

# Burning

Story by  
Rose Argent  
and  
RazorQueen


Art by  
Gaby Maya  
and  
Yoshie

Ink and Tone by  
Datenshi




Zechs has given up trying to find meaning in relationships--since Treize's death, there's been none.  
It's easier just to buy... release.






Well. Duo Maxwell.  
You may as well get in.

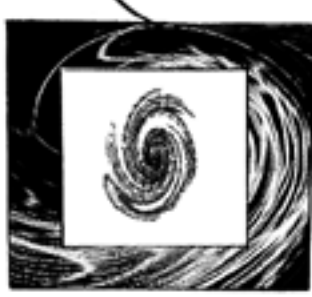


I really don't think--

My money's as good as anyone else's. Get in.



Where  
are we  
going?




What do you like?

My  
apartment.

Is that  
where you  
always take  
your  
whores?

No. Not always.



Fast and hard.  
Get on the bed.

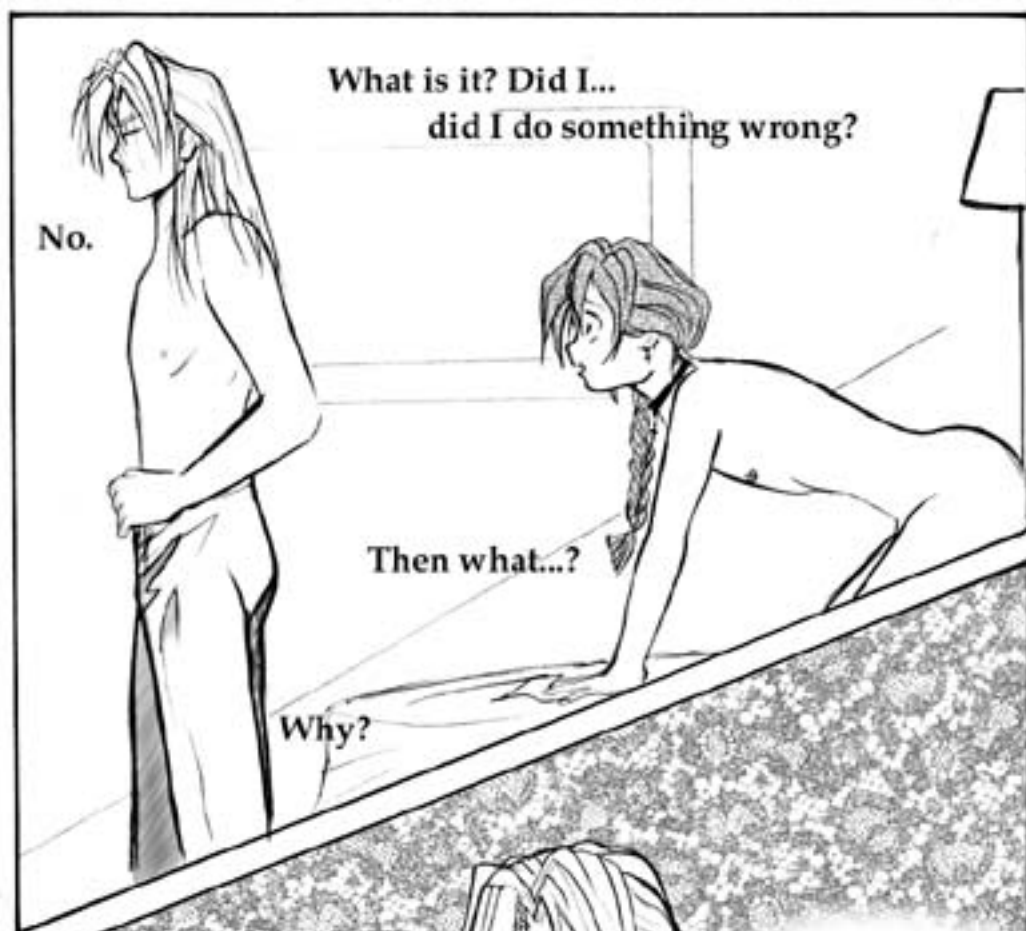




Uhn...  
Zechs...



Is something wrong?



What is it? Did I...  
did I do something wrong?

No.

Then what...?

Why?



Why are you  
doing this?

Huh?

Pays the  
bills.

Lots of things  
would pay the bills.

Yeah, but  
I like the  
hours...



Do you really  
not care?  
How do you do it?

I grew up  
on the streets.  
You get a thick skin  
or you die.




How the hell did we get to this?



I don't know about you,  
but I just sort of...  
wandered.

I suppose that I  
drifted, too.  
Not that it matters.  
Not much matters.




Don't you ever  
get tired?

Of course  
I do.

Why keep going?  
What's the point?

I don't give  
up. I just  
don't.




But if that's the  
only reason,  
why bother?

Dunno. Just... because.

I think I've kept hoping  
that maybe...but there's  
an end to hope.

Hope? I ran out of that  
years ago.  
I keep going on  
sheer orneriness.



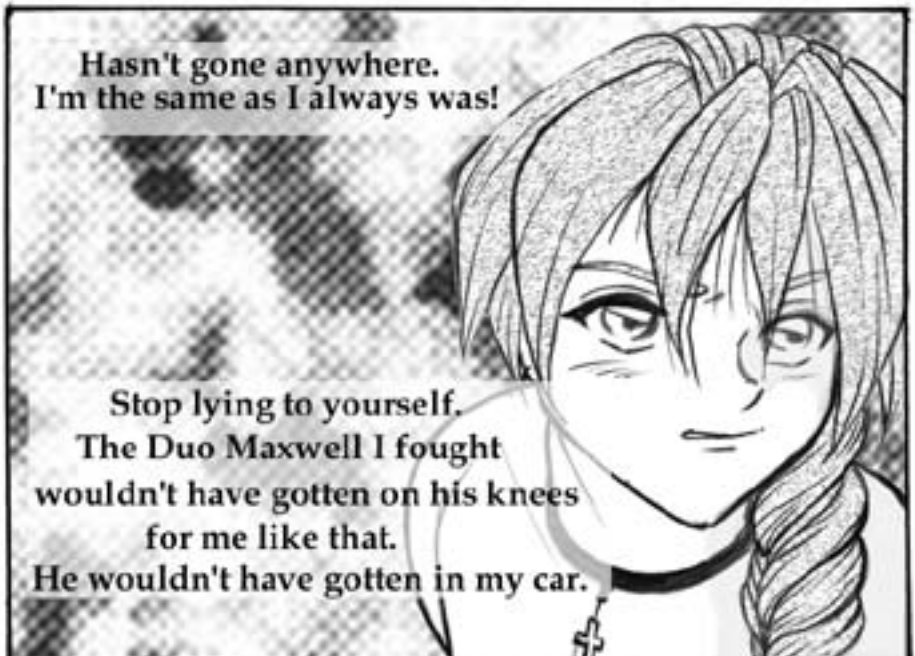
I don't think I have that  
kind of orneriness.

No? I think you do.  
You had fire.  
Still should,  
somewhere in there...

You had it, too. What happened to yours?

What do you mean?

Fire. You had it. You nearly set  
the whole damn planet aflame.  
Where is it now?



Hasn't gone anywhere.  
I'm the same as I always was!

Stop lying to yourself.  
The Duo Maxwell I fought  
wouldn't have gotten on his knees  
for me like that.  
He wouldn't have gotten in my car.



How would  
you know?  
Maybe I did this  
back then, too!

Why did you choose me, then?

You're rich.

Is that all that matters to you?  
Money?

No. But it's something I can get.

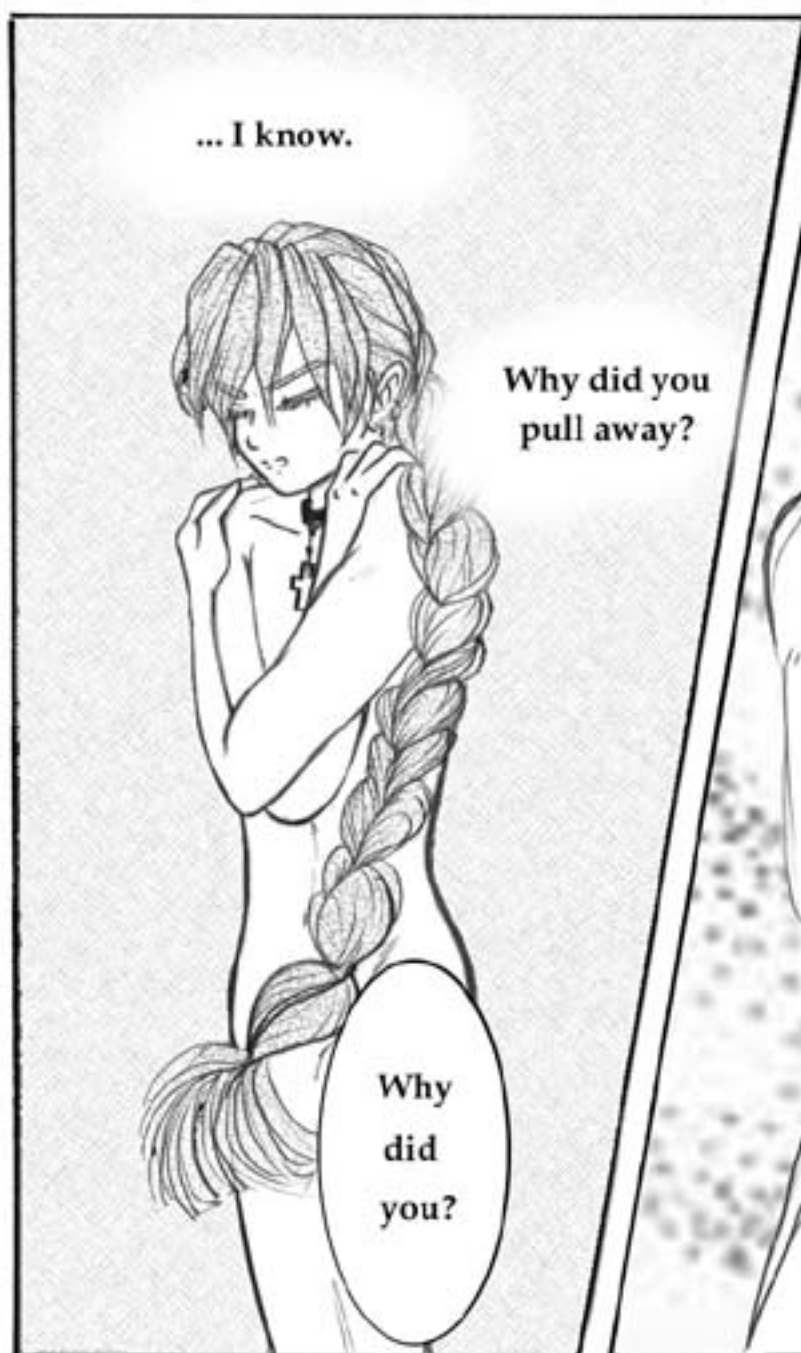
I saw tapes  
from when you  
were captured. Doing  
'this' could have saved  
you from a hell of  
a beating.

I do it when I choose.  
End of story.

What is it that matters  
that you can't get?



I'm not going  
to hurt you.



... I know.

Why did you  
pull away?

Why  
did  
you?



It just felt  
wrong. To do  
that to you...  
with no  
feeling...

Why does  
it matter?

There's  
never  
feeling...



No... that's why it's  
easier to buy sex.  
Nothing is  
expected.

Then why is  
this different?

I don't know.

You said there's never  
any feeling...  
no passion...

Never?

Have you wished for it,  
ever?

... sometimes.

Is that why you  
do this, not just to pay the bills,  
but hoping you'll find...  
feeling?

I think... we could  
understand each other,  
if we tried.

Yeah. Maybe.

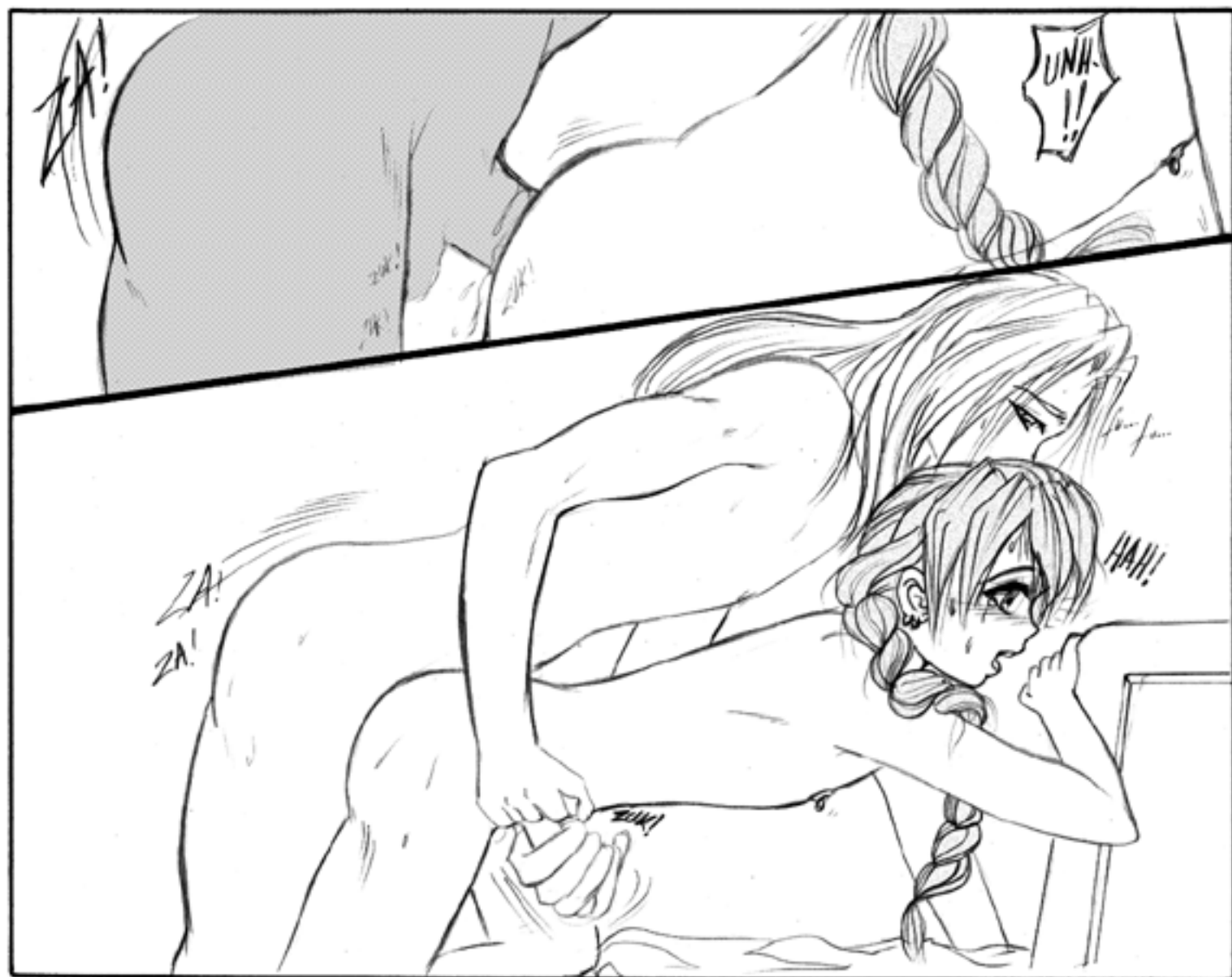
I think I could make  
you feel something, too.

Oh, you think so?

Would you let me try?

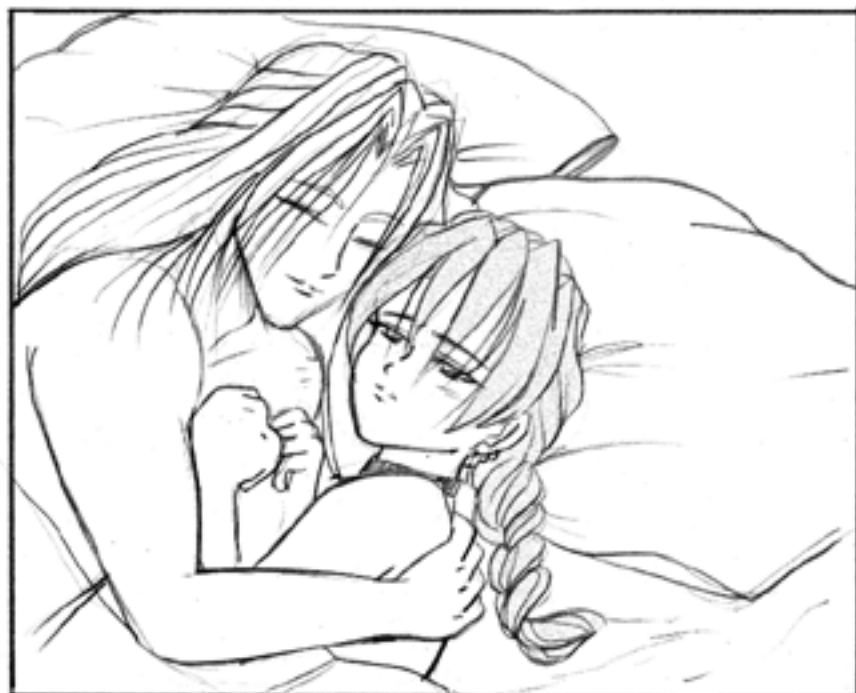
... yes...

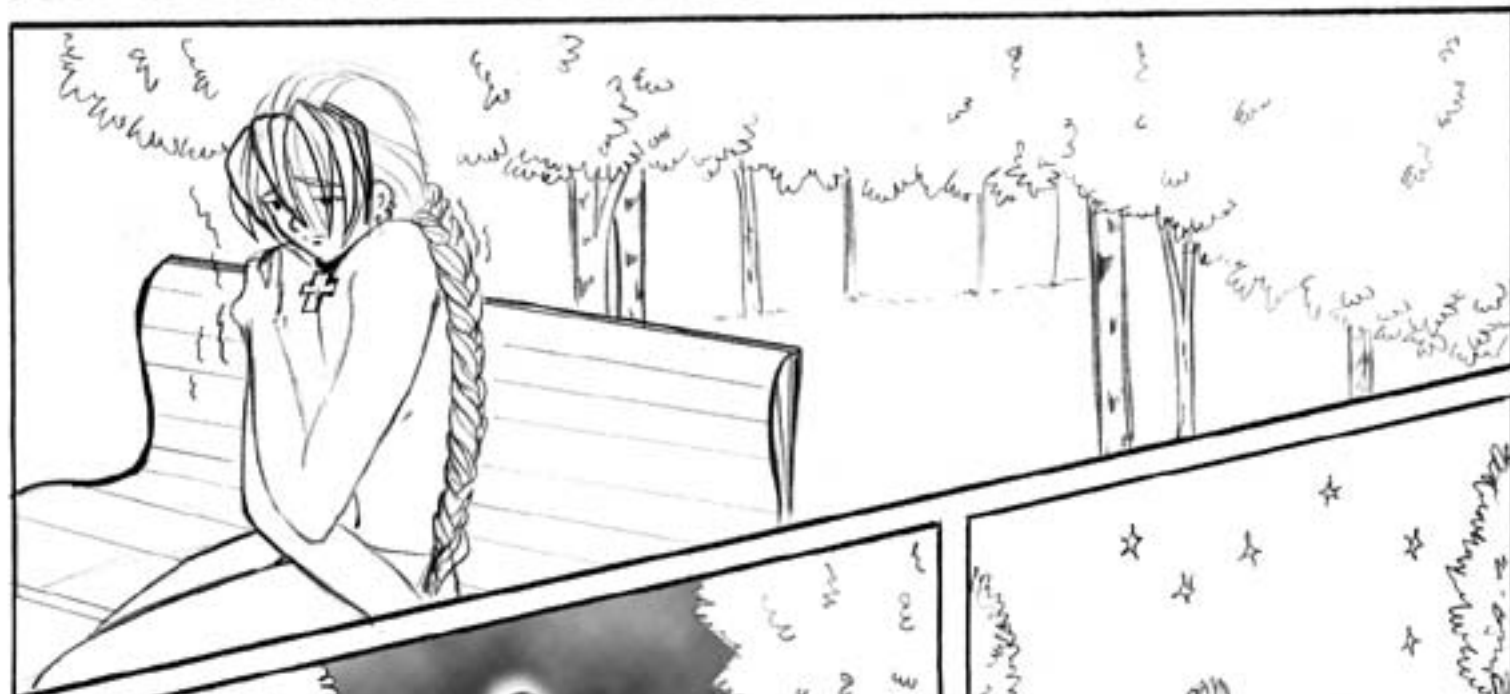
Yes.  
Zechs...

















It can be all right, I think.

But we can't know...

No. But I know what the alternative is like. So do you.  
Can you honestly say it's better?

I... no...

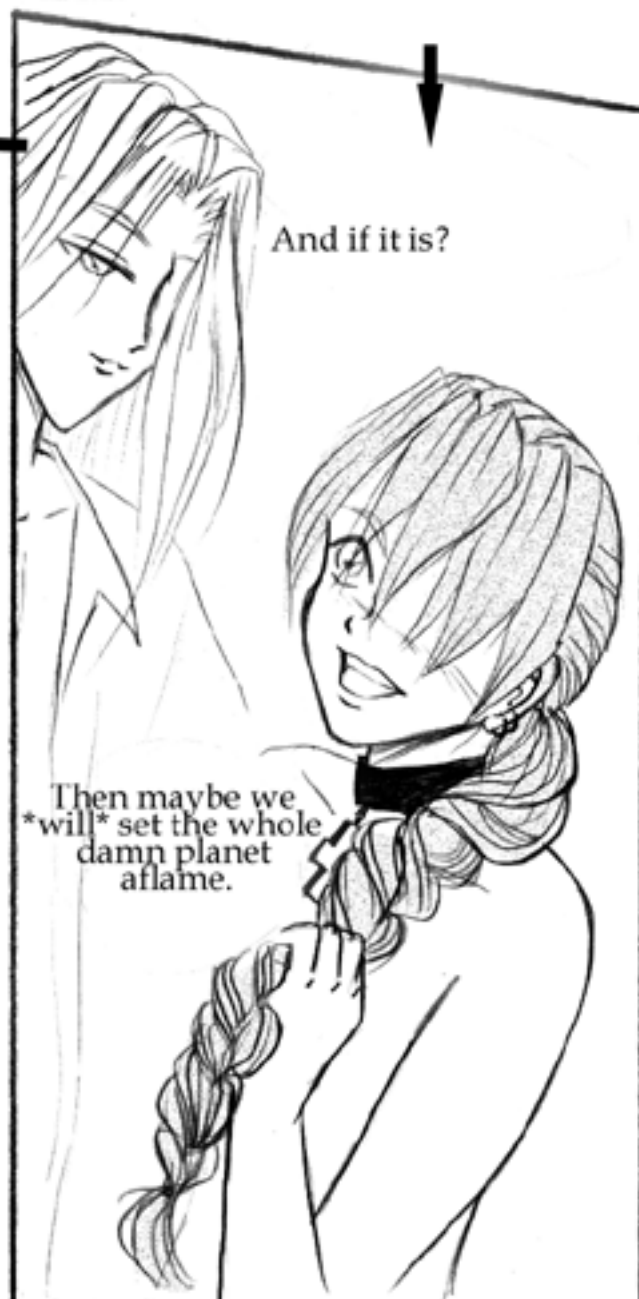
It's a risk. I'm willing to take it. Are you?

That sounds suspiciously like a challenge.



I like the way this feels. Don't you?

Oh, I could get used to it.



And if it is?

Then maybe we  
\*will\* set the whole  
damn planet  
aflake.

Well, my co-author was supposed to write a little freetalk and tell you all a little about herself and about this project, but she ran out of time, so I guess I'll do it for her.

She's going to kill me, when she finds out.

So how did this project get started? Well, I brought a few doujinshi back from Japan for RQ and while she did like them, she lamented that there didn't seem to be so much as one 6x2 doujinshi where Zechs isn't an unstable rapist. I suggested the not-so-simple solution: let's make one.

We wrote the script without too much pain, but then we had to find an artist. Gaby Maya and Yoshie graciously jumped in to help out, despite being busy with a number of other projects, and Datenshi agreed to do the inking, shading and other such detail work.

And there you have the whys and the hows of "Burning."

I already babbled for a while in my editor's freetalk in the print version of the doujinshi, so I won't do so at length here; a brief mention that more of my work can be found at [www.roseargent.com](http://www.roseargent.com) should be enough, right? ;)

Then there's my co-author. RazorQueen has been a writer for probably longer than I've been alive, and has had a few poems published in the past. Lately she's been writing Gundam Wing fanfiction -- mostly 6x2, but some 1x2, 5x2 and even 13x2, as well. She is, in my rarely-humble opinion, one of the best writers in the fandom, and certainly the best at her pairing of choice. She also happens to be one of my best friends, but I was a fan of her work long before I was lucky enough to become friends with her. So, aside from being a fantastic writer, she's patient enough to deal with me. Clearly, she's a saint.

A very corrupt saint, but a saint. 'G'

As for our artists, well, they're absolute darlings for doing this for us, and I really admire their work. Doing this at the last minute, unfortunately, I'm not able to quiz them about what they want written about them, and I've not known them as long as I have RazorQueen, but I will plug their commission site, Shizuka na Sonoja, which is at [razorqueen.tripod.com/Commissions/commissions.html](http://razorqueen.tripod.com/Commissions/commissions.html)

Lastly, there's Datenshi, another good friend of mine. So, of course, another saint. She has the advantage of being online right now, so she'll catch me if I say anything too embarrassing. She's a graphic artist stuck in office work hell, but I have faith that she'll be able to work in a job she loves very soon -- she's certainly talented enough. We became friends because I got her into Gundam Wing, and she then got her revenge by dragging me into the Saiyuki fandom, which I had safely escaped until then.

Datenshi's site, which is unfortunately still under construction as of the writing of this freetalk, is at [www.datenshi.org](http://www.datenshi.org).

- Rose Argent

September 1, 2002 1:55 AM



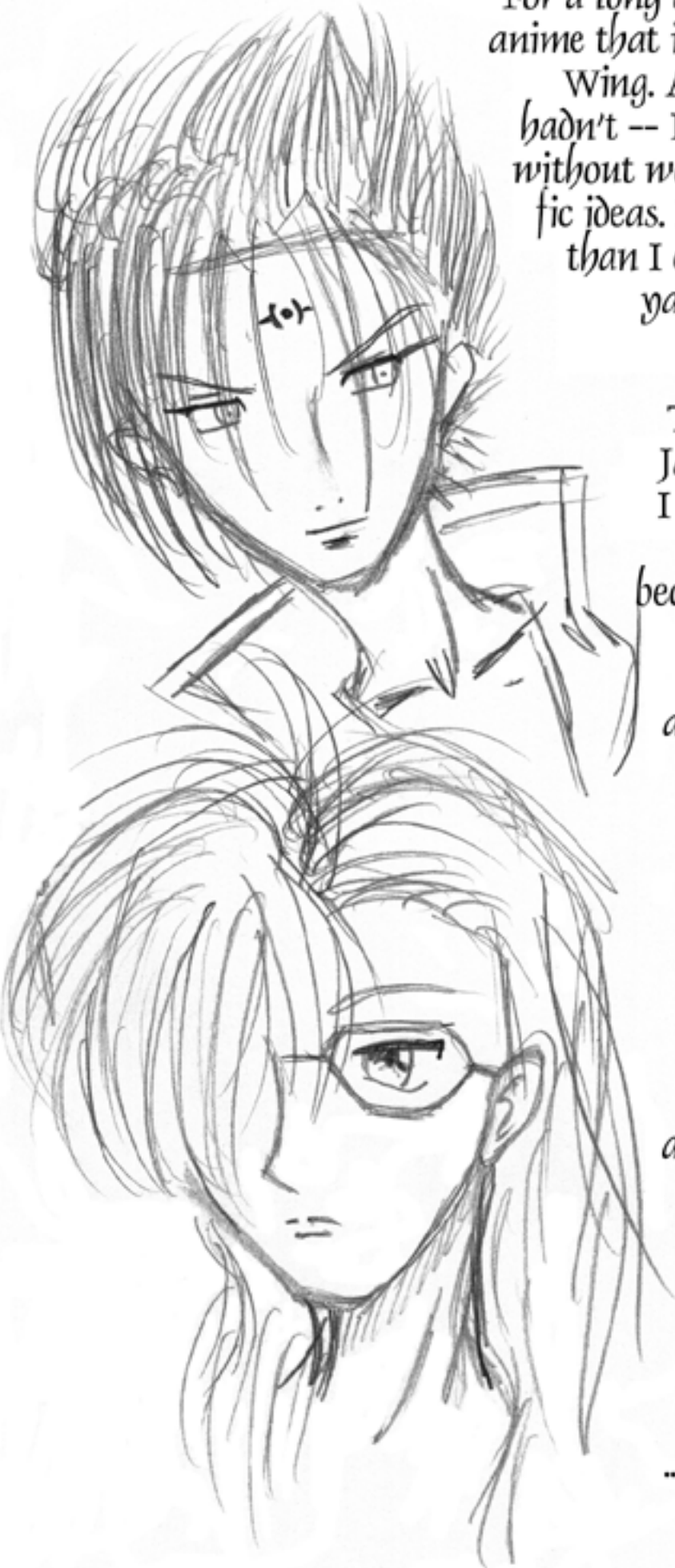
For a long time, I thought I'd never find another anime that inspired me quite as much as Gundam Wing. Actually, I was kind of glad that I hadn't -- I could enjoy all the anime I wanted without worrying that it would spark off more fic ideas. Because, really, I already had more than I could handle, with my Duo-muse yammering at me all the time.

The first time I saw Saiyuki, back in January of 2002, I liked it, of course. I even picked up a few bits of Saiyuki merchandise while I was in Japan, because hey, the boys were damn pretty. But I didn't feel the need to write Saiyuki fic -- in fact, I swore up and down that I'd never do any such thing, that I didn't want another fandom, no, of course not. Yes, the lady did protest too much.

So now I spend far too much time thinking about Kenren and Tenpou, Hakkaï and Gojyo and Dokugakuji and Kougaiji. Occasionally, I think about Dokugakuji, Kougaiji and Gojyo, or Goujun and Kenren, because I'm weird that way. And now, I have a lot of Saiyuki merchandise, but very little money.

... And I'm loving every minute of it.

- Rose Argent



Fortunately for me  
I have friends willing to indulge  
my not-so little obsessions.



Like Yamato  
(a.k.a. Heero's Ferret)  
Who drew all these  
adorable chibis.



She drew the  
Tenpou and Kenren  
pics on the  
previous page, too.



It's a very good  
thing to have  
friends who can draw

... Even if they are crazy  
and think their art sucks.



Chibi Kougaiji is a scary thing.  
Adorable, but scary.



Kenren and  
Gojyo, on the  
other hand,  
are just plain  
adorable as  
chibis.



I'm not sure if Tenpou  
is a scary chibi, or just a cute one.



Chibi Goujun would be even scarier than Kou,  
but Yammy hasn't tried drawing him yet.

And now Gojyo says bye-bye!