

*Locations, dates, and names changed or redacted for privacy

**Despite the possibly silly changes, this report covers an IRL fire that killed a lot of people. May their souls find peace.

From the ashes — hope

How one woman bested Eden's deadliest fire

By Ileszakal

EDEN, The Garden. — Everything was dark. Only the red streaks in the sky lit the road as she drove. Hell had come to Eden and everything Jane Doe knew was up in flames.

On [DATE], the residents of Eden, The Garden witnessed the beginning of a tragedy.

A fire had crept towards the town in the early hours of the day. A fire that would later sweep across Eden, leaving devastation and ruin in its wake. Known as the Hells' Fires, it would go on to become the deadliest, most destructive fire in Eden's history. More than [a large number of] people lost their lives to the blaze and thousands of homes and businesses were burned to the ground.

Doe's home was one of them.

After that day, Doe had to start from scratch. All that was left was her car, her loved ones, and the clothes on her back. Describing what she lost, Doe said: "Everything. All of my childhood stuff, my first car, all of my pets. I had a beautiful fish tank and a pet frog that my mom didn't grab for me."

Having grown up in Eden, Doe remembers hiking the local trails with her father when she was young. Eden is where she discovered her love for art. It's where she went to school. It's where she made some of her closest friends and where she met her longtime partner.

During her senior year at Eden High School, Doe attended Garden College via a special program. Like many seniors, Doe had plans for her future. She hoped to move out with her boyfriend and gain admission into Heaven College's divine radiology program.

It was still morning when she received the news.

"I was at Garden College, but my mom told me to come up to Eden to help her evacuate and get my chariot and pets," Doe said. She drove past dozens of fleeing people, but when she got there, it was already too late.

“Someone yelled at us that the fire was on Garden’s Mill, which was only a couple blocks from my house so I just accepted that I would lose my stuff and turned around.” After driving for hours through heavy traffic, Doe found herself in Heaven’s Gate with her boyfriend and family.

Her new life wasn’t easy. School had started back up and her family began to face financial difficulties. “My mom couldn’t afford our apartment anymore so me and my boyfriend got jobs and started paying the rent,” she said. Yet Doe persevered and in [DATE] she graduated from Garden High School with the rest of her class.

Today, Doe lives with her boyfriend in a small rental in Outer Eden. Pieces of her personal art hang around the room, their vibrant colors a stark contrast to the worn walls. Despite the hardships, she described her current life in pleasant terms: “Life is amazing, to be honest. I have my own place, my own pets, a steady relationship and a steady income.” She still intends to obtain a divine radiology license at Heaven College.

Like the vivid artworks that pop against the beaten walls of her rental, Doe was not lost in the tragedies that befell her. Instead, she stands tall — triumphant — as she emerges from the ashes.