

# Hospital Life

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*A story of a few chraraters I have made. One based off of myself! \*if pics arent up yet, then they should be in a little while\**

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# 1 - Let's Play Doctor

## Let's Play Doctor

The white florescent lights flicked as the doctor walked down the long hallway leading out of the emergency room waiting area. He bounced with every step, eager to get out. He brushed a strand of purple hair from in front of his yellow eyes as he stared down at his watch that lay on his pale white skin. "11:45 pm" He flicked his tongue in his mouth, playing with the lip ring he had gotten earlier that morning. He scratched behind his downward pointed ears, lightly jingling the four silver hoops that hang from them. "And I was suppose to get off at 10," the doctor said, removing the name-tag from his shirt that read `Seda'. "Sometimes I think working in the emergency room wasn't exactly a promotion."

Though Seda was only 22, he has been a certified doctor from the age of 15. He had been a child prodigy from 4 years old, after reading one of his father's old doctor's manuals from when he thought he would be able to become a doctor and support his small, poor family. Seda had never spoken before, that is if you don't count words like "no", "bye", "happy", and "stupid". His father was so surprised that his child was able to ask him that when performing a heart transfusion, where did the `downer; heart came from.

Seda sighed as he got into his car and turned the key, which created the low vibrating sound of the engine as he backed out of the staff parking lot. "Guess I'm going to the party as a doctor." Some 15 minutes later, Seda arrived at the front door of his friend's house. He could hear loud rock music pounding though the door and already knew the Halloween party had started out strong without him. Seda pushed his finger against the button and prayed that someone heard it ring. A few seconds later, a guy with brown eyes answered the door, though you couldn't truly see him, since he was wrapped in toilet paper. "Seda! You made it!" the man said with a small bit of movement where his mouth was under the wrapping. "Wouldn't miss it," Seda said with a slight chuckle. "See you came as yourself this year"

"Sorry, didn't have time to change, it was hectic at the hospital tonight... like every Halloween."

"Don't just stand there, come in! The party is going great this year, a lot more than last year," the toilet paper man said as he let Seda pass him by into the large group of costumed partiers. Seda was speechless for a moment as he looked amongst the crowd, "you weren't kidding."

There were many people at the party, drinking, dancing, kissing, all in all having a good time. Except for one girl. She has baby blue hair that was tied up in a pony tail and she scanned the room with her pink eyes. Her name was Jade. She was never too good with large crowds, especially groups of people she wasn't familiar with. She maneuvered her way through a group of dancers as she held onto the nurse hat she had bought a few days ago to go with the short white dress she wore as a costume. The party had gotten a little out of control and as luck would have it, Jade was shoved by a dancer and slipped, landing left elbow first on a beer bottle. The brown bottle busted and sent pieces of glass into her soft pale skin. "Stupid beer bottle," Jade mumbled as she cupped her hand over her wound. Jade

could feel the sharp chunks of glass digging further into her skin as warm blood dripped from her between her fingers. "Ow! I'm bleeding!" Jade shouted as she cringed at the sight of her own blood. This caught Seda's attention. Seda turned and saw a girl dressed as a nurse with blue hair, holding her elbow, and the deep red blood was very visible, even in the dark. Seda could see the girl was in serious pain; her pointed ears were twitching, ears like Seda's. The pointed ears that had been outlawed because of un-sanitary operating procedures 3 years ago, but now were back in action. "Excuse me, do you need help?" Seda asked as he lightly tapped on Jade's shoulder. Jade was shocked when she turned to face Seda, so dark looking, but so beautiful in his own way. Jade's face was flushed with a red blush. Who knew a doctor would really be in the house? And a cute one too...

## 2 - Winter Is Colder Than You Think

### Winter Is Colder Than You Think

It was a cold, and brisk winter's night. Seda and Jade approached the town bridge that lead over the river that divided the urban area with the city. "Did it hurt?" Seda asked. "Did what hurt?" Jade replied. "When you got your ears done, I've been meaning to ask you," Seda said as he turned, looking at his girlfriend... wearing his grey zip-up jacket and a pink scarf he bought for her. "Not really much. When they did it, it killed of most of my nerves in my ears, so I couldn't really feel much of anything. Shouldn't you know? I mean, your ears are artificially pointed too," she said, reaching her hand out to grab Seda's. "Nah, I did them myself. I wanted to get them done so bad... but I never trusted people who stick scalpels in my face. And unlike most people with pointy ears, I can still feel them," Seda said with a slight laugh. Seda did have an impressive ability to perform surgery on his own body, though that doesn't mean he has gotten much surgery. He was a valuable source of information on how the human brain can be experiencing severe pain, yet at the same time be able to perform the most complicated procedures. Which was another reason Seda was able to get his degree so early in life. "Quite skilled I see," Jade said with a kind smirk.

All of a sudden, Seda turned and jumped up onto a pillar that was the shortest part of the bridge, about 3 feet off the ground. "Come on up," Seda said as he offered his hand to Jade. She looked at him questionably for a moment. "Are you sure? I mean, I don't want to fall," Jade said nervously. "You won't fall," Seda said with such confidence in his voice, "I promise." Jade just couldn't resist him. She never could, even when they first met at the Halloween party a few months earlier. Jade's skirt blew in the cold wind. She looked up at her love, his sweet smile that was so reassuring, it melted Jade's heart every time she saw him smile like that. She then placed her hand in Seda's as he swiftly pulled her up; his movement was so gentle, but so strong at the same time. Jade was partly surprised at the sudden motion, but was able to place her feet firmly on the concrete slab. But, as Jade's luck, she accidentally took a step back and tripped off, heading for the icy cold river below. Just as soon as Jade had time to realized what was about to happen, she felt a warm hand wrapped around her wrist and herself being suspended by her arm. She watched the cool blue waves cash against the red steel bars that held the bridge above the flowing water. Her breath was harsh and came out of her mouth in small puffs. She turned her view upwards and saw Seda holding her up. "See," he said kindly, "I promised you wouldn't fall."

Some fifteen minuets later, Seda and Jade have been walking along the railing of the bridge. As they neared the center, which was marked by a large brick covered beam, they saw signs of two cars coming from both different ways. Seda pulled Jade closed to him as he lay against the brick. The cars stopped facing each other just past where Seda and Jade where. "What's tha-" Jade started, but was cut off when Seda placed his hand over her mouth. "Shh.." Seda turned his head and looked over to see what was going on. Some men walked out of the cars and faced each other. They had harsh looks on their faces and their clothing was like those of the usual modern gang-bangers. Their voices started low, but it soon grew into shouting. "Gangs," Seda said, "there's a chance there might be a fight." "We better leave," Jade said as she pulled Seda's hand from her mouth. They both looked down at the 15 foot

drop. Jade was very hesitant, but Seda quickly jumped down and landed quietly on his feet. It was easy to tell Seda had done things like this a lot before. Jade still stood up on the ledge and looked down at Seda. A loud click sound was heard soon after Seda landed. "Hurry," Seda said in a barely audible whisper, "I think this is going to be a lot worse than I first hoped. Jump, I'll catch you." Suddenly, many loud gunshots were heard coming from the gangs. "JUMP!" Seda shouted, not caring whether the gangs knew of his presence or not. Jade quickly obeyed and jumped down. All was silent and seemed to several minutes instead of a split second as Jade was falling, but one soft, echoing shot was heard, before Jade landed in Seda's arms. Seda smiled weakly, as he held Jade, but his smile faded as he felt Jade limp. Seda looked into her eyes and saw that her once bright and exuberant eyes had suddenly grown dull and had a small, white gleam that covered them. "Jade?" Seda questioned. All he could hear was a harsh breathing and small coughing coming from her body that was quickly losing its warmth. "JADE!" A pool of blood began to gather underneath the couple.

Some would call it Grand-Theft-Auto, but what else could you do if your love was dying? In a matter of minutes, Seda had arrived at the emergency room of the hospital, with Jade's life forces withering away in his arms. "Seda? What the?" said the nurse at the front desk. "Get me a medical bed, stat!" Seda shouted. Though it wasn't his shift, and he wasn't in uniform, all the medical personnel obeyed him without hesitation. "Seda, what happened to her?" asked one of the doctors. "She was shot," Seda said lowly. "Seda, you can go wait for her in the-" "NO!" Seda said harshly, "I'm staying with her." The doctor nodded and just continued along the hallway, with other personnel running rapidly to try and stabilize a pulse on the girl. "Her heart," said one of the doctors, "Seda, it's almost torn apart. It's a miracle she didn't die instantly." "Then let's keep this miracle going and keep her alive," Seda said with much determination in his voice. "We would need a heart to transplant immediately," the doctor responded. "Then get one!" Seda responded in an annoyed tone. "We don't have one..." the doctor said before falling silent. Seda turned and looked down at Jade, his life almost completely depleted. "There is no way to save her," the doctor said solemnly. Seda had it! He couldn't take everyone's negative responses. "THERE MUST BE A WAY!" Seda shouted angrily. "We don't have a heart to give her!" the doctor stressed back. Seda then grabbed a scalpel and placed it to his chest. "Then I'll give her mine," Seda said, as he pressed the instrument to himself as it cut through his shirt and into his soft skin, drawing red blood to drip down the instrument. But that was as far as he could get as Seda was tackled by other hospital staff. "Seda, you idiot! You can't!" Seda could already feel tears streaming down his face as he struggles against his co-workers. "Seda..." Jade said quietly. Seda was still and stared down to his love. "Se-da..." Jade's voice was stammering and her heart beat kept growing closer to nothing, "it's no-not your fault... re-remember... I love... you..." The beating of the EKG (Electrocardiogram: used to measure electrical activity of heart) was down to one beat every few seconds. Seda let the bloody scalpel slip from his hand and as it hit the ground, Jade's heart flat-lined. Seda started to break down. He put his hand in his hair and fell to his knees screaming as the other tried to re-vive Jade... they had no success.

### 3 - We All Must Learn To Say Goodbye

#### We All Must Learn To Say Good Bye

Two days later, on December 27, Jade was buried. Oddly enough, barely anyone showed up at her funeral... it might have been the fact that most of her family lived in a different state and that most people were out of town and just her about her death last night. But one person couldn't make it that day... and that almost killed their heart completely.

"Darn," Seda said as he got out of his car. He read the letter he had been given. "Burial is to start at 6:00pm on December 27 at the North Shore Cemetery" The wind was cold and brisk as his watched shown the time "7:45". Seda buried his face into the pink scarf Jade had been wearing days before. Seda inhaled and took in the soft lingering sent. The soft bits of pink cotton warmed his face, but brought back so many memories, and the one of Christmas night. Fighting his tears, Seda walked up to the place where Jade was to be buried. Seda looked up at the top of a hill and saw the chairs left, empty, next to a grave. The priest still lingered with the men assigned to burry the coffin. Seda had contacted them earlier and told them how much Jade meant to him, and how he wanted to say good bye. "So, sorry to make you wait for me," Seda began, "it's just that-" "Its okay," said the priest, "I understand." Seda nodded and turned his attention to the coffin that was lying 6 feet underground. "Could you guys give me some alone time?" Seda asked. The men nodded and walked off. Seda took a deep breath and could feel the on coming rain as he looked up to see grey clouds gathering above him. Seda looked down to the coffin below him. Though he has seen dead people before, he couldn't look at Jade; it would just hurt too much. "Jade," Seda began quietly, "you were the only one I truly loved. And I don't think I will ever feel this way about someone again. I have only known you for a few short months, but to me it seemed I've know you all my life. I wanted to spend my whole life with you." Seda reached into his pocket and pulled out a black velvet box. "I was so sure," Seda said as he open the box, "it was going to be that night... I was going to make you mine forever." Seda opened the box and pulled out a stunning diamond ring! It had a mix of gold and silver in the band that blended perfectly to compliment the beautiful crystal clear diamond. And to add to that, there were some red and black colored jewels embedded into it. It was by far one of the most exquisite rings ever made, one of a kind, and worth so much. "Good bye," Seda said as he tossed the ring into the hole. It bounced on the coffin with a small clinking sound before falling silent. Seda grabbed a handful of dirt and threw it upon the coffin before turning to leave. Seda felt raindrops pouring onto his face, but the men watching him said that his face was drenched, but it didn't start raining until a few hours later. "Jade Alex Kalacur, July 14, 1983- December 25, 2004"

"Seda!!! WAKE UP!!!" Seda stirred and jumped up from his desk as he returned to reality. Seda's vision blurred into focus as he saw a girl standing in front of him. "What?" Seda asked, still half asleep. "You fell asleep again..." said the child as her wolf tail swiftly swung behind her. "Nnnngggg, five more minuets," Seda said groggily. "Hospitals don't take holidays," the girl said. "Come on Odie, can't you give me a break? It's Christmas," Seda said as he laid his head back down on his desk.

Odie was only a 15 year old girl, but a doctor none the less. Like Seda, she was able to get her degree

at a young age, but not for the same reasons. Somehow, she was able to attach a prehensile wolf tail to herself. She had also been able to do this with amputees and their missing body parts. She was the only one who knew exactly how the whole procedure worked, though her parents had to help attach her tail, they did not completely understand the concept of connecting the nerves and muscle tissue without their daughter's help. Since she was so young, the hospital recommended for her to work in the pediatrics. Odie didn't understand why she had to work with the children, she would be more use in serious cases. That is when Seda came into her life. Seda had to go through the same thing when he first started, he couldn't stand the idea! But he realized that it's the children who need someone on their level, or someone who understands their level, to communicate with before undergoing some type of surgery. He explained that her skills would still be needed in other areas, but it would be best to start off with others that would be easier to grow closer to. Odie did understand this, but grew a bond with Seda as well.

"Tomorrow is Christmas, and the principal is still the same, Toshi," Odie said with a smirk. Seda jumped up and his eyes sprang open, "what did you call me?" "That's your first name isn't it? Doctor Toshi R. Seda," Odie repeated. "Odie! I told you not to tell anyone my first name!" Seda stressed as he stood up. "I won't. That is, if you get up and get back to work," Odie replied slyly. Seda grumbled under his voice about being bossed around by a stupid kid, but Odie just gave him a hug and walked off. Seda smiled, he couldn't help but love that kid. She was almost like a sister to him. It was a very odd that she had come into his life so soon after Jade's death and be able to connect with him so easily. They were so much alike, but not in the way they looked. I mean, that kid had a tail! Unlike Jade, Odie had soft brown hair and eyes, and was much shorter than Seda. Though her ears were still normal, she planned on turning them into more sensitive wolf ears instead. And that was something Seda couldn't believe, even when Odie tried explaining it to him. Aside from all of that, they both shared a simple kindness that could be easily sensed by anyone near them. And the most important thing, they both were able to read Seda like a book. Just any motion could tell them so much about Seda. It was almost like they could read his mind. Also, they were both sort of loners, keeping their distance from others, trying not to let anyone get too close... but Seda was the only person who could ever understand them. All in all, if they ever met, they would have almost been sisters, and best of friends.

"Seda!" Odie called out as she ran after him in the parking lot. The rows of cars seemed so dark, as the night began to fall. "Come on, you don't want to be late getting home again," Seda called as he got into his car. It wasn't just Odie who trusted Seda; her parents also had a strong bond with him. Seda was the one helping Odie learn how to drive, and Seda had even received birthday presents from people who he had now become accustomed to call "Mom" and "Dad" on Valentines day. "Did you forget anything?" Seda asked Odie. "Uhhh... I sure hope not!" Odie said with a goofy smile as Seda started up the car.

The next day, Christmas, Seda and Odie both had a night shift. It might have seemed like they were disobeying child labor laws, but it was all under her job requirement that she had to make one overnight shift, and she chose Christmas night. Seda spent most of the day, alone, because it was on year earlier that Jade had died. Seda now sat in his office, and no one dared go bother him. Though Jade was the only secret he kept from Odie, he dared not to tell her. Seda was half slumped over his dark wooden desk, rolling the pencils along until they eventually fell off the edge and hit the tile floor with an occasional snap. The lights above flicked lightly as the bulb began to die from so much overuse. Seda glanced at the black hands of the clock on the wall, "11:05pm" Seda sighed. The seconds seemed to go by so slowly, as for Christmas wasn't that special joyous time of year as it was for everybody, everybody except Seda.

In the other room, Odie was trying to find out why Seda has been so low lately. "Tell me!" she shouted. "It's nothing, you really don't need to know," said one of the nurses. Odie pouted as the phone rang beside her. "Hello?" she asked into the receiver, "this is she...what is it?.....oh.....what happened?.....are they okay?..... I understand...." Odie then hung the phone up and stared at the ground. "Where's Seda?" she asked. "In his office I presume," replied one of the nurses. Odie bolted off in the direction of Seda's office. "Wait!" called the nurse, "you shouldn't bother him!" Odie didn't care and kept running, not making eye contact with anyone she passed by. Odie came up to the grey metal door, it was closed, but it was inevitable that Seda was in there. Odie reached down and grasped the cold metal door knob in her hand and bursted into the room. "WHAT THE?!" Seda screamed as Odie ran over and started crying into his shirt. "What happened?" he asked eagerly. Odie looked up to him, tears covered his soft face.

If you asked any person that saw her running down that hallway that night, they all could have sworn that she was running as if her life depended on it...



## 4 - A Change In Times

### A Change In Times

The wind blew cold this December 27, with a promise of light snow in the sky. It had been exactly one year since Seda has visited the grave yard, and Jade's grave. He never visited her, not that he just decided to move on, it was just too painful for him. Seda got out of his car, once again more than an hour late for the funeral. Before entering the gate, Seda stared at the name, "North Shore Cemetery," the same place as Jade. Seda slowly stepped into the grounds, remembering that day. Not a day has passed that Seda hasn't thought of Jade, but now only that day came to mind, the pain, and the tears. And the day just got better as he saw Odie sitting at the top of the same hill Jade was buried on. Seda's heart sunk. Yes, he was late, for a second time, but this time he visited two graves, adjacent to that of his only love's. Odie was sitting down, reading a small black book, though it did look familiar to Seda, he didn't say anything. Seda's eyes were almost tearing; he starred at the grave, next to the parents of the child who he is now taking care of. Jade's grave had grown old, and was slightly covered by small plants that have attached themselves to the rough, grey stone. "Got a knack for being late to funerals, don't you Seda?" asked Odie. Seda look at the child, dumbfounded. "She was really pretty," she said as she turned a page in the black book. It was then it hit Seda. "HEY! THAT'S MINE!!!" Seda shouted as he jumped at Odie, trying to get to the book. "Don't worry," Odie said as she jumped out of the way, causing Seda to hit the ground, "I didn't read anything bad. So this explains why everybody didn't want to bother you Christmas." Seda's head dropped. Seda looked off and saw three flowers growing wild in the ground. He then plucked them and placed them all on each grave, one for each parent, and one for Jade. "Come on," Seda said as he turned to walk away, "we should be heading home now."

At Odie's house, most of the possessions it contained were with in boxes or covered by white sheets. After all, the house did belong to her parents. She made the way up the brilliant oak stair case, with the white, had crafted rail that led upwards in the house. It would be a shame to loose such a nice house, beautiful Victorian exterior, high ceiling with a hand painted mural. It would be such a shame to have to leave the house to rot, but it would be too much for a mere child to manage. "I did say it was time for a change in scenery," Odie said as she pulled out several boxes stacked up from a room. "This place was too high class for me anyways," she said with a sad smile. Seda rushed over and helped with her stuff, the boxes that carried her life, and her memories of her family. It would be hard for both of them to adjust to this new style of life, a young girl moving in with a man who has never had any parenting experience what so ever, very hard. But one thing they could always count on, it that they would always be there for each other, not matter what happens, no matter what tried to tear them apart.

Seda lived in a small house, not, that he didn't have much money, it's just that he had always lived alone in it. Seda led the girl down the small hallway and came to a door that was slightly opened. "This is your room," he said as he pushed it open, showing a plain white room with only a bed and a dresser that occupied the space, "I've always had an extra room, and now it's your to do with as you please." "Well," Odie began, "it will do for now. But it's going to need lots of color and some more furniture to make it feel like my old room." Seda smiled at her, maybe being a parent won't be so tough, he though to himself. "And I'm thinking you'll be able to find your way around my... er... `our' house on your own,"

Seda said as he handed a house key to Odie. "Oh, and my room is opposite side of the house if you need me," Seda said before he turned to leave.

"Sead?"

"Eh?"

"Thanks."

It had been a few weeks now since the whole incident, and both of them have seemed to adjust to that changes quiet easily now. Odie had gotten to know the neighborhood and was about to go out for a walk around town. "Hey," Seda shouted as Odie was about to head out the door, "be careful. There had been a series of murders going on around the area. Don't stay out too late and stay away from suspicious looking people." Odie nodded as she ran out the door. Seda could trust her without going with her, after all, she was smart enough to know the difference between good and bad. Though, he still worried, more now than ever for her. Almost like a parent.

It had been about half and hour since she had left the house and was walking around town. It had started to get dark so Odie was already on her way home. She skipped down the sidewalk with a bag of candy in her hand and a smile on her face. Sure, she was 15 years old, but she just couldn't resist it! And she knew Seda couldn't resist it either. Then, she stepped in something, some kind of liquid, thick and red. It was draining from an ally. She stepped back and examined the liquid. "Blood?" she said to herself, "no, it can't be." Then, a scream was heard, not the scream of a woman, but a painful scream of a male. Odie jumped up and peered down the ally. She was overcome by fear... seeing that scene... something that will scar her for life...

## 5 - Somebody To Count On

### Somebody To Count On

“What the hell happened?” screamed Seda as he rushed into the Emergency room to comfort Odie. She was in complete shock, from that scene she saw.

When she turned to look down the ally, the first thing she noticed was the woman's body, drained of all it's blood, and writing on the wall that simply stated 'I'm Out There' signed by the killer Calypso. But the thing that caused the most fear to surge through her was seeing the killer with his arm that punctured straight through the abdominal area of him, face shocked and pale with fear. The sound that came from when Calypso pulled his arm out, disgusting re-tearing of the flesh, the blood that gushed from the wound on both sides of the body, limply fell to the ground. “What's wrong Rikku? You look like you almost witnessed a murder,” Calypso laughed menacingly through the white mask, the green goggles that shimmered in the low light of the ally, and his silver hair that flew in the cold breeze that sent shivers down Odie's spine. Rikku coughed up blood as he gripped his wounds, closing tight his brown eyes that were covered by his dangling brown hair. Calypso ran out of the ally, briefly stopping in front Odie to examine her before running off away from the loudening sound of the sirens.

“I don't know,” the girl said as she clenched onto Seda's jacket, “and I never want to see anything like that again.” “Let's get you home,” Seda said as he led the girl from the hospital.

Later that night, there was a visit from the police and they questioned Odie on the killer. “He was not too much taller than me, about Seda's height. Silver hair, very messy, green goggles, pointy ears \*grabs Seda's ears and tweaks them\*, a mask over his mouth, and pale-ish skin. Oh, and he was wearing an orange short sleeved hoddie with a red cross on the arm, black pants, and I remember seeing his necklace. I stared at it for some moments, a sword with a snake wrapped around it and a flaming background,” said the girl. “Thank you, that'll be all,” said the police as he turned to leave. “What about the victim? The boy at the hospital?” Seda asked. “He was awake when we got there, but he refused to answer any of our questions,” the police said, “and he was very harsh. I advise you take precautions if you decide to visit him.”

The date is February 13, three days after Rikku first came to the hospital and Seda and Odie had just arrived in the hospital again. “Sure you're okay to go back to work already?” asked Seda. “I'm sure,” Odie said, “and I really need to see that guy too,” Odie mumbled under her breath. “What's that?” asked Seda. “Uh, nothing!” True, Odie did think that guy was cute, but she also needed to get to know him better. She feared for her life and he might be the only person who could help her survive.

Rikku was being kept in the West Wing Recovery Center, room 666, but when Odie arrived, no one was in the room. She backed out and looked around the area. “Where could he have gone? I mean, he couldn't get better that fast. That wound almost killed him,” she said as she turned the corner. “Don't take it out on me!” shouted one of the workers, Cal. Cal had neat silver hair, blue crystal eyes, and pointed ears. He wasn't a full time worker, still in medical school, but was about 17 years of age. “Shut

up! I don't need you telling me I'm not suited to walk. I'm walking just fine," complained Rikku. Rikku indeed look so much better than he first came in, but had a cold stare in his young eyes. He stared coldly at Cal before turning to head back to his room, clenching his fist tightly. Cal put his hand over his pale face in frustration, then turned to Odie. "Oh, hi! Didn't see you there," Cal said with a smile. "Hey Cal," Odie replied. Cal blushed slightly as he smiled at her. And to most, it was obvious of his feelings towards her, but she never took any of his offers. "I gotta get going," said Odie as she turned and headed off in the direction Rikku headed.

"Rikku?" Odie said as she popped her head in the doorway. "Humm?" he answered back. Now, for some reason, there was some kindness in his voice. His eyes didn't have that cold stare he gave Cal minuets earlier, almost like a whole other person. "Umm, hi there. I was the girl that found you..."

"Odie, right?"

"Yeah! That's me!"

"Thanks, you saved my life..."

"It's no problem, it's just..."

"You're scared aren't you?"

"Well... uh ... yeah..."

"I don't blame you. That was a dangerous guy you saw there, and I know he got a real good look at you," Rikku said, "I suggest that you stay where it's safe and avoid going anywhere alone." "What about you?" she asked. "Me? I'll be fine... I've lived on my own for three years now, ever since I was 13. This is just another one of those things that happens to me so often," Rikku said, putting his feet up on the bed. "Three years? Alone?" asked Odie. "Yeah... I ran away from home ... something I don't advise you to follow after," he said with a disappointed smile. Odie walked over and sat next to him. "You don't have to be alone now... if you stay here, I can be here for you..." she said.

"I can't ... trouble always seems to follow me... I don't want to put you in any danger."

"Well, I'm already involved in this mess right now."

"True. But ... I just don't like to see others suffering because of me..."

"Don't drag yourself down like that. I can tell you're a good person ... just ..."

"Just what?" asked Rikku "Just that, you really wouldn't be in this kind of situation if you had someone there beside you..."

## 6 - If You Only Knew

### If You Only Knew

"I can't believe I'm being lectured by some kid who has no clue what life I have," Rikku said harshly. Odie pulled back, a surprised look on her face. "Sorry, I shouldn't take it out on you," Rikku said, "its just ... I did have someone, my sister. I could always count on her no matter what. Then she left me, and then my life went down the drain. Our parents split, my dad abused me, and everything I had was lost in a fire, except one picture of my sister and me," Rikku said as he pulled out a picture from his wallet. It was of an older girl, with blue hair, holding a younger looking Rikku. "And we still never looked related," Rikku said sadly. "What was her name?" Odie asked. Rikku looked to Odie with glazed over eyes, "Jade."

Odie ran down the hallway, trying to find Seda. 'Where could he be' she thought to herself as she ran through the cluttered hallways. She was just around the corner from Seda's office when she was stopped. "Hey, Cal, I can't talk right now I need to get to Seda," she said as she pushed by the boy. "But I need to talk to you," he said as she grabbed her arm. "Cal, this really isn't a good time," Odie said as she pulled away. "It's about Rikku," Cal said, which caught her attention. "What about him?" she asked. "He's very dangerous, you shouldn't go near him. He is just crazy, he will turn on you, lie to you, don't trust anything he says," Cal said, with deep concern in his voice. Odie stopped dead in her tracks, so unsure on what to believe. "What's up?" Seda said as he popped out of his office. "Apparently Odie really has something important to tell you," Cal said. Odie was quiet. "It's nothing," she said with her head hung low.

The girl made her way back to Rikku's room. Rikku was found laying on the bed, watching TV. "Rikku," Odie began, "are you lying?" "What? Lying about what?" Rikku questioned as he sat up. "Everything and anything," she said timidly. "Hey, everything I told you was the truth. I could never lie to someone like you. You are the only person who ever showed any trust and concern to me in a long time. And, I really appreciate it," he said with a weak smile. "Your sister, what was the last thing you heard about her," she asked. "Well, I heard she moved here and has a decent life," he said wondering. "I hate to inform you of this, but she died a little over a year ago," she said with a sad, mournful voice. "What? How would you know? What the hell are you talking about?" Rikku questioned as he jumped up and tried to find answers. "Jade, she fell in love with Seda, and she died one day, that's how I knew so much about her. Barley anyone came to her funeral because she died on Christmas day. I'm sorry that you heard this so late," Odie said. Rikku couldn't believe what he had heard. "What? How could this have? I mean, she. But what about... Where is Seda? Does he know?" he question, barley able to complete his sentences. "Seda, I didn't tell him, and I think he went to get so lunch," Odie said. Rikku grabbed her arm and started running down the hallways, trying to find Seda.

Rikku sprang into the room and ran up to Seda. His face was towards the ground as he spoke, but the words came out the same, "you knew my sister?" "What the? What are you talking about?" Seda questioned. "Jade, my sister, you knew her. Tell me, what happened to her?" Rikku said as tears started to pour down his face. Seda's expression changed solemn, "yes, I knew her. I loved her. She got

in the way when there was a gun fight. I tried to save her, but it was no use.” Rikku fell to the floor, crying. Seda looked down at him with a sad face. “We can go visit her grave if you like,” he said. Rikku looked up and nodded silently.