

MAGICAL METSUKU SWEET VANILLA

by

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

MELANIE BEAN  
AKA MAGICAL METSUKE  
SWEET VANILLA: Female, Caucasian, fourteen. Finally living her dream of becoming a magical superheroine. It goes South pretty quickly after that.

THE GODDESS MURA: Female, Caucasian, Ageless but looks 30. The entity who gives Melanie the power to transform into Magical Metsuke Sweet Vanilla. A kindly mentor with her own agenda.

SHADOW MAGE  
SHINDOU: Male, any race, 20s to 30s. The Overlord of the Negaverse who has the power to turn ordinary people into Shadow Savages. The hero of his own story; which happens to be this one. An evil Prince Charming type.

DR. OMBRE: Male, any race, 20s to 30s. The heart-throb doctor who works in the general hospital, and secret identity of Shadow Mage Shindou.

MRS. BEAN: Female, Caucasian, 40s. Melanie's fuddy-duddy mom who doesn't like that newfangled anime. She much prefers the old-fangled anime. Played by The Goddess Mura.

DAN: Male, any race, any age. A 9-5 businessman who hates the rat race, but keeps his feelings bottled up.

PUNKRAKKA: Male, Monster-of-the-Week, any age. The hidden alter-ego of Dan. Dedicated to rule breaking, playing loud music, and killing Magical Metsuke Sweet Vanilla. Has a very large nose.

BORDER PATROL: Any gender, any race, adult. Arrests the performers for staying in the United States Illegally.

SETTING

Philadelphia, the Negaverse, Mura's lair, a giant lit  
"Ookaidan" staircase

TIME

Present

NOTES

This play takes inspiration from the Takarazuka Revue, where both male and female are played by actresses. This means that both Shindou/Dr. Ombre and Dan/Punkrakka are breeches roles. Shindou is modeled after the "otokoyaku" character type, the handsome male lead and love interest. Also, the final scene in this play, where everyone dances on a giant lit "ookaidan" staircase, is based on how the Takarazuka Revue typically end their shows.

ACT 1, SCENE 1

SETTING: Barnes and Noble Bookstore, the Manga Section. 4PM after school. Contains shelves jam-packed with Manga, and a comfortable leather chair.

AT RISE: MELANIE BEAN is rummaging through the shelves.

(For now, the stage is pitch black.)

ALL

(Singing)

Come with me/ and you'll be/ in a world of pure  
imagination...

(Lights up. MELANIE searches the shelves.)

MELANIE

No...no...not until I'm eighteen...Aha!

(MELANIE pulls out a manga.)

MELANIE

The latest issue of "Pretty Magical Fighter Sakura: Now With 80% More Glitter!" It's finally been released, and I get to read it before anyone else!

(MELANIE flops down on the comfy leather chair and begins to read. MRS. BEAN enters and clasps MELANIE on her shoulder.)

MRS. BEAN

There you are!

MELANIE

Oh, hi mom...I was just studying for my SATs.

MRS. BEAN

Nice try! Nobody studies for the SATs during their freshman year of high school.

(MRS. BEAN grabs the manga out of MELANIE's hands and flips through it, disgusted.)

MRS. BEAN

I will not have my daughter wasting her time reading this garbage! Their eyes are half the size of their heads and their bodies are thinner than toothpicks!

MELANIE

You don't understand, mom! I need this to relax after a long day at school!

MRS. BEAN

I could understand if it were something like Speed Racer or Akira or even the early years of Dragon Ball, but "Pretty Magical Fighter Sakura: Now With 80% More Glitter?"

(MRS. BEAN turns the manga upside down and shakes it. Glitter falls out.)

MRS. BEAN

Why does manga even need glitter?

MELANIE

Don't get mad at me just because I like manga! This is the future! Stop living in the past!

MRS. BEAN

This isn't future! This isn't even manga!

(MRS. BEAN rips the manga apart, throwing even more glitter all over the room.)

MELANIE

Mom! No! I didn't even get to read that yet!

MRS. BEAN

(Throwing the shredded manga on the ground)  
I spit upon your so-called "manga!"

(MRS. BEAN spits on the manga.)

MRS. BEAN

I left the car running in front of the store. If you're not in there in ten minutes, I'm dragging you out myself.

(MRS. BEAN marches off.)

MRS. BEAN

Hayao Miyazaki was right. Anime really WAS a mistake...

(MELANIE watches MRS. BEAN until she's offstage. Once she's gone, she yells after her.)

MELANIE

Old hag!

(MELANIE slumps to her knees, crying over the shredded mess of paper and glitter.)

MURA

(Offstage)

Young maiden, pure of heart, be of good cheer.

MELANIE

Huh? Who said that?

MURA

I have been watching you and I have come to give you all that your heart desires.

(MELANIE takes out a bottle of pepper spray and shakes it up.)

MELANIE

I have mace and I know how to use it.

MURA

Oh, no! No! Nothing like that! What kind of monster do you think I am? No, child. I mean that you have been chosen to be the guardian heroine of this world.

MELANIE

(Aiming the pepper spray)

Can you at least come out so I can see your face?

MURA

I suppose I can grant you that.

(MURA comes in, with flowing robes and white-blond hair of equal length. She is literally glowing.)

MELANIE

(Covering her eyes)

Turn it off! Turn it off!

MURA

What creature of goodness would have such a reaction to a being of pure light?

MELANIE

One who values her eyeballs!

MURA

Fine.

(MURA is no longer glowing.)

MURA

Happy?

MELANIE

So, who are you and what's this about being a guardian heroine?

MURA

I am Mura, the Goddess of Goodness and Purity, and I seek your aid. The Shadow Mage Shindou has begun his evil plan of taking over all of existence. He uses his powers to take ordinary people and turn them into Shadow Savages. They will destroy this world and all you value unless you stop him.

MELANIE

Me?

MURA

You were born free from evil. Your pure heart is what makes you the ideal protector of this realm.

MELANIE

I don't really think I'm that pure of heart. I pushed my cousin down the stairs when I was five.

MURA

Oh, well we all make mistakes, child.

MELANIE

He developed a permanent limp because of that.

MURA

Let us not focus on the details, young one.

MURA (cont.)

The point is that you have a pure heart and an incredible gift for magic.

MELANIE

I think I'd have known if I'd had a gift for magic.

MURA

I understand your skepticism, my child, but the reason you had not manifested signs of magic was that you had never received the appropriate catalyst for it.

MELANIE

And the "catalyst" would be bad guys?

MURA

Yes.

MELANIE

And how do I even know you have magic?

MURA

You doubt my power, even after my resplendent entrance?

MELANIE

It's easy enough to fake.

MURA

Fine.

(MURA waves her arms. The shredded manga suddenly repairs itself in a fantastic light show. MELANIE picks it up and flips through it.)

MELANIE

Oh my God! That was amazing! I mean...I suppose I could listen to you.

(Holds up the pepper spray.)

But one wrong move and this goes straight in your eyes.

MURA

Leave behind that silly sprat, young one. I have a much stronger deterrent against evil aggressors.

(MURA hands MELANIE a magical staff topped with a jewel in the shape of a bean.)



MURA

This is the Bean Pole, an ancient artifact of immense power. I gift it to you.

MELANIE

Thanks?

MURA

To awaken its dormant power, simply shout "Sweet Vanilla, Transform!"

MELANIE

(Holding the wand uncertainly)

Sweet Vanilla, Transform?

MURA

No, not like that. With more...enthusiasm.

MELANIE

Enthusiasm, huh? Well, you asked for it.

(Screaming. MURA covers her ears)

SWEET VANILLA, TRANSFORM!!!

(In yet another incredible light show, MELANIE transforms into MAGICAL METSUKU SWEET VANILLA. MELANIE's outfit transforms into a vanilla ice cream themed magical girl outfit, complete with a frilly skirt and lots of ribbons.)

SWEET VANILLA

Oh my God! Oh my God! Oh my God! This is incredible! I'm really an actual, honest-to-goodness Magical Girl!

MURA

(Un-covering her ears.)

Did I not tell you that I would give you all that your heart desires?

SWEET VANILLA

How did you know that I always wanted to be a magical girl super heroine?

MURA

Perhaps you should test your magical powers. Try reciting this spell: Vanilla Pure Flurry.

SWEET VANILLA

(Screaming again. Mura covers her ears again.)  
VANILLA PURE FLURRY!

(Every single manga on the shelves explodes in a storm of paper and glitter. MURA slips out.)

SWEET VANILLA

Shit! This is bad! What's the spell to fix all of this, Mura?

(SWEET VANILLA looks around. MURA is already gone.)

SWEET VANILLA

Mura? Mura? Where are you? How am I supposed to pay for all of this?

(SWEET VANILLA hears someone, possibly an employee, walking up the stairs of the bookstore.)

SWEET VANILLA

Shit!

(SWEET VANILLA looks around the bookstore, and sees the window in the back. She runs towards it and leaps out of it. SWEET VANILLA screams, falls, hits the ground. Glass breaks, cats yowl, and a car alarm goes off.)

SWEET VANILLA

Ow!

(END SCENE.)

ACT 1, SCENE 2

SETTING: The Negaverse, not too long after Scene 1. A dark and foreboding underground lair with arches and columns carved from the stone itself. Blacks, blues and purples dominate the color scheme. A crystal ball painted like the planet Earth is supported on a stand that was hewn from the rock of the cave. On stage left is a magic mirror, embedded into a rock wall. The stone surrounding it is carved to resemble a fancy mirror frame.

AT RISE: SHINDOU gazes at the crystal planet Earth. He is dressed like an evil anime prince, with long, but not necessarily girly, hair. He embodies the Evil is Sexy trope, and has an angsty, sensitive side that drives the fangirls wild.

SHINDOU

Earth...such a beautiful planet full of light, and life...and opportunity. I have established bases in all of the major capitols of this world, so it only makes sense to move on to all the major cities in the world.

(SHINDOU points on the globe to where Philadelphia should be. A picture of Philadelphia appears in the magic mirror.)

SHINDOU

This city has yet to feel my influence. Now who shall I pick first?

(DAN appears in the magic mirror, dressed in his business suit. He's exhausted and just a little sweaty from a long day at a soul-sucking office job.)

SHINDOU

Yes...he will do nicely...

(SHINDOU casts a magic spell, in an evil looking light show. DAN is stricken with the magic and starts to scream and convulse. DAN's screams turn into evil laughter.)

(END SCENE.)

ACT 1, SCENE 3

SETTING: Rittenhouse Square's streets, at the same time as Scene 2.

AT RISE: SWEET VANILLA runs through the streets. She stops to catch her breath.

SWEET VANILLA

(Panting)

I don't see any cops or Barnes and Noble security running after me. I think I can stop for now. But I have to find Mura and learn her spell to fix those books. And maybe a time travel spell so mom won't kill me for being late.

(Civilians screaming.)

SWEET VANILLA

What was that?

(Out of nowhere comes PUNKRAKKA, in an explosion of colored smoke. He's dressed in an exaggerated punk-rocker outfit covered with spikes and speakers.)

PUNKRAKKA

Ladies and gentlemen, are you ready to rock and roll?

(PUNKRAKKA takes out a flying V guitar and starts wailing on it. Glass breaks. Bonus points if he can actually channel Judas Priest in their music video for "Breakin' The Law.")

PUNKRAKKA

(Singing)

Breakin' the law! Breakin' breakin' the law!

SWEET VANILLA

(Covering her ears.)

Oh my God! My first monster fight as a magical girl!

PUNKRAKKA

Hey! I'm not a monster. I'm the Shadow Savage Punkrakka! And I'm here to kick some ass and raise some Hell!

SWEET VANILLA

Oh yeah? Well, I'm the Magical Metsuke Sweet Vanilla! I'm here to right wrongs and triumph over evil!

(Points to PUNKRAKKA)

And that means you!

PUNKRAKKA

What's a Metsuke?

SWEET VANILLA

What?

PUNKRAKKA

What's a Metsuke?

SWEET VANILLA

You know, I don't really know.

PUNKRAKKA

Why are you calling yourself a Magical Metsuke if you don't know what that is?

SWEET VANILLA

I don't know. It just popped into my head. I mean, I might have heard it in some other magical girl show, but I can't for the life of me remember which one...

(While SWEET VANILLA was busy talking to herself, PUNKRAKKA takes out the guitar and wails on it again. SWEET VANILLA is hit full force by the sonic blast.)

SWEET VANILLA

My ears! My ears!

(SWEET VANILLA collapses onto the ground. PUNKRAKKA cackles triumphantly.)

PUNKRAKKA

Take that, pig! Now to get back to being a total menace to society!

(PUNKRAKKA kicks some trashcans. A baseball bat falls out of one of them. PUNKRAKKA picks up the bat and starts smashing a mailbox.)

(SWEET VANILLA comes too, and sees PUNKRAKKA's rampage. SWEET VANILLA's a little worse for the wear, but she's not throwing in the towel just yet.)

SWEET VANILLA

I can see...I can see inside your heart...You're just an ordinary businessman trying to make a living. The Shadow Mage Shindou made you into this.

(SWEET VANILLA picks herself up and aims the Bean Pole at PUNKRAKKA.)

SWEET VANILLA

(To the tune of Pink Floyd's "Another Brick in the Wall")

Hey, Monster! Leave them cans alone!

PUNKRAKKA

How dare you bastardize Pink Floyd like that! You weren't even alive then!

SWEET VANILLA

(Shouting)

Vanilla Pure Flurry!

(PUNKRAKKA explodes in a storm of paper and glitter, and turns back into DAN. DAN hits the ground and SWEET VANILLA runs to his aid.)

SWEET VANILLA

Civilian! You need not worry about evil ever again. I am here now.

DAN

What was that for?!

SWEET VANILLA

Wait, what do you remember?

DAN

I remember finally cutting loose for the first time in thirty years, until YOU hit me in the face with your bean magic!

SWEET VANILLA

You remember all that?

SWEET VANILLA (cont.)

Usually people just forget everything when they turn back into humans and don't have to suffer the guilt.

DAN

"Guilt?" "Back into humans?" What are you even talking about? Why would I be guilty? And I didn't turn back into a human!

(MURA reappears in her light show. SWEET VANILLA and DAN cover their eyes.)

MURA

Congratulations Sweet Vanilla. You've just defeated your first enemy.

SWEET VANILLA

Uh Mura, there's something I need to talk to you about...

DAN

And who the hell is she? And what's up with those stupid outfits?

SWEET VANILLA

You wore something just as stupid five minutes ago.

DAN

Yeah, but that was leather.

SWEET VANILLA

So he can still remember being a monster or whatever.

DAN

(Interrupting)

Shadow Savage!

SWEET VANILLA

Exactly. He remembers everything and he's angry that I turned him back into a human.

DAN

You didn't turn me "back into a human!"

MURA

My goodness. It appears the poor soul is still corrupted.



SWEET VANILLA

Really? 'Cause I hit him pretty hard with that Vanilla Flurry.

MURA

Then you will have to hit him again. If he can still remember being a Shadow Savage, that can only mean the Shadow Savage is still in control.

DAN

Oh no, you are not hitting me again!

SWEET VANILLA

Wait, am I hitting him again?

MURA

It is always better to be safe than sorry, is it not?

SWEET VANILLA

Um...

DAN

Screw this! I'm out!

(DAN starts to leave.)

SWEET VANILLA

(Panicking)

VANILLA PURE FLURRY!

(SWEET VANILLA hits DAN with another burst of magic. DAN hits the ground. He doesn't get back up. MURA leaves without SWEET VANILLA noticing.)

SWEET VANILLA

Okay, he's probably not possessed by a Shadow Savage anymore.

(Pause.)

Wait, are you okay?

(SWEET VANILLA walks over to DAN and checks his pulse.)

SWEET VANILLA

Oh God. I killed him! I hit him with a purity beam and I killed him! Mura! You gotta help me out!

(SWEET VANILLA looks around. MURA is not there.)

SWEET VANILLA

Mura? Mura? Where are you?!

(SWEET VANILLA is about to run offstage. She stops, then goes back to DAN.)

SWEET VANILLA

No, I can't leave him there. I have to get him help.

(SWEET VANILLA lifts up DAN and carries him off.)

SWEET VANILLA

The hospital's close enough by. Let's hope I can get him there in time.

(END SCENE.)

ACT 1, SCENE 4

SETTING: A hospital, one hour later. Has a hospital bed with a chair next to it, and two different doors: one leading to the bathroom and the other leading to the hallway.

AT RISE: DAN is unconscious in the bed. SWEET VANILLA sits in the chair by the bed.

SWEET VANILLA

Okay, random civilian whose name I don't know, looks like your vital signs are okay. So...are you going to wake up? Please? Pretty please with a cherry on top? Please don't be dead.

(DAN stirs, and sees SWEET VANILLA sitting over him.)

SWEET VANILLA

Thank God!

DAN

Great. You here to finish the job?

SWEET VANILLA

What part of "thank God" don't you understand?

DAN

I don't know how you work. You just came running in and beat the tar out of me with magic.

SWEET VANILLA

You were attacking innocents, and I had to stop you.

DAN

Attacking innocents? I was just playing punk rock and kicking trashcans.

SWEET VANILLA

And then you tried to kill me.

DAN

Only because you were trying to kill me.

SWEET VANILLA

I wasn't trying to kill you. I was trying to save you from the corruption in your heart.

DAN

Oh, great! You're one of those freaks! You know what, why don't you just take this IV tube and strangle me?

SWEET VANILLA

How many times do I have to tell you, I don't want to kill you? You were a Shadow Savage and I was just trying to turn you back.

DAN

I was born a Shadow Savage, moron!

SWEET VANILLA

Wait, that can happen? I just thought that everyone was human by default and Shadow Mage Shindou was just turning you evil and monstrous.

DAN

What are they teaching you in those schools? Look, I'm a Shadow Savage, my parents were Shadow Savages, their parents were Shadow Savages, and so on and so forth back to the beginning of time. Any questions?

SWEET VANILLA

Well, if Shadow Savages are so common, then how come I haven't seen more of you?

(DAN glares at SWEET VANILLA in disbelief.)

SWEET VANILLA

I mean, wouldn't you have been on the news or something?

DAN

Exactly. We're trying to stay under the radar, live our lives as best we can, and not get beaten to a pulp by girly girls with magic powers every five minutes. I mean, when I got hit by that magical lightning bolt of darkness, I finally felt free to be who I really was. I should've known it was too good to last.

SWEET VANILLA

I didn't know. I'm sorry. You really shouldn't break people's windows and stuff though. It's not nice.

DAN

Neither is attacking civilians.

SWEET VANILLA

I thought you said you didn't...Oh, I see what you're driving at. Sorry. I really didn't mean to hurt you.

(Silence.)

SWEET VANILLA

I've gotta go.

DAN

Leaving already?

SWEET VANILLA

No, I'm coming back. It's just I have to go, you know...  
(Points to the bathroom door.)

DAN

That's your business.

SWEET VANILLA

Okay, be right back.

(SWEET VANILLA goes to the bathroom. DAN chills in his hospital bed. He starts making popping noises with his mouth. A toilet flushes. MELANIE comes out in her outfit from Scene 1, no longer a magical girl.)

DAN

So that's what you really look like.

MELANIE

What are you talking about?

(MELANIE looks down to see that she is back to her old self.)

MELANIE

Don't tell me I can only de-transform by peeing. Can't I just say "De-Transform" or something instead? Oh, wait. Since you're really a Shadow Savage, what's the doctor gonna say when he looks over your medical charts...Oh no, what if he already knows! Do I have to falsify medical documents now? I don't know how to forge things! Where do they even keep those? Do I have to break into a safe?

(Enter DR. OMBRE, in a doctor's coat, stethoscope and medical chart. He watches MELANIE ramble.)

DR. OMBRE

Break into what?

(MELANIE jumps, then sees DR. OMBRE right behind her. She's nervous, both because DR. OMBRE overheard her talking about stealing and altering medical documents, and because DR. OMBRE's really, really cute.)

MELANIE

Oh, you must be Dan's doctor! I'm Melanie. I found him unconscious and brought him here because I'm a good Samaritan who doesn't commit manslaughter.

(DAN snorts.)

DR. OMBRE

Well, you don't have to worry about anybody dying. Your friend's going to live. He'll need bed rest, but there's no permanent damage.

MELANIE

Wow, thank you Doctor...

(MELANIE's phone rings. She takes it out and looks at it. It's her mother. MELANIE is terrified.)

DR. OMBRE

Worried mom?

(MELANIE nods. DR. OMBRE takes MELANIE's phone.)

DR. OMBRE

We get those all the time. Let me handle this.

(DR. OMBRE answers the phone. MRS. BEAN immediately starts screaming at DR. OMBRE.)

Miss? Miss? Miss, this is Dr. Ombre speaking, from the General Hospital.

(MRS. BEAN stops screaming.)

Oh no, your daughter's perfectly all right.

DR. OMBRE (cont.)

It seems like she brought someone to the hospital and that's why she didn't meet you at the car right away.

DAN

(Loud enough for MRS. BEAN to hear him)

I can vouch for that.

(MRS. BEAN asks DR. OMBRE a question.)

DR. OMBRE

Completely understandable, miss. Sometimes kids get so caught up in this kind of insanity that they don't think to call their parents until they've finally calmed down.

(MRS. BEAN says something else.)

She just needs to fill out some paperwork and then she can leave. How about you come here in an hour just so you won't be idling around for too long. Great, I'll text you the address. It's good to meet you too. Have a good day, miss.

(DR. OMBRE hangs up, texts MRS. BEAN a message, then hands the phone back to MELANIE.)

MELANIE

Thank you so much Dr. Ombre. I thought she was gonna rip me a new one as soon as I came home.

DR. OMBRE

I'm always happy to help. But I hope you'll think twice before you run from store security and abandon your mother at a Barnes and Noble's. Your actions have consequences.

MELANIE

It won't happen again.

DR. OMBRE

(Hands MELANIE his clipboard.)

So just fill out these forms, and you should be good to go, God willing and the creek doesn't rise. I'll need to get some more paperwork for your friend now that he's awake. I'll be back in a few minutes.

(DR. OMBRE leaves, closing the door behind him. MELANIE sits back down and starts filling out the paperwork.)

DAN

You liiiiiike him, don't you?

MELANIE

Shut up.

(END SCENE.)



ACT 1, SCENE 5

SETTING: Melanie's kitchen, 7PM.  
There's a table for two, with  
plates, silverware and glasses.

AT RISE: MELANIE and MRS. BEAN are  
eating dinner. Nothing fancy, just  
something with string beans. MELANIE  
is picking at her food, lost in  
thought.

MRS. BEAN

Melanie, don't pick at your food.

MELANIE

Oh, sorry mom.

(MELANIE takes a bite.)

Sorry for leaving you behind at the bookstore. I was angry,  
but I wasn't trying to ditch you.

MRS. BEAN

I'm sorry I shouted at you, and that doctor. He has a good  
head on his shoulders.

MELANIE

(Sighs)

Yeah, he does...

MRS. BEAN

Is that a lovelorn sigh I hear?

MELANIE

Ew! No! No way, José!

MRS. BEAN

Good. He's way too old for you anyway, and he's probably  
already married with three kids.

MELANIE

You don't even know what he looks like, mom! And not that  
it matters, but I didn't see a ring on his finger.

MRS. BEAN

That doesn't mean he doesn't have a girlfriend. And he's an  
adult with a job, so of course he's too old for you.

MELANIE

I'm not even thinking about any of that right now.

MRS. BEAN

Good, I don't want you getting in any trouble.

MELANIE

Yeah, I already dodged a bullet after that mess at the bookstore. I hope the security guys didn't give you a hard time.

MRS. BEAN

What security guys?

(Pause)

Oh no, that glittery manga. I tore it to shreds and just drove off.

MELANIE

So, there wasn't anybody from Barnes and Noble following you with guns or anything?

MRS. BEAN

I drove around the city looking for you, Melanie. If anyone was following me, I would've noticed.

MELANIE

Then why did Dr. Ombre mention Barnes and Noble security? Unless...

(MELANIE drops her fork.)

MRS. BEAN

Melanie, are you okay.

MELANIE

Oh, yeah. I'm totally fine, mom. Just tired is all.

(MELANIE gets out of her chair and heads upstairs.)

I think I'll go to bed early now.

MRS. BEAN

But you haven't even touched your dinner.

MELANIE

That's okay, mom. I'm not that hungry.

MRS. BEAN

But if you don't eat something now, you will be hungry later.

MELANIE

Then I'll bring my food upstairs...and then go to bed.

MRS. BEAN

Aren't you worried about getting heartburn?

(MELANIE takes her plate and kisses her mom on the cheek.)

MELANIE

Night, mom. I love you.

(MELANIE goes upstairs and leaves a confused MRS. BEAN at the table. MRS. BEAN continues eating her meal.)

(END SCENE.)

ACT 1, SCENE 6

SETTING: The hospital, midnight.  
Same as the last scene, but the room  
is suspiciously dark.

AT RISE: PUNKRAKKA hides under the  
sheets of his bed.

(SWEET VANILLA opens the door to the room and  
comes in, gingerly.)

SWEET VANILLA

Dr. Ombre? I know you're in here, and I know your secret. I  
know you're really the Shadow Mage Shindou. Come out, or  
I'll have to use force.

(PUNKRAKKA throws the sheets off his bed and  
poses dramatically. A spotlight shines on  
PUNKRAKKA, complete with explosions of colored  
smoke.)

PUNKRAKKA

Ladies and Gentlemen! Punkrakka is back on tour!

(PUNKRAKKA wails on his Flying V guitar.)

SWEET VANILLA

Would you cut that out? The other patients are trying to  
get their sleep!

PUNKRAKKA

Relax, Milli Vanilli. My speakers are pumping biurnal beats  
throughout the whole hospital. Everyone's out like a light.

SWEET VANILLA

Then how come it's not affecting us?

PUNKRAKKA

I dunno. Magic, probably. You've got magic, I've got magic,  
and both magics are protecting us from my other magic.

SWEET VANILLA

Look, don't distract me with your technical mumbo-jumbo. I  
need to find Shadow Mage Shindou and I need to find him  
now.

PUNKRAKKA

No can do, Milli Vanilli. I can't have you shooting him in the heart with me to blame. So get ready for a Ballroom Blitz! Let's gooooooooo!!!

SWEET VANILLA

I don't want to fight you. Or him. Not yet. I just want to talk.

PUNKRAKKA

What talk? You mean one-liners and fancy attack names before you kill him?

SWEET VANILLA

No, I mean I want to talk to him about the Shadow Savages, and where he fits with all of that. If what you're saying is true, and he really is freeing you then...

PUNKRAKKA

Then what?

SWEET VANILLA

I don't know. I'll figure that out when I get there.

(PUNKRAKKA, still armed with his Flying V guitar, looks SWEET VANILLA over.)

PUNKRAKKA

I'll take you to Lord Shindou. Try anything funny and...

(PUNKRAKKA plays a riff at the hospital bed. It collapses into dust.)

PUNKRAKKA

Another one bites the dust.

SWEET VANILLA

Noted. So, how do we get there?

PUNKRAKKA

Watch me now, hey!

(PUNKRAKKA plays Highway to Hell. Lights flash, smoke pours into the room.)

SWEET VANILLA

What's going on?

PUNKRAKKA

I'm playing us a bridge!

SWEET VANILLA

Was that another music pun?

PUNKRAKKA

You know it, Milli Vanilli!

(PUNKRAKKA continues playing.)

(END SCENE.)

ACT 1, SCENE 7

SETTING: The Negaverse, not too long after Scene 6.

AT RISE: SHINDOU gazes at the crystal planet Earth.

(SWEET VANILLA and PUNKRAKKA run into the lair. SWEET VANILLA aims her Bean Pole at SHINDOU. PUNKRAKKA aims his Flying V AT SWEET VANILLA.)

SWEET VANILLA

Dr. Ombre...or should I say, Shadow Mage Shindou?

SHINDOU

Sweet Vanilla, guardian of this planet Earth. I wasn't expecting you so soon.

SWEET VANILLA

You knew the security from Barnes and Noble could be after me. Even my mom didn't know that. How would you know unless you were watching from afar?

SHINDOU

You're cleverer than I gave you credit for, Sweet Vanilla...or should I say, Melanie Bean? And you even turned my own Shadow Savage against me.

PUNKRAKKA

Actually, I'm just here to make sure she doesn't kill you, my liege.

SHINDOU

But you're not clever enough to avoid an obvious trap!

(SHINDOU waves his hands and SWEET VANILLA and PUNKRAKKA are both bound by evil looking ribbons.)

SWEET VANILLA

Oh no!

PUNKRAKKA

Oklahoma!

(SWEET VANILLA and PUNKRAKKA struggle to escape their bonds. SHINDOU walks over to SWEET VANILLA and strokes her cheek.)

SHINDOU

If you were smart, you'd have dragged this out a little more, waited for me to exhaust my waves of Shadow Savages, maybe built up a team of confectionary themed magical girls, forced me to fight you on your home turf. But here you are, with no one but one of my own men for protection.

PUNKRAKKA

I said "Oklahoma," now can you please let me go?

SWEET VANILLA

I'm here for answers. Why are you doing this?

SHINDOU

Skipping straight to the tragic backstory, huh?

SWEET VANILLA

No, I don't think it's just a tragic backstory. There's more to it than that. Punkrakka said that he was born a Shadow Savage and that he never wanted to be a human. He had to become one to blend in. What's going on?

SHINDOU

Not many magical girls bother to empathize with their enemies, let alone barely humanoid creatures who think a shtick makes up for a complete lack of personality.

PUNKRAKKA

Hey!

SHINDOU

Punkrakka, I respect you as a Shadow Savage and want nothing more than your well-being, but do you have anything going for you besides the rock music references?

PUNKRAKKA

Um...I like knitting...

SHINDOU

Sweet Vanilla, if you've really come here just to ask me that question, then I can give you your answer. Long ago, when the Earth was young, the Shadow planet was in crisis. A civil war had broken out between its people.



SHINDOU (cont.)

One group called themselves the Shadow Savivors, claiming that only they had the right to live on their world. Everyone else was branded a Shadow Savage and hunted down. Those of us who had survived fled our home to look for a world we could live on. Earth was habitable, but it was already populated. The natives were intelligent, so we had assumed they would understand our plight and share their world. And for a time, it was good. Then the natives stated their conditions. If we did not completely shed our own culture and change ourselves to look like them, we would be destroyed.

Many of us attempted to change, but not all of us were successful. It was too hard to destroy who we really were just to satisfy some strangers. The few of us who could lived half-lives, miserable existences resenting the natives who could freely be themselves. Some of us lashed out, and the natives used their magic and flashy displays of light to hunt down and destroy every single Shadow Savage they could find. Those of us who survived, hid. Then the natives of this planet declared war on each other. Those who could use magic were accused of being Shadow Savages by those who could not. They were destroyed too. Or so we had thought.

The Shadow Savages returned to society, desperately eking out a living amongst the native species. We dared not return to the Shadow world, or those who ruled it would surely destroy us.

But I found that I had an incredible gift. I could find all the hidden Shadow Savages in the world and return them to their true forms. We could live on this planet as we were, and defend ourselves and our right to live here. But then Mura's devotees struck back at us.

SWEET VANILLA

Mura's devotees?

SHINDOU

Magic is still considered suspect to this day, but Mura had given her acolytes protection from the others of Earth. Mura no longer sought to kill the Shadow Savages. She created magical weapons that would destroy everything that made someone a Shadow Savage and leave them a human-shaped husk. She would turn them into mindless, soulless humanoids who existed only to do her bidding.

SWEET VANILLA

No. There's no way. There's absolutely no way.

SHINDOU

I believe the native species of this planet has done something similar to their own. If I remember correctly they called it "killing the Indian to save the Man."

SWEET VANILLA

No, you're wrong! Magical girls would never do this! I would never do that!

PUNKRAKKA

Did you just forget that time you tried to kill me twice?

SWEET VANILLA

I wasn't trying to kill you! I didn't know that could kill you! I only hit you again because...Oh my God, Mura!

(SWEET VANILLA throws up a little in her mouth. She swallows it, then faces SHINDOU.)

SWEET VANILLA

Do you know where Mura is?

SHINDOU

Why?

SWEET VANILLA

If this is true then she has a lot to answer for. We need to find her.

SHINDOU

And why should we follow you to our enemy's lair?

SWEET VANILLA

I'm going there whether you're coming or not. I just figured you'd want to get some hits in.

(SHINDOU waves his hands and releases SWEET VANILLA and PUNKRAKKA from their bindings. SWEET VANILLA and PUNKRAKKA work some circulation back into their bodies.)

SHINDOU

My powers will be weakened in Mura's realm. We're depending on you to protect us if she tries anything.

SWEET VANILLA

Are you kidding? That's what magical girls are supposed to do: protect the innocent.

SHINDOU

Who among us is truly innocent?

SWEET VANILLA

You know what I mean.

PUNKRAKKA

Let me do the honors, my liege.

SHINDOU

Go ahead, my loyal Shadow Savage.

(PUNKRAKKA plays the beginning to "Stairway to Heaven." Smoke pours in and light shines on SWEET VANILLA, PUNKRAKKA, and SHINDOU.)

SHINDOU

Seriously Punkrakka, you don't have to be obsessed with music all the time.

PUNKRAKKA

You're just mad cuz you're tone deaf, my liege.

(END SCENE.)

ACT 1, SCENE 8

SETTING: Mura's lair, not too long after Scene 9. A stereotypical pop-culture vision of Heaven. The sky is blue, the floor is made of clouds, beams of light stream down from above, a rainbow arcs between clouds, and Ionic pillars sprout from the cloud floor for absolutely no reason. A pyramid-shaped staircase of light, much like the giant "ookaidan" staircase from the Takarazuka Revue, also juts out of the cloud floor.

AT RISE: MURA stands, surveying her domain.

(SWEET VANILLA, SHINDOU, and PUNKRAKKA appear in a beam of light.)

MURA

Sweet Vanilla, you have brought the Shadow Mage Shindou, and that ungrateful Shadow Savage from earlier. Let us finish them off together and save this beautiful world.

SWEET VANILLA

No.

MURA

No?

SWEET VANILLA

I'm not comfortable working with someone who's turning Shadow Savages into slaves.

MURA

Is that what they have been telling you, Sweet Vanilla? You should know better than to listen to the words of a villain, especially one from a planet of pure darkness.

SWEET VANILLA

So, your plan isn't to get a bunch of girls with magical powers to turn the Shadow Savages into soulless humans that'll just do whatever you want.

MURA

Of course not, child. My plan is to empower young girls with incredible talent, and use their powers to purify all the darkness in the world. I do not have to give the newly freed humans a vocation, but I do so out of the kindness of my heart.

SWEET VANILLA

That sounds exactly like what I said, but you just twisted the words around to make them sound nicer.

MURA

I should have kept a better eye on you, child. I thought I could trust you to stay on the path of light, but these beasts of darkness have lured you into ruin.

SWEET VANILLA

You're the one who's ruining everything. I almost killed a man because of you.

MURA

You really do not understand, do you? As long as there is still an ounce of Shadow Savage in someone, then they cannot be called a man. If they resist our pure light and insist on clinging to their barbarous ways, then they are no better than rabid dogs. Would you let rabid dogs roam the streets to infect your loved ones and children?

(Getting in SWEET VANILLA'S face)

Huh? Would you? Would you? Huh? Huh?

SWEET VANILLA

That's all I'm gonna take from you, Mura! VANILLA PURE FLURRY!

(SWEET VANILLA hits MURA with an explosion of paper and glitter. MURA is still standing, but PUNKRAKKA and SHINDOU have been knocked backwards.)

SWEET VANILLA

Shindou! Punkrakka!

MURA

See? Your powers cannot harm me, because they were meant only to fight darkness. All you have done was injure those who have deserved it. Accept your destiny, Sweet Vanilla, and destroy the Shadow Savages.

SWEET VANILLA

No, that's not my destiny. It was never my destiny. Magical girls protect the world. They do not kill people who are just trying to live.

(SWEET VANILLA glows with a dark [but not evil] power.)

SHINDOU

Sweet Vanilla...I told you before that beings of shadow are weakened against light...but the same applies to beings of light...let me lend you my power so you can truly protect this world.

SWEET VANILLA

Shindou, I can't. You need to preserve your strength.

SHINDOU

It's too late, Sweet Vanilla. I've already given you my power...

(SWEET VANILLA transforms into a black and more intimidating version of her earlier magical girl outfit. PUNKRAKKA, still on his back, plays Queen's cover of "God Save the Queen" while she transforms.)

MURA

Sweet Vanilla? What have you done to yourself?

SWEET VANILLA

It's Vanilla Extract now, Mura. You like purity so much? Well how do you like pure, unadulterated, concentrated rage? VANILLA EXTRACT FURY!

(Magic shoots backwards out of VANILLA EXTRACT's Bean Pole and knocks her on her back. MURA walks to SWEET VANILLA'S prone form and holds her down with her foot.)

MURA

How ungrateful can you be to use my own weapon against me, whelp? I thought you cared about humanity, Melanie. I thought you cared about your people and your traditions and the purity of your race. But I suppose young people do not care if their culture is completely destroyed by outside invaders.

MURA (cont.)

I guess young people are dumb enough to throw it all away just because darkness looks cool.

(MURA presses her foot harder onto SWEET VANILLA'S chest. SWEET VANILLA screams in pain.)

MURA

I will have to remove that corruption myself, even if it destroys you inside and out.

SWEET VANILLA

Hey, Mura. Before you kill me or do whatever you're going to do, I just have one thing to say.

(MURA leans down at SWEET VANILLA, mere inches away from her face.)

MURA

And why should I listen to anything you have to say?

(SWEET VANILLA sprays MURA in the face with the pepper spray from Scene 1. MURA screams, recoils, and covers her eyes.)

MURA

My eyes! You ungrateful brat! I should have killed you the moment you came here!

SHINDOU

Eternal Sleep!

(SHINDOU casts a spell at MURA, and MURA is encased in crystal. The crystal falls through the clouds to the Earth below. SWEET VANILLA helps SHINDOU and PUNKRAKKA up.)

SWEET VANILLA

Are you two okay?

SHINDOU

I am now that Mura has been nullified.

SWEET VANILLA

How about you, Punkrakka?

PUNKRAKKA

You know me, Milli Vanilli. I get knocked down, then I get up again.

(The human-sized crystal prison hits the Earth with a thud.)

SWEET VANILLA

I can't believe that crystal didn't shatter.

SHINDOU

It's a crystal prison that can withstand all physical damage. Only another being of darkness can dispel it.

SWEET VANILLA

We can't just leave her like that.

SHINDOU

Even now, you feel pity for her?

SWEET VANILLA

Well, what about due process? Isn't there a space court with a space prison where we could put her?

SHINDOU

I may know of one, Vanilla Extract. But I haven't even thought of contacting them since my people first left their homeworld.

PUNKRAKKA

Then what are we standing around here for? I'm getting blinded by the light!

SHINDOU

Let us return to my base of darkness, and build a case.

SWEET VANILLA

But we really should do something about Mura. Most people down here see a pretty woman in diaphanous robes trapped in a crystal and assume she's a poor innocent who got defeated by evil.

SHINDOU

Would you do the honors, Vanilla Extract? You'll find you have the power even without that cursed Bean Pole.



(SWEET VANILLA waves her hands over the spot where the crystal used to be. SWEET VANILLA, SHINDOU and PUNKRAKKA recoil from a disgusting smell.)

PUNKRAKKA

What was that?

SWEET VANILLA

I used a spell to make it look and smell like dog poop. Nobody's gonna go near that. Now let's get out of here and build ourselves a case!

(PUNKRAKKA plays "I Fought the Law and the Law Won," as smoke pours in.)

(END SCENE)

ACT 1, SCENE 9

SETTING: Giant Lit "Ookaidan"  
Staircase, end of play.

AT RISE: The Staircase lights up in a brilliant display of colors. A disco ball descends from above and shows off even more light.

(Everyone comes onstage dressed in Las Vegas style showgirl outfits singing "I Gotta be Me." After a few lines, BORDER PATROL comes onstage and starts handcuffing performers. The music stops.)

BORDER PATROL

All right, everyone. Break it up! Show's over, you're all going home.

MELANIE

What are you talking about? Our Visas don't expire for a year.

BORDER PATROL

Your visas aren't worth crap anymore, lady. Your country's on the travel ban list.

SHINDOU

What? Since when?

BORDER PATROL

I'll be asking the questions here! Now do you want to do this the easy way or the tasery way?

(MELANIE, MURA, SHINDOU, and PUNKRAKKA grumble as BORDER PATROL leads them offstage. Linger on the still-lit staircase before dropping the curtains.)

(END SCENE, ACT AND PLAY.)