

G3: APEX HEART

A GATCHAMAN ONE-SHOT

PAGE 1

PANEL 1

WIDE establishing shot of projected security footage. A high-tech mag-lev bullet train speeds past small villages across rural Japan. It's approaching and about to travel beneath a perpendicular & taller road-traffic overpass. We see a giant city in the distant background, surrounded by mountains...

- **DR. NAMBU (caption):** Galactor's so-called DEATH BIKERS hit another transport yesterday.
- **DR. NAMBU (caption):** This is the fourth time top-secret ISO tech has been stolen by the terrorist organization.

PANEL 2

More footage-- High angle on the scene. A line of 6 advanced racing motorcycles snake along the overpass, just as the bullet train begins to speed along underneath. It's our first look at the Death Bikers. They should all be perfectly in-sync with each other, as if sharing a singular consciousness. Outside of some stripe or marking on their helmet or jacket, these guys are virtually indistinguishable. With helmets obscuring their faces, the Death Bikers' costumes are an evil leathery mix between [Psychomania](#), [Hakaider](#), [Kamen Rider Black](#), and the [Blackbirds](#) from [episode 56](#) of Gatchaman.

- **DR. NAMBU (caption):** Experimental weapons designs, supercomputer micro-processors, satellite coordinates, and more...

PANEL 3

The six Death Bikers jump their motorcycles from the overpass above, and are about to land atop the speeding bullet-train in an insane death-defying stunt.

- **DR. NAMBU (caption):** None of our precautions seem able to thwart these *ruthless* yet *skillful* villains.

PANEL 4

Narrow panel facing Doctor Nambu, sitting in his dark office, next to a high-tech ISO slide projector that beams light towards the camera. Flanking him from behind, and watching Nambu's presentation with serious concern, are Ken, Joe, Ryu, Jinpei, and Jun. (They are IN-COSTUME bird-form for this scene.)

- **DR. NAMBU:** Frankly, *Gatchaman*, I'm at a loss for ideas. The entire International Science Organization is facing a terrifying security crisis.

PAGE 2

PANEL 1

REVERSE angle, now behind Nambu and the Ninja Science Team, watching the projected security footage along with the concerned heroes. We see a couple of the bikers (dismounted) using laser-torches to cut through the train's roof.

- **DR. NAMBU:** Galactor's already putting many of our scientists' most dangerous inventions to use.

PANEL 2

We watch two of the armed (with pistols) bikers step over a couple dead guards inside the train car, which looks like some kind of laboratory bank-vault. A third biker accesses a computer terminal embedded into the wall.

- **DR. NAMBU (caption):** Yesterday's target seems to have been a microscopic prototype battery design.

PANEL 3

Tight low angle on a Death Biker mounting his motorcycle with a hefty satchel of stolen harddrives slung across his body. Flames fill the background.

- **DR. NAMBU (caption):** I've never seen razor-sharp efficiency in a group of thieves such as this.

PANEL 4

CUT TO a shot of the train careening off a bridge over a power plant. A couple train-cars are separating and breaking apart.

- **DR. NAMBU (caption):** These bikers are perfectly in-sync with each other, and never deviate from the task at hand.

PANEL 5

The 6 Death Bikers race towards us through a small village road. Behind them, we see the train hitting the power-plant, which is erupting into a giant explosion.

- **DR. NAMBU (caption):** Fast and agile and deadly as hell.

PAGE 3

PANEL 1

Wider on the scene now, revealing more of Dr. Nambu's office within Gatchaman's underwater base. The Ninja Science Team is flabbergasted by the footage and capabilities of these death bikers. The most recent image from the previous panel is seen projected on the wall in the background.

- **KEN:** Interpol truly has no leads as to who these bikers are, Dr. Nambu?
- **DR. NAMBU:** Nothing yet, Ken.

PANEL 2

Jun clicks-on a hinged desk-lamp and leans-in to focus her attention on a huge metal office workbench, covered in reconnaissance photos, maps, reel-to-reel tapes, and binders of intelligence files.

- **DR. NAMBU:** These Galactor scum are just *too quick*. Fearless. Ruthless.
- **DR. NAMBU:** Everyone and anyone in their path ends up *dead*.

PANEL 3

POV of Jun's hand, holding a 10"x14" photo of the Death Bikers snaking around an s-curve in perfect formation. Their body language is identical. Like some kind of optical illusion.

- **JUN:** Six riders, acting as one...

PANEL 4

Low, looking up at Jun, who's now holding a photo in each hand. She's utterly fascinated.

- **JUN:** Lightning fast.
- **JUN:** Wow.

PANEL 5

Wider on the scene. Jun has placed the photos back on the workbench, and gently pushes them away. She grips her head with her other hand, obviously upset about something. Jinpei and Ryu approach and look slightly concerned for their teammate.

- **JUN:** *Jeez*, this is just too weird.
- **JINPEI:** What's the *matter*, big sis?
- **RYU:** Jun, you ok..?

PAGE 4 & 5

SPREAD / TITLE PAGE

PANEL 1

Wide on the scene. JUN is removing her Swan helmet, and seems overwhelmed by the surrounding Death Biker footage, maps, and photos.

- Ryu places a large calming hand on Jun's shoulder from behind, and puts on a reassuring smile.
- Jinpei pours over the security materials, wondering what's got 'Sis' so shaken.
- Joe studies an electronic map on the wall, which indicates specific Galactor sightings.
- Ken looks towards Dr. Nambu with his typical determined attitude, punching his right fist into his open left palm.

Filling the BACKGROUND is a superimposed badass candid long-lens spy-photo of these mysterious Death Biker thieves, posing with their bikes like some kind of 70's J-Pop funk album cover.

- **JUN:** Something about these *images*--
- **JOE:** Just another gang of heartless Galactor *trash*. No big deal, and certainly doesn't look to be much of a *challenge*.
- **KEN:** We'll get to the bottom of this mystery right away, Doctor. Leave it to us!
- **TITLE & CREDITS:** G3: APEX HEART
 - Tommy Lee Edwards: writer
 - Eric Canete: illustrator
 - John Workman: letterer
 - Colorist? Editorial?

PAGE 6

PANEL 1

INT. NIGHT. Jun has retreated to her GARAGE. Her sanctuary. Bikes, parts, tools, rockabilly vinyl records, and motorcycle racing trophies. **TAKETA RACE TEAM motorcycle signs & flags hang on the walls. A prominent poster showcases Jun's lifelong hero, GP racing legend RIKU TAKETA.**

Jun's kneeling on the floor, replacing the master brake cylinder on the rear wheel of her daily-rider motorcycle while watching the live broadcast of a MotoTT race. A rolling tool-cart is nearby. The G3 Gatchaman bike is in the BG, partially covered with a tarp.

- **JUN (whisper):** I *swear* I just fixed this thing.

PANEL 2

Jinpei enters through the side door. He's carrying a couple boxes of ramen, marked with the "SNACK J" logo. Craning his neck and talking softly, he worries about disturbing Jun.

- **JINPEI:** How's the *race* going, sis?
- **JUN:** I'm *busy*, Jinpei.

PANEL 3

Jinpei has placed the takeout ramen boxes on the tool cart next to Jun, who's busy crouching over and using a socket wrench to finalize her bike's repairs.

- **JINPEI:** Oh c'mon, you've got to be hungry--
- **JUN:** Nope.

PANEL 4

Focus on Jun, straightening up and looking off at Jinpei. She wipes her forehead with the back of her gloved wrist, smearing a bit of dark grease.

- **JUN:** Actually...
- **JUN:** Yes.
- **JUN:** Yes, I'm actually *super-hungry*.

PANEL 5

They're both slurping up ramen now with chopsticks, sitting on the floor, looking more relaxed. Jun's focused on her food. Jinpei is focused on his big sister. The race continues to play on TV.

- **JUN:** Sorry I've been so out of it today, little bro. Thanks for being the *best*.
- **JINPEI:** I'm pretty sure this *ramen* is the best...

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PANEL 1

Jinpei slurps and looks up with his eyes towards off-camera Jun.

- **JINPEI:** *Riku Taketa* was the best, too...

PANEL 2

Close on Jun. She's downing her ramen while glancing up at the surrounding TAKETA RACING paraphernalia. Framed race photos, magazine covers, stickers on her toolbox, etc.

- **JINPEI (off):** Did you ever get to *meet* him?

PANEL 3

WIDE shot on the scene. Jun is standing now. She and Jinpei gaze at a heroic Riku Taketa race-poster in the background. Deep in thought, she places a gentle hand on her bike's throttle.

- **JUNE:** I wish! He was such an inspiration to Riku and me. Taketa-San was the reason I fell in love with motorcycling.

PANEL 4

A TV news bulletin catches Jinpei and Jun's attention. The Death Bikers have struck again, stealing classified military plans from a fortified government skyscraper.

- **TV (electronic):** We interrupt today's MotoTT race with *breaking news!*
- **TV (electronic):** The infamous *Death Bikers* have struck again...

PANEL 5

Close on the TV, we see a newsman reporting, with a superimposed low-angle image of the heist in the background: A few Death Bikers are crashing outwards through the skyscraper's giant glass windows.

- **TV (electronic):** ...stealing classified military plans from a fortified government skyscraper!

PANEL 6

Tight on Jun, looking seriously inquisitive towards the TV.

- **JUNE:** Hmm.

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PANEL 1

Close on DR NAMBU, looking through a file-folder of papers and photos on his desk while talking with JUN on his computer's video-call screen.

- **CAPTION:** The next morning:
- **DR. NAMBU:** Yes, Jun, you have my permission to visit the Taketa Motors head office to start an investigation...

PANEL 2

EXT. DAY: Jun mounts her yellow civilian motorbike on the street outside the SNACK J Cafe. She's speaking to Nambu on her G-Bracelet video-screen.

- **JUNE:** I swear Galactor's creepy biker thieves are so eerily similar, Dr. Nambu. They move their bodies *exactly* the *same!*
- **DR. NAMBU (electronic):** Just please tread *lightly*. The Taketa family has been through a lot since their son Riku was killed during last year's Grand Prix.

PANEL 3

WIDE shot on Jun, riding her motorbike out of her large town and towards the countryside. .

- **DR. NAMBU (electronic):** Riku's parents worked miracles to save their dynasty from *financial ruin*. It must be so *tragic* that their son is not alive to rejoice in such well-earned success.

PANEL 4

Jun rides through the countryside. Focused on the road ahead, while continuing her chat with Doctor Nambu.

- **JUN:** I'm sure he would have adored the new Taketa engine. Racing with such extreme power--
- **DR. NAMBU (electronic):** Jun, remember to maintain your *cover*. No one can learn that you are a member of the *Science Ninja Team*.

PANEL 5

Closer on Jun, looking serious and determined as she rides deeper into the rural countryside.

- **JUN:** Like most motorcyclists, I worshiped Riku. That's all I want the Taketa family to know.
- **DR. NAMBU (electronic):** I assume your suspicions here are a direct result of such an intense fandom, Jun...

PANEL 6

Tight on Jun, setting out on her solo adventure.

- **JUN:** Riku Taketa had the most unique riding style in the world. His legendary skills were impossible to imitate.
- **DR. NAMBU (electronic):** Definitely one of a kind.
- **JUN:** Yeah, until these Death Bikers showed up.

PANEL 7

Jun's tiny bike motoring through the countryside. She rides over a beautiful old bridge, across a clear cool creek.

- **DR. NAMBU (electronic):** Just try and be *objective*, ok Jun?
- **JUN:** Yep. Understood.

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PANEL 1

EXTERIOR: Late Afternoon/ WIDE on Jun, passing through an ornate open Japanese gate and riding up a beautiful drive to the **Taketa** Chateau. It's surrounded by beautiful gardens, grassy fields, and immaculate orchards. It's traditional Japanese, but HUGE. Like a slightly smaller, more modern version of [Kumamoto Castle](#) meets [Hirado Castle](#).

PANEL 2

INTERIOR: Jun holds her helmet and cranes her neck up to admire the beautiful woodwork and vastness on the traditional Japanese-meets giant chateau ENTRY HALL. A meek RECEPTIONIST sits and maintains her ledgers from behind a nearby antique welcome-desk. A well-dressed scary SECURITY DUDE with a *scar across his face* stands against a far wall and surveys the scene with intensity. Displayed prominently on a stone pedestal, like a machinist work of art, is the new **Taketa** engine. It's recognizable as a motor, but very high-tech and "futuristic" feeling.

- **MRS. TAKETA (off):** So, this is Riku's *number-one fan*...

PANEL 3

Jun is greeted by Riku's mom and dad (Japanese, early 60's). They're obviously extremely wealthy, and dress the part. Mom warmly greets Jun, who bows with respect. Dad looks pleasant. He checks the time on his chain-linked pocket-watch with one hand, utilizing a walking cane with the other.

- **MRS. TAKETA:** Congratulations on winning this year's ISO engineering scholarship.

- **MRS. TAKETA:** We were informed that part of your prize was a visit to our humble headquarters...?

PANEL 4

Focus on Jun, who's genuinely nervous and excited.

- **JUN:** Oh, yes. Your son was a massive inspiration for me. It's a wonderful honor to have this opportunity and pay my respects.

- **JUN:** Your latest engine designs almost seem *otherworldly*! Competing manufacturers are utterly flabbergasted by your *advanced technology*, Takeda-San.

PANEL 5

On Dad, tucking his pocket-watch back into his vest. He really doesn't want to be here. Seems pleasant enough, but definitely preoccupied.

- **MR. TAKETA:** Hard work and sacrifice can get you practically *anything* in life, my dear.

PANEL 6

On the three of them now. Mrs. Takeda grows quiet and rings her hands. She gazes at the floor, distracted. Dad looks kind of annoyed.

- **MR. TAKETA:** Too bad we no longer allow public tours of the *old factory*.

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PANEL 1

Tight on JUN, getting more inquisitive with Mr. Takeda.

- **JUN:** That *is* a shame. I've ridden by your chateau countless times, sir, hoping to someday get a peek inside your magical workshop!

PANEL 2

Mr Takeda stares back at Jun with intense grimness.

- **MR. TAKETA:** Nothing *magical* about it, Jun. Most of my time back then was spent fighting against the lingering *bankruptcies* and race-team *losses*.

PANEL 3

WIDE on the scene. Mrs. Takeda embraces the arm of her husband, seemingly overcome with grief. She gazes at the floor. The scarred security man slowly approaches from behind Jun, who's putting her helmet on. Make sure we see that badass futuristic engine on display here and there throughout the scene.

- **JUN:** It's truly wonderful to see how far the company has come. I'm sure that Riku looks down from heaven in pride.
- **MRS. TAKETA:** The *spirit* of our son definitely lives on, guiding us everyday.

PANEL 4

Close on Jun, who looks sad and buckles her chin strap. Maybe we see the intimidating security dude standing behind her.

- **JUN:** I'm so sorry for your *loss*, Mrs. Takeda.
- **MR. TAKETA (off):** We appreciate it, my dear, and thanks for your visit...

PANEL 5

Jun's POV on Mr and Mrs Takeda. Retreating towards a large ornate staircase..

- **MR. TAKETA:** *Mr Brix* will see you out, Jun. We're unfortunately running late for an important meeting.
- **MRS. TAKEDA:** Take care, Jun. Ride safe.

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PANEL 1

CUT TO: EXTERIOR/ SUNSET. Jun slides on her gloves and strides through a gravel parking lot past some fancy cars and towards her motorbike. Mr Brixx is following close on her heels. We can barely see a little of the modest-looking historic Takeda Factory in the background.

- **JUN:** Thanks for the *escort*, Mr Brixx. It'll be *dark* soon, and I've got a long ride back to town.
- **JUN:** Hey... Is that the old *Takeda factory*?

PANEL 2

We see past Jun and Brixx to get a good look down a short hill behind the chateau at the historic TAKEDA FACTORY building. It's on the small side, with a sawtooth roof, and kept as a museum to help reflect upon the company's humble beginnings.

- **JUN:** Are you totally sure that I couldn't get a *teeny-tiny* tour?

PANEL 3

Mr. Brixx is stoic and grimm. Jun mounts her bike, and gets ready to start it.

- **MR. BRIXX:** Dream on.

PANEL 4

Close on Jun's leg, kickstarting her motorbike.

- **SFX:** KK-VROOOMMBBB.

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PANEL 1

EXTERIOR/ NIGHT. The clouds part to reveal a full-moon.

PANEL 2

JUN steps out from within a thick treeline on the edge of a manicured lawn. She's in full bird-form costume now. If possible, we could see the G3 Gatchaman motorcycle parked behind Jun within the foliage.

PANEL 3

WIDE on the lawn/gardens behind the Takeda chateau. Jun stealthily runs towards the modest factory building at the bottom of the slight hill.

PANEL 4

Jun picks the lock on the vintage factory door..

PANEL 5

INTERIOR/ NIGHT. Jun has entered the dark factory. It feels a little like stepping back in time to the 1930s. Vintage equipment, tools, industrial machinery, framed photos, advanced engine schematics, and antique bikes in various states of assembly. It's got a plush sofa, coffee table, vintage coffee maker, and more. Like a museum meets the ultimate man-cave meets an old Japanese [motorcycle factory](#).

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PANEL 1

Jun tiptoes through the old Takeda Factory and comes across a large arched doorway in the shape of the top-half of Galactor's [insignia](#).

- **JUN (whisper):** Here we go...

PANEL 2

From INSIDE a warmly-lit hidden-room, the insignia-shaped-door slowly creaks open. Jun peeks her head in to get a look.

- **JUN (whisper):** Figures.

PANEL 3

We look past Jun to see stairs that lead down to a lower level and glass sliding-door, protected by two armed Galactor guards. Directly across from Jun, at her level in the stairwell wall, is a circular ventilation shaft. It's capped by a thin grated mesh cover.

PANEL 4

We're inside the cylindrical ventilation shaft. Jun has bent the grated mesh cover inwards, and shuffles her way along on her belly.

PANEL 5

The shaft has widened a bit, and now angles downward. Jun utilizes some pipes and bits of bent rebar to climb down, while gazing out through a metal perforated air intake panel in the wall.

- **JUN (whisper):** Hey, it's my old pal...

PANEL 6

Jun's POV of a small control room. Scarred Takeda security man Mr Brix is in-fact a Galactor captain, and dresses the part. He's standing & supervising 3 uniformed Galactor techs wearing lab-coats, who are sitting, typing, and monitoring computer displays. The far wall is lined with a red Galactor-insignia-shaped tinted glass window.

- **JUN (whisper):** ...Mr. Brix.

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PANEL 1

Small panel: Jun's boot kicks open the metal perforated air intake panel.

- **SFX:** PANG!!

PANEL 2

Jun's ninja skills kick into high-gear as she emerges from the vent opening and whips her yo-yo weapon towards camera/ security boss Brixx.

- **JUN:** I was dreaming of getting that *tour* now.

PANEL 3

Jun's yo-yo swirls around Mr. Brixx. He's already starting to fall, with his arms getting bound to his body. The three alarmed techs begin to stand and react to Jun's attack.

- **MR. BRIXX:** Gah!.

PANEL 4

Jun's fist punches Tech #1 in the eye.

- **SFX:** PAPP!

PANEL 5

Jun's boot kicks Tech #2 in the ear.

- **SFX:** THWOK!

PANEL 6

Jun's hand chops Tech #3 in the throat.

- **SFX:** CHUKK!

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PANEL 1

Jun stands in front of the giant Galctor-insignia tinted window and gazes at an array of computer monitors, displaying various angles of RIKU TAKEDA bound to a high-tech medical apparatus. At her feet are the unconscious 3 techs. A bound Mr Brixx is also on the floor, leaning against the wall, and struggling to break free from the yo-yo ropes.

- **JUN (whisper):** Oh no...

PANEL 2

Close on Jun, shocked and frozen by the horrific live-image of her unconscious hero connected to cables and tubes of fluid. Behind her, we see that Brixx is awake and struggling to break his binds.

- **JUN:** It *can't* be.

PANEL 3

Jun's POV on a couple monitors, transmitting different angles of the same scene. One wide, and one closer to see Riku's face clearly. We can see that Riku is catatonic, but alive in this *thing*. He's connected to cables and tubes of fluids that trail off into the floor and ceiling. Some out of vintage *Ghost in the Shell* meets *Appleseed* meets *Akira* meets *Cyborg 009*. A distorted dark humanoid figure is silhouetted against the opposite side of tall red curtains that surround Riku and the apparatus.

- **JUN:** Riku!

PANEL 4

Another angle on a different monitor. The dark figure is revealed to be BERG KATSE, pushing a heavy curtain aside to enter the room and approach Riku.

PANEL 5

Tight extreme closeup of Jun's horrified expression.

- **JUN:** Berg Katse!!

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PANEL 1

Close on security-man Galactor-Captain Brixx. He's super-strong, and Jun's yo-yo rope is stretching and fraying. The guy is about to break free!

- **BRIXX:** Grrrrr...

PANEL 2

Jun places her palms on a tech control-station and leans forward to gaze into one of the computer monitors.

- **JUN:** This is... *impossible!*

PANEL 3

Jun's POV on the monitor. Katse pulls the curtain wide open to reveal that Mr & Mrs Takeda are also present. They look sad and concerned, but also complicit in what's revealed to be a huge sci-fi medical prison room, built to house Riku and harness his mind and spirit. Other monitors and tiny wall-screens seem to monitor Riku's heart-rate, brainwave functions, etc.

- **JUN (off):** I watched him ride off a cliff and *explode* during last year's Grand Prix!

PANEL 4

Low angle, behind Brixx. He's broken free, and is lunging at Jun. Jun leans on the control station near the tinted Galactor insignia-shaped window. Her attention is on the monitors-seemingly unaware of the threat from Brixx.

PANEL 5

Close on Brixx and his "oh shit" expression. Jun's hand has grabbed his collar and yanks him forward. She's using his momentum and getting ready to throw him.

- **BRIXX:** Ufff...

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PANEL 1

The red Galactor-insignia shaped tinted glass shatters inwards as Jun throws Brixx through the window, towards the camera, and into the opposing room.

- **SFX:** SPASSHHH!!

PANEL 2

HIGH ANGLE: Looking down past Jun, out the broken window. Brixx's bloody body lays forty feet below in a sea of shattered glass. The rest of this huge panel establishes a cavernous secret high-tech laboratory-meets-futuristic motorcycle and weapons factory. It's dimly lit, with the central area dominated by six cylindrical pods connected by tubes, pipes, & wires, housing inactive cybernetic shadowy **Death Bikers**.

PANEL 3

A closer angle on the "sleeping" Death Bikers.

- **JUN (off):** I typically *love* being right...

PANEL 4

LOW extreme closeup of Jun's worried glare downwards.

- **JUN:** But tonight I kinda *hate* it.

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PANEL 1

CUT TO Riku's huge room at the chateau. He's groggy and half-conscious, suspended in the high-tech apparatus. Wires and cables everywhere. A few IV bags of fluid/meds. Riku's mom injects a syringe of intravenous fluids into a port on Riku's side. Dad stands nearby, fiddling with his pocket watch and staring solemnly at the floor. Berg Katse pulls a couple more of the tall red drapes open to reveal more of the traditional Japanese architecture, tall ceilings, and advanced Galactor tech. A small "command center" is revealed, which includes a communications array, monitors, radios, and a holographic projector.

- **MRS. TAKEDA:** Time for dinner, my sweet boy.
- **MR. TAKEDA:** The factory's *silent alarm* has been triggered.

PANEL 2

Katse looks over to the command center console, with "INTRUDER ALERT" flashing on monitor screen(s).

- **BERG KATSE:** That's troublesome...

PANEL 3

Closer on the command center monitor display, where we see a security video transmission of Jun running down a narrow corridor within Galactor's underground base..

- **BERG KATSE (off):** Is the latest upload complete?

PANEL 4

Reverse Angle: Looking back at evil Katse (still watching the monitor), with Mr. Takeda in the background. Takeda is glaring down and adjusting the knobs on this pocket watch.

- **MR. TAKEDA:** Yes, my lord.
- **BERG KATSE:** Excellent. Activate *Operation: APEX-HEART*.

PANEL 5

Close on Mr. Takeda's pocket watch. He's twisting the dial to activate a high-tech control interface (which is activating the Death Bikers back at the secret lab).

- **SFX:** TZZZZWWWWW

PANEL 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

A series of six tiny panels. Each an extreme closeup of one of the Death Bikers' face/eyes activating with a creepy magenta glow.

- **SFX:** TZZZZWWWWW

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PANEL 1

Jun sprints out of the Takeda Factory front door and into the moonlit night.

PANEL 2

WIDE on the scene. Jun runs through the field and towards the treeline and her G3 motorbike. Behind her, parts of the old factory facade fold up and open to reveal advanced tech and a peek at Galactor's secret underground base.

PANEL 3

Closer on the Factory entrance, folding open to reveal a large RAMP leading down underground to Galactor's base.

- **SFX:** VROOM! VROOOOM!

PANEL 4

Jun has made it to her G3 bike. She sits and starts it up, while looking back towards the emerging off-camera enemy..

- **SFX:** VROOM! KA-VROOOOM! VROOM!

- **JUN:** My god.

PANEL 5

We see the factory past Jun's boot, which has transformed into a secret entry to the underground Galactor base. Six backlit mounted Death Bikers slowly ride up the ramp and into the scene. They rev their engines and glare at Jun with glowing cyborg eyes.

- **SFX:** VROOOOOM! VROOM! VROOOOM! VROOM!

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PANEL 1:

SPLASH: The six Death Bikers dramatically launch their powerful Takeda concept motorcycles forward & up off the ramp. Popping wheelies, burning rubber, and getting a foot or two off the ground, they kick gravel and dust and exhaust flame. They're cool and scary and determined to kill Jun!

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PANEL 1

Back at the chateau, inside Riku's room. Mr. Takeda stares solemnly at the floor. Berg Katse approaches Mrs. Takeda, who strokes her son's hair away from his barely-open weary eyes.

- **MRS. TAKEDA:** How long must this go on, Berg Katse?
- **BERG KATSE:** Riku has been reborn as the *future of Galactor*, Mrs. Takeda. His *heart* and *soul* are now eternal, living within the *legendary circuits* of the most advanced *robots* ever created.

PANEL 2

Mrs. Takeda caresses her son's brow with the back of her hand. He struggles to sleepily gaze up at her. Katse places his hands on the hi-tech apparatus that houses Riku's body and gazes lovingly at the tubes ascending into the high-tech ceiling..

- **MRS. TAKEDA:** This is not a life.
- **BERG KATSE:** This machine harnesses and maintains your son's lifeforce. Without it, he'd be *dead*.

PANEL 3

A bulging vein pulsates within Mr. Takeda's sweaty forehead. He's barely keeping his shit together. Berg Katse gets uncomfortably close, and looks down his long costumed-nose at Riku's father. We can see the command center monitor displays in the background.

- **BERG KATSE:** Without Galactor's engine design, your racing team would be *dead*.
- **MR. TAKEDA:** This was not the *deal*.
- **BERG KATSE:** You bankrupted the most profitable motorcycle manufacturer in Tritan because you're a *failure*.

PANEL 4

Katse points at security camera footage playing-out on the security monitors. We see a high-angle live-feed image of Jun on her bike, speeding out through the ornate chateau gates..

- **BERG KATSE:** The *Blackbird* experimental motorcycle designs I paid you for were a *failure*.
- **MR. TAKEDA:** You bastard.

PANEL 5

Close on screen. Jun on her bike, speeding out through the ornate chateau gates.

- **BERG KATSE:** Now sit down and shut up, so that I can watch your dead son's memory eliminate the Ninja Science Team Gatchaman.

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PANEL 1

Lo-angle on Jun, riding her motorcycle at break-neck speed. Chasing behind her are the six Death Bikers, their headlights illuminating the surrounding trees outside the Takeda gates.

- **JUN:** Ok. Let's see what you *mechanical monsters* are really made of.

PANEL 2

WIDE on the scene. The moon is getting lower. The Death Bikers chase Jun over the beautiful old bridge, across a clear cool creek we saw earlier.

PANEL 3

HIGH ANGLE, looking down. They chase around two serpentine curves. The Death Bikers are completely in-sync, following the same racing-line at the exact same lean-angle.

PANEL 4

Two machine-gun barrels extend out & forwards from within the lead Death Biker's motorcycle fairing. They immediately start shooting. Shell-casings tumble backward.

- **SFX:** BRAKKA-BRAKKA-BRAKKA-BRAKKA!

PANEL 5

Reverse angle, LOW. Bullets narrowly miss and ricochet around Jun's rear wheel.

- **SFX:** ZIPP! ZIPP! TZING!

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PANEL 1

Back at the chateau, inside Riku's room. Mr. Takeda stands near his helpless son and hugs his wife in an attempt to calm her sadness and anger.

- **MR. TAKEDA:** Do what you will to us.
- **MRS. TAKEDA:** Just please allow our Riku to die in peace.

PANEL 2

Just then, the terrifying giant holographic image of LEADER X appears at the foot of Riku's bed/ apparatus/ machine. Mom and Dad hug tight and take a terrified step backward. Berg Katse salutes his master!

- **BERG KATSE:** All hail *Leader X!*

PANEL 3

On the familiar floating visage of Leader X.

- **LEADER X (unique balloon):** Unfortunately for *you*, Riku Takeda possesses a *champion's heart*, and likely has many more years of skillful service surging through his comatose veins.
- **LEADER X (unique balloon):** I will discard your offspring's *husk* as soon as his lifeforce is fully transferred into the most advanced humanoid MECH ever constructed.

PANEL 4

Tight on Riku's face. He can barely move, but his eyes grow wide at the sight of his alien captor. A single tear streams down his tortured face.

- **LEADER X (off):** As the cybernetic captain of Galactor's Death Bikers, Riku Takeda will dispatch swift judgment upon the feeble human race!

PANEL 5

Berg Katse smiles and tilts his sinister head around to address Mr & Mrs Takeda.

- **BERG KATSE:** Galactor owns you, your boy, and soon...
- **BERG KATSE:** ...the entire planet.

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PANEL 1

The Death Bikers chase Jun towards an intersection in the center of a small Japanese-style town. We see a few vehicles. Most notably, a giant tanker-truck.

- **SFX:** VRRMMMMM

PANEL 2

Jun angles right towards the truck, filled with flammable chemicals! The Death Bikers follow.

- **SFX:** SCRREEEECH

PANEL 3

Jun's body dangles off the side of her motorcycle as she skillfully slides/drifts underneath the tanker-truck trailer section.

PANEL 4

The lead Death Biker sits up, brakes, and attempts to avoid the truck-- But the impact is inevitable.

PANEL 5

Jun's motorcycle is now fully upright, and she's racing towards us. In the background, the tanker truck trailer section explodes! (The driver and truck-cab are mostly ok) Five remaining bike headlights evade and speed around the fiery crash to continue the chase.

- **SFX:** BA-WOOOOSHH!

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PANEL 1

Jun dodges more traffic and approaches an iron TRUSS BRIDGE high-above a deep river filled with shipping freighters and tugboats.

PANEL 2

Jun's motorcycle miraculously jumps up onto the truss bridge support beam and speeds up upwards at a 45 degree angle. The Death Bikers follow!

- **SFX:** VA-ROOOOMMMM

PANEL 3

Jun's motorcycle skillfully leans and turns onto one of the bridge's top cross-beams.

PANEL 4

Two of the Death Bikers slip and fall while attempting to follow Jun across the narrow iron beam.

PANEL 5

The other three Death Bikers make it across to the parallel top support beam and continue to chase Jun.

PANEL 6

We see the two fallen Death Bikers land down below. One has separated from his bike, hits a tugboat smokestack, and bursts into fiery bits. The second biker is still mounted to his motorcycle, and slams into the concrete abutment alongside the river. Naturally, he explodes too.

- **SFX:** SPAKK!

- **SFX:** WHOOMP!

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PANEL 1

Back to the scene inside Riku's room. Mr. Takeda stands defiantly and shouts at Berg Katse and Leader X. He's clutching his pocket watch. Mrs. Takeda is slowly backing-away, and getting closer to the computer control center on the far side of the room.

- **MR. TAKEDA:** We won't let you do it!

PANEL 2

Close angle featuring Mr. Takeda's pocket watch. He's twisting the knob and about to tap a button on the side with his thumb. The watch-face display reads ABORT.

- **MR. TAKEDA:** Our son is not a monster!

PANEL 3

Berg Katse is suddenly wielding a knife. He quickly slices upwards and chops-off Mr. Takeda's hand (still clutching the pocket watch). The floating visage of Leader X floats behind Katse..

- **BERG KATSE:** You fool!

PANEL 4

Mrs. Takeda has descended into a hysterical frenzy. She slams her clenched-fists down onto the computer control center. Fiery sparks spit out from the keyboards. Monitor images become distorted static.

PANEL 5

Mr. Takeda's hand slowly tumbles through the air, spouting blood and clutching the pocket watch.

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PANEL 1

Mr. Takeda's hand lands on the floor near Riku's apparatus, squeezing the pocket watch. ABORT text flashes on the watch-face. Thin electrified bolts radiate outwards from the watch.

- **SFX:** GRR-- K-KRACKLE

PANEL 2

Electrical feedback is triggered on the computer control panels. The lightning bolts trigger sparks and flame. Mrs. Takeda covers her head with her arms.

- **SFX:** CRACK-RRVVV

PANEL 3

Berg Katse screams at the off-camera Takeda family. The floating holographic image of Leader X begins to glitch out, and lightning bolts streak across the frame.

- **LEADER X (unique balloon):** GATC_ V ...*HH --.#
- **BERG KATSE:** No!

PANEL 4

WIDE on the scene. An explosion erupts outwards from the control center, engulfing Mr. and Mrs. Takeda and the entire room in flames. Although Berg Katse's cape gets torn to shreds, he leaps off towards off-camera cover (presumably not to die).

- **SFX:** VVV-V-VWOOOOSH!!

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PANEL 1

SPLASH: Jun, racing around a curve, is stomping a 4th Death Biker's face into the pavement. He's disintegrating while being dragged under her boot. High beyond the trees in the background, we see the top section of Yabana chateau erupting in flame.

- **JUN:** You buckets of bolts couldn't even hold a candle to Riku Takeda.

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PANEL 1

INTERIOR chateau: Riku's high-tech apparatus has cracked open. Smoldering tubes dangle from the ceiling. Dragging along scorched tech, draining IV bags, and severed cables, Riku crawls past his parents' corpses, through the smoky rubble, surrounded by flames.

PANEL 2

EXTERIOR country road: Jun leaps from her speeding motorcycle towards the Death Biker racing alongside her.

PANEL 3

INTERIOR chateau: Riku's now on his feet. Barely. He staggers down the burning stairwell.

PANEL 4

EXTERIOR country road: Jun's now sitting in back of the racing Death Biker, grabbing her opponent in a choke-hold from behind.

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PANEL 1

Jun snaps the Death Biker's neck at 200mph while glaring straight ahead at an approaching off-camera headlight...

- **SFX:** SNAPP!

PANEL 2

Reverse angle. We see past Jun's helmet, 50-yards ahead, at the fast-approaching final Death Biker. She's taken control of the bike, with the dead Death Biker falling limp in her lap (which is about to serve as a shield).

PANEL 3

Closer on the approaching final Death Biker. He's rolling full-throttle, and leaning into it. His motorcycle fairing machine-guns begin to fire!

- **SFX:** BRAKKA-BRAKKA-BRAKKA!

PANEL 4

Focus on Jun, pissed-off and speeding towards annihilation. Her body is shielded from the enemy gunfire by the Death Biker corpse sitting in front of her.

- **SFX:** BRAKKA-BRAKKA-BRAKKA-BRAKKA!
- **BODY-HIT SFX:** POK! POK! POK!

PANEL 5

The moment before impact. The front-ends of the bikes are mere inches away from smashing head-on into each other.

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PANEL 1

SPLASH: The bikes collide and explode beneath Jun, who has dramatically leapt into the air towards the camera.

- **SFX:** BRRAAAAMMM!

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PANEL 1

Riku has collapsed to his knees near a tree on the lawn outside the burning chateau. Wires dangle from his bloody head and arms. He's pulling leaky tubes from his smoldering and charred abdomen.

PANEL 2

Closer angle on Riku. He's barely conscious. Jun's hand reaches in from off-camera to touch Riku's shoulder.

PANEL 3

Seen from behind, Jun crouches down next to her idol and puts an arm around his upper back. We can see the old Takeda factory in the distance at the bottom of the hill, also engulfed in monstrous flames.

- **JUN (whisper):** It's over, Riku. You can rest easy now.

PANEL 4

Riku collapses into Jun's arms. She hugs him and they gaze into each other's eyes.

- **RIKU (weak):** W-Who...

- **JUN (whisper):** My name is Jun. You're my hero.

PANEL 5

WIDER shot. Jun hugs Riku's limp dead body with respect.

- **JUN (whisper):** Goodbye, sensei.

- **CAPTION:** END