

# Empress of the Demons

We meet our protagonist, Rangda, in a small woodland village called Enrien in the Everlasting Wilderness, populated by Enreinities (elves based on Norse folklore elves, but with dark chocolate brown skin). She is but a small girl of about 6 when she was walking through her village saw behind the blacksmith's anvil a small wisp of red smoke. Now, what you must understand is that the Enreinities have knowledge of magic and use it every day, so seeing a wisp of red smoke is though, often correctly, to be a demon. The girl immediately notifies her mother, Ramoir (Ram-eye-er), but her mum cannot see it even when Rangda can. The mother dismisses this weird fact for now, but it continues up through Rangda's life, even spoiling multiple occasions like her 12th birthday when she saw a fearsome creature and ended up jumping backwards off the side of a bridge that faced over a deep chasm, and she was only saved because the bridge's overseers were sensible enough to employ a winged elf, so she was saved. After this incident, her mother had enough, so took her to the doctors to get a diagnosis of psychosis or schizophrenia. The doctor, however, is unable to diagnose her with schizophrenia as along with hallucinations, it also requires some level of disorganised thinking, social withdrawal, decreased emotional expression, and apathy, which very peculiarly Rangda showed absolutely no signs of whatsoever. It was almost as if she was seeing something, not because of some undealt with mental problem, but because it was actually there. She was instead diagnosed with Magical Hallucination/Insight Disorder (MHID), and her mother was given a warning to see if the forces were real but just obscured.

At her sixteenth birthday Rangda was enjoying a good time with her friends and getting a bit drunk. After the party, as she was walking home a ragged demon made of fire, red smoke, and bones pulled her off the street and onto its demon horse and galloped away from the village of Erien. That day, Rangda's life changed forever. When she entered the new demon city, called Lyanta, she was immediately thrown into a secure prison cell. The next morning a guard (all the people here – Lyatans - are demons) brought Rangda a small breakfast. Rangda attempted to ask why she was arrested, and the guard said it would all be explained in due course. Several days passed by and then eventually she was let out of her prison cell and into a massive hall where there was a demon king, the King of the Lyatans, the Lyantan King, Lyantia. Rangda walked towards him in shackles and collapsed down onto her knees in front of him with her head bowed to the floor, one could say towards hell. When the King spoke, it was in a demonic tongue almost unrecognisable, “ψ

~~ψ I am the King of the Lyatans. You are descended from the same ancestor as mine. We are one. Fulfil your destiny and join my rank, pillage your homeland Erien, and many more as it is nothing in comparison to your great bloodline and power. You deserve more. You own mother is scum in comparison to thine. Bow not to me, but seat thyself next to me on my own throne.~~

~~ψ~~ ψ”. As I very much doubt you can read that (there are words there if you look closely), we have provided a translation for your desire: “ψ ☆ ψ I am the King of the Lyatans. You are descended from the same ancestor as mine. We are one. Fulfil your destiny and join my rank, pillage your homeland Erien, and many more as it is nothing in comparison to your great bloodline and power. You deserve more. You own mother is scum in comparison to thine. Bow not to me, but seat thyself next to me on my own throne.

Hail Kizfael, Demon High Lord ψ ☆ ψ”

“☆

~~No. I do not want to spread hatred, fear, and bloodshed. I shall not unite with one such as yourself. Begone~~ ☆ / No. I do not want to spread hatred, fear, and bloodshed. I shall not unite with one such as yourself. Begone” replied Rangda.

The guards glanced at the King, and he stared back. They threw themselves forward towards Rangda, but she thrust her hands in such a pattern as to exercise her gift of pyrokinesis (fire-throwing), which mind you wasn't that useful considering the demons were made of fire, but it did something. She fought her way through the demons and escaped out the Chapel/Castle door (she was so good because of her strong bloodline). She could not possibly escape Lyanta because there was some weird reality-bending spell all around it, so she had to hide. She managed to scout around the city for a very long time until she found a masculine demon called Ka'ra who took her under her wing (she was a demon who also had to run away from home and was the same age as Rangda). After a long amount of time, she partially adjusted to life in the demon town. A weird occurrence happens in demon cities, or at least this one. Whenever the sun is up, it gets super chilly, and the moon instead is the source of heat. Over the course of months, the relationship between Ka'ra and Rangda grew stronger, especially in this harsh environment of a monarchic assassination team looking for the pair of them, so naturally they felt much safer when with each other. Due to the immense horrors of Lyanta, both Rangda and Ka'ra were in a mental state such that nothing phased them, but they could also jump across the room from a beetle moving, depending on their mood. After about 3 years spent in Lyanta, Rangda was forgetting all memories of her previous life, and her memory in general was worsening as a result of the trauma of living in a demon city and the magical effects it has on the brain, as well as, admittedly, the number of drugs she (and Ka'ra) have taken to help "cope" with the horrible and traumatic events of the city. Overall, in this time surrounded by maniacal demons and incredibly alien lifestyles and social rules, Rangda was starting to go a bit insane, and started seeing her mother again in alleyways. Ironically, this means she did develop psychosis, just WAY after her mother thought she did and for different reasons. Unfortunately, something happened on the 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their life in Lyanta. Rangda and Ka'ra, who were very much in love (Ka'ra asked Rangda out by sending her a "Spotify" (ofc the equivalent) playlist of love songs), had to leave the demon wasteland of a city one way or another, because King Lyantia was coming to kill them using the fiery flames of the fields of hell, which he had finally acquired after 4 years, and he had also found where they were. They got ready to pack their bags.

"Hey Rangda?" asked Ka'ra

"Um yeah?" replied Rangda

"Can I have a hug? This is gonna be really scary, and I just need some physical affection (from my favourite – and only mind you – girlfriend..."

"we've gotta go really quickly the Armies of Hell (not actually, just some demon armies) are after us – Ah shit I really need one two, love. C'mere! <3"

Ka'ra and Rangda embraced and kissed, and Ka'ra looked deep into Rangda's pink eyes and thought about how much she would love living away from this horrible place, whilst Rangda stroked Ka'ra's shoulder-and-arm and thought of how much she loved her. Suddenly, the back wall exploded and an army of axe-wielding demon-police storm through. The hug/kiss ended abruptly and Rangda lifted a machine gun next to her onto her shoulder and shot it REAALL fast at the approaching hoard (luckily, they were goblin-level demons so do not have any individuality and just operate as a Hive Mind) whilst ushering Ka'ra down the stairs (they were on a quarter-turn landing). Ka'ra rushed down the 5 stairs whilst looking back anxiously and slams through the front door, with Rangda following several seconds later. They coat the door and front wall in a thin layer of magic to

temporarily prevent the dumb minions and bide them time to escape. They are now on a massive main road of the demon city. Just down the road just into an alleyway there sat a rusty old car, so

the pair rushed towards it and clambered in. Ka'ra used her healing powers combined with Rangda's raw power to boost some life back into the ol' car. The ignition, magically (literally), started and the car shot down the highway towards the edge of the city. As they neared the edge, they saw the inevitable problem of the Great Dome, a wall of reality-fabric trapping inhabitants of Lyanta inside. They'd have to find another way out. They "parked" (crashed) into a building near the Dome and hurried into the alleyway.

"\*pant\* How \*pant\* are we gonna \*pant\* get out of here?" asked Rangda

"Maybe we can \*pant\* find a hole? Or -or! A part-of-the-wall-thats-weaker-than-the-rest-so-we-can-funnel-magic-at-it!!" replied Ka'ra excitedly

"Hmm, that's... a very good idea. Even better! We find a good spot, then we attract the Army to it, so THEY fire at it and weaken it till it cracks!"

"Yeah!"

So off they went in searching for a weaker spot in the Dome by hitting it with tiny bursts and magic and feeling how much it reacts. After about 30 minutes they find a part that feels like it might be weak enough, so they send out massive waves of personal magic alerting the army to their attention. Within minutes there were flying chariots racing towards to the Dome and Ka'ra and Rangda had to jump out off the way and use an incredibly powerful force-field to avoid the power, but it did indeed break the Dome, but not in the way they thought it would. There was no outside, but simply a portal. They had no choice but to jump regardless.

"See you and the other side" said Ka'ra . Rangda nodded.

It seemed as if hours of tumbling through black abyssal void where nothing could be seen, not even each other or themselves had passed, but at the same time no time could have passed; it was surreal.

They found themselves in a dense forest where the air itself seemed to be infringed with red dust and demonic essence. It also seemed to be but a drawing, an idea, not solidified. They made their way deep, deep into the woods not knowing what to do, when or why. They broke down a tree and set up shelter for what they thought would be simply the night but turned out to be years. During these months, Rangda learned the true extent of her powers and used them to kill – actually kill – many demons which were the only thing inhabiting these lands, which they regrettably had to eat for survival. She also learnt that the demon-devil-thing she and the King of the Lyantans was none other than Shal-aha-shjak, a god descended from Shajam, the Most Low One. This meant Rangda's powers would be incredibly great, as the powers of Shal-aha-shjak become much more powerful if the child is born on a full moon and is also a demigod, which Rangda also found out she was as her father was Ares, the Hellenic/Greek god of War (which was definitely a surprise). Ka'ra supported Rangda through all this, but secretly felt she was not enough for her and felt that Rangda deserved more. One day years later when Ka'ra was poking her head out of the tent hut they'd made, she saw the landscape morph around an area, where she sensed there was some kind of demon, but couldn't quite see it. She called Rangda and she came out, kissed Ka'ra on the cheek and looked up. What she saw cannot be fully described. It was a preeminent force so great, it appeared nigh-omnipotent to most beings. It was the being that the King of the Lyantans hailed all those years ago, it was Kizfael.

He had come to destroy his rival, Rangda, as her blood was of Shal-aha-shjak was strong enough to pose a threat to his dominion. (The reason the King of the Lyantans wasn't seen as a threat is because his bloodline was astronomically weaker). Ka'ra and Rangda had to enter into full-on fight mode with this beast of a demon-emperor, and they fought well. The fight lasted 3 days and 3 nights, and it told in immense detail in the "Kizfael's Compromise" (in-universe book). During the end of the fight, as the Red Son set on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day and the 3<sup>rd</sup> night began, Ka'ra died. She was fighting Kizfael as much as she possibly could, but she was much, much weaker than Rangda and suffered a blow to the heart by Kizfael's staff, killing her. This sent Rangda into a rage and she managed to lead to battle to a compromise where she, Rangda, got a section of this land, and neither her nor Kizfael would attack each other. (The technicalities of this are laid out in the "Deal of Rangda and Kizfael (Versions I-IV)" (in-universe)) Rangda buried Ka'ra in a grave under the tree attached to their beloved cottage and announced to cottage her after-home. She then managed to get the demons of her land (the Crimson Kingdom) to obey her, and they built her a castle, which she paid them for with the immense gift of 1. 1/8 of her Soul, and 2. Her eternal loyalty to educating the demons as her own kin.

Queen Lady Rangda of the Crimson Kingdom sat down upon her dark throne in the top of the Eastern-Central Tower of the Naeworth Palace in the Crimson Kingdom in the Kizfald Hell, stroking her shadow-wolf, Willow...