

This story uses characters and locations based on the Gunslinger Girl manga written by Yu Aida and published in monthly shōnen magazine Dengeki Daioh. The characters of Kara and Michele are original to myself. The character of Allison is original to MP5 and a drawing by KuroNeko inspired her outfit.

"Synchronmesh"

A Gunslinger Girl Original Story by Kiskaloo

**ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PARKING LOT
SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCY COMPOUND
MARCH**

"I just thought things would be different, ya know?" Allison Pagani noted as she leaned against the front left fender of the Fuji White Alfa Romeo 8 Competizione Spyder, the melancholy clear in her voice.

"A petrolhead like you with access to a garage of exotics and supercars and a handler who hates to drive? I'd think you'd be in heaven," Petrushka Ricci observed.

"Oh I know how fortunate I am on that end," Allison answered. "I mean look at this..." She turned and swept her arm across the shapely curves of Wolfgang Effer's design.

"You've only been a *fratello* for a bit," Jay Valentine noted, his eyes more interested in the shapely curves of Allison in her *haute couture* high neck sleeveless mini dress, created by Giambattista Valli on commission specifically for wearing with the Alfa. The dress was primarily red cashmere to match the red leather interior with a white triangular swatch at the bottom left to reflect the Fuji White paint of the exterior. The outfit was completed with Chloé black leather knee boots and Dents driving gloves in black leather.

On weekends and when not-on-call, Allison preferred jeans, tees and sneakers, but when in public with her handler, she dressed to the nines in the latest wears from the top fashion houses of Italy and France. Triela may be the "princess of Section One", but to Jay's eyes, Allison was the real royalty.

"Track days are fun and all, but I want to be able to share my interests in doing project cars with him. The man worked for *Scuderia Ferrari*, for heaven's sake. Think of what he could teach me!"

"Have you asked him about maybe working on one of his Ferraris or Lamborghinis?" Jay asked, instantly regretting it as Allison fixed him with a hard stare.

"Like he'd let me put a spanner to them," she replied. "Besides, the factories spend tens of millions a year on getting every last bit of performance out of them. It's why upgrades are mostly limited to wheels and interior trim."

"Maybe you need a different project car," Jay suggested, trying to recover. "He's Italian, so maybe an Alfa or Lancia?"

Allison looked thoughtful. While her handler had a large collection of Italian and British automobiles, he didn't own anything Japanese and her current project cars were a Toyota Corolla GT-S / Sprinter Trueno and a Mazdaspeed MX-5. She'd performed a number of engine and suspension upgrades to them, turning the Toyota into a hairy drift car and the MX-5 into a fearsome track racer.

The three cyborgs heard the front door open and a handsome man in a black suit descended the stairs.

"Gotta go," Allison noted, opening the driver's side door and slipping into the leather bucket seat. She fired the 4.7-liter V8 into life, blipping the throttle before putting the car into drive and pulling up next to the entrance. Her handler settled into the passenger seat and Allison headed for the front gate. The security guard waved them through and Allison proceeded out onto the stone bridge that crossed the river that ran along the western edge of the compound property.

"So I was talking with Blacker over drinks the other night and I finally convinced him to run an entry in the 24 Hours Nürburgring," Michele noted.

"Really? Awesome!" Allison said.

"I suggested we run an M3 GT4, but since it's just going to be us four and we have to drive it to Germany and back, Jethro feels we should go with something more streetable, fixable and reliable like an E90 3-series diesel and then modify it for racing."

"A diesel would have plenty of torque and the 335d has almost as much horsepower as the non-turbo gasoline engine. The M Sport Edition adds an aerodynamic package and we can beef up the brakes and suspension plus add a roll bar, racing seats and a fuel cell."

"We'll give it some thought over the weekend and we'll pitch it to Jethro. If he agrees, we'll find some garage space. I hope you don't mind spending the next two months of weekends with your old man wrenching on cars," Michele noted with a smile.

"I wouldn't mind at all," Allison replied with an even bigger grin.