

“Wait! Please don’t I need him!” Mical cries out, “this sword in my stomach! Only he can remove it!”. Daniel examines it, “wait...I think I might be able to-” “Don’t touch it! You’ll kill me if you mess it up!” Mical begs. Daniel extends a hand and helps him stand to his feet, “what is your wish if you were to win?”. Mical clenches his fist and smiles, “I will wish for the thing I loved most in the world to return, her smile”. Daniel’s heart melts, “you came here just for that?”. “Of course!” Mical cheers.

Daniel for thousands of years has fought for peace, and the Lord, but even with all the joy that the Lord filled her heart with, she herself was still human with impurities. Her attitude for the world has become slightly jaded and bitter, but this reminded her why she believes and the purity of the world. A tear falls down her face, “thank you, for reminding me that the world is good...”. She wipes the tear and looks at Julius, “free this man from the sword at once! If you refuse to do so then I will kill you where you stand”. “Then I will remove the sword from him. He accomplished his half of our deal, so I will do mine” Julius answers and walks toward Mical.

Daniel stands to the side and allows Julius to come close to Mical. Julius eye to eye with Mical, “you did good work”. “I was going to have to kill him anyways to get my wish. If it was up to me I would have gone back and got Lander first, but it’s not really any different” Mical admits. “After I remove this, you go target Lander to your hearts desire, but if you target Luke, then I will cut you down”. Mical smiles, “sounds good”. Julius wraps his hand around the handle of the sword and leans in close, he whispers into Mical’s ear, “even if you weren’t holding that Phantom to my head, I was still going to do this”. Julius pours mana into his sword, shattering the mana zone, returning his weapon to a normal sword, as he pulls it out of Mical’s stomach, slicing him along the way.

He pulls the sword out before Mical can drag his Phantom into reality. Instead of continuing to battle, Mical resigns to his fate. He looks up to the sky with the same big dumb smile on his face, “I always hated magicians. I should have just spent the rest of my life with my love, instead of spending it fighting for a wish that would make her happy. No, she was always happy, I just wouldn’t have been able to see it. Maybe if I opened myself up to it, I could have just felt it instead”. He breaks apart into mana and blows away in the wind.

Daniel’s angels stand aside to let her grab Julius, “you monster! You evil, sick man! You go so far out of of your way to kill the only hope in this world!”. Julius stares at her in the eyes, “would you rather him get his wish to allow a girl to smile, and let Luke die for it?”. Daniel shakes him, “that’s not the point! Even if he needed to die at some point, there is still a right and wrong way to do it, and you somehow find the most wrong way of doing it! You don’t give anyone a chance, but isn’t that the whole point of being here and fighting for the wish?! You kill and betray before they even have a chance to do something nice for you!”. Daniel raises her fist, mana overflows from it, pouring out and around the whole area, “I’m sorry Julius, I gave you so many chances and you blew every one of them...”. Her fist is stopped by a red glowing pole held by Luke, “let my friend go Daniel...”.

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Lander enters the destroyed temple and sees the two men awaiting him. Without a word needing to be spoken, all three men understand each other enough to know that this is not the time for words. All three activate their abilities at the same time, Lander’s Phantom Azoth spans only the slightly larger than the building this time, while Richer’s stone glows, and Nebuchadnezzar’s staff glows and produces black liquid that floods the floor around him. “Running out of mana?” Richer asks while