

KITTY GEAR

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With the untimely **death** of her sister weighing on her mind, young Katherine “Kitty” Leonard never imagined that death would come so **quickly** for her, too.

But it did.

And it was only the **beginning!**

Now, trapped within an **otherworldly tournament** where the deceased use bizarre **powers** to compete for their **dying wish**, Kitty finds that the only path to escape, and understanding, may lie hidden within her own **heart**.

MEET THE GLADIATORS

KATHERINE “KITTY” LEONARD (15)

Anxious – Selfless – Searching

Death: Struck by car

Power: A calico mech-suit

Wish: To bring herself and her sister back to life...

When Kitty arrives in the Arena, she has no idea what her wish could be. She thinks she **MUST** want to bring her sister back, and tries to force herself to fight for it, but begins to realize she no longer wants to go back to the way things used to be.

In many ways, Kitty Leonard is a blank slate. She lived a sheltered life of sacrifice for her sister, never able to share the incredible courage and love that still lies dormant inside her. Ironically, in death, the Heavenly Arena provides her much-needed perspective, and helps her recognize the joy of her own power.

Once Kitty discovers how much bigger the world is, and learns to accept herself, her wish begins to evolve in unexpected ways.

Can Kitty’s love change life, and death?



MONA CALDER (15)

Timid – Emotional – Driven

Death: Drowned in freezing water

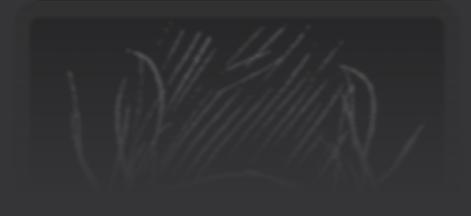
Power: Controls and freezes water from inside her body

Wish: To make animals safe from people...

A “miracle” child, Mona’s parents had her after trying and failing to conceive for years. She was set to take over the family farm, but an autoimmune disease often made necessary tasks impossible for her. Having to wait out the pain made her feel guilty, frustrated, and withdrawn.

When she was too weak for physical labor, she’d spend time with the animals. Their misery when sick or slaughtered shook her, prompting her to spend her remaining strength on their wellbeing. She died trying to rescue a calf from a freezing lake, her body failing her in the frigid water.

Mona views the tournament as a way she can actually change the world with her newfound strength, despite her death and perceived shortcomings...but a budding romance with fellow gladiator Priyah has made her reconsider herself and her desires. Will Mona ever feel like she is “enough”?



PRIYAH MISRA (16)

Stubborn – Flippant – Fiercely Loyal

Death: Asphyxiated in a house fire

Power: Choking smoke and searing skin

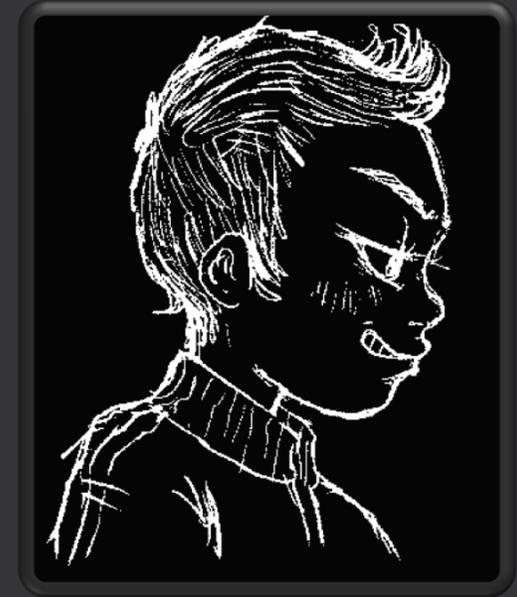
Wish: To be reborn as a lizard...

Priyah was the eldest child in a large family, assuming a parental role while her parents worked day and night, forced to grow up far faster than her peers.

When a raging fire engulfed their apartment complex, young Priyah rescued each of her 5 siblings before succumbing to the flames herself – making the ultimate sacrifice for the family she almost single-handedly upheld.

Priyah felt this was a good place to end her story. A noble, fitting end. But coming to the Arena has opened up a secret anger she's felt too guilty to name: anger at her family for smothering her.

Her wish for reptilian rebirth would allow her a life of complete emotional freedom she desperately craves...but her love for Mona, and new friendships, might open up a different possibility.



DANGEROUS COMPATRIOTS...

VIDA LOUVE (17)

Brutal – Unremitting – Tragic

Death: Murdered

Power: Separates her limbs at will; commands floating butcher knives

Wish: To torment every face in the crowd, for eternity...

A young violin prodigy, Vida was pushed hard by her mother, and forced into a world in which she was commodified and dehumanized. Music brought her peace, but she began to view her talent as a monster – one she battled every day to tame. Even her adoring fans became disgusting to her – just leering faces in the darkness. Her judgement was confirmed when one of those faces cornered her after a performance, and did the unthinkable...

Denied happiness in life, Vida seeks revenge on all those who made her feel like an object. Her brutality has earned her fear and respect among the other gladiators. How can any of them hope to overcome her strength of will...?



ELEANOR SORELL (18)

Melancholic – Quiet – Gleeful

Death: Suicide by hanging

Power: Controls a snake-like hydra of nooses

Wish: To try again...

Weighed down by anxiety and depression in a small town that refused to accept her, Eleanor took her own life. At first wishing simply to die for good, the power of her latent regret made her a formidable fighter who gave even Vida a run for her money.

Ironically, it's the power her death gave her that has begun to make her feel more alive than ever.

Finding something she's good at, using her body and power each day, being admired for who she is... Experiencing all this, Eleanor begins to feel an incredible sense of **closure**...

Since then, nobody seems to be able to find her.



THE DEARLY DEPARTED...

CHRISTA LEONARD (18 – at time of death)

Independent – Strong-willed – Gregarious

Death: Septicemia

Power: Fever-blooming touch

Wish: To bring Kitty with her to the afterlife...

Kitty's older sister, confidante, inspiration, and personal hero, Christa embodies everything Kitty wants to be. She was a bright, talented, and sociable girl who seemed to forge through life with ease.

In actuality, she had to fight every day for her independence, pretending to be invincible to escape her parents' anxieties. Kitty was the only one privy to her innermost worries. Kitty was her crutch.

Christa would have two life-changing encounters with Vida – one in life, and one in death. It was Vida who ended her potential music career, and, inadvertently, it was Vida who helped her find closure and subsequently disappear from the Heavenly Arena...



DISHA (7 – approximately)

Christa's beloved calico cat, she was cared for by everyone in the family, but Christa was undoubtedly her favorite. When Christa fell sick, so did Disha. However, when the former died, the latter made a timely and bitterly ironic recovery. Since then, Kitty wordlessly and obsessively became Disha's guardian, devoting every day to caring for her and keeping her company.

Ultimately, she and Kitty died together when she darted into the path of an oncoming car while chasing a bird.

Now, Disha appears to Kitty at opportune moments, seemingly trying to tell her something...



ARENA ARCHITECT / DISEMBODIED ANNOUNCER (???)

A mysterious voice that presides over the Arena, it does little except announce combatants, occasionally provide rule reminders, and somehow enlist empty suits of armor to do its bidding. In reality, it forms and governs the entire Arena through each cycle of victory and rebirth.

If one listens carefully, they might find that the announcer's voice is actually an amalgam of many voices...

It was formed after an awful school shooting from the horrifying feelings of the victims. Over time, the recycled souls of the Arena's gladiators have been added to it, compounding its power and misery.

It has truly become a monster. It would take an act of incredible empathy and sacrifice to relieve the Architect of its suffering...



WHY “KITTY GEAR” ...?

KITTY GEAR is about growing up, facing fears, and recognizing the mysterious power of loving yourself. It's intended to be a 12-episode, script-driven, 22-minute episode show...with wiggle room, of course.

In a society that relies on our being trapped in routine and self-commodification, we can often forget the power of empathy, community, and simply being kind to one another. Groomed to believe that our worth is in our productivity, it's hard for us, especially when we are in the midst of the drama of growing up, to shed those shackles. KITTY GEAR puts its young female cast in a world where the struggle is stark: it is *everything*, and it is at the expense of the community, and of love. The characters' journeys show that love and understanding of ourselves and others is necessary to make that struggle obsolete...or at least change it into something productive and healthy!

It's important to me that the main characters are a diverse cast of young women. I'm hungry for media that shows girls not as sex objects or passive subjects, but as motivated, messy, masters of their own destiny. I want to see young women discover the importance of action *and* inaction, healing each other from the wounds of the world in a way that, sometimes, only fellow femmes can. I also want to see a black female protagonist in an anime series!

At its core, KITTY GEAR is a show about loving and discovering yourself. It's also a really weird sci-fi action-drama tragedy made to inspire hope, but mostly the love thing!

I hope these words have inspired you. Please read on for a series summary ☺