

YU-GI-OH!

# 遊戯王

ゆうぎおう



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オートマチック・ジャイアント  
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## Automatic Giant

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Long time no see, huh?

It's been a long while since I translated anything to do with *Yu-Gi-Oh!*. Prodded by going through some of my items from Japan—mainly light novels—I started to translate this. It took a little while to accomplish because I had other things to do.

The question you may be asking yourself is “What is this story? Why have I never heard of it before?” Some may think right-off-the-bat that this story is fan-fiction. I will tell you right now, it isn't.

*Automatic Giant* is the last chapter of the original *Yu-Gi-Oh!* novel, published back in 1999. Many may have heard there was a novel, but in case you didn't, surprise! You may be familiar with the second novel, based on the *Pyramid of Light*.

The novel contains four chapters. The first chapter deals with how Yugi assembled the Millennium Puzzle. The second deals with the first duel between Yugi and Kaiba. The third is the duel at the end of the Death-T story arc (which would be the first episode in the second animated series).

The fourth, and final, chapter of the novel is this story, and takes place two weeks after the final duel of the Death-T arc at Kaiba Land.. The *Automatic Giant* spans pages 149 to 216 of the novel, in case you have a copy. This story has not made it into any other medium. The canonicity of the story is unknown, since none of the characters in the series ever make reference to it, but it fits in right after the Death-T arc, and before the Duelist Kingdom Arc.

This translated story uses names of the characters and cards translated from the Japanese version. Those who remember my *Yu-Gi-Oh!* translations may find that some of the cards are referred to differently, which marks a development of my translation abilities and better to fit into fiction. On a side note, during the translation of this story, I realized just how rusty my Japanese had gotten in the four years since leaving Japan.

Translation-wise, this story should be about 92% or more correct. I'll have to edit it better later on. One item of note is that this story is before any media started calling Yugi's other personality *Dark Yugi* or anything of the sort. This story refers to the 'other Yugi' as 'the Game King.'

Since I have translated this—for free, mind you—don't abuse it. I worked hard on this for your enjoyment, so at least follow a few rules.

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Anyway, that was enough blathering. Enjoy an untold story in the *Yu-Gi-Oh!* universe. It was fun!

His consciousness slowly awakened.  
Instantaneous awakening

He was slowly putting the fragments of his memories back together.  
Instantaneous understanding of all

His memories were coming back.  
Documenting memories

“*Exodia, the Sealed One!* Hellblaze of Rage, Exode Flame!”

That’s right, back then...  
Kaiba Land

“I win, Kaiba.”

I lost...  
I didn’t lose

I can hear someone’s voice.  
Director of the Kaiba Corporation

What do you want me to do?  
It’s obvious

That’s right, it’s obvious.  
Yugi Mutou

No. I...  
Be quiet, be quiet, be quiet

For the Kaiba Coporation, I...  
Shut up, be quiet, all of you, too

Aah, I...?  
It’s me

Aah.....  
I do not lose

...A...A.....

“Yugi! I will defeat you! No matter what!”

The weather that had started to break down during the morning had finally turned to rain during lunch time.

It was break time. The students couldn't go outside to play. The classroom was crowded, but Yugi's classmates weren't worried. *Magic & Wizards* had completely permeated the class. Even for students who didn't have cards, watching the other students play was fun enough.

“Raaaah!”

Jounouchi psyched himself up and put a card into play.

“Go! Axe Raider!”

The *Axe Raider* had Yugi's *Elf Swordsman* in its sights. The attack strength was 1700 against 1400. At this rate, the *Axe Raider* would win.

However, Yugi took a face-down card and turned it face-up.

It was a Magic card, *Ice Sword, the Magic Blade*, which gave 500 points of water-based power to a warrior. The *Elf Swordsman*'s attack strength jumped to 1900. Jounouchi's *Axe Raider* was cut down, and Jounouchi's own life points dropped to 0.

“Gaaaah! I lost again!”

Jounouchi yelled, holding his head, and Honda, who was sitting at his side, slapped him on the shoulder.

“It's impossible for you to beat Yugi.”

“Shut up! Other than Yugi, I'm number one in the class!”

“Yep, that's right. You've done okay, Jounouchi,” Yugi said as he scooped up his cards.

“You don't need to hold back, Yugi. All I am is just 'okay,’” Jounouchi said, bitter that he lost.

“That's not what I meant. Jounouchi, you've just started, so your deck composition is just bad.”

Jounouchi's mood turned around in a second, and he slapped Honda in the shoulder.

“If I can get more cards, my true abilities will be demonstrated.”

“Say, Yugi. Truthfully, how is Jounouchi's skill?” Anzu interposed from the side.

“What do you mean, 'How?'”

“Is it the cards' fault he lost? Or is it Jounouchi's fault?”

“Of course it's the cards' fault,” Jounouchi said.

“If you want to get stronger, earnestly listen to Yugi's opinion.”

Urged on by Anzu, Yugi gave his frank opinion.

“Jounouchi, it looks like you put a little too much emphasis on attacking. You should think about defending a little more.”

“As he says, Jounouchi.”

“Yeah, yeah, I get it.”

Yugi wanted to say one more thing, but felt it would hurt Jounouchi further. He wanted to say that Jounouchi wasn't thinking too much about two or three plays ahead.

“But Yugi, don’t you feel it’s not enough just playing against us?” Honda said as he shuffled his deck. “Compared to your duel at Kaiba Land.”

“Not at all.”

It was true that the battle at Kaiba Land was fierce. It was a fight that was proper to call a duel where they had risked their lives. But that was two weeks ago. The defeated Kaiba had taken a strong blow to his spirit, and was currently catatonic. After the duel, Kaiba Land had been temporarily closed down.

“I have fun, whatever the duel may be.”

“In that case, I’ll be your next opponent.”

Honda pushed Jounouchi out of his seat, and sat across from Yugi. From the start of the duel, Honda’s life points slowly started to go down.

For games against classmates like Jounouchi, Yugi removed strong monsters from his deck. His deck was composed of monsters with attack strength of 2000 or less. As far as combat abilities, that would make them even, but he used a combination of several other strategies to defeat his opponents in other ways.

He said that he had fun whatever the duel may be, but Yugi wouldn’t put his all into it. He stopped himself from using strong tier two and three combos.

As the game with Honda continued, Yugi started to think of Kaiba.

Kaiba had used an underhanded tactic to draw Yugi into the duel arena, confronting him in what could be called a cruel battle.

But they had truly put everything that had into that battle, a true duel. Though the battle was now over, there was something nostalgic about it.

Yugi believed that, some day, Kaiba would be back.

And at that time, Yugi had a premonition that they would once again duel. However, at that time, there would be no vengeance, nor anger. There was the anticipation that they would devote every ounce of their ability simply to fight.

“Aargh! Done in!”

Honda was tragically obliterated by a combo that Yugi had unconsciously played.

“Take a look. Even you can’t beat Yugi.”

Jounouchi’s voice snapped Yugi back to reality.

“Oh, I’m sorry, Honda.”

“What are you sorry about? A battle is a battle. You won, so why are you apologizing?”

“Sorry...”

The *sorry* had many meanings put into it, but no one around realized it.

When Yugi returned home, Sugoroku greeted him with a big smile.

“They’re here, they’re here, Yugi!”

He was dancing in front of a cardboard box.

Sugoroku had fallen ill after the card battle with Kaiba with a heart spasm, but he was now completely well again. Even so, a little too well.

“What do you mean, ‘They’re here!’ grandpa?”

“*Magic & Wizards* cards.”

The card game was currently very popular, and the *Turtle Game Shop* was currently sold out. It took some time for the order to be filled, but cards finally reached the shop.

“Whoa! All right!”

It was said there were several thousands of kinds of cards, but that story wasn't a definite. Neither Yugi nor Sugoroku had seen every card. That is the reason they wanted new cards.

They struggled against each other to remove the wrapping on the cardboard box. There was a small box inside, and inside were many packs to be sold. You wouldn't know what cards you would get until you bought and opened them. Regarding rare cards, there were a very limited number that existed. The chances of getting one were lower depending on how high of a rarity.

"Hmph. Not a single new card."

Sugoroku sighed after opening one pack.

The deck that Sugoroku had put so much time into assembling was given to Yugi at Kaiba Land. After the battle, Yugi anticipated giving the deck back, but Sugoroku wouldn't accept it.

—Those are your cards now—

The deck that contained the invincible *Exodia* had become Yugi's.

That didn't mean Sugoroku had given up games or cards. 'I'm starting over from step one,' Sugoroku would comment in high spirits.

*Magic & Wizards* cards were released set after set, and the number of new cards increased. He took this as an opportunity to put his heart into composing a new deck.

Yugi felt the same. The deck that he received from Sugoroku was strong in and of itself, but Yugi added cards that he originally had, and rebuilt it. To further enhance it, he considered supplementing it with new cards.

"Well then, I'll take..."

Yugi put his hand on a pack of cards, and Sugoroku put his own hand out.

"What, grandpa?"

"Money."

"Grandpa, are you really going to take money from your grandson?"

"Of course I am! These are my goods. If all of the cards here were mine, I wouldn't mind giving you a few, but almost all of them are going for sale in the store."

Yugi shrugged and pulled out his wallet. He didn't have much allowance left. He prayed that a rare card would be in them, and while consulting with his wallet, chose five packs.

"What, is that all you want?"

"I don't have any allowance left."

Yugi stared with resentment at the mountain of packs of new cards.

"In that case, I'll give you these cheap."

Sugoroku went to a shelf at his feet, and pulled out a box covered with dust. It had the *Magic & Wizards* logo-design on it, but seemed to have faded as if sunlight had beaten down on it.

"Are they old?"

"The very first set of cards. You can still use the first set of cards, but compared to current cards, their abilities are weak."

"Then you can't use them."

Yugi knew about the older cards. There were a few from the first set even in Yugi's deck, but those were 'usable' cards that had made their way into newer sets, which is

where Yugi got them. Most of the cards from the first set didn't survive the cut, became unusable, and went out of print.

"Not at all. Current cards were based on trial-and-error from these. There are unusual cards here that were removed from current sets."

"Are they valuable to a collector?"

Even for newer cards, rare cards had high price tags on them, and were regularly bought and sold.

"The truth is, there is an enormous number of the first version out there. So many were sold, and without many rare cards, they couldn't even be called premium cards. I thought these were going to sell, so I bought a lot of them, but so many were sold and before you knew it, the next set was out. Because that set had stronger Monster cards in it, people rushed to that one. Thanks to that, I still have these left."

"Well, they're not really good cards then."

"That's not true. These are packs with hidden potential sleeping within that current cards don't have. After all, when I began playing, this is all I had."

"But they're weak, aren't they?"

"Strong or weak, that's up to the skill of their user. Today I'll sell them special to you, at half off."

"Grandpa, do you really want to sell them that much?"

"The truth is I still have five cardboard boxes of them in the storage room..."

Yugi was surprised, but sympathized.

"But even so..."

The little allowance that he had left was already gone.

"All right. I'll give you one for free. Take a look at it, and then decide."

"I'll take it if it's free."

Yugi chose one pack without looking.

"Come again."

"I live here."

He moved from the shop to the main wing of the house, and headed toward the dining room. He got a drink from the refrigerator, and Yugi slowly lined up the packs on the table. He suppressed his impatient heart, and took his time, pulling out the cards one by one.

He found a new card, but its level was low. The level 4 *Baby Dragon*. Its attack strength was only 1200 and its defense strength was 700, so it wasn't that strong of a card. Its picture was of a cute dragon.

He opened the next pack to about the same result. There were some new cards, but weren't that strong, the card's in Yugi's deck were better, or that he just couldn't add them to his deck.

However, he did find one interesting card.

*Time Magician*.

It was a card that was hard to use, but when used correctly, can be a source of powerful combos.

That's what he found in the new cards. The remaining pack was the pack that Sugoroku had given him from the first version.

Without any expectations, Yugi opened the pack, but sure enough, found unexciting cards. They were level 4 common Monster cards.



However, one card caught Yugi's attention.

"Huh? How do I use this card?"

Yugi purchased informational magazines to keep track of cards he didn't have, but this card was one that he didn't recall seeing.

It was a card called the *Egg of the Unknowns*. The restriction on when to use it, and what kind of effect it had when used was written on it, but Yugi had no idea of instances in which he could use it. Its attack strength was 0. Its defense strength was 100. A defense strength of 100 was about the same as 0. It would be destroyed in an instant, whatever the card your opponent used.

Yugi was deep in thought, trying to understand the card, when the phone rang.

"Yes, Mutou residence."

The person on the other end of the line started speaking to Yugi without any formal greeting.

"Yugi. I want to have a duel with you again."

"Kai...ba?"

"The top floor of the Kaiba Corporation headquarters. I'll be waiting for you there. Come now."

There was not doubt that it was Kaiba's voice.

"Kaiba! It's you, isn't it Kaiba!? Have you come back?"

"In order to fight you once again. I'm waiting, Yugi. It will be a duel!"

Then he hung up the phone. Yugi was surprised, but deep within his heart, a fire started to burn. Kaiba had put the pieces of his heart back together. Kaiba wanted to have a card battle, and it made Yugi's heart dance.

The rain outside had gotten stronger. There was no doubt the night would be the same.

But Kaiba was waiting. Yugi grabbed his beloved deck. Of course, it was the one headed up with rare cards such as *Exodia*. If he was going to fight Kaiba again, he must end this by putting everything he had into it.

Yugi saw the new cards that were sitting on the table. They probably wouldn't be useful in the battle with Kaiba, but he slipped them into his pocket.

By the time he finally reached where he was headed, it was evening. The rain clouds were hiding the setting sun.

In the darkness, the Kaiba Corporation headquarters stood.

Almost all of the lights in the windows were out, and it felt like no one was there.

As he looked around, Yugi approached the building front of the front. There were no staff members, nor security guards around. The spacious entrance hall glimmered brightly, but he got the impression that the building was shut down. He came to a closed glass door, and wondered what to do.

"YUGI MUTOU, CONFIRMED."

The sudden voice scared Yugi.

A surveillance camera, attached to a corner of the wall, was looking at him. The voice was from a speaker in the ceiling that he couldn't see.

"PLEASE, ENTER."

The door opened upward with a mechanical sound.

"Are you an automatic guard system?"

"YES, AUTO SECURITY," the voice answered Yugi's question.

Ahead of the path of the entrance hall were lights. He could see a door further in.  
“THAT WAY, PLEASE.”

Yugi headed further in, as the voice requested.

“Um, where is the other staff from the company?”

“EVERYONE HAS LEFT FOR THE DAY. MASTER KAIBA’S ORDER.”

“Hmm.”

Did Kaiba prepare this much for their duel? Normally that would be thought to be overdoing it, but Kaiba just might do it.

Once he reached the door, it opened without a sound.

“PLEASE, ENTER.”

It was a small room. There was a small door inside.

“THE ELEVATOR GOES DIRECTLY TO THE COMPANY PRESIDENT’S OFFICE.”

The elevator door opened, and Yugi stepped inside.

“BE AT EASE.”

The door closed. The elevator began to ascend. He couldn’t really feel the speed increasing, but it was a high-speed elevator. Yugi didn’t ask any questions, and the elevator arrived at the top floor. It didn’t make a sound when it stopped, and didn’t make a sound when the door opened.

It opened into darkness.

The company president’s room was spacious. There was furniture in the surroundings, but in the unending room, he couldn’t see anything inside the room.

However, a light was on, shining from a spotlight attached to the ceiling, shining down on a table farther in the room.

There was someone seated at the far end of the table.

“Heh, heh, heh, you finally made it, Yugi.”

“Kaiba?”

Yugi walked over the soft carpet. The light shining from over the table was too bright, so he couldn’t really see Kaiba’s face in the darkness. He could only clearly see Kaiba’s hands and chest.

“Kaiba, are you all right now?”

“You’re naïve as usual, Yugi.”

Yugi winched at his harsh words.

“If you have time to worry about me, worry about yourself. You’re the one that’s going to be beaten in a duel,” Kaiba rudely said, with hatred.

“Kaiba?”

Yugi couldn’t believe it. Back then, the Millennium Puzzle should have destroyed his malice.

By putting his heart back together, he should have awoken when he retrieved the heart of the kind-hearted boy he was when he was a child.

“What are you staring at like a fool, Yugi? I will teach you that I’m different than back then. Today I will finally beat you into the ground!”

“Kaiba, you haven’t changed...”

Inside Yugi’s heart, a piercing sadness spread. He had expected Kaiba to treat him as a rival, by found him seeing Yugi only as an enemy.

“No, I have changed. I am far stronger than I was in the past. Have you changed, Yugi? Can you fight without your tepid friendship?”

As Yugi fell into sadness, there was something in his heart that embraced anger. The anger grew and forced away the sadness, and the other Yugi arose.

“Enough with the tedious talk. I accept your challenge, Kaiba!”

The Game King shot Kaiba a fierce look.

“Heh, heh, heh. Thank you for getting serious. If you didn’t, there’d be no meaning in defeating you.”

Kaiba pointed to the seat in front of Yugi, telling him to sit.

“I will once again destroy your malice.”

Yugi took his seat for the confrontation. The light still shadowed Kaiba’s face, so Yugi couldn’t see it. He thought it was a tactic to not let his opponent read his expressions, but it wasn’t the Kaiba that coerced or showed disdain for his opponent.

Kaiba smiled, and tapped on the table with a resounding sound.

“This table has been equipped with the same system that is used at Kaiba Land. It doesn’t use the booth, but this is also a Virtual Simulator.”

The Virtual Simulator was a Kaiba Corporation-created piece of equipment that took the picture of a monster drawn on the card and turned it into a 3D image, and showed them fighting.

“Don’t think I’ll let it end with that, Kaiba. I’m turning this into a Game of Darkness.”

“Heh, heh, heh. Do as you wish. So, for this game, the standard rules will not change. How about we use an optional rule?”

“Which one?”

*Magic & Wizards*’s basic rules were uniform, and those were called the Standard Rules, but by using optional rules, a few variations to the game could appear. Recently, there was information on something called a field rule that was conceived, but that wasn’t the one Kaiba asked for.

“Bingo.”

“Huh?”

Bingo was an optional rule that allowed you to predict the composition of your opponent’s deck. You state one card that you thought is in your opponent’s deck. If that card was in his or her deck, your opponent won’t be able to use it when drawn.

The Game King guessed Kaiba’s true intentions. The reason Kaiba wanted to use *Bingo* was that he was on the lookout for *Exodia* that was in the Game King’s deck. If assembled, it would unleash infinite attack strength, and would instantly end the game. However, assembling *Exodia* required having all five of its cards in one’s hand.

Kaiba had three *Blue Eyes White Dragons* in his deck. The chances of Kaiba drawing all three *Blue Eyes White Dragons* before the Game King could summon *Exodia* were very high. But if the Game King was to choose *Blue Eyes White Dragon* for the Bingo Rule, he would lose all three of them.

So, was Kaiba was thinking of trying to win by preventing Yugi from using *Exodia*? By also preventing the use of his *Blue Eyes White Dragons*?

While considering that, he began to think of something else. If Kaiba didn’t have any *Blue Eyes White Dragons* in his deck from the start, and Yugi chose *Blue Eyes White Dragon* for the Bingo Rule, he would have foolishly wasted it... However, there would

be no reason to do so. That would be considering if he hadn't found a new trump card that overpowered *Blue Eyes White Dragon*.

(That might be possible...)

Kaiba was probably using a new trump card. That's why he was using the Bingo Rule, had three *Blue Eyes White Dragons*, and wanted to seal away *Exodia*.

There was a 1-in-658,008 chance that the Game King would draw all five cards of *Exodia* in his opening hand. He felt that Kaiba wanted to win completely.

However, the rule was fair to both parties. He could only accept.

"Fine, Kaiba."

In response to the Game King, Kaiba placed his deck on the table.

"I'm already finished preparing. You should hurry up and prepare."

The Game King stood up, turned his back to Kaiba, and moved to a darkened corner of the room.

The first problem was whether or not to include *Exodia*. There was the possibility that Kaiba would predict that *Exodia* had been removed, and choose a different card. As a bluff, he could choose to leave *Exodia* in there.

(But that's a gamble...)

There was the chance that Kaiba would read that bluff. If *Exodia* was left in and Kaiba chose that for Bingo, the Game King would essentially lose five cards from his deck. The Game King decided to remove *Exodia*.

That brought him to a second problem, which were the cards to replace them. The Game King had not brought any supremely powerful Monster cards with him. If he had the time, he would have built his deck from scratch. The only thing he could do was compensate by using Magic and Trap cards in combos. When he thought of that, he remembered that new cards he had just gotten.

The *Baby Dragon* and *Time Magician* were cards he thought he could use. Putting in new cards might throw Kaiba off. In that case, he also included the *Egg of the Unknowns*. For the last two cards, he included one Magic card and one Trap card.

"I'm done."

The Game King turned back to Kaiba, and returned to his seat.

There was a third problem, but the answer to it had been decided from the start.

"And now, time for Bingo. You choose first."

Kaiba said dryly from in the darkness beyond the light.

"I choose *Blue Eyes White Dragon*."

The Game King had no intentions of making any other choice.

Kaiba laughed with a 'humph.' He didn't even speak. His lips curled up in a smile, but nothing could be read of its true meaning.

"Now it's my choice. *Demon Summon*."

"What?"

"*Exodia* is not in your deck. Therefore, preventing you from using a different powerful card would be the best plan, wouldn't it?"

"Kaiba?" the Game King muttered without doubt.

"I'll tell you, but don't think I was using some kind of trick to look at your cards when you were exchanging cards in your deck. I wouldn't even include *Exodia*. Anyone would have no choice but to remove it. Rather than worry about if you were going to include *Exodia*, I decided to take the next proper course of action."

Kaiba certainly didn't appear to use any tricks. The Game King didn't overlook that. His conclusion was natural, and faced with that, the Game King had let *Exodia* go from his options

But why? The Game King had another question.

(Why *Demon Summon*?)

*Demon Summon* was a strong card. It might even be called part of Yugi's main fighting force. However, the *Black Magician* was in Yugi's deck, which had the same attack strength, but higher defense strength than *Demon Summon*'s. It could also be part of a larger number of combos. Kaiba would know that.

(Does that mean that Kaiba's deck wouldn't have to worry about the *Black Magician*...?)

He wouldn't know anything with just that. Kaiba was beaten in their previous battle, so he would as a matter of course change his deck. The Game King didn't even know if his choice of *Blue Eyes White Dragon* in Bingo would be on target.

"Let's start, Yugi."

"Okay."

With Kaiba's voice as the signal, both put their decks on the table, and drew their opening hands of five cards.

This was no time to be preoccupied. Once they started the game, he would know everything, whether he liked it or not. All the pieces would fall into place.

The table with the Virtual Simulator showed both their Life Points. Both showed 2000 points at the start.

"Duel!"

Their voices resounded together, and both chose a Monster from their hands to attack. The Game King. *Gremlin*, attack strength 1300.

Kaiba. *Grappler*, attack strength 1300.

Both Monsters appeared from their cards, and charged for each other. The *Gremlin* attacked with sharp fangs and claws, while the *Grappler* threw a punch. When they were in range in the center, both hit their opponent, received an attack from their opponent, destroying each other. The *Gremlin* and *Grappler* both disappeared from play. Since the attack strengths were equal, neither the Game King nor Kaiba lost any Life Points.

"A pretentious player, as always."

Kaiba drew a card from his deck.

The Game King also drew one.

To repeat the opening battle, Kaiba played the *Unholy Worm Beast*, with attack strength of 1400.

The Game King played an *Imp*, with attack strength of 1300.

The Monsters came to life and set out to attack.

Before the *Imp* could thrust with the horn on its forehead, the *Unholy Worm Beast*'s venomous attack rained down on it.

The *Imp* cried out and disappeared, and the Game King's Life Points were reduced by the excess 100 points of attack strength.

It was the Game King's 1900 points against Kaiba's 2000 points.

Kaiba's *Unholy Worm Beast* that won the opening battle stopped, and the Game King's turn began.

"Bring it on, Yugi."

The Game King drew a card from his deck. It was the *Unicorn's Horn*. He checked the other cards in his hand.

He had three Monster cards: *Baby Dragon*, *Silver Fong*, and *Ruiz*. There was one Magic card, *Ice Sword, the Magic Blade*. Then there was the *Unicorn's Horn* that he just drew.

(It's not a very good hand.)

But the Game King wasn't pained, and wasn't worried. Since the battle had just begun, even if his hand was a little bad, it just meant that his strong cards were still in his deck.

"I'll play *Ruiz* in defense mode."

He didn't have a card in his hand that could beat the *Unholy Worm Beast's* 1400 attack strength.

*Ruiz's* defense strength was 1500. It wouldn't easily be defeated, and even if Kaiba came at it with stronger attack strength, it was in defense mode, so the Game King wouldn't lose any Life Points.

It was the Game King's plan to defend until his hand was better.

Kaiba increased his hand by one card, and changed the *Unholy Worm Beast* to defense mode. He then played another Monster.

"*Minotaur*, attack!"

The 1700 attack strength *Minotaur* defeated the *Ruiz*.

"*Silver Fong*, defense mode."

The 800 defense strength *Silver Fong* would be defeated in a flash. However, he had no choice but to sacrifice it.

Kaiba's *Minotaur* buried Yugi's defending Monsters one after another.

"What's wrong, Yugi? Are you just going to defend?"

He ignored Kaiba's taunt, and calmly drew a card.

"All right!"

It was a card that he could use in a combo.

"*Griffol*, attack mode. And I'll equip it with *Unicorn's Horn*."

The Game King launched his combo attack. The *Unicorn's Horn* increased the *Griffol's* 1200 attack strength by 700.

It was a total of 1900 versus 1700, and the *Minotaur* was defeated.

Kaiba's Life Points were reduced by 200.

It was the Game King's 1900 versus Kaiba's 1800.

"Heh, heh, heh. The *Unicorn's Horn* combo, huh. You've finally scratched me."

Kaiba's expression didn't change at all. He wasn't annoyed with the attack, and calmly increased his number of defense mode Monsters.

It was now Kaiba's turned to defend, and Yugi's turned to attack multiple times, but as he attacked, the Game King planned his next move.

He played a Monster in defense mode, and set a Magic card face-down.

The Game King's *Gremlin* slaughtered Kaiba's defending Monsters one by one, and the play field began to change.

The Game King had in play—

A *Griffol* in attack mode with the *Unicorn's Horn* equipped on it.

He had a *Baby Dragon* in defense mode with a face-down card behind it, as well as one other card face down.

Kaiba had in play—

A *Cyclops* in defense mode, and two face-down cards.

At first glance, Kaiba seemed to be outnumbered, but their Life Points were still 1900 versus 1800.

Kaiba drew a card.

“*Judge Man*, attack mode.”

The 2200 attack strength *Judge Man* went after the *Griffol*.

The Game King had a choice. He could use a face-down Magic card, but it was still early. The *Judge Man* was a powerful card, but it wasn't Kaiba's trump card.

It was the *Griffol*'s 1900 attack strength against the *Judge Man*'s 2200 attack strength.

The *Griffol* was beaten, and the Game King lost 300 Life Points.

The display changed to 1600 against 1800. It was a back-and-forth sea-saw game.

“If you had a Magic card, you should have used it, Yugi.”

“I don't need instructions from you.”

The Game King drew a card. And he pondered. Kaiba would definitely be preparing to use whatever trump card he was using instead of *Blue Eyes White Dragon*. However, whatever it was, it was still unknown. He had been using the same Monster cards until now. The same went for the Game King, but the card he had just drawn was part of a combo Kaiba didn't know about.

Should he use it now, or watch a little more...

“*Baby Dragon*, attack mode!”

“Huh?”

His doubt was a matter of fact. The 1200 attack strength *Baby Dragon* attacked the attack strength 2200 *Judge Man*.

“And also, the *Time Magician*!”

The Game King played another card. He would make Kaiba play his trump card. From the *Time Magician* card came a foolish looking magician, and raised its magic staff above its head.

“Time Magic!”

It was the first time he had seen the card, but knew its ability instantly.

The *Time Magician* cast time magic over the playing field. The flow of time raced by, and those creatures with a long life span had their abilities increased, while those of short life spans had their abilities reduced.

The Game King's *Baby Dragon* had now grown into the 2400 attack strength *Thousand Dragon*. It gave a languid roar, and finally launched its breath attack.

On the other side of the table was Kaiba's *Judge Man*, whose abilities had dropped by half. His defense mode *Cyclops* had the same happen to it, but if he destroyed the attack mode *Judge Man*, it would do an enormous amount of damage.

As it was 2400 against 1100, if the *Judge Man* was defeated, Kaiba's Life Points would drop by 1300. He would have only 500 left.

The Game King looked over at Kaiba's options. The two face-down cards he had were most-likely Magic cards or Trap cards. He might activate them to save the *Judge Man*. If it was a card that reflected an attack, the Game King would have to oppose it with his own face-down card.

However, Kaiba didn't even flinch.

The *Judge Man*, whose abilities were reduced, was blow away in an instant by the *Thousand Dragon*'s breath attack.

Kaiba's Life Points dropped from 1800 all the way down to 500.

The Game King glared at Kaiba's cards. There was no doubt that those cards were for defense. Deciding that it wasn't worth protecting the ability-reduced *Judge Man* was definitely Kaiba's way of thinking, but losing 1300 points would normally hurt greatly.

"It looks like the cards you added to replace *Exodia* were the cards in that combo."

The Game King got ready. It would in no way be odd that Kaiba would start to move.

"I see. Interesting. So that's your trump card."

(Is Kaiba going to play his trump card?)

The Game King checked his hand and cards in play.

The *Time Magician* he put into play disappeared after casting its time magic.

However, his remaining Monster was the *Thousand Dragon*, with 2400 attack strength and 1400 defense strength.

Even though it was a strong card on its own, the Game King had prepared to levels of protection. The first was *Holy Barrier~Mirror Force*. This would reflect an enemy's attack. The other was *Hexagram Curse*, which could be used to protect the *Thousand Dragon*. The attack strength of an attacking Monster would be reduced by that curse.

He had also prepared his hand.

His two Monster cards were *Elf Swordsman* and *Curse of Dragon*. He had three Magic cards, which were *Ice Sword, the Magic Blade* and *Sealing Swords of Light*. The last one was *Fusion*.

He could use the *Elf Swordsman* and *Ice Sword, the Magic Blade* as a combo. It was also easy to 'fuse' *Curse of Dragon*. Based on the next Monster he drew, it could get stronger. Finally, *Sealing Swords of Light* would prevent his opponent's attacks. No matter what attack Kaiba came at him with, the Game King was prepared.

Kaiba only had an ability-reduced, defense mode *Cyclops*, and two face-down cards.

"However, Yugi, it would have been best to hold back your trump card."

Kaiba played a Monster in attack mode.

The *Rude Kaiser* had attack strength of 1800. There would be no way it would come at the *Thousand Dragon* at this rate.

Kaiba played one more card.

The card he played was the *Dragon Slayer*. It was an anti-dragon sword that could be used in a combo with Monsters that were able to use weapons, and increased its attack strength by 1400 against dragons.

Against the 2400 attack strength *Thousand Dragon*, the *Rude Kaiser*'s attack strength would be 3200, causing it to lose.

The Game King could protect the *Thousand Dragon*. Using the *Hexagram Curse*, the opposing Monster's attack strength would be reduced by 700, only dropping it to 2500.

Yugi turned one of his face-down cards face-up.

"*Holy Barrier~Mirror Force!*"

The *Rude Kaiser*'s attack bounced back against the barrier. The attack cut apart the defense mode *Cyclops* Kaiba had in play. Against physical attacks, *Mirror Force* wouldn't have a complete effect on the attacking Monster. It was a 1-in-2 chance, but the *Rude Kaiser* remained alive.

"You were lucky, Kaiba."



“Luck is a part of skill. I will most definitely cut down the eyesore, *Thousand Dragon*, with my next attack.”

He intended to attack against with the *Dragon Slayer*-bearing *Rude Kaiser*...

“I won’t let that happen.”

The Game King drew a card, and played the *Elf Swordsman* and *Ice Sword, the Magic Blade* from his hand. The combo increased its attack strength to 1900. Since it wasn’t a dragon, the *Dragon Slayer* would have no effect on the *Elf Swordsman*. The *Rude Kaiser*’s attack strength would remain at 1800.

Kaiba didn’t play any of his face-down cards.

The *Rude Kaiser* was beaten, and Kaiba lost 100 Life Points.

Kaiba had 400 points left.

“What’s wrong, Kaiba? Your trump card’s been destroyed.”

“Trump card? Fool! That was just a pawn. It was just to get rid of your Trap card.”

Kaiba drew a card, and put it face-down in play.

Kaiba unleashed a card from his hand.

“*Automatic Giant*, attack mode!”

Its attack strength was 1800, and its defense strength was 2000. It wasn’t bad, but not incredibly powerful. What made Kaiba expect this to be his trump card?

“Before I take care of that *Thousand Dragon*, I’ll break that elf apart!”

The 1800 attack strength *Automatic Giant* headed for the attack strength 1900 *Elf Swordsman*. However, it would be cut apart at this rate.

The Game King’s eyes moved over to the Life Point display. He thought Kaiba would lose 300 Life Points, but the Game King was the one that lost Life Points.

“What?”

The Game King’s Life Points went from 1600 to 1200 points.

The *Automatic Giant* held the *Elf Swordsman* up in the air by its neck, and the *Ice Sword, the Magic Blade* dropped from its grasp.

“Regardless of the magic or curse, it won’t work on this *Automatic Giant*.”

(So that’s the reason...)

The Game King thought back to why Kaiba hadn’t chosen the 2500 attack strength *Black Magician* for Bingo. Its attacks were magic attacks, and even its combo attacks used magic. The *Black Magician*’s attacks would have no effect on the *Automatic Giant*.

The defeated *Elf Swordsman* and *Ice Sword, the Magic Blade* disappeared from play.

“Therefore, it was the *Elf Swordsman*’s original attack strength of 1400 versus 1800. Heh, heh, heh. You only lost 400 Life Points. What are you afraid of?”

“I see. So that’s your trump card. It has an interesting ability, but it’s a little too weak. My trump card’s ready, too. Go! *Thousand Dragon*!”

The *Thousand Dragon* fired its breath attack. Kaiba turned a face-down card face-up.

“*Attack Nullification*!”

It was a disposable card, but it completely nullified his opponent’s attack.

The Game King realized that Kaiba’s actions were getting serious. Kaiba was intent on using this trump card in a combo. As a precaution, the Game King put *Curse of Dragon* into play in defense mode and ended his turn.

Kaiba played a card from his hand, and attached it to the *Automatic Giant*.

It was the *Iron Hammer of the Giants*. It was an equipment card that increased the attack strength of a giant Monster by 700.

“Crush it!”

The iron hammer aimed for the top of the *Thousand Dragon*'s head. The Game King activated *Hexagram Curse*, but it didn't work on the *Automatic Giant*.

It was 2400 versus 2500.

The *Thousand Dragon* let out a pained roar, and disappeared.

The Game King lost 100 Life Points, reducing them to 1100. It was getting bad at this rate.

The Game King fanned out his cards. He hadn't run out of trump cards. He had the *Curse of Dragon* in play, and a *Fusion* in his hand. If he drew a Monster card that could be fused, he could turn the tables on Kaiba. The best one he could draw was *Gaia, the Dark Knight*. If that happened, the 2600 attack strength *Gaia, the Dragon Knight* would be born from the fusion.

He winced.

The Game King put the card he drew into the discard pile.

It was the *Demon Summon* that Kaiba had picked during Bingo. He had no choice but to discard it.

“Ha, ha, ha! Do you think you're unlucky, Yugi? Luck is indeed a part of skill. And I have won out in choosing that card!”

The Game King said nothing, and put a *Wight* from his hand into defense mode.

“I have no intentions of losing to you. Remember that.”

And so, the *Automatic Giant* obliterated the defense mode *Curse of Dragon*.

“Ha, ha, ha! You can't do a thing. But don't think this is the end!”

The Game King didn't say anything, drew his card, and played a Monster in defense mode.

Kaiba turned one of his face-down cards in play face-up, and attached it to the *Automatic Giant*.

The *Armband of Strength* was an equipment card that increased attack strength by 500.

“How's that!? How's that!? How's that!?”

The Game King's defense mode Monster was obliterated. The Game King drew a card, and played another Monster in defense mode. He was neither impatient nor worried. Rather, he glared at how intense Kaiba had gotten, and gave him a look of disgust.

Kaiba could only take that as to think Yugi was completely powerless.

“How's that!? How's that!? How's that!? This is the ultimate giant! The ultimate Monster!”

The *Automatic Giant* now had expanded equipment.

In one hand it had the *Iron Hammer of the Giants* and the *Armband of Strength*.

In the other hand, it held the *Substitution Shield*. By using it, one physical attack could be negated.

On its back was the *Catapult*. Its attack strength would be increased by 800 against flying Monsters.

On its body was the *Armor of Steel*. Its defense strength was increased by 1000.

The *Automatic Giant*'s attack strength was 3000 (3100 against flying Monsters), and its defense strength was 3000. No magic or curses would work on it, and one physical attack could be negated.

And so, Kaiba's invincible giant was completed.

“How's that!?”

Yugi shot words of contempt at Kaiba, who was arrogant with his victories.

“That’s offensive.”

“Heh, heh, heh. Is that desperation? This invincible giant is offensive?”

“When I said offensive, I meant you.”

“What was that?”

“I solved one mystery, but that brought out another mystery.”

“Mystery?”

“I’ve thought from the start about why you would use the Bingo Rule. About why you would fake trying to prevent yourself from using *Blue Eyes White Dragon*.

“Because *Blue Eyes White Dragons* couldn’t win against you.”

“Kaiba was a tyrant, so to speak. He would not choose a method of victory, and would become a tyrant during a game. However, that is the style and aesthetics of a ruler.”

“To think I would be praised by you.”

“Kaiba, the ruler, didn’t use these kinds of pathetic combos. He would use strong cards, and end the duel in an instant. He would also not forget to prepare an instant-death trap. That was Kaiba’s tyrannical tactic, and the tactic of a ruler.”

“It is because I have surpassed the tactics of a ruler.”

“No, those are the tactics of a feeble person. You use cards like Kaiba, and the way you play skillfully mimics his, but a ruler would definitely have three *Blue Eyes White Dragons* to face me in a rematch.”

“Stop beating around the bush, Yugi. What is it you’re trying to say?”

“I solved a mystery. You bluffed with not having them, and prevented me from using my own *Exodia*, but that was another bluff. It was simply to hide the fact that there are no *Blue Eyes White Dragons* in your deck.”

“You solved a mystery for absolutely no reason. So what of it? Whether I have a *Blue Eyes White Dragons* in my deck or not, it doesn’t change the fact that you’re still one step away from defeat.”

“So, what is the answer to this mystery? You’re not Kaiba. I’ve solved that much of the mystery. If you were Kaiba, you’d have *Blue Eyes White Dragons*.”

“.....”

“Now it’s your turn to answer. Who are you?”

Silence pervaded the room. His gave no answer.

“Then let me change the question. Why are you dueling me?”

“That’s because I...”

The elevator made a sound as it arrived.

The Game King turned around and saw a shadow inside as the doors opened.

“Yugi!”

The one who yelled was Mokuba.

“Kaiba!”

The Game King raised his voice when he saw the shadow.

Mokuba pushed Kaiba in his wheelchair closer.

Kaiba was sitting, his eyes staring blankly. He made no response to Yugi’s voice.

“Mokuba, what’s going on here? Is this Kaiba?”

“My brother hasn’t woken up yet. He hasn’t put the pieces of his mind back together.”

Mokuba looked past the Game King. He pointed to the Game King's opponent, who was using the name Kaiba.

"He's a mannequin that's was only made as a stand-in for my brother!"

The shadow in the darkness grinned.

"No, that's not true."

"What's the meaning of acting like this all on your own!?"

"That is because I am Kaiba, and have surpassed Kaiba."

"You've surpassed my brother?"

"Hey."

The Game King turned from Kaiba in his wheelchair, and stared directly at the shadow.

"Cut the crap and show us what you really are!"

"Fine."

All of the lights in the room lit up.

In front of the Game King, a human imitation shaped like Kaiba sat. Its skin and hair were well made, but its pupils were unnatural camera eyes.

"A Kaiba...robot?"

"I am a terminal. My true body is here."

The robot Kaiba pointed to a room behind him, divided by glass. An enormous supercomputer was in it.

"The Kaiba Corporation has immense undertakings the world over."

Mokuba stared at the computer.

"My brother selected all of its management strategies. It's in order to do better than the ones in upper management. They started to get worried, so that in the chance something would happen to my brother, who would take over?"

"And they had me take his place. They created a Cyber Kaiba, a Kaiba of mechanics and electricity."

The Cyber Kaiba cut in.

"Yugi?"

Mokuba looked at the situation on the table with worry.

"Mokuba. Do you think I'll lose to someone like this?"

He didn't want to think he would lose. But the Monster he had been playing combos on was strong, and it seemed Yugi was struggling.

"Don't worry."

Yugi said it to wipe away his worry.

"Don't you lose, Yugi. I'll never forgive you if you do."

"Yeah. Even if you would forgive me, I don't think Kaiba would."

The Game King returned to his seat.

"My turn, isn't it?"

The Game King drew a card, and put one face-down in play.

"I've solved the mystery of what you are, and why you wanted to duel me. And I've finally solved the last mystery."

"You unintelligent fool. You still have doubts?"

"That *Automatic Giant* may seem invincible at first, since magic and curses don't work on it. But you've been preparing until you could use your invincible trump card, correct?"



“If one is to use combos, that’s a forgone conclusion.”

“*Gaia, the Dark Knight*, attack mode.”

The Game King put *Gaia, the Dark Knight* into play. It couldn’t launch an attack, but when Cyber Kaiba would attack on his turn, it would be destroyed, 2300 to 3000.

“I’ll end my turn here. Now it’s your turn.”

Cyber Kaiba made its calculation instantly, and decided. Coincidental possibilities were excluded. Yugi was planning something. In that case, Cyber Kaiba also prepared in response.

He played a *Sagii, the Dark Clown* in defense mode. He also set a Magic card behind it. In the off chance that Yugi was able to counterattack the *Automatic Giant*, the Magic card would be used to destroy *Sagii* instead.

Whatever Yugi may have been planning, there was no way the *Automatic Giant* would go down. For that reason, he destroyed all of Yugi’s cards until now.

“*Automatic Giant*, attack *Gaia, the Dark Knight*.”

Mokuba could only bite his lip and watch the battle.

Kaiba, in his wheelchair, looked at the board with his catatonic eyes open, but his expression showed no change.

The *Giant* raised its hammer over *Gaia*.

“Yugi!”

Mokuba cried out without thinking, but Yugi didn’t move.

*Gaia* was destroyed, and the Game King lost 700 Life Points.

Now it was Yugi’s 400 against Kaiba’s 400.

Just a little more, one more attack. If Kaiba ends his turn, a miracle would happen.

The face-down card behind *Gaia* was cut up along the way.

“*Gaia* had this *Egg of the Unknowns*.”

The Game King turned the split card face-up.

There was a picture of an egg in the center of the card, but it appeared to be split as if it was cracked.

“The *Egg of the Unknowns*? That card doesn’t exist. I know every card. I even know cards that Kaiba doesn’t know about.”

Cyber Kaiba’s databanks were comprised of every card. All of the cards from the first edition to the most recent release. There was no *Egg of the Unknowns* card in his data.

No...

Cyber Kaiba hit something during his information retrieval.

“That card should not exist!”

“Yes. I haven’t seen it in any official lists either. However, I have heard rumors.”

“Yes. A card that exists only in rumors.”

“Just like a phantom. There is testimony that there are phantoms of many shapes and sizes. However, there is no official confirmation that they exist.”

“That’s because they don’t exist.”

“That’s what you’ve decided, Cyber Kaiba. Therefore, the *Egg of the Unknowns* doesn’t exist. However ‘humans’ think in a different way. Whether they exist, whether they don’t exist, there has to be a reason that there are eye-witness accounts of them. Why do you think the rumor of the *Egg of the Unknowns* came about?”

“It’s because human perceptive abilities are unreliable.”



“That might be true. However, your head might not be screwed on right, Cyber Kaiba. The *Egg of the Unknowns* is currently right in front of you. Think about why something that is only a rumor, much like a phantom, exists?”

A hole was thrust into Cyber Kaiba. It was something that he had never considered. Phantoms? Rumors? Those were items that Cyber Kaiba did not understand.

“The reason this card only exists in rumor is, first, because it’s a rare card and there is an absolutely small number of them. It was also included only in the first edition. Second, it is a card you can use only once. If you use it, you must destroy the card itself. It’s a card that goes away when you use it. Its existence becomes a rumor, but the card no longer exists.”

Cyber Kaiba’s false personality froze. But its true thoughts were constantly calculating coldly, and it made its decision.

“And what of it? The *Egg of the Unknowns* has most certainly existed. Don’t think that I haven’t checked what it is. It is already in my memory. However, it is not a fearsome opponent. It has a fatal weakness.”

From inside the cracked shell of the *Egg of the Unknowns*, a creature that looked like an embryo had been born. It was an unknown shape, and had attack strength of 100 and defense strength of 100. The Monster that was just born from the egg must be allowed to grow.

“That’s right. Another reason this card is thought to not exist is that using it is extremely difficult.”

The Monster born from the *Egg of the Unknowns* increases its attack and defense strengths by 100 each during each turn, until it reaches the upper limit its player has chosen. However, surviving would be difficult.

“I will destroy it during the next turn!”

“Is that so? This is an entirely new life that had been born. There is a reason that its existence can’t be confirmed. Each time the shell is cracked, it continues to be born.”

“Whatever may be born, it can only grow if it survives.”

It came to the Game King’s turn.

“This card was indeed a card that ‘couldn’t be used.’ It was weeded out and destroyed by the release of new cards, the same as having its existence erased, no, becoming a rumor through its own special characteristic. However, with the birth of new cards, among the old cards that would disappear, old cards are reborn from new cards.”

The Game King fanned out the cards in his discard pile he had played thus far.

“The Monster born from the *Egg of the Unknowns* can take on the attack strength, defense strength and special ability of three different cards. The Monster just born will inherit the ability of this one.”

The Game King pointed to one card in his discard pile.

The *Time Magician*.

“Time Magic!”

Time magic swept over the playfield. The Monsters had aged in the blink of an eye.

“This is without a doubt a combo that surpasses time.”

Cyber Kaiba’s Monsters were also affected. The defense mode *Sagii* had its abilities halved. However, the *Automatic Giant*’s form was completely unharmed. The *Iron Hammer of the Giants* and *Armband of Strength* became covered in rust, their abilities



being reduced by thirty percent, in 100 point increments. In all, the *Automatic Giant* lost 300 points, but it had attack strength of 2700 remaining.

“I already told you that magic can’t defeat my giant. Whatever that Monster’s attack strength becomes, it won’t reach 2700.”

“The final mystery I solved was why you had chosen my *Demon Summon* for Bingo. But once I found out you weren’t Kaiba and weren’t using his *Blue Eyes White Dragons* trump cards, everything fell into place. The *Automatic Giant* is unaffected by magic and curses, and gains incredible attack strength through combos. If a card was invincible, it should remain invincible on its own merit. That’s what the real Kaiba would think. That is the way a ruler fights. But you aren’t a ruler. You simply prohibited the pieces of my counterattacks from the start.”

“That’s what is known as a tactic.”

“That’s because you couldn’t be invincible on your own. Therefore, your *Automatic Giant* is no longer invincible. It has a specific weakness. Just like you. Just like you, who could not even come close to Kaiba.”

“I am a hyper Kaiba that has surpassed Kaiba.”

“This is your weakness!”

The Game King chose *Demon Summon* from his discard pile.

“It will inherit the attack strength of *Demon Summon*!”

On numbers alone, its attack strength was 2500. It was no match for the *Giant*’s 2700.

“Demon Descending Lightning!”

The demon gave birth to a storm, lightning dropped from it. The electrical attack wasn’t magical. It was a pulse, natural energy attack. The spreading lightning attack of the Demon Descending Lightning first burned the defense strength 1000 *Sagii* to a crisp in an instant, and continued to the *Giant*. The electrical energy increased its attack strength against highly conductive enemies. Against the *Automatic Giant*, the 2500 electrical attack was raised to 3100.

Sparks flew from the *Automatic Giant*, and fell to the ground in pieces.

3100 against 2700. Cyber Kaiba’s Life Points were reduced by the difference of 400.

And the game ended.

400 against 0. The Game King won.

“Impossible...”

“The proof wasn’t just in the Bingo Rule. You were on the lookout for the *Unicorn’s Horn*, and you dealt with it by playing a trump card. You overplayed your hand, didn’t you? You gave away the weakness of the *Automatic Giant* on your own.”

“No! You! It can’t be! Silence! Silen, silen, si-si-si-si-si-si-si-si-...”

“Are you caught in an infinite logic loop? But I told you this was a Game of Darkness. You will take your punishment.”

The light that had been hanging above the table burst. Like lightning, electricity raced forth and coursed through Cyber Kaiba’s body.

“Ga-ga-ga-ga-ga-ga-ga...ga-ga...”

A faint smoke rose from every part of his body, and Cyber Kaiba stopped.

The Game Table also stopped.

The Monster born from the *Egg of the Unknowns* looked back at Yugi, gave a little cry, and then disappeared. What remained was the *Egg of the Unknowns* card, cut in two.

The Monster that was born was a once-in-a-lifetime hybrid. It only had a temporary existence.

The Game King realized another reason the *Egg of the Unknowns* was considered to be only a rumor. If you use it, you lose the card, and one would have to say farewell to the Monster that had been born. There were probably people out there who hate that sad fate, and treasured the card.

“Yugi,” Mokuba called out to him.

“I told you I wouldn’t lose, right?”

“Yeah. My brother...has got to be happy, too.”

The Game King gathered his cards, and stood up from his seat. Then he looked straight at Kaiba.

“Kaiba. I believe you will come back, and that we will fight each other again.”

Having said that, he moved to the back of the room.

“Let’s go back, too, big brother.”

When Mokuba put his hands on the wheelchair, the smoldering Cyber Kaiba creaked and moved.

“It won’t...end like this...”

Inside the small glass room, the supercomputer activation light was flickering.

“He’s still alive!?”

“Only the terminal...was defeated...I must defeat...Yugi...”

“Just give it up! No matter how much you’d try, do you think you can beat Yugi!?”

All of the sudden, his view was interrupted. Something had stood in front of him.

“Big brother!?”

Kaiba had stood from the wheelchair. He had not recovered his will yet. With vacant eyes, and a vacant expression, he looked at Cyber Kaiba, then to the supercomputer.

One step, then another. Kaiba moved forward as if his legs had forgotten how to walk.

“Wh...what are you doing? Sto...p...”

Kaiba grabbed the defeated body of Cyber Kaiba. He turned around, and threw it at the small room.

Glass shattered, and Cyber Kaiba struck the main body of the supercomputer.

“What...are you...doing...”

Kaiba advanced toward the supercomputer.

“Big brother!?”

Mokuba ran in front of him and looked up at his elder brother.

His eyes were hollow as usual, but deeper in them, he could see a flame flickering in them. Mokuba immediately knew what that flame meant.

His older brother was mad...

Kaiba touched a panel with an unsteady hand. However, he found the spot he was looking for, and grabbed hard.

Kaiba yanked the memory circuit from the supercomputer.

“St...op!”

The terminal, Cyber Kaiba, tried to stop Kaiba even in its broken condition. Kaiba sent Cyber Kaiba flying back with one hand.

And one-by-one, Kaiba pulled out the memory circuits that stored his very own consciousness.

“S-t-o-p...S...”

Everything stopped. Kaiba had deleted its memory.

“Big brother!”

Mokuba caught and held Kaiba as he fell backward.

The fire in his eyes was gone. They had returned to how vacant they were before.

But to Mokuba, that fire was a beacon for Kaiba’s return.

“I believe in you, too, big brother.”

It was, without a doubt, the flicker of Kaiba’s mind.

The rain had stopped, and moonlight pierced through holes in the clouds.

Yugi looked up at the moon as he returned home.

Neither the Game King, nor Yugi, knew of the light that shone in Kaiba’s eyes that brief moment. But in the light of the moonlight from the clouds, Yugi felt a strange sensation in his chest.

Uncertainty, and then anticipation. He had a premonition of taking part in a fierce duel. And at the place of the duel, Kaiba would be there.

A premonition of the finally recovered Kaiba, who would fight like a ruler...

