

TWISTER



What happens when civilisations clash and the world descends into desperation? We evolve. Evolution and desperation results in the creation of weapons for survival, weapons so advanced that if not properly cared for will destroy the very thing it was created to protect.

THE AWAKENING

The story starts with a human called Hanna von Krogh. She is a fierce, small creature with a dirty blonde buzz cut, and almost unnaturally dark green eyes, and skin so pale she almost looks a little ill, common for those born and raised in the icy utopia. Hanna works as an agent for Haven, spending her time in Kvenland scouting for both materials and possible recruits. Following excavators from the authorities she sneaks into a newly discovered bunker and finds what she can only describe as the most beautiful mech she has ever seen.

Under millenia of dust, she sees a twisted, large mechanical body, made of what looks like steel and stone forged together and engraved with ancient patterns (think detailed engraved armour from the middle ages ish). Like all mechs there is no way to determine if it is meant to be male or female - but there is no mistaking that it is meant to look more like a person than the mechs she's used to seeing. Having no idea what this thing actually is, she accidentally turns them on and in doing so screams at the sight of the mech's bright yellow, glowing eyes. In doing so, she realised her mistake as she hears the troops and workmen coming rushing down into the bunker. Terrified of what they see they run away, but Hanna knows they will come back with all the firepower they have to get rid of the "Demon" and "Destroyer" from the ancient warnings. Hanna on the other hand has been exposed to her fair share of advanced tech being from the secret ice utopia of Haven and her initial fear turns into curiosity.

The mech suddenly moves and lets out a terrible, rusty and coarse screech, hits their head and looks down at a wide-eyed Hanna. "Hmm, a hum.. *cough cough*, oh geez, you wouldn't happen to have some oil would you?". Hanna stares back in amazement, she's never heard a mech speak before. It looks around the room, and you can hear the machinery twist and turn as they try to comprehend the situation. It is clear that they've been turned off for so long that most of their memories have been lost. Hanna finally manages to stutter "w-what are you?". "A warforged of course". There is a further moment of confusion as they both try to figure out what the other is thinking and what knowledge they lack. At last Hanna breaks the silence asking, "Do you have a name?". The warforged in front of her tilts their head. They don't seem surprised, like the concept of a name is familiar, but they also can't remember if they have one. "Hmm... I think it was one word", the warforged says as it tries to stand up. The crooked body twists and turns as if they're stretching after a long nap, a long nap that resulted in its torso being twister backwards.

After some comical twisting and stumbling around it finally stands up and shows its full height, must be over 2 meters tall, Hanna thinks to herself as the warforged towers over her small 160cm figure. With a chuckle she says "Well, I think I'll call you Twister then". As if they could control the very substance of their being, like a human with their muscles and skin, Twister smiles and nods. "I can get used to that". At that moment they hear a loud bang and voices shouting to each other to stay close and in formation. "We have to hide", Hanna says as she grabs Twister's upside-down hand and they hurry to the back of the room behind the pillars. The soldiers, too scared to even enter the room properly, summon all their magic and devices to blast the part of the room where Twister was spotted out of existence. Hidden under Twister's large frame Hanna is protected from the fire and the heat, but her ears will never be the same. Satisfied that nothing could possibly have survived their, almost nuclear, bombing of the room the troops leave, closely followed by Twister with a hurt Hanna in their arms.

Realising that this world is not so different from their fragmented memories, and seeing the extreme reaction to their existence, Twister hides out in an abandoned warehouse where he takes care of Hanna. Her ears did not cope with the loud explosions - her hearing is essentially gone. Together they hide out for about 3 months, teaching each other about their new existence. Twister recalls old battle signals and creates a sign language for the two of them to communicate in, whilst Hanna uses this to teach them about the new world they've entered into. (The language differs from normal sign language, which Hanna eventually learns on her own, but she uses their own private one when talking to Twister).

Eventually, they make the risky move of deciding to sneak Twister through to the docks where a ship to Haven is waiting. Their trip does not go down without incidents, but after a close call involving a nasty eldritch blast aimed at Twister's head, they managed to get them on the ship. Stowed away with other secret passengers that shouldn't be seen by others than those who know the ship's final destination, Twister meets a strange creature they manage to identify as a half-elf whose story is almost more tragic than their own. During the voyage, Sol, the half-elf, proves to be just about strange enough for Twister and they share Hanna's story about Haven with him (with only a small, stern conversation about the meaning of secrecy with Hanna afterwards), and convince him to join them in settling down in this unknown ice paradise.

HAVEN

Arriving in Haven, Hanna introduces them to the workings of the town and the different sectors. Twister finds themselves with an unexplainable call towards both the magical college and the engineering college, where they start studying. They quickly show themselves impeccably skilled at both, despite not having any innate magical power or patron, gaining both admirers and 'haters' along the way. Being ancient and young at the same time, and built for war, Twister is not great with people.

They will frequently state what they're thinking out loud without even realising and will take it as self-evident that what they know is known by all. This frankly makes them a bit of a dick to other people. Those working with him today are those who managed to see past what others perceive as pure arrogance and a superiority complex, as simply being a well meaning creature acclimatising to the world around them. These are limited to Hanna, Sol and a couple of assistants called Knot and Bast - two goblin twins as ambitious as Twister and almost as good with booth magic and mechs. Twister's memories from his past life are limited, but what they do know is that there were more warforged like him. Those made in the ancient times are all gone as far as Twister or anyone else they've met knows, and so is the way and tech for making them. However, they know it is possible, and Twister has devoted the majority of his time trying to create another one like themselves. So far, the closest they've gotten is creating Twister's dear pet, Rascal - a mech resembling a large lynx in shape and size, but its behaviour more closely resembles a very intelligent dog.

When not stowed away in their lab working (sometimes a week at a time as they don't need sleep or food), Twister adds new additions to the flat they share with Sol, build race mechs (the best I might add), and watches Sol's shows in Luster whilst enjoying a nice cup of motor oil (nothing like a smooth inside amiright?). Since arriving in Haven, both Sol and Twister have found themselves prone to trouble and have had a string of adventures solving small mysteries. Recently they rose to fame by revealing that a gang of pirates stole mechs to sell in Kvenland. This was seen as an especially serious crime as it could compromise Haven's security by alerting the authorities to its existence. In doing so, Sol and Twister gained a varied reputation; most viewed them as heroes, whilst others saw them as the ones fucking up their lucrative busniess. However, people knew better than to mess with the ancient war machine with unexplainable magic powers, and the performer rumoured to be some mysterious assassin - the pair made for excellent story material. Hanna occasionally stops by a few times a year when she's back from her missions in Kvenland, and then she normally joins Twister in watching Sol's shows or cheers on Twister's mechs in the races. She is rarely in Haven for more than a couple of weeks at a time and is a busy bee integrating all the newcomers, but she always finds time for the warforged.

THE PAST - THE LAST WAR

In the last war, roughly 3000 years ago, Twister was made as part of an army to fight an invasion. Who they fought was unknown to their kind as they didn't need to know, only obey, and why was long forgotten by both sides. The only thing they did know was that somehow the fight had reached a desperate point of no return when creating sentient war machines to fight for them.

Some were created for the sole purpose of being just that, a war machine, and they were simpler constructions whose only purpose was to destroy what they were told to destroy and nothing more. Such beings sought the complete destruction of most of the now ancient world, and their advanced tech with it. Others were more advanced, created for the purpose of advancing the tech already in existence, prepared to find innovative solutions to repair those hurt in combat.

Twister belongs to the second category. Their kind became too advanced to obey all commands without hesitation, and soon stopped providing support for the war, seeking to use their skills for innovation useful outside of combat. This unfortunately added them to the kill list and soon most of their kind was destroyed with the rest of the civilisations. Twister was one of the few that managed to escape this fate by barricading themselves in a bunker and shutting off in the hope that one day the world will be restored and they will be turned on to see a bright new world living in peace. During this time, those seeing the destruction left warnings behind for new generations to find, telling them about the dangers of sentient creations. This led to slow progress in the whole of what today is called Kvenland.

FRAGMENTED MEMORIES

Twister's memories are limited to the fragments of the war and why they fled into the bunker. They remember tech being far more advanced than that of Haven and that magically infused inventions were the standard. How they have this vast knowledge of the workings of magic is unclear, and so is the workings of the tech of the ancient world. They can remember others like themselves, but not how they got there. By studying the current tech, magic and themselves the memories have not started coming back, but they managed to make a huge leap forward in creating Rascal. Little else is known about the old world - Twister's own theory is that time has simply worn down his memory and that it may be lost forever. Only time will tell.

