


TIDY_FOX




MERCURY IN
RETROGRADE

A digital illustration of Sailor Mercury, a character with short blue hair and a white sailor-style uniform with blue accents. She is hanging upside down by a chain attached to her right arm. Her head is tilted down, and she has a somber expression. The background is a dark, greenish-black space filled with a thick, swirling green mist. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting her uniform and hair against the dark background.

SAILOR MERCURY HUNG LIMPLY IN THE DARK,
DAMP DUNGEON, ONLY ABLE TO STAY UPRIGHT
BY THE CHAINS BOUND TIGHTLY TO HER ARMS.

AFTER BEING CALLED 'WEAK' BY SAILOR JUPITER WHILST
SPARRING, SHE HAD TRIED TO STAND HER GROUND AGAINST
AGENTS OF THE NEGAVERSE, BUT HER INEXPERIENCE IN
BATTLE HAD INSTEAD LED TO HER DEFEAT AND CAPTURE.

SHE WASN'T SURE HOW LONG SHE'D BEEN IN THE ROOM.
HOURS? DAYS? THERE WAS NO NATURAL LIGHT IN HER
PRISON AND THE ONLY THING THAT SEEMED TO KEEP
HER COMPANY WAS THE ACRID GREEN MIST THAT
WAFTEO AROUND THE ROOM.

A character with vibrant blue hair and bangs, wearing a blue and white outfit with a large blue bow at the chest and a blue skirt. Her arms are raised in a 'V' shape, and she is standing in a dark green, smoky environment. The image has a pixelated, low-resolution aesthetic.

HELPLESS AND UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING UNTIL SHE WAS RESCUED, MERCURY COULD DO LITTLE BUT HOLD ON AND WAIT.

SHE ABSENTLY WATCHED THE SICKLY GREEN SMOKE IN THE ROOM. IT MOVED ALMOST AS IF IT WAS ALIVE. BILLOWING AND CURLING IN UNNATURAL MOTIONS.

IT MADE HER FEEL SICK. IT SMELLED ACIDIC AND BURNY AND SHE SWORE THAT SHE COULD ALMOST FEEL IT ON HER SKIN, THICK, HOT AND WET. STICKING TO HER.

SEEPING INTO HER.

MORE TIME PASSED. SHE WAS BEGINNING TO LOSE HER SENSE OF TIME AND PLACE. WHERE WERE SAILOR MOON, MARS AND JUPITER?

SUDDENLY A BOOMING VOICE CUT THROUGH THE SOLITUDE OF THE PRISON! THE YOUNG GIRL SHOUTED OUT DEFIANTLY IN RESPONSE BUT WAS MET WITH ONLY SILENCE.

THEY HAVE ABANDONNED YOU

WH - WHO'S THERE?!

SLOWLY IT DAWNED ON HER THAT THE VOICE HADN'T COME FROM OUTSIDE, BUT WITHIN HERSELF- HER FEARS WERE MANIFESTING...

YOU ARE WEAK

THE VOICES CAME BACK. TAUNTING HER. BRINGING TO THE SURFACE EVERYTHING THAT SHE'D BURIED DEEP DOWN.

YOU ARE UNWANTED

NO! IT'S NOT TRUE!

BUT EVEN AS SHE CRIED OUT INTO THE HAZY GREEN ROOM, SHE COULD FEEL HER RESOLVE CRUMBLING.

MORE TIME PASSED... MERCURY EXHALED A SIGH OF DEFEAT AND WATCHED THE GREEN SMOKE ESCAPE HER LUNGS.

PATHETIC

SHE HARDLY NOTICED THE ACETOUS ATMOSPHERE ANYMORE, TOO FIXATED ON THE RUNAWAY TRAIN OF NEGATIVITY RUNNING THROUGH HER.

THEY DO NOT
NEED YOU

THE VOICES WERE RIGHT. SHE WAS WEAK. AND HER FRIENDS HAD ALL ABANDONED HER.

THEY DO NOT
CARE FOR YOU

YOU ARE FORGOTTEN

SHE BREATHED IN ANOTHER LUNG FULL OF THE SOUR AIR AND EXHALED, LETTING THE WEIGHT OF HER SITUATION CRUSH HER ENTIRELY.

USELESS

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE...

BUT JUST AS SHE LET GO OF HOPE, A NEW VOICE APPEARED IN HER MIND AND SAILOR MERCURY LISTENED...

THIS NEW VOICE WAS DIFFERENT.
IT DIDN'T PUT HER DOWN.
IT- IT BELIEVED IN HER!

IT GAVE HER A FIGHTING CHANCE!

THEY HAVE
ABANDONNED YOU-

BUT YOU DON'T
NEED THEM.

YOU CAN
HAVE POWER!

H- HOW?

YOU CAN
FREE YOURSELF!

ABSORB THE NEGATIVE
ENERGY IN THIS PRISON.

TAKE IT!
MAKE IT YOUR OWN!

SHE WASN'T SURE SHE ENTIRELY
UNDERSTOOD BUT SHE FOCUSED
HERSELF AND BEGAN TO WORK.



SHE WASN'T SURE HOW, BUT SHE COULD FEEL IT. A SICKLY, DARK ENERGY OVERFLOWING IN THE ROOM.

AS SHE LISTENED TO THE VOICE, SHE ALLOWED IT TO PENETRATE INTO HER. DEEPER AND DEEPER.

YOU ARE MERCURY.
YOU ARE WATER.

YOU CAN TAKE ANY FORM.

YOU CAN DISSOLVE AND ABSORB
ANY SUBSTANCE

YES~ I CAN FEEL IT!
I CAN USE THIS!

LET THE POWER IN

SHE COULD FEEL IT INSIDE OF HER, WELLING IN A PIT OF DESPAIR AND DEPRAVITY, WHERE HER DARKEST SELF RESIDED.

AND MAKE IT YOURS!

SHE'D NEVER BROUGHT THIS PART OF HER TO THE SURFACE BUT AS SHE FIXATED ON IT SHE COULD FEEL A STRENGTH THAT SHE'D NEVER KNOWN WAS WITHIN HER.

SHE LET A LITTLE OF THIS ENERGY INTO HER HEART AND SHE WAS IMMEDIATELY REWARDED WITH RENEWED STRENGTH!
REJUVINATED, THE GIRL STOOD TALL...

SAILOR MERCURY KNEW SHE HAD TO BE CAREFUL. ONLY TAKE AS MUCH AS SHE NEEDED TO ESCAPE.

SHE FLEXED AGAINST THE IRON CHAINS BINDING HER. SHE FELT THEM TWIST BUT REMAIN UNBREAKABLE.

SHE NEEDED MORE.

YOU ARE STILL WEAK.

FOCUS ON THE POWER

FOCUS ON WHAT YOU NEED TO BE!

I NEED TO BE...
STRONGER!

CAN'T... RELY ON
ANYONE ELSE HERE.

I NEED TO BREAK
FREE... NEED TO SHOW
THEM I'M NOT WEAK~

THAT I'M...
BETTER THAN THEM!

DIGGING DEEPER INTO THE BLACK WELL OF POWER, MERCURY BEGAN TEARING THE NEGATIVE ENERGY OUT OF THE AIR AROUND HER.

HER BODY SWELLED AND GREW TO ACCOMODATE HER NEW STRENGTH. FLEXING HER ARMS, SHE FELT THE IRON CREAKING. IT FELT... **EXQUISITE**.

THE AIR CRACKLED AS SAILOR MERCURY DREW MORE AND MORE POWER FROM WITHIN HER PRISON.

I CAN FEEL IT!
JUST A LITTLE MORE~

I'LL SHOW THEM ALL!

SHOW THEM THAT
YOU'RE NO WEAKLING!

SHOW THEM!

SHOW THEM NO MERCY!

SHOW THEM THAT
YOU DON'T NEED THEM!

THE IRON TWISTED AND CRIED OUT AS THE
POSESSED WOMAN FLEXED HER ARMS.

THE GIRL, NO, -WOMAN- WHO HAD BEEN SO
MEEK BEFORE NOW RELISHED IN HER
ABILITY TO PHYSICALLY DOMINATE.

NOT MUCH MORE NOW, SHE THOUGHT. SHE
COULD EASILY BREAK THESE BINDINGS,
BUT SHE JUST WANTED "A LITTLE" MORE
POWER FIRST... IT'D BE A SHAME TO WASTE IT.

SAILOR MERCURY FELT HER EVERY CELL OF HER BODY OVERFLOWING WITH DELICIOUS, BLACK ENERGY.

SHE SMILED WICKEDLY AS SHE FELT IT WRAPPING AROUND AND THROBBING WITHIN HER.

THE DARK WELL WITHIN HER WAS EMPTY, CONSUMED HUNGRILY TO GIVE HER ALL THE STRENGTH THAT SHE WOULD NEED...



AMI FLEXED HER SWOLLEN, MUSCULAR BODY, FEELING THE ENERGY WITHIN HER SURGE-

AND WITH A HOWL OF TRIUMPH AND A SINGLE MOVEMENT, SHE SNAPPED HER CHAINS AS IF THEY WERE NOTHING!

SHE'D BEEN SUCH A PATHETIC AND STUPID GIRL TRYING TO ACT LIKE A WARRIOR- BUT NOW SHE KNEW BETTER NOW SHE KNEW **REAL POWER**.

DARK SAILOR MERCURY BROKE OUT OF HER PRISON, KILLING AND CONSUMING THE ENERGY OF ALL THOSE THAT STOOD AGAINST HER; TWISTING AND CHANGING FURTHER.

THE POWER OF FEAR AND CHAOS THAT SHE LEFT IN HER WAKE WAS THE MOST DELICIOUS OF ALL.

SHE DRANK IT ALL IN.

BUT WHEN SHE FINALLY TORE A HOLE BACK TO HER HOME, SHE WAS NOT WELCOMED BY THE PEOPLE OF EARTH.

SHE FELT THE FEAR IN THEM AS THEY LOOKED UPON HER AND HER HEART STIRRED WITH A NOW FAMILIAR HUNGER.

THE POISONED SAILOR SCOUT LICKED HER LIPS AS SHE RAISED HER WICKED WEAPON AT ALL THESE WEAK CREATURES BENEATH HER...

AMI! I KNOW YOU'RE STILL
IN THERE SOMEWHERE!
PLEASE! YOU HAVE TO
FIGHT IT!

LOOK WHAT YOU'VE
DONE TO JUPITER!
YOU HAVE TO STOP
THIS CHAOS!

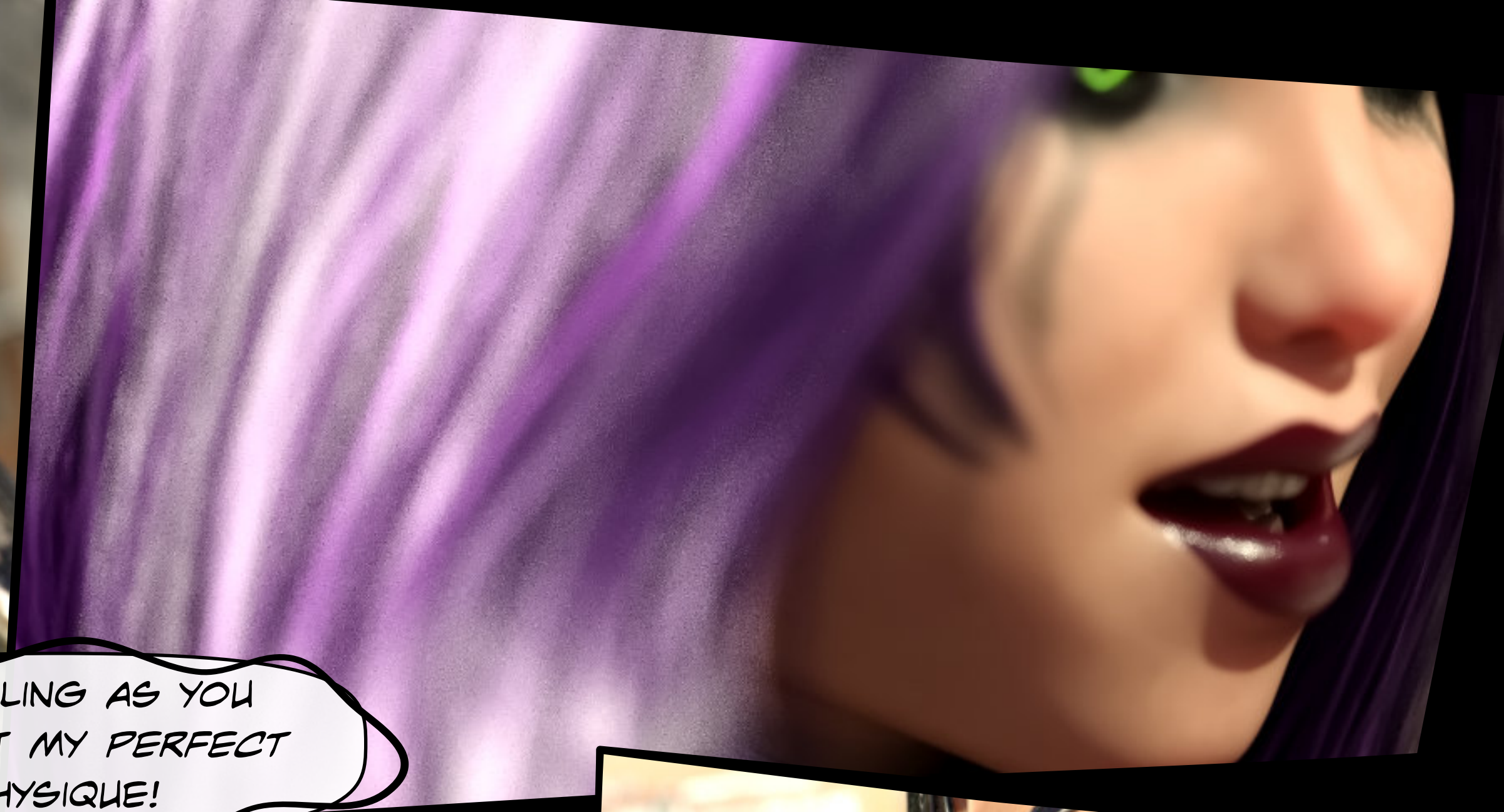
GIVE IT A REST!
LOOK AT HER! THERE'S NOTHING
LEFT TO DO BUT BEAT HER
SENSES BACK INTO HER!

HEHEHE
JUPITER IS WEAK.
YOU ARE ALL WEAK
AND PATHETIC






USAGI, REI...
I CAN FEEL YOUR FEAR.



TREMBLING AS YOU
GAZE AT MY PERFECT
PHYSIQUE!



WONDERING WHAT
HAPPENED TO WEAK LITTLE
SAILOR MERCURY...



COME, SAILOR MARS.
SAILOR MOON.

LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT
WEAKNESS AND DESPAIR
REALLY LOOKS LIKE.



END?