

# Yugioh: Souls of Courage

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*Ryuu is moving up in the dueling world, on his way to the famous Duel Academy. But now, as great evil's plans are finally revealing, can Ryuu figure out the connection between his mysterious dreams and his role in this dark plot?*

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## 1 - Episode 1 - A New Friend

"Man, this must be your worst day EVER!" exclaimed Derek. Derek was a good friend of Ryuu's. He had short brown hair, and brown eyes. He was 16 years-old just like Ryuu, except he was a lot taller than him. Ryuu was one of the students at Kyoto High as well as Derek. He had brown hair as well and clear blue eyes that always changed colors depending on what he wore. Ryuu was one of the lesser duelists in the school, and was always the target of a duel for a laugh or two. "Please, don't remind me..." he muttered as he sulked his way home. "I don't get it, your cards are so well put together, but you keep getting your but kicked by Sayiko." Sayiko was one of the best duelists in school next to Ryuu's brother. She had black hair and dark blue eyes. She always hung around with the guys; she was only interested in winning in everything she does, whether it was sports, video games, and especially dueling. One of her very favorite thing to do was to beat Ryuu on a daily bases. Ryuu didn't want to think about it anymore, and just sighed. "Derek, I'm gonna chill around here..." he said. Derek gave Ryuu a look of concern for his friend, and then he walked off.

After Derek left, Ryuu sat down on one of the benches in the park they walked through. He thought how it would be like if he were just like his brother Jason. "Hey, Ryuu!" yelled one of the duelists from school. "Ready for another schooling, you wimp!" Two of them were heading towards Ryuu from both of his sides. Ryuu got up and made a run for it, he couldn't duel anymore, and he didn't want to. After minutes of running from the two duelists, he finally tripped and there was no hope of escape. Both duelists walked up to him and held him up; each one held one arm to prevent Ryuu from escaping. "Well, well, well." Ryuu knew that voice anywhere, it was Sayiko. He should have known that when some of they guys came for him, Sayiko was behind most of it. There she was right in front of him, grinning at the boy she knew as a pipsqueak. "It seems I had a bad day today, got to get off some stress. So why don't we duel?" Both of Seiko's lackies were laughing as Ryuu struggled to break free. The laughter was followed by a thud that came from the back of both of their heads as they fell to the ground, unconscience.

"What do you think you're doing to my little brother, Sayiko?" Sayiko merely glared at Jason as he stood before her. Jason was 18 and the best duelist in school. He had light brown eyes and long, black hair that was always messy, no matter how much you combed it. Sayiko continued to stare at him as she started to hear the grinding of her own teeth. She hated Jason; he was the only one standing in his way of becoming the best in the school. She gave one last look of rage towards Jason and walked off, leaving the two lackies behind her remaining unconscience. Ryuu couldn't believe his eyes; he never got to see his brother, let alone actually is saved by him. "Are you okay little brother?" he asked. Ryuu started to cry as his brother kneeled down to comfort him. All Ryuu had left was his brother, he was lucky enough that Jason was old enough to be considered his legal guardian; otherwise, both he and Jason would be adopted. Jason started dueling when his parents died in a car accident to in order to use most of the prize money to help move along. "I'm sorry Jason..." he said as he sniffled. "Don't be sorry, I know your trying. But what I noticed in your dueling is that you lack something." Ryuu was surprised to hear his brother say this. "You watch my dueling? Well what is it, what am I missing? Skill, Cards?" Jason merely nodded his head and a twinkle in his eye appeared. "You lack confidence, Ryuu. You think you're a bad duelist but you're not. Instead, you insist on believing that you can't win."

"I'll see you at the house," he said, and exited the park. Ryuu continued to stare at Jason and broke into tears. After several minutes of drying his tears, he started to hear a croaking off in the distance. Ryuu looked up and tried to find out where it was coming from. The croaking continued to go on and off, each time getting louder. "Is that a frog...?" he asked himself. He got up and walked around. When he looked towards the lake, he saw a yellow frog with black spots. He seemed to be croaking for help as if he was in great pain. Ryuu walked up to the strange creature and kneeled down to examine it a bit. He noticed there was a cut underneath his chin as blood streamed down. "What happened to you?" he asked as he took out a bandage from his pocket. Ryuu was beat up so many times, he always had a bandage of two ready for an injury. He unwrapped the bandage and placed it right underneath his chin. The frog gave a cheerful croak as he grew wings. He jumped happily into Ryuu's arms and disappeared, only leaving some sort of glitter that flew off. The glitter started to gather into Ryuu's hand into the shape of a rectangle. After the rectangle settled into his hands, a card lay in his hands with the picture of the very frog he helped just now.

It was late that night; Ryuu was already in bed, curled up under his blanket, dreaming. He was in the middle of a white light, where everything was pure. He saw his brother next to him with his parents. Ryuu ran towards his family to hug him, as his parents started to fade away. He stopped dead in his tracks, looking for his parents. Darkness surrounded him, and the light started to disappear as his brother was swallowed into the shadows. "Jason!" But there was no answer. The sound of sinister laughter was echoing throughout the darkness, as light was shinning feet away. Ryuu tried to run towards it, but each step he took, he went further and further away. For every inch he went away from the light, the laughter grew louder, and louder. "No!" her yelled out as tears dropped down his face. He stopped to catch his breath, but the light continued to disappear. He couldn't make it, he was going to give up, but a new light was glowing. The light was coming from his pocket, trying to escape. Finally, a frog's head popped up and croaked happily. The frog from the park was flying out of his pocket and glowing. It gave another croak and flew towards the light. Ryuu saw it and tried to run after it, but it was too fast. It gave one last croak, and Ryuu ran as fast as he could. Everything went white, and Ryuu woke up. Later that day, it was almost time for Math. Derek and Mike were already heading for class when Derek saw the card Ryuu carried with him all day. "What's that you got there, Ryuu?" asked Derek. "Well, it's hard to explain, but-

"Hey prey!" called out Sayiko. She had a duel disk on her wrist and a deck in her hands. "You know what time it is, dontcha?" Sayiko started towards Ryuu, but Derek placed himself directly in her way. "If you wanna duel him, you're gonna have to duel me!" Ryuu never realized how much Derek valued their friendship. He never felt this way before. It wasn't fair. Derek didn't need to get involved; why should he pay for him. He thought of what his brother said, he thought of the frog in the park, and he wasn't going to give up anymore. "Derek..." Derek looked back to see a look of rage strike Ryuu's face. "I'll duel her, get to class." Derek looked at Ryuu, then to Sayiko, to Ryuu again, and ran straight to class. Ryuu took out his duel disk he kept in his backpack and strapped it to his wrist. "Let's Duel!" yelled out Sayiko and Ryuu simultaneously. The LP counter read 4000 and the hologram projectors launched from the duel disks.

"It's my move!" yelled out Ryuu as he drew 6 cards. He looked at his cards and noticed the frog in the park was in his hand. "And I'll play Sangan \*att: 1000/def: 1000\* in attack mode. And I'll play 2 cards facedown." A giant ball of brown hair with 3 eyes emerged from the ground as 2 cards lay behind it. "Is that all?" Sayiko drew her card and it was now her turn. "I summon Kaiser Sea Horse \*att:1700/def:1650\* in attack mode with 2 cards face down." A new creature with sea armor came up

with his staff ready to attack. "Now attack his Sang an!" Kaiser charged towards Sang an and slashed it with his sword. Sangan was destroyed and Ryuu was down to 3300 LP. Ryuu recovered from the shock and said, "You activated my Sangan's special ability. I get to search my deck for any monster with 1500 attack points or less and add it to my hand." Ryuu took his deck from the duel disk's slot, took the card D.D. Warrior Lady and showed it to his opponent. Ryuu drew his card and played a magic card. "I play Fissure! It destroys the monster with the lowest monster's attack points on your side of the field! Since Kaiser Sea Horse is your only monster on your field, it is automatically destroyed!"

"Now I summon D.D. Warrior Lady \*att:1500/def:1600\* in attack mode" A woman rose with a glowing sword in her hand, "and now I activate Call of the Haunted. It special summons one monster in my graveyard and onto my field." Sangan rose once again and joined D.D. Warrior lady at her side. "Now Attack her directly!" declared Ryuu. "Not so fast, I play Mystical Space Typhoon. It destroys one magic or trap card, and I choose Call of the Haunted!" A gust of wind headed towards Sang an and he disappeared. "Of course, Sang an activates it's effect, but it won't do you any good." Ryuu took his card and showed it to his opponent. "I still have my attack for D.D. Warrior Lady! Now attack!" D.D. opened a portal and disappeared. Few seconds later, a new portal opened and she jumped out to slash at Sayiko. Sayiko was now down to 2500 LP. "Impressive" admitted Sayiko as she rose from the shock of the attack. Sayiko drew her card and revealed a trap card, "I play my Call of the Haunted to bring back Kaiser Sea Horse. Next I activate Shadow Spell! This card lowers your monster's attack points by 700." Chains started to surround D.D. Warrior Lady and she became weakened. "Now I activate Kaiser Sea Horse's special ability. By sacrificing this card for a light attribute, the tribute is counted as 2, so that I can summon the Blue Eyes White Dragon \*att:3000/def:2500\*!"

"Curse Pegasus for making newer copies of Blue Eyes!" growled Ryuu as a massive white dragon flew in from the clouds. "Now attack, Blue Eyes! White Lightning Burst of Destruction!" The dragon charged a white beam of light from his mouth and fired it at D.D. Warrior Lady. Ryuu was knocked down by the attack as his LP went down to 1100. "Pathetic." said Sayiko as a smirk crossed her face. "Shut up!" yelled Ryuu as tears and sweat dripped to the ground. "Why me?! Why are you picking on me?! I never did anything to you! All I wanted was to be like my brother! But you kept on dragging me down!" Sayiko glared at Ryuu as he broke into tears once more. "I'm doing it to help you!" she said. Ryuu looked up in surprise and stopped crying. "I beat you everyday to get you stronger, to make you become a better duelist. You think you're bad, but the truth is, you're not! You need someone to smack you around! To show you the truth! Now are you gonna prove me wrong by crying? Or are you gonna prove yourself wrong by continuing!" Ryuu thought about what she said. What Derek said about his cards, what his brother said...

He got up. It was time to continue the duel. "I activate my D.D. Warrior Lady's special effect! When a monster battles with her, she and the monster are removed from play after damage calculation, that is, if I choose to. And with that thing on the field, it wouldn't be a bad idea!" Sayiko gasped as D.D. Warrior Lady reappeared and grabbed onto Blue Eyes, taking it with her to some far off place. Ryuu heard a croak and noticed his card was glowing. He looked at it and knew what to do. He drew his card and said, "I set one facedown monster in def. monster and end" A new card was set on the field and it was now Seiko's turn. She drew her card and played a magic card. "I activate White Dragon Ritual! Now by sending a monster whose stars total 4, I can play Paladin of White Dragon\*att:1900/def:1200\*!" A new dragon flew in from the clouds, this time with a warrior in white armor riding it. "Now I'll activate his special ability, which lets me special summon one Blue Eyes White Dragon during my main phase if I tribute this card!" Sayiko sent Paladin of White Dragon to the graveyard, and placed Blue Eyes on the

field. "Not so fast Sayiko, I play my trap Torrential Tribute! If a monster is normal summoned, flip summoned, or special summoned, all monsters on the field are destroyed!" A burst of lightning came from the trap card and struck every card on the field, including his own.

"Fine, I'll place two cards Facedown." Two cards appeared on the field, and Ryuu drew his card. "I activate my Treeborn Frog's \*att:100/def:100\* special ability! When there are no spell or traps on my side of the field, it is special summoned onto the field in any position I want!" A yellow frog with black spots and wings appeared on the field. "Now with a monster on my field, I have a tribute for Mobius the Frost Monarch \*att:2400/def:1000\*!" Ice formed started to form on the ground and both of Seiko's traps were freezing. A knight grew from the ice that was now shaping into a human and struck a blow to the frozen facedown. "What's going on, and when did that dumb frog get sent to the graveyard?!" asked Sayiko angrily. Ryuu gave out a chuckle and said, "Treeborn Frog was in my graveyard when I destroyed it due to the effect of Torrential Tribute, and When Mobius is summoned, he destroys up to 2 spell or traps on the field. Now I activate Premature Burial! By paying 800 LP, I can equip one monster in my graveyard with this card and that monster is special summoned in attack mode!" Using more than half of his LP, his count was now down to a scarce 300. "And now I choose, Treeborn Frog!" The frog reappeared and croaked a happy little tune as he flew around Ryuu. Ryuu gleamed at his monster and said, "I couldn't have done it without you Treeborn Frog..." The frog merely jumped up and down as it eagerly waited to attack. "It finally happened Ryuu, your finally a real duelist," Sayiko closed her eyes and looked away, "now finish it!" she ordered. Ryuu shook his head and sighed. "Okay Mobius, attack her directly!" Mobius charged at Sayiko and punched her in the stomach. Ice formed around her feet; her LP was down to 100 and there was no escape. "Now Treeborn Frog, attack Sayiko directly!" The frog gave out a loud croak and it started to lash its tongue right at Seiko's face. Sayiko was knocked down and the game was over. Ryuu walked over to her and helped her up. "Ugh...Good game...you better not tell anyone, otherwise my rep is over!" Ryuu merely smiled. "Of course not," he said as he held out his hand. "What are friends for?"

This is my first Yugioh fanfic ever. Ryuu is the name SetoAngel01 gave me for her pic she did. To thank her, I decided to use the name cause I love it so much, and I put her OC in the story. Anyway, if you haven't figured it out, Treeborn Frog is the "Duel Spirit" in this story. The point of the Ryuu putting a bandage on Treeborn Frog is not only to befriend it, but because on the real card, it has a bandage on the bottom of his chin XD! Sorry for making your OC look like a jerk, SetoAngel, hope you're not too mad T.T

## 2 - Episode 2 - Welcome to the Family

Yay! Episode 2! This is a good episode, trust me! I wouldn't wanna ruin some parts of it, but what I can tell you, is that no matter what people think of me, no matter how many people think it's stupid, I can and WILL bring out the Manga in my anime fanfics. For some who don't know what I mean, Manga has been known to show a...perverted side to our favorite characters we've come to know and love. If you're still clueless, then just read the damn thing. Hehe, I'm sorry, I couldn't resist myself...Mwahahaha

It was 5:00 a.m. that morning and Ryuu was sleeping in bed. Every minute or so, he tossed and turned underneath his covers to get to sleep, but no matter what, laughter was haunting him in his sleep. An hour later, the alarm clock on the bedroom counter struck 6:00 a.m. and Treeborn Frog popped out of its card that was with Ryuu's deck on the counter. The frog stretched its legs, hopped around, and croaked about with its usually cheerful croaking as always. "Aw, c'mon! It's not time to wake up yet! Besides, it's Sunday!" said Ryuu with his face stuffed in his pillow. After hearing this, the frog flew towards Ryuu, positioned itself right above him, and jumped up and down. "C'mon Froggy! I said it's not time to wake up!" Froggy was the nickname Ryuu decided to give Treeborn Frog after he found out that it was a real creature days after they first met; or so he thought. He was always afraid that he was just going crazy, but either way, he called it Froggy. Froggy continued to jump up and down, croaking each time he ascended. Ryuu couldn't take anymore, and swatted the poor frog away from his back. Afterwards, Ryuu heard knocking on his door and grinded his teeth. "Time to wake up, Ryuu! The early bird catches the worm" said Jason's muffled voice through the door. "Yea? Well I'd rather be catching some Z's" Ryuu muttered. He sat up, gave a huge yawn, rubbed his eyes, and headed for the shower. Afterwards, he got dressed, pet poor Froggy on the head for what he did, grabbed his deck, and walked out.

Ryuu didn't know what to do. It was 6:00 a.m. Who would be up at this hour? There was not one single duelist to take on with his new found confidence. "Hey Ryuu!" called out Sayiko in the far off distance. Ryuu stopped to let her catch up to him, and they both walked around looking for something to do. "I can't believe it's Sunday!" she exclaimed. Ryuu couldn't believe Sayiko knew where his house was. "It's in the directory, I thought you knew that." Sayiko started to giggle as Ryuu's face was flushed with red. Apparently, Sayiko would never get tired of making Ryuu make a fool of himself, even if they were friends. They walked past an electronics store where they were having a special on DVDs. "Wait here." she said as she ran right in and quickly bought something. Ryuu tried to look in the bag afterwards to see what she got, but she immediately put it in her backpack and waved her finger. "Sorry Ryuu, this is for my eyes only." she said as Ryuu had a look of desire in his face. What was it that Sayiko was hiding that she didn't want him to see? They continued walking and Ryuu heard the cheerful croaking of Froggy. Ryuu checked to see if Sayiko could hear or not and gave a quick flick of the finger to the sudden annoyance that was in his pocket.

"Hey guys!" called out Derek as he ran as fast as he could towards them, which wasn't really that fast. "Did you guys hear?!" Derek had a hint of urgency in his voice, but every time he spoke he took a look at Ryuu. "Spit it out already!" ordered Sayiko after minutes of stuttering. Derek caught his breath after several minutes and told them the news. "There's some guy that was attacked by a duelist! Ryuu, you

need to take a look at this!" Derek ran off again into the same direction he came from and Ryuu started to follow him with Sayiko right behind him. When they got to a point where Derek stopped, he noticed an ambulance car and several people grouping around it. "Excuse me." said Ryuu as he continued to push his way through the group of people. When he finally got through, he saw Jason being placed into the ambulance. "Jason!" he screamed as he pushed his way through security. He tried to see what was wrong, but two of the security guards grabbed him by the arms and tried to pull him back. "Let me go! That's my brother!" he yelled as he struggled to break free. By the time he finally managed through security, Jason was already inside and the ambulance drove off. Ryuu pushed through everyone in his way as he ran after the ambulance. He ran as fast as he could, leaving only dust, sweat, and tears behind him. Derek ran after Ryuu and grabbed him by the shoulders. "You need to know when to call it quits, Ryuu! Jason's gone!" He watched as the ambulance drove off into the distance and started crying. Froggy croaked his usual tune to cheer him up, but Ryuu continued crying.

"Excuse me young man." said one of the security. "There is someone that needs to speak with you." A woman, with dark blonde hair and bright blue eyes was looking concerned. "Excuse me, are you the brother of that young man?" she asked. Ryuu shook his head as tears fell down like raindrops. "I'm sorry, but I'm with child services. You have no record of any legal guardians, and I'm afraid I'll have to take you to an orphanage until your brother gets better, or until you get adopted." Ryuu's worst fear had come true. He was about to be separated from his brother forever. "But-but what happened to him?!" asked Ryuu as he started to shake violently. "We're not sure, I'm afraid. All we do know is that he was attacked by some duelist." The woman saw Ryuu's pain and was truly sorry for what happened. "Please, you have to come with me." she said. Sayiko never saw Ryuu like this. She would always see him upset, but it was never like this...

"I'll take care of him!" yelled out Sayiko without realizing what she said. "Excuse me?" asked the Child Services woman. "Errr....that's right! My family could take him in until his brother gets back." The woman gave a big sigh and asked, "Are your parents okay with it? If so, they'll have to be asked a few questions." Sayiko took a look at Ryuu and saw him in great agony and pain. Finally, she shook her head and Ryuu looked up. "Sayiko, you don't have to do this. You could get in big trouble!" sniveled Ryuu. "I don't care Ryuu; no one deserves to be separated like this." Sayiko smiled at Ryuu and gave him a wink. Ryuu never felt any happier. Froggy popped out of his pocket and hopped around like crazy, yet no one even noticed him, let alone know that there were any frogs in town. He watched Sayiko discuss some terms with the woman, and afterwards he started to hear laughter once again. This time it wasn't haunting him only in his sleep. What he heard was not a dream, he heard laughter alright, but this time someone else was laughing. It was a woman's laughter, and it was cold and dark. Ryuu stood up and struggled to keep sanity, he did everything he could to get the laughter out of his head, yet the laughter continued, and everything went black.

Ryuu awoke into a room he had never been before. He sat up on his bed as he noticed Froggy at his side, eagerly awaiting for his best friend to wake up. Froggy jumped into Ryuu's arms and he started to hug him for comfort. "Froggy, what happened?" Froggy started croaking like crazy as he jumped all around the room. Ryuu was actually paying attention to Froggy's wild croaking this time, actually understanding everything he croaked. "I-I passed out...?" he asked. Suddenly, the door swung open and Sayiko walked in. "Are you okay?" she asked as she sat next to him on the bed. "I'm fine..." he replied. "Why did you pass out, was it because you were upset?" Ryuu slowly nodded his head in disagreement. "Well, either way, you're stuck with us in the guest room." she said. Ryuu smiled a huge grin and said, "Awww... do I have to?" Ryuu broke into laughter instantly, and lucky for him, Sayiko realized that he

was only joking right before she decided to wring his neck. "You knuckle head!" she yelled, and gave him a soft punch on the shoulder. "Well, I'm gonna hit the hay." said Sayiko as she started to yawn. "Try not to think about today that much." She walked out and gave Ryuu a worried look right before she closed the door. So this was it, Ryuu was gonna have to live with Sayiko and her family. "I guess I should get out of everyone's way, huh?" he asked Froggy. Froggy croaked and flew right towards his backpack. He opened the pockets and took out a card. "Froggy...? Froggy, that's genius!" Ryuu stood up and grabbed the card out Froggy's mouth. Afterwards, Froggy hopped around playfully and sang his song as Ryuu walked out the door as well.

Ryuu was now in the hallway, looking for where Sayiko could have gone. He checked each door for any clue on which room Sayiko's was. Finally, he found a sign on one of the doors that read Sayiko's room. He grabbed the handle and turned it so he could walk in and give Sayiko the card Froggy picked. "Hey Sayiko! I have something for-" he stopped dead in his tracks to see Sayiko with her backside facing towards the door, changing her shorts for bed; all she was wearing was a bra and her thong. She turned around to see Ryuu outside her door staring at her, blushing. Sayiko blushed as much as Ryuu and started to scream. "HOLY CRAP! I'M SO SORRY! I'M SO SORRY!!!" Ryuu's face was now completely red and he immediately covered his eyes, peeking now and then. "WHY THE HELL DIDN'T YOU KNOCK!?!!" yelled Sayiko as she covered herself. Froggy flew in to see what happened, and after he looked into Sayiko's room, he landed flat on his face, nearly knocked out. After several minutes of Ryuu peeking and unpeeking, Sayiko was finally dressed lying on her bed. Ryuu was sort of upset it didn't last long. "You can look now." she said uneasily. Ryuu uncovered his face and walked into her room; there were posters of Seto Kaiba everywhere. Any space that weren't covered in posters was either because there was no room or it was a spot of an older poster that was going to be replaced. "So what is it you wanted me to see?" she asked. "Well, Froggy-err, I mean, I picked a card that you might like." Froggy heard this and finally woke up from passing out. He started to hop up and down violently while croaking a different, angrier tune. Ryuu could tell he was saying something along the lines of "What do you mean YOU picked the card?!" Ryuu handed the card to Sayiko, ignoring the angry croaking from Froggy. Sayiko took a good, long look at the card she was now holding in her hand called Kaiba Man. "Oh my God! How did you know I love Seto Kaiba?!" she asked gleefully. Ryuu took a look at the posters that were hung around everywhere and saw the DVD she bought of all of Seto's duels on footage.

"Well err, I didn't...I gave this card to thank you, but uhhh...you didn't have to tell me you were a fan." It took a while for Sayiko to realize what he meant. "Oh, you mean the posters...yeah; I do have a few of them...or a lot of them. So what does this card do?" she asked. "Well, it's supposedly able to tribute itself and special summon one Blue Eyes from your hand." Sayiko beamed at the card that reminded her of her dream man Seto. "Awww! Why should I tribute something so cute?!" She started to giggle and placed her new card in her deck. "I've never even seen this card before, where did you get it?" she asked. Ryuu thought back to a time when Jason made the state champions. "Well, I think Jason won it in a tourney as part of his prize." he replied. "What about Jason? He won't mind?" Ryuu nodded his head. "He never ran a Blue Eyes deck. Besides, if he DID value it, I'm sure he wouldn't mind if he knew you guys were taking care of me." Sayiko heard this and suddenly thought of all those times he hated Jason, how she didn't mind Jason in the hospital that much. She could even imagine Ryuu and Jason reunited, and Jason showing his great appreciation towards someone her, all for the sake of his brother. She looked into Ryuu's eyes, beyond the casual look he had, to see great pain. "Is something wrong Sayiko?" he asked. Sayiko gave Ryuu a hug and he became confused, although he tried not to think about it that much. "Get plenty of rest kid..." she whispered softly in his ear. Froggy starting croaking angrier and angrier. Froggy was a pretty affectionate guy, and Ryuu could tell he wanted hugs too, even



if no one could see him. Ryu got up and walked out of her room with Froggy at his side. He went to the guest room and tucked himself in with Froggy in his arms like some plush doll. Ryu closed his eyes and tried not to think about his brother, not to think about the haunting laughter, not to think about Sayiko...

"WAKE UP!!!" yelled Sayiko. There was a loud banging on the door, even louder than the way his brother used to bang. Ryu stood up and rubbed the sleep out of his eyes. He looked at the spot where Froggy's card was and then at the clock that read 5:00 a.m. Not even Froggy was up at this hour. He checked to see what to get dressed with; he didn't notice earlier that someone moved his belongings in Sayiko's home. Ryu got up and got ready for school, it was going to be one heck of a day with everyone asking him about the incident. When both Ryu and Sayiko got to school, everyone was trying to know what happened. Sayiko made sure that no one got him upset. Eventually, Derek caught up to them and they all walked off to class "Hey Sayiko!" called out one of her popular friends. He had short, black hair, and huge, round, green eyes. When he caught up, he pushed Ryu out of the way and knocked him down. "What are you doing with this loser?" he asked as Ryu glared at him. "Back off, Kawazu!" yelled Derek as Sayiko helped Ryu up. Kawazu saw Sayiko and was confused about what she was doing. "Are you serious?! This guy's not worth your time, Sayiko! Ditch the loser!" Sayiko punched Kawazu in the face and he got knocked down as well. "What kind of loser doesn't have a frog deck!" yelled back Ryu. "Are you kidding me?! Do you want me to mop the floor with you right now?!" Kawazu then took a look at Sayiko and said, "As for you, I was going to believe that the rumors of you losing to this wimp were fake, but I guess I'm gonna have to tell the whole school!" Kawazu got up and started to walk off laughing as Sayiko tightened her fist. As for Ryu, he was furious. "How dare you talk to her like that, because when you talk to my friends that way, you're making fun of me! Especially after what she's doing for me!" Kawazu looked back and gave Ryu a mean look. "Oh yes, that's right. You have to stay with her because you're big, bad, brother got attacked," he paused and started to walk off again, "But now that your brother is out of the way, I get my chance to become the best. So run along with those weaklings and stay out of my way!" Sayiko was taken aback with surprise, but Ryu ran straight for Kawazu and tackled him. "You aren't going anywhere, you jerk! You and I are going to duel, right here, right now!" Sayiko ran to Ryu and grabbed him away from Kawazu. "You don't have to do this, I could beat him all on my own..."

"Fine, but when I win, I get that frog card of yours!" yelled back Kawazu as he interrupted their private conversation. Ryu noticed that he was talking about Froggy's card that was sticking out of his pocket. Froggy started to look worried and shivered at Ryu's side. "You're not gonna win, and when you lose, you gotta keep quiet about what happened!" Both duelists pulled out a duel disk from their backpacks. "Listen Ryu, if there's anything I know about this guy; it's that he has a one move finish combo. Are you sure you're willing to risk that card of yours?" asked Derek. "I appreciate the concern Derek, but I'm not gonna lose!" Ryu looked back to his friend and smiled, "No one talks about my friends that way!" the hologram projectors launched, and both players' LP counter read 4000. "Let's duel!" yelled out Kawazu and Ryu simultaneously. "I'll start," he said, "and I'll play T.A.D.P.O.L.E. \*att:0/def:0\* in attack mode with one card facedown!" Sure enough, a giant tadpole the size of Ryu's head formed in the center of the field with one card behind him. This was too easy, there had to be something Kawazu was planning. "My move then!" He drew his card and looked at one of his monster cards. "I'll play D.D. Assailant \*1700/1600\* in attack mode!" Froggy appeared on Ryu's shoulder looking concerned. He seemed to know every Frog card combo there was, yet Ryu hardly knew anything about these monsters. A woman appeared on the field with a cloth over her mouth and armor covering her whole body from neck down. Ryu was uneasy and finally made decision. "D.D. Assailant, attack T.A.D.P.O.L.E. !" She pulled out her giant sword (I'm talking "Zabuza's sword" huge) and stabbed the creature between the eyes as it

was destroyed into bits of pieces. Kawazu remained calm and smirked liked nothing happened as his LP counter read 2300. "You think you're winning, huh?" he asked with a triumphant look. Ryuu shook his head and said, "Well yea, my LPs are higher..." Kawazu started laughing and said, "This duel has only begun! Just you wait!"

To Be Continued...

ROTFL! I CAN'T BREATHE, THAT SCENE WAS JUST TOO FUNNY! DO YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN BY BRINGING OUT THE MANGA?! \*gasps for air\* CAN'T YOU JUST IMAGINE THAT SCENE IN A YUGIOH MANGA?! I'M SORRY, BUT I JUST COULDN'T RESIST PUTTING THAT SCENE IN XD! Okay, I'm done \*giggles\*, or not...anyway, I hope you guys liked it ^\_\_\_\_\_^!

### 3 - Episode 3 - Duel to DA!

Episode 3! I finally got to making it! Well, here it is, the pulse pounding conclusion of the match against the powerful.....frog duelist -\_-'. Okay, maybe the way it sounds is a little...pathetic, but what can I say? I mean, do you know how hard it was to find a way to win with only 4000 LP?! I have gone over this awhile, because by just using Des Croaking would leave you 2300 LPs in a normal 8000 LP standard, but with 4000...It's over. Anyway, Expect Kawazu to make a reappearance, you can count on it. Also, some are thinking if Derek has a deck or not. Well he does, actually, and it's really a token deck. Hehe, a token deck? Well I assure you, this deck does pack a punch, but can only be revealed in a future episode...well, enjoy the episode ^\_^!

Ryuu felt like he had played into Kawazu's hands as he stood there, grinning. "Fine...I'll just place two card face down." said Ryuu as a two cards lay in front of him. "My turn!" yelled Kawazu as he drew his card, Ryuu preparing for his next move. "I'll play Graceful Charity!" and as he spoke, and angel appeared in the middle of the field, carrying a shiny, white light in the palm of her hands. "What does it do?" asked Ryuu nervously. "What it does, is it give me three cards," the angel's white light poured down upon Kawazu's deck, disappearing among his cards, "then I have to discard 2!" Kawazu drew his 3 cards, while 2 cards in his hand started to change to black. Kawazu discarded the two cards and smirked. "You're in for a real surprise kid! First, I'll activate my Call of the Haunted to bring back my Des Frog\*att:1900/def:0\*!" The card in front of Kawazu revealed itself and smog started to drift from it. The smog headed for Kawazu's graveyard, and soon enough, a giant frog had appeared on the field. "But that card wasn't in your graveyard!" yelled Ryuu furiously as Froggy shivered on his shoulders. "It was in my graveyard when I discarded my cards due to the effects of Graceful Charity, fool! I used it's effect for bait!" The frog started croaking loudly, and Ryuu muttered a curse under his breath. "It doesn't matter if you attack anyway, because if you do, then my D.D. Assailant will be removed from play, along with the card that destroyed it!"

"That's why I have I have this planned! I activate the spell Evolution Cycle!" Froggy started to jump wildly up and down, while the frog on the field started to lower itself. "What's going on?!" asked Ryuu as he noticed the frog starting to struggle. Kawazu started laughing, while the frog gave a push. A round, sticky egg was shaping from the backside of the frog, plopping down to the ground. "That's disgusting!!" yelled Derek looking away as Sayiko contained herself from throwing up. "Say what you want," yelled back Kawazu, "but It'll be the end of Ryuu! You see, Evolution Cycle can only be activated if there's already a Des Frog on my field. Once activated, my friend here lays an adorable little egg, and by discarding one card from my hand, I can special summon one T.A.D.P.O.L.E. from my hand to the field!" The egg started to glow and crack, as a round shape swirled around inside the egg. A monster hatched from the egg and plopped itself right beside the Des Frog. "Now watch as my little Tadpole evolves into an adult frog, because in return for the card I discarded, I get to pick one Des Frog my deck, and add it to my hand!" Sayiko started to gasp and Derek gave uneasy looks towards his friends. "What's the matter, Sayiko?" he asked as Sayiko's eyes filled with worry. "Don't you get it? Kawazu hasn't even summoned yet, and now he has a new monster for summoning!"

"That's right, Sayiko! And now I'll sacrifice my T.A.D.P.O.L.E. to summon my second Des Frog!" As

Kawazu spoke, the giant tadpole quickly sprouted legs and arms, it's eyes getting rounder, it's color changing from black to green. Both frogs started croaking happily, while Froggy took refuge behind Ryuu, who at this point was confused why the frogs were croaking so much. "What's going on? Why won't those things shut up already?!" he said, covering his ears from the annoying sound. Kawazu started tapping his foot to the tune of his frogs croaking and said, "Once a Des Frog is successfully tribute summoned, I get to special summon a Des Frog from my deck to the field for every T.A.D.P.O.L.E. card is in my grave!" Ryuu grunted as a new frog jumped from Kawazu's deck to the field, all three frogs happily jumping together. "So that's why you tricked me into attacking your monster!" he said angrily, glaring at his opponent. "I wasn't expecting to draw my Evolution Cycle magic card, but my initial plan was to get all three Des Frogs on the field, and now they're here!" A card in Kawazu's hand started to glow, as all three of the Des Frogs lined up in a row. Derek vaguely remembered this sort of play and finally realized Kawazu's final assault. "Ryuu, if he plays a certain magic card, it's all over!" he called to his friend. Kawazu, ignoring what Derek said, raised his card and placed it into the slot. "I play Des Croaking! This powerful magic card destroys ALL cards on your field, but it can only be activated with all three Des Frogs on the field!"

"No it can't be!" gasped Ryuu as he started shivering, "You planned this all along!" Kawazu nodded his head and laughed, but Ryuu stood still with his head down. "It's over!" he said as his frogs glared at Ryuu. "Wait just a second..." yelled Ryuu, interrupting Kawazu's play. "You didn't let me finish..." he paused a minute, and raised his head, smirking. "You planned this...but I had plans too!" Derek and Sayiko gave a sigh of relief as Kawazu became nervous. "You're bluffing! I don't believe you!" he screamed furiously, his heart beating fast. Ryuu looked behind him to see Froggy cower in fear. He smiled and picked him up onto his shoulder; if it wasn't for him, no one would have told him Kawazu's move at the last minute! "I'm afraid not Kawazu, I activate a trap, and not just any trap, It's called Seal of the Forbidden Spell, and what it does is negate your spell card as long as I discard a spell from my hand!" Ryuu sent Fissure to the grave, and all of the frogs on the field settled down, while Kawazu started cursing loudly. "You may have escaped this time, but there are still two more Des Croaking I can use!" said Kawazu after finally settling down. Ryuu started laughing this time, his companion happily croaking his cheerful tune on his shoulder. "Don't you get it? When Seal of the Forbidden Spell is activated, the magic card I negated is no longer allowed to be played!"

"No, it can't be!" gasped Kawazu as a giant seal formed around his feet. Derek cheered loudly for his best friend while Sayiko stood there amazed; this sort of thing wasn't really expected by Ryuu. "I can't believe he actually sent Kawazu's combo crashing down...I even have trouble with that move." Derek turned to Sayiko and smiled. "That's my best friend for ya! He's full of surprises! Even for me!" Derek continued cheering while Sayiko joined him, a proud look striking across Ryuu's face. "What are you two cheering about?! Don't you know that the damage I'll cause in my battle phase is just enough to finish this game?!" said Kawazu, his face changing to his usual grin. Derek and Sayiko stopped cheering, but Ryuu continued to wear his triumphant look. "Then attack Kawazu! Give me what you got!" he ordered, his friends standing at the side lines, confused. Kawazu thought Ryuu was bluffing, or that he wanted the game to be finished with. Finally, he gave an uneasy look and said, "Fine, I'll attack you! Go Des Frog! Show D.D. Assailant what you're made of!" One of the frogs gave a loud croak before lashing its tongue towards D.D. Assailant. Ryuu braced himself and said, "Not so fast, Kawazu! I play my trap Sakuretsu Armor! It destroys any attacking monster during the battle phase! Especially that Des Frog of yours!"

Spikes formed from the armor of D.D. Assailant, sticking through Des Frog's tongue. She gripped the

long tongue with both hands, pulling with all her might, sending the giant frog flying right towards her. She pulled out her long sword and stuck it out in front of Des Frog's path, the giant amphibian slicing through her blade, and then disappearing. "You may have stopped my first attack, but here comes my next attack! Finish off D.D. Assailant for good this time!" ordered Kawazu. The second frog gave a louder croak than the last frog, right before lashing out its longer tongue. D.D. Assailant jumped, attempting to dodge it, but the tongue retreated back to Des Frog's mouth. Finally, the frog gave out a painfully loud croak, forcing D.D. Assailant to cover her ears. After several seconds, D.D. Assailant could not take any more and ran towards Des Frog, latching onto its body once she reached Kawazu's field. She concentrated hard, closing her eyes, and opened a portal. In a desperate, ill-fated attempt in bringing down Des Frog, she threw Des Frog into the portal, jumping in along with it. "Of course, how could I forget your D.D. Assailant's special ability?" mumbled Kawazu miserably as Ryuu's LP count went down to 3800. He paused for a moment and remembered his final monster left on his field. "But I still have one last attack! Now, Des Frog! Put Ryuu in his place!" The frog gave out the loudest croak out of the three and lashed its tongue towards Ryuu.

Ryuu was knocked off his feet once the long tongue made contact, his LP count lowering down to 1900. "One more attack from my Des Frog and your finished!" said Kawazu smugly. Ryuu stood back up, wiping the slop from his face. "I won't give you the chance, Kawazu!" He drew his card and held it to his hand. "Get ready! Because I'm playing the spell Brain Control! First, I pay 800 LPs to activate this card! Now I can control your monster until the end of the turn!" Froggy started to happily fly around Ryuu's body, singing his cheerful tune. "What's the big deal, there's not enough damage you can deal with my monster!" Ignoring this remark, Ryuu continued his play, his LP count going down to 1100. "Now I'll be taking your Des Frog!" he said, and as he spoke, dark, shady hands rose from his deck, shooting towards Kawazu's monster and grabbing it, sending it to Ryuu's field. "Don't worry about your precious frog! Worry about my monster, Cybernetic Magician\*att:2400/def:1000\*!" Kawazu gasped a second time, while Derek and Sayiko started cheering. "I sacrifice your Des Frog, for my Cybernetic Magician in attack mode!" Energy swirled round Kawazu's monster, engulfing it in a bright light. The light cleared after several minutes, and a magician with blonde hair wearing white robes and holding a small staff walked towards the center of the field. Kawazu stared into the cold, blue eyes of the creature in front of him and slowly backed away. "There's no escape, Kawazu! Now, Cybernetic Magician, finish Kawazu once and for all!" yelled Ryuu. Cybernetic Magician jumped into the air, the orb on his staff glowing, and pointed his staff straight at Kawazu, a stream of energy pouring into his body. Kawazu's LP count went down to 0, and the game was over.

"No! You cheated! You must have!" yelled Kawazu furiously. Both Derek and Sayiko ran to Ryuu' side, holding him up after collapsing from exhaustion. "You did awesome buddy!" said Derek cheerfully, lightly slapping his friend awake. Sayiko smiled, yet struggling to hold him up, and said, "A little too well, are you sure you didn't cheat?" Sayiko started covering her hands over her mouth to prevent herself from laughing, accidentally dropping him. She held him Ryuu back onto his feet, and finally stood, a little wobbly, but he managed to keep from falling. "I have to admit Kawazu..." he said muttering, "that duel really took a lot out of me...it was a good game." Kawazu walked towards Ryuu and pushed him back onto his bottom. "Shut up, you dueling reject! I don't wanna hear it from someone like you!" He said bitterly, and then walked off to class. He looked at the clock and noticed that first period was already over. "Kawazu! Ryuu!" called out a voice from the school entrance. Both Kawazu and Ryuu immediately turned their heads to face the principal. "Oh man, we are in so much trouble!"

"You will be, Kawazu! That is, of course, if you AND Ryuu get to my office immediately!!" He turned his

back and walked towards the school office and into his own office. Ryuu looked to his friends, and got up, trailing along with Kawazu behind the principal, leaving Froggy to continue singing. Both Kawazu and Ryuu sat down in the chair in front of the principal's desk. "I'd like to have a word with you..." he said, putting away some papers marked "Transfer". "It appears that the duelists in the school are skipping the school's classes to duel." he slammed his fists on the desk, glaring at the two children in front of him. "May I remind you, that this is NOT a dueling school!!" he calmed himself down, and sat back down, taking out different papers marked "Transfer" and started filling it out. "Which is why we have developed a new program a while back to get rid of these duelists..." Both Kawazu's and Ryuu's heart sank, they were miserably awaiting the announcement of their expulsion. "Here's how it works: We carefully examine our students, picking out the strongest duelists. Once we have found our duelist, we transfer them."

"To where?" asked Kawazu, surprised he wasn't kicked out yet. The principal took out the other marked paper, and held out both of them for them to see. "Once we find the strongest duelist, we send them to the prestige dueling school of Duel Academy." Both Kawazu's and Ryuu's spirits rose, their eyes gleaming at the papers. "But wait, I have a few questions. First, why do you want me?" asked Ryuu. "Well, you weren't very fresh off the list...but over the past couple days, you seem to have proven me wrong. Plus, considering the current situation you have with your brother, you will be needing a real place to stay, and Duel Academy is a boarding school." Remembering his brother, Ryuu was ready to ask his second question. "About that, why wasn't my brother transferred? Didn't everybody know he was the best?" he asked as Kawazu started glaring at him. The principal sighed and said, "Yes, your brother was a fine example, smart, athletic, and a whiz at dueling...unfortunately, he turned the offer down. I believe he was too busy taking care of you." After hearing this, Ryuu lowered his head. After all that happened to them, it was his brother's big break of becoming a great champion, but he turned it down, just for him. "At first," he said after finally putting the papers down, "Sayiko was a top candidate for the transfer. Then you actually made your way to the top. Our next decision was Kawazu, but after watching the duel, I believe Ryuu stepped up in the ranks."

"Wait, you were watching our duel?!" asked Kawazu furiously, keeping in mind that Ryuu was the only thing in his way from achieving an ultimate school year. "Yes, and because I do feel that there is you may be able to go far, I have decided to send both of you to Duel Academy. Kawazu will not be needing an exam." he said as Kawazu's face started beaming. "That is because our staff has agreed he is a shoe in for Obelisk Blue, and the chancellor has agreed as well. Ryuu, however, you will need a dueling exam to determine which rank you belong in." Ryuu couldn't believe that he would have to leave his friends behind. He stood up from his chair, outraged. "Now hold up! I'm not going anywhere without my friends, Derek and Sayiko! If they don't go, I don't go! It isn't fair for Sayiko not to go just because of me! And Derek is an awesome duelist, he's always been there for me!" The principal starred into Ryuu's eyes, they were both glaring at each other. "Now listen here, Ryuu! It is my decision, why should I transfer your friends?!" he asked. Ryuu sat back down, giving an almost menacing grin, crossing his arms. "Fine, give up a perfectly opportunity to get rid of FOUR dueling students!"

Later that night, Ryuu was already undressed for bed. He went up towards Sayiko's door and knocked on it, remembering last time. "Thank goodness you knocked, come in!" called her muffled voice through the door. She was reading a book called "Seto's Achievements", lying on her bed. She looked up and saw her friend slowly creeping into the room, apparently he wasn't over the amount of numerous posters in the room. He sat down at the end of the bed, trying to keep his eyes off the different designs of the dozens of posters. "So what happened, are suspended or something? I was afraid you get expelled,

considering the principal is an old wart who doesn't know how to have fun..." she asked, returning to her book. Ryu happily nodded his head. "Well, I'm not going to be expelled, but I'm going to be transferred. So are you, Derek, and even Kawazu..." he said, ready to see the look on her face. She looked back up from her book, staring at Ryu. "Where are we going?" she asked, her hands trembling while holding her book. "We're all going to Duel Academy!"

Well, what can I say? I wanted our friends to meet up with Jaden and the gang eventually, so I guess heading on over to the famous Duel Academy was the best way. Didn't think your own character would end up in DA in this fanfic, huh SetoAngel? XD! Which reminds me; anyone who wants to be in the fanfic, just say so ^\_^! I could always use a few OC's, and even if you have an OC of your own, I could always use that too. Anyway, we may get to say hi to the GX gang, but there's way more ahead for our friends than the sacred beasts. Hehe, you'll just have to wait 'till the timing is right! Hope you guys liked it.

## 4 - Test of Fate

The sounds of laughter echoed throughout the darkness, getting louder and louder. "I'm tired of this! Who are you?!?" yelled Ryuu, his amphibian companion shivering at his shoulder. "Aww, the poor baby misses his brother..." said a woman's voice, cold and tauntingly. "Show yourself you cowards!!" he screamed, his heart swallowed in fear. "No need to get testy, little Ryuu..." said the voice again, this time getting closer. Ryuu backed away slowly, trying to find an escape. "How do you know my name?! Who are you?!" he asked, his heart sinking. Fingers started tenderly stroking his face from behind him, the laughter coming from behind him, as well. "Why don't you relax a bit...?" she said, soothingly. He swatted her hands away from his face and started running, yet no matter how much he ran, it seemed he was going no where. Froggy flew off his shoulder and tried to beckon away the voices around him, but looking back, Ryuu saw that he was being grabbed by a single hand, sticking out of the shadows. "You insolent, little beast! How dare you get in my way!!" she said, throwing Froggy away like garbage. Ryuu ran back, jumping up, trying to catch him. "You leave him alone!!" ordered Ryuu, holding Froggy tight in his arms. A woman, the one who's hand had been sticking out, had appeared before him. She had long, blue hair, her eyes surrounded by dark red make-up. She was wearing a black and red gown, holding a large staff the size of Ryuu himself.

"Look at him, thinking he's so tough! It's too cute..." she said, and started laughing as Ryuu cowered in fear. He closed his eyes, holding his friend tight, never letting go. A crash was heard next to him, and he could feel the presences of something large near him. He opened his eyes, gazing upon a rather large ax, slammed right beside him. Two hands were holding on to the handle, even more laughter behind the ax. "I HATE CUTE!!" yelled a voice as the ax raised into the air. Ryuu got up and ran, but bumped into the woman in front of her. "There's no escape, little Ryuu..." she said, a smirk crossing her face.

"Please...leave me alone...Why do you haunt me...?" he broke into tears, falling to pieces at her very feet. The woman started to pat him on the head, looking towards the spot where the ax remained. She nodded her head, and continued to laugh, uncontrollably "YOU BELONG TO US NOW!!!!" yelled the voice from nowhere, the ax just inches away from Ryuu's back as the hands swung it at him.

The alarm clock rang, reading 5:00 a.m. Ryuu immediately sat up, his heart pounding violently against his chest. Beads of sweat streamed down his hair, Froggy on the counter looking frightened. Whatever happened, Froggy felt it too, and that meant something was truly after him. He got undressed and into the shower, washing away any trace of sweat, the warm water soothing his nerves. There was a knock on the bathroom door, the sound of Sayiko's voice coming through it. "Hey Ryuu, I have some news for you!" Ryuu, feeling uncomfortable speaking to someone while he was in the shower, covered himself, actually believing she could see him. "Can it please wait? I'm sort of busy." he asked, lathering his hair in shampoo. "It's from the hospital! They say your brother is fine, he just needs some rest. They also sent over his deck they gathered from his room; they decided you should hold on to it!" Ryuu nearly forgot all about his brother; with things like the exam today, his current duels, and even his dreams, it was as if nothing ever happened to him. Yet something did happen to his brother, and now he had to watch over his deck. Jason's deck had a theme of Darkworld cards; a tribe of fiends that came from a realm called the Darkworld. With cards to force the opponent into discarding his monsters, he could easily use their effects once they were discarded.

"Of course..." she said, Ryuu feeling the smirk behind the door, "I could always get rid of it...or maybe even use it myself! I mean, the best duelist in school lost his cards, and here they are, right in MY possession..." Ryuu immediately rinsed his hair, turning off the water. He wrapped himself with a towel,



and got out of the shower, grabbing the deck away from Sayiko. What he didn't know, was that Sayiko could see him blushing from being half-naked. "I can't believe the day has come, buddy!" he said excitedly, talking to Froggy as he covered his eyes while Ryuu got dressed. "I'm gonna become just as good as my brother!" he said happily, finally putting some clothes on. "I wouldn't be too sure! Now that he doesn't need to take care of you, he could head to Duel Academy too as soon as he gets better!" yelled Sayiko through the door. "But...he's too old to be in that school, he can't stay in a high school at age 18!" he called back, hoping Sayiko couldn't add anymore. "Yea, but he agreed to be the new Slifer Red teacher as soon as he got better!" she said, teasingly, already imagining the expression on his face...

"Are you all packed?" asked Ryuu as he stood by the door, holding a suitcase. Sayiko came walking down the stairs, holding two suitcases. "Lemme guess, one of those suitcases has a bunch of Kaiba merchandise?" he asked. Sayiko nodded her head and placed the bags into his arms. "Hey, why do I have to carry YOUR things?!" he asked furiously. "Because your a gentleman, and it would only be polite to carry my things..." she said, holding back from giggling. Ryuu tried to hold up all three bags, but eventually they got too heavy for him, and he dropped all of them on the ground. "Or maybe it's because you're lazy..." he muttered after giving a huge sigh, having to pick up all of the bags. The sound of a car horn was honking outside the driveway, waiting for Ryuu and Sayiko. "That's the cab! Come on, we're gonna be late!" she said, while Ryuu struggled to carry all three bags. Both he and Sayiko entered in the car, joining Derek to the town stadium for the exam. "So what deck did you bring Derek?" asked Ryuu, rubbing his sore arms. Derek looked out the window chuckled. "Well, I decided to choose a deck called Ceremonial Mayhem! How about you?" Ryuu took out his deck and admired his very cards. "I sorta call it the Yugi Motto approach: Just a simple deck, but most of my cards help my strongest monsters out!" It was true that most of his strategies were based off of getting his strongest monsters onto the field. Whether it was his Sakuretsu Armor, or even Froggy, his best monsters would always pop up, but there was one thing that others didn't know about his deck. Ryuu had a series of cards that belonged to the Monarchs. Monarch cards were the kings of certain elements, each with a unique ability, only activated once they were summoned. "I can't wait to get there! How do you think they examine us?" asked Ryuu, his little friend croaking in his ear. "I heard that they have some staff duel you with an exam deck..." replied Derek, continuing to look out the window. "We're almost there you guys! I can't wait!" said Sayiko excitedly. The car pulled into the parking lot, the driver pulling out all of the suitcases and carrying them into the stadium. Sayiko, Ryuu, and Derek trailed along behind the driver into the stadium. Ryuu paid the driver and bid him farewell, walking in, and sitting in the seats surrounding the stadium. Apparently, they had stumbled upon the middle of a duel between one of the staff, and a girl. Judging by the looks of her, she was about the same age as Ryuu and his friends. The girl had long, wavy, blue hair and light, tan skin. The duel was not in her favor; The staff had 1400 LPs with a card called Blade Knight \*att:1600/def:1000\* on the field, while she had 300 LPs with nothing on the field. "It's my move" she said, drawing her card. "And I activate the field spell Umi!" As she spoke, the field became flooded with water. "Now I summon Amphibious Bugroth MK-3! \*att:1500/def:1200\*" A giant machine in the shape of a frog with two jets on it's back rose from the water.

"When Umi is on the field, my monster's special ability activates, where I can attack your LPs directly!" The staff backed away slowly, while two missiles fired from the bottom of its stomach. The missiles exploded at the staff's feet, his LPs went down to 0, and the game was over. The girl jumped off of the stadium and headed for the seats, enjoying her victory. She looked towards the seats near the entrance to see three unfamiliar faces. She walked towards the seats and plopped herself right next to Ryuu, tugging at his arm. "Hi! My name is Sui!" she said lovingly. Ryuu looked at his friends to see them holding back from laughing. "Uh...hi...my name is Ryuu..." he said uneasily, blushing. Sui started to blush just as much as Ryuu, and started giggling. "Uh...is there something I can do for you?" he asked,

anxiously waiting to get onto the stage. "Maybe..." she said, her eyes never leaving him for one second. "Well then why...Oooh...oh boy..." Ryuu started turning red from embarrassment, his friends laughing their heads off. "Next up! Ryuu Kakushin!" called out one of the staff. Ryuu quickly stood up and ran as fast as he could onto the stadium. He scurried down the stair, climbed onto the stadium, and faced his opponent. "You're deck for the exam will be tested by the Token Monsters deck!" he said taking out one of his decks from the suitcase and placing it into the duel disk. "all right then! Let's duel!"

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“Ah...I see...not bad.” said the staff, obviously impressed with a move not even he knew. “Now that I have a monster on my field, I have a tribute for my monster, Thestalos The Firestorm Monarch \*att:2400/def:1000\*!!” Ryu said, sending his monster to the grave. Suddenly, Ryu’s monster was surrounded by flames, a loud shout coming from the center. Soon, the flames dimmed, and a man in red armor jumped out of the fire. The staff had noticed that the fire Ryu’s creature jumped out of had remained on the field, yet was shrinking to the size of his palms. “What is your monster doing...?” he asked nervously, noticing Thestalos pick up the miniature flame. “Just one of my monarch’s special ability; once Thestalos is successfully normal summoned, I get to choose one card in your hand and discard it!” Ryu looked carefully into his opponent’s hand, while Thestalos was tossing the fire from hand to hand. “I’ll pick...the card on the far right!!” he yelled. Thestalos was done playing with his fireball, and threw it as hard as he could towards one of the opponent’s cards. The staff’s hand started to burn, and he quickly sent that card straight to the graveyard. Ryu was curious on what card it was, and asked, “Do you mind telling me what card you sent to the graveyard?” The staff picked the card up for Ryu to see. “This is a magic card called Token Thanksgiving, why do you ask?”

A smirk crossed Ryu’s face, and the staff didn’t trust this look at all. “I activate the spell Double Spell!! By discarding one spell card from my hand, I can use a spell from your graveyard!!” The staff gasped as the magic card in his graveyard started to glow. Sui on the other hand was cheering from the sidelines, while Derek and Sayiko wondered what Ryu would go to the trouble of using the card for himself. Sui noticed the looks on their faces and smiled. “Don’t you guys know what Token Thanksgiving does? It’s like Token Feastevil, except you gain Life Points once the tokens are destroyed for 800 each!” Sui started cheering for Ryu while Derek and Sayiko were amazed. “But that would leave the opponent defenseless, AND give Ryu the edge!!” said Derek with a grin on his face. “That was really risky...had he accidentally discarded the wrong card, he might have lost...Way to play it safe, Ryu!!” called out Sayiko after all the sheep tokens on the opponents side of the field have blown up. Ryu was almost flattered by his friend’s comments and couldn’t help holding back a smile. “Yea well...what can you expect from a token deck...he must have about 3 in his deck...” he said, blushing, his frog friend floating around his body. Ryu’s LP counter reached to a huge number of 5500. “Now then,” he said, his monster bursting into flames, “Thestalos, attack with Scorching Monarch Melee!!!” Thestalos jumped up and dove down towards Ryu’s opponent, punching him hard in the stomach, his clothes nearly catching on fire. His LP counter lowered down to 1600 hundred, and the staff was knocked down. “It’s your move!!” said Ryu ending his turn. The staff raised himself up and smiled, then surprisingly, he started clapping. “Very good, Ryu Kakushin. This exam is over, and I am pleased to say that you have passed with flying colors...” Ryu was confused as everyone else in the room; Sui on the other hand couldn’t help from running up the stage and hugging Ryu as the cards on the field disappeared. “Wait...I didn’t win...” he said, ignoring the fact he could not breathe from Sui’s hugging. The staff headed down the stairs and put away his deck. “It’s not about winning. I gave you every single assault my deck could give. You countered my trap, destroyed my defenses, and even brought up your Life Points while at the same time lowering mine. What I liked best of all was that you depended mostly on heart...you trusted your instincts and it lead you to victory...I have a feeling you will make a great Duel Academy student as Obelisk Blue...” Ryu’s spirits rose and Froggy started croaking wildly, his heart filled with joy for his best friend. “I’m gonna be in Obelisk Blue?! That’s awesome!!!” Both Derek and Sayiko ran up to join Ryu, Sui still crushing his lungs. “That’s the same dorm as I’m going to be in...” said Sui lovingly, her arms wrapped tight around his waist. Ryu sighed and looked at her,

“Oh...good...” The staff shook Ryu’s hand and smiled. “Of course, there is still the WRITTEN exam...” he said, holding back from laughing. Ryu thought for a moment and lowered his head in disappointment. “Oh no.....”

## 4 - Test of Fate

The sounds of laughter echoed throughout the darkness, getting louder and louder. "I'm tired of this! Who are you?!?" yelled Ryuu, his amphibian companion shivering at his shoulder. "Aww, the poor baby misses his brother..." said a woman's voice, cold and tauntingly. "Show yourself you cowards!!" he screamed, his heart swallowed in fear. "No need to get testy, little Ryuu..." said the voice again, this time getting closer. Ryuu backed away slowly, trying to find an escape. "How do you know my name?! Who are you?!" he asked, his heart sinking. Fingers started tenderly stroking his face from behind him, the laughter coming from behind him, as well. "Why don't you relax a bit...?" she said, soothingly. He swatted her hands away from his face and started running, yet no matter how much he ran, it seemed he was going no where. Froggy flew off his shoulder and tried to beckon away the voices around him, but looking back, Ryuu saw that he was being grabbed by a single hand, sticking out of the shadows. "You insolent, little beast! How dare you get in my way!!" she said, throwing Froggy away like garbage. Ryuu ran back, jumping up, trying to catch him. "You leave him alone!!" ordered Ryuu, holding Froggy tight in his arms. A woman, the one who's hand had been sticking out, had appeared before him. She had long, blue hair, her eyes surrounded by dark red make-up. She was wearing a black and red gown, holding a large staff the size of Ryuu himself.

"Look at him, thinking he's so tough! It's too cute..." she said, and started laughing as Ryuu cowered in fear. He closed his eyes, holding his friend tight, never letting go. A crash was heard next to him, and he could feel the presences of something large near him. He opened his eyes, gazing upon a rather large ax, slammed right beside him. Two hands were holding on to the handle, even more laughter behind the ax. "I HATE CUTE!!" yelled a voice as the ax raised into the air. Ryuu got up and ran, but bumped into the woman in front of her. "There's no escape, little Ryuu..." she said, a smirk crossing her face.

"Please...leave me alone...Why do you haunt me...?" he broke into tears, falling to pieces at her very feet. The woman started to pat him on the head, looking towards the spot where the ax remained. She nodded her head, and continued to laugh, uncontrollably "YOU BELONG TO US NOW!!!!" yelled the voice from nowhere, the ax just inches away from Ryuu's back as the hands swung it at him.

The alarm clock rang, reading 5:00 a.m. Ryuu immediately sat up, his heart pounding violently against his chest. Beads of sweat streamed down his hair, Froggy on the counter looking frightened. Whatever happened, Froggy felt it too, and that meant something was truly after him. He got undressed and into the shower, washing away any trace of sweat, the warm water soothing his nerves. There was a knock on the bathroom door, the sound of Sayiko's voice coming through it. "Hey Ryuu, I have some news for you!" Ryuu, feeling uncomfortable speaking to someone while he was in the shower, covered himself, actually believing she could see him. "Can it please wait? I'm sort of busy." he asked, lathering his hair in shampoo. "It's from the hospital! They say your brother is fine, he just needs some rest. They also sent over his deck they gathered from his room; they decided you should hold on to it!" Ryuu nearly forgot all about his brother; with things like the exam today, his current duels, and even his dreams, it was as if nothing ever happened to him. Yet something did happen to his brother, and now he had to watch over his deck. Jason's deck had a theme of Darkworld cards; a tribe of fiends that came from a realm called the Darkworld. With cards to force the opponent into discarding his monsters, he could easily use their effects once they were discarded.

"Of course..." she said, Ryuu feeling the smirk behind the door, "I could always get rid of it...or maybe even use it myself! I mean, the best duelist in school lost his cards, and here they are, right in MY possession..." Ryuu immediately rinsed his hair, turning off the water. He wrapped himself with a towel,

and got out of the shower, grabbing the deck away from Sayiko. What he didn't know, was that Sayiko could see him blushing from being half-naked. "I can't believe the day has come, buddy!" he said excitedly, talking to Froggy as he covered his eyes while Ryuu got dressed. "I'm gonna become just as good as my brother!" he said happily, finally putting some clothes on. "I wouldn't be too sure! Now that he doesn't need to take care of you, he could head to Duel Academy too as soon as he gets better!" yelled Sayiko through the door. "But...he's too old to be in that school, he can't stay in a high school at age 18!" he called back, hoping Sayiko couldn't add anymore. "Yea, but he agreed to be the new Slifer Red teacher as soon as he got better!" she said, teasingly, already imagining the expression on his face...

"Are you all packed?" asked Ryuu as he stood by the door, holding a suitcase. Sayiko came walking down the stairs, holding two suitcases. "Lemme guess, one of those suitcases has a bunch of Kaiba merchandise?" he asked. Sayiko nodded her head and placed the bags into his arms. "Hey, why do I have to carry YOUR things?!" he asked furiously. "Because your a gentleman, and it would only be polite to carry my things..." she said, holding back from giggling. Ryuu tried to hold up all three bags, but eventually they got too heavy for him, and he dropped all of them on the ground. "Or maybe it's because you're lazy..." he muttered after giving a huge sigh, having to pick up all of the bags. The sound of a car horn was honking outside the driveway, waiting for Ryuu and Sayiko. "That's the cab! Come on, we're gonna be late!" she said, while Ryuu struggled to carry all three bags. Both he and Sayiko entered in the car, joining Derek to the town stadium for the exam. "So what deck did you bring Derek?" asked Ryuu, rubbing his sore arms. Derek looked out the window chuckled. "Well, I decided to choose a deck called Ceremonial Mayhem! How about you?" Ryuu took out his deck and admired his very cards. "I sorta call it the Yugi Motto approach: Just a simple deck, but most of my cards help my strongest monsters out!" It was true that most of his strategies were based off of getting his strongest monsters onto the field. Whether it was his Sakuretsu Armor, or even Froggy, his best monsters would always pop up, but there was one thing that others didn't know about his deck. Ryuu had a series of cards that belonged to the Monarchs. Monarch cards were the kings of certain elements, each with a unique ability, only activated once they were summoned. "I can't wait to get there! How do you think they examine us?" asked Ryuu, his little friend croaking in his ear. "I heard that they have some staff duel you with an exam deck..." replied Derek, continuing to look out the window. "We're almost there you guys! I can't wait!" said Sayiko excitedly. The car pulled into the parking lot, the driver pulling out all of the suitcases and carrying them into the stadium. Sayiko, Ryuu, and Derek trailed along behind the driver into the stadium. Ryuu paid the driver and bid him farewell, walking in, and sitting in the seats surrounding the stadium. Apparently, they had stumbled upon the middle of a duel between one of the staff, and a girl. Judging by the looks of her, she was about the same age as Ryuu and his friends. The girl had long, wavy, blue hair and light, tan skin. The duel was not in her favor; The staff had 1400 LPs with a card called Blade Knight \*att:1600/def:1000\* on the field, while she had 300 LPs with nothing on the field. "It's my move" she said, drawing her card. "And I activate the field spell Umi!" As she spoke, the field became flooded with water. "Now I summon Amphibious Bugroth MK-3! \*att:1500/def:1200\*" A giant machine in the shape of a frog with two jets on it's back rose from the water.

"When Umi is on the field, my monster's special ability activates, where I can attack your LPs directly!" The staff backed away slowly, while two missiles fired from the bottom of its stomach. The missiles exploded at the staff's feet, his LPs went down to 0, and the game was over. The girl jumped off of the stadium and headed for the seats, enjoying her victory. She looked towards the seats near the entrance to see three unfamiliar faces. She walked towards the seats and plopped herself right next to Ryuu, tugging at his arm. "Hi! My name is Sui!" she said lovingly. Ryuu looked at his friends to see them holding back from laughing. "Uh...hi...my name is Ryuu..." he said uneasily, blushing. Sui started to blush just as much as Ryuu, and started giggling. "Uh...is there something I can do for you?" he asked,

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