Chapter One

Reasons

There once was a time, before anything existed. There was no life. There was no matter. There was nothing, except a remaining hope. So little was that hope, that the smallest of atoms could squash it. But even though times were hard for that little smudge of hope, it spread. All the electrons, all the neutrons, all the tiny particles that make up our universe now, they hoped. And that hope created planets and stars, solar systems and galaxies, and even some beings that hoped like they did.

Regent Brann ruled the Kingdom Safren. He was a noble ruler, but had a difficult time dealing with the surrounding kingdoms. Aggression between the 13 kingdoms was occurring more frequently since the true king died. Skirmishes between differently thinking groups were progressively recurring. Even the organia growers weren’t producing enough organia for the growing number of citizens.

Organia is the compound that allows life to exist on Planet Hayrend. It is like normal organic material except there is a special DNA structure that somewhat transforms the cells into stem cells. A Stem cell can become any kind of cell. This allows for spontaneous regeneration. If it is difficult for the being to attach itself to the organia the being will use telekinesis to summon some of the organia that is around it. Though the being can die eventually of natural or un-natural causes.

Prince Svin was lying on his bed, arbitrary flashbacks and thoughts about times he spent with his father repeating over and over. Words and phrases echoing in his head. He decided not to participate at the funeral. The thought of the good King’s death was too much to handle. Especially since his death was only days before Svin’s birthday. He was turning 13 today. He was still too young to ascend to the throne. You had to be 16 to rule. So his father’s brother Regent Brann had temporarily become the “King” until Svin was old enough. They didn’t even have a coronation for the Regent. They said there wasn’t enough time.

Svin jumped in shock when his maid came in. “Regent Brann has asked you to report to the Meeting Hall.” Mrs. Lusiuz reported. Great, thought Svin, another boring meeting about the “economy” or recent skirmishes between nearby kingdoms.

As he walked down the hallway Svin looked as a strange man jogged down the corridor wearing what appeared to be a black bed linen. Funny, he though, I can’t seem to place his face.

Strange, the door isn’t usually closed, Svin though as he opened the door. “Surprise!” Everyone in the room shouted. Svin was filled with joy. “Happy birthday Svin!” Brann said cheerfully. Svin grinned as the music started playing. Tonight would be full of music. (Music is the main form of communication on Hayrend. It is also used as a sign of peace and prosperity.)

It was late by the time Svin started walking back to his room. The first moon was already high in the sky and the second was not far behind. The man was coming down the corridor this time he was running. “Wait! Stop!” Svin shouted chasing the man. He seemed to have come from farther up. But the only room up there was Svin’s. After realizing this Svin was even more determined to catch this man. Svin lurched forward and grabbed the man. He didn’t recognize him. I better take him to Brann, Svin thought. The man took his chance and knocked Svin backwards sending him flying. By the time Svin got up the man was gone.

Svin was hesitant about going into his room after seeing the man. I better get Brann, Svin thought and raced back to the Meeting Hall.

Brann set a triple of troops to Svin’s room to dismiss the danger. Svin was settling in the guest room when he heard a loud booming sound from higher up. People from a around the castle were in a distressed panic. No who knew why or how the tower exploded because gunpowder wasn’t invented yet. They didn’t need to mine because everything could be made of organia.

Chunks of organia from the tower fell like boulders. Crashing into the structure. Svin was sure the men had died. The explosion felt like an earthquake, though they had so few. Everyone wondered why the strong force only affected the tower.

Outside Svin though he saw someone crushed under one of the boulder-like chunks of organia. He rushed to the man. “Brann!” Svin said with terror. “Help! Help, please!” Svin shouted sounding terrified. Eventually a nurse can to his aid. It was Mrs. Lusiuz.

Brann awoke and found Svin and Mrs. Lusiuz talking. Mrs. Lusiuz turned her head and saw Brann. “Your Highness are you alright, need anything?” asked Mrs. Lusiuz. “No Kara I will be fine, I am sure Svin can call for help if anything bad happens,” Brann said half jokingly.” go be with your husband.” “But sir.” Kara argued. “Go Kara!” Brann said firmly.

“How are you feeling?” Svin asked. “Like half of my body is gone, you might know the feeling someday.” Brann joked. “The doctors will mend you,” Svin said. “but who will be king in your absence.” “Probably the Grand Duke, Tror,” Brann replied. “but go child, do… well whatever you children do, go while you are still young.” And with that Svin left the room.

Svin was at the stables. He had planned to go to the Plains of Eldor before school started the next day; Eldor was a very successful king. He stabled the world during The Great War and all Kingdoms appreciate him. Svin was just mounting his kren named Rane when he saw the man again. “Hyaa!” Svin shouted with vigor. And with that Svin’s kran bolted forward straight towards the man. The man also on a kren swerved obviously expecting the assault. The man started heading for the boarder. Svin knew he was forbidden to go to the Kingdom Nacth. But even if he had a slim chance of catching this man he knew he should try. Svin was gaining but not enough to reach the man before he reached the boarder. They were 175 yards from the boarder and Svin’s kren put on a burst of speed. Galloping closer and closer until…the past the boarder but Svin refused to give up, quickly passing the boarder. Jumping of his kren Svin lunged forward and pulled the man off his kren slamming both of them into the ground. As if he felt no pain the man stood up and walked into the distance.

“I am absolutely astounded by you lack of discipline,” Brann said while his legs slowly regenerated.” you could have been seen as a threat as a sign of war!” “But the cloaked man.” Svin argued. “Enough with the cloaked man, you have no evidence he even exists,” Brenn continued,” now of f to bed you have school tomorrow.” Svin walked the corridor thinking over and over sometimes saying “Who is this strange man?” out loud. Finally he came to the decision “I will bring evidence to my uncle and prove to him the man exists.”

The school teachers were shocked when Svin didn’t arrive at school. He was their best student. Ecstatic they franticly ushered to Brann. “Sir, Svin didn’t arrive at school today is he alright?” One of the schoolteachers asked. Rushing out the door Brann shouted.“Damit boy, I told you not to go looking for the cloaked man!” The schoolteachers looked at each other with a shocked expression.

Svin was galloping towards the Kingdom Nacth, where he last saw the man. He looked up and saw the sun a a few hours from being high in the sky. It must be 9:30 by now, he though. Brann will have come looking for me by now. But he won’t know where to go. Because Svin left a note, a note that read, *Dear Brann, I know you will be looking for me by the time you read this. I have go somewhere you cannot follow. Where the sun can’t shine on me, and where the shadows hide my every move. Best of Luck, Svin.*

“Idiot he has gone to the Shadow Forest, I’m sorry brother but we cannot follow him.” Brann whispered. And with that They all left

But Svin didn’t go to the Shadow Forest, he went where no one else could follow. He went towards his destiny. But for now his destiny was the nearest tavern.

As Svin entered the tavern everyone looked with surprise and started whispering. “I would like a room for the night and a place for my kran.” Svin said. “Of course, but the only one we have left is by the stables.” The inn keeper said. “That will be fine.” Svin replied giving the inn keeper two organia coins. The inn keeper gave Svin the keys for the room and Svin walked towards it. And all returned to normal at the tavern, for now.

In the room there was a bed, a candle, a desk, a chair, and a cloaked figure. Svin jumped with surprise and rushed towards the man, who jumped out the window. Svin rushed to the window and looked down it was two stories and the man was gone. Lying on his bed, looking at the ceiling Svin though about what he knew about the cloaked man. It was like he followed Svin, everywhere he went Svin saw the man. Like he was tempting Svin’s fate, or ensuring it. What did the man need him to do?

Svin awoke, sweating; strange I can’t remember my dream. Svin lay there trying to remember, but nothing came to him.

Svin walked down to the stables to retrieve his kren, but when he got down he only found a confused stableman. “I thought you just left.” Said the stableman. “No, I’ve just come to get my kren.” Replied Svin. “You just got your kren.” The stableman said confused. “In case I’m going to need a kren.” Svin said. He paid the stableman, and walked out with a female kren named Era.