

# E22 - The End of the Journey

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**SIGN** Please answer me, Yuuki.

**[00:30] Gi**

Asuna-san...

**[00:33] A**

Siune!

**[00:34] A**

What's Yuuki doing?

**[00:37] A**

She hasn't logged in for three days!

**[00:40] Gi**

Since then, we've been unable to reach her, either.

**[00:45] Gi**

Asuna-san,

**[00:46] Gi**

I believe Yuuki doesn't want to see you again.

**[00:50] Gi**

For your sake, and no one else's.

**[00:53] A**

Wh-Why?

**[00:58] A**

No, I understood, actually.

**[01:03] A**

You were all trying to keep  
your distance from me.

**[01:08] A**

If I'm a bother to you, I'll leave you alone.

**[01:13] A**

But if you say it's for my sake, I can't accept it!

**[01:16] Gi**

A bother?

**[01:19] Gi**

We're really happy to have met you.

**[01:24] Gi**

It's thanks to you

**[01:26] ---**

that we were able to have that last wonderful memory in this world.

**[01:31] Gi**

I'm sure Yuuki feels the same way.

**[01:34] Gi**

But... Please...

**[01:37] Gi**

Just forget about us.

**[01:42] A**

Is this really goodbye?

**[01:45] A**

Even if the guild disbanded, I thought we could stay friends forever.

**[01:50] A**

But was I the only one who thought that?

**[01:56] Gi**

I'm sorry.

**[01:59] A**

Wait!

**SIGN** Journey's End

**[04:03] L**

Asuna!

**[04:06] L**

Good morning...

**[04:07] Gi**

Good morning!

**[04:09] A**

Morning.

**[04:10] L**

We finally caught you!

**[04:12] L**

Tell us about that message you sent!

**[04:16] Gi**

I heard from Liz that you entered a guild?

**[04:20] L**

Hey, hey, what's it like?

**[04:22] A**

Well...

**[04:25] A**

Ah, sorry...

**SIGN** Kirigaya Kazuto

**[04:31] K**

Yui, how's it look?

**[04:33] K**

Can you see me?

**[04:35] Y**

My vision's a little blurry, Daddy.

**[04:39] K**

Maybe the autofocus isn't working right.

**[04:42] K**

Wait a second.

**[04:43] Y**

Okay, Daddy.

**[04:55] K**

Hey.

**[05:05] K**

Do you really want to see Zekken,  
no matter what?

**[05:09] A**

Yeah.

**[05:11] K**

They said it was better that you don't, right?

**[05:13] K**

Even so?

**[05:14] A**

Yeah.

**[05:15] A**

Even so, I want to see Yuuki and talk  
to her again, no matter what.

**[05:19] A**

I have to!

**[05:21] K**

Okay.

**[05:25] K**

If you go here, you may be able to see her.

**[05:28] K**

It's just a possibility.

**[05:30] A**

How do you know this?

**[05:33] K**

It's the only place in Japan that's doing  
clinical trials for the Medicuboid.

**SIGN** —hama Port, Northern General Hospital

**[05:38] A**

The Medicuboid?

**[05:51] A**

Um...

**[05:53] Gi**

You're here to see someone?

**[05:54] A**

Yes.

**[05:55] A**

But I don't know her name.

**[05:58] Gi**

I'm sorry?

**[05:59] A**

I think it's a girl around fifteen.

**[06:02] A**

Her name might be "Yuuki."

**[06:05] Gi**

That isn't enough...

**[06:06] A**

Um, I think they're using the  
Medicuboid you're testing here!

**[06:12] Gi**

I'm sorry, but what's your name?

**[06:15] A**

Ah, I'm Yuuki Asuna.

**[06:19] Gi**

Sit on that bench, and wait for a minute.

**[06:22] A**

O-Okay.

**[06:30] Gu**

Hello, I'm sorry to keep you waiting.

**[06:34] A**

N-Not at all.

**[06:36] Gu**

So you're Yuuki Asuna-san, yes?

**[06:39] A**

Yes.

**[06:40] Gu**

My name is Kurahashi.

**[06:42] Gu**

I'm Konno Yuuki-san's doctor.

**[06:44] A**

Konno-san?

**[06:48] Gu**

I'm amazed you found this place.

**[06:51] Gu**

Yuuki-kun said that someone

**[06:53] ---**

named Asuna-san might come to see her.

**[06:58] A**

Yuuki did?

**[06:59] Gu**

But she said she didn't tell you about the hospital.

**[07:03] Gu**

So I told her there was no way  
you'd find this place, but...

**[07:08] Gu**

When the front desk called me, I was surprised.

**[07:12] A**

Um... Did Yuuki-san tell you about me?

**[07:17] Gu**

Sure.

**[07:18] Gu**

All she does is talk about you.

**[07:21] Gu**

But whenever she was done talking about you, she would cry.

**[07:28] Gu**

She never complains about her own situation.

**[07:32] Gu**

She said she wanted to see you, but she couldn't.

**[07:38] A**

After we said goodbye in the virtual world,

**[07:41] ---**

Yuuki-san and her friends told me the same thing.

**[07:45] A**

Why? Why can't I see her?

**[07:55] Gu**

I suppose I should begin by telling you about the Medicuboid.

**[07:59] A**

Okay.

**[08:01] Gu**

The Medicuboid is something

**[08:03] ---**

that's currently being developed by the national government.

**[08:05] Gu**

It's the code name for the world's first medical full-dive system.

**[08:09] A**

Medical full-dive system?

**[08:11] Gu**

That's right.

**[08:13] Gu**

For people with vision or hearing problems,

**[08:17] ---**

that machine is truly a blessing.

**[08:20] Gu**

Because the Amusphere transmits sound and images directly to the brain.

**[08:26] Gu**

It isn't only signal transmission, either.

**[08:29] Gu**

The Amusphere also has sensation-cancelers.

**[08:33] Gu**

By sending an electromagnetic pulse here,

**[08:35] Gu**

it can temporarily paralyze the nerves.

**[08:39] Gu**

In other words, it functions just like general anesthesia.

**[08:42] A**

But isn't that impossible?

**[08:45] A**

The sensory levels you can interact with via Amusphere

**[08:48] ---**

are limited to very low levels.

**[08:51] Gu**

That's right!

**[08:52] Gu**

That's exactly right.

**[08:54] Gu**

The Amusphere... No, even the NerveGear

**[08:57] ---**

can't cancel the pain from surgery or serious illnesses.

**[08:59] Gu**

So the Medicuboid enhances the electromagnetic pulse's output,

**[09:03] Gu**

and by fitting it on a specialized bed, we can cover everything

**[09:06] ---**

from the brain to the entire spinal column.

**[09:08] Gu**

If this is put into use, it will change medicine forever.

**[09:12] Gu**

And with the Medicuboid's specs,

**[09:15] ---**

you could combine it with a camera to allow

**[09:18] ---**

AR-image processing in real time.

**[09:21] A**

That sounds like a true dream machine.

**[09:27] Gu**

Yes.

**[09:28] Gu**

It truly is a dream machine.

**[09:32] Gu**

But it doesn't treat the underlying illness.

**[09:37] Gu**

The place where it's hoped it will have

**[09:40] ---**

the most impact is terminal care.

**[09:43] A**

Terminal care?

**[09:45] Gu**

Treatment for terminal illnesses.

**[09:49] A**

Terminal...

**[09:53] Gu**

Yuuki-kun told me that if you wanted it,  
I was to tell you everything about her.

**[10:00] Gu**

But you may wish later that I hadn't.

**[10:11] A**

No.

**[10:14] A**

Continue.

**[10:15] A**

Please.

**[10:16] A**

That's why I came here!

**[10:23] Gu**

Yuuki-kun was born in May 2011.

**[10:28] Gu**

It was a difficult birth, and her  
mother was given a C-section.

**[10:31] Gu**

At the time, she was given blood.

**[10:35] Gu**

But unfortunately, that blood  
was infected with a virus.

**[10:40] Gu**

The virus was detected in September,

**[10:43] Gu**

during a post-transfusion test her mother took.

**[10:47] Gu**

But at that point, her entire family had already...

**SIGN** Special Measurement Devices Lab 1

**[11:00] Gu**

This is it.

**[11:05] Gu**

The room beyond this glass is an  
air-controlled clean room,

**[11:09] ---**

so you can't go in.

**[11:11] Gu**

Please understand.

**[11:23] A**

Yuuki...

**[11:26] A**

Doctor, what is she ill with?

**[11:29] Gu**

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

**[11:33] Gu**

AIDS.

**[11:35] Gu**

AIDS isn't as terrifying an illness as people think.

**[11:41] Gu**

With early detection, you can delay

**[11:43] ---**

the onset of symptoms for a long time.

**[11:48] Gu**

But the virus she was infected with  
was a drug-resistant variant.

**[11:53] Gu**

Yuuki-kun's mother despaired  
for her children's future,

**[11:57] Gu**

and was prepared to kill herself at one point.

**[12:03] Gu**

But she decided to continue  
to fight the illness instead.

**[12:08] A**

To keep fighting...

**[12:11] Gu**

Yes. Soon after birth, Yuuki-kun  
was given multi-drug therapy.

**[12:17] Gu**

It's hard for a young child to take lots of drugs

**[12:20] ---**

at regular intervals.

**[12:23] Gu**

There are side effects, as well.

**[12:25] Gu**

And she also suffered due to prejudice, I'm told.

**[12:29] Gu**

But Yuuki-kun and her family  
believed she'd get better,

**[12:33] ---**

and she did her best.

**[12:36] Gu**

But in fourth grade, her immune system suddenly collapsed.

**[12:41] Gu**

In other words, the AIDS symptoms began, and she was hospitalized here.

**[12:49] Gu**

Still, she was always smiling.

**[12:54] A**

Doctor,

**[12:56] ---**

why did she decide to use the Medicuboid?

**[12:59] Gu**

Just as the public was panicking about the NerveGear incident,

**[13:04] Gu**

the first Medicuboid prototype was completed.

**[13:08] Gu**

But even if we'd wanted to do trials,

**[13:10] Gu**

no one knew what the long-term effects of electromagnetic pulses,

**[13:13] ---**

several times stronger than those of the NerveGear, would be.

**[13:18] Gu**

They couldn't find a patient who was willing to take the risk.

**[13:24] Gu**

When I heard about it,

**[13:26] Gu**

I made Yuuki-kun and her parents a proposal.

**[13:29] Gu**

If she agreed to try the device,

**[13:31] ---**

I could have her put in a clean room

**[13:34] ---**

that would greatly reduce her risk of infection.

**[13:39] Gu**

Sometimes, I still don't know if it was for the best.

**[13:46] Gu**

Both Yuuki-kun and her parents spent a lot of time worrying about it.

**[13:51] Gu**

But her longing for the unknown of a virtual world

**[13:55] ---**

was probably the deciding factor.

**[13:57] Gu**

She agreed to be a test subject,

**[14:00] Gu**

and entered this room.

**[14:02] Gu**

Ever since then, she's lived in the Medicuboid.

**[14:06] A**

You mean...

**[14:08] Gu**

I mean exactly that.

**[14:10] Gu**

She almost never returns to the real world.

**[14:14] Gu**

Right now, she's using

**[14:16] ---**

the Medicuboid's sensation-canceler  
to alleviate the pain.

**[14:20] A**

In other words, she's diving  
twenty-four hours a day?

**[14:24] A**

And she's been doing that...

**[14:26] Gu**

For three years.

**[14:28] A**

*A year longer than we did?*

**[14:31] K**

A product of the full-dive environment.

**[14:34] K**

That's what it felt like.

**[14:53] A**

Thank you.

**[14:56] A**

For letting me see Yuuki.

**[15:00] A**

Yuuki's safe in here, right?

**[15:04] Gu**

Even in a clean room,

**[15:06] Gu**

we can't remove the bacteria  
and viruses from her body.

**[15:10] A**

Then...

**[15:12] Gu**

Yuuki-kun's condition is terminal.

**[15:15] Gu**

You can probably understand

why she tried to disappear.

**[15:22] A**

No...

**[15:24] A**

That can't...

**[15:25] Z**

Asuna, I...

**[15:31] Z**

Leave it to me, Sis!

**[15:34] A**

Um, doctor... Does Yuuki have a sister?

**[15:40] Z**

Yes, that's right.

**[15:41] Z**

She was a twin.

**[15:45] Z**

Her sister's name was Aiko-san.

**[15:48] Z**

Yuuki-kun was a bright and cheerful child,

**[15:50] ---**

and she would always smile and watch her.

**[15:55] Z**

Come to think of it,

**[15:56] ---**

she might have been a bit like you, somehow.

**[15:59] A**

Might have been?

**[16:01] Gu**

Two years ago, her parents passed away.

**[16:04] Gu**

And her sister one year ago.

**[16:13] A**

Yuuki...

**[16:16] A**

Yuuki...

**[16:24] Z**

Don't cry, Asuna!

**[16:31] A**

Yuuki! Yuuki!

**[16:33] A**

Are you there?

**[16:34] Z**

Yeah.

**[16:35] Z**

It's through a lens, but I can see you, Asuna.

**[16:38] Z**

Wow.

**[16:39] Z**

You really do look just the same as on the other side.

**[16:42] Z**

Thanks for coming.

**[16:44] A**

Yuuki, I...

**[16:47] A**

I...

**[16:48] Z**

Doctor, please let her use the room next door.

**[16:53] Gu**

That's fine.

**[16:55] Gu**

The Amusphere I always use to talk to her is in the next room.

**[16:59] A**

Right!

**[17:01] Z**

ALO is on the apps start up list.

**[17:04] Z**

When you log in, go to the first place we met.

**[17:19] A**

*One more time...*

**[17:21] A**

*I want to see you, just one more time!*

**[17:25] A**

*I want to see you, and talk to you for real this time!*

**[17:43] A**

Yuuki!

**[17:49] A**

Yuuki!

**[18:04] A**

Yuuki...

**[18:08] Z**

I don't know why...

**[18:09] Z**

But I had a feeling you'd find me in the real world.

**[18:15] Z**

But since I hadn't told you anything,

**[18:18] ---**

I knew it was impossible.

**[18:20] Z**

But you came.

**[18:23] Z**

It's pretty rare for my feelings to come true.

**[18:27] Z**

I was happy... Really.

**[18:47] Z**

You smell just like my sister when she held me.

**[18:51] Z**

You smell like the sun.

**[18:53] A**

Aiko-san?

**[18:55] A**

Your sister played VRMMOs, too?

**[18:57] Z**

Yeah.

**[18:59] Z**

She was the first leader of the Sleeping Knights.

**[19:03] Z**

She was way stronger than me.

**[19:08] Z**

She met Siune and the others in a virtual hospice called Selene Garden.

**[19:13] Z**

At first, there were nine of us.

**[19:16] Z**

But my sister, Clovis, and Merida...

**[19:19] Z**

Three of them are gone now.

**[19:23] Z**

So we decided that when it was the next person's time,

**[19:28] Z**

we'd disband the guild.

**[19:31] Z**

Asuna, I'm sorry I couldn't tell you the truth.

**[19:35] Z**

The reason the Sleeping Knights are disbanding in the spring

**[19:39] ---**

isn't because we'll be too busy to play the game.

**[19:42] Z**

It's because two of our members have been told they have,

**[19:46] ---**

at most, three months to live.

**[19:52] Z**

So we wanted to have one last memory from this wonderful world.

**[19:59] Z**

We wanted to leave proof that we  
were here on that huge monument.

**[20:05] Z**

We wanted to have an incredible adventure  
to brag about to my sister and the rest.

**[20:11] Z**

But it wasn't going well.

**[20:14] Z**

We decided to find one person  
who could help us.

**[20:19] Z**

But we caused you trouble,

**[20:21] Z**

and I'm sure this is unpleasant for you.

**[20:24] Z**

I'm sorry.

**[20:25] Z**

I'm sorry, Asuna.

**[20:26] Z**

There's still time for you to forget us.

**[20:32] A**

I can't do that.

**[20:35] A**

I'm really happy I met you all,

**[20:39] A**

and I was able to help you.

**[20:41] A**

I still wish I could be part  
of the Sleeping Knights.

**[20:45] Z**

Yeah.

**[20:46] Z**

I'm really happy I was able to come  
to this world and meet you...

**[20:52] Z**

What you just said is enough.  
It's enough for me.

**[20:57] Z**

I'm satisfied with everything.

**[21:01] A**

There are still...

**[21:02] ---**

There are still a lot of things  
you haven't done, right?

**[21:04] A**

I'm sure there are all kinds of places  
in Alfheim you haven't visited yet.

**[21:08] A**

And if you include the other  
virtual worlds, it's infinite.

**[21:13] A**

So don't tell me you're satisfied.

**[21:18] Z**

Over the past three years,

**[21:19] ---**

we had a lot of different adventures,  
in a lot of different worlds.

**[21:23] Z**

I want the last page to be the  
adventure I had with you.

**[21:28] A**

But there are things you want to do,

**[21:31] ---**

places you want to see, right?

**[21:37] Z**

That's right.

**[21:39] Z**

I want to go to school.

**[21:41] A**

S-School?

**[21:43] Z**

I'm sorry, I know it's impossible!

**[21:46] Z**

I'm really glad you feel that way.

**[21:49] Z**

But I really am satisfied.

**[21:58] A**

You might be able to go...

**[22:01] A**

You might be able to go to school!

**SIGN** Next Time Beginning of a Dream

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