

# ANAM CARAS

Pilot Episode  
Kísho and the Monsters

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. LAND OF SOUL — NIGHT

CANDRA, an Anam Cara, is an adorable mystical creature with a bushy tail and thick head of hair. She rushes through a beautiful otherworldly landscape, passing other Anam Caras, sitting cross-legged in a classroom setting, listening to yet another Anam Cara lecturing and pointing to images projected on a cloud.

Hurrying toward a castle on a nearby hill, Candra passes VALEN, a nerdy-looking Anam Cara wearing horn-rimmed glasses. His nose is buried in an ancient text.

CANDRA

Hello, Valen!

VALEN glances up from the text and smiles as Candra hurries by.

VALEN

Hello, Candra!

INT. LONG CORRIDOR IN CASTLE — NIGHT

Candra darts down a long hallway to a door marked *Guardian Spirit Organizations*. She knocks.

INT. GUARDIAN SPIRIT ORGANIZATIONS — NIGHT

Inside the orderly disordered office, JALAAN sits at a 15<sup>th</sup> Century desk surrounded by piles of papers and files, staring intently, over his long elephant-like nose, into a modern-design, shallow bowl of water.

JALAAN

(without looking up)

Candra, come in.

CANDRA

You wanted to see me?

JALAAN

There's a boy in Japan who needs you.

Candra looks at Jalaan like a deer in headlights.

CANDRA

Me?

Jalaan looks up and smiles warmly.

JALAAN

Yes, you.

CANDRA

But, ah, um, I'm not sure I'm ready.  
What if I...

JALAAN

You're ready. I have the utmost faith  
in you.

He gallantly pulls a chair up to the desk so diminutive  
Candra can see and motions for her to sit.

CANDRA

Thank you.

Candra looks inside the bowl.

INSERT: BOWL with "MISTY FLOATING IMAGE."

INT. KISHO'S BEDROOM — JAPAN — NIGHT

The MISTY FLOATING IMAGE resolves into Kisho's bedroom,  
where FATHER gently tucks five-year old KISHO into bed.

FATHER

You're a big boy, Kisho. You don't  
need a light to go to sleep.

MOTHER whispers in Kisho's ear.

MOTHER

Your soul friends will protect you.

KISHO

Are you sure?

MOTHER

Absolutely.

KISHO

How do you know?

MOTHER

Because everyone has an Anam Cara  
watching over them. My Anam Cara  
protected me when I was your age and I  
was afraid of the dark.

INT — JALAN'S OFFICE

Jalaan and Candra smile at each other knowingly, then turn their attention back to the misty bowl.

INT. KISHO'S BEDROOM — JAPAN — NIGHT

MOTHER

Just believe, sweetheart. You'll be fine.

She kisses Kisho's forehead, then she and Father go to the bedroom door.

FATHER

Well?

After a long pregnant pause...

KISHO

(timidly)

Okay.

Kisho's parents beam with joy and turn off the light.

MOTHER

Goodnight Kisho

FATHER

Goodnight.

They slip through the door, closing it behind them.

Kisho lies trembling, as multiple pairs of eyes appear in the shadowy room. Inside the closet, under the chair, beneath the dressing table, the shapes of monsters become increasingly clear.

KISHO

(whispering)

I believe in Anam Caras, I believe in Anam Caras, I believe in Anam Caras...

GROWLING, HISSING and SNARLING SOUNDS grow louder and louder

KISHO

(whispering)

I'm not afraid of the dark...I'm not afraid of the dark.

As he recites his liturgy, Candra appears next to him on his bed. But the monsters get bolder, creeping out of the shadows. Finally, the biggest, UGLIEST MONSTER, rises up and roars with all his might.

UGLIEST MONSTER

Afraid of the dark, little boy? I'll give you something to be afraid of!

Ugliest Monster laughs a horrible, threatening ogre-like laugh.

Candra places a gentle hand on Kisho's shoulder, but the frightened boy sits up and reaches toward the table lamp by the side of his bed. He knocks it to the floor and it SHATTERS.

Kisho leaps out of bed and races toward the door, only to find his way blocked by a HUGE MONSTER.

HUGE MONSTER

Where do you think you're going?  
Don't you know you can't run away from  
MONSTERS!

Huge Monster and Ugliest Monster lead a chorus of Ogre-like LAUGHTER as Candra appears behind Kisho.

Kisho makes an about-face, making a beeline for the bed, practically running over Candra.

He dives into bed, pulling the covers over his head. Big glowing monster eyes appear in the darkness under the covers. They gaze straight into Kisho's eyes.

MONSTER WITH GLOWING EYES

(Whispering)

You can't hide from monsters either.

Kisho throws off the blanket. He runs toward the light switch on the wall, but just before he reaches the switch the monsters descend on him, grabbing his arm.

Candra leaps from the bed and hovers between Kisho and the monsters. A TINKLING SOUND fills the room as Candra gently wraps her arms around Kisho's shoulder. The amazed monsters fall silent. Candra and Kisho disappear!

EXT. THE LAND OF SOUL — DAY

Kisho lays face down, his face buried in lush green grass, surrounded by Anam Caras. Candra sits on his back.

Kisho's groping fingers touch Candra's furry tail. Disapproving Jaalen makes eye contact with Candra, who guiltily slinks off Kisho's back and hides in the crowd of curious Anam Caras.

Kisho looks up, bewildered.

KISHO

Where am I?

JALAAN

You're in Tir-Anam, the Land of Soul.

Jalaan's blue and white elephant-like nose reaches down and gently chucks him under his chin.

KISHO

Am I dead?

While talking, Jalaan wraps his dexterous nose around Kisho's waist, lifts him up and gently places him on his feet.

JALAAN

No, Kisho. In fact, it's quite the opposite. You've never been more alive.

KISHO

How do you know my name?

Realization sweeps over Kisho's face, as he gazes deeply into the creature's eyes.

KISHO (CONT'D)

You're an Anam Cara...aren't you?

As Jalaan makes introductions, Candra steps forward into view.

JALAAN

Indeed, and we're pleased to make your acquaintance, dear boy. I am Jalaan. This is Peri, Macalla, Valen, Lothian, Xmarr, Yantra, Noem and...Candra.

KISHO

I'm pleased to meet all of you.

Jalaan turns to Candra.

JALAAN

Candra, may I have a word?

Candra sheepishly follows Jalaan.

CANDRA

I know. I know. I know we're not supposed to bring humans here...but...um...let me just say that...uh...I-I-I gave it a lot of thought, and...uh...to be quite honest, I don't think I had another choice...

JALAAN

You're sure about that?

CANDRA

Well...uh, yeah. Uh-huh, yes, of course. And I think...yes...I think you'd agree...you'd agree 100% if you had been there.

Jalaan cocks his head to the side and smiles knowingly.

JALAAN

Candra.

Candra lowers her eyes.

JALAAN (CONT'D)

You need to take him home.

Candra and Jalaan rejoin the group who have been making Kisho feel at home.

JALAAN

Kisho, I'm afraid we must make haste to escort you home, for the mystic hour is nearly upon us.

KISHO

The Mystic hour?

Valen speaks up.

VALEN

It's the time when the veil between our worlds is thin.

JALAAN

Candra will escort you home. Xmaar, please see that Kisho and Candra have a safe and enjoyable journey.

XMAAR

Sounds like fun.

KISHO

But, how do I get home?

XMARR

A journey is best begun going forward,  
my boy.

Xmaar demonstrates walking in various ways.

XMARR (CONT'D)

Of course, one may go sideways or  
backwards or even upside down, but a  
journey is best begun going forward,  
standing right side up.

Xmaar gives Candra an "it's your turn" stare.

Candra wraps her tail over Kisho's shoulder and the group  
departs.

CANDRA

Come on, it's very, very, very simple.  
Just f-f-follow me.

EXT. LAND OF SOUL PATHWAY — DAY

Kisho sees a WHITE NOTHINGNESS, not unlike a studio  
photographer's cyclorama, with no sky, no ground, nothing  
at all. Just white.

Kisho doesn't move.

CANDRA (CONT'D)

We just follow the Empowering Path,  
and soon you'll be home, safe and  
sound.

KISHO

But, there's nothing there.

CANDRA

That's because you must imagine it  
first.

Xmaar begins to sing.

XMARR

(singing)

Would you like a path of silver or  
gold? Or of piano keys that are  
rocked 'n' rolled?

The path appears before them as Xmaar sings, changing with  
every phrase.



XMARR (CON'T)

(singing)

Would you like a path made of earth or  
clouds? Or a bed of flowers that sing  
aloud?

Kisho, Candra and Xmaar walk into the ever-changing scene,  
begin their return journey.

KISHO

Clouds! Clouds! I want to walk on the  
clouds!

CANDRA

What else?

XMAAR

(SINGING)

Should the path be lit by the sun or  
the moon -- and lined with jazzy trees  
that all sing in tune?

KISHO

Trees!

Trees appear, boppin' in the breeze, scatting like a jazz  
chorus, "du, dut 'n' dat."

XMARR

(SINGING)

Yeah man, sing it Kisho!

KISHO

A bright, blue sky!

As the music continues, Kisho's wild and crazy path GROWS  
DARKER and the MUSIC FADES away.

KISHO

It's getting dark.

CANDRA

We're entering the earthly realm.  
It's nighttime where you live.

KISHO

We need to turn around.

XMARR

Why?

KISHO

Because there are mons...

Kisho is cut off by a thunderous ROAR. Suddenly, they are confronted by a GROUP OF HIDEOUS MONSTERS. Kisho screams! He throws his arms around Candra, trembling, tears in his eyes.

XMAAR

Dude... laugh!

Kisho can't laugh. He's too frightened.

CANDRA

Laugh! Imagine feathers sticking out of its head . . .

Suddenly, a huge feathery mass, like a Las Vegas showgirl's headdress, appears on the Ugliest Monster's head. It yelps and runs away!

CANDRA (CONT'S)

-- a tutu around its waist!

Suddenly, the Huge Monster is not only dressed like a ballet dancer, but twirling around on his toes. It looks silly -- not at all intimidating.

Kisho laughs out loud!

KISHO

It's working!

CANDRA

Keep imagining.

Now all the remaining monsters appear in tutus. Embarrassed, they dance away, tippy-toe into the darkness.

A candle appears in Xmaar's hand. He looks Kisho deep in the eyes.

XMARR

Now, close your eyes and imagine you're in your own bed sleeping.

Kisho complies.

CANDRA

You are protected. You are loved.  
You are safe.

INT. KISHO'S BEDROOM -- EARLY MORNING

Kisho awakes. Everything is as it should be. The lamp is unbroken, on the bedside table, as before.

Kisho's parents enter.

FATHER  
Good morning, Kisho.

MOTHER  
Did you sleep well last night with the  
lights out?

KISHO  
Yes. I'm not afraid of the dark, any  
more.

FX: A WATERY LAYER RIPPLES THE SCENE.

EXT. THE LAND OF SOUL — EARLY MORNING

Xmaar, Jalaan, Valen, Lothian, Peri and Noem all gather  
around Candra and a shallow pool of water.

INSERT: The image of Kisho and his parents fades from the  
shallow water.

Candra beams with joy as the Anam Caras rejoice in her  
success!

ANAM CARAS  
To Candra! A job well done! Her  
first job, well done!

The THEME SONG begins. They dance and SING.

The camera zooms out, and the Anam Caras become more and  
more distant. The camera widens even more, out of the  
parallel dimension, as the Anam Caras become twinkling  
lights dancing in the morning dew.

THE END