

The Unusual Ones

A Club Penguin Rewritten Play

by Audrey Lang

© April 2020

Audrey Lang

audlang@gmail.com

(646) 530-4866

www.audreyglang.com

Characters

GelPenguin – she/her



stanleyhud – any pronouns



Sensei – she/her



Pringle8 *(does not appear)* – she/her



Place

Dojo Pathway - a secret room within the Dojo. In its initial appearance, it appears as a walkway to the Serene Springs. Present in the room there is a statue of Sensei, his puffle, Sage, and two Cherry Blossom trees.



*The Dojo Pathway of Club Penguin Rewritten. It leads between the Hidden Room in the wall of the Dojo, and the Serene Springs, an environment with a waterfall where the Grey Puffles have migrated to live. The Pathway contains oval stones on snow, with a gazebo overlooked by a cherry blossom tree in the center of the room. **GelPenguin**, stylishly dressed but definitely hiding a little bit behind bright purple hair and gold-rimmed glasses, sits on the steps of the gazebo. **Sensei**, a grey penguin with a long beard, enters.*

Sensei

Gel? I didn't expect to find you here.

GelPenguin

It's quiet.

Maybe the quietest place in Club Penguin Rewritten.

Sensei

Maybe so.

GelPenguin

And I knew you were busy with your students but I thought you might come.

When you saw me walk through the Dojo, to the Hidden Room—

I thought maybe you'd follow.

...

And you did.

Sensei

I did.

GelPenguin

I wanted to talk.

Sensei

About anything specific?

GelPenguin

(losing her nerve)

I don't know.

Sensei

Gel, I—

I think we've known each other long enough not to beat around the bush.

Don't you?

GelPenguin

Yes.

You're right, Sensei.

Sensei

This is my favorite spot, too.

It's the quietest; the music is soothing.
Most people prefer the Serene Springs, and I do like visiting the puffles there—
But that's not my favorite.
No one, hardly anyone, actually stops on the Pathway.
It's a means to an end.
It's the way to get between one place and another.
Very few will actually stop to admire the beauty of the Pathway.

GelPenguin

I guess you and I are the unusual ones, then.

Sensei

We are.

A moment.

GelPenguin

I miss you, Sensei.
That's all I came to say.

Sensei

You know you're welcome to come train anytime you like—

GelPenguin

That's not what I mean.
You know that's not what I mean.
I thought we knew each other well enough—[not to beat around the bush]

Sensei

You're right.

A moment. This one's painful.

GelPenguin

How is Sage?

Sensei

She's fine. Enjoying the time with her friends in Serene Springs.

GelPenguin

My puffles miss her.
Amelia asks about her.
I adopted a new puffle, Teddy?
I'm hoping they all stop asking about Sage now.
Not just Amelia—Meredith, Callie, Arizona.
They all were asking.

Sensei

I'm sorry.

GelPenguin

Sorry for what?

You don't have to be sorry for me.

Sensei

I'm sorry for the hurt I put you through—

GelPenguin

But you're still with her, aren't you?

Sensei

With who?

GelPenguin

Pringle8.

Sensei

...

GelPenguin

Then don't tell me you're sorry.

Sensei

Gel, I—

Just because we weren't the right match, doesn't mean—

GelPenguin

Doesn't mean what?

What were you going to say?

There's lots of fish in the sea?

Lots of penguins in Club Penguin??

Yeah I know that, Sensei.

Thanks.

Sensei

I just hope you won't stop training.

GelPenguin

I already have.

Sensei

The way our relationship ended—

You still always have a home in this Dojo.

GelPenguin

Even if I don't have one in your igloo.

Sensei

I don't have an igloo.

GelPenguin

I know.

Pause.

GelPenguin

I don't know why I came.

I shouldn't have come.

Sensei

This Pathway brings you comfort.

GelPenguin

Sometimes.

Sensei

And I no longer do that.

GelPenguin

...

Sensei

So let's just sit.

Sensei sits down on the steps of the gazebo. Another penguin passes by, on their way from the Hidden Room to Serene Springs. Sensei gives a wave. The penguin stops for a moment.

stanleyhud

I never see anyone here.

GelPenguin

The music is kinda good.

stanleyhud

Yeah, I guess it is.

...Bye.

The penguin continues on their way.

Sensei

A means to an end.

GelPenguin

It's not for me.

It's not just that for me—
You weren't just that for me.
Even if I was for you, you were—
You were different for me.
You were the love of my life.
And then I look in your Stamp Book and I see another penguin—
I see Pringle8 of all the penguins it could've been, and—
I have no one, Sensei.
I am alone.

Sensei

How are you, Gel?

GelPenguin

I'm alone.

Sensei

That's what you are.

But how are you?

A pause.

GelPenguin

My heart...feels too heavy for my body.

Every day it sinks lower and lower and someday, someday soon, I think it will fall out.

Sensei

...

GelPenguin

My mind feels too fast.

Thoughts come, they race each other, I can't keep up.

I can't even hear them—faster than the speed of sound.

Or maybe there's just too much noise to hear any of them individually.

Sensei

...

GelPenguin

My flippers don't move the way they used to.

I go on a walk with my puffles and—

I try to do everything I used to, dance and swim and play and make pizzas, and—

They don't work anymore.

I don't work anymore.

Sensei

...

GelPenguin

And my lungs—

My lungs won't fill.

When my heart is particularly sunken, my lungs won't even open to take air in at all.

My lungs are broken—

I am broken, Sensei.

Sensei

...

GelPenguin

You broke me, and I—

I don't know how to fix myself.

Pause.

Sensei

[quietly]

I'm sorry.

GelPenguin

Don't say that.

Because I don't want you to be sorry for me.

I want you to be sorry for what you did.

But you won't be, because you're happy now.

Happier than I could make you, and I—

My heart may sink into the ground and bury itself.

And my mind may run itself into dust in the earth.

And my flippers may waste away and my lungs may collapse.

And, but even after that, I will still be happy you are happy.

Even if I'm not.

Sensei

...

GelPenguin

So what does that make me?

GelPenguin stands up from the gazebo steps.

Sensei

Please don't leave now, Gel.

GelPenguin

Then do something to keep me here.

A pause; then, Sensei kisses GelPenguin. It's a long kiss. When it ends, neither of them knows what to do.

Sensei

I'm sorry.

GelPenguin

Can you say something, anything else, other than that you're "sorry"?

Sensei

...

GelPenguin

Please don't break me again.

Sensei

...

GelPenguin

...

Sensei

...

...

GelPenguin

So no.

No.

I'm not going to let you break me again.

Sensei

Did you get what you wanted?

That's what you wanted when you came here, wasn't it?

GelPenguin

I wanted peace, somewhere to sit in peace for ten minutes, or at least until I was idle.

Sensei

You might be broken, but you don't have to break me too.

GelPenguin

Do you know how much energy I expend every second I keep myself from doing exactly that?

Sensei

...

GelPenguin

You have someone to fix you.

Go to her.

I cannot break again.

GelPenguin exits, toward the Hidden Room, toward the way out. She won't come back again.

Sensei

I loved you too.

The room is already empty.

Sensei

I loved you too.

End of play.