



EPISODE THIRTEEN - NO PEACE IN VICTORY

"Fear not!" A new voice cut in as sakura petals wafted in the sky. "Heralded by a new era... *I CAST MAGIC MISSILE!*"

The next second, Astrum was hit in the face by a flaming bottle of booze.

As she screamed and clawed at her face, which was on fire, Hotaru scolded Haruka.

"Haruka-poppa, all you did was throw a Molotov cocktail at her!"

"Well it worked, didn't it?" Haruka asked cockily as Hotaru rushed to Vermellia's side and started healing her.

"No it didn't!" Astrum screamed, her face contorted in rage, charred and smoking. She turned to face Haruka, footsteps pounding on the ground as she turned.

Haruka smirked, unphased. Looking up at the giant Astrum, she pulled out another bottle of booze from the bag she had picked up at the convenience store. But instead of hurling it at the giant, she instead waved it in the air in a curious semicircle pattern as she stuck her other arm straight outwards.

Astrum wrinkled her nose as she watched the curious sight.

Haruka then jammed the bottle into a matching notch on a strange plasticky belt she was wearing that had "property of Chiba M." written on it. Then, she swung her other arm around and authoritatively pulled down on a lever that looked suspiciously like a bottle opener.

The belt began to make strange gurgling noises, as if someone was drinking, and Haruka suavely said "Henshin."

The belt shot out a blast of bubbly, piss-yellow energy that frothed forward, creating a huge "H" in the air which slammed back into Haruka, transforming her... into a drunken version of herself wearing sunglasses. Haruka quickly switched the sunglasses for a cool mask.



"Now you face... *MASKED DRIVER H!*" Haruka declared, launching herself at Astrum and flailing away at her with no concern for her own future.

Astrum found herself largely unhurt from the blows but unable to counter them due to her massive size. She shrunk herself back down to normal size but found herself completely unable to read this "Masked Driver H's" drunken moves, and she began to back away from the onslaught.

Finally, Astrum had had enough, and was able to smash Haruka back to the group, where Michiru, Hotaru, and Setsuna stood flanking her. Behind them, Minako, Rei, Makoto and Ami also joined the group, clearly the worse for wear after their battle.

Cressida, her mother Sakura and Vermellia also appeared in a flash of light, having teleported from the HOTEL. Jedite and Professor Tomoe were with them as well.

"Guys," Haruka wheezed, spitting out a little blood. "You're all here. Now it's a party."

Astrum shook her head, spitting on the ground. "Please. One or a hundred. I've already dispatched your legions and defeated you all. You're just throwing away your lives. You're no match for a Queen of the Moon."

Haruka ignored her and turned to the others.

"Michi," she said with a smile. "I might give you tons of shit for your cooking, but no matter how many Orion Slave girls pass me by, you're the only one I want by my side."

Michiru blushed slightly and coughed, before finally saying "It looks like she knocked some sense into you, dear."

Haruka turned to Hotaru. "Taru-chan," she started slowly. "Sorry for the whole kidnapping... and attempted murder thing."

"You *did* murder me," Hotaru replied flatly.

"You got better!" Haruka snapped, but then calmed down, putting a hand on her shoulder. "But yeah... sorry about that. You turned out to be the best daughter I could've ever had."

Hotaru blushed, which almost caused her to faint given how little blood was in her pale goth body. Then she narrowed her eyes. "Why are you being so nice to us, Haruka-poppa?"

Haruka turned to Setsuna and put her hands on her shoulders. "You'll always be a name to me and not a number, Sets."

Setsuna's lower lips quivered and she began to bawl.

Haruka turned to Jedite and gave him a manly nod. "You're like the evil twisted motherf[BLEEP]ker of a brother from another mother that I always wanted," she said.

Jedite nodded at her, eyes narrowing suspiciously.

To Professor Tomoe, Haruka nodded and said "Your coffee was the best, hakase."

Haruka then looked over to Minako, Rei, Makoto, Ami, Cressida, Sakura and Vermellia. She nodded her head a few times, and finally said "yeah", before turning away.

"Wait *that was it!*?" Cressida exclaimed irately. "What the hell was that!?"

"I love you guys!" Haruka belched, tears streaming from her eyes, which were still hidden by her sunglasses.

"Ohh, I understand now," Hotaru said dimly. "She's *drunk*. That's why she's acting so oddly."

Haruka ambled over to Chibiusa and slung her on her back. She then stood between the group and Astrum.

Pointing a shaky hand at Astrum, Haruka confidently declared "you're going down! And not in the sexy way!"

Astrum just looked at her incredulously.

"Now guys!" Haruka said to the others, who just looked back at her, equally confused.

"Huh?" Hotaru asked.

"Now!" Haruka insisted. "Do it *now!* Like in the plan!"

"What plan?" Rei asked irritably.

"Wait didn't I tell you the plan?" Haruka asked, her voice a little singsong.

"Noo...." Makoto replied slowly. "You were too busy sucking up to everyone."

"Oh yeah!" Haruka replied. "I guess I forgot. Yeah, so umm..."

"Yes, what is this miraculous 'plan'?" Astrum asked haughtily, a sneer on her face.

Haruka grinned. "I'm wearing Chibiusa as a backpack", she declared.

"I've already drained her dry," Astrum replied. "Her powers are of no use to you," she said darkly.

"But she is, like, one with the Mysterious Illusory whatever-the-f[BLEEP]k crystal still right?" Haruka pressed.

"So?" Astrum replied. "She's too weak to do anything. And by the time she recovers I'll have completed my goal. Shadow Tokyo draws ever closer to your home."

"Yeah but," Haruka persisted, raising a finger in the air, "if she's one with the crystal that means she kinda *is* the crystal and so, like, if all my buddies back there did the thing where they like shoot all their power at the crystal and charge it up~"

Astrum's eyes widened. But it was too late. The others had caught on. And everyone - even Jedite, Tomoe and Vermellia, who were not Sailor Senshi - sent forth their energy, either in the form of Sailor Planet power, Dark Energy or just concentrated thoughts and wishes, into

Chibiusa, suffusing the girl with an incredible amount of power... which then leaked right into Haruka, around whom a massive energy aura flared.

"Impossible!" Astrum exclaimed. "Such power!" She quickly got into a fighting pose. Regardless of this new twist, her mastery of the crystal was still unsurpassed--

"So you want to rule the world, huh?" Haruka asked darkly, pointing her fingers at Astrum in the form of a finger gun. "Fine. Go for it."

"What!?" Everyone, including Astrum asked in shock, as a simple, pencil-thin blast of light from Haruka's index finger shot out and hit Astrum right in the crescent moon on her forehead.

The world went white.

* * *

Astrum's eyes opened and she found herself with a massive headache. *What had happened?* That insolent drunk had--

"Queen Astrum! Queen Astrum!!"

Throngs. Hundreds - no, thousands of people below her, in a palace courtyard. That's right. She was on a balcony. The balcony of the Imperial Palace. She had won the day, and this was her empire.

"Your Majesty, the petitions are ready for you to review," Setsuna informed her, bowing deeply and not meeting her gaze, a sheet of paper in her right hand.

"Let me see them," Astrum declared solemnly, expecting Setsuna to hand her the single sheet of paper she was holding.

Setsuna stepped aside to reveal several stacks of paper ten feet high each.

"Let the staff read them," Astrum commanded.

"You turned them into frogs for requesting overtime," Setsuna reminded her.

"Then *you* read them," Astrum declared.

"I'm already meeting with the royals from the other planets in your stead, my Queen. Or have you decided to go to that meeting instead?"

Astrum frowned, trying to remember. "This meeting. How long will it be?"

Setsuna shrugged. "Usually a week, you know how these conferences go."

Astrum made a face. "I feel ill," she lied. "I am going to lie down for a few hours."

"Oh no!" Setsuna declared. "We must tend to your health, your highness! I'll fetch the royal physician right away!"

Ami entered the room in a full biohazard suit, carrying a very uncomfortable looking cucumber-shaped probe in her hand.

"I've suddenly recovered," Astrum replied, sweating slightly. "I'll just be... looking over these petitions then."

SEVERAL HOURS LATER

Astrum emerged from the reading room, her eyes bleary. The population had so many *things* they wanted. If she gave things to the people then they didn't want to work, and the businesses complained. Make things better for the businesses and the people complain their standards of living were dropping. Then group A wasn't happy Group B was happy, and group B wanted to eliminate group A but group A was responsible for the businesses that kept group B alive...

It was all too much. And the bureaucracy that was supposed to balance all this was too power-hungry and had to be constantly culled. And then there was the "people's representative."

She didn't know why she bothered to speak to the man at all. He was so pedantic and focused on such pedantic *minutiae*!

"I don't understand," the middle-aged man said, adjusting his glasses and continuing his questioning. "Why haven't you stopped all air accidents or prevented natural disasters?"

"I can't keep an eye on everything all at once!" Astrum replied testily.

"With your super strength, why haven't you single-handedly defeated all criminals and eliminated crime?"

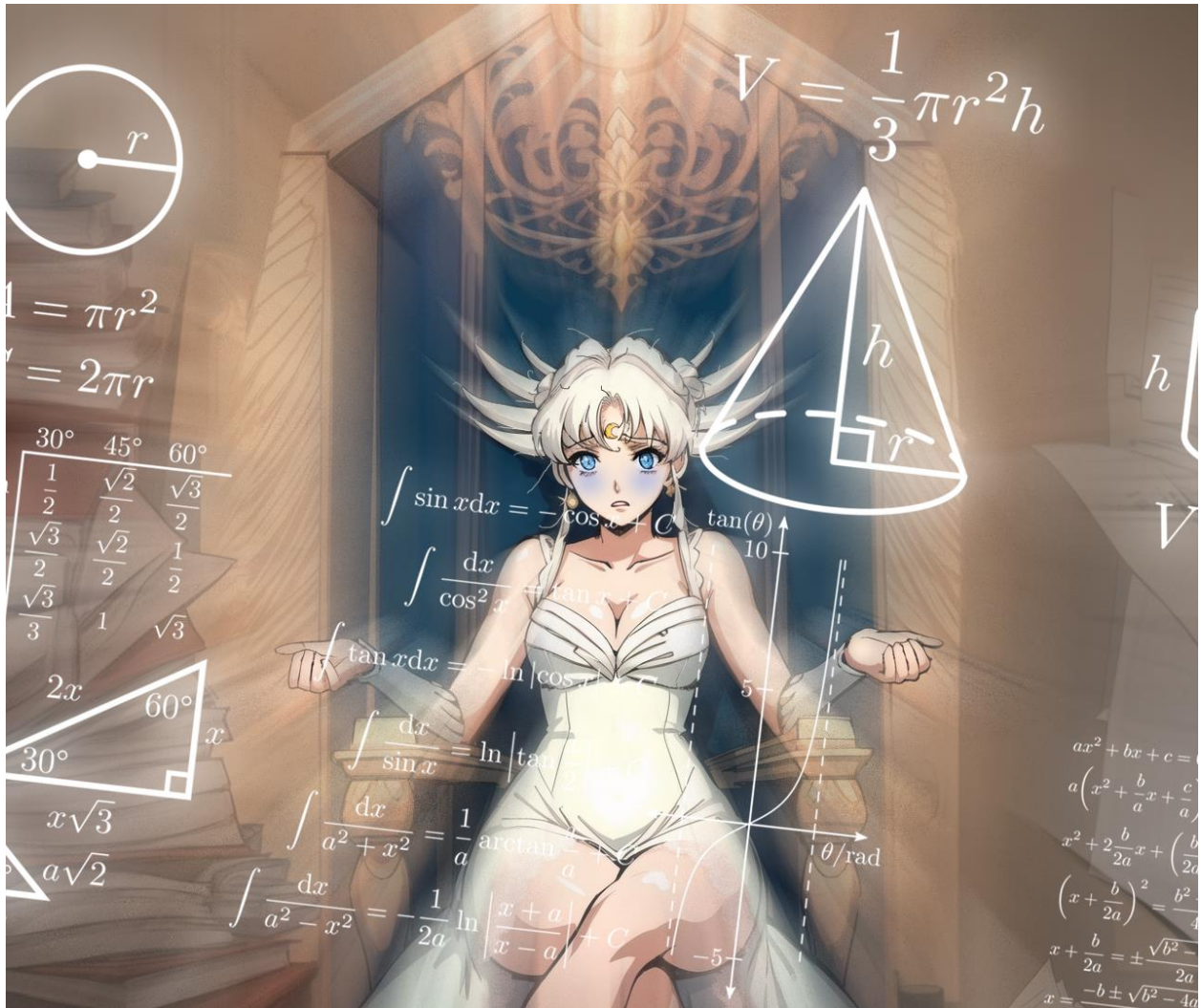
"I execute all criminals that are brought before me!" Astrum declared proudly. "It won't be long before the population learns to behave!"

"If you can control minds, why haven't you used your powers to create world peace or prevent conflicts?"

"Why don't I just control your mind and make you stop with these stupid questions?" she challenged. But still, he persisted.

"As a superpowered being, why haven't you cured all diseases and eradicated illnesses? If you possess the power of teleportation why haven't you transported people and goods instantly across the globe solving transportation issues if you can control the elements why haven't you solved climate change and environmental issues with your supersenses why haven't you uncovered all secrets solved all mysteries and prevented all crimes?"

Questions, questions, *questions!* So many!



"Fine!" She screamed. "I'll do it! *I'll do it all!*"

She shot out a blast of power from her crystal and enveloped the world in her light.

Instantly the questions stopped. Everyone was quiet, peaceful and docile. No one wanted for anything. No one got sick or died. And they were happy. And boring.

With eternal life and satiety came stagnation. There was no more drive to learn or grow. Why research better ways of doing things when everything was instantly available and perfect? Why train to protect oneself when all was constantly at peace? While there was still creation for art's sake, eventually everything had been done and remixed to death. With everyone living forever, everything had been seen and experienced. There was nothing *new* to do.

Astrum was so bored. She tried killing swathes of the population for sport, but in their placid state, they just smiled and took it. To the point where she felt bad for the lobotomized, soulless cretins and eventually stopped trying to make them react. Everyone was so quiet and obedient. It was maddening.

She found herself missing those halcyon days of long ago, when those idiot senshi and their friends were yelling at her, insulting her, fighting her, challenging her. For all their imperfections, the heirs of Serenity's empire... were maddening... infuriating... and *fun*. .

"Green milk, your highness?" Setsuna offered. Astrum batted the glass out of her hand and it exploded on the floor. But Setsuna didn't react. She just stupidly, rapidly smiled.

Astrum's jaw twitched. She couldn't stand this! She didn't want this! She didn't want to be a ruler of a moribund empire any more! She didn't want politics, or a legacy, or to be feared anymore! She just wanted--

--to be free! To live! Among people who *lived* too!

And with that, reality blurred and warped, changing again, back to the moment when Haruka had blasted her.

Astrum dropped to her knees, then fell forward onto her hands in a kind of bow.

"I... I... yield," she declared quietly, too mentally exhausted to continue, before fully falling facefirst to the ground.

Haruka grinned and looked back to the others. "Let's go home everyone."

As Cressida opened a portal with her Vortex Manipulator, Haruka used the last of her powerup to shoot one more blast into the center of Shadow Tokyo, which lit up with explosions worthy of an 80's action movie.

TOKYO, 2023

"There's still a problem!" Hotaru exclaimed as she and the others reappeared in front of the HOTEL, pointing to the sky.

"How the f[BLEEP]k is it still there?!" Haruka yelled. "I lit that shit up!"

"But the *mass* hasn't changed!" Ami pointed out. "You blew it up yes, but all the matter is still heading straight for us. And the parts of the city that had already made the crossing partially weren't affected!"

Hotaru sighed and patted Haruka on the arm, which was about as high as she could reach.

"Heh," she laughed softly, transforming into Sailor Saturn. "You *would* wait to bury the hatchet with me right before the end, wouldn't you, Haruka-poppa?"

"Huh?" Haruka asked, already having forgotten what she said while drunk. "Better... late than never, right?" she bluffed.

"Never mind," Saturn said, laughing and producing her Silence Glaive. "I think I can erase that thing. But it will take all I have in reserve."

She looked back at the others. "Good-bye."

"Hotaru-chan..." Rei said weakly. "Don't tell me you're going to..."

"There's no need for all that, Hotaru!" Chateaux declared cheerfully, her hologram appearing in the middle of the sidewalk near the group. "Thanks to everyone's efforts, without Astrum's will behind it, Shadow Tokyo's been sufficiently cleansed and whittled down that..."

She raised her hands to the sky.

"...we got this." She nodded to her left, where rei.bot appeared, still white-hot from having flown directly to Earth from her Hell World.

A small holographic map appeared in mid-air showing the location of the four mini-cities that were still dimensionally connected to Tokyo.

rei.bot closed her eyes and shot into the air like a missile, taking up a position far over Tokyo, sending out a massive blast of purifying spiritual energy that covered the entire city, including the dimensional attachments, which converted from shadowy hell-realms to clean, gleaming, modern buildings.



"Perfect," Chat declared. "Now that they're cleaned up, they're ripe..."

"Ripe?" Makoto asked. "Ripe for what?"



Chat grinned and stretched her arms out, and with a wheezing, groaning sound, the House that was the HOTEL next to the group vanished into thin air. There was a massive tremor, as if an Earthquake was happening.

The sound of the HOTEL's vortex engines seemed to roar across the entire city, and then the building reappeared as if it had never left. But Shadow Tokyo in the sky and the four dimensionally attached mini cities were suddenly gone.

"What... just happened?" Cressida asked.

Sakura's jaw hung open. "Did you just..." she asked Chateaux, as if afraid to complete the sentence.

"What?" She asked. "You never saw a TARDIS integrate a city before?" She laughed. "The only way to prevent the collision was to merge the city with the intruding dimension, which I couldn't do until you guys cleaned it up and stabilized it. As soon as you did that I froze the intruding dimension in a yoctosecond of time and fused with it *and* Tokyo in one fell swoop."

"Wait," Haruka asked, confused. "Are you... Are you... *Tokyo* now?"

Chat giggled.

"Sort of! The HOTEL is now merely a part of me," Chateaux replied. "Like, my spleen or something, if we're using human terms." She giggled hysterically. "I can see so much! Hear so much!" She turned green. "Oh god there are people *doing it*. Gross. Why are you humans always *like that*!?"

She shuddered. "Anyway guys, I am not longer just The HOTEL. I am the Combinatoric Interdimensionally Tunnelled Yoctosecond - The CITY - a shadow city structure interwoven with the fabric of regular Tokyo, accessible to those who know or find my secret entrances all over the city~"

She winked at Haruka, causing Haruka to blush and get smacked in the back of the head *and* get stomped on the foot by Michiru.

"And now," Chat continued, fading away. "I must go. My city needs me."

"But wait!" Haruka protested. "If you *are* the CITY, you don't need to go anywhere! You're already here! You just wanna slack off!"

Chat grinned. "So long, *suckers*~" she teased, sticking out her tongue and vanishing.

"Well, it looks like a new day's dawning," Sakura Amamiya Peinforte declared. "And this is where I say goodbye," she said with a smile, facing the group. "Cressida, Vermellia, now that our mission is finally over, I should leave this dimension before the Time Lords of this universe feel like kidnapping me to regain their stupidly absurd god-powers from the Dark Times."

Vermellia and Cressida gave her a big hug and watched as she walked off into the sunrise, seeming to vanish as she did so.

Cressida thought about things for a minute and used her Vortex manipulator to send a message back in time- about ten years - to warn the Shadow Architect about what was going to happen, leaving out just enough information to prevent any paradoxes.

"Wait sis," Vermellia said. "Did you just... file the report that got us all sent here in the first place way back when?"

Cressida grinned and gave her a thumbs up. "Time is a flat circle, after all!" she joked. "Now we can just focus on the future and having fun as a family!"

"So what about Astrum, dears?" Michiru asked, pointing to the girl who was still collapsed in the street, having been teleported over with them.

"I. THINK. IT. WILL. BE. FUN. TO. INTRODUCE. HER. TO. THE. TWENTY. FIRST. CENTURY." Chibiusa said, making a face as she heard her voice coming from the dog translator collar.

Angrily, she ripped it off her neck and stomped a mudhole in it.

"Faking pice ov smaterfaking sit!" she screamed, kicking its broken pieces into the road.

She looked over to Astrum and gently prodded her with her foot.

"hay" she said.

Astrum did not reply, simply groaning.

"Hay!" Chibiusa insisted, now kicking a little.

"What is it, scion of Serenity?" Astrum asked with irritation, forcing herself to sit up. "The day is yours. I am your prisoner. Do what you will with me."

Chibiusa regarded her for a minute, ran off, got a stepstool, climbed upon it, and then offered Astrum a hand up.

"wat sey we gew fynd sum boiz at da mall?" She smiled.

Astrum looked at her in shock, and then smiled. This could be a life worth living. "Yes. Lets."

The two walked off into the sunrise, towards a new beginning.

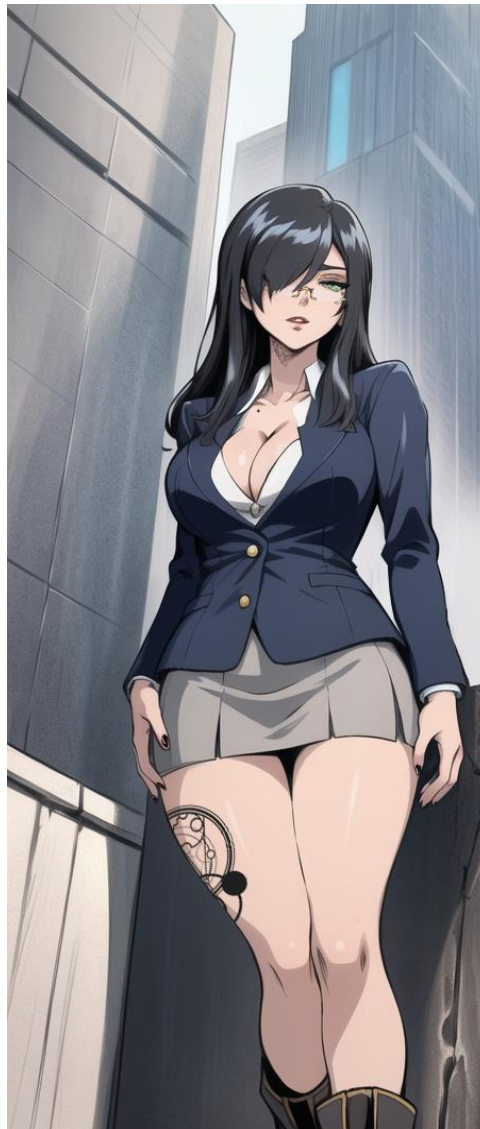
THE STORY GOES ON

Thanks for 21 years of Suburban Senshi!

AFTER CREDITS

[REDACTED WARD] TOKYO

Paisley Pythia Peinforte walked through the rubble, stopping when her psychic senses told her to. Driving the stiletto heel of her left boot into the ground, she waited until it contacted something soft. Hearing a groan, she used her foot to clear off some debris and looked down judgmentally at what she had uncovered.



"Oi," she said. "How long do you intend to lie there? It's all over, you know."

John Constantine spat out some dirt and groaned. "Just five more minutes," he mumbled, going back to sleep.