY: [a3] [*] I suppose...

ALTO: [a2] More importantly, you need rest since our performance is tomorrow.

[c8] [<3] Go back to bed and at least try to sleep.

AUBREY: [a1] What about you?

ALTO: [a7] I've still gotta go round up everyone else.

AUBREY: [b7] [///] Like I said, what about you?

ALTO: [a7] Oh... well, if I wenet back with you, wouldn't we just not sleep?

AUBREY: [b5]

ALTO: [a6] [C>] Sleep's important, you know.

AUBREY: [a1] All right.

[a8] ...Good night.

[fucks off]

BEL CANTO - TOWN SQUARE - I don't know what MEIRIN's doing here again.

MEIRIN: [a2] [!] Oh, hey Alto!

ALTO: [a7] What are you doing up at this hour?

MEIRIN: [a5] Well... I couldn't get to sleep, Saki and Teagan were both out, and you and Aubrey seemed kinda busy.

[a6] So I decide to go jogging.

ALTO: [a1] Nervous?

MEIRIN: [b5] I guess I sorta am, but I'm also kinda excited.

ALTO: [a3] ...That's an improvement over last time.

MEIRIN: [a2] I know, right?

[b2] ...I think it helps that I've actually been doing better than Teagan in rehearsal for once.

[b3] And we're finally really friends too.

[b5] I'm... actually kinda looking forward to making up for all the mistakes I made last time.

ALTO: [c5] ...I see.

MEIRIN: [b4] It's more like... I dunno, the hard part's gonna be what comes after the World Tuning?

ALTO: [b5] Oh?

MEIRIN: [b6] Once it's spring, we can leave.

That means we'll all have to decide what we're going to do next.

ALTO: [c6]

MEIRIN: [a3] And when that time comes, we're not necessarily all going to be doing the same thing together.

[b4] And this is a big world. Saki and I... well, we're travelers,

so once we leave you guys there's no guarantee we'll ever be able to meet or contact each other again.

{ALTO [...]}

MEIRIN: [c5] I know there's a lot at stake, but there's a part of me that doesn't want all this to end because of that.

Even though I understand in my head that it has to.

[...] ...So, it's no big deal, I guess I'm just being silly. Premature postpartum, or something.

ALTO: [c6] ...Yeah. That's something we can't do anything about.

[b4] But we've still got plenty of time to figure things out, so we can afford to put worrying about it off.

MEIRIN: [b4] I guess so.

ALTO: [a7] Mmm. Unfortunately this isn't something I can fix by offering a last-minute practice session.

MEIRIN: [a2] Hahaha. Don't worry about it, I'm just glad I got to talk to you about it.

[b5] For some reason talking to you about this kind thing always makes me feel better.

ALTO: [a1] Well, I'm glad I'm helping in some way or other.

MEIRIN: [a5] Okay, I'm gonna go back to bed. See you in the morning.

ALTO: [a2] Yeah, good night for real this time.

{MEIRIN fucks off}

BEL CANTO - STATUE AREA - SAKI is beneath the statue.

ALTO: [a1] Hey, you're spacing out here again?

SAKI: [a1]Oh, Alto.

ALTO: [a7] I've already had to explain this to two people already, and you're sensible enough to be aware,

but staying up all night's not gonna do us and tomorrow's performance any favors.

SAKI: [a6] [...] I know. I was thinking, and it made me restless.

ALTO: [a3] Oh?

SAKI: [a6] Successfully performing the World Tuning will mean salvation for many, many people.

It will mean that Meirin has a future, and that you do too.

[b6] But it isn't going to fix anything for me.

My fate can't be altered just by saving the world, and the decision I have to make won't go away.

[b7] ...And I'm angry with myself for being afraid to even admit what I want because my odds are so long.

ALTO: [c6]Well, they say it's better to try something and regret it than to regret never trying.

SAKI: [a6] I suppose.

[b7] ...Anyway, soon this is going to return to being my biggest worry.

It does bother me.

ALTO: [b4] ...Well, once we're done with the World Tuning... you know Meirin and I will be here to talk to if you want.

SAKI: [a6] ...Thank you.

[b8]Alto.

ALTO: [b5] Hm?

SAKI: [b8] I -- ...I want to live. I want to live.

ALTO: [b4] ...Okay.

Then the most important thing is not to give up. All right?

[a1]Now go back home before you catch another cold or something.

{SAKI fucks off}

THERE IS NOTHING BUT DESPAIR FROM THIS POINT ONWARD

METRONOME TOWER - BASE - TEAGAN is staring at the tower before being interrupted by ALTO.

ALTO: [a4] What are you doing out here?

TEAGAN: [a1] ...Thinking. And I could say the same to you.

ALTO: [b4] Rounding up everyone else, who seems to be on the same bandwagon as you.

[a4] C'mon, it's gotta be like midnight by now, we don't want anybody sleep-deprived tomorrow.

TEAGAN: [b3] Yeah, whatever.

[a4] ...But this is good timing. I've been wanting to talk to you.

ALTO: [a2] Hm. Okay, I'm going home.

[begins walking back]

TEAGAN: [a5] [#] Wha-- hey, where do you think you're going?!

[a3] It's not going to take that long, spare me five or ten minutes out of your busy schedule!!

[...]

ALTO: [b4] Fine, what is it?

TEAGAN: [b4] ...It's just.

[b5] I've been thinking, and I've realized a couple things that I think I've been averting my eyes from all this time.

[a4] ...I really owe you an apology.

[...]

[turns around]

ALTO: [a6]Wow, it's taken you this long to come to that conclusion?

TEAGAN: [b3] [xp] I mean, about something aside from the obvious.

[b4] Look, I can tell you want to go back to sleep, but please just humor me for a minute here.

It's going to bother me for a long time unless I get the chance to say this.

ALTO: [a4] Hm. Okay, what is it?

TEAGAN: [a4] ...You remember back when we were kids, right?

How I'd sorta lurk around your family's mansion in case you were stiting around in the garden again.

ALTO: [b4] Yeah, but what's that have to do with anything?

TEAGAN: [a4] I'm getting there.

You know who I stopped coming after a while?

[a1] ...I don't think I ever got the chance to explain this, but I got caught and kicked out.

[a4] The -- guards, I guess, said that they couldn't have you interacting with commoner kids.

That the only peers you'd ever have were suitable playing partners.

[a3] ...I didn't care about getting caught, but that pissed me off.

Just the way they said it, like having normal friends was gonna contaminate you or something.

So I told them fine, I'd show them, I'd become the best violinist in the city and then they'd have to let me see you.

[...]

ALTO: [c6] ...This was...

TEAGAN: [a4] Yeah. I went right home and argued with my parents for three whole days until they let me start taking lessons.

[b4] I was a stupid kid, and yeah, I was self-righteous about it and never thought to consider how you felt.

But I was still thinking of you first.

{ALTO [...]}

It's -- Saki and Meirin have talked to me about some things, and I think what they have to say makes sense.

I was used to having to be responsible for you, but your situation was -- is -- not something I could actually handle.

Trying to keep you under control was too stressful, and I took it all out on you.

[a4] Even though I started out caring so much and wanted to do the right thing, somewhere along the line it became more about myself and my pride.

[b5] Even before we came here, I was probably doing more damage than good.

{ALTO [...]}

...To be honest...

I made excuses to myself like being worried about you and thinking you couldn't handle yourself on your own,

but you know I never actually believed the World Tuning was real.

[b4] When you asked me along with you, I just saw it as a convenient way to get away from my family.

[b3] ...I don't know how much you had figured out, but it was getting really awkward at home.

Innis and Lachlan were constantly after me to go make up with Tristan,

and even though my parents never said anything, I could tell they didn't approve.

[b5] It was pissing me off, I didn't want to deal with it, and then there you were offering me the perfect escape.

[b4] It wasn't fair to you, and it wasn't right.

[...]

ALTO: [a4] ...I see. ...But I'm curious. Why apologize now?

TEAGAN: [a3] What do you mean, why? It's the right thing to do. It'd bother me if I didn't.

ALTO: [c6] As long as you know you're still saying this for yourself.

[b4] Look, it's nice to know that you're starting to think of this kind of thing.

[c7] But, Teagan. I will never forgive you.

TEAGAN: [a3] But --

I have a knot in my stomach

ALTO: [b8] I will NEVER forgive you.

[b7] Forgiveness isn't something you can earn. It's up to us whether we want to do it or not.

Meirin's choice is her choice, and I've made mine.

TEAGAN: [b5] ...

[turns around]

ALTO: [b4] Come on.

It's midnight and we need to sleep if we want to give any kind of decent performance tomorrow.

TEAGAN: [b3] Yeah, whatever.

[goes back]

STATUE AREA - It is now morning.

ALTO: [a1] Okay. Once more with less catastrophe this time.

TEAGAN: [b3] You've certainly been working us hard enough in rehearsal, so I'd hope so.

SAKI: [a5] Now, now.

[a2] At this point, I don't think we have anything to worry about, do we?

MEIRIN: [b2] And just think! Once we're through here, we can just kick back and relax until spring.

AUBREY: [a2] Heheh.

[a1] ...Come on. Let's go.

ALTO: [a4] Yeah. Everybody together now.

{they walk up and AREITTA's ghost appears again [...] followed by ALTAIR, who momentarily face each other before ALTAIR walks back and they both look back up}

METRONOME TOWER - GROUND LEVEL - They are [!] when they find that the interior of the tower has completely changed.

MEIRIN: [a7] What in the...

TEAGAN: [b1] Is this really Metronome Tower? It looks nothing like what I remember.

AUBREY: [a3] Um, but... We went through the same door as last time, yes?

It would take incredibly strong magic to transport us somewhere else without any visible reaction...

SAKI: [a3] ...No. This is still Metronome Tower.

MEIRIN: [b6] Saki, do you know something?

SAKI: [a6] The materials that make this place up are the same, and so is the magic that runs through every part of it.

[a7] ...Alto, is this...

ALTO: [b4] Mm.

[a5] The only record of what Metronome Tower is like on the inside is that it's "different for everyone".

[c6] Up until now I've just been thinking of that as figurative, but if we're going to believe what we're looking at...

[a3] The tower literally changes? Conforms to whatever's going to test the people climbing it?

[b3] Is that even possible?

SAKI: [a5] Well... we ARE speaking of the woman who even created rips in space-time with the help of her allies.

[a1] If anyone could make a space like that, it ought to be Arietta Cantabile.

ALTO: [b4] Yeah. I think so too.

[a2] And anyway... why not just go ahead and aim for the top?

TEAGAN: [b3] Yours is a happy nature.

ALTO: [a3] Well, you know what they say. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

TEAGAN: [b2] Guess so.

[b4] But if things get too weird we ought to turn around and do a little more investigating.

ALTO: [a5] I think that's fair. We still do have the rest of December if we need it.

[b4] ...But I'm pretty sure that this is the right place.

[c7] So don't anybody let your guard down.

Interacts with door.

ALTO: [a7] [?] Huh? This door's locked.

TEAGAN: [a4] That ought to mean that there's a key hidden somewhere here, but...

ALTO: [a4] I guess we should look around just to make sure we haven't missed some hidden chest somewhere.

Does it again.

ALTO: [a7] [*] It's locked.

SAKI: [a6] It's no good, Alto. There weren't any treasure chests.

ALTO: [a5] Hmm~

MEIRIN: [b6] Is it actually locked with a keyhole or is it locked with magic.

ALTO: [a4] There's a keyhole.

MEIRIN: [b4] Rats, if it was a spell then maybe Saki and Aubrey and me could've disabled it.

SAKI: [a5] Oh dear, but wouldn't that take a great deal of energy anyway? Let's keep looking.

ALTO: [b5] ...?

[c6] The way this lock looks... don't tell me...

AUBREY: [a1] Alto, what is it?

ALTO: [a5] It's nothing... I think.

[a7] (...I mean, there's no way, right?)

TEAGAN: [a5] [C> I think?] It's not gonna unlock itself on its own.

ALTO: [a7] No, it's just... I've got this key, see?

SAKI: [a7] My... It does look as if it would fit.

MEIRIN: [a6] Might as well try it, right?

ALTO: [a7] I guess...

[...]

AUBREY: [a3] Um... How is it?

ALTO: [a7] [ugh] Oh my god. It actually unlocked it.

TEAGAN: [a2] Well, we can go on now, that's good, isn't it?

ALTO: [a7] I... guess.

SAKI: [a7] Where did you find this?

ALTO: [c3] That's the thing. ...This is from Uncommon Time.

TEAGAN: [b1] Wha --

MEIRIN: [a7] You... you mean the part that was...

ALTO: [b4] Technically part of my mind, yep. The music box.

MEIRIN: [a7] That's seriously freaky.

ALTO: [a5] I actually found a lot of stuff in there, and when I came out it all came with me and still had physical shape.

[a7] I didn't think much of it at the time, but...

MEIRIN: [a7] This is so creepy.

AUBREY: [a3] Yes...

ALTO: [a4] I guess on the other hand, though, we can be sure that we're on the right track.

[c6] If the inside of Metronome tower is meant to reflect us... then I guess it makes sense that we'd need this stuff.

SAKI: [a5]I suppose going on ahead is better than standing here and overthinking it...

[smol text]

[c1] I really don't want to overthink it...

METRONOME TOWER - LEVEL 2

MEIRIN: [a1] Wow, it's bright in here.

TEAGAN: [a4] I don't see any doors...

[rotates a bit before noticing something]

[iq]

TEAGAN: [a6] There's a plaque up ahead, maybe that's a clue.

[check plaque, which reads "Use the light to forge thy path"]

TEAGAN: [b4] "Use the light"?

AUBREY: [a1] I see...

There's a lot of stained glass, isn't there?

[a2] If we had a tool to reflect that with, we could use it to light up the walls and see if there are hidden doors.

I have absolutely no idea how you came to that conclusion, AUBREY

SAKI: [a2] Oh, yes. That makes sense; mirrors do tend to be symbols of truth and illusions all around the world.

ALTO: [a5] I have the mirror from Uncommon Time, so... I guess it's worth a try.

MEIRIN: [b4] How are we supposed to know which direction to reflect the light in?

ALTO: [a7] Mmm... Trial and error, I guess?

TEAGAN: [b3]I guess that's better than nothing??

3RD LEVEL - HEDGE MAZE

TEAGAN: [a1] Is this a hedge maze?

learn2read

ALTO: [a1] It looks like it.

Interacts with fence.

ALTO: [a7] Wh-- there's a fence blocking the way?

MEIRIN: [a6] ...Want me to burn it down?

ALTO: [a6] This isn't like the forest, where there was snow all over the place.

[b2] Even a stray spark could turn into a disaster, so I think you probably shouldn't.

MEIRIN: [c4] Aww... I guess that makes sense, though.

TEAGAN: [b3] Still, what do you suggest we do about this?

[b4] It's pretty tall, so jumping over it's out of the question, and it's sturdy, so ramming into it won't knock it over.

ALTO: [a7] Well... as it happens...

SAKI: [a7] My, is that a crowbar?

AUBREY: [b1] Where...

ALTO: [a7] From Uncommon Time. Still.

SAKI: [c1] ...I wish you hadn't asked.

ALTO: [a5] Anyway, I think I can break the fences down with this.

Interacts with it again.

ALTO: [a1] Should I smash this down with the crowbar?

{yes}

{shit disappears}

[c5] We can get through now.

there's a wood pile nearby that hasn't been interacted with and no hasn't been selected when
destroying fences

HEDGE MAZE CENTER - There's a plant pot.

AUBREY: [a1] Well, we've made it to the center of the maze...

MEIRIN: [b4] What's this thing, a flowerpot?

SAKI: [a7] There's an opening in the ceiling just above us.

MEIRIN: [a1] Shame we don't have any plant mages with us, huh?

We could have someone make a vine ladder up there for us.

TEAGAN: [a5] Well, excuse me for only having a pinch of earth magic.

ALTO: [a5] Hmm.

[..., iq]

[a4] There's something I want to try.

[plants rose of envy and shit grows outta it]

[b4] I thought so.

It's sturdy enough to climb, let's go.

4TH FLOOR - It's just an ordinary room more or less.

ALTO: [b4] It's locked...

[b5] [!] There's writing on the door.

[a5] "Light the pillars with the cold fire to gain passage." Cold fire... hmm...

shit is lit, and they fuck off into the next area

SOMEWHERE ON THE 4TH FLOOR - They read a tablet that was from Uncommon Time.

ALTO: [b5] ...Huh? This was on one of the doors in Uncommon Time too.

TEAGAN: [a1] Well, aside from the key, the mirror, the crowbar and rose, and the ice,
was there anything else you brought out from there?

ALTO: [a6] I brought a ton of stuff out of there.

[a5] But, let's see.

Aside from the stuff that was just typical items... I think all that's left is my sword and this mask.

MEIRIN: [b3] Hey, I know.

[a2] There's a bunch of mirrors around here, right? Why don't you put the mask on and look into them?

[a5] Maybe it'll do something.

ALTO: [a5] Hmm~ It fits the logic, but...

[a7] I dunno, I don't think it'd look good on me.

MEIRIN: [a6] What are you talking about? We won't judge you.

[a1] If anyone does I'll kick their butt, too.

TEAGAN: [a5] Why are you all looking at me all of the sudden?

AUBREY: [b7] You know why.

TEAGAN: [b3] Tch.

ALTO: [b2] Hmm... Okay.

nobody cared who I was 'til I put on the mask

[d1] Just do me a favor and don't laugh.

LOL

AUBREY: [a2] Oh! It looks very nice on you.

SAKI: [a2] Yes, I think so too.

ALTO: [d3] Really? I think it would work better for you, myself.

UUUU

MEIRIN: [a5] Hmm. Saki does have the mysterious pretty boy thing going, but you don't look bad either.

SAKI: [a5] ("Mysterious pretty boy thing"?)

ALTO: [d1] Then, I need to be at the front of the party while we're doing this, okay?

[d2] If what's important to getting through this puzzle is my reflection, it's not going to work if I'm in the back.

DRAWING - LIQUID ALTO is in the mirror.

ALTO: Oh...

MEIRIN: Your reflection is weird. Like... she's not wearing a mask, and her eyes and clothes are the wrong color...

ALTO: Yeah. That's the other me I met in the music box.

MEIRIN: She's kind of... different. The look in her eyes is kind of scary.

ALTO: You think so? She's still me.

I am Big Boss, and you are too

CUT TO GAME I'm really fucking up the formatting again I'm sorry but it's only going to get worse

TEAGAN: [a5] If you two want to focus on the physical world, there's weird things going on here too.

AUBREY: [a4] The room changed after that flash of light.

The walls are different, and there's no doorway where there was one before...

SAKI: [a6]Nested dimensions? I've never even heard of such a thing succeeding before.

[a3] If this is all Arietta Cantabile's doing...

then she was far more powerful than any human magician in recorded history.

AUBREY: [b7] She did have help.

SAKI: [a5] Oh -- I don't mean to belittle your Lord Altair's contributions.

No single individual could accomplish this on their own, regardless of power.

[b6] But even laying the framework for spellwork this complex could kill someone on our level.

ALTO: [d1] I don't really get it, but there's complicated magic going on here?

SAKI: [a6] Yes.

[a3] To keep things simple, it seems that by using these mirrors we can travel between almost identical versions

of the same room to open up new passageways.

TEAGAN: [a4] It might be interesting to learn about the theory afterwards, but right now we need to focus on the task ahead of us.

[a1] Right?

MEIRIN: [b4] Yeah...

ALTO: [d2] Then, let's go.

METRONOME TOWER - FINAL FLOOR

ALTO: [b4] There's a crystal here that'll take us down to the first level...

[a4] I guess if there's anything at all we've left undone, now's the time to do it.

[c7] Once we go up those stairs there's no turning back anymore.

ROOF - the quintet goes to the roof of the tower in an arrow shape like birds heading south except they're going north and the roof is much simpler in design. I don't know what I typed either.

MEIRIN: [c5] So we're finally back here, after everything...

It feels like it's been a lot longer than just a month.

TEAGAN: [a1] That's good, though, isn't it? Having some distance.

[a2] This isn't gonna go like the last time. I've got a good feeling about this.

SAKI: [a2] My, my, even Teagan is acting positive. I'm sure this is a good omen.

[C>]

AUBREY: [b1] ...

[!]

ALTO: [a4] Guys, wait.

{everyone but ALTO turns inward}

TEAGAN: [a1] Hm? What is it?

ALTO: [c6] Do any of you feel it? There's still some kind of... knot, or flaw, or something in the flow of energy here.

{colors become more washed out and turns up}

[..., !]

{resume to normal color saturation}

AUBREY: [a5] ...I feel it.

It's horrible.

It's like it's sucking in all the rest of the magical energy here...

[turns up]

[!]

SAKI: [b1] ...Ah.

[turns up]

MEIRIN: [b6] Now that you mention it...

{TEAGAN turns up}

ALTO: [b4] I'm positive that this distortion is a leftover from our last attempt.

[a4] Unless we get rid of this thing, we could play the World Tuning until we fall over and it won't do anything.

TEAGAN: [a3] [C>] And how do you propose we get rid of it? We never planned for anything like this, after all.

ALTO: [b4] It's true that we didn't foresee it, but dealing with it should be easy enough.

[b2] I've done this plenty of times in training, when I still couldn't materialize things properly and made messes.

[a4] I'm going to give the distortion physical form so that we can interact with it.

MEIRIN: [a7] And then what...?

ALTO: [a7] Um... And then we beat it up until it comes undone?

[a5] It's not real sophisticated, I admit, but it should do the job.

TEAGAN: [b4] That... sounds utterly ridiculous. I'm sure you know how ridiculous that sounds.

[b3] But then again, this entire trip's been one ridiculous proposal after another out of you.

[a1] And most of your ideas have worked out fine.

[b2] I guess that's enough to bet on you and your intuition just this once.

ALTO: [c5] ...Wow. Coming from you, that's almost sentimental.

[...]

AUBREY: [a3] But, Alto. Will you really be all right doing this?

[turns around]

ALTO: [b5] [?] What do you mean?

AUBREY: [a3] I know that even just making the instruments is hard on you.

And the way you collapsed after everything in Anacrusis --

[...]

ALTO: [b4] ...Aubrey, look.

[a4] It's nice you're worried about me, I appreciate that, but I'm going to do this. You can't stop me.

[c7] This might sound cold, but you don't have the right to stop me.

I know the risks to my body better than anyone else here.

[turns around]

[b4] I've lived my entire life with people acting like they had the right to tell me what to do with my body,

when nobody has that right.

[c6] It'd be arrogant of me to tell you that you're not allowed to worry after all the people you've lost.

[a4] But you don't get to make this decision for me, either.

[b4] It isn't going to have any impact on the performance. And there'll be plenty of time to rest after it.

[a4] Right now we need to be professional.

[c7] This can't wait any longer, you guys. This big snarl of power? Unless we break it down, it's just going to get worse.

AUBREY is the new TEAGAN

SAKI: [a6]She's right.

IT'S NOT OPPOSITE DAY

[a3] There are some things that are too important to worry about the risks.

MEIRIN: [a4] If we can't deal with this, we'll never be able to move forward.

...Alto's decided, and so have we.

[b3] Besides, as her ensemble members, it's our job to support her how we can so she won't have to bear too much of the burden alone.

[a5] Right?

[...]

AUBREY: [a3] ...Yes.

[a1] I understand.

now AUBREY is mindbroken

ALTO: [a3] All right.

[b2] ...Everybody get ready, this is probably gonna get nasty.

[c7] I'm gonna do it now --

ENDING 3 - THEY FUCKED UP

ROOF - Screen is black.

ALTO: [d4] Guh.....!!

{fades back up to reveal everyone lying on the ground}

Kh -- ah, shit.....!

[gets back up]

It's going to take more -- than --

[!]

[looks around and sees the comrades she's lost]

[d5] ...Everybody? Are you okay? ...Guys?

AUBREY: [b8] ...

TEAGAN: [b7] Damn it...

There was still -- so much I needed to do. That I wanted to do.

But I guess -- you reap what you sow after all.

SAKI: [c2] This is still better... than what I thought my death would be like.

So I don't mind all that much.

Alto -- I'm sorry I couldn't be of help.

MEIRIN: [c6] Yeah... I'm sorry, you guys.

ALTO: [d5] What are you all saying?! Teagan, Saki --

MEIRIN: [c6] No, it's no good.

I can't feel anything below the waist. It doesn't even hurt. I know I've lost too much blood.

...It's okay. We all knew it would end up like this if we screwed up.

ALTO: [d5] You didn't --

MEIRIN: [c6] Sorry. In the end it means... I'm going to leave the last mess for you to clean up, but...

I've gotta go on ahead.

ALTO: [d6] ...

[turns around]

.....

{red flash}

[d4] Ugh --!!

[d7] (...This is bad. ...I'm losing too much blood, too.)

(If it goes on like this I'm not going to have long, but there's no way I can back down now --)

{four flashes of light and BRAVURA, POETICO, TACET, and SOLENNE appear, ALTO turns around}

[!]

ALTO: [d5] ...You all...

[turns to ALTO]

BRAVURA: Alto Cantabile. We shall serve as thy ensemble in their place.

[turns to BRAVURA]

[!]

ALTO: [d6] But -- if you guys are the anchors in the Tuning... Your bodies won't...

[turns to ALTO]

POETICO: [mu] We know, silly. We came here prepared.

[turns to ALTO]

SOLENNE: ...I despise you, and I hate everything your family stands for.

{ALTO turns to SOLENNE}

But as long as there's no other way to save this world, that doesn't matter. This is a cause that I will gladly give my life for.

[...]

[turns to ALTO]

TACET: We're going to help.

ALTO: [d6] ...

[d7] ...Oh. I see.

[turns to the slime]

I'm going to drag you all into this, then. I'm sorry.

SOLENNÉ: Will you be able to manage darkness and light? This wasn't what the original ensemble setup was like.

ALTO: [d7] I can do it.

[d8] ...I'm going to use everything I have to manipulate the "threads" as soon as I rip this thing apart.

There's not going to be a next time, so I trust you to follow my lead.

{all the spirits face the slime}

BRAVURA: ...Worry not. ...It is an honor.

ALTO: [d7] ...Yeah. The same to all of you.

[d8]There's no time. I'm gonna do it now.

DRAWING: ALTO is Cirno.

POLYPHONY - DAISY and LUCY, the characters I have omitted since they're non-essential, appear.

[!]

LUCY: Oh?

[closes the door and walks to DAISY]

...Daisy, what on earth are you doing out here? It's still storming so hard, you're going to get sick.

[turns to LUCY]

DAISY: ...I-I'm all right.

...And, look, Lucy. It's different. This snow is nothing like the storm that's been going on for so long.

[turns downward]

...It's so gentle and soft. It's like flowers.

LUCY: [*] ...Jeez, you're such a hopeless romantic. Whatever, come back inside before you freeze your nose off.

[turns to LUCY]

DAISY: [iq] Oh, I know! Why don't you get your coat and come out here to watch it with me?

It's so tranquil and calm... It's snowing, but I feel so warm inside... it's so funny. I want you to feel it too.

LUCY: [*] ...Sheesh. Fine, if it'll make you come back in like a sensible person.

[///] I-it's not like I think that sounds nice or anything.

It's like one of my Japanese animes

DAISY: [<3] Heehee. You're so easy to persuade.

[jumps]

LUCY: [#] S-shut up. I can't appreciate the view when you're being all noisy!

DAISY: [<3] Ehehe.

ROLL CREDITS

SHIT IS BLACK

SCHERZO: ...Everybody's gone, huh... It's gonna be quiet in this village from now on.

LUMINOSO: Yes. But those children -- Bravura and Solenne, and Poetico and Tacet, and the human children too...

They chose to give their lives for this. We must not begrudge them their decision.

SCHERZO: I know. ...Hey, what are we going to do now?

LUMINOSO: ...The sacrifice of Alto Cantabile has bought us a few more precious centuries before the world's climate will become unstable again.

And we have learned something we cannot turn our eyes from anymore.

The Cantabile system has long since become unsustainable.

...If we wish to avert this planet's demise instead of postponing it, then it is long past time for us to take action ourselves.

SCHERZO: ...I guess you're right.

LUMINOSO: It will be quiet here in the north with all of them gone, but... we must busy ourselves with the next steps soon.

It is already spring. We must go, if we don't want to dishonor what they stood for.

SCHERZO: Yeah...

.....

...Hey, Luminoso? You keep going all quiet, it's not like you. What is it?

LUMINOSO: Oh... it isn't anything much.

I was just listening to the echoes of her song.

.....

It's time, Scherzo.

SCHERZO: ...

Is there really no alternative...?

LUMINOSO: Humanity has proven itself ill-equipped to protect this planet from catastrophe.

They do not value the threat of extinction if it is moving at glacial speeds,

therefore, we must move ahead with a more... direct... device of destruction

so that Armageddon enters the forefront of their minds as an immediate reality rather than a distant possibility.

It's time for us to make ourselves known and seize the reins of power.

SCHERZO: ...I don't have to tell you that if this goes awry, it will cause even more damage to the balance of nature...

LUMINOSO: I'm afraid that's a risk we'll have to take.

The era of nuclear deterrence is the only path forward to maintaining order.

We must initiate the program.

SCHERZO:

...Metal Gear...

W0000000000000000000000000000AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH

ENDING 2 - THEY DON'T FUCK UP

ROOF - Slime got the gat.

ALTO: [a3] [mu] ...Sigh. That ought to take care of that.

TEAGAN: [b3] That was tough, but we managed to win somehow...

[checks up on the rest of the g's]

[b4] Is everyone still okay to play?

[turns to tell this nigga is a straight-up busta]

AUBREY: [b6] I'm... okay.

[turns around to tell that she's a real OG and won't get flustered by some spunk unless it's up in her ho (SAKI)]

MEIRIN: [a1] Yeah.

[b5] ...Actually, it's kind of nice.

[b2] [<>] I was a little nervous after all, but the fight tired all that out of me and now I feel refreshed.

TEAGAN: [b2] That doesn't make any sense, but I ges what you mean.

MEIRIN: [a2] Heheheh.

SAKI: [a4] Yes...

[turnin' to give this nigga a piece of his mind]

[a1] I don't sense any further disturbance, so we ought to be all right.

[turns to tell her lazy-ass niggaz to get it the fuck together]

ALTO: [c5] Okay. Then, let's get started.

DRAWINGS - They're doing that thing that helps save the planet but they're all dolled up.

ALTO: [b4] ...

TEAGAN: [a4] That was...

[...]

MEIRIN: [b4] It was perfect.

[b3] It was really perfect.

TEAGAN: [a2] It was even better than I'd hoped for. Yeah.

AUBREY: [b6] What is it, I wonder... This feeling.

[a1] Like all the murkiness and gloom have just been washed away by the wind and rain...

[a2] It's a feeling like the blue sky.

{TEAGAN, MEIRIN and AUBREY are [!] by snow}

MEIRIN: [a1] Oh... It's snowing again.

[looks around before returning to her normal orientation]

so I guess she's still a FAG

[b6] [?] But... this feels different, somehow.

[...]

[walks to the edge]

SAKI: [c3] Yes.

MEIRIN: [b4] [!] Eh? Saki, you...

SAKI: [c3] We've done it.

{slowly pans upward}

The seasons, the weather... It's already all going back to the way it's meant to be.

{panning stops}

...We've done it. I can still feel the song deep in my bones.

...This snow... it's clean. It's beautiful.

[looks upward]

MEIRIN: [b3] [!] Look!!

[speedwalks to SAKI's side]

[a2] [<3] If you're looking closely at the clouds, there's a rainbow!

{SAKI looks at MEIRIN who is jumping}

{not off the edge unfortunately}

TEAGAN: [a3] [ugh] Ah, hey, standing that close to the edge of the wall's dangerous, cut it out!

[walks up to them, but not quite to the edge]

[]*

[turns around to look at the rest of 'em]

AUBREY: [a2] [mu] Ehehe.

{pans down}

ALTO: [a8] (This... is okay, right? I've done the right thing, haven't I?)

[stops panning and eyes slightly close]

[c6] (...It's okay to rest, then. Right?)

[b4] (It's okay -- to stop.)

[eyes close]

MEIRIN: [a6] [mu] Being up here feels so great, I could go for an encore!

[...]

[turns around]

[b4] [?] Huh? ...Alto, why are you still hanging around back there?

{everyone else turns to ALTO, who is now [zzz]}

DRAWING: ALTO actually looks cute and the drawing nails the clouds. Good job.

TEAGAN: ...I can't believe it. She fell asleep still sitting in her chair.

SAKI: Now, now. Let's let her rest for a while.

She's been working very hard for a long time... She's earned her rest.

{back in-game}

AUBREY: [a8] ...

{now everyone's at the dock; ALTO and AUBREY are looking at the ocean side by side, the rest are hanging back}

ALTO: [b4] ...I can't believe it's already time.

[a7] I never thought a whole five months could pass by that fast.

MEIRIN: [a3] Yeah.

[turns to face the others]

ALTO: [a1] What are you guys going to do?

{AUBREY turns to the others}

SAKI: [a1] Meirin and I have decide to go back south.

[a4] It's been some time since I've visited home...

[a5] Well, my parents and neighbors will likely be shocked to see me escorting a beautiful girl,

[a2] but I don't mind having to sort out a few misunderstandings.

[a1] I want to introduce Meirin to my parents, and I want some time to think a few things over.

"Hey, mom and dad, I want you to meet my jailbait fuckbuddy."

AUBREY: [a1] It will be sad to say goodbye, but it's comforting to know that the two of you will be together.

[a2] I have faith that you can look after each other.

MEIRIN: [c5] Yeah.

[a1] I don't know how long we're actually all going to be taking the same route,

but it'd be nice if we can stay together for a while longer.

[a2] I am looking forward to meeting Saki's parents, though.

[a5] I've decided that I'm sticking with him, after all.

[a1] And... I still don't intend to go back home, but I'm thinking of maybe sending my parents a letter.

[a7] Those guys haven't heard from me in a long time, and I at least want everybody to know I'm okay.

[b4] I think I owe my little sisters and the cook an explanation, too.

TEAGAN: [a1] I'm going back home, too.

[a4] I do want to travel more and get to see more of the world, but... I've had plenty of time to think here.

[b4] I know there are some things I need to take care of at home.

[b3] And having a break from responsibility would be nice, I can't lie.

ALTO: [a2] Heh. Yeah, I think that'd probably be good for you.

[a6] And... seriously, go make up with Tristan already!

TEAGAN: [a5] [ugh] Ugh. I know I need to do it without you telling me.

MEIRIN: [b4] Aubrey, I know you're going with Alto, but...

AUBREY: [a2] Yes. My options are limited, but I would want to be with her anyway.

[turns to AUBREY]

ALTO: [a7] ...And if I'm ever going to cure them of this mindset, I've got to take them out of Harmonia anyway.

[turns to ALTO]

AUBREY: [a2] I'm still not sure why she keeps saying things like that, but if it's with Alto, I don't mind leaving.

MEIRIN: [a1] [C>] Haha...

{ALTO and AUBREY turn back to the group}

MEIRIN: [b4] Still. alto, you've been pretty cagey about what you're actually doing.

[a7] Don't tell me you actually are going to go back home?

[...]

ALTO: [b4] ...No. I've already made my decision.

[b2] I guess I just don't want to deal with people telling me that it's not responsible.

[c6] ...I've given up eighteen years of my life, doing everything my family's ordered. I just can't do it anymore.

[a2] I'm going to use my quest as cover and run away from home.

[a5] Well, they'll probably realize it in the end when I just don't show up, but it's the thought that counts.

[...]

TEAGAN: [b2]So you finally came to that conclusion on your own.

ALTO: [b5] Hm?

TEAGAN: [b2] It used to drive me half crazy,

wondering if it was your sense of duty or just plain ignorance that kept you from cutting your losses and leaving.

ALTO: [b4]Well... I know that this isn't how a normal, healthy person would think. I know that now.

[c6] But when you grow up in a cage, "not being able to escape" is just how things are.

It never would've occurred to the old me.

[b4] But I've let myself become way too honest to my feelings since I left home.

I know that I can't go back to living the way I used to.

[a4] I don't have any intention of continuing the Cantabile system.

Even if I change my mind about having kids someday, I couldn't ever put someone else through what my family did to me.

If I want to pass Bowling down, I'll do that on my own terms.

[a6] ...And the world's gotten way too complacent, surviving on the Cantabile family's suffering.

[c7] It's time for humans to change their ways and try being more eco-friendly by themselves.

[...]

SAKI: [a2]I'm proud of you.

ALTO: [a7] Haha, that's kind of embarrassing, but thanks.

[a1] Anyway... I've been talking with some of the tourists in Polyphony, and you know those two prince brothers?

[a2] Apparently they have some similar traditions to Harmonia in their country, so I'd like to go see for myself.

[a5] Personally I wouldn't mind staying in Harmonia -- this is the first place I've ever really felt at home, you know?

[a7] But it's the first place my family would think to look.

MEIRIN: [a1] ...I see.

[a3]We're really all going to go our separate ways, huh... It doesn't feel real.

ALTO: [a1] Aubrey and I may move around a lot, but we'll know where you two and Teagan are headed, so we can always write.

[a3] And besides... as big as the world seems, it doesn't go on forever.

[c5] I'm -- sure we'll meet again someday.

TEAGAN: [b2] ...Instinct again?

ALTO: [a2] More or less.

TEAGAN: [b3] [*] Sigh. ...Well, I guess if you weren't still like this, you wouldn't be Alto.

ALTO: [a6] [*] What does that even mean?

SAKI: [a5] Now, now, you two.

[turns around to the ocean]

[!]

AUBREY: [a2] Oh...! Look, I think I can see the ship!

{SAKI looks out to the ocean}

[jumps]

MEIRIN: [b3] [!] Where?

[turns to the ocean]

ALTO: [a1] Over that way.

[c5] ...I wonder if the captain's had a good winter.

NOW AT THIS POINT, YOU MIGHT BE SAYING "BUT WAIT, SCRIBEANON, THAT'S ONLY ENDING TWO, DID YOU FUCKING LIE TO ME YOU SODOMITE? HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO YOUR MOTHER? I'LL BEAT THE GAY OUT OF YOU BOY AND IF I YOU AND IF I CATCH YOU HANGING AROUND THAT FAGGOT FRIEND OF YOURS YOU ARE OUT OF THIS HOUSE." WELL, UNFORTUNATELY, IT TURNS OUT THAT THERE ARE BONUS DUNGEONS THAT MUST BE COMPLETE BEFORE THE GRAND TUNING, MEANING THAT I HAVE TO GO THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE NINE MORE HOURS OF FOOTAGE.

ENDING 1 - I'M FUCKED UP

IT'S 1 AM AND I WANT TO GO TO BED, UNFORTUNATELY THIS SECTION ISN'T AS CONSISTENT WITH FORMATTING. HELL, I DON'T THINK THAT ANYONE WILL EVEN BOTHER READING THIS. THE GREENTEXT IN THE HOTSPRINGS PART IS BANTER, AND AFTER THAT IT'S NOT. THIS IS ALL SIDEQUESTS BY THE WAY UNTIL I SAY OTHERWISE.

STAVE - HOTSPRING EXTERIOR - They read some shit about hotsprings on a poster.

MEIRIN: [b3] Ooh, a hot spring?!

[a2] I didn't know they had one here! We have to stay!

TEAGAN: [b3] I know this is the part where I'm supposed to disagree and all,
but honestly, a hot spring would make up for a lot.

AUBREY: [a2] Oh... this is still open? I think I remember Lord Altair taking us here once.

ALTO: [a7] ??? What's the big deal? Isn't a hot spring basically just a hot bath?

MEIRIN: [a7]Wh -- Alto, haven't you ever been to one before?!!

ALTO: [a7] Nope.

MEIRIN: [b2] Hot springs are like a gift from the planet! They're really good for you!!
Once you stay in one it will bring you back to life!

ALTO: [b5] Really?

SAKI: [a1] Yes, I believe that's the case.

[a5] I've never been able to stay in one because of the expenses, so...

MEIRIN: [a8] You too?!

[a4] That settles it, we have to take a break here.

TEAGAN: [b8] Can't we wait until after the World Tuning, though?

[b4] It may only be a day or two, but aren't we on a time limit?

ALTO: [a5] Well, we've got until the end of December still, so I guess it's not a big deal.

[a7] And I mean, we have money.

TEAGAN: [b2] I guess.

ALTO: [a5] I don't really see the point either, but it looks like it'd make the others happy.

TEAGAN: [a1] Well... they're not really exaggerating, hot springs are nice.

[a4] But let's at least go inside and have a look at the lobby before we decide that we're doing this.

HOTSPRINGS - LOBBY - They talk with the CLERK (female.)

HOT SPRINGS CLERK: Would you like to stay at the hot springs?

One night at the resort will cost 25,000 Sil.

{yes}

{now the entire quintet appears}

So this will be a reservation for five, yes?

Will you need separate rooms?

ALTO: [a1] No, we're fine with one room for everyone.

HOT SPRINGS CLERK: Understood.

Now, concerning the matter of mixed or separate bathing --

[large font]

TEAGAN + SAKI + AUBREY: [xp] Mixed bathing or no deal.

{HOT SPRING CLERK [C>]}

[ALTO turns around to the group]

ALTO: [a7] Whoa, stereo.

[MEIRIN turns around to the group]

MEIRIN: [a7] Wah, you don't have to be so loud.

TEAGAN: [b3] Look, half the time when I use public bathhouses I get mistaken for a guy because of how I look and talk.

[a5] [#] And it is annoying as fuck. I'd rather not deal with the squawking and the panicking.

{turns to MEIRIN and ALTO I guess?}

SAKI: [b3] And when I use public bathhouses, I'm almost always mistaken for a woman because of how I speak and dress.

I'm very lucky if it's only a nuisance.

[c1] [ugh] On a bad day, I'm risking my life and my virtue. It is terrifying. I would rather not.

About as virtuous as a Catholic priest in an all-boy's elementary school

=====THE SHIGGY DIGGY ZONE=====

[turns to the rest of the group]

AUBREY: [b7] [*] If there are only baths available for men and for women, what about me?

[a4] Do I have to go with the side with the most people with bodies that look like mine,
even though I'm not the same gender?

THAT IS KINDA HOW IT WORKS

That kind of segregation is outmoded and bigoted, and no matter how much I'd like to use the hot
springs,

"that's old-fashioned" says the two-thousand year old

if these are my only options I will find somewhere else to take my custom.

=====THE SHIGGY DIGGY ZONE=====

MEIRIN: [b4] Huh, I guess you guys have got a good point there.

HOT SPRING CLERK: [C>] Ahem...

[everyone returns to their original orientation]

We do have mixed bathing available, so please don't worry about that.

[C>] Actually, the men-only bath is still under renovation, so we would not be able to accommodate you
all if you had wanted separate bathing...

TEAGAN: [a1] Oh, well that's okay then.

HOT SPRING CLERK: Staying the night will also guarantee you dinner and breakfast.

MEIRIN: [a2] So I get a break from cooking! That's nice.

ALTO: [a7] But you love to cook.

MEIRIN: [b4] You get a little tired of it when you're cooking most of the week.

[b1] [xp] I mean, I get left to wash the dishes by myself most of the time.

SAKI: [b3] I do try to help.

MEIRIN: [b1] You're the only one.

AUBREY: [b1] [C>] Umm... anyway, I guess let's enjoy our stay.

[turns to AUBREY methinks]

MEIRIN: [a8] You could at least tell me you're going to help with chores!!!

HOT SPRING CLERK: [mu] Oh, my. It's been quiet here because of the renovations and the bad weather, so it will be nice to entertain such lively guests.

TEAGAN: [b3] [ugh] I. Uh. I'm sorry already.

HOT SPRING CLERK: I'll have someone show you to your room right away.

RESORT - BEDROOM - The room is a hybrid of Western and Japanese design; MEIRIN jumps and turns around from looking at a wall.

MEIRIN: [b3] [<>] Wow, it's pretty big in here.

MEIRIN should come take a look in my pants if she wants to know what big really is

[walks a bit and looks at MEIRIN]

SAKI: [a1] It looks like we'll all have our own futons, too.

[TEAGAN looks at MEIRIN]

MEIRIN: [a2] [mu] This is kinda nice.

[a6] I mean, in most inns we have to double up on beds and everybody falls asleep right away.

[a5] So this is our first chance to all stay in the same room while we get to relax.

[turns to MEIRIN]

ALTO: [a7] [C>] It's also good that we're getting to do this now instead of before.

TEAGAN: [b4] [ugh] Ugh, yeah.

SAKI: [c1] Goodness gracious, yes.

[a5] If we had tried this earlier on our journey, the poor resort keeper would have a murder case to solve by morning.

THAT'S RIGHT TEAGAN WE DIDN'T FORGET WE FUCKING HATE YOU AND WILL NEVER, EVER FORGIVE YOU

[turns to the group]

AUBREY: [b1] [C>] It was never really that bad, was it...?

[turns to AUBREY]

ALTO: [a5] Aha...ha.....

MEIRIN: [b6] [C>] Mmm...

TEAGAN: [b3] ...

AUBREY: [b7] Mm, yes, I guess that was a silly question.

[looks rapidly between the party members]

ALTO: [a7] More importantly, what do we do now that we're here?

[?] Just sort of hang out until they bring dinner, or...?

[jumps]

[c4] No no no!

[b3] [<>] We decided to stay here to use the hot springs, so we're gonna go to the bath!

[a2] Right away!

[jumps]

And we'll use it again later if we want, too!!!

[looks at MEIRIN]

ALTO: [a7] Right now?

MEIRIN: [a2] [<3] Yeah!

[faces ALTO]

SAKI: [a2] I admit, I am excited to finally get to try one.

ALTO: [a7] I guess it wouldn't hurt...

MEIRIN: [b3] Right?? So let's go!

DRAWING - SAKI IS WEARING HIS TOWEL IN THE WATER TO COVER HIS CHEST DESPITE BEING A GUY, and MEIRIN looks, notably yet unsurprisingly, stupid as fuck. Teagan, however, got dem toned legs and arms and is looking 10/10 as always.

MEIRIN: Ahh, back to life!

AUBREY: Alto, you've never been to one of these before, right? What do you think?

ALTO: It surprised me that you have to take a bath before actually getting in the bath.

MEIRIN: Well, the hot spring water itself is for everybody, so the point is to keep it as clean as possible.

ALTO: That makes sense.

SAKI: Where I'm from, it's customary for the whole household to share bathwater, so I'm used to it.

It was a bit of a shock when I first traveled to countries that do things differently.

{pause}

TEAGAN: Hey Alto, how do your hands feel?

ALTO: Hm? ...Hey, now that you mention it...

TEAGAN: Bathing in natural hot springs is good for the joints.

I read up on it once, but I forget whether it's the minerals in the water or the temperature or water pressure that does it.

Something like that, anyway.

SAKI: You can always go look it up again later. I'm glad that's true at any rate.

MEIRIN: Just don't stay in for too long, or all the blood's gonna go to your head.

ALTO: Okay, okay.

TEAGAN: I'm kinda glad we've pretty much got the place to ourselves.

ALTO: Nobody to complain that we're too talkative or anything.

MEIRIN: Though, I gotta say... the company is making me feel like an underdeveloped kid.

BIG FAT KHAZAR TATS

Teagan, you have such nice muscles! I'm so jealous!! What do you eat to get that buff?!

this is the first time TEAGAN has been complimented

TEAGAN: What do you mean, what do I eat? Working out does more for your muscles mass than your diet.

TEAGAN is actually wrong here. Diet is more than half of exercise.

ALTO: She does pushups like every night.

MEIRIN: Geh, really? I don't think I could keep up with that...

TEAGAN: Why worry about it? You look fine.

TEAGAN is also wrong here. There is not a word in the English lexicon to describe MEIRIN's unattractiveness.

MEIRIN: You're not fair. Everything you have done for the past few weeks is not fair. Why do you keep saying things like that at me? Just stop.

TEAGAN: Why are you getting mad all of the sudden?!

ALTO: Ahaha... Don't worry about it.

RESORT - BEDROOM - Everyone is in bed except SAKI, who is by the candlelight.

ALTO: [a2] Hot springs are pretty nice.

MEIRIN: [b2] [<>] Didn't I tell you?

ALTO: [a3] [<3] Fresh seafood is also really nice.

TEAGAN: [a1] Yeah, it's been a while since I've had crab or lobster this good.

[a2] And the matcha was excellent.

ALTO: [a7] You don't drink anything except matcha and earl grey and oolong, after all...

[c5] I guess it must have been pretty nice if even you're saying so.

[...]

[a6] Though personally I would've preferred coffee.

MUH COFFEE

TEAGAN: [b3] You're a genius performer and all, but you just don't understand how good tea is.

I am surprised that there has been no tea pun yet

[turns to the group]

SAKI: [a3] Now, now, don't fight.

[turns back to the candle]

It's late, so I'm turning the lights off, all right?

[keisters the candle and lays down in bed]

MEIRIN: [a2] So... what should we do until we go to sleep?

AUBREY: [a2] How about scary stories?

SAKI: [c1] [ugh] Ugh...

MEIRIN: [b4] Well, for the sake of Saki, who doesn't like scary things, I think we should do something else.

[a6] [mu] We could talk about romance, if we could have Teagan go to bed first.

TEAGAN: [b8] [xp] Don't put me to bed so early, who the hell do you think you are?

MEIRIN: [a1] ...Figured. So, anybody else have ideas?

ALTO: [a7] We could just go to sleep?

MEIRIN: [a7] Ehhhh? But that's so boring!!

ALTO: [a7] Actually, Aubrey's already...

{AUBREY [zzz]}

SAKI: [a2] Oh, my.

MEIRIN: [a8] You guys are no fun.

RESORT - LOBBY - Morning.

ALTO: [c5] That was nice.

TEAGAN: [a2] Yeah, we should come back once we're done with the World Tuning.

SAKI: [a2] Yes, we may as well reward ourselves then.

MEIRIN: [a5] More partying and less sleeping next time, though.

AUBREY: [b5] ...

{talks with MAID}

MAID: Oh, you're the guests from before!

We wound up making too much for breakfast because we were so happy to have customers...

Please, take them. They're still fresh, and they're free.

{20 waffles GET!}

[mu] Please come again!

{talks with HOT SPRING CLERK}

HOT SPRING CLERK: Thank you for staying with us!

{talks with KNIGHT (f?)}

KNIGHT: Hey there.

I'm the captain of the knights stationed in this town.

It's too cold to go outside and exercise in this weather, so we're mostly here at the hot springs to serve as security.

Peeping is sexual harassment, which is a criminal offense here in Harmonia.

Don't try anything ridiculous, or we'll have to arrest you, and that won't be any fun for anybody involved.

{STOP! YOU'VE VIOLATED THE LAW. PAY THE COURT A FINE OR SERVE YOUR SENTENCE.}

{talks to the APPRENTICE in her house in Dal Segno}

APPRENTICE: [!] Oh, hey, good timing!

ALTO: [a1] ?

APPRENTICE: If you're free right now, would you mind doing me a favor?

MEIRIN: [a1] Well, we seriously owe you one, so if it's something we can do, then sure.

APPRENTICE: Oh, thank you!

See, I think I mentioned before that I'm trying to get an apprenticeship with the master potioneer in Stave...

Lately I finally got a letter of recommendation, but at this rate I'm not going to be able to get it delivered

until spring.

What with the monsters and all, it's been too dangerous to send messenger birds except on national business...

But I'll probably have to remake this potion if I wait for too long, so if you guys wouldn't mind...

[C>] Would you deliver it to her for me?

ALTO: [c5] Sure.

{Letter GET! Potion GET!}

The master potioneer lives in the northwest corner of the main part of town. Just give them to her and say they're from me, and, uh...

I guess let me know what she says.

ALTO: [a2] Okay, no problem.

MEIRIN: [a2] I'm sure you'll get in! I mean, you saved Saki and everything!

APPRENTICE: I hope so...

{4:19:05 - meets the MASTER in her house}

{Letter GIVE! Potion GIVE!}

MASTER: [*] Sigh... It never ends.

I hardly ever take apprentices, I don't have the patience to teach people from the basics onward.

Unless they're really the best of the best, don't bother! I keep saying that and yet I get buried under applications every year.

[C>] It's good to be ambitious, but honestly...

ALTO: [a6] It wouldn't hurt to at least look at the letter and the potion, would it?

SAKI: [a3] Yes. I owe my life to her.

MASTER: [*] This might sound heartless, dead, but a decent potioneer saves lives every day with her work.

That's not anything out of the ordinary, and it's certainly no reason to saddle myself with an apprentice.

MEIRIN: [a4] Just give her a chance!

[b4] Look, there's -- there's reasons why her saving Saki was something not just anybody could do.

SAKI: [a4] I couldn't take the generally used antidote due to a combination of prior health issues and the severity of the poisoning.

[a1] The apothecary in Dal Segno was able to brew an alternative potion using hard-to-get ingredients in time to save my life.

MASTER: "Prior health issues"?

SAKI: [a2] Oh, yes. I have the misfortune of many common medicines not agreeing with my constitution.

ALTO: [a5] Oh yeah, that reminds me.

[a4] That time you came down with a fever, Meirin had to go all over the place to find the right kind of medicine for you.

[...]

MASTER: Hmm. ...This is an interesting potion.

From the color and texture, fresh mallow and borage were used in this. Those are difficult enough to get in this season, let alone to handle.

AUBREY: [a1] We helped procure both of those flowers, but we didn't have anything to do with the brewing.

MASTER:Hmmm. All right. Then I'll make a special exception just this once.

ALTO: [b5] You'll read the letter?!

MASTER: No, I have no interest in other people's opinions of her. All I want to know is what she can do.

I'm giving her an admission test.

Tell her that I expect her to brew the mixtures for a Full Sharp and Full Flat. I want samples as soon as she can get them.

ALTO: [b4] Okay, we'll pass it on.

{talks with APPRENTICE back at her house}

APPRENTICE: [ugh] Ughh, a Full Sharp and a Full Flat, huh...

She sure does have high standards.

ALTO: [a5] Come to think of it, you don't really see those sold in stores too often.

APPRENTICE: Generally speaking, the better a potion is, the harder it is to make.

You need to be really finicky about the brewing conditions and ingredients or it won't come out to exact standards.

MEIRIN: [b6] Huh, sounds complicated.

APPRENTICE: Believe it or not, all kinds of Sharp and Flat are based on the same recipe.

But simplified versions won't yield very effective results, so producing a high-grade potion depends a lot on your grade of ingredients.

TEAGAN: [a1] So, do you think you'll be able to do it?

APPRENTICE: [*] I don't know... Triples are generally the best I've made.

But I don't want to give up here, so I'll give it a try anyway.

There are some ingredients I'm out of, but... will you help me get them?

ALTO: [a3] Well... In for a penny, in for a pound, as they say.

[a2] And we owe you still.

[a1] What do you need?

APPRENTICE: Thanks.

I'm out of vanilla extract, and I need volcanic spring water and extra high-proof cooking alcohol.

MEIRIN: [a2] Vanilla extract we can just buy in Bel Canto.

[a1] Spring water we can probably get at the hot springs in Stave.

[b4] Where do we go for the alcohol?

{just get a syringe and pull it out of your vein, MEIRIN}

APPRENTICE: If you ask for some at the pub in Bel Canto, they'll probably be able to spare you some.

AUBREY: [a2] It sounds like we'll be able to get everything easily...

ALTO: [a1] Okay, then let's go.

APPRENTICE: Sorry about all the hassle, and thank you.

{4:22:14 - talks with HOT SPRING CLERK}

HOT SPRING CLERK - Water from the springs?

I don't really understand, but that's no problem.

{Spring Water GET!}

{4:23:10 - talks with GRUFF DUDE in Bel Canto inn}

GRUFF DUDE: It's never a good feeling to know that everything's out of your hands.

Especially as an adult...

Whatever else you can say about booze, that doesn't bother me when I crawl into a bottle at least.

{talks to BARTENDER (m)}

BARTENDER: We've got plenty of cooking sherry, and you're working so hard for all of us. Sure, you can have a bottle for free.

{Alcohol GET!}

{4:24:26 - talks to APPRENTICE back at her house}

ALTO: [c5] Here's everything!

{Vanilla, Alcohol, and Water GIVE!}

APPRENTICE: Thanks! I'm going to get started right away, just hang on for a little while until I'm done.

{quick transition}

Okay, would you guys deliver these two potion samples please?

{Potion x 2 GET!}

ALTO: [c5] No problem!

{4:25:52 - talks to MASTER at her house}

{Potion x 2 GIVE!}

MASTER: Hmm... Yes, these are made well enough.

All right. I will accept this girl as an apprentice if she passes this one last test.

MEIRIN: [a8] You're still going to test her?!

[a7] You sure have high standards...

{sounds like someone I know...}

MASTER: I have low tolerance for incompetence, is all.

If she can do this, then I know that not only is she someone I can train, she's someone I will be able to work with afterward.

ALTO: [a4] Okay, so what's the test?

MASTER: Tell her to make me a Treble.

{4:26:58 - APPRENTICE again}

APPRENTICE: [!] A Treble?!

Sigh... I've got a recipe, but...

[ugh] I'm out of gladious and nightshade AND larkspur. And this stuff takes a couple days' brewing to make.

ALTO: [a1] So, where should we go to help get the flowers?

APPRENTICE: [<3] You guys spoil me.

Um, larkspur grows all over the place in the south. There should be some still growing around the Forest of Preludes, so you can pick it there.

Nightshade... should be growing in Maggiore still.

I don't know about gladious, though. It's not native to this general area.

I think that the Prime Minister grows some, but...

ALTO: [a1] Okay.

[a5] Let's see... Larkspur will be easy to find, so let's take care of that first.

We can go ask the mayor about gladious, and then swing by to Maggiore to pick up the nightshade on the way back.

SAKI: Yes. That way we can talk to Solenne about gladious if things don't work out as the Prime Minister's.

APPRENTICE: Hey, in the meantime, I'm going to keep making Full Sharps and Full Flats.

I can sell them to you here if you ever need any, so just let me know, okay?

ALTO: [c5] That'd be a big help, sure.

APPRENTICE: Okay, thanks ahead of time, and good luck.

{buys potions}

APPRENTICE: Thank you!

{4:34:55 - talks with PM}

PM: [!] Oh, Alto.

What brings you here today?

ALTO: [a7] Mm... Actually I'm on an errand for someone who's helped us.

[b2] We've heard that you grow gladius? We'd like to borrow some, if that's okay.

PM: [C>] I do keep some gladius, but...

Here, allow me to show you.

{go to PM's bedroom, where the gladius is on the table}

Here it is, but as you can see, it hasn't been doing very well...

TEAGAN: [b4] "Hasn't been doing very well"? It looks mostly dead to me.

{faces PLAYER}

PM: [ugh] I wouldn't mind your borrowing it, but with it in this condition I don't know if it will be of any use.

ALTO: [a5] Mmm...

[a1] Well, we're actually on our way to go see a really powerful plant mage. She might be able to heal it.

{turns to PM}

[a2] We'll borrow it and bring it back either way.

PM: All right, let me know how things work out.

{Flower GET!}

{4:35:55 TRIPS - talks with SOLENNE at Maggiore}

SOLENNE: [!] You want me to WHAT?

ALTO: [a1] It'd be easy for you to heal a little plant like this, wouldn't it?

[a2] Oh, and we also want to know if we can get any nightshade around here.

[]*

SOLENNE: Why should I...

[iq]

.....Hmph. I won't do it for free.

MEIRIN: [a7] Eh, so you want money?

SOLENNE: [xp] Fool, why should I need your filthy human currency?

...No, if I am to do a favor for the likes of you, I will have you do an errand for me in return.

ALTO: [a7] Sure, if it's something we can do.

SOLENNE: Lately the ghosts have been annoyingly raucous. Go and deal with them.

SAKI: [c1] "Ghosts"?

TEAGAN: [a1] We just have to defeat them, right? That's not a problem.

AUBREY: [a1] Where do we have to go to find these ghosts?

SOLENNE: They mill about at the bottom of the well. it's all overgrown; you can climb down easily.

ALTO: [a2] Okay. We'll take care of them first and then we can talk about flowers after.

SOLENNE: See that you do.

{4:36:39 - enter well, which is more like a dungeon; PLAYER is [!]}

MEIRIN: [a7] Wha... I thought this place was just a well?

TEAGAN: It's all old stone... This secret room's been here for a while.

SAKI: [c1] I don't like this...

[a6] I can sense strong hatred and anguish.

{what is this? ACTUAL WORLDBUILDING?}

AUBREY: [a2] You relaly are easily frightened, aren't you? I'm surprised.

ALTO: [c6] No...

[b2] There's something really wrong with this place.

I can see why it'd attract restless spirits.

[b4] No wonder Solenne wanted someone to clean it out.

TEAGAN: [b4] Either way, let's get this over with.

{walks passed the gate and ALTO [!] is spooked by an S&M dungeon}

AUBREY: [a5] Eh...?

ALTO: [b3] What -- what the hell is this?!

SAKI: [a6] A cell... no, a mausoleum?

TEAGAN: [a4] Guys.

[b4] ...I can see why you wouldn't want to think about it.

[b5] But there are torture instruments here.

MEIRIN: [b6] So... this was a jail...

TEAGAN: [a4] A dungeon, more like.

[a3] Maybe it was just a cellar or something originally, but it's been converted into a prison.

ALTO: [b4] ...

{a bunch of stream viewers wait up ahead}

TEAGAN: [b5] Damn, there are a lot of them.

MEIRIN: [c5] I guess with a place like this... it'd be hard for them to move on...

SAKI: [a6] I can barely sense any semblance of intelligence from them.

{SAKI then stops looking at MEIRIN and turns to the viewers}

Only a mass of rage and pain and resentment... How horrible.

ALTO: [c6] ...

AUBREY: [a6] Is there really not any other way but to fight them? I feel sorry for them...

TEAGAN: [a4] It might seem harsh, but they say it's the best way to salvage what's left of their souls.

[a3] And we told Solenne we'd do it.

MEIRIN: [b4] I guess so. ...Sorry, you guys...

{4:46:04 - GHOST BUSTED}

ALTO: [b4] ...

SAKI: [A7] Oh? There's light from above... there must be another exit.

TEAGAN: [a4] Worth a look, I guess.

{they climb to a hidden grove littered with graves}

AUBREY: [a7] This is...!

MEIRIN: [b4] A graveyard?

{actually, MEIRIN, it's a cemetery. A graveyard is attached to a church.}

TEAGAN: [b8] ...I think it's probably more of a memorial.

[a1] The ground feels different from an actual grave site.

{turns to TEAGAN}

MEIRIN: [a7] Your earth magic comes in handy in the strangest places.

TEAGAN: [a5] [*] I can't help that. That's just how it is.

[...]

SAKI: [a4] This place is beautiful.

{all of them, excluding ALTO, are [!] and turn to SOLENNE who teleports behind them}

SOLENNNE: Have you finished my errand?

AUBREY: [a1] Oh! Yes.

[...]

ALTO: [b4] ...Solenne.

SOLENNNE: What?

ALTO: [b4] Those people whose ghosts you had us purge.

They were the human and spirit prisoners who died in the battles over Maggiore, weren't they?

{YOU DON'T FUCKING SAY}

{everyone turns to ALTO}

TEAGAN: [b1] !

SAKI: [a6] ...

MEIRIN: [a7] Wait, that's...

{WHY ARE THEY SURPRISED}

ALTO: [b4] So I'd really like to know what you meant by this.

SOLENNNE: ...You shouldn't have the luxury of forgetting the atrocities your ritual and your powers stand

atop. We don't, so neither should you.

ALTO: [b4] I haven't forgotten.

And there are many, many more atrocities in the Cantabiles' history than you know about.

[c6] ...In all likelihood my ancestors on both sides suffered and died there.

In all likelihood, I have relatives in both sets of jailors.

[c1] Those ghosts were almost certainly kin to me, and so were the people despicable enough to make them end up like that.

And I have no idea who I'm supposed to blame for the fact that we exist. I know that.

I've been thinking about that a lot, especially since Luminoso told me about my family's spirit blood.

[c2] So I would really like to know what you're playing at.

If you're trying to remind me that the likes of me shouldn't exist, well, I already understand that.

If you're trying to remind me to hate the world, you don't have to, because I already do.

TEAGAN: [b5] Alto --

ALTO: [b4] But I have already made up my mind to keep living.

[a4] I've already made up my mind that this world is still worth saving.

[c7] If you are attempting to change my mind...

{turns around counter-clockwise}

[e3] Well, I will be very angry.

{woah shit that was actually pretty fuckin cool}

SOLENNÉ: [!] Th -- that's not -- what kind of bizarre misunderstandings are you getting?!

{everyone turns to face SOLENNÉ}

[xp] I was just picking on you because I hate you humans asking me for things!!

All I wanted to do was give you a hard time!

ALTO: [a5] Hm, is that so.

[b2] I can kind of understand, but look here,

[a6] there are just some things that aren't okay even in the name of being kinda mean to people you don't like.

{jumps}

SOLENNE: [xp] I-I know that much!

...Anyway, you just wanted me to revive that potted plant and give you nightshade, right?!

AUBREY: [b1] (She doesn't want to apologize...)

MEIRIN: [b1] (She's really trying to avoid apologizing...)

{Gladious and Nightshade GET!}

SOLENNE: [///] Hmph!!

ALTO: [a5] Sigh...

[a4] Anyway, I guess let's take this stuff back to Dal Segno for now.

{4:49:35 - APPRENTICE shit again}

{larkspur, nightshade, and gladious GIVE!}

APPRENTICE: You guys are seriously amazing.

This is going to take all day to brew, so come back tomorrow to pick up the sample, okay?

ALTO: [a3] Okay. ...I guess let's go home for tonight.

{transitions to PM office and it's just TEAGAN and AUBREY with the PM oddly enough}

PM: So you were able to heal it...!

AUBREY: [a1] Yes.

[a2] Um, the lady whom we had treat it apparently had an easy time with it.

PM: Thank you. ...By the way, where is the rest of your party?

TEAGAN: [a1] They're taking a break back at the mansion.

[a2] Aubrey and I have got some errands to run anyway, so we volunteered to ferry this back too.

AUBREY: [a2] That's right.

PM: I see. Be careful on your way back, all right? It's cold tonight.

TEAGAN: [a2] We'll be fine, but thanks all the same.

{trnasitions to a child's room, so probably MEIRIN's; SAKI appears to be doing fortune-telling with ALTO while MEIRIN looks out a window}

SAKI: [a2] [mu] Let's see...

[a1] Oh, my. The seven of clubs, the three of diamonds, and the two of clubs...

[a4] Yes, this looking to be quite fortuitous indeed.

ALTO: [a7] [?] ...I'm so lost.

[a6] I know you said you were going to cast for whether the master potioneer is going to take her on, but I have no idea what any of that means.

{turns to ALTO}

SAKI: [a7] Really? I do suppose I could try to explain again, but...

ALTO: [a5] No, I get the feeling I wouldn't get it unless I actually tried to study it seriously.

SAKI: [a1] [<3] Now there's an answer I can accept.

{turns back to the cards}

[a2] Fortune telling is more complex than people think it is.

[...]

{turns around}

MEIRIN: [b4] Hey, Alto...

{turns to MEIRIN}

ALTO: [b5] [?] Hm?

MEIRIN: [b4] Are you okay?

ALTO: [a7] Huh? What are you talking about all of a sudden?

MEIRIN: [a3] I mean, with what we found in the Maggiore catacombs...

[a7] [C>] You got kind of scary for a minute back there.

ALTO: [a7] Oh, that.

[a2] Yeah, I kinda lost my temper a little.

MEIRIN: [a7] [ugh] ("A little"?)

ALTO: [a5] I think Solenne has a point in that it's important to not forget the atrocities of the past.

[a6] But even I can only take being called an abomination so many times before the blood starts rushing to my head.

[a7] You know?

[a1] Anyway, I'll be fine.

[a3] It was just physical proof of stuff we already knew, and it's not news to me that a lot of my ancestors were terrible.

SAKI: [a6] [...] ...Five of diamonds... nine of spades... two of spades...

[b3] Sigh. This never changes.

[b7] [*] I know, I know, I don't need you to rub it in.

{turns to SAKI}

ALTO: [b5] [?] Saki?

SAKI: [b8] Sigh...

{faces ALTO}

[a2] I'm going to go check on the tea and coffee downstairs, I'll be back soon.

ALTO: [a1] Okay.

{SAKI leaves}

[a5] [?] ...What was that about?

MEIRIN: [b6] [...] Let's see...

{walks a bit on ALTO's line but not to her}

[b4] [C>] Sigh. I bet he was telling his own fortune again.

[b1] He ought to know better by now, honestly.

[...]

[c5]Actually, Alto. There was another thing I wanted to talk about.

{faces MEIRIN}

ALTO: [a1] Hm? Sure.

MEIRIN: [a3] About Saki. ...You've already figured everything out, haven't you?

[...]

ALTO: [b4] Mmm.

[a8] I don't know that I'd say "everything".

[c6] Enough to make a good guess, maybe.

MEIRIN: [a3] Then...

ALTO: [b4] For now, I don't mean to say anything about it.

[a8] There's always the chance that I'm wrong, and I think he's probably has his own reasons for keeping quiet.

[c6] Badgering him about it won't make him any more willing to open up.

I won't be able to tell what I can do until I know the details of the situation.

And I'd rather just support him so that he knows it'll be okay when he's ready to talk about it.

[a3] Like he did for me back at the beginning, you know?

MEIRIN: [a3] I'm worried that he'll never be ready to talk about it, though.

[b4] I don't think he'd even have told me if I hadn't seen too much for him to hide it.

ALTO: [a3] I bet he will eventually.

[a1] You know what he said, when I went to find him on our last rehearsal night?

{pause}

[c5] "I want to live".

MEIRIN: [b6] ...

[c5]

ALTO: [c6] Meirin?

MEIRIN: [c5] No, it's just...

[b5] That's a relief.

{SAKI walks back into the room and MEIRIN turns [!]}

SAKI: [a2] I'm back, and I have the tea and coffee!

[a7] ...Oh my? You two look so serious.

[a2] Have I interrupted some sort of secret girls' talk?

{turns to SAKI}

ALTO: [b6] Oh, no, we were talking about you.

SAKI: [a5] [ugh] Perish that thought!

[a1] Let's discuss something more fun, shall we?

{4:52:36 - transitions to the middle of the night with ALTO lying on her bed}

ALTO: [b4] ...

[*] ...Yeah, it's gonna bother me unless I go.

{transition to ALTO looking at the Maggiore memorial and it's still night}

AUBREY: [a7] Oh -- Alto?

{turns around}

ALTO: [b5] [?] Eh?

{AUBREY and TEAGAN walk up on screen}

MEIRIN: [b4] Hey, why are you guys...

{MEIRIN and SAKI do the electric slide on screen}

TEAGAN: [a2] I guess we all had the same idea.

SAKI: [a4] ...

{transitions to the Apprentice house in Dal Segno}

APPRENTICE: Hey, good to see you guys!

ALTO: [a1] Did it work out?

APPRENTICE: I'm hoping so... Anyway, here's the sample.

{Potion GET!}

ALTO: [c5] Thanks! We'll be back soon.

{4:53:47 -MASTER house}

{Potion GIVE!}

[...]

MASTER: Hm... This is pretty good quality for an amateur.

All right. I give in. When spring comes, I'll take the girl as an apprentice.

{BACK TO THE FUCKING APPRENTICE HOUSE}

APPRENTICE: [!] She really...

ALTO: [c5] Yeah, you did it! Isn't that great?

APPRENTICE: Wow... It doesn't feel real.

But this way I'm finally going to be able to become a better apothecary and help more people.

I'm going to have to work hard for the rest of the winter so that I can travel in the spring.

Thank you guys so much. I'll be able to sell you guys Trebles too now, but...

[iq]

I know. Take this as a token of my thanks.

{Music Box GET!}

It may not be much, but it wouldn't feel right if I couldn't give you guys something in return for all you've done for me.

ALTO: [a3] You're welcome! We'll take good care of it.

{talks again}

APPRENTICE: Thank you guys so much. If you ever need anything, let me know.

OTHERWISE

{4:57:23 - enter that shrine place AUBREY was found in Polyphony and go down to the room where the viola portion of the Grand Score was recovered; only AUBREY and ALTO are on screen, AUBREY looking intently at the now-glowing tablet}

AUBREY: [a4] [iq] ...! This... this is it.

MEIRIN: [b6] Oh, hey...

[b4] This is the same kind of warp stone there was to mark the entrance of Uncommon Time, isn't it?

[a7] I forgot this was even here.

SAKI: [a7] My... It seems to be active, too. The stone in the center is lit.

{AUBREY [...]}

ALTO: [a4] Aubrey, what's up?

{turns to ALTO counter-clockwise}

AUBREY: [a4] ...Alto... everyone.

Please. I want to investigate whatever's beyond this gate.

I'm sure that there's something here.

TEAGAN: [b3] ... [GET TIME]

...Alto, how much longer do we actually have to perform the World Tuning?

We'd better make sure we've got time if we're going to go get distracted.

ALTO: [a5] Mmm...

[a7] As long as we get the performance done before the new year we're good, but the sooner the better.

AUBREY: [a3] Please... I know that we don't have forever, but... I'm sure that this is important.

Ever since we went to Uncommon Time, and I saw the marker that looked just like this one for the

entrance.

It's been bothering me this whole time.

[b6] Please. I won't ask for anything else, so...

ALTO: [a5] Well... I guess since we can make it up to the top of the tower quickly now, it won't hurt to investigate a little.

[b4] But if we're going in there, we need to be prepared...

[c7] We have no idea what's waiting for us on the other side, after all.

{4:58:22 - ignoring warning, they proceed into Uncommon Time again [!], but they're all on the ground this time}

[]*

{gets up}

ALTO: [b2] Nn -- is everybody okay?

{one by one, everyone gets up, SAKI is [C>] about it}

TEAGAN: [a6] So there was an entrance to Uncommon Time here too...

[a1] [<>] I wonder why Luminoso and the other spirits sent us all the way to Libretto if there was a way in at Polyphony?

That's closer to Tenuto and all.

SAKI: [a7] Oh?

[a5] But this is different from the place we were sent to for Alto.

TEAGAN: [b1] [ugh] ...What, seriously?

MEIRIN: [b4] Yeah, the magic feels totally different.

[b6] [?] I dunno... I can't tell if it's more structure or if it's just structured differently?

[a7] [!] Oh, but... that's right, you don't have as much magic as we do.

[b4] It does look a little different. The color of the tiles and stuff.

{AUBREY [?]}

TEAGAN: [b3] I still don't think that's something you'd notice unless you're looking pretty close.

[b4] Then, what, we wouldn't have been able to have Alto medicate in this place because of magic reasons?

Even though she was just reusing what her ancestor did?

[a4] ...If that's the case, I wonder what this place was made for.

{AUBREY looks up [!]}

SAKI: [a5] Who knows...

[a6] There might be clues left further in if we're lucky,

but I'm afraid that all of Uncommon Time is on an utterly different level from our magic.

[a5] I doubt that Meirin and I could uncover its purpose just by groping in the dark.

TEAGAN: [b3] [ugh] I guess given that non-Euclidian monstrosity of a tower, I can't really play the skeptic here...

ALTO: [b5] [?] ...Aubrey?

[c6] You've been staring into space this whole time. What's wrong?

[...]

AUBREY: [b6] ...Lord Altair.

{MEIRIN and SAKI look up}

ALTO: [b5] Huh?

AUBREY: [b6] Lord Altair is... calling for me.

ALTO: [a7] ???

AUBREY: [a4] I have to go.

{AUBREY leaves and everyone is [!]}

ALTO: [b7] Wha -- wait, Aubrey, don't run off on your own, it's dangerous!

{5:03:55 - finds AUBREY about to enter Uncommon Time}

ALTO: [b7] Aubrey!

[...]

AUBREY: [b6] This is... I'm sure of it.

SAKI: [a6] [iq] This is... the same as the other part of Uncommon Time.

So this means...

[a3] That gate is probably...

MEIRIN: [a7] [*] More importantly, I'm surprised Aubrey managed to get all this way on heir own...

[b4] They're a lot more reckless than they normally let on, jeez.

TEAGAN: [b3] Birds of a feather and all.

ALTO: [c6] Aubrey, what'd you mean Lord Altair is calling for you? Why'd you tear off on your own like that?

[...]

AUBREY: [a3] ...I'm sure I can't explain this rationally.

{not surprised at this point}

[b6] It's just a feeling, but I'm sure.

{turns to ALTO}

[a4] I believe -- the reason you and I could never find Lord Altair's cgrave is because he's in here.

{the rest are [!]}

MEIRIN: [b4] Eh?

AUBREY: [a1] You said that you saw Lady Arietta...

[b6] YOu said that because this place exists out of time, that Lord Altair and Lady Arietta might still exist here.

[a3] I couldn't believe you back then because I thought that surely it would be hoping for too much.

[a4] But now that we've come here, I'm certain.

ALTO: [c6] Aubrey --

{turns back to the tablet}

AUBREY: [b6] Lord Altair is here.

He's been calling for me all this time.

[a3] He's waiting for me further ahead, and I -- I have to go. There are so many things that I need to say.

ALTO: [c7] [!] Wait, don't tell me you mean to use the gate? But that means --

AUBREY: [b6] Lord Altair...!

{de-materializes}

ALTO: [c7] [!] Ah, hey, listen to me!

[b7] I'm saying it's dangerous to go alone, Aubrey, wait!!!

{bit late to the punch there, ALTO}

[c7] [*] For the love of --

{de-materializes}

{the remaining guys are all [!]}

{walks up to try to follow ALTO}

MEIRIN: [a7] A-Alto!!

TEAGAN: [b1] [*] They both left...

{turns around}

MEIRIN: [b4] What should we do? Should we go after them?

SAKI: [a3] No.

[a6] This is the deepest part of this section of Uncommon Time.

[b6] If it's anything at all like the last one, then that means that that gate leads to someone's subconscious.

[a6] And if this place was prepared by someone for Aubrey's use, then it will be incredibly unsafe for us to tread within.

[a3] I'm afraid that the gate may not work for us at all.

MEIRIN: [b4] Even though Alto was able to go in?

SAKI: [a4] Alto caught hold of Aubrey while they were in the middle of teleporting.

{lolwut}

[a1] So either she was caught up in the transport, or she was able to use the gate because she is the closest to Aubrey.

[a5] None of us are that intimate with them.

[a6] If what lies beyond that gate is linked to Aubrey's heart and mind, or someone important to them...

Even if we could use the gate safely, it's easy to imagine that the destination isn't a place we ought to set foot.

TEAGAN: [b5] ...Damn it, so we have no choice but to just sit on our hands?

SAKI: [a6] Alto was able to return safely from an experience like this before.

[a1] If the two of them are together, then I'm sure that their chances are better.

[a4] Let's wait and believe in them for now.

MEIRIN: [a3] ...I guess you're right.

TEAGAN: [b4] Sigh.

{inside the music box/cat's cradle; there's a background of mountains slowly panning to SMOL AUBREY looking at graves. This next portion is told in a monologue form, detached from the world. It's also all brownish like it's trying to be a vignette or something}

AUBREY/SMOL AUBREY: That day, I said goodbye to my parents the way that I always did and did the gardening and housework like I always did too.

Both my parents worked in the red light district, so they were gone all day and didn't come back until night. I was always by myself, but I didn't mind it.

We had just enough money for the little house and the garden and to take care of me, but not enough to be comfortable.

So they had to work hard, and so did I.

We were happy.

Sometimes I wished that we could live in a nicer place, and that I could maybe get rid of my accent so that people wouldn't stare so, but I was still happy.

That day, I said goodbye to my parents like I always did.

Goodbye and take care, that was all.

If I'd known, I would have told them that I loved them.

If I'd know, I would have cried and faked sick and done anything that I could to stop them.

There had been a lot of little tremors at the time, so even when everything started shaking I wasn't afraid.

I hid under the table just like my parents had told me to do, just in case.

But it didn't stop.

It got worse and worse, and everything came down, and the roof came down on top of the table, and it didn't stop.

It sounded like the earth was screaming.

Even when everything stopped, it took me a while to make it outside.

I remember that I was trying not to cry when I'd cut myself on the broken glass from the windows, because I was almost ten and when you were ten you were supposed to be too grown-up to cry.

But when I finally got out, and got a look at the town... The fire, and the smoke... It looked like hell on earth.

{walks away from the grave}

And even from the house on the hill, I could tell that the entire district where my parents had worked was gone.

{color returns to normal and ALTO and AUBREY are lying on the ground; this portion is called "Denial" cuz DABDA probably}

[]*

{sits up}

ALTO: [b2] Ugh...

{stands up and looks at AUBREY}

Aubrey, are you okay?

{sits up}

AUBREY: [a3] Yes...

{gets up}

[...]

{looks at ALTO}

AUBREY: [a7] [?] ...Alto? Why are you here?

ALTO: [a7] [C>] I was trying to hold you back because going in alone is reckless, but I guess I just wound up following you.

{looks around}

[a5] ...I don't see any of the others, so we must be the only ones who made it in.

AUBREY: [a3] I... I'm sorry to have dragged you into this.

I just -- knowing that Lord Altair is here made me lose my head a little...

ALTO: [a5] Well, under the circumstances, I guess I can't blame you for not thinking straight.

{B U T I C A N S T I L L B L A M E T E A G A N}

[a3] And I was able to come with you, so there's that.

[a4] By the way...

Do you recognize where we are?

[?]

{looks around}

AUBREY: [a5] ...!

This -- this is where I used to live. Before the earthquake. This was where I lived with my parents.

ALTO: [c6] [...] I see... So it's like I thought.

[b4] ...Aubrey, the place we're in right now is probably made from your heart and your memories.

{faces ALTO}

AUBREY: [a7] [!] My -- heart?

[a3] But I thought that... Lord Altair was...

ALTO: [b4] I don't know.

[a5] This deep inside Uncommon Time, things don't really obey logic as we know it.

[a4] But there's probably something here, and we're going to need to look around anyway if we want to get out.

AUBREY: [a3] That is... true.

ALTO: [a1] They're your memories, so I'll follow your lead for now. We can go on whenever you're ready.

AUBREY: [a1] Okay. ...Alto?

ALTO: [a1] [?] Yeah?

AUBREY: [a8] [///] ...I'm glad you're with me.

{5:08:45 - they enter the orphanage I guess and then the screen fades to black for another monologue}

AUBREY/SMOL AUBREY: ...I don't remember much about the orphanage except that it was chaotic and it was horrible.

There were about fifty or sixty kids who came there just like I did, after losing their parents in the disaster.

We were all numb, and in shock, and the kids who had magic but hadn't fully learned to control it leaked their power everywhere.

{that's a bit too suggestive even for FP}

The staff were completely overwhelmed. They weren't prepared to handle so many of us at once.

I felt like I was having a bad dream that I just couldn't wake up from, and that it was going to go on like this forever.

And then. One day. He came for us.

{fades up to in-game, but brown again; AUBREY walks downstairs and is [!] by two people waiting at reception, so she moves back behind a wall and presumably peeks out from it to see ALTAIR move up to the counter}

ALTAIR: [a1] ...all of them. Every single one with magical abilities.

[a2] Please. I have the money to provide for them, and the experience to educate them.

I know that you can't do that for this many children.

[a3] Please let me help. Please.

[...]

ORPHANAGE RECEPTIONIST (f): I'm sorry, sir, but you don't understand what you're asking.

I know how wealthy the Bonheur family is, but you've never raised a child before. You aren't ready for this.

You'll be in over your head within a day, and what's going to happen to those children then?

Are you just going to turn them out again, after they've already lost their parents?

ALTAIR: [a2] I understand that it's going to be hard, but please.

[a3] I bear responsibility in this. The disasters only happened because of our work on the tower.

It's my fault that this has happened to these children, so please let me take responsibility.

This is the only way I know how.

[a2] I may not have experience, but I swear to you on my name as a Bonheur that I will devote my life to them. Please.

ORPHANAGE RECEPTIONIST: [*] Sir, you can't --

{screen shakes and the head cut moves up to finally speak; AUBREY and ORPHANAGE RECEPTIONIST are [!]}

ARIETTA: [a3] [#] Excuse you, did he stutter?

ORPHANAGE RECEPTIONIST: ! You're --

ARIETTA: Altair has already sworn to you that he'll provide for them in ways that you can't.

I'm sure you know enough of his character to understand that he's serious.

[xp] Do you really mean to say you doubt his word?

ORPHANAGE RECEPTIONIST: [ugh] N-no, but...

{faces ARIETTA}

ALTAIR: [a3] [C>] Arietta...

ARIETTA: [a3] I know that I'm not old or responsible enough to raise a child.

And I can't just give up like this, because what we're doing is important.

But just like Altair said, this is our fault.

The Cantabile family has far too many servants and too much money for its own good.

If for any reason Altair is struggling to do it on his own, I'll give him all the funds and the people he needs. So --

ALTAIR: [a2] Arietta... calm down.

{faces ALTAIR}

ARIETTA: [a3] [*] But they...!

ALTAIR: [a1] I'm a single man, and I'm still young. And it's no secret from the public that I can't have children of my own.

It's only natural for them to doubt me.

{ARIETTA [] and they both look back up at RECEPTIONIST}*

ALTAIR: [a3] Even so, I beg you to let me try.

There isn't any other way I can think of to atone.

We never intended for this to happen, but we've stolen everything from these children.

So I will devote the rest of my life to raising and caring for all of them that I can.

[a2] Please let me lighten your burden. I will beg you on my knees if I must. Please.

[...]

RECEPTIONIST:I understand.

But I'm not going to give you charge of some twenty or thirty children all at once, and I'm going to assign someone to see how it's working out.

Let the children have a choice, too.

{turns to AUBREY, who jumps and is [C>]}

...Here, Aubrey, I can see you listening in over there. Come here.

{RECEPTIONIST turns back to ALTAIR and ARIETTA, who are looking at AUBREY approaching}

yALTO: [a1] ...

ALTAIR: [a4]Your name is Aubrey?

yALTO: [a1] ...

ALTAIR: [a4] I guess you might have already heard, but I'd like to adopt you and the others who know magic.

I'm a magician, too, so I'd like to help you learn.

[a3] You can stay in the orphanage if you'd like to, but... If it's all right with you, would you come with

me?

[...]

AUBREY: [a2] ...I...

{fades to black and more monologue}

AUBREY/SMOL AUBREY: I remember thinking vaguely that he looked like a kind man.

...I knew that the nightmares I was having, and the things that I broke, were because of my magic.

I didn't really care where I was, but I thought I might as well learn to stop those things because they were a bother.

.....But when I told him yes, he started to cry even though he was a grown-up.

He thanked me over and over like I just lifted a great burden from his shoulders.

It's my only clear memory from the orphanage. I've never forgotten that moment, even now.

All of us who went with him were too poor to have had surnames, or didn't want to keep our old ones any more.

So Lord Altair gave us new ones.

...So when I went with him, that was the day I became Aubrey Spica.

{AYE CARUMBA}

{fades back up to the same room with normal color and no one but AUBREY and ALTO}

ALTO: [c6] Just now, that...

[...]

AUBREY: [b6]Yes. That was when Lord Altair adopted me.

[a3] ...This is... the front room from the orphanage. It's all just how I remember it.

[...]

ALTO: [b4] (Then, the girl who was with him... that would have been Arietta, from back when she was only my age...)

AUBREY: [a3]I still don't really understand, but...

[a4] Let's keep going.

[b6] Lord Altair... maybe we'll be able to meet him if we keep going deeper into these memories.

ALTO: [a1] Okay.

5:12:27 - they enter the back room and it transistions back to the past with SMOL AUBREY standing by a interior/exterior door in presumably ALTAIR's manor. This entire section is duplicate dialogue featured in Part IV of the script, so refer to it for better context.

ALTAIR: [a7] I'm sorry to make you come all this way all the time.

ARIETTA: [a5] No... Don't worry about it.

[a1] I mean, I can hardly expect you to leave the kids alone for longer than absolutely necessary.

[a4] And I like to come out here.

[a5] It's easier to meet with the spirits from here, and it's not as much of a mess as Bel Canto.

ALTAIR: [a4] Even so...

[a3] I feel like the older generations out to be taking a more active role instead of letting you do everything.

[a5] I want to help you more.

ARIETTA: [a2] But you ARE helping.

[a7] You have no idea how frustrating it is to try to explain all these things to people who don't even make an effort to understand.

The spirits are better about it, but that's because they think more like I do anyway.

[a2] But you, you're always willing to meet me halfway, evne if you don't get where I'm coming from.

[a5] I wouldn't have made it this far without that.

ALTAIR: [a5] ...I want you to know that you always have a place to stay here, whenever you need it.

ARIETTA: [a8] ...Oh? Are you trying to adopt me too, now?

ALTAIR: [a6] Th..that's not...

ARIETTA: [a4] I'm sorry. I'm just teasing.

[a6] There are a lot of reasons I prefer to have you see me as an adult, after all.

ALTAIR: [a7] ...I'm glad you're an adult. Truly.

[a4] It was a little awkward when we first met, having a child as my first and only true peer.

I was worried about being a corrupting influence.

ARIETTA: [a5] Haha.

[a8] When really, you needed to worry about my corrupting you.

ALTAIR: [a5]Stay the night.

WHAM, BAM, THANK YOU MA'AM

[a7] I know you stay away to keep things from being awkward with the children, but I do miss you.

ARIETTA: [a5] All right. There's plenty of work that I want to consult you on, if we ened an excuse.

ALTAIR: [a7] Once the children are in bed, we can go up to the observatory for a bit.

ARIETTA: [a8] Does that mean you're going to lecture stars at me and I get to try to distract you?

ALTAIR: [a7] Hahaha. ...If that's what you want.

ARIETTA: [a2] Heh.

SMOL AUBREY: [a3] ...

{walks away}

{transitions to outside, where SMOL AUBREY is standing at a fountain and CHANTAL approaches, and CHANTAL is a guy btw}

CHANTAL: [a2] [mu] So this is where you got to.

{SMOL AUBREY turns [!]}

[a4] Jeez, you always go off on your own right away after rehearsal is over.

{walks right up to SMOL AUBREY}

SMOL AUBREY: [a3] ...

CHANTAL: [a1] Is something wrong?

SMOL AUBREY: [a3] Not really.

CHANTAL: [a3] [*] Sigh...

[a6] You know, you should come play with the other kids sometimes.

At this rate everyone's going to clique up and you'll be left by yourself.

SMOL AUBREY: [a2] ...I'm fine without friends. All I need is Lord Altair.

CHANTAL: [a6] But Lord Altair has his work to do, and he can't really favor any of us over the others.

You know and I know as well as he does that it wouldn't be fair.

[a3] You're always alone all the time. It's not good for you.

SMOL AUBREY: [a3] You always come to bother me, though, 'cause you're a busybody.

CHANTAL: [a2] [mu]

{looks away}

SMOL AUBREY: [a3] [*] ...It's all that Arietta's fault anyway.

She's always coming and bothering Lord Altair and taking up all his time until he can't pay attention to us.

I hate her.

CHANTAL: [a6]Hey, I understand holding the disasters against her.

[a3] There are a lot of kids here who, well, that's the only way they can find the strength to keep going.

But Lord Altair's allowed to have friends, Aubrey.

SMOL AUBREY: [a3] [xp] You know they're not just friends.

CHANTAL: [a5] [C>] Okay, okay, I won't talk down to you about it.

[a4] Lord Altair's sex life is Lord Altair's business.

We're his dependents, not his peers.

[a1] Everybody needs somebody on their own level to talk to.

[a6] If you're only ever with people who are much older or much younger than you, that's not healthy.

When one person's more powerful there's always the chance of their taking advantage even if they don't mean to.

{faces CHANTAL}

SMOL AUBREY: [a3] How come you're always so bossy about this stuff?

CHANTAL: [a2] Because I'm the oldest here, duh.

[a1] Anyway, aren't you forgetting something?

{SMOL AUBREY [?]}

=====I SURE AS SHIT WON'T BE FORGETTING THIS ZONE=====

[a4] It's time for homone treatments, hormone treatments.

[a3] You don't want to end up like me, right? So you need to take all your supplements on time.

=====I SURE AS SHIT WON'T BE FORGETTING THIS ZONE=====

SMOL AUBREY: [a3] [ugh] Ugh... Okay, okay.

CHANTAL: [a2] [<3] Good.

When we're done, let's go find a quiet place to practice.

[...]

SMOL AUBREY: [a2]Stupid Chantal.

{transitions (lol) to AUBREY and ALTO looking out over the lake two screens down from the flashback}

ALTO: [b5] ...You were a real kid when you were a kid.

{turns to ALTO}

AUBREY: [b7] [C>] What do you even mean?

ALTO: [a7] I dunno, you were so uncute it's kinda cute.

AUBREY: [b7] ...You're making fun of me, aren't you?

ALTO: [c5] Sorry, sorry.

AUBREY: [a1] *sigh*

{5:17:40 - talks with SMOL AUBREY}

SMOL AUBREY: [a1] ...I didn't need Chantal to tell me that I was isolating myself, not really.

[a2] ...By some strange mistake, I was still alive even though my parents were dead.

I wasn't brave enough to try to kill myself or want to stop living like some of the others.

But I still didn't know how to go on without my parents.

[a3] It was easier to just hate Arietta because it let me divert attention from how guilty and unworthy I felt.

[a4] But you know, the void inside me just wouldn't go away.

I didn't want anyone to come near me, because I didn't deserve it, because I was afraid of losing them again.

But I couldn't survive by myself.

[a2] If my parents had taken meaning away from my life by dying.

Then I decided that any value left in me was because Lord Altair had chosen me.

Lord Altair had taken me in and saved me.

So all I would need from now on was Lord Altair.

[a1] ...I decided that, but it's just like Chantal said. Lord Altair " didn't belong to just me".

So I couldn't be free from this jealousy and resentment after all.

[a3] Lord Altair chose me.

I wanted Lord Altair to take responsibility for letting me survive by only looking at me.

[a2] I wanted to use him as an excuse to run away from my guilt, but it wouldn't work out.

I didn't want to make it Lord Altair's fault, but then whose was it.

Was it Arietta's fault for sleeping with him? Was it her fault for her part in the disasters?

[a1] ...Or was it my own fault?

[a4] ...Hey. ...Which is it?

.....I don't want to die. So I need a reason to stay alive.

But I need to remember that I am being punished for surviving.

...So what am I supposed to do?

{5:20:12 - they beat SMOL AUBREY and AUBREY had portrait [a3] on for the battle if that means anything, but anyway SMOL AUBREY fucking dies and explodes into a blue sigil}

AUBREY: [a5] ...

ALTO: [b4] ...

[c6] (...Let's just ... stay quiet for now.)

(Aubrey needs time to think about what they're seeing here.)

(Saying something careless might just confuse or upset them...)

{enter the sigil and ANOTHER FLASHBACK, this time it's in ALTAIR's office and he's playing a grand piano; SMOL AUBREY enters}

SMOL AUBREY: [a1] ...Lord Altair, I'm here. What is it?

{turns around}

ALTAIR: [a1] Oh, Aubrey. Excellent timing. Would you come here, please?

{SMOL AUBREY [...]}

[a4] Don't worry. I'm not angry, I just wanted to talk a little.

SMOL AUBREY: [a2] ...If my lord says so.

{walks over}

ALTAIR: [a3] Well... I am a little concerned.

[a4] I've heard from Chantal that you're still avoiding the other children?

AUBREY: [a3] [*]She really is a busybody.

ALTAIR: [a7] Haha. Maybe, but I think it's just because she likes you. So she worries, just like I do.

>she

[a4] Can you tell me what's going on?

[...]

SMOL AUBREY: [a1]I don't know.

ALTAIR: [a4] All right. If you don't know what to say, then there's no reason for me to try to force you to talk.

[iq]

[a5] ...Here, I know. This is for you.

SMOL AUBREY: [a5] [?] ...? Lord Altair, these headpins are...?

ALTAIR: [a5] I have more like them, it's all right. I want you to keep them.

SMOL AUBREY: [a5] [!] Wh...why? Why for me...?

ALTAIR: [a3] You know, Aubrey, I do mean to understand that just having brought you and the others here won't fix everything.

You all went through something terrible and traumatic.

No one can recover from that in a day, or even in a few years.

I know that you all still need a little help, and that the help you need is different for every one of you.

[a4] In Chantal's case, for instance, she needed support that her parents wouldn't give her, and an alternative to singing for magic practice.

The children who struggle with magic just needed me to adapt how I teach to their needs.

[a3] BUT it's taken me a while to think of something that will help you.

[a2] You're a gifted child, Aubrey; you're intelligent and sensitive and you seem to enjoy being challenged magically.

[a3] But whatever your reasons are, you aren't making social connections.

[a4] I think I should have stepped in much sooner, but I'm not good at that either, you see.

[a5] ...So, I want you to take these.

You can carry them around if you like, keep them in your room, or even wear them.

But I want you to have them as a reminder that no matter how busy I am,
and even if you have other people you like or love, that I am always going to care about you.

[a7] If you ever need me, if you ever just want to talk, I'll be right here for you. Okay?

SMOL AUBREY: [a5] ...Okay.

[a2]Thank you.

...Thank you.

...Thank you -- Lord Altair.....

{switches back to the present, with AUBREY and ALTO sitting on a couch}

{looks at AUBREY}

ALTO: [b5] Oh, so those were a present from Altair.

[c5] No wonder you're so attached to them.

AUBREY: [b6] Yes... I've worn them every day since then.

{resumes normal couch position}

ALTO: [a1] I can see why you liked him so much.

[a2] I mean, he seems like he was really nice.

{looks at AUBREY again}

[c8] I'm glad you had someone like that when you were a kid and needed it most.

AUBREY: [b6] Yes...

[...]

[a3]Alto, may I ask something?

ALTO: [a2] [?] Hm? Sure.

AUBREY: [a3] When... you were in Uncommon Time before. Was it... painful, like this?

ALTO: [a5] Mmm...

[a7] [C>] In my case, I think it was "scary" instead of "painful"?

It was pretty different from yours here, and I was alone too.

[a5] Actually, I should probably apologize.

[c6] I kinda feel like I've been seeing things you might not have wanted me to.

{looks at ALTO}

AUBREY: [a2] No, it's okay.

Having you here with me makes me feel stronger.

[a1] I'm not sure I would be able to face all of this alone...

[b1] And besides, you were trying to stop me -- it's not like you followed after me on purpose.

ALTO: [a3] I see. ...Thanks.

{gets off the couch and walks up to AUBREY}

[a1] Shall we keep going?

AUBREY: [a4] Yes. Somewhere -- the real Lord Altair must be waiting for us, further ahead. I have to see him no matter what.

ALTO: [b4] Okay. Then, whenever you're ready.

{5:23:35 - flashback in a music classroom with two pianos and an organ; ten kids including SMOL AUBREY and CHANTAL are there in two rows and ALTAIR is up front by a blackboard facing the kids}

ALTAIR: [a1] ...and finally, I need to thank you all, and apologize for getting you involved in this.

AUBREY: [a2] Oh, Lord Altair, what are you saying?

[a1] We volunteered because we wanted to do this.

CHANTAL: [a2] [mu] That's right.

[a1] You've done a lot for all of us all this time, so if we can repay that, please let us.

ALTAIR: [a4] I really am sorry.

[a3] ...But the fate of humanity is riding on the outcomes of my research and Arietta's experiments.

[a2] It's about time that we face reality, and the possibility that even with the tower completed, her theory may not bear fruit. She's asked me to come up with alternatives if I can.

[a3] But I need the help of assistants and other researchers if I'm to strike out on my own instead of working with her, so...

CHANTAL: [a5] And that's where we come in. I see.

AUBREY: [a3] Lord Altair... Please excuse me, I'm curious.

[a1] Up until now... you've always only worked with Lady Arietta, or alone.

[b6] I'm sure that even now, you would be able to find an snwer by yourself if you tried...

[a1] I'm very happy that you've asked us to help you, but I don't understand your reasoning.

ALTAIR: [a6] Hmm. Aubrey, I still believe that you think much too highly of me, but I think you've already answered yourself.

{AUBREY [?]}

[a5] Up until I met Arietta, I worked mostly in solitude --

because there were so few people on my level, and collaborating made me feel that distance all the more.

[a7] But working with Arietta taught me that having collaborators is very valuable.

[a5] You all have the kind of magical talent and intellect necessary to tackle a difficult problem like this, but more importantly, you all think differently -- I'm sure that you will come up with ideas that I never would.

[a4] The more I think about it, the more I come to realize that the problems of the climate and our mana consumption

can't be solved by one person alone.

[a7] We can only reach worthwhile solutions by working together. Does that make sense?

AUBREY: [a1] Yes... Thank you, Lord Altair.

{back to the present}

ALTO: [b5] Whoa, you're all grown-up all of the sudden.

AUBREY: [a7] This -- this was last year... No, I mean...

ALTO: [a1] It's okay, I know what you mean.

[a3] ...It's kinda nice to see you happier, in these memories.

AUBREY: [a3] ...Yes.

{5:25:19 - back in the past, AUBREY is in a research room with several pianos, organs, and papers and CHANTAL of course}

CHANTAL: [a4] Ugh, here you are.

{walks over accross the desk from AUBREY}

{turns to CHANTAL}

AUBREY: [a7] [!] Eh? Chantal?

CHANTAL: [a4] [*] Aubrey, do you have any idea what time it is?

AUBREY: [a7] [?] Um... Oh, it's gotten really dark.

CHANTAL: [a3] I knew it. You were so into researching that you completely lost track of time, didn't you.

AUBREY: [b1] [///] Ehehe...

CHANTAL: [a6] You won't be able to resaerch if you keel over from overwork.

[a5] If you mean to work late hours again, let me or somebody else know so that we can stick around to help out

and maybe remind you to eat and sleep.

AUBREY: [b7] [*] Chantal, you never change.

You're just as much of a well-meaning, interfering busybody as you were when Lord Altair first adopted us.

CHANTAL: [a4] Somehow, I get the feeling that that ought to be my line.

You still hardly talk to anybody unless you have to or unless it's Lord Altair.

You and I are only friends because I couldn't leave you alone.

[...]

AUBREY: [b7] ...Are we friends, then?

CHANTAL: [a4] [xp] Aubrey, that's just mean.

God only knows why I care about you, but I do. I'm not going to let you push me away too.

AUBREY: [a1]You're right. I'm sorry.

CHANTAL: [a3] Sigh... At least take care of yourself.

[a6] Sure, Lord Altair would rush to your side if you did keel over, but that's a pretty sick way to dig for attention.

AUBREY: [b7] [ugh] That's so morbid! Do you really think I'd do something like that?

CHANTAL: [a5] [C>] I... want to say no, but there's a little part of me that goes "but what if," and it makes me worried.

[a3] You'd do just about anything for Lord Altair's approval.

Sometimes I think you'd jump off a cliff if he asked you to.

AUBREY: [b7] Oh, honestly, don't be so dramatic.

[a4] I promise I'll take better care of myself, and I'm not neglecting myself just go get Lord Altair to notice.

[b1] I'm just really happy that I can work with him now, and got too caught up in things.

CHANTAL: [a3] Sigh... That's better than I was afraid of, but I'm still worried.

I'd still be frustrated with how you treat yourself if you'd tried to argue it was for the world,

but I'd have been relieved too.

AUBREY: [a1] ??? What do you mean?

CHANTAL: [a4] Because it would mean you're prioritizing something beyond Lord Altair.

[a3] Aubrey, you're too honest. You care more about Lord Altair than the whole world.

AUBREY: [a1] Why wouldn't I?

CHANTAL: [a4] [ugh] ...Ugh. I'm getting a headache.

[a5] Anyway, I'm gonna go make some tea and a snack to bring you, okay?

[a1] And I'm sticking around to make sure you go to bed before sunrise.

AUBREY: Hehe. Okay. You're still being weird, but thank you, I guess.

{back to the present}

[a3] ...I know.

...I know. still haven't -- really changed since then.

...Chantal is right. I never really cared about the world so much as being able to be together with Lord Altair.

[b6] ...I'm... all things considered, I'm jealous of Meirin sometimes.

ALTO: [b5] [?] Oh?

AUBREY: [a3] I know that my caring for Lord Altair was self-centered and self-motivated, but...

[b6] Looking at Meirin's relationship with Saki makes me think that that's what I wanted to have with Lord Altair.

ALTO: [b4] ...Hmm. I think that the circumstances are a little different with them.

[c6] Saki's...

[...]

[a5] I dunno, I think it makes a difference that Meirin's an adult.

Ten years' age difference is already a little worrying, and Altair was older than you than that.

[a6] Plus, you were a kid, and he was your legal guardian and all.

[a7] I don't know if that could have been an equal relationship.

AUBREY: [b7] ...You sound like Chantal.

ALTO: [a7] Haha. Sorry.

[c6] Anyway, Saki's... he's less put-together than he likes to act,

so that's probably why he leans on Meirin as much as he lets himself lean on anybody.

[b2] But things are pretty precarious for them given the circumstances.

AUBREY: [a1] ...??? What do you mean, Saki is less put-together than he seems?

ALTO: [a7] ...Mmm, well, I can't say for sure, and I can't talk about what I know without Saki's permission,

but he seems to have a lot going on.

AUBREY: [b7] [C>] Please forgive me for acting like Teagan, but Alto, you're not making sense.

ALTO: [a7] Hahahaha.

[a5] It's okay if you haven't noticed anything, just pretend you didn't hear me talking about it.

[a3] Anyway, you heard Altair talking about how he worried about his relationship with Arietta, right?

[a1] So I bet he intentionally kept some distance between you and him 'cause it wouldn't have been appropriate.

AUBREY: [b7] [*] I'm sure you're right, but that doesn't make me feel any better about it.

ALTO: [b4] (Or maybe... he was waiting until you were both a lot older, and you could have been closer to equal.)

[a8] (But you're already uncertain about a lot of things, and I don't think saying so would help.

[c6] (So I'll just keep that to myself.)

ALTO: [a3] Sigh...

[a4] Anyway, whatever's at the end of all this, I'm sure we're getting closer.

[b6] So let's keep going. If Lord Altair is really here... I want to see him.

ALTO: [a1] Okay.

{5:29:12 - these flashbacks are killing me, but there in ANOTHER office with ANOTHER organ and ALTAIR is playing it until AUBREY enters and then he turns I'VE BEEN SITTING HERE FOR FIVE FUCKING HOURS}

AUBREY: [c1] Lord Altair, there's something I want to talk about.

ALTAIR: [a1] [?] Hm?

{walks up to ALTAIR}

AUBREY: [a1] Um... has anyone come to offer to participate since we last spoke?

ALTAIR: [a3] Unfortunately, no.

[a4] I'm sorry. I know it's frustrating after all the trouble you and I went to with the concept and theory, but this isn't something we can test out on an unwilling person...

[a3] At this rate, we'll have to leave the idea of hibernation magic aside and search for other options.

AUBREY: [a2] About that, actually... I was thinking that if no one else had offered, I'd like to be the first test.

[!]

ALTAIR: [a2] ...! Aubrey, you...

[...]

[a8]I see.

.....That's why... I'm such a fool.

AUBREY: [a1] [?] Lord Altair, what's the matter?

ALTAIR: [a3] You know all the risks better than anyone but me. And you're still willing to do this, is that right?

AUBREY: [a2] Oh, yes. I wouldn't offer if I wasn't willing.

ALTAIR: [a8]Aubrey.I'm sorry. I'm truly... sorry. I really wasn't ever able to do anything for you, was I...

AUBREY: [a7] ?! Lord Altair, what are you saying?

[c1] You mean so much to me, I...

[b6] That's why I want to do this.

[b1] I can't really do anything, but I can at least make sure that you're proven right.

[a1] And then if things don't work out, you can still save everyone.

ALTAIR: [a3] I wish I could refuse you.

...I wish I could, but it's really that desperate. I can't.

[a2] ...But -- I want you to know that you can back out up until the very last second. I wouldn't -- htink any less of you.

AUBREY: [a1] I won't.

[a2] But thank you.

{back to the present and AUBREY is in a pretty place with street lamps and a well}

[a3] ...

ALTO: [e1] Aubrey -- you. You were the one who came up with hibernation magic...?

AUBREY: [a1] ...Just the concept. Lord Altair did all of the hard work.

[a2] He was really amazing.

ALTO: [e1] ...

AUBREY: [a1] ?? Alto, why are you making that face?

ALTO: [e1] ...I'm not really in a position to criticize. But that's messed-up.

AUBREY: [a3] It did end up being a little ironic, how things turned out. But... I don't know, I just wanted to help.

ALTO: [e1] Aubrey, you...

AUBREY: [a1] Yes? What is it?

ALTO: [c6] ...Never mind.

[c3] Let's just keep going.

{5:31:22 - they make their way to the fountain, and another flashback with AUBREY facing the fountain and CHANTAL coming up from behind}

CHANTAL: [a3] Aubrey!!

{turns around clockwise WHY DO I CARE ABOUT THE FUCKING DIRECTION SO MUCH}

AUBREY: [a2] Oh, Chantal! I wanted to talk to you.

CHANTAL: [a4] [*] Don't you "Oh, Chantal!" at me!

[a3] Did you seriously volunteer for the hibernation experiment?!

AUBREY: [a2] So you already heard! Then there's not much to explain.

[c2] Chantal, do you want to be a test subject with me?

CHANTAL: [a7] ...What?

AUBREY: [c2] I was thinking, and I'm worried that if it's only me in the first test there won't be enough data to actually

refine things.

So do you want to come with me? You and I have similar circumstances, so I'm sure --

CHANTAL: [a7] ...Stop it.

AUBREY: [c2] Eh?

CHANTAL: [a7] Just -- stop it.

You know that if you do that, there's a chance that you'll never wake up again!

You're going to be throwing your whole life away!

AUBREY: [c2] Of course I understand.

[a2] But I think that there's no better purpose for me than to be the cornerstone of Lord Altair's success.

He's given me eight wonderful years, it's so much more than I ever deserved.

[c2] You know that we all should have died with our parents.

But this way, I can have it both ways... I can stop living, and I can be of use to Lord Altair.

[a2] I couldn't be happier.

[c2] ...You're the same, so why are you looking so shocked?

CHANTAL: [a4] I -- god, Aubrey, I don't even know where to start.

[a3] You're seventeen! You have your whole damn life ahead of you, if you'd just put the effort into reaching out!

[a4] And -- don't just up and decide that I'm as depressed as you are just because you're treating suicide like you're still a little kid that can't go to the bathroom on their own!

My life didn't end when my parents died --

my life didn't even start until Lord Altair took me in and I had an adult taking my dysphoria seriously!

[a3] There are so many things that I want to do, places I want to see...

[a4] I have a boyfriend! I have friends and family and I don't want to throw those things away for the greater good!

=====THE BTFO ZONE=====

AUBREY: [a4] ...Do you really think that an idealistic picture of the future like that is enough, though?

What's going to happen when your dreams don't work out?

What about when your boyfriend finds out the truth about you and is too disgusted to even touch you again?

[c2] Wouldn't it just be easier to go to sleep, and have things stay as they are forever?

=====THE BTFO ZONE=====

CHANTAL: [a8] Don't -- just selfishly decide that my boyfriend's not going to be able to deal with my body!

What a petty, shitty thing to say to someone!

You don't even know him!

{walks to AUBREY}

[a3] If things don't work out, all you have to do is try over again --

find a new person, or just enjoy being single, start over, try to find a new dream.

Aubrey, don't you hear yourself? Do you even realize how scary the things you're saying are?

[...]

AUBREY: [a3]And here I thought you'd understand.

[a6] ...Lord Altair is the only thing I have left.

I shouldn't be alive in the first place, he's the only thing worth being here for.

[c2] What I'm doing isn't suicide.

[b6] Either I'll wake up, or I'll sleep forever and never be the wiser.

[a6] But I want to stop feeling empty inside.

I tried to tell myself that Lord Altair was enough for me, but Lady Arietta is going to take him away from me.

I don't want that future. I want Lord Altair to look at me forever.

[c3] ...I thought you'd understand, and you'd care enough about me to come with me.

I thought you couldn't leave me alone.

CHANTAL: [a8] I do care about you. I do.

That's why I'm telling you that th is is fucked-up.

You want Lord Altair to be your loving father forever, you're afraid of him leaving you.

so instead of talking to him about how you're jealous you decide to hurt him instead?!

That's not right! If you do this, I know you're going to regret it forever!

AUBREY: [c3] ...You don't care about me! You never did!

If you cared, you'd try to understand! You'd stay with me no matter what!

But you're just nosy, and self-righteous, and deluded, and...!

{backs up}

CHANTAL: [a8] ...Fine! Fine!!

God, just what do you want, I tried, okay, I just don't know what to do to help you anymore!

Every time I try to get you to not hurt yourself, you just turn around and bite me for it!

I'm so sick of getting gray hair worrying over you and pretending your manipulative toxic bullshit

doesn't hurt me because maybe it's your depression talking!

{backs up again}

Talk to Lord Altair, talk to anybody, if you ever gave half a damn about me please just don't do this,

but if it's leave you alone or get dragged over the edge with you, I've given you enough of my life,
Aubrey!

I just can't do this anymore!

{runs off}

{back to the present, AUBREY is looking at the fountain from CHANTAL's position

ALTO: [c6] ...

AUBREY: [a3] ...

ALTO: [a8] ...

AUBREY: [a3] ...I wish --

ALTO: [b5] ?

AUBREY: [a3] I wish I -- hadn't said those things.

It was -- it was a really bad argument, and we were both being awful, and I wish I could take all that back.

[b6] I'm sure -- she hated me after that. If she did I can't blame her. But I wish I hadn't been too stubborn to apologize.

[a3] I wanted to hurt her and make her regret it, so I kept avoiding her until the experiment...

I should have know that I would be the one to be sorry in the end.

After my parents, I -- reall should have known better, but...

ALTO: [c6] ...

AUBREY: [a3] Let's just -- hurry and keep going. I don't want to stay here.

ALTO: [b4] Okay.

{5:36:51 - talk with CHANTAL at the fountain}

AUBREY: [a5] [!] Chantal...?

{CHANTAL [...]}

AUBREY: [a5] It -- this can't really be you, can it?

CHANTAL: [a3] No. Sorry. The way this place works isn't that convenient.

AUBREY: [a5] Th-then...

CHANTAL: [a1] ...I'm just another mirror. Like everything here. We're all you.

AUBREY: [a5] ...

CHANTAL: [a6] Why are you here? Even now, you're still running away, aren't you?

TEAGAN: [a5] Th-that's not...

CHANTAL: [a4] Isn't it?

You acknowledge the mistakes you've made in the past, but then you just keep making them.

...I feel sorry for that girl.

AUBREY: [a5] ...Stop it.

CHANTAL: [a1] You didn't realize how big a mistake you'd made until you woke up.

[a3] But then and there, when you were still too confused to panic outright,

along came someone new and convenient to latch on to.

[a5] Pretty slick even for you --

choosing the most vulnerable person in the whole group who didn't already have emotional support.

[a6] Lord Altair was too healthy to reciprocate, and he had Lady Arietta with him, but you didn't make that mistake again.

[a3] Saki and Meirin had each other, but Alto didn't have anybody,

and it was plain as anything that TEagan was so abusive and controlling she'd be glad for any affection she could get.

If you could just make her your everything early enough, thoroughly enough,

she'd never leave you or turn you away as long as things went on like that.

AUBREY: [a6] S-stop it.

CHANTAL: [a5] Sure, your love is invincible and unconditional, but that's because you made Alto your escape.

[a6] You flew to her at top speed because you had so much guilt to run away from.

[a3] You were afraid that the real Chantal was right,

and you really would kill yourself this time if you didn't have one secure bond.

[a5] But you're still refusing the others.

[a4] You still haven't learned a thing.

[a6] Poor Alto. You've just been using her like everyone else.

AUBREY: [c3] S-stop it! That's not true...!

CHANTAL: [a4] Aubrey, just stop. I'm you. I'm your own heart.

[a2] I'm only voicing all the worries and regrets you've kept all the back of your head this whole time.

[a4] You know what you're doing.

You're smart enough, and familiar enough with your own patterns, to see what you're doing and feel bad.

But not bad enough to try breaking them.

[a3] You're so convinced that you deserve to be unhappy, you're willing to drag everyone else down with you.

AUBREY: [c3] Stop it...

CHANTAL: [a3] The others, you'll just keep pushing away more and more hurtfully until they have to leave you for their own safety.

Alto you'll cling to until you drown in each other. Because you don't want to grieve or feel guilt.

AUBREY: [a6] I...

CHANTAL: [a1] The music box is only a maze of mirrors.

Everything you've seen here, it's all just a reflection of your own heart.

[a6] It's about time you admit that.

AUBREY: [a6] I...!!

CHANTAL: [a1] Are you going to wander in this maze forever,
or will you find a way to free yourself and the people caught up with you?

[a2] ...That's something that you will have to decide.

{screen darkens a bit}

[a4] Forge your path, or disappear from before me and never return.

ALTO: [c7] ...! Aubrey, get ready to fight!

AUBREY: [a5] I... ..I...!

{u's portrait for the fight is [a5] and ALTO's [c6]}

{5:45:12 - trap gets beat up and turns into a Star of David, which they go through and now they're in the final stage of Acceptance, which is the last part of DABDA}

AUBREY: [a3] ...

ALTO: [a8] ...

AUBREY: [a3] ...

ALTO: [b4] ...

AUBREY: [a3] ...I... I'm sorry.

{turns around}

ALTO: [b5] [?] ...For what?

Our daddy taught us not to be ashamed of our...

AUBREY: [a3] Because -- because it's true, isn't it.

[a6] You've been going through so much, and I was just using you.

I'm so -- so shabby and shameful.

If it's to protect myself, I'll run away from anything, and manipulate anyone.

I care about myself more than I care about the world.

[...]

ALTO: [b4] ...It's okay.

AUBREY: [c3] Please don't lie to me, after all this.

[a5] I'm not worth that.

ALTO: [a8] ...Well...

[c6] ...Yeah. It doesn't feel very good, hearing what you wanted from me put in those terms.

[b4] But the truth is still that whatever your reasons were, it made me happy that you loved me.

Your love gave me strength to keep fighting when I was at my lowest.

It's after the fact, and so it's not going to change. You needed me, and I needed you.

AUBREY: [a5] ...I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

After all you've done and seen, having to look at all the ugliest parts of me... I'm so sorry.

I feel so ugly and shameful and small.

[...]

ALTO: [c6] I didn't say it before,

because I didn't want to make this all about me when you're the one struggling to deal with what you're seeing.

[a6] But honestly, nothing much is gonna shock me after my own experiences in Uncommon Time.

[a4] You've been a danger to yourself, and sometimes to the people closest to you. But I...

{AUBREY is [!]}

{CAUSE I WAS JEKYLL JEKYLL HYDE JEKYLL HYDE HYDE JEKYLL}

LIQUID ALTO: [a2] There is a very real part of me that despises this world and everything in it.

[a3] There is a very real, very vital part of my heart that wants all of humanity to take responsibility for what's

happened to me by dying.

[a4] I have not been treated the way I deserve, and I want revenge.

{JEKYLL JEKYLL HYDE JEKYLL HYYYYYYYYYYYYYDE}

ALTO: [b4] [eyes closed] ...Those are feelings that aren't going to go away, evne if I don't think it's right to act on them.

[eyes half closed] This is just how I've survived all this time, the same as you.

[c5] [eyes open] But you don't want to hurt people on a global scale, because you're a lot nicer than me.

AUBREY: [b3] Alto...

{CAUSE WHO THE FUCK WOULDN'T FALL IN LOVE WITH THAT}

[...]

ALTO: [c6] ...More importantly.

[a8]...You know. ...I thought I'd just keep quiet about this for now, and maybe talk about it later.

[a5] But I don't think that I can.

[b2] At least we're private here, and even if you don't really want to hear it, I hope you'll listen.

AUBREY: [a1] ...?

ALTO: [b4] A thing that she... that Chantal, the one in your memories and the one we fought both, was

right about

is that you can't afford to keep making other people into your home

You clung to Altair, and then you clung to me, because that's what you had to do to keep living.

[c6] But that's not sustainable, Aubrey, that's really unhealthy and bad.

AUBREY: [a7] W-what are you...

ALTO: [c6] You know how I said before that things with Meirin and Saki are precarious? It's like that.

Right now you and I are fine, because you're fine when you have me, but what if something happens to me?

What then?

{if only}

[a4] What if -- just what if -- we ever had a really bad argument, like you and Chantal did?

What if my feelings or your feelings change --

if we fall out of love with each other, or in love with somebody else?

[a8] For me, losing you would hurt for a long time, but I think I could live past it.

[c6] But I'm not so sure that you could do the same, and that's really scary.

{AUBREY [...]}

[b2] People and relationships die and change, okay,

it's not safe to try to treat them like they're definitely permanent.

[a5] Sure, a best case scenario might be you and me staying in love forever and growing old together.

[a6] But we don't know if we will for sure.

[a5] A bird needs to build a nest in a sturdy tree to have good support, not on a horse's back.

[b4] You need to have friends and a life outside of me, so that you'll still be okay even if something happens to me.

[c6] Like... I love you so much, but the way things are now isn't good. I know that much from experience.

[c3] I couldn't have stood up to Teagan if she was still my only friend.

[b4] But I had you and Saki and Meirin, so even when she walked out it didn't cut me off at the knees.

{WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT YOU WERE INSISTENT THAT IT COULD ONLY BE TEAGAN}

{AUBREY [...]}

[a8] It's a lot to consider. I don't expect everything to change all at once.

[c6] But I want you to keep thinking about it, and to just humor me and try, okay?

[c7] Because, Aubrey, what happened to your parents wasn't your fault.

And if they loved you, then they wouldn't want you to be miserable forever. You don't deserve that.

AUBREY: [b3] [!] I...

ALTO: [c6] ...Aubrey. You keep saying you want to see Altair again.

Is that because if you had him back you wouldn't need me anymore, or is it...?

AUBREY: [b4] N --

[a3] No. That's not it.

[b6] ...That's not it.

ALTO: [b4] Okay. Do you still -- want to see him?

AUBREY: [a4] Yes. ...Yes. I do.

ALTO: [a4] Okay.

[a7] Well, there's definitely someone here in this layer.

[a5] We can take some time to help you calm down first, or we can just go ahead if you want?

AUBREY: [a2] No, thank you, I'm okay.

[a1] There's something that I need to tell Lord Altair.

[...]

[a3] ...If -- if you're right... and I think you're probably right...

[b6] I don't think I can move forward until I say what's on my mind.

ALTO: [c5] Okay. I'm here to help you, whatever you want to do.

AUBREY: [a8] ...Thank you.

{5:50:30 - they do a dungeon that's a giant Star of David and meet ALTAIR and his gay organ and are [!] that it's him fuck I hate this}

{ALTAIR [...]}

AUBREY: [b6] ...Lord Altair...

ALTAIR: [a1] Aubrey.

[a4] ...so you were able to make it here safely... I'm glad.

AUBREY: [a3] [...] Are you -- really the real Lord Altair?

I feel like -- it's almost too good to be true. Just being able to see you again.

ALTAIR: [a6] [C>] Uncommon Time being what it is, I suppose you can't help doubting.

[a5] But, yes. It's me.

AUBREY: [a3] [...] ...How?

...I looked for you.

I looked for you everywhere, and I couldn't find your grave,

and then when Alto met Lady Arietta, I started to realize...

But how? How is this possible?

[...]

ALTAIR: [a3] It was probably only possible for me because of how involved I was in the creation of this space.

[a4] Arietta and I decided at the end of our lives that we would leave and imprint of ourselves behind in Uncommon Time

in order to look after this land.

[b1] Arietta was close enough to a true spirit to be able to do so without difficulty --

[a7] you know her, she rarely had difficulty with anything --

[a3] but there were complications for a human like me. In the end I had no body to leave behind.

AUBREY: [a3] [!] ...!

ALTAIR: [a4] It's quite all right. We were both very old and fulfilled; we had already set our affairs in order.

AUBREY: [a6] B-but... Doesn't that mean that my lord will have to go on existing like this forever...?

ALTAIR: [a4] It's kind of you to worry.

[a5] But whenever Uncommon Time isn't active --

which is to say, after the World Tuning has been performed, until the magic here builds up again --

we spend our time mostly in a dreamlike state.

[a7] We exist when we are needed, or when we want to be together or spend time with the spirits of the land.

[a6] It's a bit of a shame that the "me" standing before you will never get to discover the truth of the afterlife,

[a7] but Arietta and I both have very important reasons for wanting to remain here.

ALTO: [a5] [?] That bit of about Uncommon Time's periods of activity sounded pretty interesting, but...

[a4] What do you mean by reasons to remain here?

ALTAIR: [a5] [!] ...And you are Contralto, the Cantabile of this generation, yes?

[a7] I can certainly see the family resemblance. Thank you for looking after Aubrey all this time.

[!]

ALTO: [a2] haha, it's no problem, they're my friend.

{guess that little spat downgraded AUBREY}

[c5] [mu] And just Alto is fine.

ALTAIR: [a7] All right. Alto.

[a3] ...To answer your question, well...

[b1] Arietta had her worries about the future of the World Tuning, so she chose to remain here to watch over it.

[a4] And I... Well, I still had my duties as a parent to see to.

{pretty heartwarming tbh}

AUBREY: [b3] !!

ALTAIR: [a3] I'm so sorry.

[a2] When it was clear the World Tuning had succeeded...

Arietta and I and all of your siblings did everything we felt was safe to try to wake you up, but nothing

worked.

{WHY WOULD YOU DO IT BEFORE THE WORLD TUNING IN THE FIRST PLACE DUMBASS}

[a3] I knew that the spell wouldn't last forever, but it didn't seem likely to break within any of our lives...

[a4] So I decided to wait, and make sure that at least a part of me would still be here when you awoke.

[a8] ...I was not a good enough father to help you, but...

{kek the chat is talking about how dumb a voice acted Uncommon Time would be AND I'M STARTING TO AGREE WITH THEM}

AUBREY: [a3] No -- I...

[b6] You were a wonderful father to all of us.

[a4] You were a better father than half of us had before the disasters.

[a3] [...] It's just -- I came here because I needed to tell you how sorry I am.

I never appreciated what I had while I actually had it, and so I was careless enough to throw it away.

Doing so was -- unfair to you, and to Chantal, and to myself.

[b6] I know it's too late, and that I can never get the time I lost back.

[a3] But I still have to tell you how sorry I am.

[b6] And -- and how grateful I am.

[c1] Thank you.

Thank you so much for taking me in, Lord Altair.

Thank you for giving me a second chance, and I'm sorry I almost threw that away.

[...]

ALTAIR: [a3]Because of how Uncommon Time works...

I'm sure that you've had to confront many things on your way here.

AUBREY: [a3] [...] ...Yes.

ALTAIR: [b1] So in that case, I don't think I have to give much more explanation.

This is the only thing that I can do for you now.

[a2] We've been watching over you, Aubrey, so I'm aware that you have a better chance this time.

You have friends who care for you, and a girl who loves you, and you still have a future.

[a3] For as long as you stay shackled to the past, you will never be able to move forward and be healthy again.

[b1] So... I want to settle things. I want to set you free from me.

AUBREY: [a1] Lord Altair...

[b6] ...I understand.

I want to -- be able to be really grateful for everything that you and everyone else has done for me.

I've been so blessed all this time.

I want to change -- so that I won't hurt the people dear to me with my selfishness anymore.

[a4] So I'll overcome you.

ALTAIR: [a4] ...It makes me happier that I can tell you, to hear you sound so strong.

[a5] All right. Don't hesitate to use your full power. I won't disrespect your resolve by holding back.

ALTO: [a4] [!] ...!

[c6] (He's on a totally different level than anyone or anything we've faced before...)

[c7] (We'll really have to go all out to win.)

[...]

{turns to ALTO}

AUBREY: [a3] ...Alto.

{turns to AUBREY}

ALTO: [b5] [?] Hm?

AUBREY: [a3] Please. ...I know that this is a lot to ask, what with everything.

But please... fight at my side, and lend me your strength.

[b6] I still need your help to ake the first step.

[a4] But I promise I'll become stronger, so.

ALTO: [c5] It's okay. I wouldn't leave you to do this on your own.

AUBREY: [a2] Ehehe. I'm -- so happy.

{6:00:10 WOOOOOOOO I'M READY TO FUCKING DIE - ALTAIR is defeated}

[...]

ALTAIR: [b2] ...You really have gotten stronger.

[...]

[a7] I'm so proud of you.

AUBREY: [b3] Lord Altair...

ALTAIR: [a6] You don't need to be so formal.

[a5] You never had to.

[a3] ...I know. From now on, you're going to have to look straight ahead of you, but...

[a5] I can at least give you this.

{Scythe GET! cause AUBREY is a fucking maniac}

[a7] Take everything and make it into your strength.

AUBREY: [c1] ...Thank you.

[b6] I -- I won't look back anymore. I promise.

[c1] So -- thank you.

[c4] Thank you -- Father.

ALTAIR: [b2] ...

[a7] ...Aubrey -- live. Live on. With all your might.

AUBREY: [c4] Yes!

ALTAIR: [a5] [iq] ...Oh. And before I forget, I have a message for you.

ALTO: [a7] [?] Eh? You mean me?

ALTAIR: [a5] That's right.

[a7] She wants to see you.

Follow the path from Bel Canto. All the others are welcome to come along with you.

ALTO: [b5] [!] Eh...

{backs the fuck up}

ALTAIR: [a7] Well... I suppose that's my duty done.

AUBREY: [c1] Wait -- there's just -- one last thing.

ALTAIR: [b2] ?

AUBREY: [c4] Can we -- play together, just one last time?

ALTAIR: [b2]

[a5] All right.

[a7] That's a very small favor to ask, after all.

{some gay drawings of ALTAIR and AUBREY making music and another drawing of a bunch of the past people AND THEY FINALLY EXIT AND THE GUYS THERE ARE [!]}

ALTO: [a2] Hey.

MEIRIN: [b4] You're back!

[a7] Jeez, you guys, way to take forever! We were getting worried, are you okay?

AUBREY: [b1] [ugh] I'm all right. Just... a little tired...

{all but ALTO is [!] when AUBREY passes out, and then ALTO sits down, closes her eyes, and both of them [zzz]; TEAGAN [C>], SAKI and MEIRIN [ugh]; more [zzz] from ALTO and AUBREY and me now}

TEAGAN: [a3] [*] Wh -- damnit, you idiots have got a lot of nerve, falling asleep at a time like this!

{jumps}

MEIRIN: [a4] [#] Seriously!!

[xp] Who do you htink's gonna have to carry you out of here?!!!

{looks at TEAGAN and MEIRIN}

SAKI: [a5] [C>] Now, now, you two...

I know you're relieved, but they seem worn right out.

Shouldn't we save our energy for getting them back home to town?

TEAGAN: [b3] Sigh...

MEIRIN: [a7] Sigh...

{TEAGAN + MEIRIN [ugh]}

SAKI: [a2] [mu] My, my, you certainly are getting along better these days. That was nice synchronization.

{turns to SAKI}

TEAGAN: [a5] [xp] Just shut up and help, okay?

SAKI: [a5] [C>] Oh, my...

[b3] You know I don't have the strength to lift another person.

{looks at SAKI}

MEIRIN: [b1] Saki... I love you but I kind of want to deck you right now.

SAKI: [a5] [C>] My, my!

{goes to inn room where SAKI is having tea and ALTO and AUBREY are sleeping in bed}

ALTO: [b2] Nn...

{sits up}

[a7] Eh?

[a6] ...Aubrey, hey.

{sits up}

AUBREY: [b2] ...Mm.

{walks to bed}

SAKI: [a1] You're finally awake?

ALTO: [b5] Eh? Oh -- Saki.

[b2] Weren't we in Uncommon Time?

SAKI: [a5] You two passed right out as soon as you came back, so we had to carry you out.

The inn in Polyphony was booked solid because of the Star Festival, so we brought you to Stave.

[a8] [ugh] And, well, I'm saying "we", but I'm on bedside duty because Teagan and Meirin did the carrying.

ALTO: [a7] Ah. I see.

SAKI: [a1] Do both of you feel all right?

ALTO: [a2] I'm fine.

AUBREY: [b1] I'm all right too.

SAKI: [a2] That's good to hear. I'm going to go get the others, all right?

{SAKI leaves}

[...]

AUBREY: [b6] ...Alto. I think... I'm going to tell everyone else everything.

I want to be better friends with them, so I have to start somewhere...

ALTO: [a1] I see... Well, as long as you're sure.

AUBREY: [b6] You and Father are right. I can't just only lean on one person for the rest of my life.

[a3] I'm -- going to try to change. I don't know if I can do it all right away, but...

ALTO: [c6] I think it's just important to keep trying even if it doesn't work the first time.

[a5] [C>] I mean -- even after everything with Teagan, it took me this long to actually bring it up to you and all.

AUBREY: [a1] ...That's true.

[a2] Thank you.

{SAKI returns with the UT CREW}

{HUH}

UT

UNCOMMON TIME

*i'm getting really punchy it's now 1 am and I've been working on this since 6
also quick transition}*

MEIRIN: [b4] So that's what happened...

TEAGAN: [b4] Are you guys really okay? That sounds like it must've been tough.

AUBREY: [a1] Yes. Well -- it was painful and all, but I got what I wanted.

[b6] I was able to thank Father and say goodbye to him properly.

[a1] I think I'll be able to move forward now.

[b1] And I... um, I should probably apologize to all of you, for not being open with you before.

I'm sure you must have thought of me as cold and antisocial.

SAKI: [a5] Oh, not at all.

[a4] I think that on our part, we were mostly worried about how best to be accommodating.

TEAGAN: [a1] Yeah, what Saki said.

[b2] And plenty of people are just... kind of shy by nature,
so nobody wanted to put you in a situation you weren't comfortable with.

AUBREY: [b6] I'm grateful. I really am.

[a3] But I know that the way things have been isn't good for me, so...

[b1] I'm going to try my best to reach out more, so if you would be kind enough to ask me along on things...

I'm sure that there are times when it won't occur to me.

MEIRIN: [b2] [<>] Okay, no problem!

[b3] Leave it to us, we'll drag you out to play all the time as long as you're up to it.

AUBREY: [a2] Thank you.

ALTO: [a5] ...There is one other think that I think we should talk about.

[b4] Altair said that Arietta wants to see us. He said to take the path from Bel Canto.

[a4] I think we should look into this.

[a7] I mean, I personally want to see what this is about, anyway. What about all of you?

SAKI: [a6] The path from Bel Canto... Do you have an idea of where to look for it?

ALTO: [a7] Yeah. I mean, thinking back on the two entrances to Uncommon Time we've seen before, it's kinda obvious.

TEAGAN: [a4] I guess we still have time left.

[b3] [C>] Even if I tried to convince you this was a bad idea you wouldn't listen,

[a2] and since we're all apparently invited, I guess we might as well.

[b4] You guys said that Uncommon Time isn't "active" once the World Tuning has been performed, so we might not be able to investigate this once we're done.

ALTO: [a4] Yeah.

MEIRIN: [a1] Well, I'm not gonna argue against it.

[a2] I think if Alto wants to go, we should go.

[a5] [angel] All of us have always got left out of these things, so if we have a chance to go we should take it. I'm curious.

AUBREY: [b1] [ugh] I hope you don't wind up regretting saying that...

ALTO: [a7] [C>] ...Yeah, it's kind of an experience.

SAKI: [a4] This is important to you, isn't it?

ALTO: [b4]Yeah.

SAKI: [a2] Then, what are we waiting for?

ALTO: [c8] Thanks, you guys.

AUBREY: [b7] [*] Sigh. It's no secret that I don't really like her, and I think my feelings about her are always going to be complicated.

[c1] But if it's something you want to do, then I want to support you.

[a2] If for no other reason than because you were so supportive towards me all this time.

ALTO: [a3] ...Okay. Then let's go and search Bel Canto once everyone's ready.

[c5] And really -- thank you all.

FUCKING KILL

ME

THIS NEXT PART IS MUCH CLEANER BY THE WAY FOR REASONS I'M NOT GOING TO EXPLAIN.

6:22 - BEL CANTO at CEMETARY - ALTO and company examine a grave reading "Chantal Maia 729 - 801."

ALTO: [b5] This... is Chantal's grave, isn't it?

AUBREY: [a3] Yes.

[a7] ...Oh? What's this?

{White Ribbon GET!}

ALTO: [a1] It looks liek a white ribbon.

AUBREY: [a7] This wasn't here before...

ALTO: [c5] Let's take it. I bet it's a gift.

AUBREY: [b6] It would be nice if it were.

[a2]Heheh.

ALTO: [b5] ?? What's up?

AUBREY: [a2] It's just... I remembered something.

[a1] Chantal was... when we fought the "her" in the music box, you saw that she used a wand, right?

I don't think that wand is for magic, AUBREY.

ALTO: [a2] Oh, yeah. It looked kind of like a conductor's baton.

AUBREY: [a1] It actually was one.

[a2] Chantal was really amazing, you know.

Even being attuned to two elements like Meirin and me is rare enough,
but Chantal had an affinity for all four cardinal elements.

[b1] But I think she was the biggest problem child out of all of us.

[a1] Even though she had a natural aptitude for music and magic, she hated to sing in front of other people.

ALTO: [b5] Really?

AUBREY: [a1] I think it was a shame. She was good at singing.

[a3] But... um, her birth parents didn't understand about her. I think maybe they didn't want to understand.

She said they expected her to just grow out of hating her body, and never took how she felt seriously.

They wouldn't accept that they had a daughter and not a son.

[b6] So by the time Father adopted us and she finally started hormone treatments,
she was fourteen, and her voice had already changed.

ALTO: [a7] Ah...

AUBREY: [b1] You'd never be able to tell if it was just a normal conversation,
but you can't use your full singing range in falsetto, so...

ALTO: [a5] Ahh.....

AUBREY: [a1] So Chantal wouldn't sing in front of other people, only when she was alone.
[b6] Even Father only knew how to teach magic using music, so... In the end he taught her to conduct.

ALTO: [b4] So that's why... I see now.

AUBREY: [b6] I don't think she knew, but sometimes I would hide outside the window or the door and listen to her when she sang.

[a1] I just thought of that, and...

[a2] You see... her voice was a true contralto.

ALTO: [b5] Oh.

AUBREY: [b1] I'm sure she'd be angry with me for find the irony funny, though.

[b6] ...I wish I could have introduced you to the real Chantal.

I may not have the right to say so after everything, but I hope she was alright after all that.

ALTO: [a3] Well... I wasn't there, so I can't say, but the dates on the headstone say that she lived t be an old lady.

I think she must've been a strong person. Even if it took time, I'm sure things worked out.

AUBREY: [c4] I hope so.

8:10 - The game is reloaded at this point for some reason, and Thassil skips CHANTAL's grave and instead examine ARIETTA's grave, which reads "Arietta Cantabile 726-815"

TEAGAN: [b8] THIS is the path? Arietta's tombstone??

SAKI: [a7] My...

Come to think of it, this is the same kind of lithograph as the two gates to Uncommon Time.

[a1] It's hidden in plain sight... How very ingenious.

AUBREY: [b7] Sigh...

This explains why I felt sure that I would remember where I was supposed to go if I came here, but...

I don't like it.

ALTO: [a7] Haha, you really don't like her, do you?

AUBREY: [b7] I know it's not very mature of me, but I can't help it.

MEIRIN: [b4] How come you don't like her, though? Was she mean?

AUBREY: [b1] No, not at all.

[a3] ...I hate to admit it, but she was definitely a good person. The way I feel about her isn't justified.

[b7] I was jealous of her being close with Father, that's all.

MEIRIN: [a2] Ahh...

TEAGAN: [a1] So, anyway, this is another gate into Uncommon Time, isn't it?

SAKI: [a3] And it's active. We will be able to pass through here without any trouble.

ALTO: [b4] Yeah...

TEAGAN: [b8] ??

Alto, what's up? You seem kinda unenthusiastic, even though this was your idea.

[b4] That's not like you.

ALTO: [a2] Haha. It's nothing.

[a5] Or -- well, it's not anything important.

TEAGAN: [a4] ...

[b4] ...Okay, if you say so.

ALTO: [a4] Let's make sure we've stocked up on items and things before we go.

We don't know what to expect, and there'll probably be a point past which we can't go back.

MEIRIN: [a5] Okay, then now we know where we're going, let's come back when we're ready!

[a2] Heheh, I'm excited to meet Arietta. I wanna know what she's like.

ALTO: [c6] Yeah...

20:08 - ARIETTA'S UNCOMMON TIME at MUSIC BOX TABLET - the quintet form a line in front of the tablet, only broken by ALTO who is standing a little closer to the tablet.

MEIRIN: [a1] Well, I guess this is the last gate.

[a6] So all of us will finally get to see what it's like on the other side of these...

[a2] [mu] I'm kinda excited.

[faces MEIRIN]

AUBREY: [b7] [C>] I really hope you don't wind up regretting that statement.

SAKI: [a7] If we're all going to travel through that gate,

I wonder if the dimension on the other side will be created from all our minds, or just one?

[a2] [<>] This is very interesting[SEMI] I wish I could study how Uncommon Time works.

AUBREY: [b1] Well, in my case, the music box was still made from my memories even though Alto was with me, so...

[resets orientation]

[*] And I really do think that you're all underestimating what kind of a place this is.

{ALTO [...]}

[] [turns to ALTO]*

TEAGAN: [b3] ...Sigh.

[walks to ALTO side]

[b4] Alto, seriously, is there something wrong?

Like, you don't HAVE to talk about it if you don't want to, but you're so quiet.

[b8] It's kinda creeping me out.

{SAKI and MEIRIN turn to ALTO}

MEIRIN: [b6] Teagan's right.

[b4] We're going to see Arietta, right? I thought you'd be really excited.

If you've changed your mind, we can always go back.

[turns around]

ALTO: [b5] [?] Huh?

[a5] No, it's nothing to turn around for, it's just...

[...] [turns around]

[a8] I dunno, I'm kind of nervous.

MEIRIN: [b4] Nervous? Really?

ALTO: [c6] Yeah, I -- it's kind of stupid. I know it's stupid.

[b4] But I've been looking up to Arietta my whole life. She's given me the strength to survive through a lot of bad stuff.

[a8] [...] But that kind of -- admiring somebody from far away, like...

[a5] Now that I know I'm going to meet her, that she wants to talk to us about something, I can't stop thinking that like...

[a8] I'm not going to know what to say.

And we've made our own path instead of following hers, so I'm worried about what she thinks of that.

[c6] I don't know if I've lived up to her legacy in a way that would make her proud.

And what if she doesn't like being admired and clung to someone like me?

[b4] ...We don't even know what she wants to talk to us about.

It could be something good or important, it could be no big deal, or it could be something bad.

[a8] ...Now that we've come this far, all these weird possibilities keep occurring to me,
and even though I know it shouldn't be a big deal, I'm still worried.

MEIRIN: [b6] Alto...

[walks to ALTO's back]

AUBREY: [b1] ...I know I complain about her a lot, but... Arietta was a good person.

[a1] I don't think she'd think badly of you for any of that.

ALTO: [b4] Yeah.

I mean, I know that much in my head. And from the few times I have seen her.

[c6] It's just... I dunno.

[walks to ALTO's side]

SAKI: [a2] It's going to be all right. We'll be with you.

[a5] And I think that being nervous is normal for someone in your situation.

ALTO: [a8] Is it? ...I don't know.

[c6] I'm sorry, you guys.

I was the one who said we should do this, so really I ought to be taking charge here, but...

[...]

TEAGAN: [b2] What are you apologizing for? Weirdo.

[a1] You can't help being nervous, and the only way to solve that is to just go meet her.

[...]

[b4] Besides... this might be hypocritical coming from me,

[b3] But anybody who can't look at what you've survived and what you've done and be proud of you is somebody who isn't worth your time.

[b2] So you don't need to put yourself down like that.

[a2] If this Arietta of yours is half the person you've always told me she is, I bet she'll agree.

Jesus Christ TEAGAN really did get brainwashed.

===== "I'M STILL AS INSUFFERABLE AS BEFORE" ZONE =====

[...]

ALTO: [b5] ...You manage to say some pretty good things sometimes, even though you're just Teagan.

===== "I'M STILL AS INSUFFERABLE AS BEFORE" ZONE =====

TEAGAN: [b3] [*] Ordinarily I'd be asking you if you're trying to pick a fight, but this time I'll be magnanimous and take the hit.

ALTO: [b6] Heh.

MEIRIN: [b5] But she's actually right this time.

Good thing we have MEIRIN, universally known for her competency and judgement, validating the obtuse and reckless TEAGAN.

[a6] [mu] Even though she's just Teagan.

I think I just had a micro-aneurysm.

[a2] ...Ooh, she's glaring at me now.

TEAGAN: [a5] Be thankful I'm biting my tongue and restraining myself to glaring.

SAKI: [a2] [<3] My! You've certainly grown.

TEAGAN: [a5] [#] Look, Alto and Meirin may have a right to say what they want, but that doesn't mean I have to put up with this from you too.

SAKI: [a2] Oh, my, how frightening!

{SAKI + MEIRIN [mu], TEAGAN [#]}

AUBREY: [b1] [ugh] Come on, everyone, don't fight...

ALTO: [b6] [mu] Hahaha.

[looks at everyone I guess]

[c8] ...Thanks, guys. I'll be fine.

[c5] Teagan is right, we're better off going ahead than staying here and worrying about it.

[faces tablet]

[a1] ...Let's go.

23:58 - MUSIC BOX - CHAPTER: GRAND PAUSE - The screen is black for what I suspect is ARIETTA's or SMOL ARIETTA's monologue.

ARIETTA (probably): If you asked me when exactly that I was different from everyone else, I couldn't give you a precise answer.

That's because as far back as I can remember, I already knew to a certain extent.

Interacting with other people was baffling, sometimes even exhausting.

The adults around me didn't know how to handle a child who could already read and write by the age most noble children were only just starting to get private tutors.

They didn't know what to do when my magic manifested years early, and I found it as easy as breathing.

It wasn't just that.

No one understood things that seemed obvious to me, and sometimes I couldn't follow what they claimed was "logical".

How did they not sense the same things that I could? Why didn't the things that bothered me affect them?

But, let's see.

I was probably around ten or eleven back then, and already going to the same academy of magical arts as the adults.

We were at a lecture hall that day, debating the worrying climate patterns and the devastation caused by technology overharvesting mana from nature.

Famous researchers and theorists from all over Harmonia were there leading the discussion.

For the most part I just sat and listened, or ignored the things I already knew because they were boring.

But the longer the debate went on, I started to realize that none of the lecturers and none of my classmates were even bringing up what I was thinking.

I remember wondering if it was just that it had already been declared impossible, and that was why no one was bothering to talk about it.

But they said at the university that there was no such thing as a stupid question, and I wouldn't be able to calm down until I satisfied my curiosity.

So I stood on my chair with my hand up until the adults realized that I wanted to speak.

SMOL ARIETTA (probably): "If the music of the spheres has become dissonant because of human disruptions, then why can't we just tune it?"

ARIETTA (probably): It's almost funny.

A hall full of the brightest minds in the entire world all turning white or red or purple because of one little girl.

Because what was so obvious to me had, again, not occurred to any of them at all.

And while I was standing there waiting for an answer that wouldn't come, they whispered, trying to reason to themselves why I had seen this preposterous possibility that they couldn't.

Because I was a child, some said[semi] because I just wasn't old enough to know any better.

Because I was a genius, others said[semi] I was just on some mystical level they couldn't reach.

UNKNOWN (possibly ARIETTA): "Because she isn't human."

ARIETTA (probably): It was probably only one person saying so at first.

But the whispers grew. Dozens of voices. Men and women leaning towards each other and staring at me with suspicion and fear.

...I'd had enough.

I put my things away and walked out of the lecture hall with my head held high.

{Fades up to SMOL ARIETTA walking down a grand hall, with a familiar wizard sitting on a couch right of her.}

My grandmother died when I was very young, and my parents explained to me as soon as I was old enough to understand about the war with the spirits.

And it was common knowledge that my grandmother had never married, that my father had been born out of wedlock.

So it wasn't anything new.

{At this point, she is at the end of the hall. Progressing after the above dialoge triggers SMOL ARIETTA to walk through the door, which catches the attention of the wizard, as he turns to it and is [?].}

It was just that that was the day I finally ran out of patience.

{Continuing after this dialogue triggers the wizard standing up and walking slightly in the general direction of the door. He is [?]. Then it fades to black.}

By the time my head was clear enough that I was aware of my surroundings, I didn't recognize the forest I was standing in at all.

30:05 - FOREST - SEASON: SPRING - SMOL ARIETTA has made her way through a rather pretty forest and happens to meet LUMINOSO also on a stroll. This entire section is lacking the brown filter.

{ARIETTA is [!] and jumps}

LUMINOSO: [?] Who are you?

{Brown filter appears before fading to black and more monologue.}

ARIETTA (probably): The day I that I met Luminoso -- the day I made a friend -- was the beginning of everything.

MONOLOGUE - SEASON: SUMMER - Everything is still black.

ARIETTA (probably) I took over as head of the Cantabile family a few years later, when I was 13.

Mazal Tov!

After all the time I'd spent learning from Luminoso and the others in the spirit village, and everything I'd studied at university, my course was set.

I waited a year to make sure I had all my preparations ready, and then I left to travel the world.

I traveled to all kinds of different countries, consulted spirits and humans from all over the world...

and when I was 16, after I was certain that I would be able to tune the world, I lead everyone who had agreed to help me back to Harmonia.

Beyond its being the optimal site for the ritual I was planning to instate, Harmonia was a gathering point for the greatest minds in the far north even then.

And sure, it might be petty, but the people who'd dismissed me as an ignorant kid made some really great faces.

Getting to laugh at them all was a priceless experience I wouldn't trade for anything.

...Anyway. It was around that time -- when we were all getting together to work seriously.

I'd known about him before, of course.

We'd seen each other a few times at university -- even if it wasn't to the same degree as me, he'd still gotten in much younger than most people,

so even though he was years ahead of me we were vaguely acquainted.

And he was one of the ones who'd agreed to research with us.

I'd just never talked to him much one on one before.

The actual occasion was -- something really trivial.

And I asked him specifically on a whim.

That's all.

UNIVERSITY WORKSPACE - Fades to in-game with the brown filter before the brown filter fades away.
ALTAIR is working.

[walks up a bit]

ARIETTA: [a4] Ooh, found someone who doesn't look like he's doing anything important.

{ALTAIR turns around and ARIETTA walks up to him.}

[a1] Your name's Altair, right?

ALTAIR: [b2] [?] Yes, I'm Altair Bonheur.

[a5] And I know you, of course...

You still haven't memorized everyone's names, right?

[a7] If you ever need help with that, I can point people out for you.

[a6] [C>] The only bad thing about being so busy is that we haven't had much time to get to know each other.

ARIETTA: [b4] In our case, it's probably for the best that we're busy.

[b5] But thanks.

[!] [b3] Anyway, come with me for a minute.

ALTAIR: [b2] [?] Eh?

ARIETTA: [b3] You can fly on that scythe of yours, right? I'm running an errand, so come with me.

We can get it done faster with two people, and if we can fly we can get there and back quickly too.

ALTAIR: [a6] An errand? We don't really have to do it now, do we?

ARIETTA: [b1] Of course we do.

[a7] I'm bored. You look bored too.

[b2] Sitting at a desk reading old books all the time causes death by boredom. I know this because of science.

BAZINGA

[b3] Going on a walk will be good for our bodies and our minds.

ALTAIR: [a6] [C>] Hmm...

[a7] I guess I'm at a place where I can stop, so sure, I'll go with you.

ARIETTA: [a5] [mu] Good, it's decided!

[a4] Hurry up, let's go.

{Altair joins the party!}

34:05 - FOREST at ENTRANCE - ARIETTA and ALTAIR are looking at each other.

ARIETTA: [a5] [mu] Wow, you really can fly. That was fast!

ALTAIR: [a4] I hope it wasn't too uncomfortable a ride...

[a6] [C>] I know some people get sick riding things, so...

ARIETTA: [a4] No, it was fun!

ALTAIR: [a7] I'm glad to hear that.

[a5] So what are we here for?

ARIETTA: [b3] We're doing a test to see the differences in how my magic affects plants in areas shielded by the spirits versus those that aren't.

ALTAIR: [b2] [iq] I see...

[a4] Better to know whether the ritual will have a uniform effect worldwide ahead of time, after all.

ARIETTA: [b4] Yep.

[b1] I mean, having to fine-tune things to compensate for differences in mana level worldwide would be a pain.

But I'd rather find out now than have to scrap months' worth of work and research.

[b4] Especially since we're finally planning the tower schematics.

ALTAIR: [b1] So knowing these things is going to affect the tower?

[b2] [iq] I see, so a higher altitude would be better in that case...?

ARIETTA: [b1] Exactly, but it's asking for a bit much if it's unnecessary, is all.

[...]

[a1] You're pretty sharp.

ALTAIR: [a7] Thank you.

[a5] So anyway, which plants are we looking for as samples?

ARIETTA: [a1] Cat grass. There's plenty of it around the academy and over here.

[a8] [mu] There's monsters all over the place, but I trust you can take care of yourself?

ALTAIR: [a6] I'll do my best to not hold you back, at least.

ARIETTA: [a5] As long as you can keep up. We are here to exercise too, after all!

39:07 - FOREST on SMALL ISLAND - After many battles with stock assets, they encounter some cat grass.

ARIETTA: [a5] Okay, here's some cat grass.

ALTAIR: [b1] How much more do you want to collect?

ARIETTA: [b4] Hmm, maybe two more samples from further in?

That way we can have a bigger range beyond the control group for a more accurate picture.

ALTAIR: [b2] ...

ARIETTA: [a3] Oh? What's with the shocked face?

ALTAIR: [a4] I'm sorry. I just had this terribly inaccurate mental image of you from all the other researchers' tall tales...

People talk about you like you base all your decision-making on your superhuman instinct.

[a7] But you do know and care about process. Seeing that makes me kind of happy.

ARIETTA: [b4] Hmmm. I don't think that's too terribly inaccurate!

Secret: I am actually flying by the seat of my pants about 90% of the time.

ARIETTA is truly a genius. She even familiar with aviation jargon despite the absence of planes!

It's just that my intuition is good and I've got a lot of research and firsthand experience,

so my guesses tend to be good too.

[b3] Besides, I know most people don't think like me.

ALTAIR: [a4] No, it's...

[b1] A lot of the people in the academy especially tend to characterize you as someone much less accessible.

Someone we should never bother trying to understand because you're so far removed from our level.

[a4] But just from going on this errand with you, I know that they're wrong.

[a5] You're human.

ARIETTA: [b6] ... [GET TIME]

ALTAIR: [b2] What's wrong? Did I say something insensitive?

ARIETTA: [b6] ...No.

I'm just...

[b5] ...I kinda want a cross-section of your brain.

BAZINGA

ALTAIR: [a6] Eh?!!

ARIETTA: [b5] I mean, it seems like there'd be flowers crammed in there.

ALTAIR: [a6] Mmm. I would rather the inside of my skull be like a planetarium instead.

ARIETTA: [a5] ...Pff... Ahahahaha!

[a2] You're a funny man, mister Altair Bonheur.

[a4] Come on, let's keep going.

44:16 - FOREST deeper in the interior - OPTIONAL: Thassil attempts to leave, which triggers Arietta to say something and prevents "him" from continuing.

ALTO: [b3] There's cat grass over there. Let's pick it before we go further.

PROGRESS: Interacts with cat grass.

ARIETTA: [a5] Cat grass located!

ALTAIR: [b2] Stiill, places like this that are close to spirits' dwellings have a totally different magical landscape from human inhabited ones.

[a5] How should I put it... it seems healthier here, somehow?

ARIETTA: [a4] Oh, you can tell! Not many people are able to, I'm kind of impressed.

ALTAIR: [b2] Is it just because there's more mana left in the land, or is it something about there being spirits here specifically?

ARIETTA: [b1] It's probably something like that, but extrapolating cause and effect is a pain because it's so interrelated.

For our sake, I hope it's not that spirits have to be around for the earth to be healthy,
or else most of the heavily populated places worldwide are all screwed.

ALTAIR: [a3] I wonder...

[a2] If at least we could develop alternate technology, wouldn't there be some hope of reintegration?

ARIETTA: [b1] Maybe someday in the very distant future,

but as it is now I get the feeling humanity's dug its own grave and now they've got to lie in it.

[b4] Even the young kids like Luminoso are really shy around humans.

[b3] A lot of the adults probably don't even feel safe around me.

ALTAIR: [a4] ...It's a complicated problem.

ARIETTA: [a2] Well, if we can keep the planet from freezing over, that's a start.

If we're dead, there's obviously nothing we can do anymore.

ALTAIR: [b1] That's very true.

[a5] ...Shall we keep going?

ARIETTA: [a4] Sure.

45:38 - Deeper in FOREST - The duo walks up to a dragon blocking their path.

ARIETTA: [b1] Gay, there's something annoying in the way.

ALTAIR: [b2] I'm not familiar with that kind of monster... I wonder if it's rare?

ARIETTA: [b2] Not really sure, don't really care.

[b1] But the way wild animals are these days, I'd happily bet you lunch that we're not getting through here without a fight.

[faces ARIETTA]

ALTAIR: [a6] I wouldn't be so presumptuous as to bet against you.

[resets orientation]

[b1] What do you want to do? Shall we turn back?

[faces ALTAIR]

ARIETTA: [a8] Turn back? And here I thought we were out here to get some exercise?

[faces ARIETTA]

ALTAIR: [a7] Hahahaha. As you wish, Miss Cantabile.

ARIETTA: [a2] You can call me by my first name if you want.

ALTAIR: [b2] [!] Oh -- that's all right with you?

[a5] Then -- Areitta.

[a7] It's a lovely name.

ARIETTA: [a5] [<3] My, you are a gentleman.

{DRAGON [#]}

[jumps and faces DRAGON]

ARIETTA: [a7] [xp] What's your problem? Can't you just be patient and let us have a moment?

[a3] Well, fine, we'll just have to take care of you first.

49:27 - DRAGON is defeated and explodes.

[mu]

[walks up]

ARIETTA: [a5] That takes care of that!

ALTAIR: [a5] You really are strong.

[faces ALTAIR]

ARIETTA: [a2] I don't think your magic is something to sneeze at either, you know.

ALTAIR: [a3] But your magic -- "Bowing", isn't it? -- and the way you fight...

[b1] All of your technique is self-developed, isn't it?

[a6] I've just improved on the techniques that I was taught through research and trial and error.

[a7] I really do think that you're impressive.

ARIETTA: [b4] Haha. People keep saying things like that, but it just felt like the natural thing to do.

The Cantabile family were archetiers before we were ennobled, and I learned fencing when I was little, so I just...

Once I'd thought up converted bow, I just had to come up with ways to emphasize slashing over piercing.

And my magic, too... School did shape my understanding of applying magic,

but the only limits on my abilities have been my imagination, my mana capacity, and how far I can push my body.

ALTAIR: [a5] It's just that my aptitudes are different from yours.

[...] [turns around]

ARIETTA: [a1] [b1] I don't really understand what "normal" is.

[b4] I mean, I know it's a relative term, and that it's a word that doesn't apply to me.

[b1] But this is just the way things are for me, so it's harder for me to understand how a "normal" person sees the world.

BAZINGA

[...]

ALTAIR: [a3] I see...

[Does the electric slide ARIETTA's back]

[a4] I'm sorry. I said something insensitive, didn't I?

[...]

[turns around]

ARIETTA: [b3]You're weird.

ALTAIR: [a6] Eh?

ARIETTA: [b4] I mean, you're an adult, but you go around actually apologizing for things.

[b1] I may not understand normality, but I know how rare adults who say they're sorry are.

ALTAIR: [a6] I'm not entirely sure how to react to being told that, to be honest.

[backs up]

ARIETTA: [a8] Why not just be happy?

[a4] I'm complimenting you, I hope you realize. It's very refreshing.

[a5] [<3] I like my fellow weird people.

ALTAIR: [a7] All right. I'll obediently be flattered, then.

ARIETTA: [a2] Heheh.

[turns around]

[a4] Now, come on, let's get that last cat grass sample.

51:33 - They find a last sample at the end of the path. There is a grand waterfall that almost crosses the entire screen.

ARIETTA: [a5] Here it is.

[faces ALTAIR]

[a4] There, wasn't that a fun errand?

ALTAIR: [a6] I don't know about the monsters, but I enjoyed the walk and the conversation.

[a4] I'm a little sad that we'll have to go back to work, but research is important too.

ARIETTA: [b5] You play the piano, right?

[faces ARIETTA]

ALTAIR: [b2] [?] Eh? Yes, I do, but...

ARIETTA: [b5] [?] Oh, have I gotten too far ahead of myself?

[a5] Well, I play the viola, so next time that we have spare time, we should play together. That's what I wanted to say.

ALTAIR: [a5] Yes, I play the piano. And that sounds like it would be fun. I would love to hear you play.

[a7] It would be interesting for us to each find some duets to surprise each other with.

ARIETTA: [a5] [!] Oh! You were thinking the same thing as me after all. That makes me kind of happy.

[...]

[a2] ...Altair Bonheur. I like you. Let's be friends.

ALTAIR: [a7]I would be honored.

52:06 - MONOLOGUE - Everything is black.

ARIETTA (probably): ...That was the beginning.

Altair was the first true peer I'd ever had who was also human.

It was a surprise, having someone other than the spirits who could interact with me on my own level.

So in that sense, it was natural for us to become closer.

He was laid-back and kind, and didn't lose his patience like me, and he made me laugh.

Looking back on it, I'm not even sure when my feelings of friendship turned into like, and then into love.

It wasn't that I stopped having the bad days.

It wasn't that having one person I was close to made up for the isolation.

But... all the same.

I wouldn't have been so optimistic otherwise.

It was taking years to build Metronome Tower, and we were plagued with internal and external problems all the while.

But I was confident that as soon as we were done, that would be the solution to everything.

And the day that I performed the great working that would synchronize the tower with the tuners...

{Fades up to a wide-eyed ARIETTA, looking a little similar to [b3] except her eyebrows are lower and there's more tension under her eyes.}

I learned how complacent I'd been.

BEL CANTO South of METRONOME TOWER AREA - The screen has a red filter and many fires have broken out. There are a couple of bodies on the ground. Her portrait is consistently [b7] in the menu and when she fights some random encounter spirit whips. **Note that Thassil does not talk to all the people, so there might be some dialogue missing.**

ARIETTA: [b7] ...

[pauses]

.....

[pauses]

[b8] I have to...

[a3] I have to help whoever I can --

Talks to several people lying on ground.

ARIETTA: [a3] Hey! Can you hear me?!

{there is no response and they are not breathing}

[b8] ...

BEL CANTO Entrance - Fire is very prominent here, with even the stone being set ablaze. ARIETTA finds ALTAIR lying on the ground.

[!]

[sprints before slowing to a crawl to ALTAIR]

ARIETTA: [b6] N-no way.

Stop it.

[moonwalks]

You can't be here.

[OW]

[a3] Why are you doing this to me?

[SHAMONE]

[sits on the ground]

[b8] This isn't -- real.

[b7] This isn't how it was, so just --

DRAWING - ARIETTA sitting up naked in bed, with ALTAIR sleeping beside her.

ARIETTA: ...Another dream, huh.

MONOLOGUE - Black screen.

ARIETTA: It was the first time I'd ever failed at anything, let alone so spectacularly.

But I had been arrogant.

I'd come to take my own genius for granted, and despite what I knew full well was wrong with my subconscious mind, I failed to consider the effect that would have.

And so, there was the earthquake, and the fire, and people died.

Many, many people.

I knew I had to get things sorted out with myself before I did any more meddling.

Between the world I wanted to save and the world I wanted to destroy...

The land around Bel Canto needed time to heal, and Altair had the orphans he took in to care for.

So I asked him and Luminoso to help me make a space to think.

That was Uncommon Time.

...After that -- after I finally was sure that I was doing what I wanted and wouldn't regret it, after I finally convinced myself that it wasn't my own fault I was alive...

I thought that everything would be smooth sailing.

The tower was built, after all.

I knew what I wanted to accomplish.

All I had to do was complete the ritual itself.

That was all, but...

56:20 - ALTAIR'S BEDROOM - ARIETTA is looking out a window and ALTAIR is by bed looking at her. The majority of this section is from AUBREY's Uncommon Time but this time from within the room, so these lines do not need to be re-recorded twice.

ALTAIR: [a7] I'm sorry to make you come all this way all the time.

[turns around to ALTAIR]

ARIETTA: [a5] No... Don't worry about it.

[a1] I mean, I can hardly expect you to leave the kids alone for longer than absolutely necessary.

[walks over to ALTAIR]

[a4] [mu] And I like to come out here.

[a5] It's easier to meet with the spirits from here, and it's not as much of a mess as Bel Canto.

[walks away with back faced to ARIETTA]

ALTAIR: [a4] Even so...

{ARIETTA turns to ALTAIR}

[a3] I feel like the older generations out to be taking a more active role instead of letting you do everything.

[a5] [...] I want to help you more.

ARIETTA: [a2] But you ARE helping.

[a7] [*] You have no idea how frustrating it is to try to explain all these things

to people who don't even make an effort to understand.

The spirits are better about it, but that's because they think more like I do anyway.

[a2] But you, you're always willing to meet me halfway, evne if you don't get where I'm coming from.

[a5] [<3] I wouldn't have made it this far without that.

[faces ARIETTA]

ALTAIR: [a5] ...I want you to know that you always have a place to stay here, whenever you need it.

[walks up to ARIETTA]

ARIETTA: [a8] [mu] ...Oh? Are you trying to adopt me too, now?

ALTAIR: [a6] [ugh] Th..that's not...

ARIETTA: [a4] I'm sorry. I'm just teasing.

[a6] [<3] There are a lot of reasons I prefer to have you see me as an adult, after all.

[walks around to face ARIETTA again for some reason]

ALTAIR: [a7] ...I'm glad you're an adult. Truly.

[a4] It was a little awkward when we first met, having a child as my first and only true peer.

I was worried about being a corrupting influence.

ARIETTA: [a5] Haha.

[a8] [mu] When really, you needed to worry about my corrupting you.

ALTAIR: [a5] [///]Stay the night.

DEJA VU

I'VE BEEN IN THIS PLACE BEFORE

[a7] I know you stay away to keep things from being awkward with the children, but I do miss you.

ARIETTA: [a5] All right. There's plenty of work that I want to consult you on, if we need an excuse.

ALTAIR: [a7] Once the children are in bed, we can go up to the observatory for a bit.

ARIETTA: [a8] [<3] Does that mean you're going to lecture stars at me and I get to try to distract you?

ALTAIR: [a7] Hahaha. ...If that's what you want.

ARIETTA: [a2] Heh.

ENDING FROM AUBREY'S UNCOMMON TIME

[backs up]

ARIETTA: [a4] ...Oh, but more importantly!

[a1] I'm going back to the tower tomorrow.

[a5] [<>] I think I've solved all the remaining problems, so it's sure to work this time.

[a1] If you can spare the time, you should come too. I want you to be there!

ALTAIR: [a6] I'll see if I can. I do worry.

ARIETTA: [b2] [xp] I can take care of myself, you know. I've got this.

[...]

ALTAIR: [a3] I know. You're a lot more capable than I am.

It's just that when you're trying to handle something so big by yourself... I can't help it.

ARIETTA: [b4] Well... yes, you should worry!

[a8] [mu] After my overwhelming success tomorrow, I'm leaving all the celebration lanning to you.

[waks up to ARIETTA]

ALTAIR: [a7] Haha... Well, if it comes to that, I will try not to disappoint.

ARIETTA: [a2] The two of us can do it.

METRONOME TOWER Roof - ARIETTA is performing alone, with ALTAIR standing behind her watching.

{ARIETTA [...]}

{contrast increases}

[...]

[turns around and a magic sigil appears over her]

ARIETTA: [c3] ... [GET TIME]

[a3] [*] ... [GET TIME] Kh...

{contrast returns to normal}

[c1] Ugh --

{falls over}

[!]

ALTAIR: [a2] Arietta!

[walks over]

59:22 - ALTAIR'S MANOR beroom - ARIETTA is curled up in a ball on ALTAIR's couch and ALTAIR is sitting beside to comfort her.

[xp]

ARIETTA: [a7] Why isn't it working?!!

All the problems with the tower are fixed, the meditation in Uncommon Time went perfectly well,

[gets up and walks away]

I've done everything I can think of to reduce the strain on myself, but it just won't work!

["falls" backwards]

[stellar]

ALTAIR: [a6] [C>] Take it easy... I don't want you to hurt yourself.

[curls up into a ball]

ARIETTA: [b1] [*] I'm fine NOW.

[b2] Ugh... Why does this always happen?

ALTAIR: [a6] [C>] You're so angry.

ARIETTA: [a7] [xp] This has never happened to me before in my entire life! Of course I'm mad!

ALTAIR: [a3] Sometimes life is just like that...

[a4] We all have limits as to what we can and can't do, so everyone will eventually run into a wall they can't get over.

It's just the way that things are.

ARIETTA: [b2] [ugh] You're saying that so reasonably, but I don't like it.

[...]

[a3] [C>] First of all, is that really something that people on our level ought to be saying so casually?

ALTAIR: [a6] [C>] You certainly have me there.

[sits up]

ARIETTA: [b2] Even with the Metronome Disasters, as soon as we figured out what the problem was I was able to fix it right away.

[a7] So why is this not working out how I want it? I don't understand.

ALTAIR: [a7] ...If you think about it another way, this might be a good learning experience for you.

ARIETTA: [b2] I think we should be more concerned about the fate of the world than my need to build character.

ALTAIR: [a5] At any rate, as long as you think you're up to it, why not go take a walk?

Sitting and lamenting being stuck isn't going to help much either.

ARIETTA: [a1] [C>] You're probably right about that.

ALTAIR: [a7] And who knows? You might get inspired.

ARIETTA: [a3] [ugh] That would be nice if it came true...

[stands up]

[b5] Anyway, I'm going to head out then.

[walks a bit and turns around to ALTAIR]

[b5] I'll be back if it starts getting too cold or if I get bored.

ALTAIR: [a7] All right. Have a nice time.

1:01:01 CHECKED - ALTAIR ESTATE - SEASON: AUTUMN - ARIETTA is at the door. There's not much, but a perfectly fine garden that she's a bit rude to.

ARIETTA: [a1] I guess I'll go around to the garden in back.

She finds sAUBREY moping about.

{sAUBREY [...]}

ARIETTA: [a4] [!] Oh!

{spinjumps [!] and walks back}

[a5] Good aftern--

sAUBREY: [a3] [xp] ...

[runs off]

ARIETTA: [c2] [ugh] I got ignored... I got run away from...

Sigh... I guess they still hate me.

OPTIONAL: Trying to go after sAUBREY.

ARIETTA: [c2] [C>] I don't think chasing them would do any good... haha...

PROGRESS: Head up a screen to the garden, where CHANTAL is singing.

[?]

ARIETTA: [b3] ...?? Somebody's singing.

{transitions :^} to ARIETTA sneaking up on CHANTAL because ARIETTA is listening}

[b5] Oh, so it was you, Chantal.

[a5] [mu] You're pretty good at singing!

[jumps]

CHANTAL: [b1] [!] △○×□?!!!

This is pronounced https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZE_iCgBUacQ

[turns around]

CHANTAL: [b1] L-L-Lady Arietta?! [GET TIME] Since when are you...

ARIETTA: [b5] Sorry, I meant to say something sooner, but you have such a nice voice I just wound up listening to the end.

CHANTAL: [b1] T-that's far too much praise! My lady is much too kind.

ARIETTA: [a4] No, no, I'm nowhere near nice enough to flatter somebody when I don't mean it.

[a2] I knew you're not in the choir, so it surprised me.

[a5] You're talented, so you ought to show it off more.

CHANTAL: [a6] No.....

[b2] R-really, I have a terrible voice.

[a6] You know what they say about girls with deep voices.

The only choir and opera roles there are for us are witches, britches, and --

ARIETTA: [b2] I know.

[a3] I don't understand why composers these days have such a problem with giving interesting parts to lower sections.

[a7] It's just prejudice, it's ridiculous.

CHANTAL: [a3] Sigh... I wish I were a soprano like Aubrey.

[a6] I wanted to be cute and girly.

ARIETTA: [b4] Hey, now, sopranos may get more attention, but they're a dime a dozen.

[a2] A good contralto like you is the jewel of the choir -- it's not an easy vocal range to come by.

[a5] And your voice is lovely. I'd like to play with you sometime.

CHANTAL: [b2] Oh... no, I couldn't. I really couldn't.

ARIETTA: [b4] Really?

CHANTAL: [b2] Um -- more importantly!

[a5] Lady Arietta, what are you doing in a place like this? Weren't you staying with Lord Altair?

ARIETTA: [b5] Oh, I'm just on a walk to clear my head. My ♥ honey's orders.

Scribe's note: ♥ means ♥

CHANTAL: [a6] [C>] You really do call him that...

ARIETTA: [b5] [?] Is something wrong?

CHANTAL: [a2] Oh, no.

[a5] But that means you're still stuck on the World Tuning ritual?

ARIETTA: [b1] [*] Sigh... as much as I hate to admit it.

[a7] I know I ought to be able to do it, but it's just not working out.

CHANTAL: [a6] Well... Don't work yourself so hard, okay?

[a3] Lord Altair worries, and seeing you work yourself to the bone is kind of scary.

[a2] Don't try to carry a burden too big for you to handle, okay? If there's something that we can do to help, please ask.

[b2] There's not much that I personally can do, but even I want to support you how I can.

ARIETTA: [a8] Really? If I ask for a favor you'll do it?

CHANTAL: [a2] [<3] If it doesn't involve singing.

ARIETTA: [b1] Aw...

CHANTAL: [b3] I help take care of the little kids. Did you really think that would work on me?

ARIETTA: [c2] It was worth a try.

CHANTAL: [a6] Your viola playing is too beautiful for me to mess it up with my ugly voice.

[b2] I do like to sing, but doing it by myself is enough for me.

ARIETTA: [c3] [...] (Is she really okay with that...?)

CHANTAL: [a5] [!] ...Oh, darn, it's already time.

[a1] Lady Arietta, have you seen Aubrey around anywhere?

ARIETTA: [c2] They were in the garden walk, but they ran away from me.

[b1] I think I saw them headed for the pond.

CHANTAL: [a4] [*] That kid never changes.

[a2] Thanks, I'm going to go chase them down.

ARIETTA: [a2] No problem.

{Fades to black.}

[a1] ...All right, let's go back.

1:07:30 - BEDROOM - ALTAIR is at his bookshelf.

{ARIETTA walks in to him}

[turns around]

ALTAIR: [a5] How are you feeling?

ARIETTA: [a1] I'm fine.

[a2] It was nice getting some air, and your kids are running around doing kid things as usual.

[turns and walks away a bit]

[c3] The vegetable patches look kind of unhealthy for this time of autumn, though.

[looks to the right of the screen]

ALTAIR: [a3] ...

[walks up a bit further]

ARIETTA: [c3] We really don't have any time to waste.

ALTAIR: [b1] I know.

[a2] But remember -- you aren't alone.

[a4] We may only be able to support you, but we hate to see you hurt yourself for the sake of the greater good.

[turns around to ALTAIR]

ARIETTA: [a2] Thank you. But I'll be fine.

[pause]

[b4] [?]Wait. Alone...

[b3] Alone.....

[a4] [iq] ...That's it!!!

ALTAIR: [b2] ???

[jumps]

ARIETTA: [a5] [<3] That's perfect! That will solve everything!

ALTAIR: [b2] Arietta...?

ARIETTA: [a5] [mu] Heheh... I have an idea!

[a6] You were right. I should never have turned my back on my belief in walks.

ALTAIR: [a6] ???

ARIETTA: [a1] I'll need paper and ink... and I'll need to decide who to ask.

[b1] [*] I don't know about a piano, or I'd just have you do it with me...

[b4] Hm. I think maybe Suzuran...

[b5] That's a good idea. I'm sure she'll think this will be fun.

ALTAIR: [a6] [C>] Arietta...?

[walks up to ALTAIR]

ARIETTA: [a5] It's because I was trying to do it alone.

[b4] Even a super genius with my considerable talents can't hold onto the flow of magic in the whole world alone.

BAZINGA

[b3] There will always be little things that slip though. You know?

[a2] But if my body is over capacity, then I just need one... maybe two people to manage the bits I can't.

[a4] [<>] I'm going to turn this into a group ritual.

[a5] No -- I'm going to make this an ensemble performance.

ALTAIR: [a7]

ARIETTA: [b4] [?] Hm? What is it? You're just smiling, let me in on the joke.

ALTAIR: [a7] No, it's... I'm just happy to see you this excited about something again.

ARIETTA: [a4] Haha. Well... Let me get my ideas written down first.

[a8] [<3] Then... I'm not letting you sleep tonight.

ALTAIR: [a7] Oh, dear.

Bonheur more like Boneher AMIRITE?

[a6] You do know we -- I, technically, but that's still we -- have children to care for?

ARIETTA: [b5] Chantal and the older ones can handle it for one morning.

ALTAIR: [a7] [///] I ought to be responsible and say no, but you're very persuasive.

ARIETTA: [a6] [mu] I'm glad.

{Brown filter and fade to black.}

1:09:51 - MONOLOGUE - Screen is black.

ARIETTA: If it were impossible for one, then challenge it with two.

If two is no good, then try again with three.

And if three doesn't work, then come back with four --

The piece that would become the Grand Score gradually took shape like that.

But the real problem came when four performers -- when a standard quartet of two violins, my viola, and a cello -- couldn't manage the ritual by just a hairsbreadth.

There is no "standard template" for a quintet.

Three violins would definitely be too many, but adding a second cello would give the lower section too much strength.

Inviting a contrabass player would be interesting, but this piece had started as a viola and cello duet. Redefining the bass would mean having to rewrite every part, and would take too long.

Just get ALTO to do it. She did it all in like three days.

And to write in one of the rarer string instruments would be all well and good, but where would I find a player for the part?

So I thought I could bring in a different kind of instrument.

Brass was out of the question as a matter of course.

LOL

I would have liked to invite one of my friends from the far south to play woodwind, but...

The ports took longer to thaw every year, and sea voyages were becoming more and more dangerous.

It would be safer and faster to find someone within Harmonia.

So that made my only option finding a second viola... or...

It was the year 751.

I knew that refining the World Tuning enough times would lead to success, but the problem was how long that was going to take.

After a lot of discussion Altair had decided that he and his kids would work on alternatives, but...

Even though it was looking as though their "hibernation" spell might be viable...

They weren't able to wake their first test subject up no matter what they tried.

So it was understandable that they wouldn't be too enthusiastic about continuing to pursue it as a solution.

There was no time. So I...

1:11:11 C H E C K E D - CHANTAL'S ROOM I guess - ARIETTA and ALTAIR are outside a door.

[...]

ARIETTA: [c3] Okay.

[faces ALTAIR]

[c4] I'm just going to confirm this one last time, but you're really all right with me going ahead and doing this, right?

ALTAIR: [a8] Please. You're the best hope we have.

ARIETTA: [b1] [*] ...I'm almost definitely going to make a mess of things, you know?

I've stayed out of it this far because I know I'm too impatient to be able to handle this kind of thing with any grace.

ALTAIR: [a3] That's alright.

[a4] [...] That's why I think you should go ahead and try.

I've done everything I can think of to support her... I can't bear to push her when she's this miserable.

[a3] But that may be just what she needs.

[a2] So please. Help her.

[...]

ARIETTA: [b1] Well... I'll give it a shot.

[resets orientation]

[b2] I've just about reached the limit of my willingness to sit on the sidelines too.

[c3] And I can't say no when you ask me with such a desperate face.

{Fade to black.}

[b3] I'm coming in.

CHANTAL'S ROOM - A modest room that's too big for it's own good and has too many couches. But we don't know that yet because everything is dark.

[b1] ...Wah, it's so dark in here!

[b4] I'm opening the blinds, so you'd better get ready.

{ARIETTA opens the blinds and walks over to CHANTAL, lying on the bed miserable.}

CHANTAL: [b4] [*] Ugh, so bright.

ARIETTA: [b1] How long have you had these closed?

You've been up here for a month and hardly come down...

[c4] You know, your boyfriend still comes every single day to ask how you're doing.

[c3] Everybody's worried.

CHANTAL: [b4] Go away.

ARIETTA: [b2] [*] I will not go away.

Your father is so desperate to do everything he can for you he sent me in here.

CHANTAL: [b4] ...

ARIETTA: [c3] I always thought you'd be the last person on earth to push away everyone trying to help her, but here we are.

CHANTAL: [b4] ...

ARIETTA: [c3] I've never seen Altair look so hopeless.

[c4] Never.

This is worse than last month.

[c3] [...] ...He's turned into such a dad.

[a2] I mean, he always liked little kids even when I first met him, but after he's adopted all of you he changed.

[c3] I don't know if I should describe it as becoming more responsible...

[a2] He already put other people before his own needs, but he put you kids first above everything.

[a7] [C>] Even when it got on my nerves I just reminded myself that he wouldn't be himself if he weren't like that.

[a2] At first every little thing sent him panicking,

wondering if he were really good enough to be a father to all of you...

[a5] But years and experience calmed him down and made him wise.

[c3] I always felt like it was a cruel trick of genetics that he can't have children even though he likes kids so much...

[b3] But eventually I started to think of it this way.

[b4] Altair is naturally suited to be a father.

So he must have been fated to become the person he is so that he could be a parent to all of you when you lost yours.

[c3] [...]Maybe that's just my being egocentric and not wanting to shoulder my own guilt, but I do think that.

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY WORDS THIS ISN'T A FUCKING VN

CHANTAL: [b4] ...

ARIETTA: [b5] [?] Anyway, where was I before I started getting sappy?

[b1] ...He's had his worries about all of you kids before, but never like this.

[c3] I think... now, especially realizing what was going on with Aubrey all along...

He thinks it's his fault.

So now he's realized that he's been taking it for granted that all of you would keep being here, alive and well...

[c4] He's afraid that this time he's going to lose a child for real.

CHANTAL: [b5] [!]

ARIETTA: [b4] Oh, so you're actually reacting to that?

[b1] Well... I'm not going to tell you that you have no right to be sad.

[c4] Anger, confusion, sadness, grief and guilt...

They're all yours to feel, and nobody can take them away from you.

[c3] But what I am going to tell you is...

[screen shake and large font]

[c5] [#] STOP MAKING MY ♥ HONEY WORRY!!!

BAZINGA

[sits up]

CHANTAL: [b1] ?!?!?!?

DRAWING - CHANTAL is sweating as she looks at a menacing ARIETTA cracking her knuckles and her eyes laser-focused.

ARIETTA: Get out of bed and put clothes on! You and I are going for a walk!

CHANTAL: Wha--

ARIETTA: Walks cure everything from boredom to artist's block! Therefor! You are going on a walk with me to see if the fresh air will do you any good!

CHANTAL: Stop trying to act like you're my mom or something!

You're only three years older than me, it's weird!

ARIETTA: Well, I'm going out with your dad, so that makes me as good as your mom!

And I'm only here because he's seeing if throwing me at you will help anything, so even if you complain to him it won't do you any good!

Now get decent or I'm going to drag you outside in what you're wearing!!!

CHANTAL: I get it, I get it, I'll go, at least let me brush my hair first!

God!!! You're scary!!!!

[second sentence is in large font]

ARIETTA: Good, I'm glad! Now hurry it up!!!

{CHANTAL joins the party!}

1:15:20 - OUTSIDE SOMEWHERE - SEASON: WINTER - CHANTAL has portrait [b5] for this section.

CHANTAL: [b5] Do we really have to arm ourselves to the teeth just to take a walk?

ARIETTA: [b1] You may not have left town for a while so I'm just gonna warn you, but the monsters are getting worse every day.

Just going out past the walls is enough that we might get mobbed.

CHANTAL: [b5] ...

ARIETTA: [b5] [<3] Fresh air AND exercise!

CHANTAL: [a4] ...I don't know whether your optimism scares me the most, or you idea of exercise.

OPTIONAL (SHOP): Tries to enter a shop, but it's inaccessible. Talks to SHOP MAID brushing the pavement outside.

SHOP MAID: Oh... I'm sorry, we're cleaning right now!

If you'd like items, though, I can sell them to you from here...

{purchases things before leaving}

OPTIONAL: In attempting to take other paths, ARIETTA stops you.

aARIETTA: [b3] We're not going this way.

OUTSIDE TOWN - PROGRESS: CHANTAL and ARIETTA are in a forest. There's a cave ahead of them.

CHANTAL: [b5] Brr.

ARIETTA: [a1] Want to take a break?

CHANTAL: [b4] I don't really mind. If you want to, sure.

ARIETTALTO [b4] Okay, if you're fine with me deciding, then we're taking a break.

[b1] It's warmer if we're moving, but you've been alying around in bed for like a month now.

I don't want to keep a pace that's going to hurt you.

CHANTAL: [b4] ...

CAVE RESTING AREA - CHANTAL and ARIETTA are sitting on a bench with light shining through, a thin stream of water making a little pool, and some grass. There's also some ore in the walls and some lamps. CHANTAL is much more depressed-looking.

CHANTAL: [b4] ...The irony here isn't even funny, it's just sad.

[faces CHANTAL]

ARIETTA: Hm?

CHANTAL: [b6] Don't play innocent, Lady Arietta[semi] you're the one who said I was the last person you'd have thought would do this.

You know what I mean.

ARIETTA: [b5] [?] Well, yes, but your mentioning it means you want to talk about it, right?

CHANTAL: [b5] [C>] You're so weird and direct about this stuff.

ARIETTA: [b4] I get that a lot...

[b1] Well, I haven't got enough patience for social graces to be really delicate about this kind of thing.

[b3] That's why I tried to keep my nose out of this until your dad decided to sic me on you.

CHANTAL: [a4] [*] Yes, thank you, concerned father.

[a3] ...Sigh.

I... always knew, you know.

I knew that I was just annoying Aubrey by being all nosy and well-meaning.

I meant to be... I don't know, I just couldn't leave them alone.

I mean, I know they had a better relationship with their parents than I had with the garbage I came from.

But us two were the only genderqueer kids that Lord Altair took in.

And I was just starting to like "her" too.

And they were messed up real bad, I don't know how much Father told you about it, but.

I -- basically wound up projecting my younger self all over them.

I wanted to be the big sister to them that I'd needed when I was little.

But I think I just wound up pushing them into a corner by not listening to them say "no" and acting like I always knew

what was best for them.

ARIETTA: [c3] ...

ARIETTA: [a3] God, if they could see me right now, they'd laugh.

[b5] They'd just say it serves me right.

[b4] I'm pathetic.

At least you're honest to yourself about one thing.

[...]

ARIETTA: [a3] It doesn't serve you right.

CHANTAL: [a8] How can you say that? After I --

[walks in front of and faces CHANTAL]

ARIETTA: [b1] Look, all I really know about the situation is what I've heard from you and Altair and the other kids.

Aubrey avoided me like the plague.

So you can take this as my personal opinion, if you want.

[c3] But...

Sure, maybe you weren't perfect, maybe you were too forceful sometimes.

[c4] But you were just a kid too, and you were doing the best you knew how in a bad situation.

[b1] And Aubrey did -- everything they possibly could to push you and everyone else away.

This is just secondhand, but I do know that they were really horrid to you.

CHANTAL: [b7] But they were so little, and after they lost their parents --

ARIETTA: [b1] That's a double standard.

NO IT'S NOT AUBREY AND CHANTAL ARE NOT EQUAL YOU CAN'T EXPECT A KID WHO WANTED TO DIE FOR 8 YEARS TO BE COMPASSIONATE

[c3] If Aubrey's depression and grief and youth mitigate how they were to you, then --

[c4] even though you never got along with your parents, you lost them too.

And you were young, and I can't even imagine how scary it must've been after the way you'd been treated to talk to

Altair about HRT and all that.

I can't believe I'm typing this.

CHANTAL: [b7] I... but.

ARIETTA: [a3] If what Aubrey was going through mitigates them doing this to you, then what you were going through ought to mitigate any damage you did to them, too.

THEY AREN'T THE SAME FUCKING THING

CHANTAL: [a3] ...

ARIETTA: [a3] And if you think that still doesn't absolve you of whatever responsibility you share in their choices?

Then they don't get a free pass for what they said and did to you either.

CHANTAL: [a3] You make it sound so -- simple.

ARIETTA: [c3] I know enough to understand that it only seems simple to me because I'm just an observer.

[b1] But, Chantal, Aubrey is a big kid.

[c4] They made their own choices.

We can try to persuade people not to do bad, foolish things, but we have no moral right to force them to obey us.

OOOOOOOOOH SO THAT'S WHY I LIKED CHANTAL OUTSIDE THE WHOLE TRANNY THING. SHE'S TEAGAN.

[c3] Aubrey made a choice, that's all[semi] it's not your fault.

You did everything you could think of to try to help them.

[b1] So I just -- what I'm trying to get at, here, is that it's okay to forgive yourself.

CHANTAL: [a4] [*] Ugh.

[a3] It makes sense and all, I just -- I still feel like I could've, should've, done more.

ARIETTA: [b4] That's okay. Will you think about what I said, though?

CHANTAL: [b5] I guess so.

[backs up]

ARIETTA: [c3] All right.

[a1] Then let's keep going.

CHANTAL: [b5] [*] How long are we even walking?

ARIETTA: [b5] Until we get to where I want to go and then come back.

CHANTAL: [a6] [C>] You are a nightmare.

ARIETTA: [a8] That's not very nice to say, but I'm glad you're smiling.

CHANTAL: [a6] [!] I'm... what?

[mu] [turns around and starts walking to the exit before stopping to say something]

ARIETTA: [a4] Come on, or we're going to be out late.

1:24:45 - FOREST DEEPER - ARIETTA is standing next to CHANTAL in the snow and some unnecessary lamp posts illuminate the area.

[faces CHANTAL]

ARIETTA: [b3] [?] By the way...

[faces ARIETTA]

CHANTAL: [a5] What is it?

ARIETTA: [b1] Is there a specific reason you're so reluctant to see your boyfriend?

[b4] I mean, you let Altair and the other kids go in to fuss at you, and you didn't even complain that much about me.

Did something happen between you two?

[b1] Like, I think the general assumption is that it's part of all this,

but if we're wrong and he needs to be discouraged from coming back, we can do that for you.

[resets orientation (still gay tho)]

CHANTAL: [b5] I... no, nothing happened.

[a3] It's just -- it's kinda stupid.

ARIETTA: [b1] Then what is it?

I can't promise that I'll understand, but I can at least listen.

If it's something I can help with...

CHANTAL: [b5] Yeah, it's not something you'll understand.

[a3] It's -- I don't know, a thing Aubrey said when we were fighting.

That there's no way my boyfriend's going to be able to deal with my gender and my body.

[...]

ARIETTA: [b1] [ugh] Wow, that is a really terrible thing to say to someone.

CHANTAL: [b5] [*] I know in my head that it was just Aubrey saying whatever because I wouldn't give them what they wanted,

[b4] but I can't stop thinking about it. Like -- what if.

[a3] So I just kind of... got scared to see him.

[faces ARIETTA]

[b2] I told you, it's stupid.

ARIETTA: [c3] [...] I don't know about "stupid".

[b2] But in the worse case scenario? That just means that your boyfriend doesn't deserve you.

STATE-ENFORCED HOMOSEXUALITY

[a2] I mean, just look at you[semi] you're such a cute girl!

CHANTAL: [a6] [C>] Being told that by someone who's dating my dad is kind of weird, but thanks, I think?

ARIETTA: [b4] And, well...

[b1] I know it doesn't necessarily guarantee anything,

[a2] but your boyfriend likes you enough to have come back asking after you every single day for a month.

[a5] That seems like a lot.

CHANTAL: [a3] Yeah...

ARIETTA: [b2] Anyway, once we get Aubrey up, I think you're probably justified to smack the little brat once or twice.

[b5] I can hold them for you if you want.

CHANTAL: [a6] Haha... You're so confident that it's possible.

ARIETTA: [b5] I try.

[a4] And hey, my ♥ honey says that spell's gonna break eventually anyway.

CHANTAL: [a6] I guess...

{ARIETTA walks over a bit towards the path and CHANTAL faces her}

ARIETTA: [a5] Come on. We've still got farther to go.

1:28:44 - FOREST at END - There are more random streetlamps. It is still snowing and a snowman has been built in the corner. ARIETTA and CHANTAL are facing each other with a space in between them.

ARIETTA: [a5] [<3] Here we are!

CHANTAL: [b5] [*] "Here we are"...

[b6] It's just a clearing. What's so special about this place?

ARIETTA: It's not "special" per se, it's just far enough away from town to serve my purpose.

CHANTAL: [b5] [C>] ...?

ARIETTA: [c3] I think it's about time to be open with you here.

[c4] It's true that I want to help Altair and help you, but I also have ulterior motives.

CHANTAL: [b5] What do you mean?

ARIETTA: [c3] I mean I need a favor.

[c4] A big favor.

[b1] It will be good for you, too, but I'm not so sure you're going to like hearing it.

CHANTAL: [b5] I don't know what you're getting at.

ARIETTA: [b1] Well, seeing as you kind of checked out for the past month, I should back up an explain.

[c3] Time's running too close to be comfortable.

[c4] I don't think it's unrealistic to estimate that the World Tuning will not be as effective as it ought to be

if I can't pull it off this year.

[a3] But I know from trial and error that the ritual will succeed if I have an ensemble of five.

And instead of pulling my hair out rebalancing my piece for five string players,

I want my fifth member to be a vocalist.

I want you to perform with us.

CHANTAL: [a7] [!] What are you thinking?! I --!

ARIETTA: [c3] I know you're self-conscious about your voice, but you're one of the most talented singers in the country.

[c4] I've already drafted the sheet music.

[c3] I'm willing to bet on you.

[a3] I want to play with you.

{CHANTAL [...]}

[b1] Look, if -- it's a dysphoria thing and you literally can't then I'll drop it and never bother you about this again.

>LITERALLY CAN'T

"HEY YOU NEED TO SAVE THE FUCKING PLANET BECAUSE YOU'RE THE BEST SINGER BUT IF YOU'RE TOO SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT IT CAUSE YOU HAVE A DICK THAT'S OKAY"

[b4] But you used to sing all the time when you didn't think anyone was listening.

CHANTAL: [b5] It... it is a dysphoria thing and it's also not.

[a3] [*] You won't understand.

ARIETTA: [c4] [C>] Maybe not, but I can try to if you're alright with explaining.

[...]

CHANTAL: [a3] I-I haven't had to deal with dysphoria for years and years.

Not since I was a little kid.

[b5] I used to not be able to stand looking at myself in the mirror.

Every day I used to wake up wanting to peel my skin off.

I hated my body so much.

[a3] But that ended when I was fourteen and Father got me on HRT.

[a6] That was eight whole years ago. I haven't felt that way in so long, I've mostly forgotten what it felt like.

[a3] But I remember what it was like to remember my dysphoria.

I'm -- even the thought that I might ever feel that way again is so scary.

Wanting to die, and hurt myself, and hating myself so much...

Dysphoria's like a disease that nearly killed me.

{ARIETTA [...]}

And I -- the things about me that aren't girly enough, like being tall and having a deep voice...

There's just this, girls are supposed to be small and cute and -- so many things I'm not.

And every time people point out all ways that I don't fit the ideal of what it means to be a girl...

I feel like a fake, and I get scared again.

[...]

[b7] I do love to sing. I love it more than anything.

[b4] But I don't want to feel like that ever again.

ARIETTA: [c3] I see...

[b1] [C>] Well, no, technically I don't because you're right and it's not something I can really understand.

[c3] All I know is that that sounds like it must have been hard.

[c4] But as long as you can do it, I still want you.

CHANTAL: [a3] ...

ARIETTA: [a3] How long has it been since you last sang?

CHANTAL: [a3] ...

ARIETTA: [c3] You said it yourself.

[c4] You love it more than anything.

What Aubrey did to herself... and what they did to you, the bad things they made you feel again...

[c3] There's no cure-all for that. Even I can't fix those things for you.

The only thing that can help you as far as that goes is time to think,
and talking about it to your dad and other people you trust.

[a3] But if you let yourself sing again, then I promise that's oen thing you'll feel better about.

[c4] And that's something that I can do.

It'll help you more than any amount of walks and exercise.

CHANTAL: [a3] I -- but I, but my voice is --

ARIETTA: [b1] You know I love your voice.

[b2] And I'm not the only one.

[b1] I can't even count the number of times I've come by to visit Altair and found the little kids hiding around doorframes

and under windowsills to listen in on you.

[a7] Even Aubrey!

Especially Aubrey.

[a2] Plus, Altair said that as long as he's been working with choirs,

he's never met anyone with a contralto as perfect as yours.

{CHANTAL[!]}

[mu] [walks up to CHANTAL]

ARIETTA: [a5] Here. I brought a draft of the score with me.

[a4] I'll play with you, so just try to sing it.

CHANTAL: [a3] [///] I -- but I -- this is so sudden, and if someone --

ARIETTA: [b2] [*] Nobody's going to come and overhear. That's why I led you so far out.

[a7] Even for the performance itself, it's not like we're going to have an audience.

[a2] It will just be Suzuran and Calix and Yvonne, and you and me.

[a8] I want you, so I'm going to be pushy about it just this once.

[...]

[backs up]

[c3] Give it a try.

If you say no after this, then I'll accept your answer and try to find someone else instead.

CHANTAL: [a3] I...

ARIETTA: [c4] Will you do it?

CHANTAL: [a6] ...You'll really drop it forever if I say no?

ARIETTA: [b2] [xp] That's what I said, isn't it?

CHANTAL: [b5] Then... I'll do it just this once.

{transition 'cause CHANTAL is singing}

ARIETTA: [a6] [angel] Sigh. Oh, that was nice. I've been wanting to do that for ages.

[a5] The blending was better than I'd expected!

[a4] [mu] We have good balance.

{CHANTAL [...]}

[a2] How do you feel?

[...]

CHANTAL: [b2] Like... there was a hole in my heart that I didn't even notice until it filled in just now.

ARIETTA: [a8] [<3] I told you so.

[a5] Well? Will you sing for us?

CHANTAL: [a6] [*] ...That was unfair.

[a4] You cheater. There's no way I could say no after that.

ARIETTA: [a2] I see... That's good to hear.

[walks up to CHANTAL]

[a4] Here, take my hand for a second.

[?]

[learns skill Carabosse]

CHANTAL: [b1] [!] Wah -- it's warm.

ARIETTA: [b5] [<>] You're part of my ensemble now, so I've made it so that you can borrow my power temporarily in battle.

CHANTAL: [a5] Huh...

ARIETTA: [a2] Now, come on. Let's go back before you catch a cold.

[backs up and starts walking back to town]

ARIETTA: [a5] [mu] We've got to tell the others the good news, after all!

[...] [faces ARIETTA]

CHANTAL: [a1] Just... one thing.

[faces CHANTAL]

ARIETTA: [a1] [?] Hm?

CHANTAL: [a2] Thank you.

ARIETTA: [b5] [?] Oh? And here I was expecting you to sulk and hold it against me for being forceful.

CHANTAL: [a6] [*] You're pretending to joke, but I mean it.

[b2] I -- you're the only one aside from Father who's ever said it to my face. That you love my voice, I mean.

I'm so used to being told it's ugly and ungirlish that it's hard to believe people that say otherwise.

[a5] But singing with you... I really did feel like maybe you were right all along.

[b2] That maybe it's... okay for me to make music, instead of just conducting.

ARIETTA: [a2] Really...

[a5] Then, I'm glad that my selfishness has been able to give that back to you.

CHANTAL: [a2] Haha... you know, I think I understand now what Father sees in you.

ARIETTA: [b5] Wow, well...

I'm not sure how to feel about that given you're my partner's daughter.

But I guess I'll take it as a compliment.

[jumps]

CHANTAL: [a4] [xp] H-hey, now!!

[turns around]

ARIETTA: [a5] Haha. Come on, let's go back.

CHANTAL's portrait has returns to [a1].

1:36:28 - FOREST by TOWN ENTRANCE - They encounte a goblin waiting for them. Just CHANTAL sprite is on screen.

CHANTAL: [b1] Ah...

ARIETTA: [b1] Tch.

[b2] I guess it was a little too peaceful, but honestly. This gets old.

CHANTAL: [a7] What do we do...? I haven't -- we don't usually fight monsters this big.

Hey, ladies, let's calm down. You can't unwrap my goods in a public setting like this.

ARIETTA: [b5] Oh? THAT just means that this is a perfect opportunity to try out your new power.

[a5] Besides, you're a natural prodigy just like your father and I are. I'm here to look after you, so you'll be fine.

They fight and it's actually a minotaur.

1:41:41 CHECKED - Minotaur fucking dies.

CHANTAL: [a1] W-we managed to beat it.

ARIETTA: [a4] Not bad for exercise, right?

CHANTAL: [a4] Your idea of exercise seriously is scary.

TOWN - They're at the entrance, where they see a man that looks like an adventurer and the maid who sells stuff.

ARIETTA: [a5] [mu] And we're back!

[a4] Haha, I'd better go tell everybody. We're going to have private rehearsals to schedule and

everything.

CHANTAL: [a6] The worst part is that I can't even tell you not to be so smug... I really do feel better.

ARIETTA: [b5] I'll try not to be too unbearable about it.

CHANTAL: [a4] Ha ha. You're not cute.

ARIETTA: [a8] Your dad would disagree with you there.

CHANTAL: [a2] Hehe, ew, stop it.

The man approaches a bit and oh fucking Christ it's the boyfriend I think.

BOYFRIEND: Chantal...?

[jumps]

CHANTAL: [b8] [///] Ah...

[faces CHANTAL]

ARIETTA: [a8] [<>] What are you freezing up for? Now's your chance, go talk to him.

[faces ARIETTA]

CHANTAL: [b8] [///] B-but I... what about rehearsing?

ARIETTA: [a5] We don't have to do that right away, silly. You go on.

{CHANTAL, [!] walks up a square and ARIETTA resets her orientation.}

CHANTAL: [b8] Wah!

{BOYFRIEND walks closer and CHANTAL meets him. CHANTAL [////] and ARIETTA [mu], BOYFRIEND [?], CHANTAL [<3].}

MANOR - ALTAIR is waiting outside and ARIETTA is just about off-screen.

{ARIETTA walks up a few paces and stops when ALTAIR is [!], who walks to meet her. There's still some distance}

ALTAIR: [b2] ...Arietta?

[a2] How did it go, is everything all right?

[rushes over to now a space apart from ALTAIR]

ARIETTA: [a2] Heheh.

[<3] Total victory!

{Brown filter and fade to black}

MONOLOGUE - Black.

ARIETTA: First violin, Calix Lachapelle.

How the fuck did she come up with this name.

...He was a courtier I met in a country that was a worried about global climate change as we were in

Harmonia.

He could be kind of fussy and snobbish, but he was also gentle and patient and proud.

Second violin, Yvonne Fortinbras.

HOW THE FUCK DID SHE COME UP WITH THIS NAME.

...A factory worker and technician from one of the most industrialized cities in the world. Ze help me when I passed out from mana loss and sensory overload.

I need a non-binary person to save me when I pass out from sensory overload, too.

Before I met hir I'd never considered how complicated an issue industrialization is, and just convinced myself that everyone involved was the enemy.

Cellist, Otowa Suzuran.

YOU DID IT FERAL. YOU BROKE ME.

...She was a poet and entertainer who I met in the town square of a colorful city. Probably one of the humans I got along best with, other than Altair.

She was always reliable Oh, I guess they just share the same name then and full of energy, and was always the first one I asked to help whenever I had an idea.

And...

Vocalist, Chantal Maia.

...The oldest of Altair's adopted children, a natural genius born with an affinity with all four cardinal elements and a possessor of an extraordinary vocal range.

At the very end of 751, we five gave the poformance of our lives at the top of Metronome Tower, and successfully returned the flow of the world's magic to its rightful state.

For the time being, the world was saved.

...We were all so self-congratulatory about our hard-won victory that it took me a long time to realize what was wrong.

The research into ways to prevent climate change and find better fuel sources slowly tapered off, with only the people who'd been most concerned really making any kind of token effort.

People went back to their daily lives like they no longer had any kind of concern.

But that wasn't it.

That's not waht the World Tuning was ever supposed to be for.

We hadn't saved the world: We'd just bought it more time.

At first I thought that people didn't understand it, but the truth was that they didn't want to understand it.

They were tired of living in fear.

Things seemed to be all right now, and the future was so far away that surely it didn't matter.

I could very nearly sympathize with that.

The realization that my solution was no real solution at all was so bitter that I wanted to avert my eyes, too.

Everyone had already gone home.

They'd given so much of their lives to me and to the World Tuning already[semi] I couldn't blame them for that.

And... I had already gained painful recognition of how little I could accomplish alone, and what my limits were.

I wasn't even thirty years old yet, but I was exhausted.

I wasn't human.

I was a genius.

BAZINGA

But it was like Altair had said, years ago...

There's a point when you hit a wall that you don't have the skill or energy or whatever to overcome.

I'd already worked the closest thing to a miracle that I could, and it wasn't enough.

Leaving things like this was not an option, but my options for taking responsibility were limited.

I still don't know if the choice I made was the right one.

But I put a lot of thought into it in my own way, and when I was sure, I went to Luminoso for help.

I've always known where I came from and what made me, since I was very young.

My grandmother, the human one and the spirit one, were both long gone by the time I was the age where I could ask questions.

HMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM? LESBIANS?

so I never knew the exact details.

But I've always known that I am almost certainly the result of a rape.

There's some possibility that that's wrong, but it's so slim that even considering it feels like trying to excuse the truth.

The fact of my existence in and of itself is unforgivable.

It's a symptom of everything wrong with the world.

And because I've always know that, I've carried that knowledge, and carried it, and carried it.

LITERALLY EVERY GOD DAMN PERSON ON THE PLANET HAS HAD AN ANCESTOR RAPIST HOLY FUCK
FERAL

I hated myself for a long time because of it.

I hated the world for a long time because of it.

So -- it surprised me when my relationship with Altair started to get intimate, that I always felt so safe.

Even now I'm not sure why.

MAYBE BECAUSE HE ISN'T FUCKING RAPING YOU?

Maybe part of it is that even though he didn't have much more idea of what he was doing than I did, he made sure we talked about it.

About what was okay and what wasn't, about what I wanted to try and whether I thought things were working or not.

And we were already always on the same level.

He was my equal, and my peer.

With everyone else there was always so much pressure to be perfect and strong, and never show any vulnerability.

But Altair knew from the beginning that I am a person, and he always treated me like one.

So he was the only person I ever felt really comfortable letting my guard down around.

Altair was beautiful, kind, gentle, and safe. I can't even imagine being with anyone but him.

This did wind up posing its own set of difficulties in the end, but I don't regret it.

{Fades to in-game with brown filter that disappears}

1:47:57 - UNDERGROUND - ARIETTA is sleeping in some leaves I guess on an elevated part of the ground accessible by ladder. There is some grass and stalagmites (if you think you know which one that is, it's the other one) and more fucking lanterns.

[...]

[sits up]

[...]

[...] [stands]

1:49:15 - SEASON: SPRING - ARIETTA makes her way back home at the manor I'm not so sure is ALTO's anymore. a little girl is sorta sitting on a couch and CHANTAL is staring at a cabinet with BOYFRIEND I presume.

[walks in]

ARIETTA: [c2] I'm hooooome.

{CHANTAL and BOYFRIEND turn around to face ARIETTA}

CHANTAL: [a5] Welcome back -- wait. Lady Arietta, you don't even live here.

ARIETTA: [a8] My ♥ honey's house is my house.

[walks up to ARIETTA a square away]

CHANTAL: [a4] I mean it, you have an entire mansion in Bel Canto all to yourself.

[a6] [C>] You can at least make some pretense of actually going about your daily life there.

ARIETTA: [b3] I could, but I don't feel like it.

[b4] I stay there when I don't feel like dealing with people, anyway.

CHANTAL: [a2] [*] Haha... well, I guess if you weren't like this you wouldn't be yourself.

ARIETTA: [b5] I think you probably mean that to be vaguely insulting, but I don't really care.

[a4]More importantly, it's pretty unusual to see you bringing your boyfriend around here.

[a8] Are you two going on a date.

[walks to CHANTAL's side and faces ARIETTA]

BOYFRIEND: Oh... Please pardon the intrusion.

ARIETTA: [b5] [<3] You're so polite, it's adorable.

[a5] Don't worry about it, I'm just giving my sort of kind of not really stepdaughter a hard time.

[a4] Make yourself at home! I mean, I always do.

[a2] Thanks for always taking care of Chantal.

CHANTAL: [a4] [xp] Lady Arietta...

ARIETTA: [b5] [mu] Oh, she's starting to get annoyed, I'll stop.

[a5] Anyway I'm just here to see Altair, so I'll leave you two to your own devices.

[does her little electric slide before being stopped by CHANTAL]

[walks up a bit]

[...]

CHANTAL: [a3] ...Hey... Are you okay?

[a6] You seem kind of shaky and loopy and weird.

[a5] [C>] I mean, you're always playing up the ridiculous thing for fun, but it's unusual for you to be THIS

maudlin.

ARIETTA: [c2] Haha, so it's that obvious...

[turns around]

[b1] I'll be fine, I'm just tired.

b4] I was messing around with magic stuff and it took more out of me than I expected, that's all.

[a2] I just need to see Altair and then I can go rest.

[walks up a bit]

BOYFRIEND: Are you sure you don't want to sit down for a moment first?

ARIETTA: [a2] You two are sweet, but I'm okay. I can handle the stairs.

[a4] [mu] Don't mind me and go ahead enjoying your date.

CHANTAL: [b3] I didn't know we needed your permission.

ARIETTA: [a7] Yeah, yeah.

CHANTAL: [a5] And... I don't know.

[a6] [mu] Get some rest before you get too lovey-dovey with Father.

ARIETTA: [b2] Somehow this feels backwards.

[a8] [?] Shouldn't I be the one telling you to play safe?

CHANTAL: [b3] You're always joking around saying stuff like that, so it's payback.

[b2] [ugh] ...Actually, no, being the one doing the nagging feels weird too, just forget it.

[turns to BOYFRIEND]

[a2] Let's go.

{CHANTAL and BOYFRIEND head to the door and ARIETTA calls out to them}

ARIETTA: [a5] Have fun, kids.

{transition}

ALTAIR'S BEDROOM - ALTAIR is at his desk reading something.

This next part is pretty fuckin wack.

[walks up and turns in the direction of ALTAIR]

ARIETTA: [c2] I'm back.

[faces ARIETTA]

ALTAIR: [a7] Welcome back...

[!]

[walks up a space]

[b2] Arietta? You're so pale. Is something wrong?

ARIETTA: [b1] [C>] Nothing, I'm just tired.

[...]

[c3] I probably need to get off my feet for a while, but... can we talk?

{ALTAIR [?]}

{transitions to ARIETTA curled up in bed with ALTAIR sitting beside}

ALTAIR: [a4] Are you feeling any better now?

[...]

ARIETTA: [c3] A little.

ALTAIR: [a4] I'm glad.

[b1] ...What is it you wanted to talk about?

[...] x 3

ARIETTA: [c6] I'm pregnant.

ALTAIR: [b3] [!] Eh?!

ARIETTA: [c3] [*] ...I'm sorry, that's kind of a weird place to start talking.

[sits up]

[b1] But I've worried enough about how to tell you on the way back, about how you'd react,
and I'm just too worn out for fact.

[...]

[c3] And I'll put you out of your misery now[semi] there is no father.

MIDI-CHLORIANS

[c4] I haven't been coming to see you as much because I've been spending a lot of time with the spirits
trying to determine it

I'm anywhere near spirit enough to just create offspring out of my own power

and the surrounding mana the way that they can.

[c3] A full spirit could literally make a fully formed baby right on the spot, but I'm too human.

[b1] [*] The most I can do was to create a self-fertilized embryo and let it gestate the usual human way.

[c3] I finally made that work today.

[b4] I had to use most of my power to do it, so I'm exhausted. But I'll be back to normal once I get some rest.

[...]

ALTAIR: [b2] That's -- well, for one thing, that's truly extraordinary magic.

[a3] But I'm... I don't think I ever heard you say that you wanted children of your own.

If you were keeping it to yourself all this time because I can't...

[...]

[a8] I'm sorry. I've let you down, haven't I?

ARIETTA: [a3] No. That's not it.

[c3] I would have been fine ending the Cantabile line with myself, just not having kids at all.

[c6] You know how I feel about my own existence. How could I ever want to pass that on to another person?

[c3] But I know now. I have to have a child.

[b1] Everyone thinks that the world has already been saved when it hasn't.

[c4] That means that unless human nature manages to change...

[c6] I need to be able to pass my blood and my power on,

so that they still exist if the World Tuning ever becomes necessary again.

[c3] I can't come up with some perfect renewable resource to use as fuel within my lifetime.

I can't make humanity take its own crisis seriously.

This is all I can do.

I'm the reason this is happening, so I have to take responsibility.

[c4] I have no choice.

ALTAIR: [a2] Arietta...

ARIETTA: [c6] What a shitty reason to have a kid, right?

[c3] You are my only point of reference as to what a parent ought to be.

[c6] I'm not ready for this, I don't want to mess this up, but I can't afford to wait.

[c3] I'm sorry I went behind your back, I know I have no right to ask this, but I want you to help me.

I don't want any child of mine to grow up the same way I did.

[c6] I'm going to have to put the weight of the world on their shoulders,
but I at least want them to be loved, and to feel like it's okay to be alive.

i: [a3] Arietta.

ARIETTA: [c3] I understand if you're angry.

God knows I would rather have had your kid than resorted to this.

[c6] But I --

ALTAIR: [a4] Arietta, slow down.

{ALTO [...]}

DRAWING - ARIETTA is looking down in bed while ALTAIR put his hand on her shoulder to comfort her.

ALTAIR: I'm not angry with you.

I'm actually sorry -- for making you worry about this by yourself all this time. I'm glad you're talking to

me about it now.

ARIETTA: Oh...

ALTAIR: Of course I'll help you.

I think you'll be a great parent even on your own, but I'll help you to the best of my ability.

And... I also think you're blaming yourself too much for things that are out of your control.

You've given over half your life to give humanity the time it need sto change.

ARIETTA: Even if that means shackling it into a cycle with no end?

ALTAIR: It's too early to decide that.

I believe in the potential of this world that you've saved.

Even if it takes them a while... I think they'll be able to answer all the time and pain and hard work we've offered up for their sake.

ARIETTA: You're such a hopeless philanthropist.

ALTAIR: And I'm in love with such a hopeless misanthrope.

ARIETTA: I didn't save the world because of faith in humanity.

I can't have faith in them.

But it's the world where all the people I love live. I did it for all of you.

ALTAIR: That's okay. That's enough.

You have enough distrust in people for both of us, so I'll have enough faith for both of us too.

And when the baby is born, we'll teach them both.

...It's going to be okay. They will grow up knowing love.

LOL

ARIETTA:I'd never trust anyone but you with my body.

ALTAIR: I know.

Even if you could... it's not as though we can marry anyway.

There still wouldn't be anything for me to forgive.

ARIETTA: Even so.

I want you to know that.

It matters to me that you know that.

ALTAIR: Okay.

{Fade to black.}

MONOLOGUE - Screen is black.

ARIETTA: ...And that was how she was born.

My daughter -- Piano Cantabile, the most important person in my life.

PIANO CANTABILE

I

A

N

O

C

A

N

T

A

B

I

L

E

We raised her to know a happiness that I never had as a child, and I entrusted everything to her:

The truth, "Bowing", and the right to choose for herself what to do about the world.

And at the end of our lives, Altair and I left an imprint of ourselves here, in Uncommon Time.

Altair, so that he would still be here when Aubrey woke...

And me, so that I would be able to watch over the cycle of the World Tuning in order to take responsibility --

1:58:42 - SPACE FOREST - ALTO and company are lying on the ground, exhausted after watching a 90 minute cutscene.

[]*

[?]

[gets up]

ALTO: [a5] ...Eh? This is... a forest?

[looks around rapidly before returning to her orientation]

[b4] No -- I can feel the stars.

[a4] This is still Uncommon Time.

[b2] ...Is everyone okay?

[stands]

MEIRIN: [b4] Kinda, I think.

[stellar] Ooh, wow, I'm dizzy.

{the rest of the quintet stands}

AUBREY: [a3] [...] That -- that was...

TEAGAN: [c2] [...] The history of the World Tuning...

or at least, Arietta's perspective of it.

[b8] [C>] ...Uh, right?

[b4] Everyone saw the same thing, right?

SAKI: [a5] If everyone experienced a number of Arietta's memories roughly covering a span of twenty years,

then yes, I believe so.

ALTO: [b4] Yeah, that's what I saw.

MEIRIN: [a1] Yep! Me too.

AUBREY: [a3] ...Yes.

TEAGAN: [b3] Good. I'd hate for all of that to turn out to have been me dreaming or something.

SAKI: [a2] My, my. Well, this time at least, it appears you're spared from embarrassment.

CAN'T EVEN TAKE A MINUTE TO RECOVER BEFORE MORE SHITTALK

TEAGAN: [b3] Gee, thanks.

TEAGAN: [b8] [?] Is this... I don't know, normal for Uncommon Time?

[turns around]

ALTO: [a5] I don't really know how to answer that.

TEAGAN: [a5] [*] You're the only one who's been here twice before. You're qualified.

ALTO: [a7] [?] Mm... Well, they all involved memories, so I guess so.

TEAGAN: [c2] I wonder if there's any significance to those memories having been chosen.

I guess if this place is Arietta's mind and not any of ours then of course it'll be her memories, but...

MEIRIN: [b6] [?] So, what, do you think she wanted to tell us the story of how the World Tuning came to be?

TEAGAN: [c2] Well... One person's perspective is never an accurate depiction of history.

[b3] It's kind of a Captain Obvious thing to say, but any one person only ever knows what they know.

[a1] And all we really have is the biased history Alto's family has passed down, Luminoso's recollections, and now those flashbacks we got shown.

And AUBREY of course. Don't know why FP would forget that.

[a2] But we do have a more complete picture now, I think.

MEIRIN: [a6] [mu] Man, listen to you talking like a pro. What a great big nerd.

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] Sorry for being a hobbyist, I guess?

MEIRIN: [a2] Hehe.

[a1] Still, I think you're probably right.

[b4] It seems like a lot of stuff happened.

SAKI: [a1] Well... I'm not sure whether Arietta herself really did select certain incidents to show us or not.

[a4] But we will be able to ask soon.

{a turns to SAKI and everyone but SAKI emotes with TEAGAN, MEIRIN, and ALTO [!] and AUBREY [...]}

ALTO: [b5] Eh? You mean...

SAKI: [a2] Oh, yes. She's here, further on in.

[a4] If Uncommon Time were a living organism, why... she would be its heart.

TEAGAN: [b8] [ugh] Well, that's not a morbid mental image at all.

ALTO: [c6] [*] ...Ugh, all of the sudden I'm nervous again.

SAKI: [a2] My, my.

[a4] I quite understand.

[a5] We've all just seen a lot, anyway[semi] Aubrey is awfully quiet --

[!] [jumps]

AUBREY: [a7] Eek?! Y-you noticed...?

MEIRIN: [b4] Yeah, the rest of us aren't shutting up, it's kinda conspicuous.

SAKI: [a1] Ahem -- and I think we all need some time to process the information and prepare ourselves.

PLEASE NO I DON'T WANT TO TYPE ANYMORE

ALTO: [a3] That's fine with me.

Talking to MEIRIN

MEIRIN: [a2] So this is what Uncommon Time is like... It's kinda weird, but also really cool.

ALTO: [a5] You think so?

MEIRIN: [a7] Eh? You don't?

ALTO: [a5] Hmm.

[a7] Well, the first one I went to was mine, and then with Aubrey's, uh...

I guess I've never really given it that much thought.

MEIRIN: [b6] Huh... Yeah, come to think of it, I guess that's fair.

[c5] If it's your own memories, it might be hard to think of it that way...

[a1] [!] Oh, and I'm curious!

[c7] From the way you put it when Teagan asked, I'm just guessing,
but were yours and Aubrey's really different from this one or something?

ALTO: [a5] Let's see... I guess the structure of each one is the most different.

[b4] Like, here we experienced Arietta's memories like we were her,
but in Aubrey's, they were just something we watched from the outside.

And we didn't go right from one memory to the next.

This Uncommon Time is really neat and well-ordered that way.

[a4] With Aubrey, we had to actually go from one place to the next ourselves, in landscapes made from their memories.

[a5] And it was really weird and dreamlike... Doors never seemed to go where they were supposed to.

[e1] You'd try walking from a room into a hall and suddenly you'd be outside.

MEIRIN: [b4] Wow, that sounds pretty different.

ALTO: [c5] And with me it was like... just a lot of weird stuff all jumbled together.

[a7] Aubrey's was way neater.

[a5] Since the music box is always made from someone's mind, I guess it depends on the person.

MEIRIN: [c7] I wonder if this one is this ordered 'cause Arietta's the one who made Uncommon Time in the first place?

[a1] Since she helped make it and lives here and everything, maybe she can control it.

ALTO: [b5] [iq] Maybe you're on to something there.

[c5] That does sound cool.

MEIRIN: [a5] [mu] Hehe.

[b5] But I can see why you looked up to Arietta growing up.

ALTO: [a7] [C>] Now I'm kinda embarrassed.

[c6] But... yeah.

[b4] I halfway wanted to be just like that, and halfway wanted to have someone like that as a big sister or something.

MEIRIN: [c8] Well... having older siblings who can do everything probably sounds nicer than it actually is.

[a3] 'Cause then you have a lot of pressure to live up to their example, even if you can't.

ALTO: [c6] Oh... Yeah. Sorry.

MEIRIN: [c8] It's okay. Besides, I do get how you feel.

[b4] The part where Arietta got so mad because she was used to being able to do everything by herself?

[a7] I can't even imagine what that feels like, I'm totally jealous.

I'm just noting that Feral has TERRIBLE consistency with MEIRIN and I'm sure the others too. The eyes constantly change size, the ears are drawn with differing detail, and the bells on her neck change size.

[a1] It's probably hopeless for me, but I can't help thinking like, wow, can I grow up to be her?

ALTO: [a3] I don't think it's hopeless. You're good at a lot of things, you're just hard on yourself, that's all.

[c5] And you're still only sixteen, you've got plenty of time.

MEIRIN: [b6] Hm, maybe.

But like... I dunno, it's probably disrespectful to think about things in terms that simple.

[b4] I mean... heck, there was a lot of stuff going on.

[c5] And it's not like Arietta never felt like she wasn't good enough either.

[c8] [ugh] That's actually kinda heartening... though thinking that way is probably even MORE disrespectful.

ALTO: [a7] Haha, I don't know about that.

MEIRIN: [b5] Anyway... I think I understand a lot of stuff better now,
about how things turned out like this and why Uncommon Time was made in the first place.

ALTO: [a3] I see.

MEIRIN: [b6] [...] ...And...

ALTO: [a1] What is it?

MEIRIN: [b4] One of her performers' family name was Otowa, right?

ALTO: [b5] [!] Now that you mention it...

MEIRIN: [a7] [*] It's probably just a coincidence, but it's bugging me.

[b6] Even inf that Otowa Suzuran person was a relative, there'd probably be no way to check.

[c7] [C>] Since that was way before my family became nobility.

ALTO: [c6] Yeah...

MEIRIN: [c4] Oh well.

[a5] So hey, are we getting ready to go now?

[b3] I want to see what the rest of this place is like!!

{MEIRIN disappears, presumably joins the party}

Oh my fucking God you have to talk to everyone. My poor, poor hands. Talking with SAKI btw.

ALTO: [a2] So, Saki, what do you think about Uncommon Time now that you've gotten to see it yourself?

SAKI: [a4] This is truly fascinating work of magic.

[<>] Above and beyond simply creating a landscape,
to automatically generate a representation of someone's subconscious...

[a7] I can hardly imaging just what it took to create this system,
even for the most magically talented humans and spirits of the age.

[a1] I wish I could study it. Even just the theory.

ALTO: [b4] I don't think there's anything stopping you, if you really wanted to.

SAKI: [a5] I don't have the talent.

[a6] My life just won't be long enough for someone at my level to get any real understanding.

ALTO: [a6] That's not true.

[c6] I mean, there's no way of telling what's going to happen in the future, but you're smart and good at magic.

[a4] I'm sure you could do it.

SAKI: [c4] [...] Perhaps, but...

That isn't the problem.

ALTO: [c6] ...

SAKI: [b7] There's no real point dwelling on that.

[...]

[a1] What about you?

ALTO: [b5] Eh?

SAKI: [a7] Why, there surely isn't any need to act so surprised, is there?

[a4] You have admired Arietta all your life,

and my guess is that this is the first time you've been able to experience her as a person and not a legend.

[...]

ALTO: [b4] Yeah... Well.

[...]

[b2] I think... If you're expecting me to feel disillusioned, I don't really think I am.

SAKI: [a7] Oh?

[...]

ALTO: [a8] I mean, there was everything with Teagan, but even though I was raised knowing the truth about the World Tuning...

[b4] Arietta was a tall tale, she was half myth.

Like this... austere, perfect, invincible fairytale legend.

And I made it this far by clinging to that, like she was a statue I could take shelter behind,
or a favorite bedtime story to take comfort in.

[c6] We came from her, that was what I was told,

but the Arietta in our oral traditions was so much larger than life that I always kind of felt like...
she couldn't really be real.

[*]

[a5] I don't think this is making any sense.

SAKI: [a5] No, I understand, go on.

NO

ALTO [b2] Like... that's why it's meant a lot to me, being here in Harmonia,

[a4] because there's proof everywhere that Arietta really existed.

We've climbed the tower she built, we've seen her grave and the monument to her deeds.

[b4] I mean, hell, we're living in her old mansion.

[a8] And now...

[...]

[b4] Getting to learn about the past from Aubrey and from Luminoso isn't the same as this.

[a4] We were shown Arietta's own memories, we were her.

[b4] And... She really is everything the legends said she was, none of it was an exaggeration.

But she was still a person just like us.

[b2] She got mad and impatient, and she was totally smitten with her boyfriend, and she thought like
me, and...

[a4] She was real.

[c1] She was real.

[...]

SAKI: [a4] I see.

If I see "I see" one more time, it's becoming a drinking game.

Motherfucker, I honestly didn't mean to type that. This game is some psychological conditioning.

ALTO: [a5] So I kinda...

[a8] It's overwhelming.

[c6] [ugh] And now I'm even more nervous and it makes no sense.

SAKI: [a2] [<3] *giggle* Come, now. It will be all right.

ALTO: [b4] I've just gotta... do it.

[b2] The longer I think about it the worse it's going to be.

SAKI: [a2] That's the spirit.

Talks with Teagan for the love of God be short and sweet.

TEAGAN: [d2] So that's what that Arietta you'd never shut up about was really like, huh...

ALTO: [a7] [C>] "Never shut up about"? I wasn't really that bad, was I?

TEAGAN: [b3] [*] Once you actually started talking like a normal person, you sure were.

[b2] First it was a relief, then it was annoying as hell,

and then it was just business as usual with a side of obnoxious.

ALTO: [a7] Haha...

[a5] Actually, I'm surprised that's what you're fixating on instead of just the history itself.

TEAGAN: [a1] No, it's interesting to get a first-person firsthand account, for sure.

But even I was curious, you know? After hearing so much about the legendary Arietta Cantabile, savior of the world.

Just getting the laundry list of things she did and why you thought she was so awesome never told me what kind of person she actually was.

ALTO: [a3] And so, what's your conclusion?

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] How should I put this... You sure can tell that you and she are related.

ALTO: [b5] [?] How do you mean?

TEAGAN: [b3] In the sense that she's ridiculous, and all her ideas seemed to have come out of left field just like yours do.

Actually compared to her, you start to look perfectly reasonable.

ALTO: [a6] [xp] Teagan...

TEAGAN: [c1] I'm kidding... I think.

[b2] Well... I may not understand her thought process, or yours, but...

ALTO: [b4] But?

TEAGAN: [b2] It's like Aubrey's Lord Altair said. She was human. She had her own flaws and worries, too.

ALTO: [b4] Yeah...

TEAGAN: [a4] And I'm... I'd say "impressed" here, but I don't know.

It surprised me to hear she actually foresaw the problem with the Cantabile cycle, even if it was technically too late to do much about it.

ALTO: [c6] Yeah. I noticed that too.

TEAGAN: [a1] Anyway, it's made me think of a lot of things too.

It was weird seeing someone else's memories out of their own eyes, but still kind of neat.

ALTO: [a3] I'm glad.

TEAGAN: [a2] Anyway, I'm ready to go whenever you and the others are.

LAST ONE THANK FUCK. Talks with AUBREY.

AUBREY: [a3] So that's... what happened.....

ALTO: [c6] ...Aubrey.

AUBREY: [a3] So Chantal was... because of me... There's so much I didn't know.

ALTO: [a4] Aubrey.

AUBREY: [a6] I made -- such terrible mistakes. I was really horrible to her, wasn't I...

ALTO: [b4] ...

AUBREY: [b6] And Lady Arietta was the one to save her...

[...]

[c5] ...That's so underhanded.

AUBREY is the cutest one, tbh. Fucking insane, but cute nevertheless.

ALTO: [a7] Eh?

[...]

AUBREY: [c5] How am I supposed to keep hating her now?

[!]

ALTO: [a3] Heh.

u;; [c5] [xp] D-don't laugh at me when I'm seriously worrying!

ALTO: [c5] [mu] Hahahaha.

AUBREY: [c5] [*] Grr.

ALTO: [c8] (They really do still act like an uncute kid whenever Arietta's involved.)

AUBREY: [b7] [*] Sigh...

[a1] Whenever you want to move on, I'm ready.

2:14:24 - SPACE FOREST in ballsdeep - OPTIONAL: Talks to item FAIRY.

FAIRY (ivory): Do you want to shop for items?

{yes}

OPTIONAL: Talk to to accessories FAIRY.

FAIRY (ebony): Would you like to shop for accessories?

{yes}

2:18:40 - PATH END - PROGRESS: The quintet enters the final area and sees ARIETTA's back at a music stand next to a viola. How are there still two more hours of this.

{Group walks up with ALTO in the middle, who is the only one [!]. They stop before ascending the short staircase.}

MEIRIN: [b6] Look -- is that...?

AUBREY: [a4] Lady Arietta...

[turns around and walks to the top of the staircase]

ARIETTA: So you made it here safe, that's good.

TEAGAN: [b1] [...] ...Whoa.

[b8] I mean, actually watching those memories was one thing, but...

[c2] It's weird actually getting to talk to someone from the past like this.

If I didn't know better, I wouldn't know she was any different from us.

[a6] [<>] How the heck does this work?

[faces TEAGAN]

MEIRIN: [b1] [*] ...Wow, here comes Team Nerd #1.

ALTO: [a5] [mu] Hahaha.

{MEIRIN resets orientation}

[b3] Well, I think you've heard from either Altair or Aubrey by now,

[b4] but he and I exist by having more or less left perfect copies of our minds in the fabric of Uncommon Time.

[c3] We retain all the capabilities of our original selves at the peak of our abilities in life --

[b5] [!] that's why I don't look like an old lady, by the way --

[b4] but it's basically impossible for us to take physical form outside of Uncommon Time,

[b3] and when the mana stored here is very low we're usually in sleep mode.

[b5] [mu] You can think of us as a halfway point between nature spirits and unusually benevolent ghosts, if that's easier.

You wouldn't download yourself.

TEAGAN: [b4] [...] But if you're copies, then...

ARIETTA: [b1] [C>] You'd have to talk to Altair if you want to really get into the technical implications of transhumanism.

[b4] He likes that kind of thing, but I don't see the point in worrying about it too much.

TEAGAN: [c2] Huh, I guess that's one way to think about it too.

ARIETTA: [a5] [<>] Besides, you know what they say. I think, therefore I am!

TEAGAN: [b3] [ugh] (I can't tell if this person's a genius or an idiot... Yep, definitely realted to Alto.)

[...]

SAKI: [a1] If it's all right, I have a question.

ARIETTA: [b5] Ask away.

SAKI: [a3] We experienced a number of your memories on the way here, but did you select them?

ARIETTA: [c3] Yes.

And you're right, since it's what you really want to ask.

[c4] It seemed like the easiest way to explain some things to you,
so since you would have had to travel through tiers of someone's mind anyway to get here,
I arranged those in hopes of getting you all up to speed.

SAKI: [a6] [...] Then, what you wished to discuss with us is...

ARIETTA: [c3] Yes and no.

[c6] But having you understand what happened back then will save time.

[c4] I want to talk about the Cantabile system, and I have a favor to ask.

MEIRIN: [b4] [!] A favor -- of us?

ARIETTA: [a2] There's no need to look so shocked.

[b4] This is the only place where I have a solid body, and I can't leave Harmonia.

[b1] And whatever misconceptions you've gotten, I do mean to have already shown you that I'm far from all-powerful.

MEIRIN: [b6] Oh... yeah, I guess that's right.

[a3] Um -- I'm sorry.

ARIETTA: [a2] There's no need to apologize.

[c3] [...] And... It's not a favor of everyone.

[c4] It's something I can only ask of you.

{everyone stares at ALTO}

[!] [jumps]

ALTO: [b5] Eh?!

ARIETTA: [b5] Yes, you in the back.

[...]

ALTO: [e4] ...I-I...

[...]

ARIETTA: Before we move on to the serious stuff, though...

{everyone faces ARIETTA}

[a5] You and Aubrey were able to defeat Altair, weren't you? That's impressive.

AUBREY: [a7] [!] O-oh, no, that's...

[b1] I'm sure it was because Father held back for us.

ARIETTA: [b4] [...] Hmm.

[c3] So you're finally calling him that now...

[a2] I guess that means you really are growing up.

AUBREY: [a7] [!] ?!

ARIETTA: [b3] And that's not true.

[a5] If it was for your sake anyway, my ♥ honey wouldn't do you the disrespect of holding back.

[a4] You defeated him on your own merits. So there's no need to be humble.

{AUBREY [...]}

[a5] Anyway... You've piqued my interest.

[a4] So first things first... I want to see your power for myself.

{pause}

[b3]What are those worried faces for?

[b5] You outnumber me, so I'm sure you can make up for any difference in ability level that way.

[...]

[c4] ...I want to see it. I want to see for myself what you can do.

TEAGAN: [b3]Is this on a whim, or is there a reason?

ARIETTA: [a8] Well...

[c8] [<3] It's definitely true that there's a grudge I'd like to air for someone who can't join us.

NO BULLY THE WORMS

AUBREY: [c6] [ugh] ?!! (You're smiling, but it's not reaching your eyes at all!!!)

ARIETTA: [c7] But that's not all, no.

[...]

[turns around]

SAKI: [a3] ...Alto? What do you want to do?

[...]

ALTO: [e4] I...

[...]

(...Again. It's no good. Even if I could think of something to say, the words won't come out.

[...]

ARIETTA: [c3] ...The night is still young, and the stars are bright.

[pause]

I've prepared the most extravagant ballroom for you.

[pause]

I'm the host and you are my guest of honor.

[pause]

[...]

[a2] So won't you dance with me?

[!]

[...]

ALTO: [e4] I...

..... [GET TIME]

[walks up a square]

{SAKI readjust orientation to follow ALTO}

[c6] ...I don't know if we can win.

[...]

But I...

[...]

[walks up to ARIETTA]

{SAKI resets orientation}

[a4] ...I want to dance.

[...]

ARIETTA: [a2] I see... I'm happy to hear that.

DRINK

{They fight.}

{THEY WIN WOOOOOOOOOO}

SAKI: [c1] W-we won, somehow.

ARIETTA: [a5] You're just as strong as I thought.

[...]

[a2] ...I'm glad.

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] Not that there's no feeling of accomplishment here, having been able to defeat someone on your level...

[b4] [?] But really, what was that about? If you were testing us, then what for?

ARIETTA: [b3] Don't overthink it so much.

[b4] I wanted to see how strong you are -- both your ability level and how you work together.

[a5] And you are strong[semi] it's reassuring.

[a4] It's nostalgic too! You remind me of my own ensemble, back when we first got together.

[b5] Besides, tests of strength and ability are just a part of spirit culture,
so brush it off as my half-breed eccentricities if you must.

MEIRIN: [a7] [ugh] It really is their culture after all?!!

[turns around to the group]

ALTO: [a7] Haha, you don't have to get that surprised.

ARIETTA: [c3] [...] Besides...

{turns around to ARIETTA}

[c7] Well, you all seemed pretty nervous before, so I was hoping that exercising together would help you relax.

ALTO: [b5] [!] Oh...

ARIETTA: [c7] How to put this... I'm glad it seems to have went well.

ALTO: [c8] ...Yeah.

AUBREY: [a4] Then, Lady Arietta... If you will excuse me for being direct, why did you call for us?

ARIETTA: [b4] Well, wanting to see for myself how strong you were was one thing.

[c3] But I wanted you to know the history of the World Tuning.

[c4] I wanted you to know how things came to be this way.

AUBREY: [a3] Lady Arietta...

ARIETTA: [c6] [...] And now that i've shown you the truth, I need to apologize.

SAKI: [a7] Apologize...?

ARIETTA: [c4] It was our generation and our predecessors that did this to the world.

So it should have been our responsibility to fix it -- not just correcting the disrupted flow of magic,
but by finding cleaner energy sources and creating more efficient technology.

I'm looking at you, boomers.

[c3] [...] But after the World Tuning, I got tired.

I thought that surely I no longer had the energy to do anything like that again,

[c6] and with that excuse I pushed my responsibilities and my knowledge off on Piano.

and her children, and her children's children.

Even though I knew it might turn out like this.

[c3] Even though I was worried enough about the future to leave a part of myself in Uncommon Time.

[c6] This only happened because we dropped the ball.

ALTO: [c6] I... I don't think you have to feel responsibility for that.

"Hey, even though I anticipated that our bloodline was going to eventually create an abomination like you, I did it anyway."

"It's okay. It's still Teagan's fault anyways."

[c1] There's -- nobody's born for the sole purpose of sacrificing herself for the greater good.

THAT'S L I T E R A L L Y WHY YOU WERE CREATED, ALTO.

You gave so much of your life for others, and you didn't even like people.

[b4] Maybe it's selfish to want to live for yourself after that, but I don't think it's wrong.

ARIETTA: [c7] It makes me happy to hear you say that[semi] you're a kind girl.

SHE WANTS TO DESTROY THE FUCKING WORLD YOU FUCKING CUNT.

[c3] But... from the beginning, the World Tuning was never meant to be the solution.

[c4] It was never meant to be repeated for this long.

[c6] I taught my magic and ritual to Piano thinking that it would probably be needed a few times in the future, but...

[a3] This has gone on far too long.

TEAGAN: [b1] [!] ...

ARIETTA: [c3] Altair and I can't directly interfere with the world outside of Uncommon Time.

The most we can do is watch.

The Cantabile family left this country after a while,

but I've observed every descendant of mine who came to perform the World Tuning.

[c4] So... even if I can't pinpoint exactly when the turning point was,

I realized pretty quickly when things had gone wrong.

[c6] [...] But by then it was already too late.

AUBREY: [a3] Lady Arietta...?

[...]

ARIETTA: [c3] For the first few hundred years, everything was fine.

[c6] Then I started to notice signs of fatigue in the young Cantabiles who came to this land.

Stress, fear, trauma, deteriorating health...

[c4] You know, the weakness of the Cantabile system is that we don't even have a branch family.

[c3] Most of us have only had the one "mandatory" child,

so there's only one person to weigh all that responsibility on,

and that's also created unfair pressure to procreate with the "right" people only.

MEIRIN: [c4] Like how it usually is with nobles, but even worse and grosser.

ARIETTA: [b2] [*] Exactly.

[c3] And it would have been kinder if that was all.

The even worse probleme with the Cantabile system is that with only one family line...

all it took to poison the entire system was for one parent to turn abusive.

And with no other model for how to teach but your own parents...

SAKI: [a6] ...I see.

DRINK

ARIETTA: [c6] I've watched all this time as my descendants became more and more unstable.

Never able to interfere, never even able to call out to them.

[c3] And then finally...

ALTO: [a8] [...] ...I was the first one to fail.

ARIETTA: [c7] No.

You came, and brought the Cantabile system to full circle.

[c3] I was the first one to fail the World Tuning.

I was the first one with enough hatred and malevolence and self-doubt to wish for destruction.

[c7] ...You're the first one to have collaborated with Luminoso and the others this much.

[a5] [<3] And because they told you about Uncommon Time, and opened it for you to use, we're able to talk like this.

ALTO: [e4] [///] ...

ARIETTA: [c4] It was never meant to be this way. I want you to know that.

[c6] The Cantabile family only became this warped in the first place because of my negligence.

[a3] What happened to you is not your fault.

[c6] It's irresponsible of me to put any more weight on your shoulders, but please.

[c4] Even if it's just by getting yourself out, put an end to this cycle.

[c7] I'm so sorry for everything. And...

DRAWING - ARIETTA is hugging ALTO, who looks a bit surprised.

ALTO: ...!!

Different perspective.

ARIETTA: Thank you.

Thank you so much.

You've fought so hard, all this time.

Thank you for surviving.

Thank you for everything.

New perspective, this time it shows ALTO's ugly face crying.

ARIETTA: I love you so much.

I'm so proud of you.

Back to visual no- er, game.

ARIETTA [c7] Are you okay now?

ALTO: [e5] ...Yeah.

TEAGAN: [b1] [...] (...I've never seen Alto cry like that before. Not in ten whole years of knowing her.)

ARIETTA: [a5] Here. I want you to have this.

{Archetier GET!}

ALTO: [b5] [!] This is...?

ARIETTA: [a2] It's my favorite, but I don't really need it anymore.

[c7] I want you to keep it, and remember what you've seen and heard here.

It may not be much, but I want to give you what I can.

ALTO: [b4] [!] I'll never forget.

[c1] No matter how much time passes.

[c2] I won't forget even if I die.

[...]

[e5] ...Thank you.

[c5] Thank you.

{pregnant pause}

[moonwalks]

ARIETTA: [a2] ...I'm going to send you all back to the surface now.

[c7] I shouldn't be taking up too much of your time anyway.

But I want you to remember that there are people here who love you, and want you to be free.

{transition}

2:54:03 - BEL CANTO at CEMETARY - ALTO is looking at ARIETTA's grave and everyone is looking at ALTO.

{ALTO [...]}

AUBREY: [a3] Um... Alto, are you all right...?

ALTO: [e5] ...Yeah.

[turns around]

[c5] ...Actually, I'm really happy.

SAKI: [a2] I see... it's good to hear that.

ALTO: [a4] As soon as everyone's ready, I want to go.

MEIRIN: [b4] [!] Huh? Go where?

ALTO: [a6] [C>] Where else?

[b4] Back to Metronome Tower.

[c7] Let's put an end to this.

Reading Chantal's grave again.

ALTO: [b5] This... is Chantal's grave, isn't it?

AUBREY: [a3] ...

ALTO: [b5] Oh?

{White Ribbon GET!}

This is... a ribbon? Has this always been here?

AUBREY: [a3] ...

ALTO: [a5] Can we take it?

AUBREY: [a3] ...I feel like... I wouldn't have the right.

ALTO: [c6] Aubrey?

AUBREY: [b6] ...I can't stop thinking about it.

[a3] What I did to her...

I want to make it up to her, but even if she were still alive I wouldn't know what to do or say...

[a6] These feelings of regret are so heavy, I don't think I can bear them.

What... am I supposed to do?

ALTO: [b4] ...Aubrey.

[a8] I know you want me to comfort you, but...

[c6] Even I think that this is a cold thing to say, but you don't have a choice.

[hits desk with both hands]

ME: [#] STOP. FUCKING STOP.

AUBREY: [a5] ...!

ALTO: [c6] You made sure yourself that you could never make this right.

[b4] Even if you could talk to Chantal somehow, apologizing wouldn't make what you did go away.

So the only thing you can do now is try to find a way to live with it.

[a4] And... remember, and keep regretting it, so that you never do something like that again.

ME:

AAAAAAAAAAAA

AAAAAAAAAAAA

AAAAAAAAAAAA

AAAAAAA

AUBREY: [a3] ...You're probably right. But... that still doesn't make me feel any better.

ALTO: [a7] Haha, I don't think it was supposed to?

[a3] ...Anyway, let's take this.

If we left it here it would just go to waste, and it's happier for objects to be taken care of and used.

I somehow feel that this is directed more towards the group rather than the Ribbon.

AUBREY: [a3] Is that so...

ALTO: [b4]Well... Arietta helped her in the end.

We can't tell from her gravestone if she ever married her boyfriend, but it looks like they stayed together.

You were cruel to your sister, but she still survived.

[a4] So if there's anything you can do in her memory...

You have to survive too.

AUBREY: [b6] ...Yes.

ALTO: [a1] Anyway, let's go.

[a3] There are still things we have to take care of, too.

AUBREY: [a1] Okay.

STATUE OF ARIETTA - Reading the plaque, which contains all former Cantabiles and their ensembles

MEIRIN: [c7] "Calix Lachapelle:... "Yvonne Fortinbras"...

[a7] [!] Ahh!

[b4] "Otowa Suzuran"... here she is.

[c4] Darn, her name's only written in Imperial lettering...

I'm curious now, so I was wondering if at least I'd be able to check the kanji in her name.

[b6] [ugh] ...This was right here all along, but I guess I was just never looking close enough to notice...

3:02:10 - MANOR KITCHEN - The stove is shiny so it can be interacted with.

MEIRIN: [a2] We can bake some sweets here if you guys want.

[a5] Let's do a quick rundown of how to use the oven first, just in case.

{A cooking mechanic that I have never knew about in the three years I've been watching this stream is introduced.}

Select to make Berry Tart.

{fades to black}

MEIRIN: [a2] Okay, Leave it to me!

{bakes Berry Tarts and screen fades back up}

[a6] See, isn't that easy?

Selects to make Scones.

{fades to black}

ALTO: [b6] Ready, Aubrey?

AUBREY: [b1] (Wahh, please let nothing bad happen...)

{Scone status: baked}

ALTO: [a1] I think we're getting better at this!

AUBREY: [b1] Well, at least this time nothing caught on fire...

Selects to bake Madeleines.

{fades to black}

SAKI: [a2] My, I'll have to do my best.

[pause]

[a4] And now for the secret ingredient...

You know EXACTLY what you're doing, Feral.

{Madeleines have been MADE-leine nyuk nyuk nyuk fuck and }

[a2] I hope you all enjoy them.

Select to make churros.

>implying Teagan is Celtic

TEAGAN: [a2] Right, clear off and I'll be done with these soon.

{pause}

[a3] Hey, get out of the[--]

Ah fuck, this is literally the only time where it actually is double dashes. Fucking shit fuck.

[a5] Look, just get out of the house or I'm gonna get mad.

{Churros crafted}

[b3] No thanks to all you nosy assholes.

3:07:19 - METRONOME TOWER ROOF - Back at the top because Thassil is a bitch and skipped Refinery.

MEIRIN: [c5] So we're finally back here, after everything...

It feels like it's been a lot longer than just a month.

TEAGAN: [a1] That's good, though, isn't it? Having some distance. I mean --

[!] [jumps]

[b1] [ugh] uwah, what the hell is that thing?!

SAKI: [a7] [?] Oh, my... It seems to be some kind of cluster of magical energy, but...

AUBREY: [a4] [...] It's concentrated enough for even non-mages to see it with the naked eye... This means...?

[...]

ALTO: [a5] [ugh] Oh, boy.

{everyone turns to ALTO I guess?}

TEAGAN: [a5] Alto?

[turns to the rest of the group]

ALTO: [a7] [ugh] ...Yes, Teagan?

TEAGAN: [a5] [xp] I know that tone. This is your "I fucked up and I know it so I'm going to act as cheerful about it as I can" tone.

[looks at Distortion]

[b8] What exactly is that thing?

[...]

ALTO: [a7] Well...

[turns around to Distortion]

[a5] From the looks of things, that's the leftovers from our last try.

[turns to Distortion]

SAKI: [a8] [ugh] Ah.

{MEIRIN + AUBREY [iq], reset orientation[semi] TEAGAN []}*

[faces ALTO]

TEAGAN: [b3] That sounds like it's supposed to make sense, but explain it so that those of us who don't do magic will understand too.

[faces TEAGAN]

ALTO: [a5] [C>] Um... Well, let me try.

[b4] When we last tried the ritual, it had the opposite effect from what was intended due to various factors.

[b2] We've solved all those problems so we won't cause another disaster this time, but...

[a5] I guess the failure left is a magical distortion behind.

[turns around to distortion]

[a4] So this is more or less a physical representation of our last try.

TEAGAN: [b8] [?] "Magical distortion"?

ALTO: [a5] [C>] Yeah, uh...

[turns around]

[a6] [*] I actually don't know how to explain this, can someone who gets it help out?

[faces TEAGAN]

AUBREY: [b1] Well...

{SAKI + MEIRIN turn around}

[a1] It's the result of the last ritual, so you could think of it as what's perpetuating the ritual's effects.

[b6] So this is the source of the bad weather and such.

[...]

[a3] I don't know if you can sense it, Teagan, but it's warping the magical fabric of the whole tovertop.

[faces Distortion]

[a3] Honestly, just looking at it makes me feel a little nauseous...

TEAGAN: [b3] [*] Yeah, no, I can't sense a thing.

[b4] But you do look kinda pale... well, paler than usual I mean.

SAKI: [a5] [C>] Ordinarily, if you mess up a grand magical working, you ought to sweep the ritual site clean as quickly as possible.

But...

ALTO: [a5] In our defense, I think we were a little preoccupied with getting the hell out of there before that storm we spawned hit actual hurricane strength.

[faces Distortion]

TEAGAN: [b8] [?] So....

MEIRIN: [a5] Okay, lemme put it this way, I think it'll be easier to understand.

{SAKI + AUBREY face MEIRIN}

TEAGAN: [b3] [*] You saying it like that kinda pisses me off, but go ahead.

MEIRIN: [b1] [xp] I will magnanimously ignore that because we have bigger fish to fry.

[b4] Okay, so, say you tried to make a three-course dinner of something but you messed up real bad and burned everything.

[b6] [C>] Or whatever.

[c8] But basically you were in no state to wash, like, ALL the dishes. So you left them in the sink.

[a1] And then you and everyone else went out to dinner instead and you put it out of mind.

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] Maybe rein in this metaphor a little, I think it's getting out of control.

MEIRIN: [a4] [xp]

[a1] Anyway, the point is, you left lal the dishes in the sink without cleaning them

and you were so busy with other stuff it kept slipping your mind,

[a7] until when you finally went into the kitchen again there was like... alive stuff growing in the sink.

[b2] [<>] That's pretty much what's happening here.

ALTO: [b5] Oh, that's a pretty good simile.

TEAGAN: [b1] [ugh] Ew, no, that is gross. I feel gross just imagining that.

AUBREY: [b1] [C>] Anyway... we can't perform the World Tuning with thatthing here...

TEAGAN: [b8] So... what do we need to do to "clean the sink", as it were?

[c2] [?] Is there some kind of other ritual to do first?

SAKI: [a5] Ordinarily there might be, but...

Alto? YOu're the only one who would know what to so, since this is "Bowing" and all...

ALTO: [c6] Yeah...

This kind of thing used to happen in training too, when I messed up spells or failed in materializing instruments.

[a5] But... I'd always do clean-up soon enough that I'd have to give the failed spell physical form first.

I've never had to do this with a large-scale spell I've left long enough for it to gain physical form on its own.

TEAGAN: [b3] [ugh] We CAN still do something about it, right?

ALTO: [a1] Yeah.

[a3] Well, its already having a body saves us time.

[faces Distortion]

[a2] All we have to do is destroy it.

[faces Distortion]

MEIRIN: [a7] [ugh] Destroy it?? THAT?

ALTO: [b4] Think about how far we've come.

[c7] The way we are now, we can do this.

[faces Distortion]

AUBREY: [a4] It's powerful... but we were able to defeat Lady Arietta, even. I'm sure...

MEIRIN: [c5] [!] Come to think of it... Yeah.

[b4] It's scary, but I'll do what I can!

TEAGAN: [b3] [*] I can't believe that we got this far only to be tripped up by Alto getting ahead of herself as usual.

ALTO: [a6] [xp] Oh, give me a break!

SAKI: [a5] We all bear responsibility here.

[a6] Every one of us who works with magic should have known better, but it didn't occur to any of us.

MEANING THAT TEAGAN DID NOTHING WRONG BECAUSE SHE WOUDLN'T HAVE KNOW BECAUSE SHE ISN'T A MAGE

ALTO: [a2] And if we're talking about the distractions we had to deal with back then, probably the biggest one was...

YOU ALTO, IT WAS YOU

TEAGAN: [b8] [C>] ...Oh, right. I guess you have a point, let's let it slide.

TEAGAN NO

ALTO: [a2] [<3] That's how it is.

[a4] I'm going to give this thing a tweak so we'll be able to fight it more easily, everyone ready?

AUBREY: [b6] Yes.

MEIRIN: [b2] Ready as I'll ever be!

[faces Distortion]

SAKI: [a1] Go ahead, Alto.

TEAGAN: [c1] I just hope it'll be a good warm-up for playing.

ALTO: [a7] Okay. Let's go!!

{start fight with SLIME HUMAN HYBRID}

3:37:10 - METRONOME TOWER ROOF - Distortion has been slain.

ALTO: [a3] [mu] ...Sigh. That ought to take care of that.

TEAGAN: [b3] That was tough, but we managed to win somehow...

ALTO: [a3] [mu] ...Sigh. That ought to take care of that.

TEAGAN: [b3] That was tough, but we managed to win somehow...

[checks up on the rest of the g's]

[b4] Is everyone still okay to play?

[turns to tell this nigga is a straight-up busta]

AUBREY: [b6] I'm... okay.

[turns around to tell that she's a real OG and won't get flustered by some punk unless it's up in her ho

(SAKI)]

MEIRIN: [a1] Yeah.

[b5] ...Actually, it's kind of nice.

[b2] [<>] I was a little nervous after all, but the fight tired all that out of me and now I feel refreshed.

TEAGAN: [b2] That doesn't make any sense, but I ges what you mean.

MEIRIN: [a2] Heheheh.

SAKI: [a4] Yes...

[turnin' to give this nigga a piece of his mind]

[a1] I don't sense any further disturbance, so we ought to be all right.

[turns to tell her lazy-ass niggas to get it the fuck together]

ALTO: [c5] Okay. Then, let's get started.

DRAWING - 3 drawings of appear on screen as a cutscene to indicate the performance was performed.

GAME - They're all in their performance positions.

ALTO: [b4] ...

TEAGAN: [a4] That was...

[...]

MEIRIN: [b4] It was perfect.

[b3] It was really perfect.

TEAGAN: [a2] It was even better than I'd hoped for. Yeah.

AUBREY: [b6] What is it, I wonder... This feeling.

[a1] Like all the murkiness and gloom have just been washed away by the wind and rain...

[a2] It's a feeling like the blue sky.

{TEAGAN + MEIRIN + AUBREY [!] by snow}

MEIRIN: [a1] Oh... It's snowing again.

[looks around before returning to her normal orientation]

[b6] [?] But... this feels different, somehow.

[...]

[walks to the edge]

SAKI: [c3] Yes.

MEIRIN: [b4] [!] Eh? Saki, you...

SAKI: [c3] We've done it.

[slowly pans upward]

The seasons, the weather... It's already all going back to the way it's meant to be.

[panning stops]

...We've done it. I can still feel the song deep in my bones.

...This snow... it's clean. It's beautiful.

[looks upward]

MEIRIN: [b3] [!] Look!!

[speedwalks to SAKI's side]

[a2] [<3] If you're looking closely at the clouds, there's a rainbow!

{SAKI looks at MEIRIN who is jumping}

TEAGAN: [a3] [ugh] Ah, hey, standing that close to the edge of the wall's dangerous, cut it out!

[walks up to them, but not quite to the edge]

[]*

[turns around to look at the rest of 'em]

AUBREY: [a2] [mu] Ehehe.

[pans down]

ALTO: [b4] (...We've managed to do it. I hope... we've made our predecessors proud.)

[eyes start closing]

[a4] (But this is... still just the beginning, isn't it?)

[closes eyes] [...]

[c7] (I mean...)

[turns around]

MEIRIN: [a6] [mu] Hey Alto, what are you spacing out back there for?

{ALTO [!], turns to MEIRIN}

[b3] [<>] This is really pretty, you've got to come look!

ALTO: [c5] [mu] Yeah, I'm coming, I'm coming.

[walks to the edge and eyes are open]

DRAWING - Alto is looking out smiling while next to Saki is looking too much like a girl for my dick to tell the difference in the corner.

ALTO: It really is pretty.

MEIRIN: See? I told you!

ALTO: ...Hey, you guys...

I'm really glad I did this with all of you.

SAKI: Thank you for choosing us.

4:42:10 - METRONOME TOWER BASE - They're all leaving, with MEIRIN running, ALTO at a crawl, and the rest at normal walking place. MEIRIN turns around to face them before they all stop.

[closes eyes]

ALTO: [b1]Kh.

[faces ALTO]

AUBREY: [a3] Alto, is something wrong?

ALTO: [b4] ...Not really, I'm just kinda tired.

[faces ALTO]

SAKI: [a3] Alto, you're...

[?] [faces SAKI] [eyes open]

SAKI: [a6] Your face is all flushed. Do you feel feverish at all?

ALTO: [b5] Huh?

[a5] Oh. Maybe a little...

honestly, I'm just kind of tired.

[b2] If you guys want to go on and party, sorry, I'm going to go back to the mansion and sleep.

MEIRIN: [c8] DON't feel bad about it. I think we could all stand to rest too.

{Fade to black}

MONOLOGUE

AUBREY: On December 21, 2513, we successfully performed the World Tuning.

When we got back to the mansion, Alto said that she was tired and went to go rest.

...We didn't think anything of it, at first. It wouldn't be that unusual to want to take a nap after expending all that energy.

But Alto just kept sleeping, and didn't wake up.

DECEMBER 22 - 0:15 AM - KITCHEN - Fades up to SAKI at the oven and AUBREY walking to the kitchen.

[turns to AUBREY]

SAKI: [a1] [!] Oh, it's you, Aubrey.

{walks to SAKI}

[a5] You frightened me for a moment. I thought you'd already gone to sleep with the others.

AUBREY: [a3] I'm sorry.

[...] I just... feel restless and uneasy.

[b1] I was having a difficult time sleeping, so I gave up, and the lights were on...

SAKI: [a6]

[c4] It's going to be all right, you know.

[a4] Alto is healthy and strong --

now that she's finally had the chance to relax, all the fatigue from our journey has caught up with her.

[a1] For the time being, it would just be best to let her sleep undisturbed.

AUBREY: [a3] I know that it's meaningless to worry. I know that this isn't like me, but...

[faces oven]

SAKI: [a4] ...I'll make tea, so you can wait in the dining room if you'd like.

AUBREY: [b6] If... it's not a bother, I'd rather stay and watch. I feel calmer with you around.

[faces AUBREY]

SAKI: [a2] My, my. Of course you're not a bother, you're welcome to stay.

AUBREY: [b6] ...I never thought that I would get to be on the side that worries over someone sleeping.

[a3] I do think that it probably serves me right, but that doesn't make it any easier to accept...

SAKI: [a1] I see.

DRINK

[faces counter]

AUBREY: [a3] Whenever I get stuck thinking only negative things like this... I get even more insecure without Alto.

[b6] Being with her makes me happy, and it lets me avoid all the bad feelings.

[faces SAKI]

[a3] But I'm only thinking of myself, aren't I?

[...]

...I've only just realized today that I've hardly ever seen Alto resting.

Whenever she's awake, even on the days when we've just stayed in town...

She's always been busy keeping one of us company, or doing errands.

Why didn't I realize earlier that that had to be hard on her...? I'm so frustrated with how selfish I've been.

SAKI: [a1] Isn't that a good place to start, though?

AUBREY: [a7] [?] Eh? What do you mean?

SAKI: [a5] It's just a feeling I get based on what Alto herself has told us, but...

[a6] She made it sound like when she lived with her family, almost all of her time was spent studying or training.

[a1] It could very well be that she just isn't used to having free time to relax with.

AUBREY: [a3] [!] Oh...

SAKI: [a3] However, never having any time to rest will eventually cost you in the end.

[a5] Every person's limits are different, of course,

so I wouldn't be so presumptuous as to try to hold Alto to my own schedule, but all the same.

[a4] If it's something that she isn't used to considering, you may be able to remind her...

and if she's not sure what to do, you can help her think of things.

[a1] She has to make her own decisions in the end, but you can at least give her new options.

[...]

AUBREY: [a1] ...You're good at thinking of things like this, Saki.

SAKI: [a2] [mu] Well, I am the adult here.

[a5] AND I've never been quite as robust as Alto, so it's something I've had to keep in mind in terms of my own routines.

Anyway, it's only an idea.

AUBREY: [a2] No, I really am grateful.

[a1] ...I'm even kind of jealous, that you're able to understand her so well.

SAKI: [a7] My... I think it's just that we have similar dispositions.

[a6] Sometimes not being able to understand is a good thing.

AUBREY: [a1] Really...?

SAKI: [a4] For instance... Don't you have some feelings that you would rather keep to yourself for whatever reason?

AUBREY: [a1] Oh...

SAKI: [a2] And also, there are many painful things in life that people can only truly understand once they've experienced those things for themselves.

[a1] Even if you're jealous that the other person has been spared from your pain...

You still feel grateful that they don't have to understand, right?

AUBREY: [b6] That's true. I hadn't thought of that.

[...]

[a1] ...Saki?

SAKI: [a2] Hmm?

Here comes the million dollar question.

AUBREY: [a1] Does that mean that Alto has understood things about you that you didn't want her to?

[...]

SAKI: [a2] ...My, my. What do you think?

AUBREY: [c5] [xp] That's a non-answer. You can't distract me by saying things like that.

SAKI: [a2] Well... It's a secret.

AUBREY: [c5] [*] Sigh...

SAKI: [a1] It's late. Oughtn't you try to get to sleep again?

AUBREY: [b6] I still don't think I'll be able to. There wouldn't be much point.

[faces oven]

SAKI: [a6] I see...

AUBREY: [c1] [...] Um... If it's not too much trouble...

[faces AUBREY]

SAKI: [a1] Oh?

AUBREY: [a2] Last time you taught me to make tea, so will you teach me how to use the coffee things?

[a1] It may not be much, but... I want to be able to do more things for Alto, even if they're small.

SAKI: [a5] I don't mind, but... If we make too many things with caffeine in them, we really won't be able to sleep, you know...?

AUBREY: [b1] That is true.

DECEMBER 22 - 5:03 AM - ENTRANCE AREA - MEIRIN is sitting on the couch and TEAGAN enters the room from upstairs.

[walks over to MEIRIN]

TEAGAN: [a1] You sure are up early.

MEIRIN: [b1] [*] Well, sorry for being an insomniac.

[...]

TEAGAN: [a5] ...Are you worried about Alto?

MEIRIN: [a3] Yeah... Are you?

TEAGAN: [a1] If you mean, is that why I'm awake this early...

[b3] I'm used to getting up early in the morning to exercise.

[b4] But yeah, I'm worried.

[c2] Honestly, it's more like I'm frustrated.

[b5] At least she didn't fall on her face like she did in Anacrusis... but I was afraid this was going to happen again.

[a4] She wasn't really raised to learn respect for her own limits, so she overdoes it sometimes.

MEIRIN: [c5] She showed us what her hands are like. So I can imagine...

[b4] Has she always been like this?

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] Hmm... I want to say that she was worse, especially back when we first met.

[b4] But I don't know if my interpretations should be that trustworthy.

[...]

MEIRIN: [b5] ...You've grown up a lot.

TEAGAN: [a5] [*] The fact that I'm in the position to be told that by you of all people really pisses me off.

[b3]Sigh. I know I've got nobody to blame but myself though.

MEIRIN: [a6] [mu] Hehe.

TEAGAN: [c2] I guess the real reason I'm up and ready to exercise is...

[b4] Worry about Alto has put me in a bad mood, but I don't have the right to take that out on her, let alone you guys.

So I want to work it off.

[b8] ...But come to think of it, she's the one I always did morning exercises with anyway.

[b4] It feels weird and off-balance when she's not here.

MEIRIN: [b4] ...Um...

TEAGAN: [a1] What?

MEIRIN: [c5] I don't wanna just sit around and wait either.

[b4] If you're going to go exercise, would you mind if I tag along?

TEAGAN: [c2]

[a2] No, I don't care. Actually it'd be kinda nice.

MEIRIN: [a2] !! Heheh. I'm glad.

TEAGAN: [a2] All right, let's get going.

[...]

MEIRIN: [b6]Um, hey Teagan...

TEAGAN: [a1] [?] What? Spit it out.

MEIRIN: [a3] I don't... really know anything in detail, but...

[b4] Alto said you weren't getting along with your family recently?

[...]

TEAGAN: [a4] ...I guess.

[b4] But it's more like...

[b3] How should I put it,

I suddenly feel sick to my stomach.

it's not really that we're not getting along, it's more that I'm totally in the wrong as far as that goes.

I FUCKING SUCK THAT I DON'T WANT MY BROTHER TO BE A GIGALO

[b4] Now that the World Tuning's over, that's the next big thing I have to worry about...

[b5] Going home at some point and sorting my shit out, I mean.

MEIRIN: [a3] [...] I see...

DRINK

Well... Do you have any ideas about how to do it?

TEAGAN: [b8] [?] Eh? I don't think there's really anything I CAN do aside from suck it up and apologize to Tristan personally.

[b3] I'm turning twenty next month.

[b8] I'm nto really at the age where I can try to get my parents to solve things for me anymore, you know?

[b2] And I don't want to drag the younger kids into this any more than I have already.

MEIRIN: [b5] ...You really are... grown up.

TEAGAN: [b8] [C>] Thanks, I think?

[b4] ...Still, this is a weird tiem for that to come up. Is something wrong?

MEIRIN: [b6] Mmm... It's like you said.

[c5] Now that the World Tuning's over we have to start thinking about what comes next.

[b4] So... I'm thinking about trying to contact my family.

TEAGAN: [a1] Come to think of it, I heard you ran away from home a while ago, didn't you?

MEIRIN: [a3] ...Yeah.

[c5] Honestly... I'm scared to talk to my family again after all these years.

[c4] Even if I just wrote them, I wouldn't know what to say.

[b6] Everything that's happened here has made me realize that I should at least let them know I'm alive and okay.

[a3] But I don't think that'd be enough to make me actually contact them. I'm a coward, after all.

[c5] ...I need their help for something important, so I don't have a choice.

TEAGAN: [b8] [?] "Something important"?

MEIRIN: [c5] Yeha. Something bigger than just me. So I've got to at least try.

[c4] But I just don't know how to start.

TEAGAN: [c2] Well... I don't know that much about you family situationl, so I can't really give advice.

[b4] But all you can really do is try you best, I guess.

MEIRIN: [b4] I guess so...

TEAGAN: [a2] And both of us have still got time to figure out what to do.

[b2] IT sounds like your situation at least isn't just your own fault like it is for me,
so you can ask the others for help too.

MEIRIN: [c5] Yeah.

[c8] [...] ...And... I dunno.

[b5] Thanks for hearing me out. I feel better.

TEAGAN: [a1] No problem.

[walks to the door and some weird panning goes on]

[a2] ...Anyway, let's stretch and warm up. First thing on the menu's six laps around the city.

MEIRIN: [a8] [ugh] Six laps?!

TEAGAN: [a2] [<>] And then muscle training, and after that, practice fights.

MEIRIN: [a7] [C>] That's pretty hardcore...

[turns to MEIRIN]

TEAGAN: [c1] [mu] You're welcome to sit out if it's too hot for you to handle.

MEIRIN: [b5] No, it sounds like fun.

[b3] [<>] Bring it on!!

{Fades to black.}

DECEMBER 22 - 10:30 AM - PRACTICE ROOM - AUBREY is playing piano in the practice room.

{TEAGAN appears in the doorway, which causes AUBREY to face her and be [!]}

AUBREY: [a2] Oh, Teagan. Welcome back.

TEAGAN: [a2] Yo.

[walks to her violin to practice]

[readjust orientation to be facing TEAGAN]

AUBREY: [a1] I'm impressed that you're going straight from physical exercise to music practice.

[?] Wasn't Meirin with you, though?

[b3] Yeah... well, she stuck it out pretty well give that she's basically a twig,

[b2] but she hit her limits and went to go rest.

AUBREY: [b1] [C>] Ah...

TEAGAN: [b3] And I'm flattered that you're impressed, but it's just routine for me.

AUBREY: [a2] You certainly are diligent.

TEAGAN: [a1] And what about you?

I just kind of assumed you'd want to be upstairs, but here you are in the practice room.

AUBREY: [b1] [...] Well... if I were waiting at Alto's bedside, I think I would just wind up panicking.

[b6] That wouldn't do her or anyone any good.

So I'm trying to trust in Saki's judgement that she's just sleeping off her exhaustion...

[b1] But if I don't keep myself distracted, it feels like I'm just running away from the problem, so...

TEAGAN: [a4] I think we're probably all doing that... in our own way.

AUBREY: [a3] ...I thought that there would be more... sense of accomplishment, after we completed the World Tuning.

TEAGAN: [a4] In the end it's like Arietta said.

This whole ritual was never really meant to be a solution.

[b5] I think we've been forced to come to terms with that a lot...

AUBREY: [b6] No, I mean -- it is that, also, but in the end it's Alto who's always held us together and pulled us along.

[a3] So it doesn't feel right for her to not be at the center of things, at a time like this...

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>]I still feel weird admitting it, but you're right.

[faces piano]

AUBREY: [a3] [...] I'm frustrated with myself.

TEAGAN: [a1] [?] About what?

AUBREY: [a3] Because... I've had to realize that a lot of things about myself and how I've treated the people around me.

I still feel like I'm only thinking of myself.

[b6] I can say that I love Alto over and over like a spell,
but sometimes I still think that I'm only distracting myself from my own selfishness.
[a3] There's so much that she's done for me. I don't know if I'm doing enough back.

TEAGAN: [b4] They do say that romance takes hard work, I guess. (...Not that I'd know myself.)

[faces TEAGAN]

AUBREY: [a3] Is that how it is?

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] Don't look at me.

[c2] But I sort of get where you're coming from.

[b4] So much of what I thought I was doing for Alto's sake,
once I thought harder about it I realized I was doing for myself, or wasn't thinking about what she
wanted.

>became the best violinist in the country to befriend Alto
>tries to prevent her from making poor decisions, but ultimately cooperates with them for her sake
>deals with her decisions by giving advice and training
>only stops doing so WHEN SHE NEARLY FUCKING DIES
>literally just wanted her to stop being enslaved to her family's legacy, which is EXACTLY what Alto
wanted
>"I'm selfish"

AUBREY: [a3] Yes...

TEAGAN: [b5] [*] Trying to change your own behavior is hard.

[b2] But I guess it's better than the alternative, right?

AUBREY: [a1] Hehe.

[a2] Yes, you're right.

TEAGAN: [b3]Anyway, just dwelling on that right now isn't going to make waiting for her to wake up already easier.

[a2] Since we're bother sitting here anyway, you want to do a jam session or something?

AUBREY: [a2] If you're all right with just me.

{fade to black}

DECEMBER 22 - 3:00 PM - KITCHEN - MEIRIN is at the counter presumably making something and AUBREY is staring at her.

TEAGAN: [a4] [xp] Damn that Teagan, I'm gonna show her up for sure!!

AUBREY: [a2] [mu] Heheh... You're certainly enthusiastic.

[faces AUBREY]

MEIRIN: [b6] Well... I mean, it would've made me mad if she'd mocked me for not being able to keep up...

[b1] [*] But for some reason it makes me even madder that she came over all sympathetic about it!!

AUBREY: [b1] And so you retreat to cooking instead, because Teagan can't hope to beat you there...

Deliciously brown churros > poptarts

MEIRIN: [a7] [ugh] You're making it sound so petty...

[jump]

[b4] Just so you know, this isn't only to make Teagan surrender.

AUBREY: [b1] [C>] This... is news to me.

[faces counter]

MEIRIN: [a7] Ugh...

[faces AUBREY]

[b1] Well, for your information, we haven't got to properly celebrate our overwhelming success yet.

[a1] Alto's been asleep for almost a whole 24 hours, right? So she'll probably be up soon.

[a2] Once she is, then we can have a real banquet.

[a5] [<>] So, if I really want to go all out, I have to start this early in the day, even if I've got you helping.

AUBREY: [a3] She'll probably be up soon... I hope you're right.

MEIRIN: [a8] [!] Ahh!

[b4] No, um.

[c8] Well, it's Alto. Saki says it'll be fine, and it's not like he's talking about himself, so I trust him.

AUBREY: [a1] That's pretty interesting logic.

MEIRIN: [b4] [*] Ahh... well... you know how Saki is.

[c5] Sometimes he tries to pretend like he's okay even when he's not, to save face.

[a1] But he's only like that about himself, so...

AUBREY: [?] ???

[faces counter]

MEIRIN: [c4] ...Sigh, never mind.

[c5] If you didn't know, you don't have to worry about it.

[c8] If there was something seriously wrong with Alto, he wouldn't gloss over that to save our feelings.

[a2] So, as long as he says it's fine, I think we can trust him.

AUBREY: [b6] [...] ...He was trying to cheer me up last night, too. Like you are now.

MEIRIN: [a2] [///] Ahaha, um, when you say it like that it's kind of embarrassing...

AUBREY: [a2] Hehe. I'm sorry.

MEIRIN: [a7] [*] You liar...

AUBREY: [a2] Well, you weren't doing a very good job of concealing it either.

[b1] I'm no good at cooking, so what other reason would you have had for asking me along?

[faces AUBREY]

MEIRIN: [b2] Well, maybe it's just because I wanted company, see?

[a2] Saki's checking on Alto and I'm still made at Teagan, so if I wanted to avoid being lonely, you were my best choice.

[a5] Um, because even though I love cooking, it still feels like drudgery sometimes if I'm alone.

AUBREY: [a2] I see... **DRINK** That's an eloquent excuse, I like it.

[faces counter]

MEIRIN: [b1] [///] S-stop picking on me, seriously!

AUBREY: [a1] ...I don't mean to pick on you. I'm admiring you.

[b6] ...I want to become kind like you.

I want to become wise like Saki, and I've want to be able to face the wrongs I've done like Teagan.

[a3] So if I'm bitter with anyone... it's at myself, for not being able to support Alto properly.

MEIRIN: [c8]Don't you think that's kind of a weird way to look at it?

AUBREY: [a7] [?] Eh?

MEIRIN: [c8] You're relationship with Alto's not really like me and Saki.

[c7] And the relationship you used to have with your sister Chantal,

that's different from how things were with Alto and Teagan.

[faces AUBREY]

[b5] What I'm trying to say is... the one Alto likes is you, so if you want to be kinder or wiser or whatever, you don't have to be frustrated for not being like us. You can figure things out your own way.

AUBREY: [a7] [!] Oh...

[b6]That... is right.

[a3] I really... need to stop clinging to other people for the answer.

I'm afraid of doing the wrong thing, but even so.

MEIRIN: [a2] Yeah, that's a good goal.

[c8] 'Cause, even if it doesn't look like it to you, we're all still struggling for answers too.

[a1] None of us have really got the "asnwers" you would want... it's all different for everybody.

AUBREY: [b6] I see... DRINK

[a1] That is good advice. I'll try to keep it in mind.

MEIRIN: [a2] If I was able to help at all, I'm glad.

[...]

[a6]Hey, Aubrey, weren't you peeling?

AUBREY: [a7] Ah!

[b5] [///] I... got distracted...

MEIRIN: [a2] [C>] Haha...

[faces counter]

[a5] Well, let's get back to work.

[b3] [<>] There's a ton more to get to where this came from!

AUBREY: [c6] [ugh] Waahhh... This is why I hate cooking...

{fade to black}

DECEMBER 22 - 3:15 PM - BEDROOM HALLWAY - TEAGAN is standing outside ALTO's door.

{SAKI walks out}

[faces SAKI]

TEAGAN: [a4] [...] ...How's she doing?

[faces TEAGAN]

SAKI: [a7] [!] Oh, Teagan!

[a4] It's all right. She had a low fever yesterday, but that's back to normal. She'll be up as soon as she's rested.

TEAGAN: [a4] That so...

[b4] Seems like even the townspeople are starting to get concerned.

[b3] The Prime Minister mentioned that there's some kind of ceremony thing that's supposed to be held now that the World Tuning was successful.

[b4] But we can't hold it without Alto...

SAKI: [a6] I see. DRINK

TEAGAN: [b4] It's like...

SAKI: [a7] [?] Oh?

TEAGAN: [b4] Everyone's been weird and restless since yesterday

[c2] Aubrey said before that it's probably that we're used to Alto acting as kind of a centralizing force for us...

[b5] But I don't think that's all.

SAKI: [a1] We are all still unsatisfied... Is that what you mean?

TEAGAN: [c2] Yeah... I think that's the best way of putting it.

[looks away from SAKI towards the other side of the room]

Objectively, I do realize that we've saved the world from imminent disaster.

[a1] We turned a near failure around and firmly created our own victory.

[a3] That's something we ought to be proud of.

[b3] [*] But I can also see how little we've actually managed to accomplish in the face of our real problems.

SAKI: [a2] [mu] ...You can take it even further and say that a cynical view like that is only possible

because our ensemble has accomplished more than most of our predecessors,

and therefore has a greater understanding of the history and circumstances that brought us here in the first place.

TEAGAN: [b3] [*] Yep, and that's also true for the personal progress we've made.

[b4] I know I still have a long way to go to actually get my act together.

[a1] Aubrey's learned the value of standing on their own feet, maybe, but they're still figuring out how to do that.

[looks at SAKI]

[b2] Even that Meirin is talking about trying to get back in contact with her family -- can you believe that?

SAKI: [a7] [!] ...My. I believed that she was considering it, but she hasn't said as much to me yet.

[...]

TEAGAN: [b4] ...Anyway, it feels like even after all this we've only just got to the starting line.

[b3] It's hard to be satisfied with the progress we've made when there's still so much farther to go.

So... everything feels half-baked and incomplete.

SAKI: [a4] That is only natural.

Because as long as human beings are alive..., our lives are incomplete.

[a1] It was written in one of my favorite philosophical novels, and I very much agree:

[a2] The object of our life's journey is to become satisfied, and thus obtain a comfortable death.

TEAGAN: [b3] Wow. On the one hand, that's probably as wise way to put it, but...

[b4] [ugh] You're always so god damn morbid.

SAKI: [c5] *giggle* *giggle* *giggle* Am I really?

TEAGAN: [b3]You're not vicious like Alto or a bully like me, or even a codependent wreck like Aurey, but...

[b8] [C>] Sometimes I get the feeling that deep down, you're a pretty twisted guy.

SAKI: [c5] *giggle* My, my, that's quite an assessment.

[looks at the other side of the room]

[a5] ...Anyway, what I'm trying to get at here is that of course we feel restless when we understand the position that we're in.

[a4] We have just completed our great task,

and we will still have several months before we can embark on any further action.

[a1] So all we can do is try to prepare ourselves mentally for whatever we decide to do next.

[c4] Anyone would become anxious.

TEAGAN: [b4] [*] Is that how it is?

SAKI: [a4] And, of course, Alto is not here.

[a6] It's not only that she's the force that holds us together.

[a3] We need her for the same reason she's wound up in this state now.

[c4] ...That girl has such a drive for action that she never stops moving, and the strength of will to back that up.

She's always provided momentum for all of us.

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] Even when it only feels like we're just getting towed along for her ridiculous whims, huh.

[faces TEAGAN]

SAKI: [a2] [<3] Oh, especially then.

[a5] She may not be very articulate,

[a2] But all of us have the faith in her to give her the benefit of the doubt even if we don't understand.

[faces the opposite side of the room]

[a4]And...

[a6] Alto was the one who was given the task of finding a way to break the Cantabile cycle.

[c4] She is the only one with the right to decide our next course of action.

[faces the opposite side of the room]

TEAGAN: [a4] [...] ...Yeah.

[faces TEAGAN]

SAKI: [a2] Well... On that principle, as soon as she wakes up, we'll be back in action, won't we?

[a5] So it's probably best to take a philosophical standpoint and be grateful that we have enough free time to worry.

[faces SAKI]

TEAGAN: [b3] Ugh, that's so probable it's kinda disgusting.

SAKI: [a2] *giggle* Don't you think so?

Anyway... I intend to take that remaining time to rest and to think. You are free to do the same, if you wish.

TEAGAN: [c2] ...I guess I am.

[a1] Well, don't let me hold you up.

SAKI: [a1] Yes, excuse me.

{SAKI leaves to go downstairs while TEAGAN's gaze follows and fade to black}

DECEMBER 22 - 11:11 PM - Screen is black.

SAKI: [a7] Oh, my...

Meirin, what is it at this time of night?

MEIRIN: [a3]I can't really sleep.

[c5] Can I... stay here for tonight?

SAKI: [a1] That's quite all right. Come in.

{fades to game}

SAKI'S BEDROOM - SAKI and MEIRIN are lying in bed.

DRAWING - FP continues to reject conventual sexual dimorphism when it comes to SAKI's appearance, going even further by dressing him in a frilled nightgown and drawing his already feminine hair as voluptuous and baroque as her competency as an artist allow. MEIRIN on the other end of the spectrum of both modesty and intellect, wears a crude T-shirt with the words "Ring my Bell" written in deceptively elegant lettering, destroying any possibility of sentimentality that this scene might invoke. Her heterochromia is second to the utter clueless on her face, as if she never had a thought in her life. SAKI looks over, mouth ajar, in an expression I interpret as concern for the single-cell organism he occupies his mattress with.

MEIRIN:

SAKI:

MEIRIN:

SAKI:

MEIRIN: Hey... You know...

SAKI: What is it?

NOT QUALITY WRITING

MEIRIN: I've been thinking about trying to write to my family once springs comes.

SAKI: I see. DRINK

MEIRIN: ...You don't sound very surprised.

SAKI: If I'm to be honest, I actually heard about it from Teagan earlier today.

MEIRIN: Ugh, that Teagan... Sigh.

A fairly succinct summary of the entirety of the game.

SAKI: *giggle*

But I'm happy that you're considering it.

Whether you ultimately decide to pursue a relationship with your family again or not...

I think it will help put you at ease, to face the part of your past.

I know it's been bothering you all this time.

MEIRIN: That's not it.

I mean -- yeah, some of it really is for my own sake. But that's not the main reason why.

SAKI: Oh? Now this is a surprise.

MEIRIN: ...I've got my own money, and you've got your savings, but that's nowhere near enough. We have to have more.

I want the best possible chances if we're doing this.

"GIVE ME MONEY SAVE MY FUCKBUDDY FROM AIDS, DAD"

SAKI:Meirin.....

MEIRIN: I've heard your complaints a billion times. I know I'm betting on long odds.

But I'm not letting you be defeatist a bout it anymore. I won't give up on you.

SAKI:

MEIRIN: Alto's already got everything half figured out, too.

And you told her, didn't you? That you want to live.

SAKI: ...Even if I try to lie to her, she just sees right through me.

YOU LITERALLY TOLD HER THAT YOU WANTED TO LIVE

Our temperaments are too similar, I suppose.

MEIRIN: If -- when.

When she gets up, I think you should go ahead and tell her everything. Everybody else, too.

They can help us, and we need as much help as we can get.

SAKI: I think that I probably will explain things to the others, eventually.

I have the feeling that even Teagan and Aubrey are starting to notice[semi] I know there's no use trying to hide it forever.

MEIRIN: Really? ...I'm glad to hear it.

SAKI:It's really not even funny.

I came to Harmonia to settle my accounts, and here I've gone and made all these new attachments instead.

If I couldn't have hope, I at least wanted to be able to save face.

The irony is disgusting.

MEIRIN: Too bad for your plans.

I know that even admitting you're scared is a scary thing.

But, Saki, I refuse to allow a future without you in it.

SAKI: You're a cruel girl.

MEIRIN; I need you.

No -- I want you.

You're my most important person.

So you need to take responsibility and stay alive.

SAKI: Is that so...?

...Haha... Hearing that shouldn't make me happy, but it does.

MEIRIN: Having you say it like that shouldn't make ME happy, but I am.

SAKI:

MEIRIN:

I'm... afraid of losing everything, too.

SAKI: ...

MEIRIN: I know you keep saying it'll be okay, and I know that you're probably right, but it's scary to have Alto out of commission like this.

I'm afraid of what will happen if things don't work out.

I'm scared of spring coming. I don't want us all to split up now t hat we're all actually real friends.

I get anxious just letting you out of my sight sometimes.

But if I just don't do anything and go with the flow because I'm scared, that will guarantee that I lose everything.

Sometimes you've just go to get up and do everything you can.

Like screaming at the top of your lungs.

...That's something I've learned from Alto.

Bitch until they break?

SAKI: She's been a bad influence on all of us.

MEIRIN: Hehe.

Well... that's how it is, you know?

.....I swear, I'll save you.

I'm not letting you go, not now after we just met.

So you have to try with me.

SAKI: ...I will do my best.

MEIRIN: Yeah. I'm glad.

{fade to black}

DECEMBER 23 - Fades up to Alto is lying in her bedroom.

[...]

ALTO: [b2] ...Wow, my head hurts.

[sits up]

[a7] ...Don't tell me I slept all day?

[a5] [ugh] Ugh, no wonder I'm so hungry.

[a1] I guess I'd better go find everybody.

4:05:12 - NUCLEAR ROOM - Alto is walking to everyone "sitting" at a table.

[faces ALTO]

AUBREY: [b3] [!] Alto!!

{everyone else is [!] as they turn to ALTO doing her electric slide to the table}

MEIRIN: [b4] You're awake!!!

[a4] Jeez, don't scare us like that!

SAKI: [a1] How are you feeling?

ALTO: [a5] [?] Hungry, I think?

TEAGAN: [b3] [C>] ...Well, I guess that happens when you've been asleep for a day and a half.

ALTO: [a7] [ugh] A day and a half?!

[a5] ...That explains a lot.

TEAGAN: [a5] [xp] Does it? That's good. Next time try not to fall on your face.

ALTO: [a6] [*] Whatever.

[a1] Is somebody going to make breakfast?

[a7] I don't think I want to trust me with knives until I eat something, so...

[...]

MEIRIN: [a2] ...Hahaha...

[b3] Ahahahahaha, yeah, it really has to be like this, doesn't it?

SAKI: [a2] It certainly does.

TEAGAN: [b2] Yeah, I guess it is nice to have things back to normal again.

ALTO: [a6] [C>] I don't know whether I'm being made fun of or what, but can it wait until after food?

MEIRIN: [a6] Yeah, yeah.

SAKI: [a1] Once we've eaten, we have to go out to town.

[a2] The Prime Minister and all the townspeople have been waiting for the engravement ceremony.

ALTO: [b5] [!] The engravement ceremony... You mean...?

SAKI: [a4] Yes, to have our names added to the monument. It wouldn't have felt right to do it without you.

ALTO: [c5] [<>] Heheh, now I'm kinda excited.

MEIRIN: [b3] [<>] Hehe, we're gonna party today!

[...]

AUBREY: [c1] ...Alto?

ALTO: [b5] [?] What is it?

AUBREY: [c4] [<3] ...Welcome back.

ALTO: [c8]Thanks. It's good to be here.

**4:06:20 - OUTSIDE POLYPHONY (?) INN - The vegetation is all green, indicating it is now springtime.
ALTO speaks to the INNKEEPER outside the door.**

INNKEEPER (f): Are you really sure you're okay with this? After we had you deliver the supplies for us last year too...

ALTO: [a2] It's fine, it's fine.

[a1] Haha, I vaguely remember getting told the same thing by the transport captain back then too.

TEAGAN: [a2] We're used to heavy work and we're headed that way anyway.

[a1] Even though the monsters have calmed down a lot since the World Tuning, there's still a chance of an attack, too.

[a2] We're better equipped to handle that than most other people, I'd think.

SAKI: [a2] Yes, please leave everything to us.

INNKEEPER: If you kids say so... But I still feel ashamed of pushing work like this onto our heroes.

MEIRIN: [c8] Hahaha. I'm still embarrassed getting called that. We're not any different from everybody else.

AUBREY: [b1] (If there's ny difference... it's probably that we're more messed up, so...)

INNKEEPER: If you're sure... Well, here you go.

{Supplies GET!}

ALTO: [a3] Okay, if that's everything... Let's head out, guys.

INNKEEPER: Take care.

ALTO: [c5] Yeah, you too!

{INNKEEPER goes inside}

MEIRIN: [a3] I can't believe it's already time to go...

[c5] It feels like it's been a lot less than just a couple months.

TEAGAN: [b3] It's too early to start reminiscing.

[a1] We need to worry about carrying these down to the dock first.

[b2] There's still plenty of time before the boat's going to get here, so you can do it then.

ALTO: [a3] Haha, Teagan is right.

A BIT FUCKING LATE

[b4] Besides...

[a4] Once we're there, I have something to talk to you guys about.

AUBREY: [a1] ?? Something to talk to us about?

ALTO: [a5] I'm going to explain when we get there, so let's just worry about the packages for now.

SAKI: [a7] ...So you'd rather speak with us in private, is that it?

ALTO: [a1] Well, something like that. Come on.

4:08:03 - DOCKS - They're looking out to sea. ALTO is at the front of the group.

MEIRIN: [c5] [...] It's the docks... We're already here.

It ended so fast.

ME:

[illegible]

HA

HA

HA

SAKI: [a3] This is where everything began...

[a4] ...Well, for each of us things "began" at different times and in different places.

[a1] but our journey through this country, and our quest to perform the World Tuning... definitely began here.

TEAGAN: [b3] A lot's happened. That at least is for sure.

[...]

AUBREY: [b6]This might as well be the end of the world, for me.

[a3] I've lived my entire life in this one tiny country. I never even dreamed of leaving, until now.

[a1] I'm afraid... but I'm also excited.

{ALTO [...] [closes eyes]}

TEAGAN: [a1] [?] So, what did you want to talk about?

[b3] You've been acting all dramatic about it, so how big a deal is it?

ALTO: [a5] [*] I'm not trying to make a big deal out of it, it's just that I'm thinking about what to say.

[b4] BUt I guess you're right. It is a big deal to me.

[b2] I guess I'll ask first,

[c6] but do you guys have any concrete plans yet for what you're doing and where you're going after we leave here?

MEIRIN: [b6] [C>] Even if you say "concrete" plans...

SAKI: [a5] We do have objectives, I suppose, but they are still vague.

AUBREY: [b6] My only plan is to leave with you.

[b1] I don't know anything about the outside world, so I wouldn't even be able to come up with something like that alone.

TEAGAN: [b3] The only thing on my agenda is to go home sooner or later.

ALTO: [b4]Okay.

[a4] Then, I have a favor to ask of you all.

MEIRIN: [b4] A favor?

ALTO: [c6] I'm sorry it's ended up so last-minute.

If you guys thought about it too long, you'd probably say no.

I didn't make up my mind until pretty recently, either... about what I'm going to do now.

AUBREY: [a1] Alto...?

{ALTO turns around and fade to a drawing}

DRAWING - One of her better drawings, but the clouds are still the best part about them.

ALTO: I've been thinking about Arietta's request all this time.

To put an end to the Cantabile cycle... I've been thinking about the best way to do that.

At first I thought that all I would have to do is run away.

That was what I'd intended to do before we met her.

But I don't think that that will really solve things in the end.

My parents could still have another child after me, and start things all over again. And the true history of the world will stay hidden forever.

If saving myself was all I could do, there would be no shame in it.

I don't think it would be a bad thing, to just prioritize my well-being.

Even Arietta said that I could do that. But...

Now that I know what I know, I don't think I could be satisfied with that.

TEAGAN: Alto...

ALTO: And if I ran away, I would never be able to come back to Harmonia.

I don't want that. This is the first place that's felt like home to me.

I do want to travel the world, and show Aubrey life outside of this country. But I want to be able to return to my heritage too.

AUBREY:

ALTO: And I have debts to repay.

So I've decided.

...I'm going back.

I'm going to fight my family, and put an end to this with my own hands.

I will return the true history to the people, and have humanity take responsibility for its own mess.

After that... I'll be free.

SAKI: Alto, that's...

ALTO: I don't have any illusions that this is going to be easy.

Actually, I know that there's no way that I'll be able to do this by myself.

I'm going back to the mansion where I spent eighteen years being treated like an object...

I know how high the chances are that I won't be able to resist my memories.

So I want you all to come with me, and help me.

My possibilities are limited. But I think that if we come together, there's nothing we can't do.

Will you help me?

GAME - Nothings changed except it's now a new day because I stay up too late doing this shit.

AUBREY: [b6] ...I will.

You have done so much for me ever since we've met...

I know that our relationship isn't about keeping score of debts,

[c1] but if I can give you strength the way that you've done for me...

[c4] Nothing could make me happier.

[a4] And I have a few things I want to say to your parents, too.

ALTO: [c8] Thank you.

[c5] I'm glad you want to stay with me.

[looks at SAKI]

MEIRIN: [b4] Saki...

[looks at MEIRIN]

SAKI: [a6] ...Yes.

{SAKI + MEIRIN face ALTO}

MEIRIN: [a3] This feels like putting conditions on us helping you, and I don't really like that, but...

[c5] We were actually going to ask a favor of you, too.

[b6] I think that our interests probably align here, so Saki and I will go with you.

[b5] Alto, you've always encouraged me... so this time I'll be the one to support you.

[b3] [<>] Let's go teach your jerk family a lesson!

ALTO: [c5] Haha, it's pretty reassuring to hear that from you.

[a1] [?] What kind of favor?

SAKI: [a1] We will explain once we're safely on the boat.

[b7] [...] It's something that I should have opened up to all of you about long ago.

ALTO: [b5] [!] ...Saki...

SAKI: [a3] Don't worry. I will support you to the best of my ability.

[c4] I'd like to continue doing so... for a long, long time.

ALTO: [a3]I'm glad.

TEAGAN: [b2]You've come a long way.

ALTO: [b5] Hm?

TEAGAN: [b4] I've been hoping you'd try to cut your losses and get out for a long time.

[b2] But to actually declare war against your parents... That's more than I ever hoped for.

[b3] I've got accounts to settle back home, too.

[a4] And I've wanted to pick a bone with the Cantabiles for a good ten years now.

[b2] As long as you'll have me, I'll help you.

[...]

ALTO: [b5]Huh...

[a5] Now I feel silly for worrying so long about how to say this.

[c8] You all agreed right away.

MEIRIN: [a2] Heheh.

[b2] [mu] Well, you're our leader, so there's no way we'd leave you alone when you're setting off on a new adventure.

[a5] We'll follow you wherever.

ALTO: [a7] [C>] Haha, this isn't going to be any fun, you know?

SAKI: [a4] We know.

[a1] That's why we won't force you to shoulder this burden all by yourself.

AUBREY: [a2] We'll all do our best to support you however you need.

TEAGAN: [c1] Yeah. Let's go break those bastards' heads.

[...]

ALTO: [c8] ...I'm really glad... that it was you guys.

MEIRIN: [b3] [!] Oh!! Is that the ship over there?!

{ALTO turns around and AUBREY walks to her side}

AUBREY: [a7] Eh? Where is it?

SAKI: [a2] Over there.

TEAGAN: [b8] They're pretty early.

[electric slides to ALTO's side]

[a1] ...Let's get ready for some heavy lifting.

[c2] We can start coming up with our plan of attack once we've set sail.

[a2] That sound good?

ALTO: [a1] Yeah, that's fine.

{MEIRIN and then SAKI walk up behind TEAGAN and ALTO respectively}

[closes eyes]

ALTO: [b4] (.....It hasn't even been half a year.)

[c6] (But it still feels like I've lived a whole lifetime here.)

You and me both.

[b4] (...Goodbye, my beloved homeland. I promise I'll be home soon.)

[opens eyes]

[e6] We've got a lot of work ahead of us. Let's go, everyone.

END OF UNCOMMON TIME

You were probably expecting some snarky comment or something about the three weeks or so I've been working on it, but I've actually enjoyed this all in a sick sort of way and am happy to share it with all of you. I'm going to do a little bit of formatting, but all the story dialogue has been transcribed. I need to do some formatting and then need to figure out what I missed, but the groundwork has been laid for a voice-acted version.

Thank you LoliOasis, Thassil, and TeaganBestGirl, Duet and whoever worked with you to create your mods which I would love to have the dialogue for because I can't write anymore, for giving this game the attention it most certainly doesn't deserve but bring great joy

Thank you FP for making this. If you ever get wind of this, I suppose you might find it a little insulting and I don't blame you. I understand what you're trying to do with a lot of the characters and am personally not as harsh towards Alto as these documents might suggest. I actually liked a lot of what you did, and with some worldbuilding, some greater exploration into the other characters so they can be made sense of, you might be able to articulate what you want to say to a more general audience. I understand what you wanted to say at least, so take that for what you will.

Thank you TNA for even entertaining the idea of my autistic endeavor.

But the person I want to thank most is...

(You)!

ScribeAnon signing off at 12:46 AM, November 12, 2018

