

THE GULLWINGS

Episode 1x02

The Tidus Sphere Saga
Part II: Leaders of Spira

by
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ACT III

EXT. BIKANEL DESERT - MOMENTS LATER

They are still surrounded.

And they still have guns trained at them.

RIKKU
(sighing)
Fryd tet oui tu?
(translated)
What did you do?

BROTHER
(innocent)
HUDREHK!
(translated)
NOTHING!

Rikku rolls her eyes.

RIKKU
Fryd tet oui tu?
(translated)
What did you do?

GIPPAL
(smirking)
Ruf'c dra haf creb?
(translated)
How's the new ship?

Rikku turns to him.

RIKKU
Oh! You didn't!

Brother looks away sheepily.

RIKKU (CONT'D)
You didn't!

Brother says nothing. Rikku clenches her fists.

RIKKU (CONT'D)
(angrily)
Ooooh! You idiot!

Paine and Yuna just look at each other through the corners of their eyes.

YUNA
(lost)
Didn't do...what? Exactly.

RIKKU
He leaned money off you. Didn't
he?

Gippal just SHRUGS.

GIPPAL
True.

Rikku snaps at her brother.

RIKKU
You said Dad leant it you!

She screams in frustration.

GIPPAL
Hey. It's nice to know the son of
the Al Bhed leader owes money to
the leader of the Al Bhed Machine
Faction.

He's still got a big smile on his face.

Yuna just looks pretty confused.

YUNA
There's a machine faction now?

Gippal walks up to her, bending slightly and looking at her
from the side. Yuna doesn't flinch.

GIPPAL
Well. Summoner Yuna. It's a...uh.
It's an honour to finally meet
you.

RIKKU
Oh stop sucking up.

GIPPAL
You never change, Rikku.

She suddenly whitens and stays still. He's still got a
confident smile on his face.

RIKKU
Really?

YUNA
(ignoring her)
What's the machine faction? I've
never heard of it.

Gippal rubs his temple.

GIPPAL

(hard to understand)

So. You are half Al Bhed. On a ship with an Al Bhed crew. Yet you've never heard of the Machine Faction?

YUNA

I live a sheltered life.

Gippal shrugs.

GIPPAL

Fair enough.

(claps hands, clears throat)

We, The Machine Faction of Spira, are the new wave Al Bhed movement that's aiming to use a new form of Machina to help everyone in Spira dig up fuel, spheres and other assorted treasures.

He turns around, marching away from them.

GIPPAL (CONT'D)

And that cousin of yours lent money from me to buy his ship from his dad.

YUNA

Huh. What you learn about family.

She glances to Brother, who's sweating in fear.

Gippal shakes his head, and notices Paine. He stops, and does a double-take. He laughs.

GIPPAL

Wow.

(beat)

Err...you!

Paine just stares at him. There's a weird moment before Gippal's smile fades. One last look at Paine before he turns around back to Brother.

BUDDY

Look. Gippal. You don't have to do anything rash. We can give you the money.

Gippal's smile fades. Buddy gulps.

There's an eerie silence that follows.

Then, Gippal BURSTS INTO LAUGHTER.

The other Al Bhed LOWER THEIR GUNS.

GIPPAL
 (through laughter)
 Oh...their God! You actually
 believed...my god you two are
 idiots!

Buddy's eyes narrowing can be seen even though he has goggles on.

BUDDY
 He's the idiot. I'm not.

BROTHER
 (defensively)
 Hey!

GIPPAL
 Unlike the Yevonites, we don't
 turn our back on our own kind.

He signals at his men around them, and they are at ease, going away.

GIPPAL (CONT'D)
 While I would have liked to have
 seen some nice Gil to help pay
 off that loan - it's good to see
 you again.
 (beat)
 Although I can't help but ask why
 you are back in Bikanel for the
 first time in Months.

YUNA
 We're Sphere Hunters.

Gippal turns to Yuna, and interesting look on his face.

GIPPAL
 The Vanquisher of Sin looking for
 small round pieces of history? If
 you don't mind me asking,
 Summoner, what's brought you on
 this journey?

Yuna breaks from his gaze.

CUT TO:

EXT. LUCA CITY CENTER - AFTERNOON

The long-haired Yuna is walking through the busy city of Luca with Tidus. People of different ages, shapes and sizes bustle past them as they talk. In the distance, a new STADIUM can be seen eclipsing the whole city.

Yuna's trying to drag Tidus through a busy crowd of people.

YUNA
(quietly)
Excuse me.
(beat)
Let us through please.

They manage to squeeze past some more people, and come to a quieter part overlooking the sea. The sun is over the horizon, and they both look at each other.

She looks back, and smiles again.

YUNA (CONT'D)
Hey, let's go into the centre.

She goes off, but people notice her. Tidus sees this and catches up.

TIDUS
Wow. You're really famous.

She GIGGLES.

They begin to walk away, trying not to get lost in the crowd.

YUNA
I hope we don't get separated.

Tidus just smiles, puts his fingers INTO HIS MOUTH and WHISTLES.

She's taken by surprise.

YUNA (CONT'D)
What was *that*?

TIDUS
In Zanarkand, we whistle to cheer on the Blitzball players.

He does it again.

TIDUS (CONT'D)
Try it. You put your fingers into your mouth like this...

He shows her. She copies.

YUNA
(fingers in mouth)
Like this?

Tidus shakes his head.

TIDUS
Like this.

He shows her again.

TIDUS (CONT'D)
(fingers in mouth)
Then you just blow.

Yuna tries. But it's WEAK. It sounds as if she's BLOWING AIR.

YUNA
(grumpily)
Not working.

TIDUS
(shrugs)
Then practice!

Yuna nods.

YUNA
Will do.

An idea comes into his head.

TIDUS
Hey! Use that if we get separated.
(beat)
So...uh, I guess I'm stuck with you until you can get it.

Yuna smiles.

YUNA
That sounds fine with me.

FADE TO:

EXT. LUCA CITY CENTER - LATER

Hours have passed, it's nearing dusk. Tidus and Yuna are still wandering around the city.

Tidus is looking very much impressed and bewildered.

TIDUS
This is a pretty big town.

YUNA
Luca's the second largest in Spira.

Tidus thinks for a minute.

TIDUS

I thought towns don't grow to as big as...say Kilika.

YUNA

Towns don't usually get bigger than that. When a lot gather...

Tidus nods.

TIDUS

Sin.

Yuna NODS.

TIDUS (CONT'D)

But what of this place? It's huge.

YUNA

It's the same. Only the Crusaders are here. It's their job to protect it.

TIDUS

Woah.

She looks at him for a moment.

YUNA

Is Zanarkand like this as well?

TIDUS

Well. There are more buildings. All cramped together.

YUNA

I would like to visit it. One day.

Tidus LAUGHS, and the walk off.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE HOME RUINS - AFTERNOON

The short-haired Yuna sits on the stand, staring down at the ruins of HOME. A huge badly burnt fortress that looks beyond repair. Several hundreds of Al Behd are there though, surrounding it.

PAINE (O.S.)

I never did get to visit this place when it was up.

Yuna looks up to see Paine standing there. She sits next to Yuna.

YUNA
 Neither did I.
 (beat)
 Well, I did. I was kidnapped and
 held here. Hours later it was
 burnt to the ground.

PAINÉ
 (raises eyebrow)
 Oh.
 (shakes it off)
 You never came here as a child?

Yuna shakes her head.

YUNA
 Probably. I can't remember.
 (beat)
 I lived in Bevelle. Then Besaid.
 I never really saw much of my Al
 Bhed heritage.

Yuna stands.

YUNA (CONT'D)
 I may have never lived here, but
 this feels more home than Bevelle
 ever did.

PAINÉ
 Bevelle's a cesspool anyway.

She walks away, Yuna watches her go...having the feeling
 that Paine was going to say something.

EXT. BAAJ TEMPLE - NIGHT

Ruins stick out of the water. Jagged bricks and rock
 symbolise a thousand year old temple buried underneath the
 horizon.

And three light blue figures materialise on top of some
 unstable looking ruins.

It's YRP. The pony-tailed-Yuna appears with Rikku and
 Paine, and immediately take in the sights.

RIKKU
 Great. Back here again.

PAINÉ
 Know the place?

RIKKU
 Well enough. Still gives me the
 creeps.

Yuna looks around, hoping to find something.

YUNA
Can't find anything...

Paine rolls her eyes and walks up to her.

PAINE
Of course not, rookie, we have to
look.

She smiles and JUMPS onto a lower piece of stone ruins, steadying her balance.

Rikku follows, landing unevenly.

RIKKU
(off-balance)
Woah-oh!

She STEADIES herself and carries on walking towards Paine.

Yuna watches them and takes a deep breath.

YUNA
(to herself)
Deep breaths Yuna. Deep breaths.

She runs AND JUMPS.

Time SLOWS down as she falls.

LANDING on the lower platform, hands to the floor, steadying herself.

Time RESUMES to normal.

She breathes a sigh of relief.

When a HUGE CRACKING sound occurs from UNDERNEATH her.

Paine and Rikku TURN around and see their platform begin to shake.

PAINE
(calling out.)
Yuna! RUN!

Yuna nods and gets to her feet, RUNNING forwards! She LEAPS forward, a small stone chunk CRUSHING the platform behind her.

Rikku and Paine steady themselves as they realise their part is beginning to SHAKE.

They DART forward, PAINE leaping off and DIVING into the water.

Rikku FOLLOWS, landing near Paine and SWIMMING as fast as she can.

Yuna sees and JUMPS, just as the floor collapses beneath her, and she CRASHES into the water. The splash fills the screen as it then:

CUTS TO:

EXT. BIKANEL DESERT - AFTERNOON

BROTHER'S HEAD appears in frame. His goggles protecting his eyes from sand. But his expression is clearly readable.

It is one of annoyance.

He turns to see Buddy and Rikku using machina-like equipment in the sand, and he just sighs.

Rikku looks up to him.

RIKKU
(calling out)
Found anything?

Brother shakes his head.

RIKKU (CONT'D)
(disappointed)
Awww.

Buddy looks up.

BUDDY
We'll find it. We always do.

Rikku smiles.

RIKKU
Yeah! We do. Because we're the -

She stops, looking distracted.

Buddy has noticed this.

BUDDY
Rikku?

She raises a hand up.

RIKKU
Did you hear that?

Buddy then looks around.

BUDDY
Nope. I didn't hear anything.

Rikku walks back a few steps, looking around.

RIKKU
 (still distracted)
 Darn it. Coulda sworn I heard
 something.

Then Brother SCREECHES AT THE TOP OF HIS VOICE! Scrambling
 towards Rikku and Buddy!

BROTHER
 (loudly)
 OCHUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUU!

Brother DARTS behind Rikku for cover, and she looks ahead.
 Her face turning into one of fear as she shes -

What looks like a huge walking plant with four long green
 vines as arms and a huge open area with two dark petals
 with sharp green teeth on it's rim.

Rikku's turns into one of resolve as she narrows her eyes.

BROTHER (CONT'D)
 Bahadnyda dra Sykic Cecdan'c
 icehk Pyrisid'c cryvd, OCHU!

RIKKU
 I knew I heard something.

She FLICKS out her daggers.

CUT TO:

EXT. LUCA/MI'HEN HIGHROAD ARCHWAY - DAY

Tidus walks up to a small platform that leads to a stone
 archway with 'MI'HEN HIGHROAD' on it.

The long-haired-Yuna stands on the edge of the platform,
 overlooking Luca. Her guardians (now including SIR AURON)
 are waiting for her underneath the archway.

Tidus walks up to her.

YUNA
 (seeing him)
 Hey! Watch!

She WHISTLES. And it's not bad.

TIDUS
 (distant)
 Well look who's gotten good.

YUNA
 You sound sad.

Tidus looks out to the horizon and leans on the rail in front of him. Something is bothering him.

TIDUS
(shrugs)
Yeah. Maybe.

Yuna SMILES.

YUNA
Wanna scream?

TIDUS
I really don't think that's gonna help this time.

YUNA
You know what? It's kinda embarrassing to say this - but summoners and their guardians are kind of like Spira's ray of light. The people of Spira depend on us.

There's a short silence.

YUNA (CONT'D)
Which is why I learned to smile when I'm feeling sad, you know?

TIDUS
I understand.
(beat)
I think.

YUNA
Okay then.
(smiles at him)
Let's see what you can do!

TIDUS
(off-guard)
Huh?

YUNA
Come on!

Tidus GULPS, and tries to smile, but only gets a mess of weird facial expressions.

Yuna just LAUGHS.

TIDUS
Weird.

YUNA
Next, just try to laugh out loud.

TIDUS

WHAT?

YUNA

Come on, show me!

Tidus breathes out, and then forces out a LOUD, OBNOXIOUS and ANNOYING laugh.

Predictably, everyone stares at him.

YUNA (CONT'D)

You shouldn't try anymore.

Tidus TRIES AGAIN, and Yuna joins in. After a few moments they begin to laugh normally.

YUNA (CONT'D)

That's funny.

TIDUS

It was your idea!

Yuna allows a small smile of pride.

YUNA

Thanks. I want my journey to be full of laughter.

TIDUS

Will remember.

He turns to join the others.

YUNA

Tidus...

He turns around.

YUNA (CONT'D)

If we do separate. I will whistle. That's a promise.

Tidus can only manage a short nod before walking to the others.

Yuna walks into the camera as we:

CUT TO:

EXT. BIKANEL DESERT - DAY

And Rikku FLIES through air, rolling across some sand with a muffled thud.

She lifts her head up, teeth gritted together.

RIKKU
 (seething)
 Oooh! Now I'm mad!

She runs towards the OCHU, DUCKING under some of it's tentacles and SLASHING at it's stomach, splitting the flesh.

Rikku jumps back - only to get another tentacle and another trip across the desert. Landing harder this time.

RIKKU (CONT'D)
 (muffled)
 Ouchies!

She gets to her feet again, her face bloody, and her eyes narrowing.

BROTHER (O.S.)
 HHHHEEEEEEEEEYYY-YAAAAA!!!

Brother JUMPS on the OCHU - but it's STRUCK with a force, knocking him back through the sand --

-- and a SWISH of flame twirls through the air, slicing through the tentacles! It's PAIN!

The Ochu SCREECHES in pain, and begins to flail as Paine's sword is STILL alight with fire.

She raises an eyebrow.

PAINE
 Oh I'm gonna miss you.

She LUNGES the sword STRAIGHT into the Ochu's chest! A piercing scream echoes throughout the desert -

- and Paine brings the sword UPWARDS, slicing the Creature open...and the scream dies.

It's dead.

Paine waves a hand and the inferno on the blade goes out. She strikes the ground hard, and leans on the safe end of the sword, wiping some sweat off her forehead.

PAINE (CONT'D)
 Days work.

She glances to her left, seeing Rikku walk up to her.

RIKKU
 Nice-
 (looks at the sword)
 -thing, there.

Paine shrugs in modest pride.

YUNA (O.S.)
(distant)
Yuna's here!

Yuna RUNS up a dune in the distance, slightly out of breath in the heat, and sees the dead Ochu.

YUNA (CONT'D)
(still distant)
Never mind!

Rikku and Paine share a smile.

BROTHER (O.S.)
(muffled)
Mmmphht! Mmphht!

Rikku rolls her eyes and walks ahead, Paine pulls out the word with a speed, flicking it 180 degrees and catching it the helm in the hand.

She walks over to see Rikku walking to see Brother's legs sticking out of the sand.

RIKKU
Aww. Poor brother.

PAINE
It's the best half.

Rikku grabs his legs and PULLS him out.

Covered in sand, he shakes his head.

BROTHER
Did you not hear me scream?

PAINE
We thought you were doing the same as -

He holds up the SPHERE FRAGMENT.

PAINE (CONT'D)
Oh.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

EXT. CELSIUS BRIDGE - DAY

The GullWings are all on the Bridge, including Barkeep (who's washing the floor), and are sitting around - looking bored.

Short-haired-Yuna YAWNS.

YUNA (V.O.)

They said Sphere-Hunting was tiring, but not in this context.

She stands heading over to Shinra's computer, grabbing a free seat next to him.

YUNA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Things were about to get a little more exciting.

The console suddenly BURSTS into life; lights begin to flash as Buddy taps on some buttons.

BUDDY

We're getting a communication -

His face drops as he turns to everyone.

BUDDY (CONT'D)

It's from Bevelle!

BROTHER

WHAT? Do not answer it!

Yuna glances around to see everyone is in uproar.

END OF ACT II

TO BE CONTINUED...