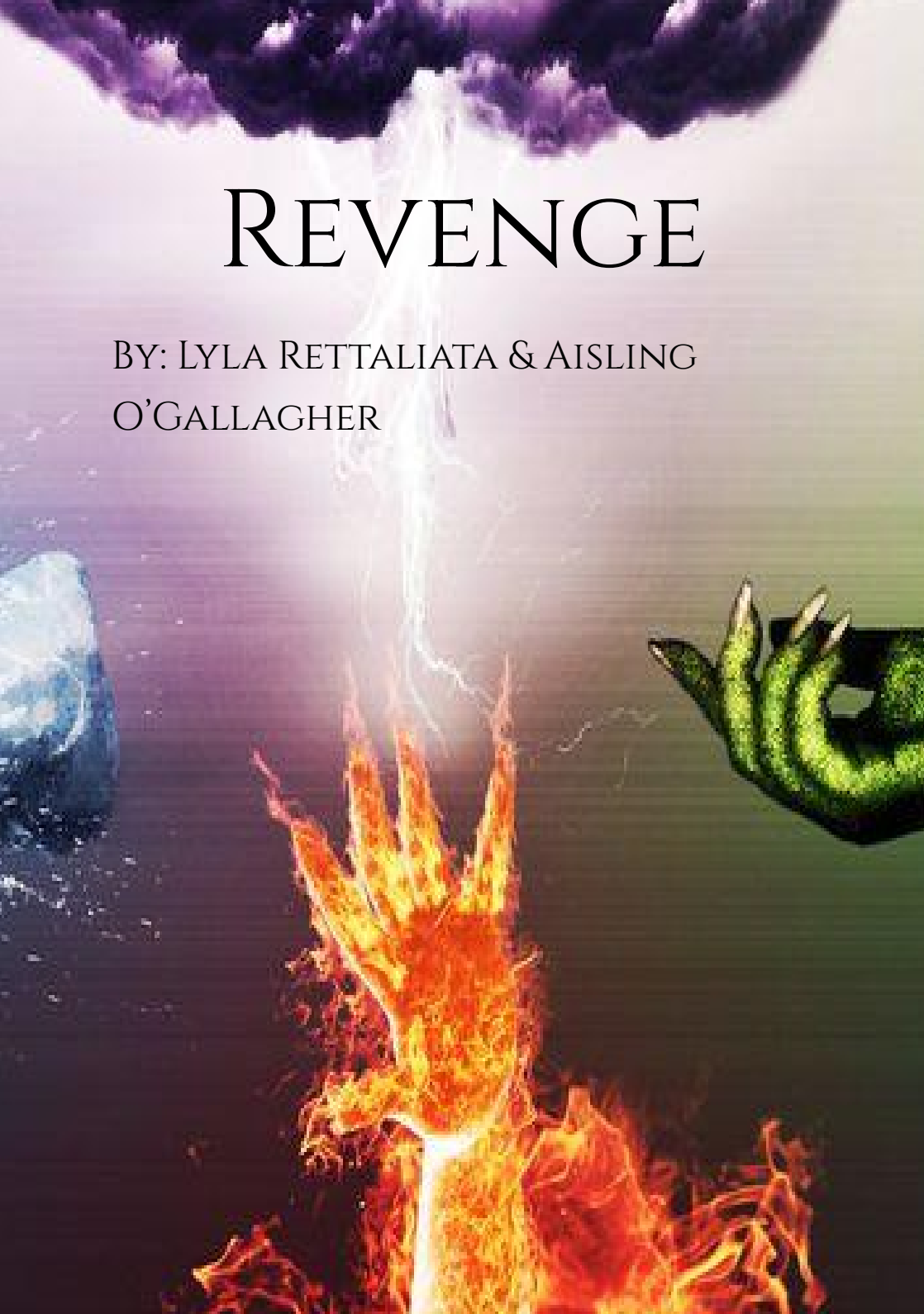


REVENGE

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PROLOGUE

“She’s dangerous, General. There’s no way to contain her power.” Collon said, staring at the girl. “The Queen disagrees.” General Jet said after some time. “She could be a very useful tool to us in the coming war.”

“Pardon me, General, but what if she turns on us? And decides to... I don’t know. Go to *them*? That’s where she came from anyway, right?” Collon said, and the General smiled, his eyes aflame. “Do not worry, soldier. I have the perfect solution.”

General Jet pulled out a syringe filled with a misty liquid. “Our greatest scientists have created this. It is mind control.” Collon’s eyes widened. “You mean, you’ll be able to control her *mind*?” He said, awe and fear mixed together. “No. But we’ll be able to summon her whenever we need her. But we need a place to conceal her. Nobody can know we have such a powerful weapon.”

Collon smiled. “What if we put her... back in her territory? So then we can... fight them like that?”

“Perfect idea. Guards! Tell the Queen our plan. Transport this weapon through the Cosmic Web. Our war awaits.”

CHAPTER 1

At 14, it was no secret that Eden knew she was different. Besides living on the territory of Wind, she had the complete wrong power! She had all *four* of the elements in her control. Everyday, she asked her parents: “Why am I like this?”, but her mother and father just smiled and ignored her.

Her brother, Zephyr, like a normal Drafter, had the power of the Wind. Her parents were both accomplished Galest. There were four rankings in the Windom territory. Drafter –the apprentice ranking–, Galest –mostly adults that have a medium amount of training–, Currents – the older adults, or the higher nobles, and lastly, the Queen, who controlled every kind of wind there was.

“I guess I don’t fit into any of the rankings.” Eden muttered to herself, remembering again when her Instructors had first told her about the rankings. A messenger knocked on the door.

“Coming!” Her mother, Vail, called. Vail opened the door, and Eden peaked out of her room.

“Yes, she is here.” Vail said, and Eden saw her nod. “Eden! The Queen would like to see our family. Pack a tunic, night clothes, and some food, as quickly as possible, please.”

A flash of panic flashed through Eden. Was it about her grades? She tried to remember her last report scroll. She thought she had Ws in every class. “Focus.” She said to herself, then quickly packed up her stuff, meeting her parents and her brother at the front door.

“The messenger brought each of us a wind gondola.” Her father said, opening the door. Since the Windom was practically floating in the air, wind gondolas and chariots were necessities for being able to live.

The smooth ride was fast, and as they approached the palace, fear was permanently engraved into Eden. What had she done wrong? They climbed out, leaving their luggage inside

the gondolas. The palace doors opened, and inside the throne room, the queens of each element stood calmly. *They haven't been in person for years. What was so important?* Eden thought, and that was when she saw a boy from Fire.

CHAPTER 2

Ash rolled his eyes. Why did he have to come to this *important* queens meeting in the Wind kingdom, if he wasn't a queen? *Just another thing to be angry about, I guess.* The Wind palace's doors opened, and two adults and two children walked in. The girl caught his eyes immediately.

She had soft brown hair, an expression of slight panic mixed with determination. "Good morning, Eden." The Wind Queen said, and all the other queens nodded. "Your Majesties." The girl-Eden-said and bowed. "All four of us have very important news." The Wind Queen said calmly.

Eden's eyes widened, and Ash stared at her some more. "Pardon me, Your Majesty, but there are more... more of me?" The Wind Queen shook her head. "No. But we have decided that it would be best for you to learn each element so we can stop the war with The Dark as soon as

possible. We wanted this to happen through someone that was also an apprentice rank.”

Ash’s mind spun on fire for a moment. *Does this girl have the power of all the elements?* He thought, and then the Fire Queen, Queen Volsta, started to speak. “I brought Ash with me, as you can see.” The Wind Queen looked at Ash and nodded.

“Terra and Whirl, how about you? Do you have anyone in mind?” The Wind Queen said, and the Earth Queen nodded. “I was thinking Devon,” and the Water Queen added, “And for me, Tide.”

Ash started to zone off, watching Eden’s parents and brother walk out by order of their queen. That left Eden alone. “Terra, please have Devon brought as fast as possible. The same for Tide, please, Whirl.” The Wind Queen said. It seemed that she had the most power at this meeting. “Ash, we will show you to your temporary room. Eden, you will be right next to

him. I see you have been through the palace before, so it is room 3A and 4A, okay?"

Eden nodded, and Ash walked slowly to follow her. They walked partly in silence. "It must be pretty cold here for you, huh?" Eden asked softly. Ash rolled his eyes. "Yeah, whatever. I'm not worried about it." Eden raised her eyebrows.

"And that completely explains why you're wearing a cloak. Okay then..." Eden said, smiling. Ash glared at her for a moment, then let himself smile back. *Just keep your fiery act. Make her scared of you. STOP SMILING. Don't let her know you like her.* He looked out the window, staring down at the ground far below.

"You get used to it." Eden said quietly, continuing to walk. *Okay...* Ash thought, but followed Eden up the marble stairs. It was colder up the stairs, so he lit a small flame on his hand. Eden looked back to look at him, but

thankfully said nothing as they approached two doors.

“Can you control all four elements?” Ash said, and Eden turned to stare at him, stopping. “How do you know that?” Eden said, fear creeping up in her voice. “I’m not dull. It was pretty easy to figure it out.” Ash said, but Eden grabbed his arm before he could keep talking. *We- we’re touching. No- I don't want this-* “You can’t tell *anyone*, do you hear me?” Eden hissed, but Ash shook his head.

“Nobody should be able to have that power. It’s dangerous. Especially if you can’t control it.” Ash snapped, pulling his arm away and opening a door to one of the rooms. Ignoring Eden standing there, he slammed the heavy door and his thoughts spun. *If I had that much power, this war would be over already. A sudden realization shuddered through him. Why doesn’t she try to help her kingdom defeat the Dark?*

CHAPTER 3

Devon was a loyal part of Earth's Way. And she knew it. So that certainly didn't mean she was supposed to help a super-powerful girl who had *her* element. That wouldn't be loyal, right? *It's what my queen would want me to do. So it is loyalty.*

Devon walked along her earth's path, the smell of blossomed flowers in the air. She walked to a pergola and sat at her reading bench. Devon had all the information anyone could have about earth. Not only because it was her power, but because she had been trained for the moment that awaited this early spring morning. Devon wasn't at all prepared for training a girl with four powers.

"The four queen's haven't been seen together in over two hundred years. This must be important." She said in a reassurance voice toward herself. She walked along the brown, pebbled pathway that aligned her homelands

village. She had brought all of her greenery tunics. A special tunic only those who had the earth's power owned.

Devon sat with her mother in the gondola they had sent for her. She wanted so much to get out and smell the fresh atmosphere. But she couldn't walk there because the ground was made of clouds. Devon only sat and looked at her mother's braided red hair with freshly picked wildflowers tied in with a light blue ribbon. Her mother's hair was full of several small braids, the ribbon making the color of her seem more red than it was. Her mother sat solemnly staring out the window. She appeared worried. Her mother looked back at her, smiling warmly, hiding the worried look that Devon could sense.

Devon's hair was more of a light brown with a reddish tint to it. She had one light blue eye and one deep green eye with gold and yellow flecks in the center of the green. When

looking at her eyes, you could almost see her personality. That was what many had told her. But there were many others like her. Back in her homeland, there were many others with the same eyes as her.

The gondola pulled to a stop and there was a silence. Devon had the realization that she was in front of the palace's wide, broad doors with beautiful wood carvings of each element. Each element was brought to the center in the carving making sort of a hurricane of elements in the middle.

Devon and her mother walked quietly through the big doors opening into a large throne room. The four queens of the elements stood and welcomed them. Devon saw another girl, sitting on a bench next to a boy. The girl was talking to the boy, but he didn't seem interested. But Devon could tell, he was interested.

The earth queen, Queen Terra, took a step toward her, her emerald green eyes meeting Devon's. Queen Terra explained what had to be done on Devon's part. Devon understood, but was afraid of what troubles would be to come. *I don't even know these people. I guess I'll get to know them.* Devon thought, not realizing Queen Terra stepped back to her throne seat.

Devon walked over to Eden and Ash and smiled warmly, "Hi. I'm Devon. And you are?" Eden stared up at her, "Oh, I'm Eden, and this is Ash." Ash glared at Eden and said in a cold voice, "I can introduce myself." Eden said, "Alright, alright. Calm down. Just being polite and all." "I'm gonna go to my room..." Ash said, standing up and speed walking away. His presence reminded Devon of a warm summer day, she could sense he wasn't as bad as he seemed. Devon and Eden laughed. "So, you're Devon, right?" "Yep that's me..."

CHAPTER 4

Eden was lonely. Even though Devon was sitting next to her, she was still lonely. She thought about Ash. “Devon, what do you think of Ash?” Eden asked, and Devon smiled. “What do you want me to think of him?” She said teasingly, and Eden stared at her. “No, seriously.” She said firmly.

“You’ll never believe it, but I *think* he’s a bit angry on the outside.” Devon said, and they both smiled. “And I *know* he likes you.” Devon added, and Eden stared at her. “Really, from here it looks like he absolutely *hates* me. Anyway, do you have any idea of when... I think his name was Tide... is coming?” Eden asked, and Devon shook her head.

“Probably later tonight. I heard the Water people are late sleepers. I feel bad for him though. He has to share a room with *Ash*.” Devon said, and Eden stood up. “Where are you going?” Devon asked, and Eden opened the

door. "I... I" Eden stuttered, but Devon smiled again. "To check on Ash?" She questioned, and Eden nodded. "Have fun!" Devon teased, and Eden shut the door.

Eden took a deep breath and quietly walked to Ash's guest room. She knocked softly when she reached the door. "Who is it?" Ash snapped, and Eden took another deep breath before simply opening the door. "You didn't ask to come in." Ash stared at her. She noticed his fireplace was lit.

"Sorry..." Eden said sheepishly, trailing off. Ash stared at her for a while longer. "What do you want?" He asked, not angrily but not kindly, and Eden sank back in the doorway. "You're not leaving until you tell me why you were here." Ash commanded firmly.

"I just... wanted to make sure you were settling in." Ash narrowed his eyes at Eden as she spoke. "And... um... Devon and I wanted to know if you... uh... wanted to come with us

somewhere.” Ash raised an eyebrow. “And where would that be?”

“Look, I’m not telling you. Meet us at midnight.” As soon as Eden said that, that’s when the bell rang. Ash looked at her, waiting for a response. “Probably means Tide is here, hm?” Ash said, and Eden nodded.

“I... I better go.” Eden said, and she met Devon at a pillar outside the throne room. “How’d it go?” Devon asked, but Eden shook her head. “Later. Let’s go meet Tide!” Eden said, and as they opened the door of the throne room, a person came out. A person from Water.

This was Tide.

CHAPTER 5

Tide turned around and saw two girls looking at him. One had a green and brown tunic, the other a white. "Um... hello. I'm looking for room 4A." The girl in the white tunic nodded. "Come with us." She said, and he followed the two girls. "So, I'm Eden, and this is Devon. Devon's element is Earth... and I control all four. Anyway, you're sharing a room with Ash."

Tide felt like a tsunami had been dropped on top of him. Who was Ash? "Oh, okay. Thank you." He said politely, then stopped walking. Eden knocked on the door. "Ash?" She said softly, in a way that made Tide feel like there was a mutual feeling between the girl and Ash.

"WHAT? Why do you keep *bothering* me?" Ash roared from inside the room, and Eden shook her head. "Wait here." She whispered to Devon and Tide. Eden opened the door and closed it softly. From outside the door, they both heard Ash shouting and Eden speaking

calmly. Even though it was only the first day, clearly the two were comfortable with each other. Tide and Devon looked at each other uncomfortably.

“Devon, Tide, you can come in.” Eden said, and Devon opened the door. Tide was stunned. This room was gorgeous. “Hello, Ash. I.. uh... I’m Tide.” Ash nodded. “Hi.” He said, then turned his back and walked into their bathing room. Eden and Devon looked at him. “Tide, meet us in our room at midnight, okay?” Devon said gently, as if she felt bad that Tide would have to stay with Ash.

“Sorry for asking, but what time is dinner?” Tide asked, a slight embarrassment bubbling up inside her. “Well, the Wind Queen eats around the fifth hour. We should eat around the sixth in order to have enough time. Sound good? We can eat earlier or later if we need to though.” Devon said, and Tide nodded.

Eden looked at her. "How do you know that?" She asked, and Devon answered sheepishly with: "Books!" Eden nodded, and Ash came out. "You guys go. I want to talk to Ash for a second." Eden whispered to Devon and Tide, and they both nodded.

Tide was having a lot more fun than he thought he'd ever have in the Wind Kingdom.

CHAPTER 6

Ash stared at Eden. “By all flames, Eden, what do you *want*?” He said impatiently. Eden closed her eyes. *Do I tell him the truth?* When she opened them, Ash was a few steps closer to her. “You can’t treat people this way.” Eden said calmly, and Ash raised his eyebrows at her. “What way?” He said sarcastically, a small flame burning on his hand.

“You know what I mean.” Eden said, sitting down on a chair. “And I guess I expected too much of you. I thought you would change. I’ve known you for not even a day, and I’m already tired of you.” Ash’s heart beat painfully in his chest. *She hates you already. How could you do this?* He thought. But another side of him said: *Isn’t that a good thing?*

“So I’m going to expect you to come to dinner without setting anything on fire, alright?” Eden said simply, and stood up. Ash pushed past her, but stopped at the door.

“Wait.” Eden stated. Ash reluctantly stopped. “I already told you, but meet us at midnight in Devon and I’s room. I’ll remind Tide, but this is important.” She added, then left the room herself, leaving Ash alone.

CHAPTER 7

After dinner, Eden was getting changed into her night clothes. “I’m pretty sure the guards will check on us at nine. The boys know that too. So we can probably pretend to be asleep, right?” She asked, and Devon nodded. *Devon is amazing. We’re already basically friends.* Eden thought as she slowly drifted to a sleep state.