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Suzi

My first comments..ep23.

Sun Sep 7 17:44:23 2003

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Well, Gerdha,

I can tell you that was such an analysis, and I quite enjoyed the read despite its density and detailed elaboration.

And undoubtedly, I agree with you a 100100% that Daisuke did love Hikaru, and not only that, but she was his first and only true love despite all the odds! Call me mad or crazy, but yes despite the kiss to Naida in ep 25, and the loud desperate cry in ep 72..Hikaru is Daisuke's first and only true love! (look who is saying that, me, the one who pointed out to everyone in this forum Daisuke and Naida's kiss in ep25) But yes, despite the kiss, he only loved Hikaru!

(I am going to explain my theory throughout my series of posts when I discuss ep 25)

But there are a few things in your impressive analysis that I disagree with.

I understand that you based your analysis on visual aspects as well as the dialogues of the Italian version, and that is probably where the variability in interpretation of the story comes. And it is true that the Arabic dialogue is consistent with the Italian but it is not exactly the same. But in all circumstances, Daisuke's love to Hikaru was as obvious as the sun.

Anyway, you presented some interesting questions and arguments that I am game to reply to. I'll present my discussion based on the episode involved in a serial manner because you already know my time restraints. Please don't consider my remarks as insults to or belittling of your great fantastic analysis, but as I said to you earlier the difference in opinion only makes the game more interesting and fun and the efforts more worthwhile. And please forgive me if I use some "scientific" or "psychological" approaches that might annoy you or contradict your theories.

The episodes that I would like to comment on are ep 23, 25, 37, 39, 46, 53,66, 69, 72.

I will start posting my considerations in a serial manner whenever I get the chance and the time to do so.

Episode 23

I wouldn't be lying if I said that this one of my most favourite episodes, if not my most favourite. But you presented a lot of questions there that I cannot resist to answer.

The questions you presented:

1. Why on Earth, was Hikaru so angry from Daisuke? It wasn't the first time that he disappeared at a crucial moment...so why was she so angry?
2. You have asked about my reaction if someone stripped me in a not so life-threatening situation. (BTW, honestly I did not like the way you presented such a question to me, because it seemed as if you were challenging me on my moral principles, ethics, cultural values and self-integrity. I know that this was not your intention and therefore I am not angry with you, even though I didn't like the question but I will answer it).
3. Why did Daisuke strip Hikaru in a not so life-threatening situation? Was it really not so life-threatening situation after all?
4. Why Hikaru's reaction wasn't aggressive?
5. Why did no one comment about the cave scene before?

Actually, Gerdha, if you rewind the form I hinted with a small comment on this scene in one of the discussions about the "sexiness" of Maria and the modesty of Grendizer, where I said that in Grendizer the real "sex" device used was Hikaru, and I pointed out to her nakedness in the cave in ep 23, as well as the very short split of a second scene in ep 27 where we saw her bare breasts briefly while she was dressing up. In actual fact, she was the one who was dressed in shorts and mini-skirt throughout the anime, whereas the pretty face Maria was always dressed in a suit, or a long dress, except for a short scene in end of ep 63 where she wore a short blue skirt. So who was really meant to be "enticing" or "sexy" Maria or Hikaru?

As for why no one replied or commented on that post of mine, I don't know, but the forum members can answer for themselves.

My answer to question number one.

Why was Hikaru so angry despite the fact that it wasn't Daisuke's first time to disappear at a crucial moment?

The answer is, because it was the first time that his disappearance has lead to a drastic harm to someone very dear to her heart, her father. Yes, despite the arguments, and the conflicts she dearly loved her father, and if Daisuke were there at the time the white horse ran away (BTW it wasn't referred to as Daisuke's horse but only as one of the best horses owned by Danbee), her father would not have been hurt chasing it.

It is a normal psychological response, when something bad happens to someone you love you tend to blame someone or something for it, and if you can't find any, then you blame yourself.

Why was her anger so immense? Like what you said, because she loved him, and when you love someone, your expectations are as big as your love, and if they are not met then your disappointment and anger will be just as big, unless a good explanation is given.

Your analysis of the farm argument was excellent, I have nothing to add.

And by the way, the relationship between Hikaru and her father is amazing, I really would like to comment on it in a separate post because it reflects how Danbee was a good father, who should really be credited for bringing up a wonderful woman like Hikaru Mabika, alone without his wife (who probably has died when his kids were younger). Really, he has every right to be proud of her.

And if you allow me, I would like to postpone the answer to question 2 until after I answer questions 3 and 4.

The question you asked was why did Daisuke strip Hikaru in a not so much a life-threatening situation? Allow to answer it using a small mind game.

If you or any one gets soaked wet in the rain on a cold windy day, what is the first thing you do when you get home?

The first thing you do when you get home is take off your wet clothes, dry yourself then wear a set of clean dry clothes and warm yourself up, and that is an instinctive behaviour, just like eating when you are hungry.

Why do you do that?

Because if you don't do that you'll get a flu?

No, because you'll get the flu regardless, and perhaps pneumonia too if you are unlucky.

Because you feel cold?

Yes! Because you feel cold, and if you keep these wet clothes on, your body temperature will continue to drop may be to life-threatening levels, a condition known as "hypothermia", in which the normal body metabolism gets adversely affected by the low body temperature, most of all slowing of the blood circulation to all body parts which may result in death and necrosis of various tissues, most precious of all is your brain.....and no one wants that, believe me.

So, Daisuke from the medical point of view did the right thing. He stripped Hikaru from her wet clothes, including her underwear (that were wet too) and warmed her up in blankets to avoid her contracting hypothermia and its bad effects, and also to minimise the risk of contracting a bad flu or even pneumonia. Therefore, it was a life-threatening situation after all that was skilfully handled.

I know now that someone will say, well why didn't he do that for Koji and the orphan spy when he rescued them from the waterfall? My answer would be, he should have done the same, but allow me to comment on whoever wrote that episode is that his medical knowledge is really very limited, for even the CPR that DF performed on the boy's chest was a pure joke. (CPR stands for cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and it incorporates rhythmical cardiac=heart compressions...done to the centre rather than to the periphery of the chest as illustrated in the ep, along with frequent breathing into the mouth of the non-responsive, non-breathing arrested victim)

Do you understand now why I see that CPR as a joke? First DF was still wearing his mask, so how could he deliver breathes into the boy without wasting valuable time in opening the mask from his face between the breathes? Second, DF was compressing the sides not the centre of the chest, and therefore I would only say the scriptwriter of this episode and designer team of that ep have very limited first aid knowledge in contrast to those of ep 23.

Ok, I know that you'll say that I say that because I am a doctor and I understand first aid, etc. Well, even as a child of 12 years seeing this scene didn't make think otherwise, that Daisuke was doing the right thing. Note also that when I first saw this episode first time at the age of 12, my father was watching it with me. I was a bit embarrassed of course, probably blushed too. But my father made no comment, nor did I. All what I have questioned at the time was where and when did Daisuke get the blanket from, and when did he manage to collect dry wooden logs to burn a fire and dry Hikaru's clothes? That is all what I thought about (and what I am still thinking about, but never mind this is not the issue here). I didn't know about hypothermia and its effects when I was 12 (even though my father was a doctor), but I knew that it was

adamant to remove wet clothes from the body of wet person especially if unconscious, it is a first aid measure. You do it without much thinking about gender differences or such things. Honestly, if I were to think of gender issues and modesty while giving first aid or attempting to save someone's life or examining patient, I might as well quit medicine and become a clerk!
I personally don't find it strange that Daisuke did that, especially that he explained his action in a medically sound context.

Why didn't Hikaru react aggressively to the fact that she was stripped by Daisuke, and now she is only covered by a blanket?

I am not sure whether your analysis of this situation implies that they already had consensual intercourse previously and therefore it was more or less acceptable for her to be stripped by him while she was unconscious. I hope that this is not the case because I totally disagree.

Hikaru was recovering from the psychological shock of finding the real identity of the man she loved, as well as that of his cruel barbaric behaviour of slapping her. In other words she was more or less emotionally depleted and therefore could not mount an aggressive reaction. She had another shock to deal with. She was made naked, and by whom? The man she loved. The alien. The barbaric bloke who slapped her. The one that she was still trying to come to terms with his reality. You know it is more or less like a situation in which you have a very bad day and everything goes wrong for you and you become too depressed to react aggressively when another thing goes wrong.

She was alarmed at the fact that she was stripped by him. Any female would express the same reaction if she found herself suddenly made naked while unconscious by a guy whether she loves him or not. The first that would jump into any female's mind in such a situation would be, "What the heck has this b***** done to me? Has he raped me?" And I can tell you that rape is an unforgivable crime even if committed by a person you deeply adore.

Personally, I think, and you have the right to disagree, that maybe after realising her nudity, she might have wondered what else has he done to her, and that is why she screamed with shock, but he was quick to explain why he did that lovingly and sweetly. She was coming to terms with reality, with the fact that even if he was an alien, she still loved him, and she knew that he did too, and that he stripped her because he dearly loved her and didn't want her to suffer any drastic effects from the cold.

She was emotionally drained and couldn't express any more anger than what she already did at the farm, and the mountain before she fell and after her rescue.

I quite like the look exchange between them while picking the clothes. Like what you said, it was deeply meaningful, and any one who denies the look of love in Daisuke's eyes in that scene is either blind or foolish.

Now, it is time for me to answer the second question.

Ok, before I do that Gerdha, you have to make a very clear note of my cultural background and my strictly Christian upbringing and faith which renounces any kind of extra-marital sex, and unnecessary exposure of discrete body parts to strangers. In other words, I am a conservative more or less modest Christian, but with a very non-judgmental attitude.

First, I am answering this question sitting comfortably in front of a computer screen. I am not Hikaru Makiba, and I am not wet (although cold, because it is still chilly in Sydney, nevertheless ^_^!) or had to go through such an emotional strain like Hikaru's. So I could simply say, that in such a situation I may mount a very aggressive reaction (kill the guy maybe! LOL!), but my answer is not correct and it is not fair, because I haven't gone through what Hikaru had gone through in ep 23.

On the other hand, I strip people down to their underwear if need be. It is my job, I have to see, touch and listen. I see much more bodies and discrete body parts than anyone can imagine. Of course I take every care to maintain people's dignity while examining them but still, exposing one's body to a stranger even if a doctor is not easily or lightly taken by some (and when you include gender differences it can be quite an embarrassing ordeal, especially if it involves examination of sexual body parts).

Ah! I don't know, what would my reaction be if I were Hikaru Makiba and I had to go through the events of ep 23? I may react in a similar way to hers, just be passive, after all I would have had enough to deal with, but I think it would be very important for me to know whether I had been raped while unconscious or not, because that definitely will trigger another very unfavourable response from my side. If it were only stripping for saving my life, and some guy had the "pleasure" of seeing my body during the procedure without hurting me (i.e. rape), then I don't think I could harbour any bad feelings for him. After all his intentions were good.

Ok, I think I have answered the questions you presented in ep 23, but I have a last remark to make. You said in your article that Hikaru was unconscious when Daisuke transformed into Duke Fleed, and this is not true. For one thing Gerdha, her eyes were wide open during the transformation process, and she only momentarily closed her eyes as they were landing and while she was laid flat on the ground. This is more or less a reflex reaction that happens when someone is in a danger situation (e.g. falling from a height, expecting a blow) and closes the eyes in anticipation of the effect (crashing, dying, hurt, etc). In other

words, she saw it for real Daisuke transforming into a mysteriously looking character and therefore it would not have been useful for him to transform back to the figure of Daisuke Umon, because she has already "discovered" the double identity.

You also mentioned that he slapped her without any insulting words. But, sorry, Gerdha Daisuke in the Japanese version slaps her saying "Baka!" (which I believe means mad/foolish), and in the arabic version he slaps her saying "Majnonah!" which means "(you are) mad!". But even such an insult does not contradict the fact that he loved her, on the contrary it reinforces that he really loved her. Because you don't really tend to insult someone you don't care about. As I said earlier when you love someone your expectations and your frustrations are just as big as your love.

Daisuke knew it was a shock for her to find the truth but he did not expect such a rejection (don't touch me) that is why he behaved irrationally expressing his frustration, disappointment and anguish both verbally and physically. Yet, the look of regret and disbelief in his eyes afterwards when he was looking at the hand that committed the "crime" of insult was so heartbreaking. Another symbol of a deeply seated love in the heart of man disappointed in himself in letting his emotions guide him so irrationally so as to abuse the woman he loves.

Gee, guys, all of you who have denied Daisuke's love to Hikaru, have you really seen episode 23? Regardless of dialogue, look at the images. I am sure you are not fools, or blind. They all tell the story of a man in love, in very deep love!

Anyway, that is what I have time for today.
Hope to see your comments.
I will discuss the other episodes later.

Love to all

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Gerdha

A first very quick (but needed!) clarification

Sun Sep 7 20:30:39 2003

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Thanks for your answer, Suzi. I am glad you liked my work at a general level, and I see we disagree about some details but not about the overall approach, which is somehow a good news for me! ^_^

Anyway, I NEED to clarify immediately the wording I used during my comments on the cavern scene as I understand it could cause a very bad misunderstanding, and I want to avoid it at all costs. I read that part 20 times before posting, but evidently I underestimated its impact, and I am sorry for this. Really sorry.

I DIDN'T MEAN IN ANY FORM OR MOMENT TO CHALLENGE ANYBODY ABOUT HIS/HER OWN MORAL PRINCIPLE. This idea never passed through my mind for a fraction of second, believe me, and I deeply apologise if I get this impression to readers. Please forgive me everybody if you get insulted from my post, it wasn't absolutely my intention.

My question was only a sort of rhetorical exercise, as I found strange that me and my female friends recall always that scene in the cavern when we talk about Goldrake, and everytime we end up asking ourselves how could have possibly Venusia accepted that behaviour from Actarus if they were not in love for each other, while our male friends (and this forum is not an exception) seem to never think about it and insist at a general level in talking about a "one-way" feeling from Hikaru's part. I remember your post Suzi, but I did not reply it at that time because I was already planning to write this analysis so I supposed to explain deeply my reflections on it. But, yes, nobody answered you, just like nobody answered me to the same consideration I made one year ago in one of my very first posts here (you have to know, it was exactly a discussion about Venusia/Aphelie/Vegalia which convinced me to post my very first mail here...). So that's why I ended up in supposing to a matter of "gender" difference in approaching the topic: I am not a man, I cannot know how a male could relate to that scene; as nobody ever talked about it, I supposed it is considered of no importance from guys. Yet, I did my funny "philosophic" poll with my friends this summer, and I can tell you, they are from very different "cultural" background from me, and I was happy to discover we shared more or less the same approach. So I am really looking forward to understand why Grendizer male fandom seem to interpret the cavern scene so differently from me and you. That's all. I agree with your considerations, Suzi, and the meaning of my comments in my post were aimed to say the same things. Sorry if I did not explain me properly.

One more comment. I underlined it in my post, but not enough evidently. I don't think Actarus and Venusia had consensual intercourse previously (I wrote it: no strict sexual relationship) but that anyway they were a couple already. I believe that, out of screen, at ep23 time he had already proposed to her, they kissed, they embrace and acted as a normal couple. If not, I don't believe that Daisuke would have anyway allowed himself to take her off her underwear too. I understand fully your reasoning about the wet clothes, but I don't believe that wet lingerie on could have caused her a life danger situation for pneumonia. (I have come back home from work several times in my life completely wet driving my scooter under rain and wind for more than 20 minutes: I have rarely taken a cold, and I can tell you that I am weak in that area). I really believe that – if he was not her boyfriend but only a good friend he would have stopped himself from strip her from her underwear too. In fact, Venusia is surprised (so proving that being stripped by Actarus was not a usual experience for her!) but she does not ask him "hey, thanks for helping me but why did you suppose to be allowed to undress me completely???" I mean, she does not get offended by his act. I think that if it was Alcor to do the same thing, she would have reacted differently. Of course I agree with ALL other your considerations.

And about ep25... I know Suzi that we have a very different view about Naida. I know that my considerations could not be completely understandable out of a deep ep25 analysis, which was out of the aim of my post of course. Anyway, I am looking forwards to your comments in any case!

Love to all, and please apologise again for the misunderstandings.