

Marley takes a deep breath and tightens her grip around the blue pearl at her side. She steps onto the platform and places it on the topmost point of the engraved star. Others around her take the same position. She will be going up against eleven other competitors.

To her left is Olivia from Terra Division. The orb in front of her is emerald to represent the obvious correlation between her division and the earth. Marley's been told to not let Olivia's petite size fool her; that girl has a web of muscles hidden underneath her Terra uniform.

On Olivia's other side is Emmett from Soleil. In contrast to Olivia, his height and strong build are visible, and upon sight, make other competitors squirm.

Then there's Birdie from Cosima. What makes Birdie threatening is that you can't tell her strength from rumors or build. Her clear orb signifies a more intricate ability than your average air element. While Olivia has earth and Emmett has fire, Birdie has the advantage of surprise.

A second Cosima competitor is on Birdie's other side. Unlike Birdie, Niall's air orb is a sky blue. And his Fleet records speak for themselves.

Caspian from Tallulah, a water element, has an orb eerily similar to Marley's: the exact same shade of deep blue. Marley herself is listed in the competition as "Marley from Tallulah". Caspian locks eyes with her from the other side of the arena. His cool gaze indicates both skepticism and curiosity. She deserves those emotions after convincing him to illegally verify her entry.

On the other side of the arena are lesser known elements. First there's Sabik from Neo. His orb is a deep black, so deep it makes you question if your eyes are deceiving you when you look at it. Neo's population are time elements.

Sabik's orb could almost be confused with the dark gray orb of the competitor next to him. Zillah is from the Tirich division. She's a shadow element. There's actually three total competitors from Tirich; usually only a max of two competitors from a single division are allowed. Tirich is a unique case, though, being as it's the only population to harbor three separate elements.

Along with Zillah, there's Meyer, who's a light element, and Lior, a moon element. The three of them are extremely intimidating with their matching gray uniforms. They all wear the same expression of tight-knit brows and pursed lips. Since their elements aren't physical, they will need to rely more on concentration rather than muscle memory like the other competitors.

Finally, there's Lucius and Colie from Edhem Division; ether elements. They can manipulate the form of matter. No one wants to look them in the eye. Even though all elements can be dangerous, people have an irrational fear of ethers.

And Marley, who's listed under the guise of a water element from Tallulah, beats Birdie in the surprise department. In actuality, Marley is from Saida Division. She's an energy element. It's been a long time since Saida has participated in these competitions. It was thought that the Division died out centuries ago. But Saida has been powering the other divisions all that time. Marley and her people have been living underground, scared to come out of hiding for fear of things turning out as they did all that time ago. But now there's so little of them left that coming

out of hiding is worth the risk. Marley, being age eligible and one of the strongest of her kind, has accepted the task of proving her Division's worth.