POMMY WOOD
Flavidia Tower
A Pond
Puff-Pom Village
Mount Eglatton
The forest of Green
Lake Puff-Pom
The Dark Castle
Puff-Pom Ocean
The Dock of Famon
LUNARIA
The Dark Smoke

PROLOGUE

Dear Lyra,

Today was a rough one. The sketchbook I found opened me up to a new world. Literally. This might be the last time you hear from me. These pom-poms are strange. They keep yelling and screaming when they see me. Don't tell anything to Andromeda, ~~Celeste~~, or Luna. Leave it secret. The only way I can think to protect myself is to change my name. I'm leaving and never coming back.

Sincerely,
Thorne

CHAPTER 1: Luna Darnell

“Pull out your notebooks.” My teacher said, I was sitting in class, half dreaming (as usual) and half paying attention. My best friend Liam sat next to me. As I pull out my notebook, I glance over at him. He is so chill! I can’t imagine being chill, without anxiety. I opened my notebook. I flip to the next clean page and

start to draw. I LOVE drawing. It's the only thing that makes me… well… me! Other than music, I mean. I draw to take notes. I draw to express myself. I draw to just draw. That is my life. My second home is the art room.

After class I went to my locker. Oh no, I almost forgot to tell you…

"MOON?"

Uh oh here it goes. I stood still, half in my locker, trying to ignore Mackenzie White.

"Were you writing in that pesky little diary you've had since kindergarten?" My anger bubbled up inside me. "OMG, what if she wrote about her dad who loves her so much" I tried to use my techniques. 1…2…3…4 "Oh wait, she doesn't have one!" I EXPLODED!

"SHUT UP MACKENZIE!" I shouted. She always finds a way to anger me where it hurts most. And then there's the timing.

"LUNA DARNELL! COME TO MY OFFICE IMMEDIATELY!" Not again. This always happens. Mackenzie always annoys me till I blow my top, and somehow the teachers always appear when I'm the one exploding. The principal starts ranting on about how he's so disappointed in me.

"Miss Darnell, are you paying attention?" The principal said, his voice seeming to echo in my head.

I look up. “Anyway, I'm giving you detention for yelling at another student and using disrespectful language.” I nodded and headed out of the room.

.....

After detention, I met Liam behind the school.

“Are you okay?” Liam asked, sensing my anger

“Cold, cold Mackenzie. She seriously can’t get enough” I complain, “Why can’t she just leave me alone!?”

“I know she makes you mad, but you can’t let her get under your skin.” Liam says. He always has the right idea about things. This is why we are friends. We balance each other out.

“What artwork are you working on right now?” I ask, changing the subject. I could tell he noticed.

“I’m working on a dragon that has sections of its body as different elements.” Liam says. “What about you?”

“I’m trying to figure out what to draw.” I admit. “ I don’t have any ideas. Oh shoot! I have to go now. See ya!”

CHAPTER 2: Art, Bullies, and Bad Luck

I'm in the art room again. In fact, I go to the art room so often there's a reserved spot for me. For all my paintings, collages, sculptures, and digital art. Clay, paper, paint, and limitless opportunities for all kinds of art.

As you can see, I get poetic when it comes to art.

Now, as I think of things to draw, something comes to mind.

This ‘something’ is… complicated.

I want to draw… anxiety?

No, not from Inside Out, she doesn’t really resemble anxiety. I think anxiety wouldn’t be… alive.

I look up references on Google. Then, it hits me.

The Scream by Edvard Munch is exactly what anxiety is like! Only, I wanted to do a more overthinking type anxiety, like I have. Edvard Munch had intense anxiety, isolation, and dread in one moment. Now I think overthinking would be-

“Hey Moooooooon!” Mackenzie hollered. “Watcha doingggg???”

“None of your business!” I shout-replied back.

“Oh really? None of *our* business? Or just *me* and *you*?” Roxanne Johansson (Mackenzie's partner-in-crime) slithered back. “Oh Mackenzie, let’s name things that Luna is!"

“Wimp!”

“Nerd!”

“Weirdo!”

“You’ll *never* be good at art!”

“Why do you care?” I snap back. “If it’s not your work, it’s none of your business!”

“Oh, I see you’re a little… *Shy*? Come on, show us! We’ll be kind!” Roxanne persuaded me while she

followed behind as I went out in the hallway. I didn't like her. She said everything out of her mouth sarcastically, in a way that made it feel like snakes were crawling up my skin. I also didn't like how she twirled my purple-tipped hair, she made me feel uncomfortable, but I will *not* let it show. Not in front of the person I despised.

"No. I hate you. Seriously, If I see you again, I will literally throw up in your face! Twice!" I shouted, loud enough for maybe the whole hallway to hear.

"Oh, Luna, Luna Luna Luna. You're being too hard on yourself. Come onnnn!" Roxanne complained as her platinum blonde hair swooshed over her shoulder and the cheetah print bag hit me in the chest. "Let me borrow this!" She snatched my notebook but before I noticed, I then replied, "Then let's see what's in your bag, huh? Oh wait, I already know! L-"

"I GOTTA GO BYE!" Roxanne and Mackenzie hurried off in a blonde blur. I thought back to what I said. Did I overdo it? Did I make everyone hate me and did I do something wrong and did I make everyone stare at me and-

"LUNA! TO MY OFFICE! NOW!" The principal shouted. I want to scream. I'm

overwhelmed. People are staring at me and looking at me weird and I don't like the girl I drew earlier and what if people hate me what if-

"LUNA!" He yelled again.

I reply, "I'm coming, sir." I sigh and walk into his office, unaware of the gossip and comments behind me.

.....

"Luna? Did you have another detention?" My mom called from the kitchen. By the smell of it, we are eating mac 'n cheese for dinner.

I reply, "Sure did." I sigh and put my backpack down. The phone rings, but I'm already planning what to draw in my room so I don't notice.

"How was your day?" My mom asked.

"It was... predictable." I answered.

"Tell me about work! Did you have any patients?"

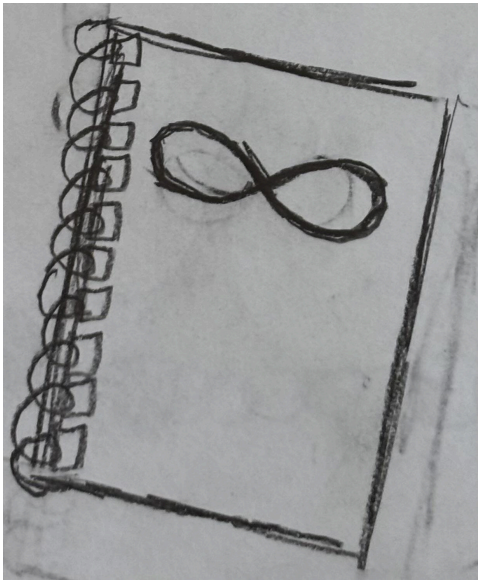
"Mo-" I stop. I realize she picked up the phone to talk to one of her friends. "Oh, hey Grandma!"

"Hiya sweetie! Got any new drawings for me today?"

"Nope. Roxanne stole my notebook and ran off with it before I could get it back."

"Well that's convenient! I got a new sketchbook for you!"

CHAPTER 3: The Sketchbook



“What?” I ask.

“Yeah, it’s cool isn’t it?” My grandma said holding the sketchbook she was talking about that had an infinity sign on the cover. With a lot of questions in my head I took the book. I thought it looked weird. But it wasn’t that bad.

“Cool,” I observed the book. “Thank you grandma!” I exclaimed. I headed to my room and drew a doodle. “ Add the ears and the body…” I liked it, a little bunny plush. I laid down on my bed, I saw the little mural on the roof. I liked it, it was hard to make ,and I was bored and I wanted a family for the bunny so I reached in my sketchbook and my hand felt the plushie I had drawn.

I gasped under my breath. It was real. It was not a dream! I drew a carrot and it came out easy. I think everything I made could become real. But do I explain it to my family and friends? I didn’t, wouldn’t, couldn’t tell people. How do I? I didn’t know what to do. I dropped the book and needed to use the restroom.

I started running but I fell.

It felt like forever. I then landed. It hurt really bad so I started crying.

“Hello?” I hear. I look up. It is a strange… thing.

“Where did you come from?” It said,

“E-Earth.”

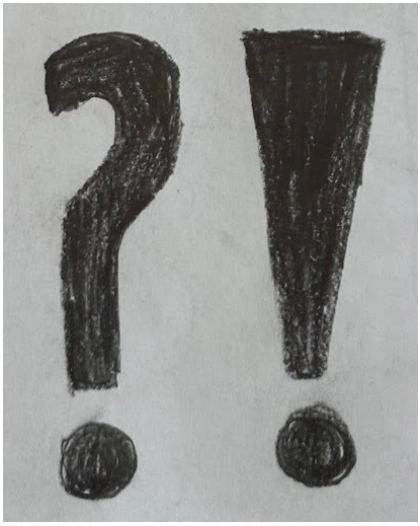
“Earth? Never heard of the place.” I grabbed the sketchbook to find how I got here.

"Wait, the Sacred SKETCHBOOK! How did you get that?” It said,

“What is the Sacred Sketchbook? This old thing, all I think is it’s a Cursed Sketchbook.” I said.

“How dare you insult the Sacred Sketchbook!” Other things came running. “Wait, you have the Sketchbook? Can you defeat The Blackwood?” I didn’t know what was happening. 1…2…3…4 I repeated. I was anxious. This was not good.

CHAPTER 4: Questions and Answers



I heard whispers in the crowd that had formed around me.

"Who is she?"

"She doesn't know who The Blackwood is?!"

"What's going on?"

"Can I see?"

"Is it really the one we've been waiting for?"

I stand as still as I can. I'm completely surrounded by cute little fluffy things of all colors, shapes, and sizes. Then the first one I met, a little yellow one, started saying things ("STOP IT, CAN'T YOU TELL SHE'S OVERWELMED") to the group. Then it turned to me and spoke softly. "Run!" It said, I could not think of anything else to do so I followed the yellow thing across the fields of this strange new land.

We ran quickly, leaving the fluffy crowd behind us. We start to approach a castle and it does not have a door. The yellow thing isn't slowing down! I try to stop but I can't control my feet anymore.

"WAIT!" I shout "THAT'S A WALL!!!!!"

"I know." it answers calmly. "Just run." I scream. He runs through the wall! And then I'm face-to-face with the brick wall. My feet leave the ground. Then it feels like I'm falling, which has been happening too much to me lately. Then I hit the ground.

"You made it!" the yellow pompom said.

"Wait, I could have not!?" I ask shakily

"Of course! You're a human!" It responds.

"Alright, I want answers." I say.

"To what?" it answers.

"First off, what's your name and gender?" I ask

"Oh my frazzles, I forgot to tell you! My name is Flavian."

“And gender?” I persuade

“What’s a gender?” Flavian asks

“Like a boy or a girl?” I say

“I’m a boy” Flavian responds flatly “And you?”

“My name is Luna Darnell, and I’m a girl” I answer

“Let me explain to you all the things you need to know.” Flavian says “You came here by a warp portal through your sketchbook.” seeing my confusion he quickly added “If you are still confused when I finish you can ask questions. Anyway, you have the sacred sketchbook that The Blackwood duplicated, and that means that you can save us.”

“Uhh…what if I can’t” I asked. Flavian looked at me like I had said that pigs could fly.

“Of course you can!” He said “Now, you need to get back to your planet before someone notices you’re gone.” I looked at him.

“How?”

“Draw your front door, or bedroom door, in your sketchbook!” He said “But be careful, sometimes you get knocked out while going to different worlds. You were lucky the first time.” I started to draw.

“Can I draw my bed for a better landing?” I asked

“Sure.” He said, going to a different side of the room. I carefully drew my bed, making sure to add

every little detail. Once I had finished I sighed. Why was all of this happening to me?

"I have something to say" I say. Flavian looks up. "There is no way I'm having a face-off with 'The Blackwood'" I said "I don't even want to be here!" I exclaim "There is no way."

"Listen," Flavian says "I understand that you don't want to, but The Blackwood is trying to destroy our planet. We can't escape. We would all die if you did not save us." I gasped "Now," Flavian continued "You need to get going. Please come back." I put the sketchbook down on the floor, open to the page with the bed. I took a deep breath, and jumped. I fell,

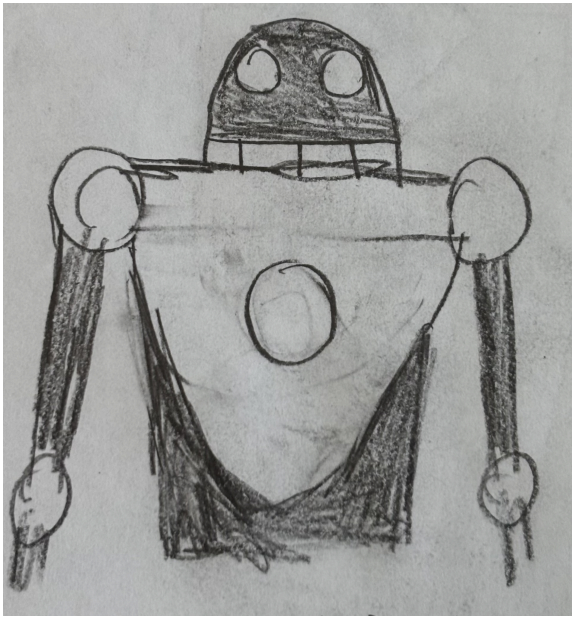
Down

Down,

Down.

I opened my eyes. I saw my bed. Everything spun. My head hit the bedpost. Hard. Then everything went black.

CHAPTER 5: Robots



...What was that?

All I did was take a stupid sketchbook that my grandma got me and ended up getting bombarded by rainbow pom-pom balls! Now my 'destiny' is to defeat 'The Blackwood' so I can save the little 3D monstrosities!

What. Is. Wrong. With. This. Sketchbook?!

I sigh and imagine what I remember seeing. I remember the tiny yellow thing.

Wait.

How did I get there?

I rewind. I remember tripping. And falling. I remember dropping the book. Then, it hits me.

I fell through the sketchbook.

I fell through the sketchbook??!!

"Luna!" My mom calls from the kitchen. "Dinner!"

"I'm coming mom!" I reply.

I race down the stairs when I forgot that I put the sketchbook on the floor earlier.

I fall

fall

fall

down

down

down.

I land in what seems to be the abandoned tower. The roof is partially gone, and I'm super cold. I breathe unsteadily as I try to get up, but my feet struggle to stand.

"Hello!" a voice calls out from my left.

"W-W-Wh-Who ar-are -y-you?" I manage to say.

“Luna! It’s me, Flavian!” Flavian calls out. “Here, I have a blanket and a cup of hot chocolate. I’ll light up the fireplace too.”

“T-Thanks F-Fl-Flavian.” I respond. He’s nice, I guess. Polite too. A little weird but then again, he’s from a different planet.

‘**BANG**’ I hear a sound.

“Uh-oh! The robots are here!” Flavian says. “Come on, we gotta hide!”

“Robots?” I ask.

“Yeah, robots! They’re basically the predators of this planet, and we’re the prey! Come on, draw a water gun to shoot at them! We should be able to shoot them here!” Flavian whisper-shouts as he leads us to a cabinet. “Get on top!”

I climb on top of the cabinet, and as soon as I get on top I start drawing a water gun with infinite ammo. As I grab the gun and start to aim at the door, the robots barge in.

I hold the trigger as I knock down all the robots with the water. Some robots saw us so I had to jump out of my spot and shoot them face to face. I use my extreme flexibility and gymnastics skill to dodge attacks, defend Flavian, and show off. I somersault under legs, aerial over glitching robot bodies, while shooting at them at the same time.

Finally, after 3 minutes all the robots were deactivated, and I could finally breathe.

“Good job Luna! You’re amazing!” Flavian celebrated. “Yay- Oh, Luna, you’re bleeding. Badly!”

I look down at my shoulder. I am bleeding!

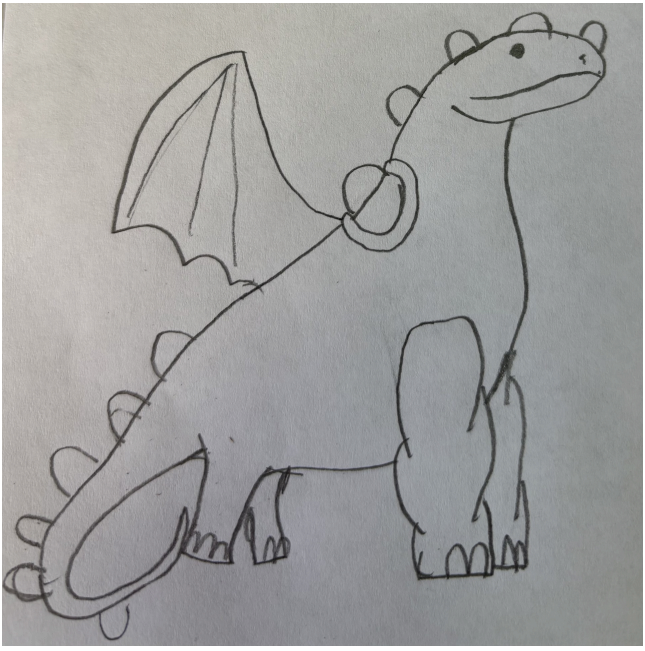
“Here, I’m going to go to the castle and work on a healing potion with my sister, you stay here and get some rest. Now, before you’re like, ‘I can use my sketchbook to draw a healing potion!’ No, you can’t because your wound is too intense.” Flavian says. “A bed is over there for you to use. Bandages should be in the first drawer in the nightstand. Feel free to use them.”

“Thank you.” I reply.

“You’re welcome! Anyway, I should go. Sweet dreams!” Flavian calls as he leaves the tower.

I put on the bandages and immediately go to sleep.

CHAPTER 6: Buddy



I woke up in my new bed, then looked at the dark castle in the distance, which Flavian told me was where The Blackwood lived. Green light kept flying out of it. I can't imagine what they are making over

there. I need to use my sketchbook to a minimum like Flavian told me. I start running and use the sketchbook the smallest way I can to make me go faster. I continue to draw a little dinosaur thing with buff arms and wings. I then proceed to grab it and fly towards the castle.

"Luna!" I hear someone yell. "LUNA!" I hear but louder. I see Flavian running toward me. "Luna theres..." He gets cut off as we go past a mountain, "... HORDE!" I turn around as Flavian screams. A giant group of robots is running toward me and Flavian.

This is my second time seeing these robots.

I quickly grab the small water gun that has infinite water (which basically to robots is a real gun) and Flavian gets ready with his sharp tail. Then we bounce into battle.

"Flavian, go left I'll go right." I say.

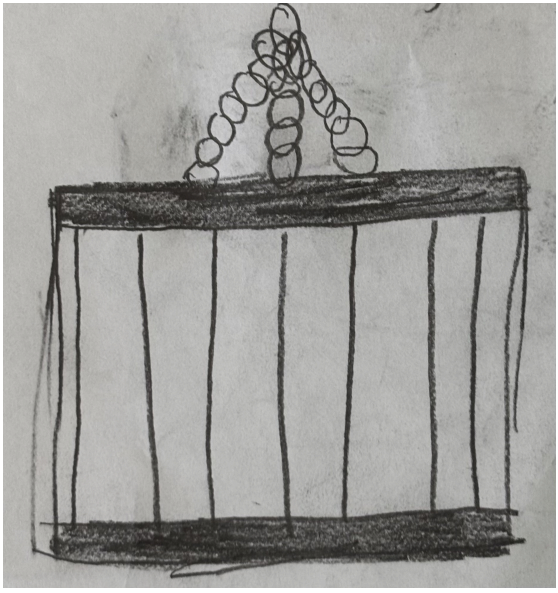
"Okay," Flavian takes my dinosaur and puts it in his bag. I turn right and the robots approach me. They aren't simple blocky robots. They have a circle body and stretchy spring legs. I proceed to shoot my water gun at the robots.

One falling after another. I jump on top of them and stomp on their heads and they fall down. I shoot the last robot on me and I run over to Flavian. There are 3 robots, I shoot them all then I see Flavian with a cut in his leg.

"What happened!?" I ask.

“One got me,” He replies. He hands me my dinosaur. I pick him up and find a cave. I draw two beds and a bandage, then we fall asleep.

CHAPTER 7: Prisoner



I wake up and stretch. Then I fall off of my bed onto the ground. The ground? Where am I? Oh, I remember. I'm in the middle of this planet in a random cave! I look over and see Flavian and my dinosaur, sound asleep on the bed next to me. I decide to go outside.

Something does not feel right. I look around.

The sun is not very bright. Then I look up. I gasp. Towering above me is the largest, most scary-looking castle ever!

It's The Blackwood's castle.

It is much more intimidating in person. It has two tall towers that are painted a dark purple and the rest is black as night. I look back into the cave and everything is the sa-

Wait. This isn't right. Where's Flavian? Uh oh.

.....

I look around wildly and hear shouts. Flavian is being carried away by grey angry robots just like the ones I have battled before. He was shouting at me, but I could not make out what he was saying.

"Flavian!!!!!!!" I yelled. He seemed to hear me and reply, but I could not hear what he said. I looked over at the cave. My dino was gone. I expect that he went back into my sketchbook to be used another time. I checked. He was there. As I pulled him out, I tried to make a plan.

Then it hit me.

The sketchbook!

I think that's it! I can use a drawing from my sketchbook to destroy any robots!

I quickly draw a robot manual. I read: Things that hurt them; water, tasers, and being disengaged. I

then drew a taser and grabbed the water gun I used earlier. I also drew a comfortable harness for my dino and put it on him mid-flight.

As we approach the 1st tower of the castle, I start to get anxious. But I try to shoo those thoughts away, because all they will do is pile me down. I realize that…

1. I need to put on my headphones, and 2. I need to get ready for a battle. I recharge my mindset. I go back through my gymnastics skills in my head. We flew up to a window on the 1st tower. I climbed off of my dino (which I decided to name Buddy) and into the open window.

The tower was dark and cold. Very cold. I shivered. I saw some robots coming down the hall. I went flat against the wall in a shadow and they moved past without noticing me. I continued to tiptoe down the stone hall. I glanced in every cage as I passed them, seeing different types of puffballs, but no Flavian.

As I came to another cage, I glanced inside and heard a shifting behind me. I whirled around. Behind me were robots, again like the ones I've seen.

I jumped into action. I front-handspringed towards one of the robots, knocking its head off with my feet. I turned and blasted two of the robots with my water gun. There were two left. I turned to face them. I front flipped towards one, blasting it with my

water gun, and then bouncing off it to knock out the other one. I landed my jumps perfectly, just like my gymnastics teacher demonstrated.

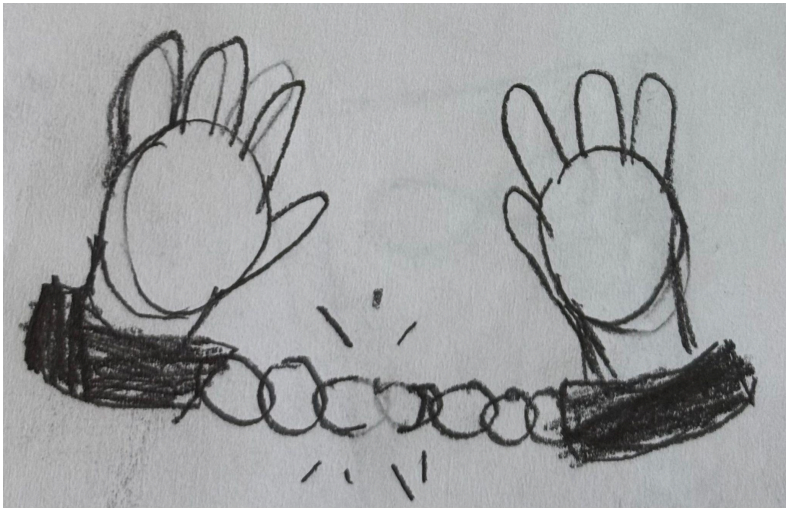
"Good job Luna!" I hear. I turn around to see Flavian behind me in one of the cages!

"Flavian! I exclaimed! "It's you!"

"Shh!" Flavian responded "We need to be quiet. I'm so glad you made it!"

"Now I have to find a way to get you out." I say.

CHAPTER 8: Freeing Flavian



I wriggle the lock for a minute. Flavian is still stuck in there! Broken robots are right behind me, and any second now, more could come. I draw a key in my sketchbook, hopefully fitting the lock.

I try to unlock the cage. It works!

“Oh my frazzles, this castle is c-cold! Thanks for letting me out, Luna! C’mon we gotta go!”

He's right, it seems. Alarms blare throughout the castle, and more robots are heading toward us faster than cheetahs!

Me and Flavian react fast, ready to take down these monstrous robots.

But, I swear, I saw a dark robot right in front of me.

Before I reacted, it disappeared again.

The fight flew by. I dodged attacks, beheaded robots, and thought about what *just* happened in front of me. That black robot seemed… evil. I know the robots are *already* evil but… this one seemed dangerous. Like I could *die* if it touched me. It looked like a… human.

But I thought humans weren't on this planet.

"Luna, The Blackwood's here! C'mon we have to go!"

Oh no.

Flavian and I jump on Buddy and we head out. Some robots chase us but Flavian quickly shoots them down.

"Flavian! How many are left?" I shout.

"About 10." he replies.

"Well hurry, we're almost there!"

"I will!"

After a little bit of flying and shooting, we make it to the tower. Flavian shot all the robots down, so we're safe.

“To Luna, to saving, to buy a fat pig, home again, home again, jiggety-jig!” Flavian yammers as we walk in.

“What?” I reply “What are you saying?”

“It’s a nursery rhyme for the kids here. Obviously I changed it.”

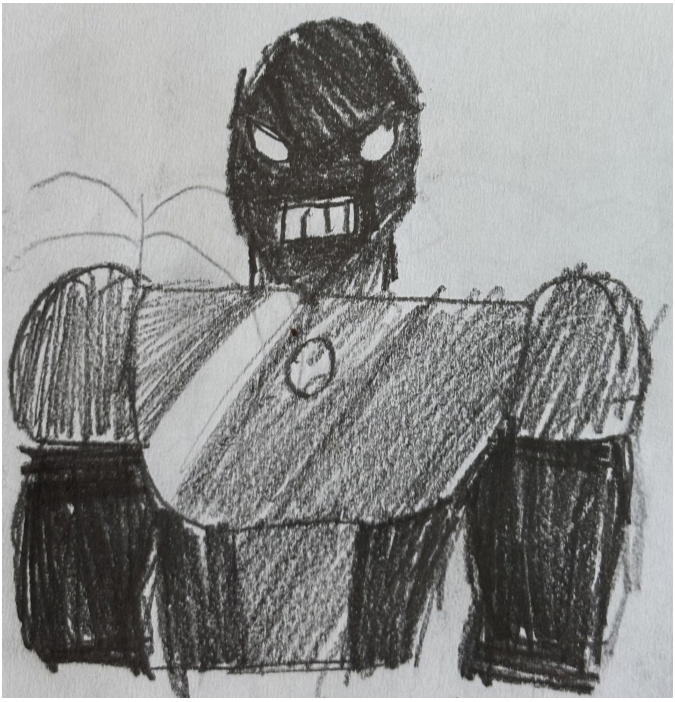
“Please don’t say it again. It’s annoying.”

“Nope! Goodnight!”

Flavian quickly falls asleep.

I close my eyes, then I do too.

CHAPTER 9: The New Robots



Last night was hard, a fight with MORE robots. I wake and start to draw a portal back to the castle. As I walk through I hear "**BOOM**!"

I look straight ahead. I see a pure black robot land in front of me.

"Flavian," I say loudly. "FLAVIAN!" I yell.

"What?" He says tiredly.

"Robot!" I say. He immediately wakes up

"What!?" He yells. I run toward the robot, then I fire the water gun.

It does nothing. The black robot lunges at me. Flavian lunges in front of me with his tail out. All it did was knock back the robot a little bit. I've seen this before in the crowd of robots. I grab the taser out of my sketchbook and stab it.

It fell down quickly like a leaf.

Well, like a leaf that just got hit with water. As it falls down we start slowly walking to the door leading to the staircase to the second tower. As we were climbing up, all the curtains fell down and a slight creepy walking sound was initiated.

The problem was it wasn't us. They were out of sync with ours.

Then we saw three of these black robots, one with gold armor. They start the attack. I think they thought they would do something, but they were defeated quickly by our taser. Everybody except for the one in gold armor,

"It's immune to the taser." I whisper like the robot would take it offensively.

"Really, Myrlock?" He says.

“What?” I replied, confused.

“It's like Myrlock Pomes. Ya know?” I ignored him, and almost had a heart attack. I look and see Buddy biting the Elite robot. The Elite swiftly swipes away the ‘pest’ attacking it.

Buddy falls

down,

down,

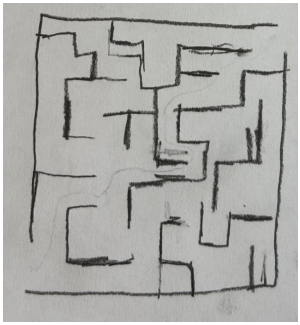
down, the hundreds of flights of stairs we climbed up.

I…

I jump for him. Flavian runs with the sketchbook in hand and draws a trampoline, as we jump off the trampoline we grab the Elite and throw it down. As it falls it brings Buddy with it. As I scream the Elite and Buddy hit the ground as the Elite shatters Buddy disappears into the sketchbook. I try to pull him out, and he does come. I walk up the stairs giving Buddy as much love as possible. I look up and see a big wooden door with a sign that has an M on it.

I wonder what that means.

CHAPTER 10: The Maze



I enter the big wooden door.

This hall is not much different than the one Flavian was captured in, though this one seems different. Longer. Almost endless. There are also hooks high-up along the walls. But Flavian seems perfectly fine as he tosses Buddy some meat, so I try to shrug it off. The walls are made of stone and it is dry and damp at the same time.

As we continue walking I turn to Flavian. “Do you know where we're going?” I ask

“No, this way just feels right.” He answers. I groaned silently. I can’t believe it! His trusting his gut

could get us killed! Suddenly, we came upon a wall. I looked around. We had come to a fork in the way. I was horrified to see Flavian and Buddy trotting happily down the left way.

"Wait!" I shouted.

"What?" He says

"Why are you going that way?" I ask angrily.

"Because of the sign." He stands and waits for me to follow. I look down. A small sign, obviously made for puffballs to read said: <-*Go this way.* Good Grief.

"Seriously Flavian?!"

"Yep." Flavian says as he walks towards me. "It has the puffball signature like a puffball planted it for us."

"Oh." I say "Fine. Let's go that way."

We started off again. We walked a long way and I started to get more unsure. I tried to squish it down but I could not shake the feeling that we weren't alone.

.....

We started to approach what seemed to be another dead end when I froze. I saw a pair of slitted red eyes penetrating through the darkness of the tower. Uh Oh. Those eyes looked strangely familiar. The dark black robots! I had researched them and

learned that they were called the Elite. As I look around to see where Flavian and Buddy went,I also notice the Elite robot isn't alone. The other kind of robot, Grunts, are surrounding me.

I see Buddy and Flavian outside the circle, bound to the ground by electric-looking wire straps. I noticed that they looked the same as the ones attached to one of the Grunt's hips. These robots are smart! But not as smart as me.

I quickly came up with a plan. I stood as still as possible. The Elite robot stepped closer. I secretly drew a small backpack with my water gun and taser inside. I locked eyes with it, and slowly started walking one way. The Elite robot stayed in front of me.

I took a deep breath, and then I yanked the backpack out, throwing it on my back. I quickly dodged a blow from the Elite robot, swerving right. I jumped and drew a fast trampoline in mid-air, pulling it out and throwing it under me.

I bounced upward, hitting robots left and right. I landed and paused for a second, just long enough to take a breath and draw a strong rope with a loop at one end. I look up to the hooks along the wall. They look sturdy enough.

I throw the rope and the loop catches on the hook. First try! I swing on the rope towards the three approaching robots. I kick them and they fall flat. I

then turn to the Elite robot and realize it's the only one left. I keep a firm hand on the rope and slowly pull the taser out of my backpack. Its eyes glow brighter for a second, like it's surprised, as it notices the taser.

Then everything goes dark. I look around. The Elite robot's eyes are nowhere to be seen. Suddenly I feel a sharp pain in the arm holding the taser. My arm went limp and the taser fell out of my hand, disappearing into the sketchbook. My arm was okay, just a little injured.

I went behind a wall to escape for a second. I drew a wrap and wrapped it around my arm, cautiously so as not to make it hurt more.

Then I went back around the wall and saw the recognizable slitted eyes. I looked for the rope, but it was nowhere to be seen. I checked my sketchbook for it and then pulled it out. I threw it to another hook. The Elite robot looked up at it, and then locked eyes with me. I jumped and swung. I knocked its arm off, then swung again. This time its head fell off. It powered down and fell over.

.....

I unclasped the now unlocked straps that were binding Buddy and Flavian to the ground.

“You did great. Thanks for helping me out.” Flavian said with a grin. For someone so small and fluffy, I’m surprised they were even able to hold him down. As we (yet again) continued to walk through the halls, I started to think.

What was I getting myself into?

Why did I accept this challenge?

I shook off those thoughts. Now was not the time to be doubting myself. I need to chill. And maybe think. I go back through all the memories of my time on this planet. Then I stop.

“That’s it!” I burst.

“What?” answers Flavian

“The M on the sign! I know what it stands for!” Flavian looks back, now interested.

“It means-” I’m cut off by a rumble that shook the ground. “Uh oh” I look ahead to see a super creepy tall monster. It snarls loudly when it sees us, its long teeth dripping with drool. It roars so loud the planet practically shakes.

“Not a t–n-d–r” Flavian mumbles.

“Not a what?” I call

“A Thunder!” Flavian shouts back. We both go flying into the air as it stomps. I spring into action. I loop the rope onto a hook and swing Flavian and me to safety. The Thunder glares all around. I don’t want to fight again. If only…

Wait, that's it! I’ll make a jet-pack.

I pull out my sketchbook and draw a jet pack. I strap it on. Then I realized something. I quickly drew a side-seat for Flavian and attached it for him. He hops in and we dodge the slow blasts from the Thunder. "We made it!" I exclaim. Flavian high-fives me. Then we start off again for what I thought would be the last time. Boy was I wrong.

.....

We entered a dark room with a closed door on the opposite wall. I walked forward to investigate the door, but Flavian grabbed my hood.

"Luna look!" he said. I automatically looked down. The floor was a series of different colored stones.

"Why? It's not like it's going to hurt me," I said. Flavian grabbed a loose stone from the wall and threw it onto the stone I was about to step on. The red stone broke away and fell into a (seemingly endless) black void.

"Yikes! I wish we had more light." I said. Then the room lit up. I turned to the source. Flavian was glowing a bright yellow.

"Why did you not tell me you could do that?" I asked, hoping I didn't sound too accusing.

"I didn't know!" Flavian responded, staring down at his radiant fluffy tummy. I turned back to the room, and was suddenly grateful for Flavian's random

luminosity. The walls were also covered in vibrant stones.

Suddenly, there was a loud rumble and a huge slam. I whipped around. The large entryway we came through was now blocked by a wide door. Me and Flavian groaned in unison. We were stuck.

“Well we weren't planning on going back were we?” Flavian asked.

“I guess not, but still,” I said. The colors on the walls were interesting: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, white, and black.

“Luna, how about we brainstorm how to get to the other side.” Flavian says. I raise my eyebrows. “Other than dying of course.” He adds. We both sat down on the platform. I started to think. Oh wait! I never told Flavian what the sign meant.

“Flavian the sign…” He looks up.

“ I think it means maze.” I say.

“Ohh,” he answers. “That makes sense.” We got back to thinking.

“Maybe it’s rainbow order?” I asked.

“Nah,” answered Flavian “There’s black and white too, remember?” I nodded. Then his face lit up. “Did you notice that the pattern on the wall is different than the one on the floor?”

I immediately understood.

I looked at the pattern on the wall, and then took the first step.

It worked!

I continued looking at the pattern on the wall (Green, yellow, blue, red, black, orange, white, and purple) and taking the same steps on the ground.

Look, step.

Look, step.

We made it to the other side and I realized I was hungry. I drew a bag of pretzels. I also asked Flavian what his favorite snack was. He said this:

“You might not know what these are, but my favorite snack is PufferNoms.” I automatically giggled at the name. “They are little puffy colored balls that taste like flavored cotton candy.” How cute and fun! He described them to me and I drew every last detail.Then I opened my bag of pretzels and took a bite. We exchanged snacks. PufferNoms are my new favorite snack! I can’t believe they don't have them on Earth!

Anyways, once we were done with our snack we opened the door and entered another room that was almost the same as the last one, minus the colors. We walked forward into the room.

Suddenly the room got smaller.

I shrieked.

It stopped.

The room had turned into a small room. Then a few chutes came out of the wall. The door we had come from was gone. The only other entrance was

small enough to fit a mouse, and there was a locked tiny door over it. I groaned as the chutes started to dribble out water.

The Sketchbook! Flavian read my expression.

“The Sketchbook is waterproof,” He said. The water was now brushing my ankles. It was almost to Flavian’s belly.

“Get on my back.” I ordered Flavian. He climbed on. The water was now to my knees.

“What do I do?” I asked

“Once it gets to your neck, take the biggest breath you can. That’s all I've got.” Flavian says. The water is now at my waist. I pull out the sketchbook. I start to draw. I draw a water-breathing potion.

The water is now up to my stomach.

I drew another one, pulled it out, and handed it to Flavian.

The water was at my chest.

I waited.

The water slowly filled up. It got to my neck. I tried to uncap the cork on the potion.

It was stuck! I started to panic.

I was going to drown! I got pulled under and gulped water. I propelled myself up, gasping for air. Flavian couldn't get his bottle open either! I wish we could get these open!

Suddenly, the corks went flying across the room. Thank goodness! I gulped down the swirly blue

potion. Flavian did the same. The water was now to the ceiling, and our heads got pushed under by the ceiling. At first I panicked, trying to breathe, but I slowly got used to breathing in and out water.

It was weird. Me and Flavian exchanged glances, and then slowly started swimming towards the door. When we got to the door, I noticed a loose stone near it. I pulled on the stone. It broke free. I looked inside the hole. There was a small key, which I used to open the small door.

Flavian looked like he was trying to tell me something, but I couldn't hear him because of the water. I wish I could.

Suddenly I could hear him! He was asking me how we were going to fit in the door.

“ould draw another potion.” he finished. I gave him a thumbs up, not bothering to try to talk. I pulled out the sketchbook, flipping towards another clean page. I noticed that Buddy had returned to it. I took out my pencil and drew a quick shrinking potion. As I pulled the bottles out, I got a headache.

The water pressure was hurting my head! I winced as I opened the potion, tilting my head up to drink and causing it to ache again. Me and Flavian slowly shrunk as we drank, and we stopped when we reached the size of a mouse. I felt a little woozy after all the potions, and I could slowly start to feel the

water-breathing one fading. I put the rest of the shrinking potion into my backpack.

Then Flavian said “Ladies first” and I walked through the door.

.....

I entered a small hallway with mini lanterns along the small stone walls. Well, they were small, but not really to us because we shrunk.

The hall was damp (not surprising) and there were puddles along the ground. Me and Flavian started to walk down the hall, and I avoided the puddles while he splashed in every one.

“Ack!” I said as Flavian splashed water all over me. “I’m wet enough already.” Flavian slumped. I felt bad. I’ve been extra ticked off recently. I’m not sure why though. My words just come out fast and I can’t control them. I wrung out my hair and looked forward. It was only a little bit till we came to an opening. Suddenly me and Flavian started growing slowly.

“Oh no!” I say “The potion is wearing off!” Me and Flavian ran towards the opening, growing bigger each step. I was so close to it, close enough that I could touch the light, when I got stuck. I wiggled but I couldn't move.

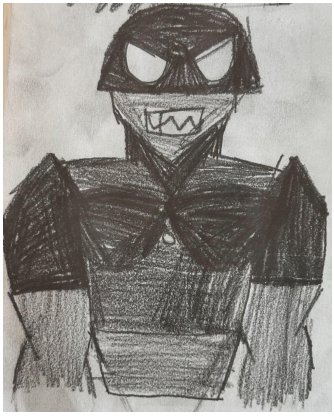
Then something shoved me from behind. I came into a short hallway, regular sized. I grew to regular size and heard grunting behind me. I turned

around and saw Flavian had gotten stuck. I grabbed his hand and pulled him out.

I looked up.

Down the hall a little ways were large metal doors. There were old inscriptions on them. I walk up to them and brush my hand along the carvings. One of the carvings had a word: Clóins. Flavian came up behind me and said, “Clóins means “arena” in the sacred language.”

CHAPTER 11: The Destroyers



I open the large, metal doors that led into a big, closed and dark amphitheater. The ominous stairs surround the circle of sand.

Before I could tell Flavian what I think right now, I spot The Blackwood.

His outfit looks like he escaped the worst battle in war. He has a hood over his head, creating a shadow over his face. His predatory, menacing gaze was terrifying, looking at me with intense cruelty and

anger. He held a long but mighty sword as if it could cut off my leg with one swift movement.

He raised his sword, and all of a sudden, two MASSIVE robots emerge from the entry way.

"Luna watch out! Those are destroyers, the most powerful and deadly robots in the galaxy!" Flavian shouts from behind me. "And that monster behind us is a Nightmare!!"

When I look back, there's a monster behind me. It's *huge.*

The Nightmare has a hunchback, like it was playing games 24/7 all summer. It was furry, but its long and sharp teeth told a different story. Its clawed hands seemed strong, like it could crush a million brick walls at once. Its white eyes stared at me with…

Hunger.

"Luna, run!"

I charged toward the destroyers, ready to take them down with my sword.

I try to stab the first destroyer through the arm, but my sword just bounces off, away toward the other destroyer.

Oops.

I run

run

run

fast

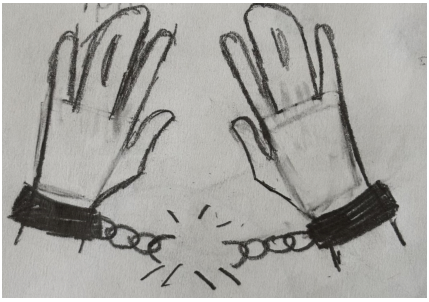
fast

fast

toward the seats, ready to climb all the steps when suddenly, the Nightmare knocks me

unconscious, and I fall asleep.

CHAPTER 12: The Escape



I dizzily woke up. Being pulled by the legs with a rope is not a great feeling. These two Grunts were pulling me toward a damp cell. Moss and weeds all around. They slammed and locked the door. At this point without Flavian or Buddy I had nothing to do. Nothing in the tank, or anything or anyone to help, all I had was a mossy floor and a pen. Without me or the sketchbook, Flavian and his family will die, his home will be destroyed and…

I can't think like that. But what else could I do?

I knelt down onto the hard floor.

Why did this have to happen to me?

Why did I ever do this?

I can't believe this.

I never do anything right.

I start to sob. My tears make a little puddle on the ground. I spotted a piece of shattered glass on the ground.I pick it up and look in it.

My reflection surprises me.

My dirty tear-stained face is nothing like the prim and proper girl I used to be.

I noticed a small drop of blood on my lip.

It was bleeding.

I didn't care.

Nothing mattered anymore.

I sucked in a breath. I can't think that way. There is still time. I need to think positive. I look again in the glass at my reflection. Maybe I wasn't as bad as I thought I was. I reached up and wiped away my tears. I licked the blood away. I fixed my hair. I can do this! If only Flavian were here.

"Psss, Luna…" I turn around and see a little yellow hand holding a sketchbook through a hole in the wall. "Take this." I take the sketchbook.

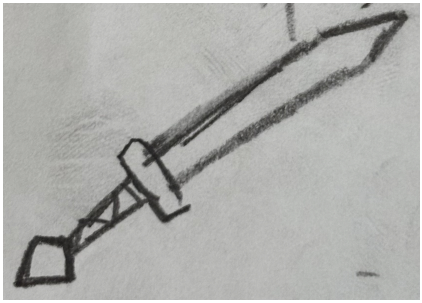
"Flavian! Thank you!" I say quietly. I grab my pen and draw a bomb with a face. His name is Boomb. He explodes the cell and we escape. I walked down the hall back the way I came. I was still a little nervous but I would not let that get in my way.

Not now.

Not when we were so close.

I entered The Blackwoods' room silently. He was facing away from me. I walked right behind him and gave him a big 'ole smack in the head.

CHAPTER 13: The Battle



Oops.

The Blackwood whipped around. I backed up a couple steps but stood firm.

“How did you escape the cell?” He said, his hand on his sword.

“I blew it up.” I answered. I don’t know how I wasn’t scared, but I felt perfectly fine as I pulled out my sword from the sketchbook.

“How did you get that?!” He roared, grabbing the sketchbook. **My** sketchbook.

“Give that back!” I shouted.

“Hmm… No.” He burst into uncanny laughter. I felt Flavian come up behind me.

“Get out of here!” I whispered to him. The Blackwood swung his long silver sword at me. I ducked, barely missing the blow. He stood up, towering about 6ft tall. I looked into his angry eyes. For a second I thought they faltered with sadness, but maybe I just imagined it. I checked behind me and I noticed that Flavian was now hiding behind the entrance. Good. This was my job, not his. I looked back just fast enough to dodge another blow.

“Come back here!” The Blackwood shouted. I ran towards the stairs. The Blackwood is fast! He caught up quickly and grabbed me. I wriggled in his strong grasp.

“Flavian help!” I yelled. Flavian ran out from behind the corner.

“Catch!” I yelled. I grabbed the sketchbook out of The Blackwood’s hand and threw Buddy to Flavian. Flavian jumped onto Buddy's back and soared up into the air. The Blackwood grabbed back my sketchbook. I reached for it again but he held me back.

“Let me go!” I yelled.

“No.” He said, “You don’t think I’m letting you get away that ea-” Just then, something knocked The Blackwood back, and he stumbled backward, loosening his grip on me just enough that I could slip away.

“Thanks Flavian!” I called, grabbing my sword off the steps.

Flavian swooped down and said “Watch out!” I barely sidestepped in time to dodge The Blackwoods swing. I turned and scrambled up the steps backwards, dodging blows and swinging my sword.

Suddenly I hear a **BANG**. Three leveled up Destroyers stepped through the door, with huge blasters for one of their arms. I look over just long enough to lose my balance. I hit the ground and groan. I get up as fast as I can, my head throbbing. I look over just in time to see The Blackwood swinging his sword towards my leg.

Oh no.

I feel an extremely sharp pain in my right leg, and then I can’t feel it anymore. I hear myself cry out and Flavian scream “No!” Then everything goes black.

.....

I woke up almost immediately, hurting everywhere. I look at the main source of pain and gasp.

My right leg is gone and in its place is a puddle of blood.

I look up and see The Blackwood wiping blood off his sword. He thinks I’m dead! And unfortunately, so does Flavian.

“Luna!” He screams, running over to me. He grabs my stub of a leg and I can’t help but groan as I get hit by another wave of pain. “Luna,” he whispers.“Can you hear me?” I try to nod, but my head pulses, so I give a small thumbs up instead. He grins and whispers, "You're ok.” He then takes my leg and wraps it with a scrap of cloth. I wince but keep still and quiet.

The Blackwood can’t know I’m alive. I close my eyes just in time as The Blackwood turns around.

“Why are you wrapping the wound?” He asks.

I can feel Flavian shaking as he answers: “So that there’s no blood all over the floor.” Flavian answers, convincingly letting out a fake sob. I feel the wind as The Blackwood turns back, and he starts giving orders to the Destroyers. Flavian pats my leg and hands me my sketchbook. I take it and draw a prosthetic and cover for my leg and pull them out quietly. Then Flavian helps me put it on. It hurts but it's better than nothing. The Blackwood turned around. Flavian screamed.

“I thought you were dead!” He boomed.

“Not yet.” I answered, standing up. The prosthetic was bouncy, like it was easy to run and jump. I grabbed the sketchbook and ran up the stairs, trying to think of what to draw. Then I got an idea. If things come to life from the sketchbook, then why

can't the things happening in the sketchbook come true?

I drew myself at the top of the stairs and jumped in. Suddenly I was at the top of the stairs. I draw The Blackwood in an alternate universe tied to a chair. Then I throw the sketchbook under his feet and in his hurry to get to the top of the stairs he tripped, falling into the sketchbook.

Time felt like it stood still. I saw blurs of The Blackwood falling, his sword clattering across the ground. Then all was still.

The Blackwood was gone.

CHAPTER 14: The Secret

I defeated The Blackwood.

I defeated The Blackwood??!!

I can't believe it. I pinch myself, but it *hurts*.

This is *not* a dream.

Oh my gosh.

I look at the stair where I banished The Blackwood. I notice a sketchbook there other than mine.

When did he have a sketchbook?

I walk painfully over to it. Since my leg got cut off, I'm still getting used to my new leg. But, I never

realized how big the amphitheater was. And messy. There were scrolls everywhere. On desks, floors, *walls*. They were about war plans, expansion, and…

Humans. Lots of humans.

I pick up the sketchbook.

It's heavy. It looks identical to mine. And it looks old. As if he's been using it for a million years.

I grab my bag and my own sketchbook and put everything in it.

My water gun, taser, empty potion bottles. My sketchbook and The Blackwood's.

I set the sketchbook down on the ground and jumped in it.

I fall

fall

fall

down

down

down.

I land on my bed. All I do is stare at the ceiling in silence. I wonder where Flavian went. Or if Buddy is okay.

"…Luna?"

I sit up. "Mom?"

I run over to her and hug her as tight as I could. I don't want to let go. It's crazy that all this time I never thought of her, yet I missed her so much at the exact same time. Her touch is warm, like the

sun on a sunny day. Her hair brushes over me, like a chocolate curtain covering us from the world.

Pulling away, Mom asks, “What happened, Luna?”

I tell her everything. From falling through the new sketchbook, and going to the castle with a yellow pom-pom ball named Flavian. Tales of water-breathing potions to riding on a small flying dinosaur named Buddy. About my leg getting cut off by The Blackwood, which is why I have a prosthetic leg.

Everything.

Even The Blackwood.

I finish, panting, catching my breath. Mom stares in astonishment, thinking about what I just said.

“Luna, just so you know, The Blackwood’s real name is Thorne Darnell, your father.”

EPILOGUE

Two Months Later…

I came home after a long day of shopping while Grandma came home as well from getting groceries. I walk to my room with a tired look on my face. After I walk towards the sketchbook on the top shelf of my room, I grab it and jump in. Everybody was excited to see me again, Flavian the most of course,

"How's Buddy?" I ask.

"Good, yet awfully tired." He replied.

"What food?" I said with a voice that means he should know what to use.

“Cooked…” he says ashamed.

“Remember, raw,” I say.

“Okay.” I spend the rest of the day with Buddy and Flavian. We played games (like Pomopoly), ate PufferNoms, and I even got to meet a lot of new puffballs. “Hello, what's your name?” I ask. The blue pom-pom replies in the cutest voice ever. “Cuppycake!”

“Bye, guys!” I exclaim.

“Bye!” They all shout as I leave. When I get back, my mom yells “Time for dinner!” When I finish dinner my grandma stops me.

“Here, I found this at the store.” She hands me a little yellow pompom stuffy with stubby legs and a cute face. I just look down on it and look back up as my grandma winks.

It’s…

It’s Flavian…

……

Far,

Far away.

On a new planet.

The Blackwood or Thorne still lives.

With barely any food or water he will need to adapt.

Without The Sketchbook he is just a human.

All in this wasteland is sand.

Sand,

Sand,

And more sand.

Then a palm tree made of stone comes into view.

The palm has an oasis in front of it.

Many, many animals live here.

They don't scream. Or shout at the sight of him.

This is the place he'll live the rest of his days.

Right.

Here.

BEYOND THE SKETCHBOOK

A Sequel Novella to The Sketchbook

CHAPTER 1: A New Life

“Luna, time to get up!” My mom called. I jumped up and pulled on my clothes. Then I raced downstairs.

“Happy birthday my sweet girl.” Mom hugged me tight.

“Thanks mom," I answered.

Then she pulled out my leg prescription. “I still can’t believe you met your father only 3 months ago. What a bad impression he made.” She poured the packet into my orange juice. “You know, when I liked him, not that I don’t anymore, he was very gentle.” I looked at her, bewildered. “I know it’s hard for you to imagine that, but he was a very nice man.” While she talked she stirred my drink, avoiding eye contact. I glanced at her pocket, where I could see a little piece of beat up paper sticking out of the top.

“What’s that?” I asked, gesturing towards the paper.

“Nothing.” my mom replied, quickly grabbing the paper and hiding it from my view.

“Luna!” someone called “Happy birthday!” I looked towards the source, seeing Liam running at me with a package in his hand. He hugged me with so much force I couldn't breathe, then he saw my mother and quickly pulled away.

“Hi Liam.” I said. “I made this for you.” He said, handing me the package. I took it and opened it. Inside there was a gold necklace with a paint palette charm that was a little crooked.

“Oh my gosh, that's so pretty!” I exclaim, running my finger along the little different colored rhinestones for the paint blobs.

“I made it myself.” Liam says, “It’s a little crooked.”

“It’s still a great necklace.” I say, snapping it onto my neck. “Thank you so much!”

“You’re welcome.” He says, smiling his crooked smile. I felt butterflies in my stomach, but why? I’ve known Liam since kindergarten. My thoughts were interrupted by Liam’s phone ringing.

“That’s my mom. Gotta go! See ya.” Liam ran out of the room.

“Bye!” I said, just a little too late. “I’m going to go to Lunaria mom.” I called behind me as I ran up the stairs.

“See ya!”

“Ok bye!” My mom called after me. I bounced on my prosthetic towards my bed. Then I grabbed my

Sketchbook and drew the familiar scene of Lunaria. As I jump in, I feel an unfamiliar cold wind, and I realize how careless I was with my safety. Everything swirls, and again I'm plunged into darkness.

CHAPTER 2: The Forest

I woke up in what seemed like the Amazon Rainforest. Vines from the trees' branches dangle over my head, and there are glowing golden stems going throughout the leaves. The trees tower above me, while bird-lizard-like creatures fly from branch to branch.

"CAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAW! CAW CAW!"

"AAA" I scream. Then I realize it was just another BirdLizard.

I stared at it in astonishment. Its hot pink wings and body is feathery, while the head is bald. It has a lizard body, while, really, every part else is bird. Its beak and legs are a midnight blue, with elegant stars that seemed painted on. To be honest, I think it's ugly, other than the legs, of course.

"Hi! I'm Luna Darnell."

It flew from the branch onto my shoulder, gripping my beautifully sculpted mode of articulation for my arm (my shoulder). I wince with pain as it grips my scapula (shoulder bone) even harder.

"Y'know, I can read your thoughts. I know what you think of me." It whispers in my ear.

I reply, “OH SHOOT! I’m so sorry! I didn’t think straight and I always judge people by their cover and-”

“Shut up.”

“What?”

“I SAID SHUT UP!” It shouted in my ear.

“...Why?

“GOSH YOU’RE SO STUPID!!! I CAN’T BELIEVE THIS!”

“WELL ITS NOT LIKE YOU’RE SHUTTING UP EITHER!”

It sighed. “We need to listen for clues to continue. I know you are trying to go to Lunaria, but this forest is special. It can take you to portals, but it leads you with sound. If you hear a low-pitched piano key, go in that direction.”

“Okay... Wait, how do you know what pianos sound like?”

“Her.”

I look at where it was looking.

I see a girl sitting at a piano. She is about the same age as me. She has pale lavender hair, brushing over her shoulders and pouring over the bench. Her pale skin glimmered in the sunlight, and her blue eyes were beautifully focused on the piano. The song she was playing was like music mixed with actual emotions. The notes told stories of love, despair, and victory. However, the music was all freestyled, yet

magical. As if she had the most creativity in the universe.

But, something was… off.

I guess she must've sensed me, because she paused her music, and looked at me with intense shock.

CHAPTER 3: Lunaria

"Who are you?" I ask cautiously.

"You don't know me? Well then how did you get here?" She sounds scared. I quietly grabbed my Sketchbook. She notices I reach for something and swiftly grabs a bronze sword and lunges at me. I jump out of the way and grab my pen.

"What are you doing? Is that Riptide? Are you Percy Jackson?"

"If you've been stuck here how do you know that?" I ask terrified.

"I teleported here with the book." She started to smirk. Something started to rustle in the bushes. I quickly draw a shield.

BANG!

A weird looking Nightmare runs into me going probably 30 MPH. I stagger backwards and use my prosthetic leg to send it flying. Before the other girl attacks, I draw a door and sloppily jump in.

I arrived in Lunaria, the home of the pom-poms. Flavian has… changed. He's a very bright

orange, he's bigger and has a sharper tail. The bird-lizard that I forgot was there said.

“Whoa what's this place?”

“Lunaria.” I say.

“Isn’t your name Luna? Did you name this place?” It replies.

“No, it was named this beforehand.” He kinda went quiet after that.

“Hey, Flavian. What’s up?” I asked excitedly.

“The sky.” He replies. At that moment, I swear I heard a cricket.

“Flavian, we need to talk.” I say deeply.

“Okay.” Flavian waves for me to follow him.

“Hello!” Cuppycake says. He has also changed, he evolved from baby blue to normal blue.

“Hi.” I say.

We proceed to walk all the way to Flavian’s tower. “Oh, and happy birthday.” Flavian said as we entered the tower.

CHAPTER 4: The Realization

I sat on my favorite couch in Flavian's tower.

"So now I can tell you what I wanted to say." I said as Flavian handed me a pouch of PufferNoms.

Flavian tore into his bag and looked up. "I'm listening."

"I think the Sketchbook glitched." I say

"Oh my frazzles, I knew it wouldn't last forever." Flavian responds, "What happened?" I tell him everything, and when I finish he looks at me with shock.

"Why did you leave?" He asked, "You don't even know her name!!"

"I know, I know." I say, fidgeting with the necklace Liam gave me. "I'll go back now and talk to her. Then I'll tell my mom." I draw the rainforest terrain of the planet and wave at Flavian as I jump in.

"Be safe!" He calls as the world spins away and I feel the strange wind whip around my face. I hope all goes well.

.....

“Hi again.” I hear a voice say. I open my eyes. The lavender haired girl is gazing down at me.

“You.” I say.

“You were knocked out.” she says. “By the way, can you tell me your name?”

“My name is Luna. Luna Darnell.” I answer. “And you?”

“I’m Celeste. I still can’t believe you came. I thought there was no other way to get to this planet.”

“Other than?” I questioned.

“I’m not telling a random stranger my secret.” Celeste responded, looking at me like she was trying to figure something out.

“I have to go.” I say, “This little excursion was….accidental.” I find the drawing of my bed in my sketchbook, and set it down.

“What are you doing?” Celeste asks.

“Leaving.” I respond, and I jump in.

……

“Mom, I need to tell you something.” I say as I walk into the kitchen.

“What’s up honey?” Mom asked, sitting down and giving me her full attention. I told her the entire story, from the glitch to Celeste, and when I finished she looked like she was going to cry.

“Whats wrong?” I ask, confused.

“I used to know a Celeste, that's all.” Mom said, wiping her eyes with a tissue.

“How did you know her?” I asked.

“She….she…” Mom sniffed “was my other daughter…”

……

I looked at mom with absolute shock. “You mean…” my voice was shaking, “you mean I have a sister?” Mom nodded.

“You two were twins. They said that Celeste died at birth, but I remember seeing nobody in the casket at the funeral. I don’t believe that she died. I think she went missing.”

I stared at mom. “You mean Celeste might have fallen into a warp portal at the hospital, but the nurses didn’t want you to know, so they…told you she was dead??”

Mom nodded again and I shivered. I can’t imagine having a father and sister I knew nothing about. Like who would keep that kind of secret from me???? My mom, that's who. “Why didn’t you tell me?” I asked accusingly.

“I was waiting until you were the right age. I was thinking 13 but…”

I understood. “I think you’re right. I’m going to go tell Celeste we’re sisters. I think we might be able to turn dad good again.” I said grabbing the Sketchbook again.

Mom blew her nose. “Please just call him Thorne.”

“Ok I will. Bye!” As I jumped into the forest planet I made a silent wish. “Please let me be able to bring dad back.”

CHAPTER 5: The Plan

"WAIT WHAT??!!" Celeste exclaimed.

"I know, I know. I am freaking out too!" I shout back.

"But- h-how? I-I mean- what? I have a sister? But-"

"Stop. I gotta tell you something else. Do you know The Blackwood?" I asked.

"Well, duh!" Celeste responded.

"He's our father."

Then, there was complete silence. The birds scattered across the forest as Celeste screamed...

"WHAT???!!! But that's impossible!"

"If I can get to this planet without meaning to, then The Blackwood being your father can definitely 100% be true."

"Then we gotta stop him!"

"That's what- wait, how do you know if The Blackwood's still alive?" I asked

"I saw it with my crystal ball." Celeste answered.

“OOHHHHHHH that makes sense. Anyway, c’mon! I have some friends on a planet called Lunaria.”

.....

“Okay, here’s the plan.” Flavian explained. “We need to find The Blackwood. Luna, during the last battle with The Blackwood, you realized you can draw something that you want to happen, jump through the sketchbook, and you’re there, right?

“That’s right.” I answer.

“Okay, so we need to draw the planet The Blackwood’s on, which means we need the crystal ball Celeste has. Celeste will describe the terrain, while Luna draws it in her sketchbook. We will jump in, and find The Blackwood there. Good plan?”

“Good plan.” Me and Celeste say at the exact same time.

“Then it’s go time.”

.....

“Finished!” I exclaim, walking into Flavian’s room. The planet The Blackwood’s on is a cube, and there is sand, water, and greenery. It reminded me of Minecraft, if I’m being honest. There is a spot on the planet where the greenery turns black, as if it’s been infected. I think it is where The Blackwood is hiding.

“Oh wow! It’s beautiful!” Flavian exclaims.

“I know, right? We don’t have a lot of time left though!” Celeste says.

“Ok! C’mon Flavian, leave the PufferNoms behind…” I lecture.

“...But they’re good…” Flavian says as he chews a handful.

“Flavian…”

“Ok ok geez.” Flavian mumbles as he walks outside. “ But it’s not like it’s gonna hurt if I bring them…”

Celeste is already outside with the sketchbook and Buddy. We all hop on Buddy and jump in. We

fall

fall

fall

down

down

down.

I hit my head, and I pass out.

CHAPTER 6: Bird Food

We crash landed on the cube-shaped planet. It has huge trees and even bigger lakes. I then noticed we were in a tree.

"Uh, Celeste," She was knocked out. "CELESTE!?!" I scream and start shaking my sister.

"Wh- what?" She manages to answer.

"WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE!" I shriek. I grab my sister, Flavian, and hop on Buddy. We then fly off into the dark forest. The bird on my shoulder shrieks because of our reflection.

Buddy notices and...

Ok that was uncalled for. No bird but Buddy doesn't need food?

Guess that's a plus.

All jokes aside we see smoke with the sudden loss we barely notice.

Then **BANG**. A cannonball sweeps past us. Then we notice a vast desert.

Where are we?

Buddy weaves and dodges the balls. Until **BANG** a cannonball hits us. Buddy is unscathed but

we were falling down from 75 feet (22.86 meters) in the air. I quickly put Buddy back into the sketchbook.

"Luna, what are you doing?" Flavian asked.

"Grab on to me." Celeste and Flavian grab on to me. I draw a mattress and… we land. I'm alive,

"Pinch me," I say.

"What?" Flavian replies.

"Ow! Celeste!"

"What you said to pinch you?" She replies.

"I meant Flavian!"

"Oh, ok then." Celeste said. We walked and walked for miles back to the forest. The smoke got closer and closer. Flavian was very hot. Then we made it to the smoke. Then I saw a familiar tall man.

CHAPTER 7: He's Back!

The Blackwood turned around slowly. "I'm back." I say. Celeste looks at me "We have come to fix you." She says, taking a step forward.
"Fix me?" The Blackwood growls, "FIX ME!"
"Yes," I replied. "If you come back to earth with us. Do you remember Lyra?" Opps. I had gone too far.
"You mean your MOTHER!"
"Yes." I replied calmly, "Celeste and I are here to help."
"CELESTE!??" The Blackwood looked at Celeste in astonishment. I nodded,"She's alive."
"You mean..." A tear rolled down The Blackwoods cheek. Thorne's cheek. My *Father.* I ran up to him and hugged him. Tight. Celeste joined me.
"GET OFF!" Thorne roared. "I'm not going back! No one can fix me! Ever!" I stumbled backward. What an eventful birthday. Celeste grabbed my hand and squeezed it. I squeezed back. I could do this. *We* could do this. Together. Sisters.

CHAPTER 8: The Sacrifice

"Run!"

Flavian, Celeste, and I ran to the river as fast as we could. When we got there we started swimming. Celeste apparently got some practice back on the forest planet, because she swam faster than me and Flavian. Flavian was the slowest, so he got on my back and made me and Flavian *even slower*.

After a little bit, we made it to the other side of the river. The black forest was starting to appear along the shore. Closer to the water was the color of sand back on Earth, but it transitioned to midnight black, fading into the forest floor.

We look behind us and The Blackwood is slowly, but surely, swimming across the river. We bring out our weapons; Flavian with his tail, Celeste with her bronze sword, and me with my sketchbook and pen. I could tell Celeste wanted to call me Percy Jackson, but now was not the time because The Blackwood had arrived at the shore.

Celeste charged, sword poised so she could strike. Flavian crept around him, trying to aim for a

blind spot. I was the distractor, trying for Celeste and Flavian to strike. Celeste struck him in the shoulder, and The Blackwood bellowed a great and mighty roar. Flavian was close to his head, assuming that was his blind spot.

The Blackwood aimed for Celeste, and he grabbed her in his fist, almost squishing her. She squirmed in his hand, trying to get out. I jumped

up

up

up toward his wrist, and I sliced his hand off. He roared again, while his hand collapsed to the floor, and since there was no strength in the hand anymore, it let go of Celeste.

"You! You traitor of a daughter! I thought you said you were going to fix me!" The Blackwood yelled, echoing across the forest.

"You said you weren't coming back!" I screamed. "You said you couldn't prove yourself, and that no one could fix you! *You're* the traitor for leaving us! Mom, Grandma, *Celeste*!"

"I had to, Luna! I was getting evil, and I didn't want to hurt you. I–"

"Then why did you *cut off my leg*??!!"

There were silence, then in a whisper, The Blackwood said, "I'm a monster…"

Everyone froze. Time crawled by minutes. Then, The Blackwood fell to his knees with his head

bowed down, and started to sob under his breath, tears falling to the forest floor.

"...I wanted to protect you..." The Blackwood whimpered.

I was quiet.

"...Lyra told me about this, but I didn't believe her. How could I?"

I was quiet.

"I'm just like my father. I promised to not be like him. How could I?"

I was quiet.

"I killed tons of innocent species... All for power? How could I?"

I stayed quiet.

The Blackwood kept sobbing, and then he wiped his tears, stood up and said.

"You need to go home. Take care of your mother."

"D-Dad? What are you doing?" Celeste barely makes out, her eyes filled with tears as she walks to my side.

"Taking care of myself."

"Dad, no-"

"It's what's best. This is the only thing I can do to redeem myself."

"No-"

"Celeste and Luna, I have to say goodbye. Take your time."

“NO-”

With a lift of his sword and a gentle gaze, the sword’s magic disintegrates with a red flash.

“No…”

CHAPTER 9: Back Home

After The Blackwood banished himself nobody talked or said anything. ”Bye, Luna, see ya someday!” Flavian exclaimed with no sign of happiness. Flavian jumped into the sketchbook. Celeste looked sad. I think she liked the fuzzball.

“Here,” I give her the lizard-bird. “This is for you.”

“Tha… Thank you.” Celeste replied. Celeste and I walked back to the sketchbook.

“C’mon.” I say.

“N-ok.” Celeste says. We jump in and arrive on Earth. “Wow, I haven't seen this place in 10 years!” Celeste exclaimed.

“Mom!” I hugged my mom with a big squeeze.

“All limbs this time. Nice,” Mom notices the tension in the room. “What’s wrong?” She asks.
“D-Dad…” I manage to say. Mom looks over at Celeste. “Let's get that hair cut.” She says. I guess all stories don’t have a happy ending.
“What's going on here?” Grandma said. Welp, looks like we got a lot more explaining to do.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Avalon Percell is a 11-year-old dork from Missouri with a passion for cats, books, writing, dragons, and drawing. She has 3 pets; her 2 cats (Smoke and Feather) are nicknamed the dynamic duo, and her leopard gecko Lukey is her first pet. Her favorite food is sushi and she has a little brother named James. She wants to be an actor when she grows up and practices it in real life with her drama-queen attitude. She has also created her own board game (called Runaway Strays.) Her favorite way to spend a snowed-in weekend is snuggled on her couch with her favorite blanket, a good book, and a cat on her lap.

Maggie Livingston is an 11 year old fifth grade artist who dreams to be a full time artist (whether it's author, drawer, painter, etc) who was born and raised in Missouri. She loves dragons, musicals, and hanging out with friends. She has three older siblings, two brothers and one sister (Davis, Josie, and Drake). Her favorite books include Wings of Fire, Warrior Cats,

Percy Jackson, and more. Maggie has Cochlear Implants, but she gets through even the toughest days. Well, most of the time.

Reid Waters is a basketball player with a knack for writing fantasy and adventure stories. He came up with Buddy and the Elite. Reid enjoyed creating and writing this book, and he considers himself a bit of a nerd. His teachers say he's well-read. Reid has also created an object show called BFAB. Originally from Kansas, he published this book when he was just 11 years old. Reid owns three cats—Gus, Pepper, and Prudence—and fosters others as well. He also has two sisters, Lily and Penny.