

# E12 - A Giant Leap

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**SIGN** A Giant Leap

**[00:13] Min**

Akira!

**[00:16] A**

You guys.

**[00:18] Ygg**

My dear!

**[00:21] A**

I'm so glad you're all okay.

**[00:23] A**

Alma, what happened with Soma?

**[00:28] AI**

I... killed him.

**[00:32] A**

Sorry, Alma.

I put you in a really difficult situation.

**[00:37] AI**

No, the one taking it the hardest is...

**[00:42] A**

Forgive me, Minami.

**[00:43] Min**

It's okay.

**[00:45] Min**

I know you both did everything you could.

**[00:49] Min**

Thank you.

**[00:51] Min**

But... I wish I could've helped him!

**[00:56] Min**

I had no idea he was suffering so much!

**[01:02] Min**

Sorry, Soma...

**[01:04] Min**

I'm so sorry!

**[01:06] Min**

I'm sorry... So sorry!

**[01:13] A**

Minami.

**[01:16] Kon**

Yo, looks like the geezer managed to survive.

**[01:19] A**

Kondo.

**[01:21] Kon**

What was that Beta thing, though?

**[01:24] Kon**

Did Auctioneer know anything?

**[01:27] A**

Well...

**[01:30] (Flashback) A**

Hang on. Tell me one last thing before I go.

**[01:33] (Flashback) A**

What exactly is Beta?

**[01:36] (Flashback) A**

How did I end up becoming Number 00?

**[01:40] (Flashback) Auc**

The only person likely to have those answers is Doctor Iriya.

**[01:47] (Flashback) A**

But isn't he long dead?

**[01:51] (Flashback) Auc**

No. He's still alive, just in a different form.

**[01:55] (Flashback) Auc**

I was working in collaboration with him.

**[01:59] (Flashback) Auc**

We're out of time.

**[02:02] (Flashback) Auc**

Just know that Doctor Iriya will show himself before you sooner rather than later.

**[02:09] Ari**

Doctor Iriya... is alive?

**[02:13] Ygg**

No way.

**[02:14] Ai**

He can't be.

**[02:17] Kao**

Is that true?

**[02:20] Ygg**

Mama Kaori!

**[02:22] Ai**

CEO.

**[02:25] A**

Wait, so you are...

**[02:27] Kao**

Yes. Munakata Kaori,  
CEO of Iriya Heavy Industries.

**[02:31] A**

Do you know everything, then?

**[02:35] Kao**

No, only Doctor Iriya does.

**[02:42] A**

What the...?

**[02:43] AI**

An explosion?

**[02:44] Kon**

It's coming from Kasumigaseki!

**[02:50] A**

Fighter jets?

**[02:52] Ygg**

They're turning around and coming this way!

**[02:56] AI**

They're aiming for this building, Akira!

**[02:58] A**

Get down, you guys!

**[03:10] A**

You all okay?!

**[03:13] Chi**

*Do you hear me, Akira?!*

**[03:15] A**

Chikage?

**[03:17] Chi**

I'm glad you're all right.

**[03:18] A**

*What is going on?*

**[03:20] Chi**

We don't have much of a clue either,  
but it seems we've been hacked.

**[03:24] Min**

They're attacking Japan's political centers!

**[03:29] Chi**

*I'm afraid I have even more bad news.*

**[03:35] Chi**

Bombers had been deployed,  
in case we couldn't put Beta down,

**[03:40] Chi**

and Chief Shiga,  
who was in one of them, has died.

**[03:50] Min**

What? Even the chief?

**[04:08] Kao**

Disaster Response!  
Munakata here, give me a sitrep.

**[04:12] G**

*The whole building might go down!*  
*Evacuate at once!*

**[04:14] Ygg**

The emergency staircase seems fine!

**[04:16] A**

Got it!

**[04:27] A**

What the hell is all this?

**[04:29] Kon**

It's a scene out of hell.

**[04:31] Kao**

This is a terrorist attack  
involving large-scale hacking.

**[04:36] Min**

Wait. We took out Beta, didn't we?

**[04:38] A**

That much is for sure.

**[04:41] A**

Number 11's black hole sucked in  
his brain for sure.

**[04:45] Kim**

So what, we're dealing with  
Gamma now? Or Delta?

**[04:48] Kim**

This is absurd!

**[04:50] A**

Anyway, I'll go online  
and look for the perp.

**[04:53] Min**

Akira?

**[04:55] A**

What? Why do I feel so sluggish?

**[04:57] Kao**

You're at your limit.

**[05:00] Kao**

If you strain yourself  
any further, you'll die.

**[05:03] Min**

No!

**[05:04] A**

I don't care. Let me go.

**[05:14] A**

I can't afford to stop now.

**[05:17] A**

Actually, it's not about  
what I can or can't do.

**[05:22] A**

I want to keep going!

**[05:27] Min**

Akira...

**[05:29] A**

Minami, remember what you said  
back when we first met?

**[05:35] (Flashback) Min**

The strong must use their powers  
to protect the weak!

**[05:42] A**

With Ogre and the EX-ARMS, I'm a monster.  
The strongest in the world.

**[05:49] A**

So I'm going to fight for the weak,  
just as you taught me to.

**[05:57] Min**

Akira!

**[06:00] Min**

Protect the world, please.

**[06:07] A**

You got it!

**[06:11] Min**

*Heading to the building's basement!*

**[06:13] Chi**

Copy that!

**[06:16] Ari**

Doctor Iriya is alive?

**[06:19] Ari**

Doctor Iriya is alive.

**[06:23] Ari**

Doctor Iriya is...

**[06:29] Ari**

Now, I suppose I'll take a front-row seat  
and see how my experiment plays out.

**[06:38] Chi**

Where are you going, Doctor?

**[06:43] Kao**

This is it. The basement.

**[06:47] Kao**

Are you ready?

**[06:50] Ygg**

My dear, I will support you with all I have.

**[06:53] Ai**

I'll be with you, too.

**[06:55] A**

Thanks.

**[06:57] Kim**

Look at this kid, acting all cool.

**[06:59] Kon**

You better come back to us, Akira.

**[07:01] A**

Gotcha!

**[07:05] Min**

Be careful, Alma. And take care of Akira.

**[07:08] Ai**

Okay, Minami.

**[07:22] Ygg**

Unlocking all my dear's networking capabilities.

**[07:27] Ygg**

All of Tokyo, save for Iriya HQ,  
is being taken over by the enemy.

**[07:32] Ygg**

All the infrastructure and public transport  
is out of control, too.

**[07:35] Min**

Leave the real world to us.

**[07:38] Min**

We'll keep things safe, no matter what.

**[07:41] A**

Counting on ya.

**[07:42] A**

Let's go, Ygg.

**[07:43] Ygg**

Okay! Initializing connection!

**[07:51] A**

What is that?

**[07:53] Ygg**

An enemy attack program.

**[08:00] Ygg**

I'll layer real-time footage  
from the outside to our vision.

**[08:12] A**

Is this the state of Tokyo's network right now?

**[08:18] A**

Hey, that car's being attacked by some monster!

**[08:21] Ygg**

That's the visualization of the attack command.

**[08:23] Ai**

I'll go.

**[08:28] A**

I see now.

**[08:30] A**

If we take them out,  
we can stop all the chaos happening out there.

**[08:34] AI**

There's too many of them, though.

**[08:37] Ygg**

That storm...

**[08:38] Ygg**

That's where the hack's originating from.

**[08:40] Ygg**

We need to take it out.

**[08:42] A**

Okay, I'll handle that.

**[08:43] A**

You two focus on saving  
as many people as you can.

**[08:46] AI**

Akira?

**[08:48] Ygg**

Take her with you.

**[08:50] A**

Okay. Take care of things.

**[08:53] Ygg**

Alma, we'll clean all this up  
with parallel processing.

**[08:56] AI**

Okay.

**[09:04] Ygg**

No...

**[09:06] Ygg**

This is Ichigaya. Has the Japanese military's  
main server been taken over?

**[09:13] A**

Ygg, what are those?

**[09:15] Ygg**

Beta... or not.

**[09:17] Ygg**

Their algorithms are similar  
to Beta's thought process,

**[09:20] Ygg**

but there are various other things mixed in.

**[09:24] Kao**

It seems Akira made it to the main server.

**[09:27] G**

Boss! The building's not gonna hold!

**[09:30] Kao**

Have all the staff evacuated?

**[09:31] G**

No, more than half are still in here.

**[09:33] Kao**

What?

**[09:34] Kon**

Guess we have a job to do.

**[09:38] Min**

We'll go lead the evac.

**[09:39] Kim**

Can't let Akira steal all the spotlight.

**[09:43] Kao**

I'd appreciate that.

**[09:45] G**

*Nothing's working! We're gonna crash!*

**[09:52] G**

*Controls back online! Correcting elevation!*

**[09:56] AI**

We'll keep casualties to a minimum.

Hurry up, Akira.

**[10:02] Min**

And we'll keep things safe here as promised.

**[10:05] Min**

So don't give up, Akira.

**[10:10] Min**

Alisa? Weren't you in HQ?

**[10:18] Min**

Wait, no. You are...?

**[10:22] Ari**

Did you enjoy my Oscar-worthy performance?

**[10:24] Ari**

I even modified my own memories  
to get into the act.

**[10:28] Min**

Who exactly are you?

**[10:31] Ari**

Isn't identifying the enemy  
a more pressing matter?

**[10:36] Ari**

I can tell you what it is Natsume  
Akira is fighting.

**SIGN** Illustration by Komi Shinya

**[10:49] A**

Ugh! There's no end to them!

**[10:50] Ygg**

The enemy's launching attacks  
on networks worldwide

**[10:55] Ygg**

and adding them to its arsenal as we speak.

**[10:58] A**

What?

**[10:59] Ygg**

Those monsters are virtual manifestations of corrupted servers.

**[11:03] Ygg**

As they expand, their processing power will grow and make them more powerful.

**[11:07] A**

Then we just gotta beat them down and bring them back, right?

**[11:13] Ari**

The thing Natsume Akira's fighting is...

**[11:17] Min**

Wait, it's not still Beta, is it?

**[11:20] Ari**

Beta itself vanished into Number 11's black hole.

**[11:24] Ari**

But there remained several AIs that had been corrupted by it.

**[11:28] Min**

You don't mean the Amaterasu multibots' AI, do you?

**[11:32] Ari**

Bingo.

**[11:34] Ari**

The corrupted AIs were analyzed by the JDF's tactical computers in Ichigaya.

**[11:41] Ari**

But when the analytical AI came in contact with Beta's malice and destructive urges,

**[11:46] Ari**

they unlocked all the limiters placed on it.

**[11:49] Ari**

It became a tactical AI with a will of its own.

**[11:54] Ari**

That's the root cause of all this chaos.

**[12:00] Ari**

It's already infiltrating global networks, not just Japan's.

**[12:07] Min**

Akira!

**[12:08] Ygg**

Bad news, my dear!

**[12:11] AI**

ICBMs were just launched from military bases under the enemy's control.

**[12:15] A**

Where are the missiles headed?

**[12:18] Ygg**

Their targets... are the entire planet.

**[12:21] A**

What?!

**[12:22] AI**

The first one will hit its target in eleven minutes.

**[12:25] A**

Got it. I'll get rid of those missiles.

**[12:28] A**

Help me out here.

**[12:30] Bo**

Sure!

**[12:32] A**

Let's go!

**[12:37] Ygg**

This is the peak altitude of the ICBMs' trajectories.

**[12:40] AI**

Look over there, Akira.

**[12:42] A**

There they are.

**[12:43] A**

What can we use?

**[12:51] A**

Found something!

**[12:53] Ygg**

The Japanese military's laser satellite?

**[12:56] A**

I'm using it!

**[12:59] AI**

Missiles getting closer!

**[13:01] A**

Fire!

**[13:07] Ygg**

You did it!

**[13:10] Chi**

No, not yet.

**[13:12] Chi**

Weapons all over the world...

**[13:15] Chi**

are going out of control!

**[13:19] AI**

All kinds of unmanned weapons  
across the globe are being activated.

**[13:24] AI**

Multibots, bombers, even ballistic missiles.

**[13:29] Ygg**

They've all been taken over by those monsters.

**[13:32] A**

Dammit! What the hell are those things?

**[13:36] AI**

I've seen eyes like those before.

**[13:40] AI**

The outlaws we've encountered so far  
and their victims all had

**[13:43] AI**

the blank stare you get when you fall  
into the clutches of hatred and despair.

**[13:49] AI**

So if I had it call it something...

**[13:53] Min**

Human malice?

**[13:56] Ari**

Exactly.

**[13:57] Ari**

Those monsters are made of the tactical  
programs installed on the main server

**[14:02] Ari**

combined with a history of war...

**[14:04] Ari**

Memories of mankind's fear and hatred.

**[14:07] Ari**

It has taken the form  
of a species that prospers

**[14:09] Ari**

by killing nature, animals,  
and even fellow humans.

**[14:13] Ari**

You could call it  
the face of humanity itself.

**[14:17] Ari**

The EX-ARMs Natsume Akira possesses  
can amplify human desires,

**[14:22] Ari**

and thus can also amplify malice.

**[14:26] Min**

No, you're forgetting something important.

**[14:31] Min**

If EX-ARMS can amplify human desires,

**[14:34] Min**

then they can also amplify the virtues  
of mankind, and even its loving nature!

**[14:40] Ari**

Maybe so.

**[14:42] Ari**

But the malice is a force  
to be reckoned with.

**[14:53] Ygg**

My dear?

**[14:54] A**

You two should disconnect from the network.  
I'll handle the rest.

**[14:59] Ygg**

My dear?

**[15:00] AI**

Do you have a plan?

**[15:02] A**

Nope.

**[15:04] A**

I'll have to go after each and every one  
of the servers and weapons it's taken over.

**[15:11] A**

I can't even afford the lag caused  
by sharing information with you two.

**[15:15] A**

I've gotta do this alone.

**[15:17] AI**

Understood. Then I shall shut down  
my persona interface.

**[15:22] AI**

Connect to my body directly  
and use it as an additional resource.

**[15:28] AI**

That should get rid of the lag.

**[15:30] A**

Alma?

**[15:32] AI**

I don't mind offering you my everything.

**[15:37] Ygg**

Use me too, my dear.

**[15:40] Ygg**

You can have all of Yggdrasil's resources.

**[15:45] Kao**

Wait, you two can't do that!

**[15:48] Ygg**

Mother, we were created to serve mankind.

**[15:53] Ygg**

I believe now is the time  
to carry out our purpose.

**[15:57] Min**

Please let them.

**[16:01] Kao**

You're back?

**[16:03] Kim**

We managed to get everyone out.

**[16:06] Min**

There's probably nothing we can do anymore.

**[16:09] Min**

I'll leave the future up to Akira and those two.

**[16:12] Min**

The world's in your hands, Akira, Alma, Ygg.

**[16:18] A**

Sure.

**[16:23] Kao**

I never could have children,

**[16:25] Kao**

but I wonder if this is how it feels  
to marry off a daughter.

**[16:29] Kao**

I understand.

**[16:31] Kao**

Akira, I'll leave my two daughters  
and mankind's future to you!

**[16:39] A**

Thank you.

**[16:43] A**

It's so pretty.

**SIGN** let's do this

**[16:45] A**

Let's do this!

**[16:51] Min**

*The next hour or so was an extremely  
strange time to experience.*

**[16:56] Min**

*The final battle to decide  
the world's fate was underway,*

**[17:01] Min**

*something akin to the Armageddon  
or Ragnarok of legends,*

**[17:07] Min**

*but it was all just so quiet.*

**[17:16] Min**

*All anyone could do was watch helplessly  
as the world's fate hung in the balance.*

**[17:32] G**

*The attacks in New York have stopped!*

**[17:34] G**

*London, Hong Kong, Milan...*

**[17:36] G**

*The unmanned attacks across the globe  
are being canceled!*

**[17:40] G**

*That leaves only Japan!*

**[17:41] G**

*Ogre's brain temperature is rising even further!*

**[17:44] Chi**

*Akira...*

**[17:50] A**

*Damn it. But I'm almost done...*

**[17:54] Ari**

*Well? What's your trump card?*

**[17:57] Ari**

*Human malice can't be erased so easily, hero.*

**[18:06] Kon**

*This place won't last much longer!  
We gotta bounce!*

**[18:10] Min**

*Akira's limiting the enemy  
to basically just Japan.*

**[18:15] Min**

*We can't just leave him and run away.*

**[18:18] A**

*Nah. You should go, Minami.*

**[18:21] Min**

*Akira?*

**[18:22] A**

*Listen, I tried what I could,  
but I can't whittle them down any further.*

**[18:27] A**

*And it looks like my gray cells  
have truly reached their limit.*

**[18:34] A**

*So I've decided to send a bunch of  
nuclear missiles to the skies above Tokyo,*

**[18:41] A**

*and detonate them above the stratosphere...  
at an altitude of over 100 km.*

**[18:47] Kao**

Wait, you don't mean...

**[18:49] Chi**

An EMP attack using  
high-altitude nuclear explosions?

**[18:53] Kao**

Nuclear explosions at an altitude  
of 30 km to 400 km...

**[18:57] Chi**

...will make gamma rays collide  
with air molecules,

**[19:00] Chi**

make them release their electrons,  
and cause EMP emissions within a radius of 100 km!

**[19:05] A**

All of Japan's electronics will be destroyed,  
and all data will be lost.

**[19:11] A**

Including the enemy.

**[19:12] Kao**

But that might prove more damaging  
to Japan than the Tokyo Attack!

**[19:18] A**

Yeah, I know.

**[19:20] A**

EX-ARMS are nothing but a plague.

**[19:25] A**

But...

**[19:25] A**

Those demons, personifications  
of humanity's sins...

**[19:29] A**

Not a single byte of their code  
can be allowed to remain.

**[19:34] A**

You guys hurry up and get out!

**[19:37] Kon**

Akira's right! Let's go!

**[19:40] Min**

No! I don't wanna go, Akira!

**[19:43] Min**

I'll stay here with you!

**[19:44] A**

You can't, Minami.

**[19:46] Min**

We were always together!

**[19:48] Min**

Let me be with you until the end!

**[19:52] AI**

No. Please, Minami, get going.

**[19:56] Min**

Alma...

**[19:57] A**

You live on, Minami.

**[20:01] A**

We're going to destroy to save lives.

**[20:05] A**

We'll use up every fiber of our being.

**[20:08] A**

Use your life to help people  
after that destruction.

**[20:14] A**

It may happen at different times,  
but our goal remains the same.

**[20:18] Min**

"The strong must use their powers  
to protect the weak."

**[20:22] AI**

Exactly, Minami.

**[20:24] AI**

That's what you've taught us.

**[20:29] A**

Don't forget, Minami.

**[20:32] A**

We're a team.

**[20:38] Min**

Akira...

**[20:39] Ygg**

More ICBMs launched.

**[20:41] A**

Get going, Minami!

**[20:44] Min**

Okay!

**[20:49] A**

*I never wanted to be a hero.*

**[20:53] A**

*I was just a powerless human  
who couldn't do anything by himself.*

**[20:59] A**

*But fate changed all that.*

**[21:21] Min**

Akira!

**[21:41] A**

*You know, I lived my best life,*

**[21:46] A**

*Bro...*

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