

\*A fanfiction inspired by the manga *Inuyasha*, written by Rumiko Takahashi and produced by Shōgakukan, Yomiuri TV and Sunrise Inc. I do not claim ownership of the characters or world I am borrowing. All names found within are original for my own adaptation.

## *A Planned Attack*

By Sophia Sears

*Bam!*

Aidel leapt back, Kanwari ringing loudly as he drew the sword out of its sheath and faced the daemon that blocked their path.

It had appeared out of nowhere, its many tentacled arms supporting its hideous body. Seph and Brand raced to stand beside Aidel, and Clyra's scooter screeched to a halt as she froze a ways behind them. Fikki came to a panting stop beside her.

"What is it?" Seph asked. She drew out her Hirane and planted her feet wide.

"I don't know. It looks like some kind of lake daemon," Brand said, nodding at the mass of tentacles and gills along its body. A mask of bone shielded the daemon's face so only its sick yellow eyes glared at them.

"Whatever it is, I'm gonna finish it," Aidel growled. He took a few running steps forward and leaped into the air, only to yelp and twist in mid-air to avoid the jet stream of scalding hot water that shot back at him from the daemon's pores. Seph and Brand scattered, Seph jumping atop her jaguar daemon as she and Brand circled the tentacled monster. Nueme hissed and flashed her claws, roaring a challenge through her fangs.

Clyra tightened her fingers on the handlebars, her bow and quiver pressing against her back and reminding her of their presence. Her fingers itched to grasp them as Fikki pressed up against her leg. The bear cub daemon trembled there.

Aidel leapt forward again, Kanwari swinging, but dodged back as another jet of water shot out at him. Seph tried to approach from atop Nueme as Brand charged it from behind, but the daemon swung around and shot more boiling water out at them.

"Enough of this," Aidel snarled. He planted his feet, holding his broadsword out before him. The air began to hum with energy.

Behind two trees at the edge of the clearing, a pair of calculating eyes narrowed on Aidel's form.

"Roar Ka—" Aidel began, and one of the daemon's tentacle arms swung out to hammer him into the ground.

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“Aidel!” Clyra screamed. Her scooter dropped in a clatter to the ground as she raced forward. She drew out her bow and reached back for an arrow as she came to the top of a small rise.

The tentacled arm lifted off of Aidel to show him laying there stunned in a small crater. The daemon raised another arm. Aidel scrambled to get out of the way.

*Zing!*

A blaze of purple light followed the path of the arrow as it impaled itself in the daemon’s raised tentacle. Clyra lowered her bow as the daemon squealed in pain, and the pair of watching eyes widened as the daemon’s arm burst from the Blessed Arrow.

The lake daemon turned its enraged eyes on Clyra. Clyra felt a shiver of fear.

“Clyra!” Aidel shouted.

The daemon raised another tentacle, its full weight bearing down on her. She cringed.

Suddenly Aidel was there, and the two of them were flying to the ground as the arm crashed beside them.

“Are you alright?” Aidel asked, peering down at her.

“Yes, I’m— Watch out!” Clyra cried out, looking in horror behind them. Aidel barely had time to tuck her back into his chest before another arm came crashing down on them, hurling them a couple hundred feet away.

“Clyra!”

“Aidel!”

Brand and Seph rushed the daemon as Fikki scampered over to Aidel and Clyra. The two of them were painfully unfolding themselves from where they’d landed.

The figure from the shadows sneered as Aidel held Clyra’s elbow to help her to her feet. Suddenly a second pair of eyes joined the first.

“Master?” the new figure asked.

“It is all going according to plan,” the first daemon answered. “My adversary seems to have gained some new skills as well as some new comrades.”

“The one they call ‘Brand’ is a warrior priest renowned for his exorcisms, and the woman riding astride that demon cat is a demon hunter,” the second daemon said.

“Really?” the first murmured speculatively, watching Seph as she flew in with her Hirane and managed to chop off another tentacle with the battle-ax.

“What about that woman?” the first daemon said, gesturing to Clyra. “She possesses some strange powers of her own.”

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Aidel and Clyra stood face-to-face arguing as Brand and Seph fought the daemon. Fikki looked frustrated with the two of them until something finally seemed to be settled and Aidel left Clyra on the hill to rejoin the battle.

“Not much is known about her,” the second responded. “Our spies couldn’t uncover anything about her except she seems very sheltered and uneasy in large crowds.”

The two daemons watched as Aidel squared off against the lake demon a second time, bracing his feet and holding his sword out in front of him. The clearing began to hum with energy again.

A fierce look overtook Aidel’s face.

“ROAR KANWARI!” Aidel shouted, swinging his sword down in a wide arc and cutting through the air. Lightning and thunder wrapped around the swing and hurled the power down at the daemon. The daemon screamed before exploding into oblivion.

The second daemon tsked. “Looks like the demon wasn’t up to the task, even if you were controlling it.”

A sudden vise seized around the daemon’s throat and he choked, panicked, as the first daemon calmly said, “The daemon wasn’t supposed to kill Aidel. It was supposed to test him so I could observe my rival personally.”

The invisible grip slackened and the second daemon coughed, rubbing his throat. “And did you learn anything, my Master?” he croaked.

“I did,” he replied, his eyes narrowing on Clyra as she and Fikki joined the others. “Let us leave for now.” The two of them melted back into the shadows...