

The Darkness Unleashed

The Raging War: Light vs Dark

Prologue

The blades clashed with a deafening effect. I moved back to gain proper footing and unleash a second attack, but he wouldn't let me. He pounced on me like a cat on a mouse, I attempted a side step to dodge, but he still got a cut at my cheek. Blood flowed, yet I felt nothing, I just released a menacing smile knowing I was going to win this duel. We both now had a couple metres distance between us, waiting for the next move. His blade was blinding, the white light it displayed was far brighter than the sun, repelling any eyes that were set on it. My blade on the other hand was the exact opposite, the darkness it released soaked up any colour around, eyes were dragged in, making one who looked at it go insane, never being able to break free from the dream it promised. This fight had been fated and the winner already decided. It was a fight between the man entrusted by the gods to allow all the lands to prosper and the man entrusted by the demons to take control and end it all. The man hadn't even been entrusted in the first place, he had just sacrificed everything for power, just looking at him made my blood boil. I locked my eyes with the enemy, and that's when he made his move. He dashed across to move towards me, he was going so fast I couldn't even see him, but I could track his bright blade. He unleashed a wave of attacks that I blocked one after another, as I fended his attacks off, I took a swing in the air, which sent an arc of darkness towards him, he quickly ducked to avoid. It looked as if 100 trees in the distance had been cut off by this slashing attack. Now that distance had been created once again, I didn't give him any time, as he was regaining his footing from my previous attack.

I dashed, disappearing to the human eye, reappearing in front of my opponent, I saw his eyes widen. I swung my black sword as hard as possible, which had a trailing effect as it sliced through the air and my opponent's head. The severed head landed not far from my position, red all over the place. Was the fight over? I had known I was going to win, but I didn't even need to use IT. He was the king, the strongest man, yet the fight was over before I knew it. That's when I heard it, the sound of laughter echoed through my ears, it was coming from behind me. "If it was that easy, do you think I would bear the name of King, and be granted the only white blade." I turned around, my gaze set on my opponent standing perfectly fine, having not even a single drop of sweat. My thoughts quickly went ablaze, "who had I just cut? What was going on?" As if sensing my confusion, my opponent responded quickly and straight to the point, "A light clone." This confused me even more, but when I turned back to the lifeless body, it began to disintegrate in a white light and was gone before I knew it. "Was this a special relitack?" I asked in a weary, still tone, he didn't respond. His warm, white eyes locked with my cold, dark ones, and I knew what I needed to do. I wanted to end this quick and so I got ready to unleash a relitack of my own. I sheathed my sword and only held on to the handle, I put my left foot forward on the sandy, dirt terrain, I took a deep breath, closed my eyes, and focused all my relia energy into my left hand which bared the handle to my blade. "1000 dark cuts!" I announced with the ferocity of a tiger. I was now metres behind him, my sword still sheathed, I turned around and took my hand off the handle. There was a black trail that covered the distance from where I started to my current position. I had sent 1000 different black slashes at him; he couldn't be standing after that. I had just used one out of ten of my relitack's. These were special attacks made possible using the relia energy given by the ancient relic possessed. The attack that had just been used was one that allowed me to slow down time to the point at which it stops. I walked towards my opponent

and took my time sending 1000 arcs of darkness, then, I slowly walked past him and finished off the attack. With this attack my opponent wouldn't feel any pain, since everything happens so quick, they would simply be dead, with barely anything remaining of their corpse. Yet once the dust cleared, he stood straight, completely fine. His blade clearly visible was partly in the ground, his hand firmly on the handle. I watched as he slowly pulled it out, and sheathed his blade. The way he did this was like an art; it had spun in the air and fell smoothly onto the rough metal. "A very nice move indeed," he spoke in a very gentle tone, almost as if I wasn't his enemy. He treated me with the utmost respect, to bad I was going to have to kill him here and now. There was no need to even wonder how he was still standing; he's a dangerous man and I should know that the most. I took some time to look about, the scenery around us had changed tremendously. There was a hint of warmth in the air, the sun beginning it's decent, the sky and clouds all in disarray, as if God was frowning at me. This made me release a menacing grin, after all he was one of my enemies. I continued to eye my surroundings; the small dusty field the fight began in had been enlarged a hundred-fold; trees that had been slain in the background lay idle on the vast floor. I now brought my focus onto my opponent once more. He stood in the same position as before, now with a new sense of urgency shown on his face. He wore an all-white kimono and hakama that seemed as it was one with the wind. On the other hand, I was dressed in all black. I noticed he was now shifting his stance, dragging his right leg forward and putting his weight on it, almost in a lunge position. He made a humming noise as if he was trying to concentrate, I drew my blade and got ready for any long-range attack, but something different happened. I heard a sudden yell, then a sound made by his sword and sheath colliding, the sound lingered, but then it happened. He started sprinting at me, I got in a more refined position, but that's when I heard it, the discrete footsteps running towards me from behind, from my left and

right. I quickly took a glance in all my directions, and that's when I saw 4 enemies rushing me, but they were all him. He used the same clone reitack as before, I didn't have any time to think. The first person to reach me was my real opponent, I blocked quickly as he threw down a heavy slash. All of sudden, the clone from behind reached me, I focused all my relia energy to my right hand, this hardened my hand to the strength of steel. He sent a horizontal slash right at my head, I grabbed the blade. This put me in the worst position possible, both of my hands were covered and I had two more clones a metres distance from me. "Think, think, think!" I repeatedly said to myself. There was nothing I could do now, then I remembered, I would have to use IT. The two clones were now swinging, one blade was nearing my neck as the other my lower body. I saw a tear fall from my opponents' eye, "forgive me," he whispered. "No," I thought, "forgive me." "SWITCH!" I screamed, I noticed I had a chill in my throat. I was now not in control, I simply just watched through my eyes, without being able to move a muscle. Darkness it self was now UNLEASHED.

Chapter 1

Erathaol

My interest nor grew nor diminished. I didn't particularly hate this place, but I found it somewhat boring. There was nothing that could pleasure me, somethings more fun than others, yet all was particularly lame. I lay idle on my bed, until I had a knock at my door, it was locked and I didn't want to get up. I listened to the knock endlessly almost like an alarm clock, that never stopped. As the knock prolonged, anger begun to rise, I wanted to stay lying down and never get up, but this deranged knock kept coming back. I got to the point where I didn't mind stabbing my ears, "what a drag," I spoke aloud. Forcingly, I stood up, putting my two feet under my body, sliding one foot after the other on the smooth marble floor. I opened the door with a

disgusted look on my face, but to my surprise it was Anastasia. “Get ready,” she spoke, wasting no time. I gestured her in, but she wouldn’t follow. I hated Anastasia, ever since we were young, she dragged me into boring things and for a reason unknown she thinks we’re friends. I keep telling her to not come back, yet she manages to make her way in this huge castle. I’m guessing the workers here assume she’s with me, so they let her in, since she’s the only one who even bothers talking to me. I never socialize with anyone to be honest, that’s why many see me as a disappointment. The apparent successor of the throne in the Hollow Kingdom who can’t even talk to a subject or anyone in general. It’s not that I can’t talk, but I find no point in using speech, it’s just such a waste of time and it’s something that can never be trusted. There are many out there who use speech to fool everyone around them. People in power always speak about promises that can’t be kept, truths that are not the full picture, and health they can’t guarantee. To the people in the royal palace, I was a waste of space, but since I was the prince, they had no choice but to bow down and treat me with the utmost respect. For most kingdoms, anyone who took one wrong step would get beheaded, but the Hollow Kingdom was different. The supreme ruler, my father, was a man of extreme strength, but one of amazing mental fortitude. To anybody other than me, he was God itself, a divine spirit sent down to bring peace. The problem was it was almost all a lie. He not only sold everything for power, but he also had the audacity to call himself chosen. I didn’t care much for him, but I couldn’t disagree on his power. He himself possessed the rarest, most powerful ancient relic of all time. The Angel Blade. I drifted back to reality as Anastasia slapped me across the face, I had zoned out. “What do you want?” I spoke in a low monotone voice. My voice sounded weird to my ears, kind of deep. It had been a couple of days since I had last heard my own voice. Anastasia was lucky, for some reason I only talked to her. For the past 10 years, she’s been coming to get me, at first, she would sneak, but now no one

seemed to care. Every time she came, she would have something planned to do, I wondered why she had no other friends and why she always decided to only bother me. Even though I didn't enjoy doing any of the things she forced me into, I wouldn't tell her that. I would force laughter, I would force enjoyment, and before I knew it, I mastered the art of acting. I don't know what made me not want to tell her anything, usually I had no problem speaking a truth towards others, but she was somehow different. For some reason my thoughts always wandered around her, like the Earth around the Sun. I guess you could say I needed her, but I didn't want to admit that. She's always taken care of me; without her I don't think I'd have ever talked to anyone. I focused back on her, her face a mix of melatonin and white; a creamy brown colour. It was very smooth and well managed, along with her straight hair, she looked beautiful. I continued to stare at her amazing bodily features until her hand struck up upon my face with the strength of 100 samurais. "Ow!" I screamed. I looked up to find her laughing, a smile so wide I could easily count all her teeth. The laughter filled the room, and for some reason made my pain go away. I wonder what this feeling is, I'd never felt anything like it. "We're going on an adventure" she said with a touch of excitement and seriousness. "What do you mean?" I replied curiously. "What I mean is we're leaving this boring city, you me, explore the world." "Is she crazy? That would be a lot of work, and my father would never allow it, after all he still thinks I would be a great king with guidance." I thought to myself. "I want to get you out of here," she said harshly, out of the blue. "Why?" The word flowed out of my mouth. "Because I feel bad, it's like you're a prisoner to your dad, lounging in the palace all day, training, feasting, working, like a slave." I took all this in, but she didn't stop there. "You don't find anything fun and do it all with that straight face of yours, it pisses me off," she was right, out of all the things I've done in my 16 years alive, I haven't done anything that allowed me to acknowledge life itself. Nothing that put

me to the edge of my seat, or that got my adrenaline going, or that got me dying of laughter, but I did notice something, I felt certain things when I was with her that I'd never felt before. A slab of stone that was beginning to break. There was a problem though, even if I wanted to go with her, on this so-called adventure, it was impossible. The city I was in, Flasea, the city of the royal. Was surrounded by tons of different past Kingdoms my father and his personal and royal army had conquered. My father was on the verge of conquering every Kingdom in the world, and he would be the reason for "unification" on this Earth. Since I was his only son, he would do anything to retrieve me and I most likely wouldn't even make it out of the Hollow Kingdom let alone The Icropate Dynasty, it was so vast. The Icropate Dynasty is the outcome of all the land my father has conquered. Every kingdom put down at the mercy of him. He was given the strength to control the world. "It's impossible," I said without giving it careful thought, but even if I did think about it the outcome would be the same. "Rath," she said, short for Erathaol, "this adventure will make you genuinely smile, trust me." The sentence she spoke was short, yet just one word out of the nine got me really intrigued. The word was "genuine," what did Asia mean by this. I began to wonder, "was I not as good an actor as I saw myself as? Or was it just a play of words? Did she know I didn't actually care for everything we did?" Thoughts ran around my head, questions flying everywhere, and confusion simply finding a resting place in the front of my mind, it was like an out-of-control zoo. The monkeys ran and chased, the birds flew, and the tiger sat down. "You think I'm stupid Rath" she announced, as if she could sense the emotions in the air. "I've dragged you into every possibly fun thing to do in Flasea for literally the past 10 years, and you have the audacity to believe that I didn't know it was all a charade." I guess that was true, she always seemed to try extra hard when it came to doing different and new things. I did act though, and I felt my fake laugh was similar to the real thing. "Every time I took you out

to try something new, I attempted to make you genuinely laugh, so I would hear your laugh and get excited, but there was no sparkle in your eyes, like a lifeless doll.” I looked up at her and was surprised to find tears rushing down her face like a waterfall. She continued, crying intensely. “I don’t care what it is, but I just want to make you happy, I want you to come back to me, just like you were, before her.” “Who is her” I thought. Then it happened, my body shook. Something was flowing through my head, it was a memory, one that I was trying to forget. The details surged through me, and before I knew it, I was on my knees with tears welling up around my eye. “No! No! I don’t want to remember this” my mouth moving on it’s on, I was now screaming. My hands holding my ears tightly, and my mind racing through image after image, I felt scared. Then Asia made a move, she wrapped her hands around me tightly, I felt warm, and she whispered in my ear, “I’m sorry, it’ll be okay, I’m here.” This somehow calmed me, I had stopped screaming, and my tears so stopped flooding and my hands found there way onto Asia’s back. We sat there, together for a couple of minutes. It had been 10 years since I had last seen my tears. I was blind with the water welling up around my eyes, but with Asia’s warmth surrounding me, I felt I was being reborn. This forced me to wipe my tears and clean myself up, I was the prince of all the land surrounding me, but anger quickly swelled up at this thought. I wasn’t meant to be a prince, if anything I was a slave forced in here. I quickly regained my poker face, my emotions buried deep down once again. I was glad I got this chance to get everything out, my head felt clearer and some weight had been relieved. I pulled Asia up and wiped her tears with my clothing, I whispered a thank you and sorry. We stood against each other with no distance apart, I had to crane my neck downwards as she was much smaller than me. She shot a heart filled smile and as much as I attempted to return the gesture, my smile wasn’t genuine nor heart filled. I now knew what I needed to do, “I’ll come along,” I spoke heavily. That generous

smile of hers quickly turned into a dirty grin, “Obviously, I’m not leaving alone.” A knock rose from my grand door again, this time Asia quickly moved to open it. It was a maid, she announced that it was time for my studies and battle training, and so Asia left the palace and I got changed.

Chapter 2

The rest of the day rushed by me at a lightning speed. I had focused on studying and training all day, mostly because I didn’t have a choice on becoming the King or not. At least that’s what I would’ve said if Asia hadn’t come over in the morning. I was laying in bed exhausted; it was around midnight and usually I would be passed out around 10, but Asia had warned me that if I went to sleep, she would hit me as hard as she could, and I wasn’t in the mood for sleeping the rest of my life. My mind was wandering when I heard a branch break outside my window. I hassled my way over unbolted and opened the window, my mouth had hit the floor. Asia outside, was sitting on top of a branch that was right in front of me, the jaw dropping part was the fact that this window was close to 100 feet high relative to the ground. She told me to catch her and before I even had time to comprehend what she said, she had jumped. I just managed to grab a hold of her hand, but struggled to pull her up. Finally, after several seconds of my heartbeat racing, we laid down on the extraordinary marble floor. “Are you fucking crazy, you could’ve died!” I struggled to yell, as I caught my breath. She laughed, “well I’m still here, aren’t I?” The tree she had just climbed was named the Holy Tree, since it stood well over 200 feet. I looked over at her and noticed she had a huge bag slung around her shoulder. “So, why am I awake and you here?” “Well, it’s obviously because we have to go over the plan,” she said, as she opened up her bag. She pulled out a book and a large parchment of paper, it was information and a huge plotted map on the Hollow Kingdom. This didn’t even shock me at this point, Asia has always

been a trouble maker, “Let me guess, you stole that from the palace.” “Bingo” she replied, without looking. I watched as she unfolded the map and opened up the book. “Time to study,” I found the book she brought to have a number of loose sheets of paper that had her own handwriting on them. Anastasia explained, “We both need to memorise the map, the book is for information on everything that’s been going on out side of the city, and the sheets of paper are the plan we are going to follow, any questions stupid?” “Nothing, other than how the fuck did you prepare all this shit today?” “Well, it’s because I didn’t,” “now I’m just lost.” “I’ve been planning on leaving this dump for awhile, and so I’ve been researching and planning the best possible exit that we can take for the last year. I know that map like the back of my hand, so I’m here to make sure you get all this stuff ingrained in your small brain.” “That explains a lot,” I muttered. At this point now I was very tired, but because of how hard Asia worked to get here, I knew I had to get what she told me to do done. Asia first handed me all the loose sheets, then passed me the book and told me, “study the map a little bit, then read all the notes and the book. Once you finish that, you can go to sleep. The plan is to leave in a week, so every night read through it all again until you can recite the entire book off memory.” It’s when she’s like this that makes me hate her, this would take me hours to finish. “So, what are you going to do?” I asked as I looked over, but to my surprise, Asia was stripping down. “What the fuck are you doing,” I said as I looked the other way. “Shut up, your face is literally red, and these clothes are dirty.” I turned my head a little and noticed she was getting into my bed, “might want to get going with your work, or you won’t make it in here with me by morning.” I found myself blushing, what a crazy day today was, I noticed my emotions were let loose for the first time today, but only when I was with her. After around three hours passed, I finally finished reading through everything, I felt one blink away from death. I quickly took my robe off and attempted

to slide in the bed with Asia, and before I knew it, I was fast asleep. My eyes opened wide as a hand struck my face causing me to flinch up as fast as lightning. My pupils were small, eyes bloodshot, and dark underneath, and I noticed outside the sun was still on its way up. “What do you think your doing!” the voice came from the right of me, it was Asia sitting beside me, with anger swelling up. “Obviously I was trying to sleep,” what kind of question was that I thought, but then I noticed a slight bit of embarrassment on her face. “Woah, wait a minute, its not what you think,” I spewed quickly. Even while exhausted, I felt myself start blushing again. I whipped myself up and out of bed and sought for my robe to help cover my undergarments, but I couldn’t find it. That’s when I noticed Asia wearing it, and so I did the next best thing, I grabbed the big blanket and whipped it around my body. “Sorry,” I attempted to say in a comforting voice, but it seemed like it wasn’t needed, Asia began to burst out laughing which ended up bringing a smile to my face as well.

In my vast room, there was everything needed to get ready. This included; a washroom and bath, a closet full of clothes, a cabinet full of food, and tons of sunlight coming in from the huge windows. I told Asia that she should probably get ready and leave before anybody came into the room, she agreed and got to work. I had a feeling she would take a long time and so I decided to try and get a couple of extra minutes of sleep. After 30 minutes, that passed in the blink of an eye, Asia was all ready and went and left through the window once again. After that, I did some things, drowsily got ready, and left to go meet my father. The day felt long once again, but when I got back, I knew I had to spend yet another three hours studying our escape. For the next week the same schedule continued, Asia did not once come back, probably getting her own things ready. I had managed to fulfil my role and memorized every bit of information found, and in no time, the day was upon us. The day of the ESCAPE.

Chapter 3

The night before I had got everything ready and packed. My sharp silver blade could be found in the leather sheath, I had two weeks of provisions, a couple books, and some equipment that was needed all secured in a bag. Asia had instructed me to burn the map that had our route on it, just in case, and so I did. I rose early, around 5. I quickly hustled grabbing everything needed for this stomach-churning adventure. The first step of the plan was to go South-East and get out of Flasea, the problem with this was that the Royal Army was the most focused in this city, so it was going to be hard. I walked up to my window, this was the last time I was going to be here, I was getting hit by second thoughts one after another now. I wondered if it really was the best idea, but then I remembered what she had said the week before and I gathered all of my willpower and opened the large windows. I looked outside, it was cloudy and dark, the perfect weather I thought. I slung my bag around my shoulder and placed my sheath to my hip, took in one last deep breath and finally, jumped.

I landed on a thick branch that barely shook as I landed. I stabilized myself with the trunk of the tree, and began my decent. Since birth, I had been trained rigorously, so this didn't seem too hard for me. I jumped from one branch to another, nice and smooth. In about no time, I had reached the ground. The weather from down here was very foggy, and I could see was the several highlights of the different buildings that could be found in the city. Behind was the huge stone that rose to form the palaces standing ground, and under me was what was known as the King's plateau. I didn't have time for the stairs, so I took my sword out, I then jumped off the plateau. It was also around 100 metres high, but after falling for around 20 metres, I calmly slashed my blade into the mountains side, this slowed me down, but I quickly took it out and started falling once more. I repeated the same action of dangling off the side about three times, on the last I dug

my blade as hard as I could into the Earth, I slid down for about 10 metres while my momentum came to a stop. I pulled my sword out and jumped, I had reached the ground floor. I began walking in a South-East direction, Asia had told me to meet up with her around the town area. My walk turned into a slow jog which was immediately followed with a fast sprint, everything around me was at standstill and mostly quiet. As I continued to sprint, I caught a silhouette in the corner of my eye. I put my hand on my blade and slowly turned back, the thing launched at me with a leap and so I pulled my blade into a horizontal position to block the incoming dagger attack. The sounds the two metals created wasn't as loud as I expected, it was like there was no force put into the attack. I then noticed the body shape, and the smell flooded in, it was Asia. "What was that for I?!" I quietly yelled. "Obviously it was the greeting of two best friends," she spoke smiling. I sighed, "alright then, let's get going with it, we don't have much time until sunrise," I said. "That's not a good way of greeting someone back, but yea I agree with you, lets go." I nodded and we both took off, towards the edge of the city. We ran at full speed for about 30 minutes, there were a very scarce number of guards around insides of the city at this time so we didn't mind making to much noise. As we started running out of breath, we slowed our pace. We had put a good distance between us and the palace, so we didn't need to be as cautious now. In this city right now, there were only 3 people who were impossible for me and Asia to defeat. It was the King himself and 2 people out of the personal army, otherwise known as the seven deadly sins. The Seven Deadly Sins were the strongest relic wielders in all the lands, it consists of 4 males and 3 females, picked and trained by father himself, then given relics to suit their strengths. They have trained themselves rigorously and are always out in distant areas on missions, so right now 5 of them were absent from the palace and probably somewhere either stopping a rebellion or looking for rarer relics then the ones they already possessed. There

missions were always kept secret, but from living in the palace for so long and supposed to be the next ruler, I've come to know quite a bit of stuff. I personally know 6 of the 7 Seven Deadly Sins, mostly because they all live in the same place as me. The weird thing was I had not once met the man given the name Megalodon, who is said to be the captain of the group and the second strongest in the entire Dynasty, I wonder where he could be. Me and Asia together could probably take out majority of the night time guards, but even with our combined strength we would only put a Seven Deadly Sin to sleep, it was embarrassing to even think about. I prayed with all my strength that we wouldn't have to encounter a Sin as of right now, but since we were in terms opposing the entire world right now, we needed to become stronger and the only way to now keep both of us alive would be to become not just stronger than a Sin, but to become the strongest in the world, that would mean better than my heavenly father. We were traitors in pursuit of an adventure. Sounds dumb doesn't it, throwing away such a blessed life, having the ability to be the wealthiest man in the world. The thing is I didn't care for anything like that, the money I already had didn't equate to happiness, it didn't satisfy me and already having my life planned out always depressed me. Asia's kindness sought out to destroy that, by allowing me a choice of going or staying, I decided to say fuck it, and go all in. To be honest, I already felt a little bit happy inside, I'd always wanted to go around the world, but I would never be allowed outside the city. As me and Asia finally reached the edge of city, we saw them, the royal army guarding the borders. It would be best if we could sneak by them, but that seemed impossible with the number of guards, which was odd for the time. Asia looked at me and gestured towards an alleyway and so I followed her there to get in cover. I thought about how we were going to get by without causing a commotion, then I remembered I was the Prince. "Couldn't we just tell them to let us get by?" I asked Asia. "Nah, if that was possible this operation wouldn't require

much planning and be way to easy. The king has given strict orders to never let you out of the city. He can't be having any chance of you getting harmed." She replied. That was reasonable, "So what, we just going to force our way through?" "Yea that's about it." Okay, that made it easier, me and Asia were very strong together. I drew my sword and started scoping the area out in a low crouch position, there was about 20 guards in a close vicinity of each other, and about another 20 could probably reach to aid them in about 2 minutes total. "phht 20 is too easy," I told Asia, who was behind me. "Trying to see who can take more down?" She asked me with a laugh. "Let's try and see you take me on, I'm a prince after all." "I don't give two shits about who you are, I know I'm stronger." "Alright, let's make a bet, whoever gets less takedowns have to carry the others gear for an entire day, deal?" "Deal," she replied with a confident smile. I looked up in the sky and I could see the sun rising now, it began shining its bright light upon certain parts of the city. It would soon light up the entire sky and wake up this resting cities residents. It was time now, me and Asia were now going to escape this boring ass place and explore the world. I first began moving using a stalking method, this was to get closer to the enemies, I would utilize the shadows and would be as quiet as a worm in the ground. Finally, as I cleared some distance, I started jogging, which quickly broke into a sprint. The enemies were now making eye contact with the prince and the weird girl beside him running at full speed. At first, the guards didn't move, taking into account that I was the prince, but after analysing the situation and noting we had weapons, yells and shouts starting echoing through the air. They had to fulfil there one duty of not letting me go. They set up a wall like formation, I looked to my left and right noticing that near 50 soldiers would close the distance between them in close to under 3 minutes. One of the guards in front of us stepped forward, most likely the general of the lot, "Your royal highness, please stand down and don't make us fight, we cannot let you through and we do not want to

fight.” He spoke. Of course, it was way too late for that so I simply responded with one word, “sorry.” The men grouped into a more fighting formation after I answered. Me and Asia were now super close and we began our fight. I jumped onto the left side and swung down my sword with as much strength as I could muster, this knocked back three of my enemies, but of course they stood right back up. One of them came running at me with his sword, he swung right, I stepped left, he swung left, I slid right, and lastly, he swung horizontally, which I ducked. I looked into his eyes and saw fear awaken, of course I would be scared to if my opponent predicted all my moves. I finished him off with a handle strike to the head, he fell unconscious. I looked over to my right to find Asia stepping over three bodies on the ground, she looked back and hit me with the “you suck” type smile. I did not want to lose this bet, and so I changed my position and sheathed my blade. I gripped the handle and pulled the blade out slightly then I started walking straight into the group of men. There were roughly eight and they all decided to charge me, but just before the first blades connected with me, I dashed. As my walk continued, my enemies looked around in confusion, I had disappeared out of thin air. Once they finally turned around and realized where I was, I let go of my handle and closed my blade fully. The noise of it closing echoed, but the thumping noise the bodies made as they fell down was even louder. I turned back around, all eight bodies lay idle slumped face down in the ground, I found myself looking at Asia with a smirk forming on my face, she was looking my way with her mouth open, “that’s not fair!” She shouted across the battle field. She was finishing up with her enemies as well. I started running towards the gate now, the city had a huge wall surrounding it with only one gate of escape, this way, any enemy attack would easily be distinguished. The backup troops were starting to close their distance between us, so me and Asia made a break for the gate. Running as fast as possible we needed to get to the great forest of Endlessness. By now my

father has most likely heard about the escape and has sent one of the Seven to come get us back. We needed to get away to the only place that was untraceable, the forest of Endlessness. It is said that whoever enters will wander for years before finding a way out and that is why nobody who enters comes back alive, especially with all the great beasts that lay hidden within. It was probably the riskiest plan ever, but it was also the only one that could keep us hidden from the world and that's exactly what we needed. Time. To get strong enough to challenge the powers that tower over the world itself. All this just to find a meaning in life, something to live by, I guess that made us psycho, but being psycho is what makes us human. The desire to take the world by storm and live an adventure of a life, not some boring ass prince type shit. Me and Asia had just made finally reached the gate and with an army of 100 behind us we continued to run. The forest entrance was about a full kilometre away from the gate, so hopefully we could make it there without any troubles, but of course, I was being way to optimistic.

Just as we crossed the huge gate something unexpected happened. A powerful gust of wind closed the massive doors that sat open, stopping the army from pursuing us. Was this just a stroke of luck or did some other factor come in play. Sadly, it was the latter. I sensed a strong bloodlust coming from right behind me, I noticed my hand trembling, I gripped it tight attempting to control my heartrate. "The Sin of Wind is in your presence, your royal highness" with these my words my heart exploded, why did it have to be the third strongest. He possessed an elemental relic, the most powerful and the most rare, other then my dads one and only angel blade. I looked over to see Asia's eyes wide open, in shock and terrified. I forced my feet to move, but they felt glued to the ground. I finally set my self free from my own fear and turned to face the Sin, eye to eye. As I turned I him looking the exact same as he did since I was young, but this time he had a different look on his face, he was excited. His grin was made creepy with

all the blade like scars all over his face and white hair, which matched with his white kimono that was covered in a similar cut-like pattern in black ink. I knew his ability like the back of my hand, but that was what made it all the scarier. Knowing what he could do to us if he wanted. Creating a blade using the wind, it could be manifested anywhere anytime. Using his creative intellect, he has created many different ways of using the wind to his advantage, and that's why he is one of the scarier Sins. Moving freely in the air, long range slices, disappearing, dead silence, and setting huge slashing attacks simultaneously. His skill bag was almost endless. Now the question was, "what the hell do we do!" I attempted to vary out every possibility, but running was the only one that came. Yet running was of course impossible. This man was wind itself, and could not be fooled, think, think, think, I yelled at myself in my head. "Let's not have a pointless fight, your highness. Just come back peacefully and uninjured." I didn't respond. I looked over at Asia, she was suppressing her emotions very well, being honest it didn't even look like she was scared. She turned and looked my way, giving me a quick nod as if she knew what I was thinking. We needed to try and get to the forest of Endlessness. Asia made her next move quick, while the Sin was focusing on me, she quickly slid a dagger out of her pants and chucked it with such precision and ferocity towards our enemy. The second this happened we both forced our legs up and around, moving swiftly towards the forest. One foot after the other, thinking we could maybe make it. Then something shot by me and it forced me to an abrupt halt. There he was once again, right in front of us, but this time laughing hysterically. I can't believe we didn't even make it more than 5 steps. "Just let us go please," I asked out of desperation already knowing my answer. "If you go in, will you come back alive?" The Sin asked me, leaving me flabbergasted, was he actually contemplating it, I wondered. Before I could respond though, Asia yelled out, "Of course we will, but we won't just come back alive, we'll come back stronger than

everyone, allowing us to defeat you in mere seconds.” The sin began laughing hysterically. “Go then” he said proudly. “Try and surpass me, try and surpass your majesty, but if you come back weak, I’m going to kill you painfully for wasting my time.” I was still so shocked when he disappeared in the blink of an eye before us. He was actually being for real. I can’t believe we were still alive to be honest. I was too out of breath to run and it seemed Asia was too, but we both knew we couldn’t waste any time, so we began running once more, this time with a more controlled pace. After about 7 minutes, we arrived at our destination. It was absolutely breathtaking and hard to imagine. The trees that looked so small from the palace were now towering over us by hundreds of feet, there was also a thick fog covering what seemed to be the entirety of the area inside. As I continued to stare in awe, I heard the ground shake from what seemed horses, which I guessed was the Royal army finally chasing us. I quickly glanced at Asia and she gave me a nice nod. It was time to finally go in. Would we survive or become the prey of the huge beasts that lay dormant in this vast domain? All I knew was that I would make sure me and Asia rise to the top of this boring world. We grabbed each other’s hand tight and began our walk in, making sure we didn’t get separated in this huge maze of a place.

Chapter 4

The first step in my vision disappeared, I was surrounded in a mist of white, my sense of smell had been dulled by the extravagant scent of the trees. The only thing I could feel was my hand being squeezed tighter and tighter by the second, I could tell she was scared. I felt a little rattled too, I was now hearing growls, assuming they were the beasts that lived in this vast death zone. At this point 3 of my senses were being compromised and I felt inferior. This was already way worse than I imagined. I knew there had to be some places where we could see, so we had to begin moving. I took my heel and dug it into the dirt and spun it around in circles, attempting to

create a hole. I did this to mark the beginning of the forest and so if I ever ran into it, I would know how to get out. After I completed this, I gripped Asia's hand as hard as I possibly could and began taking slow steps forward. I kept my opposite hand on the hilt of my sword and closed my eyes. Attempting to focus mainly on my sense of hearing and trying to sense where beasts may lurk. Step after step after step and "crack!" I turned around, jerking Asia to the side, drawing my sword and holding the blade out in front of me. Something jumped at me, I heard it take off, it was big, but I still couldn't see it. I knew that if I waited for it to enter my vision zone it would be too late. Just for that, I preloaded an attack and I sliced straight in front of me with no prejudice. I heard something fall to the ground, we were in the clear for now. I pulled Asia into my vision as she tapped me on my shoulder. "Good job," she whispered quietly, seemingly trying not to invite any more unexpected guests. I still couldn't see the corpse of whatever I had just killed. I moved forward with my sword leading the way until I felt resistance from the other end of the blade. Once it came into my vision, I was dumbfounded. There was something the size of a boulder cut in two. Me and Asia stared in awe at this massive beast. I poked it with my finger, noticing the skin was soft, which was why I could cut it so easily. I had never seen something like this before and we were only a couple steps in. I couldn't imagine what else might be hidden in this place. "Let's examine it," I heard Asia say, and so we did. As we looked around it, I noticed it had no eyes anywhere on its body. "Did the creatures evolve differently here because of the thick fog, since they don't need to rely on eyesight here?" "Yea, that's what it looks like" Asia responded. The scariest thing about this beast wasn't its huge body, but extremely fast speeds. From what I could hear, it was moving from tree to tree as fast as a squirrel. The creature had a couple of sharp teeth, making it easy to devour us. "Ouu, it's edible" Asia said, "How do you know?" I asked. "You can just tell by the colour, texture and smell." "Alright whatever you

say,” I sighed. Well, we had just successfully survived our first beast encounter which was a pretty big shocker. We now continued moving forward, not taking any meat with us since we still had tons of food left over and in search of a place that wasn’t covered by this thick fog. It is said the only place without fog was the center of the entire forest. For what felt like the next 5 hours, we walked and continued killing tons of the same beast. I guessed that the edges of this forest were beast number one’s territory and as we moved into the center beasts way bigger and stronger would appear. I was starting to get tired and I could tell Asia was feeling a little sluggish as well. We needed to rest and make shelter. “Let’s set up camp for next couple of hours,” I told Asia, “I agree, I’m super tired, but how are we going to not become beast food?” I wasn’t to sure how this was going to be done, but we did have sleeping bags for sleeping. “Do you want to take shifts?” I proposed, which was the only logical idea. “I can’t think of anything better,” Asia said in response. “Alright then let’s set up a small tent near a big tree, then you can sleep first and 2 hours each.” “Sounds good.” We walked a little bit to the next huge trunk we saw and started unpacking our bags. After we set up the tent, I gobbled up some water and prepackaged meals, I was starving. I sat down outside the tent and dug my sword into the ground beside me, for easy access. Asia ate a bit and went in to sleep. I was super tired and every time I had the urge of closing my eyes, I felt my consciousness drifting away, but knowing my role I managed to stay up. To clear my mind, I decided to read a book about a boy who was a strong swordsman and managed to rise to the top through hard work, it was my favourite book ever. I was glad I did stay up as well, because around 30 minutes in the same thing that happened before occurred, but for some reason, I felt a different presence. I stood up, grasping my handle. The beast jumped from tree to tree at an extraordinary speed, way faster then the ones from before. I could barely keep up with its movements. It let out a grueling growl, this made me way more alert, this beast

was way scarier. I moved slightly away from the tent, in order to not involve Asia and not slice her. I closed my eyes attempting to envision the beast running around me and where he was going to strike because of this I shifted my stance, getting ready to unleash a 360-degree blow. Its movement patterns were unpredictable. I waited for him to take one final leap at me to decide the fate of either one of us. I heard it; a large object was slicing through the air aimed right at me. I waited for one more moment, then I did it. My special move: Moon's rotation. My blade wisped through the air as I spun meticulously. The air of cuts that arose from this move seemed to cut the beasts attack short making contact with what seemed like a claw. Even though that was one of my best moves, I sensed the beast moving once more. It's movements slow and quiet, it was retreating and soon I didn't even hear its steps. It was injured heavily, yet still alive. These things were way tougher than the previous beasts. I turned around and noticed Asia coming out of the tent, sleep deprived, she asked me what happened. "Seems we've entered a new territory; the beasts are stronger." "Did you just take a beast out?" She replied, "no, I injured it but it backed off." I spoke. "I see, alright no worries it just means we're going the right way and once we've been in here for a little longer, we should develop our sixth sense." She was right about this, if I could sense him properly there, I would've relied on a direct slash to the throat, but I had to take my chances with the Moons rotation. The sixth sense is just like my eyesight, but it's a vision that can be found in the mind. Concentration levels go so high, the mind can envision everything around you in perfect accuracy. It's considered to be part of the senses but it's a little different because only people who train it enough can achieve the basis of it. Training it and concentrating the mind can unlock crazy things like the domain that is seen when you concentrate expands a millionfold and you can see into small parts of the future. It is said my father can see everything that goes on in the city and people fighting him say he already knows

what move they are going to do before they even do it. With that being said, I still wonder on why him and the Sin of Wind let us go. Maybe it was a test or he wants me to die or... I was overthinking it to much, it doesn't matter why, we're already here. At this point Asia was already asleep and I was on guard once more. While on guard, I had a good amount of time to reflect on myself. I noticed that now I couldn't be lazy and not care about much like I was before, I needed to always be on go and look out for Asia. I wasn't some Prince trapped in a palace anymore, I was being relied on. The rest of the hour time felt sped up and Asia was up just before her two hours ended. She gestured me in and I took her up on her offer. I quickly found myself drifting off the second my eyes had closed and before I knew it, I was asleep.

[Anastasia](#)

I got up feeling refreshed and very hungry, suggested by my rumbling stomach. As Rath got went into the tent, I sat myself up to stretch. I was not used to the lumpy hard ground, so my back was killing me right now. I grabbed a large piece of bread and a small bottle filled with water from my bag and sat down right in front of the tent, pulling my dagger out for quicker access. This time really wasn't too interesting, except I got to think about everything going on. First of all, it was pretty crazy to even think we were in the forest of Endlessness. A vast forest that's said to be impossible to leave. It was scary, but my scared feeling was being overridden by joy and happiness. Ruth had finally started opening up a little more, I could tell he has started caring a lot more than before. The problem was just caring for each other wasn't going to be enough to survive in such a place, we needed to do more. "How could we get stronger?" I asked myself over and over again. "What could be done?" No answers were arising out of my head, and that's when it happened. Multiple footsteps were splashing heavily on the ground, "who was it?" I wondered. It didn't seem like the beast the that Rath described to me and whatever it was,

there were lots of them. My sixth sense was still a little weak and it still pained my eyes, but I tried it any way. Closing my eyes, focusing directly on the environment around me and leaving all my other thoughts. The sixth vision appeared, and I could see the black and white images of something that I didn't think was possible. My mind couldn't process anything, scared, I awoke Ruth with a big push. He glanced at me confused, "what?" he asked hastily. "Get up and hurry, we got company!" I yelled in his ear. It seemed as if he was already ready for battle, as he slept with his sword in his hand. I grabbed my bag and told him we needed to leave the tent here, he still didn't know what was going on but he followed me. We sprinted in the fog, using my dagger held out in front of me to make sure we didn't run into any trees. I saw Ruth's confused look turn into one of seriousness and focus, I guessed he was using his sixth sense. "Why the fuck are there humans in this forest?!" He blurted out "and they have beasts with them, so not fair." That was the part I was confused on as well. Humans with strange features and strong beasts that can't be tamed have been tamed. We continued running, bypassing the restriction of vision with our sixth sense. The only problem was the sixth sense was mostly powered by relia, the energy that dwells inside every living thing. Relia was finite and when used a great amount would possibly kill without good rests. Even after learning how to use relia perfectly, for someone like me it would be impossible to get to levels of a Sin, no matter how hard I trained. The reason for this is the ancient relics. Created during the forming of this world, in what was said to be a war between the gods and the demons. Nobody knows the details, except for the wielder of the angel relic, better known as the white blade. When someone acquires an ancient relic, the relia inside the relic transfers over to the wielder and they become one. That's all I really knew about all the ancient weapons, but since they are so scarce, nobody can rival the Icropate Dynasty. They possessed the strongest relic along with the 7 occupied by the Sins, truly an unstoppable force.

My vision flickered as I ran, I was draining myself way to fast. I stopped using my sixth sense and moved in close to Ruth, being the son of a relic user, he had more relia then normal people. We moved swiftly through the huge trees, trying to shake the enemies off our trail, but before I knew it, the beasts were right behind us. Their roars were loud and bone chilling. Rath slowed his pace, knowing we couldn't outrun them, I copied his actions and got ready to fight. I pulled one dagger out in front of my chest and the near my face. Rath also unsheathed his blade. The beasts slowly appeared in our line of sight; I could smell the bloodlust oozing out. There were about 3 of them that we could see, their build was the most terrifying part. As big as lions with no hair and only skin, they also had no eyes, but a rather large snout, they walked on four legs with a terrifying body shape. I got ready, the first one jumped at me; I took a dive to my side just barely dodging its sharp teeth, I got up fast and drove one of my blades directly into its mouth. Rath was right about them being tough, even with all my force my blade got stuck and the beast didn't back down. I quickly followed up with jump and heel to the end of my blade, this freed my dagger from its mouth and now green blood was dripping out of its face. This didn't stop it entirely though, so I grabbed my other blade and I attempted to disable it by taking out its legs while it was still in shock from the injury. I used my speed and cut each thick leg, one by one, it fell. I looked over to find my other dagger, but saw Rath finishing two of his own off by putting his sword right through the heads. I then noticed something, I could see Rath even though he was a couple metres distance from me, as if the fog got a little lighter in this current location. "Rath! The fog got lighter." I yelled over at him, he looked at me then gave a rather fascinated look. "Oh, your right, that means we are getting closer to the center" he responded. Before I could think about it any more, the humans sent more beasts at us. I picked up my other dagger and began running once more, Rath followed. Now being able to see the silhouettes of the trees, we

didn't need to strain ourselves too much. Looking up, I could at some angles see the sun setting, meaning we've been here almost a full day and we needed to find a safe resting stop. But first, we really needed to get away from these beasts and find out who these people were. In all the readings I had done, not once did it state there were people located in this forest. They all just state the same things; no one has ever returned and for some reason the King himself forbids anybody from going in, including himself and the Sins. "What could be so scary here that even the King is scared." I wondered. There are vicious beasts and blinding fog located in every part of the forest, but looking back at it, the King and the Sins should be able to easily make there way through here, so what was holding them back. The only chance me and Rath had of surviving this place was if what I read in that journal was true.

One year ago, was when it all began, I was sneaking around the Royal palace. My skills were one of a kind as I would walk through all the corridors of the palace, yet nobody would ever lay their eyes upon my body like a quiet whisper I would make my way around everywhere, almost invisible. The entire city was boring and I didn't really like anyone, so I would always end up with Rath, trying to find something enjoyable for the both of us to do. I've been best friends with him for almost 11 years, it truly was long time. Being able to hang around a prince was every lady's dream, but the problem was Rath wasn't anything like a prince. He barely talked, went everywhere with the same boring grim face, he did everything his father told him to, and most of all just never smiles or laughs. The biggest thing I hated was the fact that he wasn't always like this, he used to be cheerful and talkative, always marching ahead and was super kind always standing up for others, that was the Rath I fell for. Before his dad was given the power to conquer the land he has now, our parents were close friends. His dad and mine both served as generals and our moms cooked for us together, truly a nice life. At this time, me and Rath were

around 7 years old. We would always be together outside playing and running around, without a care in the world staring up at a blue blissful sky was always the best feeling ever. It all changed one day, when my father never came home and Rath's mother fell ill. Rath's father told us my father fought bravely to the very end and that he was now in peace along with God, soon his own wife followed. I couldn't believe it, at the time I hadn't thought about it much, but the more time went on the more I questioned that day. His father coming home with the most powerful relic on a secret mission, but without my dad and on the same day his wife was tragically taken. The day Rath's mom died he changed, he hated his dad for not saving her and I hated him the same way. Yet, we couldn't do anything, there was no where to go, but sometime last year, something came to me. It was a book that I found at the doorstep of my house, with no name and only one word on the front, "CHOOSE." I of course took it and began reading it right away confused. The first page confused me because it only had one sentence, and it seemed too good to be true; it read, "There is a way out of King Verchiel's territory (Rath's father)." I wondered if this guy even knew who the King was, just his mystical presence would show how strong he is. There was literally no way we could escape. Despite of thinking this book was now a joke, I took the chance of reading it, not because I wanted too, but it's because there was a part in me that wished it to be true. The book started off normal; it talked about ancient relics, what they were and it talked about how the sixth sense could be developed and new abilities I'd never heard called the seventh and eighth sense. The seventh sense supposedly allowed the user to go through objects for short periods of time, but the drawback was a bit more intense then the sixth sense. The eighth sense allowed for hardening of the skin by focusing all relia to one area of the body, the drawback wasn't too bad. When the sixth sense is overused, the eyes of the user are unable to see for a time dependent on the users use. This happens because when you see through your eyes,

you are dependent on the light hitting the retina which can then allow for the next processes that occur. But when the sixth sense is being used, the retina stops taking in light and starts taking in the absorbed relia energy that's found everywhere around. Since relia is everywhere, when your brain converts the signals into images, it allows for a 360-degree view of the user's caliber.

Then, it takes time for the retina to switch back to taking in light, this causes blindness for short bursts of time. Using too much relia drains the user in strength or potentially kill just like how bleeding out works. Now the drawback of this so called seventh sense was to be paralyzed for short bursts of time, really limiting its use. This was said to happen for the same reason you go blind with the sixth sense, the body needing time to switch back from using relia. The eighth sense wasn't too potent and only caused fatigue and soreness in the area of use. The book also taught me on how having a relic will boost relia energy almost 100-fold, making these senses way more accessible in battle. The start of the book was filled with vast knowledge that even I couldn't comprehend. "Who wrote this book?" This question kept creeping back up on every sentence I read. I also wondered on how just knowing this would allow for us to escape the Kings grasp, but my question was soon answered when a story was beginning to be told. I was shocked and before I knew it tears began to run down my face. The story on my father's last mission was being told. I couldn't believe it, the author of this book had to be my father. I made sure to write notes about the story and book, this way if I needed to get rid of the book before I could show Rath, I would still have the key information. This is how the story somewhat went.

The former king of the land, ruling the Hollow Kingdom. Heard about the discovery of a map from one of the residents of the city. The map had no words just one location that was slightly marked. The King couldn't hold his excitement in and wanted to go visit it. The problem was it was shown to be in enemy grounds, and so of course the King himself couldn't go. He was

bummed, but still wanted the possible riches that could be found, and so he sent his two best generals. My father and Rath's. The two infiltrated enemy lines all without an army, the King thought an all-out fight near the Tomb might damage whatever riches lay in there. Once they got in, they had started on their journey to the location that was supplied. My father had an ancient relic at the time, that was said to be the strongest at the time, gravity. On the other hand, Rath's father was specialized in an ancient swordplay that made him strong enough to go on without a relic. Yet, compared to any relic user he would be brought down in a matter of seconds. Just the two of them managed to get through the big cities found in the other Kingdoms and found the location that the map marked. The area they were in was described to be a desert of some sort. Very barren and hot. The exact location couldn't be found so my father used some of his gravity relic to just move big chunks of rock with one small tap. After a little bit of walking around and destroying, our fathers came across a small square hole made from cobblestone. When they looked down, they couldn't see a bottom. Confused, my dad made both of them as light as air, so they could slowly descend down the mysterious square. They floated for what felt like years in a pitch black like environment. At a point of falling, it was said that time felt like it stopped ticking, the hot weather turned to cold, and the darkness turned to light. Like they were entering a new dimension. After hitting this switch, they're descent continued, but soon after the ground looked as if it was nearing. Finally, they reached the bottom of this endless journey. The area they entered was beyond imagination, looking finite and infinite at the same time. Warping the human mind, it was something of vast aura, distorting everything around it. Breaking all the possible laws in the world, it made even my father, who had the gravity relic, scared. The overwhelming presence came from where the light was coming from. Which was described as being brighter than the sun, my father even with his eyes closed felt the light seeping into his

soul. For Rath's father it was different, he was attracted, consumed, his need for strength was being told this was the spot. None of the restrictions of light bind him like they did my dad. My father was overwhelmed from the power seeping in the air. Rath's father continued moving forward, he needed it, like a drug addict who was deprived of his daily dose and in need for more. As he finally reached the origin of light, he found a box that could not be seen by my father because of the bright light. The second the box was touched by Rath's fathers' dirty hands the light suddenly vanished making the room pitch black, unable to see, my father wondered what was going on. Then a voice could be heard, "In life nothing is free, you must give in order to get, do in order to achieve, study in order to learn, and practice in order to excel. Your strength and will power must be heavily trained, oh young one. For you have uncovered a blade with powers to shape the world." "Who are you?!" Rath's dad screams. "I am no one, nothing more, nothing less. Just someone sent to give guidance to humans. I know who you two are, Verchiel and Appoloin of the Hollow Kingdom. Childhood best friends, both with a wife and one child. The both of you being the two strongest generals, yet still lacking compared to your King's. Verchiel, I'm surprised your even thinking what you are, yourself and Appoloin have the ideal life. I wonder what makes you want it so bad." My father, Appoloin, interrupted the spirit-like deity, "you better not even think about doing it Verchiel, it'll come with a heavy price." Verchiel shot back quick, "I need to do it Appoloin, it'll be a small price to pay for the unification of the world." The angle deity began talking once more, "the price, it's not like the other ancient relics. The loss of a limb is too small a price for one who is unworthy of this blade. This blade, it's one I used in battle thousands of years ago, as I fought for the God against the Demons. I was to be said the strongest warrior of them all and it is also why I am looking after the Gods descendants, while residing in my former blade. The only person worthy of this right here, was a warrior from

over 500 years ago, he fought strongly against a man who picked up a blade from the demons and managed to seal him and the demon deity. Sadly, he died in the process, but he was chosen and given the relic without a cost. You on the other hand, have many differences and many things you would need to fix in order to even compete with the past man.” My father began wondering, “just how powerful was this blade that it would need a greater sacrifice?” The deity most likely read his mind because she answered right away. “Appoloin, you are indeed very strong with that gravity relic of yours, sadly when it comes to sheer strength, this blade right here is around 100 times stronger.” My father responded shocked, “there is no possible way, my relic has been claimed to be the strongest in the world.” “As of right now, yes nobody wields a relic stronger than yours, but in this world, there are about two blades stronger than yours and they are both out of your league. Anyways Appoloin, you should get out of here right now, your friend over here has some very wild thoughts flowing through him right now, and it wouldn’t be good for you to witness what goes on.” My father responded quickly to the words, “Verchiel, don’t do it brother, please don’t do it.” Great emotion was displayed by my father. “You have everything a man needs, me and you both. Let’s just go home and liv-” Verchiel cut my father off, “don’t start talking about how we have everything. You have power, I don’t. Now if I were you, I’d go off and hide somewhere because I’m about to save the world, no matter the cost.” For the first time, my father saw something different in his friend. It wasn’t him anymore, something was taking over. Sadly, it was the end of his brother. “So do you want to hear the cost Verchiel,” the angel deity spoke. “No, just give me the relic” he responded. “As you wish, master,” all of a sudden, the bright light came back, even brighter than before making my father turn away. The light was revolving around a blade and the blade was floating towards Verchiel’s hand. “Was this the end of our friendship?” My father said out loud. Verchiel began screaming, his voice

echoing through the cave, like the screech made when someone is attacked by a beast. Slowly fading out as the victim's life is drained and the surrounding air becoming silent again. Verchiel looked different now, it seemed his body was super big now and he was ripped. His right arm had bright stripes etched in his skin, like veins his eyes had changed from brown to bright yellow, and his entire presence shifted my father could know he could easily be killed by his new enemy. The silence was broken by Verchiel, "I'm sorry my old friend, you never wronged me, yet I lost in a fight against power, the problem now is you have a choice. Join forces with me and we will unite this world, making everyone equal or you can leave. Leave everything behind, never look me in my eyes again because if you do, your family will pay. I can't kill you right now, but these emotions will soon fade and I won't feel anything." My father stared at him with his own purple eyes wide open, knowing his opponent was out of his league. "You better not do anything to my family!" My father shouted. "Of course-of course, you don't need to worry a bit my dear friend. I'll organize a wonderful death for you and make sure the secret of this mission never gets out. As long as you follow the rules, everything will be just fine." In the end, my father obeyed his enemy and decided to seek refuge somewhere else. Roaming lands for days on end, and at the end of a long march he came across the Forest of Endlessness. The story just kept on going and talked about how there are different levels of beasts, which meant my father managed to survive in there. He talked about what the beasts looked like, what they specialized in and what not. The story stopped after he said "I found a new home amidst the beasts."

I couldn't believe it, the story matched with the suspicions I had perfectly. The King of this land was a corrupt man and he was the reason for the death of Rath's mother and the leaving of my father. As I finished reading the story almost all of my questions had been answered, except one. "How did my father survive being in the Endless Forest?" There were still a couple of pages that

I hadn't read yet, and I was hoping they would solve my final question. I still couldn't believe my father was alive and the fact all this happened, this day was like a miracle, the type of miracle you would read in books and ones you would think are impossible. On the days you felt hopeless and on the days you felt powerful, there was this sensation that was there no matter how you were feeling. It was not biased towards any emotion, it sat waiting...and waiting...and waiting. No matter how much time passed, it stayed, like an eternal enemy that was tied to your back. Always making you turn around, to make sure it didn't launch another attack towards you. Sometimes it empowered you, sometimes it shut you down, but in the end, it was still a threat. Not many things could kill this enemy, but on the day, I finished reading my father's book. I felt the enemy on my back slowly vanquish and I felt I new friend crawl on my back, which gave me the sensation of opportunity. I felt reimbursed, being given a new life. This feeling made me remember how my father used to describe life, and he had been exactly right. "The hardest times in life are when God pulls the arrow back, he does this to propel you forward, not to drag you down. You can't shoot an arrow forward without any stress or tension on the bow itself. The bow being life and the arrow being you. No matter how hard something gets, just remember it will be followed up by something good. Fight through the difficult times and continue striving, one day you'll wake up to a new you." I was just so happy, it was crazy. I finished reading the end of the book and that's when I learned it, the center of forest had no fog nor beasts. Meaning, it was our only chance of survival. My father hadn't written much about the forest in his book, and it felt like something was being kept hidden for sure. This didn't bother me too much, mostly because I knew my father was alive, but I knew I needed to escape to the forest. I spent the next year training and learning the sixth sense, I tried to learn the seventh and eighth, but they were very difficult and my body couldn't handle them. The most I can use the two is once. Rath on the

other hand was being trained by the Sins, which is why his usage of the senses was way more practical than mine. I didn't tell him about the book or the plan of leaving at the time. His emotions felt non-existent at that point in time. After the year ended, it was time to leave, so I informed Rath about it and somehow, I got an emotion out of him. He was slowly returning to his former self once more. Then, we left.

Chapter 5

Erathaol

I pushed my legs, over and over, the beast still on our trail. I looked to my right, seeing Asia pushing herself just as much as I was. We needed to survive. I continued slashing a few beasts every once in awhile, but news ones just continued to show up. Just who were these people. I used my sixth sense; they wore strange clothes and ran extremely fast. Even though we had a head start, they were closing the distance rapidly, being just about 15 metres out. I noticed something weird about them as well, they had some type of weird vision blocker strapped around they're eyes. "How could humans tame such beasts and survive in this vast forest?" That was the second biggest question I had. The sun had just set and it had taken its gift of light back making it pitch black in this forest, "not good," I said aloud to Asia. At this point we could barely see anything and using the sixth sense was hurting way more. We needed to rest, but how could we get away from our unwanted enemies. The beasts launched an attack at me, I fumbled my steps but managed to cut its front foot off, making it unable to follow. The second one had taken Asia's dagger to the face. I felt our running slow down, but I noticed pursuers suddenly stop. "Was this our lucky day?" I wondered. The humans of this forest grabbed the beasts and changed their direction, slowly making they're way back somewhere else. To make sure they didn't come back, me and Asia just ran and ran and ran, until we physically couldn't anymore. We couldn't

really tell where we stopped and the moons light really didn't help in comparison to the amount of fog there was. I could barely walk now and my I felt myself drained of energy not being able to use the sixth sense. I tried to find Asia in the foggy dark, it was quite difficult because I didn't want to risk calling her name, in case there were beasts around. I finally found her slumped against a tree fast asleep, seemingly passed out. I wished to do the same, but to be honest I didn't want to not wake up. I pulled the tent out of my bag and set it up. Then, I grabbed some wire and wrapped it all around the trees surrounding us in a circle. Making it a wall type contraption, I then hung whatever we had: two water bottles, some spoons, and some containers. This way, if something hit the wall, the items would fall onto the ground creating a noise alerting us to get up. I tried to do something like this on above us too. It wasn't the best idea, but with the fact that I was one more yawn away from collapsing, it was pretty good. I now just needed to move Asia into the tent, which was going to be a big pain. I found her and picked her up, she was way lighter than I expected, I looked at her sleeping face and I instantly felt my face become red. Finally, once I put her down, I found myself unconscious by her side.

I woke to the chirp of birds in the area, acting as a natural alarm clock. Not matter how much I wanted to continue to sleep, they would keep talking and talking and talking, until I finally had to get myself up. I turned to my side and found myself alone in the tent, at first this sent a shock of panic in me, but before I could flip out, I heard her call my name from outside. "Rath!" She shouted, "come eat breakfast with me." I walked out slowly and found Asia all readied up, she seemed very clean, like she just took a shower and she wore different clothes that were stainless. "Up early I see." "Of course, after all the effort you put in, I had to at least make breakfast." Asia responded. "Well, I appreciate that and by the way, how do are you so clean?"

