

The Show Must Go On!

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Gift to: StarLumi

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Includes: Reality Shifting / Mind Shifting (Partial) / Implied TF

"Another morning, another audition." Quite the trying times in the whole scheme of the acting world. The stigma of people who have to endlessly throw their hats into the ring was absolutely insane to some. But for Star, he was attempting to make it somewhere, and there was a chance for him today.

The male looked into the small bathroom mirror, as he tidied up his hair, brushed his teeth, and put a bit of gel into his hair to look as presentable as possible for today. There was a rather small local performance that was going to be shown to the mayor of the city at the end of April. Today was the auditions, and there weren't going to be any other opportunities to get noticed by a big player in the realm of acting for quite some time.

Star glanced at himself in the mirror while finishing up washing his hands to get the gel off. "Alright, this should be good. Remember what we practiced. Maybe I should do some singing warmups before I head there too. It might actually be a musical, and I had no clue." The name of the performance was quite the odd one, there were no records of it on the internet at all. Maybe it was written by someone recently, and it's never been performed?

"The Dawn of Twilight" Star couldn't quite get any information about it, other than a messily made flyer talking about auditions today, and the slogan "Truths are only half of the story." Quite the perplexing slogan as well, is it trying to talk about truth versus lies? Or maybe it's talking about how some lies actually have truth in them? Maybe it was best to not focus on that for now, he needed to focus on preparing himself.

Minutes would pass, Star headed downstairs, making his final preparations. Eating a mostly healthy breakfast would be the final thing he needed before grabbing his car keys and heading out into the great wide world. Once outside, he glanced around quickly. He knew it was a weekday so usually the roads are more busy. Though it was

hard to tell when it came to this city. It oddly fluctuates a lot because of tourism. It would be something of a spectacle if anyone could figure it out.

Opening the door to his car, heading in and putting the keys into the ignition. He drove off into the main part of town. And lo and behold the traffic as soon as he drove in from the exit got super heavy. Must have been an accident or something, he was going to be late at this rate. Should have left earlier. "Damn it okay. Just stay calm, this is normal they'll understand." That was when Star got a call from one of his friends.

"Hey Star, it's Cinnabar, did you hear about the massive event going on today? Apparently a huge celebrity came into town basically unannounced this morning and thousands of people came flocking into town in hopes of seeing them." Well that was certainly news, then again they did mention it was unannounced.

"Oh! Well no I did not, I'm surprised you called so early in the morning. I'm heading to an audition today actually." Star tried to explain himself, it was a bit awkward because he was using a Bluetooth microphone on his car. It wasn't always that reliable though. It seemed like Cinnabar heard him at least somewhat. "An audition? I heard about that, I was thinking of coming and maybe helping with the background characters if there weren't enough people. Want me to swing by and come audition as well?" He inquired excitedly, wondering if it had to do with the celebrity.

"If you're wanting to get to the theater to audition you're going to have to leave now." Star interjected, sure it was going to be a busy day for them both if they were going into main town together. "Say, where did you hear they were going to be at anyways? The celebrity I mean." Star was just passing the time at this point, the influx of traffic slowed him down considerably. Hopefully he wouldn't be too late, surely Cinnabar would be later than him if he didn't leave now. "Yeah, I know I'm getting dressed quickly. I'll meet you there when we get there. Since we'll be in town anyways, maybe you can finally go see that movie you've been fascinated by. That Pokémon movie on the big screen." He laughed lightly as Star could hear some noises of his friend getting ready.

"Sure sure, maybe we can do that. That's if you want, you still didn't tell me where that celebrity was though." Star tried to remind him to answer that, if he knew anyways. "Oh yeah, they're at the theater. Apparently they're the director of the whole thing." Well, that certainly made Star have a slight spike in anxiety. "W-What!? And you didn't

tell me this before?!" Star was practically shivering down his spine, the only thing keeping him from doing anything stupid was the fact he was driving. Luckily, the theater was in sight by now. But it wasn't too late to turn around, surely. But he just drove all this way, wouldn't that be a waste.

Too many conflicting thoughts right now. Just get parked and breathe. Well, he was still on the line with his friend. "Oh, I thought you knew. There was a reason the mayor was coming to go see it. Apparently it's supposed to be a publicity stunt to boost tourism sales." Cinnabar explained with a slight feeling of guilt. "Sorry, I should have said something sooner. But don't let this take you down, you're the best actor around! You'll be just fine. I'll be there soon, gotta get driving Star see ya!" Before Star could even say goodbye the phone hung up.

"Guess he really was in a rush, I can't say I blame him. If I was a fan of this person I'd be probably trying to see them too. But I wonder who even is it?" Star glanced around the area for a parking space, finally finding a place. Parking the car, he turned off the car, and let out one of the biggest sighs he's ever let out. Talk about getting a news flash, he thought this was some local show. No, this was bigger than he thought. The pressure was on, and he wasn't sure if he could handle it fully.

The sounds of car brakes would be aplenty during this time of Star just sitting in the car. Deliberating on what to do for a few minutes, or at least giving himself to process what his friend told him. "Okay, know what. I know there isn't really any choice. If I embarrass myself in front of everyone I'm a fool. If I chicken out now, then I'm a bigger fool for not even trying. My chance to at least try to shine in the spotlight is here!" Star attempted to amp himself up, he was always kind of optimistic when it came to things like this. He hated letting opportunities pass him up. Though, in the back of his mind was that anxious feeling of what would happen if he messed this up. His whole career would end before it really started!

Moments later, Star finally stepped out of his car to head inside. There seemed to be quite a bit of a line for auditions for this musical performance. Lots of random chatter from aspiring actors was filling the hall. "Oh, wow I didn't expect this much of a turnout. Most of these people including myself will probably be rejected depending on how many roles there are." To his sight there seemed to be about thirty to forty people either in line or already inside the place. This was going to take a while. However, this

did give his friend time to get here, he kinda hoped he'd get here sooner than later since his nerves were coming back.

"Next!" A voice would call out repeatedly over the course of fifteen or so minutes. Which by the time they said it next Star was actually next in line, guess they had quick auditions today. That or people were being called in per role and he was just going to be in yet another line. Before that however, Cinnabar came through the door huffing a bit, it looked like he ran a few blocks. Talk about being in a rush. "I-I'm here... I'm here..." He huffed out while leaning against a wall to catch his breath. "Dude-" Star was about to say something before the person controlling the signups would interrupt him. "We don't have all day, please state your name and what role you'd like."

Star was lucky enough to grab a pamphlet of the roles that were being casted a few minutes before having to decide what to do. He was sure that the main protagonist would be the most auditioned for, so he decided to go for a secondary role. Higher chances to get in. "Star, I'll be auditioning for the role of the Masquerader." It was quite odd that none of the characters actually had names. Maybe that was the point, they would learn them after the script was given to them. But the Masquerader sounded rather mysterious, like hiding behind some kind of mask.

"Okay Star, please head into the Auditorium. You'll be up in a few minutes." They would say with a smile, handing Star a small script they would be reading off for the role. Least he had some time to memorize it. Sort of, a few minutes isn't exactly the most time. Hopefully they didn't mind if he was using the script. Cinnabar would also get to go into the auditorium almost right after, as they were some of the last to get here. "Man, this is crazy. I wonder where that celebrity is." Cinnabar inquired to the ever focused Star. "Just because you're trying to audition for the buccaneer doesn't mean you shouldn't be worrying about something so crazy we'll be going on stage and see them any minute now!"

"Star, who's auditioning for The Masquerader please come to the stage!" A rather feminine voice would call out from the front of the stage sitting in a small desk with a security guard with them. They looked huge, better not mess with them. Star got up, clenching his script and walked up to the front of stage, climbing up the side stairs and finally came in front of the celebrity. A pink and baby blue haired woman who seemed to be decked in a lot of ribbons. Star almost immediately recognized them. They were the lead actors of the most recent Broadway show. Their stage name was "Sarah Yeon."

Which, honestly just sounded like a normal name, but plenty of people do that nowadays. "What a pleasure to meet you! Whenever you're ready, please start." They said in a half friendly and commanding tone.

Star gulped slightly as he stared face to face with Sarah. Guess this was the moment of truth, no more time to reconsider. Just breathe in and start. "In a world of fame, there are so many lies, scandals, and everything in between. But the power of those lies are something that empower people to become better people. That's why I hide behind a mask. Nobody can know my true identity. People may only know me as the Masquerader." Star paused for a moment, as he did he felt rather empowered all of a sudden. Perhaps it was just cold feet at first?

The script began to glow, changing what it was saying right before Star's eyes. But for some reason he didn't seem to really notice at the time. That was probably because messing up would cost him everything at this point. However, the script he was holding began to change himself. Starting with the hands holding the script itself. Light gray fur began to envelop his hands and arms. All the while, seemingly losing two digits on his hands each. Fingers being replaced by bright red claws. He clenched the paper just fine as this occurred.

But as he continued to let out the monologue he closed his eyes for only a moment. In the moment the whole room flashed before his eyes. Though he was so focused on his acting he couldn't let it get to him. "An illusionist that uses his powers to assist in the art of exploring the seas and performing with the companions of the Sinabaru Pirates." Wait, surely this wasn't just a monologue this was just describing the character!

His whole body began to develop the same light gray fur on his arms spreading down his chest and even to his feet. The only difference was thick black tufts of fur enveloping his upper chest and to his shoulders. Which just so happened to be basically invisible most of the time due to the thick fur.

"With the guidance of Captain Sarvy, and Buccaneer Cinnabar we were always on the move to make new discoveries!" He continued to pronounce his voice as it progressively got deeper a few tones, even developing a slight accent. "The Royal Thespian Sarah guides us through the art of performance. The crowd cheering is something of a spectacular sight. Though, none of us must be named personally." Star closed his eyes, seeing as most of his body was completely enveloped in fur at this

point. His own legs became more digitigrade in structure, as his toes merged into his foot. Leaving behind three straight red claws much like his hands.

"Our motto is, Truth is only half of the story!" Star announced to the world, as it seemed there was quite the amount of cheering going on in the background. Little did Star know, the crashing waves of a beach was behind them as they were standing on a makeshift stage. There around him were a Warturtle dressed in pirate's clothing, and a Slyveon behind the Curtains of the stage giving hand movements of directions to everyone. Perhaps to keep Star from going off track and stopping what was going on.

Star breathed in and out as he felt the heat in the room increase rather quickly. Sweat started to pour from his head, like he was somehow in the middle of summer without a hat on. Though of course that was surely not the case. As it seemed his hair was darkening quickly, while his hair was usually short. It was growing out to a few feet at the very least, it was primarily a dark crimson red with black highlights where the hair spiked up. Eventually, the hair growth would stop with a baby blue hair tie appearing and holding the bottom of his hair together.

The final changes would solidify his new stance in life. His face would elongate into a rather long snout, which his ears were contorted into triangular shapes that had red tufts of fur inside them. "A mystery of the crew, won't you all be so kind to find out what's the truth and a lie~." Another flash of the script would straight into his eye, as his once oval like eyes. Would now sharpen into half ovals and separating. One eye on each side of his new snout. Blinking as he looked out into a crowd of Pokémon of all kinds cheering on. Star's eyes turned a rather sky blue color, as he gave a rather cunning smirk to the crowd.

With the crowd continuing to cheer, some cheered the phrase "Encore, Encore!" How could he not continue, this was just the start of his new story. Of course he couldn't always tell the truth, but that's the fun of it. Keeping people on their toes!

"Buccaneer! Thespian! The show must go on! Prepare for the next act!" Star raised his arms up with his claws open, before taking a bow. The stage curtains closing before Star was out of sight of the audience. "The Masquerader is ready for the real deal."