

THE PATH OF THE ALTER

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- MYSTERIOUS HEROINE X ALTER TWINNING
- MENTAL CHANGES

The heart of the youngest iteration of Artoria Pendragon was aflutter. She'd been working diligently as a student of the Mysterious Heroine X, a powerful visitor from another universe. Her progress had been slight, at least as far as she'd been concerned, but one day her mentor extended a warm invitation to her.

“Why not have a sleepover in my spaceship!?”

Why not indeed!? Sleepovers were the most intimate of visitations between girls, at least as far as she understood about modern times, and so she naturally accepted such a generous invitation. It had been made several days prior, and Artoria had spent each and every one following it waiting for the fateful eve. Considering her status back in Camelot it wasn't often she was extended offerings like these, and she didn't exactly have many women friends to begin with.

It was simply nice to spend time with someone that didn't seem to care about the King she was destined to be and focused on the Artoria in front of her. Those were her general feelings about the Mysterious Heroine that bore an uncanny resemblance to herself. Too often was she confronted by the Servants of Chaldea like 'aren't you King Arthur?', and while it was flattering to receive such recognition it wasn't who Lily yet was. The Artoria Pendragon, the one that had served as a King? One day she might fill those shoes, but for now she was just a youth enjoying the freedoms allowed to her at her age.

“So! What do you think!? It's pretty cool, right!?” Time had come and gone, and before Artoria Lily knew it she was already aboard Mysterious Heroine X's spaceship for their night of stories and pillow fights (as Lily had only assumed herself). Upon entry she'd been treated to a tour of its premises, from the tiny kitchen, to the tiny bedroom, to the tiny helm... She'd suspected it might be a little cramped based on its exterior, but she'd also been carrying a little hope that it had a more spacious interior

than the outside had suggested. And well... it was, kind of? But X had accumulated so much junk inside. Shelves were lined with garbage that the Assassin argued was 'keepsakes from past battles', and if it had only been that then it probably would have been fine. She clearly didn't make an effort to clean the ship itself, and so plastic cups and plates and all kinds of discarded wrappers were strewn throughout the limited space there was left beyond the mountains of unfinished laundry.

Ah... *Mysterious Heroine X was a slob.*

"It's... yes! The spaceship is very cool!" It took Lily a moment to formulate a response that X wouldn't find offensive. She wasn't lying? The mess aside, there was some pretty cool stuff in there. The controls of the ship looked complicated, and among the trophies Assassin seemed to keep there appeared to be some genuine gems. Yet staying in this garbage trap overnight? Was she going to be okay?

The praise Lily provided had MHX swelling with pride. She hit her hand against her chest, or rather the blue jersey covering it with a big grin on her face. X hadn't the foggiest idea of what Lily was even thinking, in all likelihood because she wasn't the sharpest tool in the shed by a long shot. **"What's the coolest thing in here then!?"** An earnest question. So earnest that it practically looked like her smile itself was generating Quick stars. Of course this question put the lying Artoria on the spot, and turquoise eyes darted around the room as she tried to identify what she thought, indeed, was the coolest thing here.

She managed to wander over to the trophy shelf and plucked an object from it. A small, black and red piece of steel fashioned like an 'X'. **"Thi--?"** Ready to call the object the coolest thing in the spaceship, a sudden crackle of red electricity shot from the steel to her hand which in turn forced her to drop it. **"Ow!"**

"Oh, I shoulda mentioned. Don't touch anything without asking, okay? Some of this tech is a little too advanced for Servants like you. That X is from an old rival of mine, after all!" Lily could only rub the spot the electricity had zapped her as she listened to this belated warning. So her mentor had a rival in the past? She could only wonder what such a person might be like...

The two were both torn from their individual trains of thought as the crackling of electricity sounded nearby. Was it the ship? It had been X's first concern, but it was instead coming from Lily's hip. More specifically, the contents of the scabbard she kept there. Red lightning danced up and down its length. **"Ah, Caliburn!?"** Lily braced to be zapped as she reached for the hilt to pull out her special blade, but no shocking occurred as the blade slid out and was held in front of her.

The crimson electricity danced up and down the length of the blade, charring gold to black and twisting blue to red. By the time the blade had finished its transformation, it was hardly recognizable to Lily. Rather... it resembled Excalibur? The blade her elder self wielded. The one she adorned wasn't black and red, however! **"Oh no! That blade was beyond precious! How could I possibly continue my training like this!?"**

"Yeah... Actually, it looks kind of familiar... Where have I seen that sword before?" MHX tapped her chin as she pondered this dilemma. She had a feeling, but she didn't really want to say it outright and panic her junior. To begin with, if it was a reaction from that item... that prototype Altereactor... then?

A loud and long grumble suddenly echoed throughout the chamber of the spaceship, and Saber Lily's cheeks immediately turned bright pink as she realized the source. Her stomach? An overwhelming hunger had set in without prior provocation. Servants only really needed to eat to build up a store of Mana, particularly in Chaldea's setting, and her Mana levels had been peaked prior to visiting X, so!? With hunger came fatigue, and Lily could feel that setting in as well. It was getting more and more difficult to add her usual energy to her actions. She felt... sluggish. "**X-san? Do you have anything to eat? Um... this is embarrassing, but... Something like a sala-- No, actually! Um... sweets? Do you have any sweets?**" She *did* enjoy sweets normally, but what was with this craving? She was used to eating meats and salads, never would she usually desire such an unhealthy entree so readily!

Little had she noticed that disturbing changes had begun to consume... *HER AHOGE!* Normally pointed to the left, as if possessed by a dark power it suddenly turned to the right, its brilliant blond color faded to a paler shade as it began to seep through all of her hair. "**Uh... Lily? Your...**" Mysterious Heroine X had noticed this change and had thought to point it out, but something silenced her. A sudden acceptance that whatever was happening was the way things were supposed to be. "**Right, right. Sweets? Uh... Pocky? I have lots of Pocky!**" She reached up to a compartment hanging above the tiny couch crammed into the spaceship's limited leisure space, and lo and behold several boxes of the sweets fell from the compartment (*mostly chocolate*).

Lily had already scooped up a box and had several sticks dangling from her mouth by the time X had managed to fetch herself a piece, her companion's new ravenous appetite seeming both strange and not simultaneous. Her interpretations were suspended between 'this is strange' and 'she's always like this', so she couldn't make sense of it all.

And ravenous her appetite was. The young Saber munched and crunched, scarfed and swallowed, not aware that as she refilled her Mana supply her class was being modified. This hunger was not simply a desire for Mana, but a desire to feed native to the class modifier of another. Mad Enhancement given peculiar form. Her sensibilities when it came to sweets were being eased away and replaced by an appetite that needed them to thrive.

White gloves stained with Pocky chocolate, she tugged them off and set them aside. "**X? More... Please?**" The pep in Lily's voice had begun to wane, as had her manners as she'd almost forgotten to include the 'please' at the end. X herself seemed unsure of whatever sweets she could provide, but headed to the tiny kitchen nearby to look in the meantime.

Left alone, Lily slid her tiny bottom onto the couch. Her stomach let out another growl, but she knew X would be back soon. In the meantime she idly reached for a book sitting across from her. It didn't seem to be a particularly intellectual piece, considering it was named '*STORE WARS: RETURN OF THE SHOPPER*', but the fact that she was even holding a book at all filled her with an unfamiliar comfort. Lily was always so focused on her training, on preparing to be the king, she never read for leisure. Yet, flipping through the pages filled her with both nostalgia and comfort. If only she weren't so cold...

Her clothing began to oblige, to bring her the warmth she so desired. The white, detached sleeves that hung magically around either upper arm began to stretch both up and down her arms, threatening to tear them in two in the process. No such tearing occurred, however, and instead they merely continued to lengthen, their color

darkening significantly as soft cotton turned to polyester. They stopped at both of her wrists, the material there taking on the frumpy hem one would typically find on a casual sweater. The arms had turned completely black and kept her arms incredibly warm, even as the material wrapped around her back and met, before expanding downwards to encompass her torso. The sides did not meet in the front but continued their downward travels, only meeting at the base as material hardened to form a zipper line that traveled up the center. When a hood finally fluffed up behind her neck, a new hoodie had completed its transformation. The center was navy blue, lined by thick white lines that created the shape of an 'X' with a black exterior. It was unbelievably comfortable, but Lily had hardly noticed anything different. It so clearly mismatched the elegant white dress she was wearing beneath the half-zipped zipper.

The Berserker-to-be, her nose still buried in her book, began to shift uncomfortably as the hem of her skirt began to rise and her white leggings began to fall. Bare knees rubbed together in the new-found cold, the length of her skirt quickly merging with the top of her dress and exposing a pair of white panties that were quickly tainted black. A second layer took form atop this black panties, and spandex oozes out to encompass her ass and thighs, the goo quickly solidifying and taking a form so tight that the underwear beneath was clearly visible.

And that was before her ass grew ever so slightly, forcing her to rub her butt into the seat of the couch to readjust her posture for comfort. That ass was thicker and better toned despite her hunger for a diet that sought only junk, and she was camel-toeing the hell out of her new spandex bike shorts as they rode slightly up her back in her current position. The leggings that had been receding towards the ground had transformed to black as well, white boots transforming into a pair of black runners.

All that remained of her original outfit was the shirt of her dress which retained its color as smooth silk began to thicken and crumple until it was of ordinary cotton. It wasn't long until a Japanese high school jersey was all that remained of her dress, its form further accent by a small yet noticeable increase in the size of her bosom, a bra taking shape beneath with a dark, ruffled design.

"Nn... My eyes..." Lily set her book down a moment as her head suddenly started to hurt. She didn't have a headache per se, but rather her vision suddenly became incredibly sharp. She could see with so much detail, it was inhuman. That's why she needed them; her glasses. Where had she put them? Right... beside the Pocky. Wordlessly she reached down beside the couch where she'd previously left her gloves, instead lifting a pair of glasses that blurred her vision once they were adorned. **"Better."**

The exposed thighs between her bike shorts and legs shone beneath the dim light of the room as she rubbed them together impatiently. What was taking X so long? *This was just like at the academy.* Gold eyes, once turquoise, merely blinked as she pondered what academy she was thinking of, still unaware that anything about her existence was different in the first place.

She pulled up her hood shyly as she considered going to look for that Assassin, not knowing that doing so hastened her new platinum blond hair rearranging into a complex but elegant bun from her usual ponytail within, the collar of her old dress becoming a simple band around her neck in the very final change to her attire.

"Oh! Ecchan, you were here? Huh..." X finally returned and noticed her guest on the couch. She couldn't refute that appearance, that lack of expression on that girl's face.

It was her sworn rival, Mysterious Heroine X Alter! Or, well... they were friends, really. She called her '*Ecchan*'.

Lily blinked once more when faced with her new identity for the first time. '*Ecchan*'. Was that wrong? It was wrong. Her name was Mysterious Heroine X Alter. A knight of Dark Rounds. '*Ecchan*' was just a name she was given. More pressingly, she rose immediately to her feet when she saw what was in X's hands. Two bags of cotton candy...! She snatched one up without invitation.

Yes... She was Ecchan. Ecchan would devour all of the sweets! The Berserker fumbled with the bag and, once open, shoved a whole hand into it, pulling off some fluff and practically sticking her whole hand in the bag. X did the same, attempting to mirror the Alter's enthusiasm, yet when she removed it there were still some bits of pink clinging to her fingers. Bits Ecchan embarrassing licked off. She didn't care. *She'd eat X too.*

"H-Hey! Cut that out!"

"No. I want to taste X's sweetness."

"HEY!"

"Is that why you came here? Really, Ecchan?" Some time later, the two laid atop the bed in the captain's chambers, entirely in the nude with their Excalibur knockoffs resting side by side on the ground. The two women were similar in appearance, but between the more defined boobs and ass of Alter and the paleness of her skin, it was obvious they were quite different as well. Ecchan still laid atop X, resting her ear atop her breast as her own pushed into X's stomach.

"You invited me, didn't you?"

"Did I?"

"Yes."

"Hm... Then what happened to Lily?"

"Who knows."