



CHILD OF LIGHT

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Introduction

Child, tuck yourself in bed,
Let me tell a story,
Of Lemuria, a kingdom past,
And a girl born for glory.

Lost from our world came she,
Treachery gave close chase,
She raised her sword and flew,
For she feared not the race.

Three long lost fights to save,
A mad queen to defeat,
The journey would transform her,
Her destiny to meet.

The path home tragic and faint.
Beware the night, Child of Light.

For such an epic fairy tale, I was saddened that it was only in a video game form. What about the book readers? What about the children who could not afford the game itself?

Therefore I decided to be a narrator, to write one, a fan fiction (retaining the rhyming style in my writing) for all those who did not know about such a story; children, adults, and all who still have the child's heart within (him/her)self.

Introduction

I'm really thankful to Jeffrey Yohalem & Ubisoft Team for creating such a beautiful fairy tale.

This Fan Fiction work is only a narration of the original game

“Child of Light™ story, music, art and original characters | © 2014 Ubisoft Entertainment. All Rights Reserved.”

Dedication

To my Mom Lamia and Dad Mohammad

To my siblings Majed, Leena and Lilian

To my university friends who became my family

To Jeffrey Yohalem & Ubisoft Team for creating such a beautiful fairy tale.

To everyone who still have the child in him/herself

Prelude

Child. Tuck yourself in bed
And let me tell a story
Of Lemuria, a long lost kingdom,
And a girl born for glory.

In Austria was a crown land ruled by a duke,
Aurora was his daughter.
Child of a duchess mysterious,
Beloved by her father.

He raised the girl Alone,
They were rarely apart.
'Til the duke felt lonely,
And misplaced his heart.

It was the great Friday
Before Easter, 1895.
Players performed for the duke,
His new bride at his side.

That night Aurora went to sleep,
The fire burned down low.
She caught a chill that spread,
Her skin was cold as snow.

At dawn they found her
Vacant, Aurora's light gone out.
Her father wept and pleaded,
But there could be no doubt.

For all intents and purposes
Aurora was dead.
And yet... Once upon a time,
She awoke in a strange land instead.



Chapter I

The Girl and the Firefly



She were lying on an altar, sleeping face up to the skies. The altar was surrounded by colorful flowers, and two tall leafless trees on both sides. Aurora awoke, sitting on the altar's side, looking around her astonished, wondering how come here she did reside. Seeing soaring leafless trees, their top cannot be seen, clouded by mist, clouds or what they might be, "*What am I seeing? I must be dreaming.*" quoth Aroua.

Standing up on her feet, and wearing a yellow beautiful dress. Her long hair, red as roses, with her father's faux crown gift, on top of her head. she saw two stairs pathways leading down, She walked one of these paths, the wind tickles her gown. Tree leafs were the banister, passing by them to the ground, a view stir her, bewildered by what she found. A carved stone wall, displays seven leafless trees, which the sun, the stars and the crescent moon there befalls.

Continuing her walk, with curiosity checking what in on her sight, deep down until she reaches woods darker than night. Scared "*Father! Wake me from this slumber*" she cried. More and more, deeper in the woods she walks, sighting a wooden sign 'To the Old Monastery' written on it, under what light that passed through the mist as moonshine.

She spots a path through a hill, a cave, as she walked inside she whispered "*Woods darker than night, shadows lost of light*". At the end of the passage, it was blocked. She looked up and found a way out of this cave, in darkness it is cloaked. Looking around she saw a broken carriage in the far corner of the cave, with wooden planks, barrels and boxes wreckage. Searching the mess, here and there, she put her sight on a big wooden box with a good height. Aurora pushed the box until she reaches beneath the hole in the cave. Climbing over it, getting out, herself she did save. Continuing on her bare feet, through the woods she stepped.

Chapter 1
The Girl and the Firefly

Spotting a small grotto, stepping inside, sought a wolf, a foe. Growling, at her it stare "*Steady. Only little kids easily scare.*" quoth Aroura. Leaving the grotto, she decided going up the hill instead. No way found but a tall leafless tree, climbing on its branches and stems, reaching the top. Jumping towards the hill, she lands on her knee. She felt a little pain but it's gone.

Piercing through the woods' mist, where the atmosphere is just whist. Saying while she's walking "*This dream is formed of frigid air. Dark spirits fly, I know not where.*" In midst of the woods she found an abandoned house, covered in grass and algae. Not only that but a blooming apple tree, its braches dances under what these woods little light they have, but the light that the tree bathing itself with, is equal to a moonshine's half. Still Aurora, afraid she cried "*No! Wake up, wake up. Nightmare let me wake.*"

On her knees she fell under the blooming apple tree, she cried. Hands on her face trying to escape this nightmare, with tears on her cheeks glide. "*Papa, where are you? My heart shall break.*" she quoth. Then a sudden flash of light shone beneath the blooming apple tree, a blue spirit appeared. Small, rounded, towards Aurora it flew with its expression confused, looking at her crying, its blue light to her appeared. It asked "*Will someone please explain, how water falls with no rain?*"

"*Who spoke?*"

"*I did. Shake the dew from your eyes, Before mold grows. That's common sense.*"

"*A firefly that speaks advice? My supper must have been too dense.*" Looks confused

"*Food sounds good, but I am lost, ever heard of an Aurora?*"

"*Why, Sir, she is me!*" Looks happy

"*Both "Sir" and "she"? A split Aura... Perhaps you are some kind of flora?*" confused

"*Cease your foolishness at once! I am Aurora. I am she.*" Looks upset

"*Oh, why didn't you say so? Follow me.*" looks cheerful

"*A lady waits. Hair long as a forest stream, with skin like moths and gleaming eyes.*"

"*A seer, she'll know the way out of this dream.*" Looks relieved

Therefore, the firefly, she followed, deeper in the woods reaching a cliff side. From there, she saw far away a huge mountain with legs and arms walking, its impact on the ground, felt by her bare feet, almost made her of the cliff slide. Jumping over the cliff to the other side, she saw an outlandish looking plant. About Aurora's size, with illuminating flowers, in purple and blue. Aurora asked

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The Girl and the Firefly

“What is tied to these branches? Curious charms little hands fastened tight.” Firefly answered *“Don’t you know? These are wishes.”* Replied aurora in sadness *“Wishes of light left in the darkness night”* She approached the wishes, touching them, small blue lights and a big orange one, in a spherical shape from the wishes rose. *“Follow the orange one to find more, bright”* firefly quoth, continuing *“Wishes taste delicious. Have a bite”* after chomping the small spheres *“Wait until I tell father about this night”* quoth Aurora.

Then a little farther away, walking with her company, Sir Firefly. They reached what it seems an old orange orchard and went through. Many trees are fruitless, couples have few. In the orchard, the firefly leads her to a giant tree with a door, with symbols engraved. The firefly pointed *“The path’s right over this tree”* *“But I cannot fly there with thee”* replied Aurora. Thinking, both them trying to find a way inside, to see what that door does hide.

“Trapped, the door is bared.” Looking disappointed
“A scepter round... a translucent sphere...” Thinking

“Clear as glass, the answer!”
“Sir Firefly ignite your rear.”
“Whoa I barely know you.”
“Do it and I’ll show you”

Finding a way to get in, *“The three scepters a shadow cast.”* Aurora thinking loudly, *“Oh!”* Sir firefly replied, *“We have to match the symbols fast”* Aurora with the help of firefly solves the barred door that lies, in the orchard within at last. The oranges shine light as the door opens up to its full height. *“Sir Firefly, our path is clear”* *“But who would put a door here?”* both going inside the tree.


Stepping inside, an angel statue on a shrine they saw, beneath it, piercing a rock, a sword without a flaw. *“Who was she I wonder?”* Aurora thought aloud, *“Remove the sword under”* a hidden voice replied. *“Who spoke? Some sort of ghost”* questioned Aurora. *“The Lady of the Forest, I’m sure of this!”* quoth Sir Firefly, *“Aurora. Take the Sword of Mahthildis.”* quoth the hidden voice in nigh. There Aurora walked towards the Sword, grabbing it and pulling it from where it moored. Pulling it and raising it up high *“It feels real, look at it gleam”* heavy still it is, she hit where the ground is dry. From the other side of the tree, a monster slowly approached. Sir Firefly cried *“Run! That thing looks mean”*, *“Fortunately I wield a sword in this dream”* Aurora replied. The monster, wooden big grasshopper it looks like, jumped towards Aurora and Sir Firefly. With Sword, Aurora Fought. And with illuminating light, Sir Firefly made the monster blind.

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The Girl and the Firefly

Victorious Aurora rose in this fight. And the defeated monster to the ground crumbled in site.


Leaving the mysterious tree, going outside from the other side. It's a forest with a lot of grass and trees. "*Oh Father, how much farther?*" Aurora wailed, "*Aurora, what is a father?*" "*That is simple, I am his daughter*" quoth they. They arrived at a lake, they saw in sight a statue. An angel with a harp and a face of rue. The sky shone lights and thunder. As Aurora and Sir Firefly walk its under. They witnessed a mist, forming in a face shape over the creeks. Still they thought it's the weather just playing tricks. Forward they move, avoiding various monsters and beasts. Crossing the lake and its creeks. They found another cave, they went inside. It was darker than night, but fortunately Sir Firefly has its blue light. Leading the way, Sir Firefly flew. Aurora after it, she followed, still bare feet too. Illuminating the path, arriving to an exit, Sir Firefly smiled. Out of the cave they went, seeing an abandoned black wagon with dark green and yellow curtains. On it sits a black crow with a top hat on its head, near the wagon's oil lamp, to the forest's silence it hearkens.


Suddenly, the hidden voice cried "*Help me, Aurora*".



Chapter 2

The Queen of Light



he responds to the hidden voice quickly. Thus, towards the hidden voice she scurry. Passing by the abandoned wagon, “*Caw! Caw!*” the crow said who sat on. After seeing the scene, Sir Firefly said “*Don’t they know? Rocks planted in the ground will not grow?*”. As Aurora continuing in a hurry, she reached with Sir Firefly an abandoned mansion... or is it a cemetery.

The place is in ruins, where the plants and algae, covers all surfaces and the place it threatens. Approaching inside, she spots a broken marble fountain. Where also a white smoky ghost they saw roaming around, they’re certain. Illuminating the way, Sir Firefly drove the ghost away. Therefore, Aurora quickly advanced towards the ruins. Passing through the gates, the sky began crying. The clouds dews are falling, they’re digging into the rocks and marbles of the ruins.

They saw a pass underground, both Sir Firefly an Aurora went inside. “*Follow my voice*” quoth the hidden voice, with the steps of Aurora coincide. “*Through this spooky place?*” questioned Aurora, “*No other choice*” answered Sir Firefly. Through the place’s underground tunnel, where the pillars are holding the huge above ground place. They look damp and brittle, and pieces of ceiling are crumbled all over the place. They found an exit, going above the ground. Aurora and Sir Firefly, inside the mansion gardens themselves they found.

Walking through the garden along a paved way, they reached a black door with a sculpted golden tree on it, leading to the mansion’s hallway. “*Aurora*” behind the door called the hidden voice, “*The door is blocked*” quoth Aurora, “*How do we get it unlocked?*” asked Sir Firefly. Looking around, Aurora found a lever. But it’s far above the ground to get to that however. Looking around they found another door leading somewhere. They hope it will be upstairs, on any case there’re no other options anywhere.

Walking inside, they reached the boiler room. Where there are many cogs and pipes, also mechanisms for drainpipes. They spot the same black door way above. *“How on earth do we travel up high?”* Aurora in wonder questioned, *“I wish you could fly”* replied Sir Firefly. *“Aurora. Illuminate the oculi.”* Directed the hidden voice, *“Let me try”* said Sir Firefly. There was an oculi in middle of the boiler room. Sir firefly went there and with his power illuminating the oculi rune, the machinery start working and a wooden lift came down, releasing smoke and fume. Getting on the lift, Aurora went. The lift moved her up between the pipes and throughout. Seeing the steam from the pipes goes out, Sir Firefly asked *“What do you think they roast in these vats?”* *“Hopefully, not children. Oh no! What if it's cats?”* answered Aurora. Arriving at the second floor, she opened the black door. Going through she went outside, where the clouds in the sky cried.

Walk she did, on top the ruins. Saw the lever that might open the black door, by it stands a statue of gargoye heretofore. As soon Aurora got near to it, moved it did and assaulted Aurora, her to hit. Aurora drew her sword of Mahthildis and Sir Firefly with his blue lights. With her sword, Aurora the gargoyles hit. It made the statue crack a bit, but still, attacked her with his stone claws, for Aurora it aimed. Sir Firefly interrupted the statue blinding it with his blue light, where Aurora used this opportunity to finish the statue off while it's blinded. With light Sir Firefly helped, victory was her. The statue of gargoyles crumbled, where it dances, Aurora's red hair in the air. There the lever, she switched it to the other side *“There! It is unbarred.”* Aurora rejoiced, *“Aurora! Be on guard”* the hidden voice replied. Thus the door opened and they went inside.

It's a big hall, where the trees and algae are everywhere. But there where in the middle, a statue of angel, the same one Aurora and Sir Firefly saw outside. The ceiling is supported by very tall six pillars on the statue of angel's beside. *“Here at last”* quoth Aurora, *“Beware! A spell has been cast”* the hidden voice warned *“I am imprisoned behind the glass”*. Looking up, there were two statues of headless winged knights. Standing facing each other, in their hands they hold their heads uprights, looking to each other, while the statues stand on top of the pillars. Beside each one, a horse sitting, all of these in white marble colors. But the statues have different staffs, on one is a long trumpet, the other is a flagstaffs. High above, four scepters are floating with different crystals hue. Except for one, each have a colorful crystal on; Red, Green and Blue. In the middle of the ceiling, lays down a chandelier, held by chains. It has four different oculi; Red, Green, Blue and Purple spheres. Far through the hall, a colored glass window as the same oculi colors with a hooded lady fixed on the wall. Aurora thought of illuminating the colored oculi in the chandelier. Thus, Sir Firefly glanced what

she was thinking about and illuminated all and each oculi sphere. First, the red, breaking the red glass, then the blue, broke the blue glass. *“I am nearly free, be fast”* finally the green broke the green glass.

Suddenly the knight statue moved and said “Who dares challenge the queen of night?” picking his flagstaffs. The other also moved, said “A tiny nothing with locks of red” holding his head high and picking up his trumpet staff. Both on a white marble horse they stand. For the fight they demand.

Frightened Aurora *“This is but a dream, Trust not what you see.”* *“Seems real to me! They want us dead!”* Sir Firefly cried.

With beam of light Aurora used in fight. Towards Aurora, the statue threw his head, fortunately she dodged it at the fairest slight. Sir Firefly with his light, tried to blind the headless knight. Thus Aurora with her whole might, with her sword stroked the statue of knight. The other statue with his flagstaff, for Aurora it aimed. Hitting her faux crown to the ground, picking her crown and she is unharmed. The knight with trumpet staff blew winds from it. Where Aurora still she stands, defending herself, from the windy blows of the statue’s trumpet. Aurora, her hand shined. She aimed for both statues, a ray of light. To the ground, putting them to crumbles. Just rocks and stones they became at site.

A bright light emerged from the hooded lady’s window, with a star, floating down to the ground below. Turned into a lady, did the bright light. Walking cane in her hand and wearing hooded dress in white. *“Lady, this is Aurora.”* quoth Sir Firefly, *“Madame, Snared am I in this dream land. I am ready to wake up now”* Asked Aurora, she did try. *“Child, a vision! Take my hand.”* The hooded lady opened her hand and leant towards Aurora. In turn, Aurora hesitated, but taking her hand, she then decided.

*They say the Four from out of darkness came,
Mahthildis shaped cruel nature with her art,
The surging ocean Cynbel’s math did part,
Rambert spread his wealth upon the barren plain,
Erin’s spear lit the highest peaks aflame.*

They say at the explorer's heart
Lies the Secret of Ages to impart.
Through its fire the wilderness they did tame.
But if all was dark, from whence came their spark?

Light dances along a chain, flaming bright,
Spreading out to bridge the cold empty night.
Star to star trailing blooms of red hot fire.

Such a path must span our sky's blackened arc,
Leading to another dawn, a lost light.

Once the sun shone upon a land
Of sequined valleys and peaks of white.
And at night, ruined castles glowed
With alabaster light.

From the stars and the crescent moon.
A queen of light ruled this rambling place,
Each night she walked the palace alone,
Her luminosity dawn's own face.

Until one night there was no trace.
The queen had vanished. And with her the light.
Dark resided in its place.

The usurper, Umbra, hid from sight

She sent her daughters in her stead.
The sun, the stars and the crescent moon,
they pilfered from the sky
extinguished them with a monsoon.

Then Umbra's dark creatures conquered the land
Our lives soon snuffed out by a wave of her hand.

Chapter 2
The Queen of Light

“Madame, thank you for the story, but now I wish to wake” enjoyed
“So dull my speech, you fell asleep? What I speak of is real, not fake”

“All around us lies the land of Lemuria. I am afraid this is not a dream, Aurora.”

“The only way is a magic link, a mirror behind the throne”
“Stolen by Umbra, Queen of the night. The sole path home”

“Is to banish the night. Bring back the stars, the sun, the moon. The light.”
“No! Unacceptable. My father waits. The Firefly said you’d help me post haste--”
” upset

“I have a name, you know.”
“Do not despair, my dear. I created Igniculus to aid you”
“A bug the size of a pin? No good, I fear” upset

“Never shall I recover. The sun, the stars and the moon” crying
“Do not despair, my dear. For the sun and moon, seek the highest and the lowest room”

“First, go back from whence you came, past the altar on which you woke this day.”
“Through a tree of thorns sharp and tangled, seek help along the way”

“And what of the stars? How will I reach the skies?” sad
“Why, child, the answer lies above you. Open your eyes.”

Looks above, Aurora saw the stars. Her hands, high she held them. For the stars to reach them. The stars shone a very bright light, surrounding Aurora. Giving her wings of a fairy, so she can have a flight. *“What an incredible surprise! Am I a faery? I am in flight”* quoth Aurora in wonder while she is in midair. She flew here and there, Acrobatic moves she did in midair. After she finished, on her bare feet she land. *“Aurora, you are a child of light.”* the Lady of the Forest said.

“Now listen carefully. Keep that charmed crown. Upon your brow. Never remove it, clear?”
“One last thing before I go. If you should ever despair, my dear.” giving her a wooden flute

“Thank you... exactly what does it do?”
“Sorry, child, I cannot hear you.” becoming transparent

“Goodbye!” vanished and just a voice
“Wait, but I” sad
“Must know. My father? Is he all right?”
“I am surrounded by endless night.”


Finishing the conversation with the Lady of the Forest, She flew up high to the ceiling of the hall, thinking about the Lady’s quest.

*And so Aurora Wandered
The twilight forest, far from home,
Starlight only to guide her,
Except for a firefly, alone.*


*Anxious for the comforts
Of family who could not trace her.
Searching for the sun and moon,
A father to embrace her.*


*And somewhere in the night
Perched upon a throne in the dark
Waited Umbra, usurper,
To snuff out Aurora’s spark.*

Up high she flew, to a break in the ceiling. She bathed in the warmth of light while she is flying. *“Oh my. This is what it feels like to fly. Onward, up high.”* quoth Aurora. Passing through the ceiling hole, towards and amongst the clouds dunes. In the sky, seeing pieces of lands carried by flying balloons.



Chapter B
Into the West



urora flew with her friend Igniculus up high, amongst the floating lands that held by balloons as if pinned in the sky. As they were passing by one floating land, *“Chase my dream... as well?”* they heard, looking at the direction where that sound came from and, on that floating ground they espied; a small hemispherical house and jester in red, beside a huge balloon up ahead.

Approaching the jester in red *“What do I do?”* quoth the jester in worried tone and circling tread.

“Excuse me-”

“Little lady, have you seen bright balloons nearby?”

“Any unicorns balancing on balls? Or stripped tents raised to the... stars?”

“Don’t you mean “Sky”?”

“I am afraid not.”

“Fiddlesticks. Left here to... fester” sad

“Pardon me, Madame, but are you a jester?”

“Take a glance at this... note.” *“Perhaps you mean “Letter”?”* holding the letter

“What’re these scribbly marks I spy?”

“Why... It’s Latin Sir Firefly!”

Reading the letter, Aurora to the jester;

“Dearest sister, Rubella, night has fallen on our land. In these dark times one must stand.””

“Not to hide up in the clouds, curled. But to juggle the weight of the world.””

“At death’s gate to slip and fall, and triumphantly dance around it all.””

“In short: to laugh or not to laugh? That is the question. The answer is clear. I will follow my dream’s intention. And join the travelling circus in the plains,

before its ascension. ” ”

“Sister, I hope you will not remain listless, your brother Tristis” ”

“Tristis has split our act in two. Taken me through the wringer.”

“Left Rubella behind, Me, Lemuria’s wittiest... vocalist.” “Doesn’t she mean “Singer”?”

“Regardless, we have much to do... and should not linger.”

“Little lady, can I join you? My bags are already packed,”

“I’ve got to find my brother and save our double... routine!” “Act” correcting

“Know the way is likely dangerous, with creatures strange to us.”

“I am a trained acrobat, do not worry, I can handle... this!” “...“ That” ”
correcting

Therefore, Rubella joined the party. Thus, the heroes become three.

Rubella, a jester in red, with red and white cap' n 'bells on her head. Has three cons, each have a stripe in yellow, her foule- bordeau. Having eyes of green and hair of brown, all of her in beautiful preen not a clown. A slightly red nose and cheeks, a cheerful person, an elf, her brother Tristis she seeks.

Moving out together, in a very calm weather. Rubella, checking the door of her balloon house, *“It is locked”* said she, *“I’m not shocked”* replied Igniculus whilst flying free.

Aurora started moving back towards the Altar of Mahthildis, with her two companions Rubella and Igniculus. In their journey, they encountered the dark monsters, together they fought, with Rubella’s acrobatics, Igniculus light and Aurora’s Sword of Mahthildis. Beating the monsters.

“What a cracker-jack adventure! If I wasn’t circus-bound”

“With a bright career in my future, perhaps I’d stick... close” “Stick... around?”
correcting

“Sorry chum, but I can’t, I have an audience to... bewitch”

“I am certain you mean “Enchant” ”

Continuing their journey, passing and seeing all those balloon houses hanging in the sky. Through the dark woods though it is gloomy, anxious became Sir Firefly. They walked and walked, through dark caves and tunnels of wood. Crossing bridges of tree trunks beneath waterfalls, allured. Magically no water drop stir from its straight path, making the waterfalls seems soft transparent crystal walls.

The deeper they dive inside the woods, the darker it becomes. The trees acted as hoods, separating land and sky kingdoms. They kept travelling their way back to the altar, here is the statue on a shrine, its beauty still an eye binder, the little light that flickers on its face makes the eye shine. Thereafter they saw the giant tree with the door, the blooming apple tree and the orchard that old orange trees bore.

“The air is so soft, Sir Firefly” mouth Aurora but no reply came to her, and little time passed of dead air *“Igniculus?”* finally said Aurora again herein *“Aurora, what size is a pin?”* asked Igniculus *“Stop being ridiculous”* replied Aurora. After a while asked Aurora *“When you are but a leaf, why pretend a branch to be?”* *“You and me, we could be a tree”* *“We shall see.”*

After a long walk, they reached the altar where Aurora first awoke. *“The altar perched high”* Aurora said, *“The Lady said we have to pass it by”* Igniculus replied.

Passing the mysterious altar, towards the depth of the dark woods that mourns. They saw a sign with an answer, written on it *“To the tree of Thorns”*. Reaching the edge of the gloomy woods finally, the view is clear, with no trees in sight. Except in the very far away, a gargantuan autumn colored tree, piercing the sky that is painted with hazy light. On the cliff stood a giant with two wolves, and big iron hammer. The look on his face is flagrant, standing without fidgeting like an anchor. His long hair and beard dark as night, on his head a leather hat. Wearing pants in blue, torso in brown and that big leather shoes, what a sight! His arms are long and hairy, carrying what it seems his bag. It is so big that it fits in all the three, and long nose coming out of his face shag. *“Little girl, you will not pass this way, I will eat you up this day!”* the giant said, *“Step out of the way, or I will turn you into clay.”* Aurora replied.

Drawing her sword to fight and Igniculus is ready with his blinding light. Acrobatics she has, Rubella. Used them to drive the giant’s wolves away from the area. The giant roared in anger, holding tight his iron hammer. Aurora, strikes first with her light ray, but the giant countered, hit the ground with his hammer driving Aurora away. On the giant’s face there is a grin, satisfied with such a begin. While the giant toying with his hammer happily, Rubella driving the wolves towards the cliff edge with her tumbling spree. Playing at the edge Rubella, while the wolves trying, her to bash, Igniculus with his light blinded the wolves, where they from the cliff edge to the rock bottom they crash. The giant trying to catch Aurora, smacking here and there. She jumps and fly within the area, avoiding his hammer. Finally, from the back of his head, she stroke his

back. And with Igniculus help of light cascade, and a tumble from the jester on his legs, tripping the giant and falling from the cliff clearing the journey's track.

Aurora, watching through the broken arched gate, the gargantuan tree leaves that in light glimmered, as she slowly steps forward and straight. "*The tree of thorns! Here it is, the Lady's clue*" said Igniculus, "*Now we have simply to pass through*" gouth she in a truss, "*After you*" replied merry Igniculus.

They pass through the broken marble arched small gate, towards the clue they gait. Down the hill they arrived, where the tree roots through the clouds thrived. Though the clouds to the land were near, undaunted the explorers, they continued the journey without fear. They found a crack in the tree as if it was a cave, they wondered as they entered the tree, inside, it is just another maze; tunnels are in many shapes and arrays. Even there, dark creatures and spiders filled the place as if it is their lair. The explorers increased their pace, to get out hurriedly of this place. They spot a sign on the way, "*To Capilli Village*" it says. To the other side of the tree the explorers aim to go, to the direction where the wind flow. Even with monsters inside, mesmerizing autumn leaves are piled. Glowing around the tree's thorns, as if this land they mourns. After a long walk inside this tree's maze, fighting dark creatures to find the way outside out of many ways. While Aurora flew up high and the jester on land followed close by. Crows fly bypassing her, as she slowly descending, in astonishment looking around her "*Oh Igniculus, fly on by. The lowest of low I do not spy*" Aurora said, "*Oh Aurora, search the sky. Because I don't see the highest of high*" Igniculus replied.

The explorers arrived at place with pavements and houses of cottage, Aurora, Rubella and Igniculus now in Capilli Village.



Chapter 4 The Deep Dark Well



Looking at the at the village, Aurora and her companions, carpeted with silage and with no one but crows in the village dance. Everywhere, on cottages, ground and trees, where the explorers from the seen felt unease. Crows with hats, bifocals and even hair styles. Where Aurora, the crows entice “*Hello! Pilgrims on a long journey are we*” no one replied, “*Empty. Where could they all be?*” Thus Aurora implied.

The explorers, walking through the village of crows, searching. For there might be people in houses or behind the trees hiding. Arriving at the village’s center, where there are shops of different kinds, all around a well with a lever. They thought, about these shops, and if they could enter. There were a tavern, a pastry and jewelry vendor.

Deciding to venture into the tavern, they believed there should be at least one person. However, they were wrong, there are only drunken crows laying in the entire floor along. The tavern was too quiet, only the crows hiccups and a snoring one, on the bartender desk they sighted. A beautiful place all made of wood, shelves, stairs, chairs and tables ornamented by someone who have great sculpturing aptitude. They thought that no way could the crows done it. People, a person must done it. While the big circular chandelier, swaying with the burning candles upon it. Still no one in here except the crows’ clique, repeating waC waC! And Hic Hic!

Aurora and her friends went outside, for someone to speak to, a person to find. Passing the well to the other side, finally she found a person standing at front of a blacksmith shop, just outside. He wears a blue outfit, it is made in a pretty knit. They found him crying, they approached him to find out what is happening. After

getting near, he still shedding tear after tear. He had a very long beard and hair, covering his entire figure except his arms, and his feet were bare. Having a blue robe hood on his head, and anglerfish lamp on it, and then Aurora said:

“Excuse me, Sir, have you the sun or moon within this well?”

“Hurrah, Princess. You came!”

“Most certainly not. Can’t you see?” showing her faux crown

“I’m all alone again” crying

“Ma grandpa and I’re Casters, Keeping the village safe from demise.”

“I left a’couple’a days before, To replenish our supplies.”

“And zounds! The dark Queen cursed ma kin to birds”

“The water of Lethe would cure ‘em an”

“I have to make the journey down. But fear has-” *“Poor man”*

“I am Aurora” she introduced herself with a cheerful grin, the bearded man replied *“Nice Meet’en ya, I’m Finn”*. Aurora looked at the well, and after, the bearded man she tell

“The well must go down only a short span... Come on Finn”

“Jump in”

They approached the well, prepared to jump in with no dispel. Just before jumping, Aurora started asking about Finn’s thing.

“You said you cast spells?”

“Aye, Princess. I’m one o’ the bes”

“In the well it will be put to the test”

“Hurrah! Finn here.” *“Aurora, do not call me Princess”*

Therefore, Finn joined the explorers’ party, and became four after they were three. Together went inside the well, one by one. A misty place and cold with no light or warm of sun. *“Brrr. What an eerie place. Cold as Death’s own face”* gouth Aurora. The well’s bottom was humid and dark, filled with spiders dwelling the place as if it’s their park. The explorers, moving here and there. Trying to find the Lethe water in this maze of tunnels, looking everywhere. They fought the spiders on their way, and Finn casted his spells, a fire shone like day. Clearing the path for his friends, with his staff, his friends he defends. Still he began crying:

“We have to get out of here!”

“Calm down, Master your fear”

“There’re only a few and a’ half of us, you could just disappear”

They reached the well's bottom, its space was so wide that a whole village could fit in without a problem. Many buckets were coming down from the roof, and a statue a bit further, looks aloof. Just its head emerging from the water below, and its hand appears near, the huge statue seems broken though. *"We're at the bottom of the well"* Igniculus Declared, *"Where flows Lethe's swell?"* Aurora wondered. The explorers wandered the place, looking for Lethe water's trace. In this quest, they all partake, in the well's hidden lake.

They went to the direction where there a large area of wall covered with moss, bearing fruits in figures of skulls they were so gross. Just up ahead, another beast was glaring at them, the explorers eyeing carefully at him. It was a big boar standing on his hind legs, having man arms instead of hoofs, and all its body covered in white tribal markings. It started to hit his chest like a gorilla, making a loud noise in the area. The explorers prepared for the battle, while the big boar started throwing big rocks at them, the beast, the brutal. The explorers worked together to fight back, Igniculus blinding him, while the others attack. The big boar is defeated and fell into the water, They succeeded and defeated the monster.

"Bravo, you with the beard! Are you a magician?"

"Well, you might say 'at"

"Come to the circus and... try out!" "She is inviting you to "audition"

"Up on stage? Are you kiddin'?! Might as well feed me ta a gryphon"

From there, they moved forward, where they saw pillars supporting the passage coarsened. Until they reached a door, behind it they wanted to explore. The door was on a wall colored in sapphire hue, painted with the figures of mountains and lunar phases, all in blue. The door was a darker blue itself, made out of stone in a way that it impress. A white figure of a woman, in the middle above the door, opening her arms each in the direction of the wall's painted horizon. The entrance has two scepters; one resembles a horizontal crescent, and the other is a six petals flower, both of them are fluorescent.

"Oh no, we'll never get through!"

"Remember the door in the tree?"

"What do we do?"

"Do not worry, wait and see"

Aurora and Igniculus, using the same trick, the one used with the tree before, they were fast and quick, and successful in opening the door. Rubella and Finn, watched Aurora and Igniculus how did they manipulate the light and the scepters

to open the door herein. *“What a peculiar work charity!”* Aurora said, *“I hope it doesn’t lead to tragedy!”* Igniculus replied.

They walked inside into what it seemed an ancient hall path, supported by rusty pillars of stone that at any minute may collapse. They saw a wolf made out of fire, crawling instead of a spider. They halted their pace, in front of the wolf of flame. They prepared to fight their way through, for they did know, the wolf would not go away with a shoo.

Finn started the act, a *Monsoon*, a spell he did cast. Showering the fiery beast, with water, until it turned to smoke the others perceived. Relieved from this fight, they thanked Finn and admired him, for being brave as a knight.

They continued their journey, walked straight ahead ghastly. They reached to a wide open area, they reached the huge statue’s head that looked from ancient era. It was looking up the ceiling wanly, the statue’s color was chalky. On top of it sat a green crow with beard, having the same anglerfish lamb as Finn’s as it so appeared. Was setting on the unbroken part of the head, with angry eyebrows ignoring the lot of them, looking at Finn instead.

“Ah no! It cannot be! Avo! Speak to me!”

“Caw!” “I’m 'side myself” crying

“Quick, give me some mint ta calm ma nerves”

“Why would I carry mint?”

“No mint?! Worse than the birds!!”

“Why you are so upset I do not see” annoyed

“My grandpa this here bird be!”

“We shall find the cure, do not dismay”

“I wish I never got up today” crying

They continued their adventure, they spotted a short dim tunnel, through it they did venture. Supported by the same old pillars, a cold wind came through, makes Rubella’s spine shivers. There was a noise at the other side, which accompanied by the ground shaking from side to side. The noise was like a blacksmith hammer, hitting the earth, which make it shudder.

They espied a large square fountain, in the middle of it, stood a lady’s statue clear as day with no stain. The lady was in a long dress standing on a rock, looks agog. Clear water coming out of her mouth, towards a pool it surrounds. Alas, the fountain pool was filled with green slime, which ruins this beautiful shrine. The fountain pool was surrounded by waterfalls, in this big chamber of water walls.

The ground shock more violently, the lake's water that surrounds the fountain splashes as if it was angry. And yet, to their surprise, a three heads of serpents from within arise. They had such long necks, extending from the lake blocking the way out, from them to egress. With such faces as eels, but giant and long, their presence makes the explorers feel unease. Three but different, for each a color and nature, a red fiery lava, a blue freezing ice, and a green leafy moss. all pose a threatening danger. As if the nature itself, in their way stands, stopping them from their journey to advance. On Aurora and her friends faces, the worry appears. How to overcome this obstacle, the three headed serpents.

The serpents, attacked Aurora and her friends. Breathing burning fire, freezing frost and gusts of winds. For their surprise, started defending and dodging the serpents breathes, Aurora called for her friends to stop these beasts and suppress.

Rubella, dodging the flames as if it was a circus show, she looks happy and smiling though. Finn, running around escaping the frost, until he found a rock, behind it he hid. Aurora, withstanding the blowing wind, with Igniculus, near her, just at her side. And yet, a rain come from above, whereof hitting the fiery one, putting its fire off. Aurora, seizing the opportunity, with her sword slayed the fiery one imprudently. Looking around her she saw Finn smiling, she knew that the rain was from his doing. Looking at the other two serpents, she witnessed Rubella jumping on their heads. From side to side, until she jumped between the two heads of serpents, where suddenly a shining blue light appeared, it was Igniculus. Blinded by the light, the serpents breathed each other, they both fell slain in the lake, where Rubella landed on the ground as if it was a finishing circus show in delight.

Meanwhile, Finn was standing beside the fountain, calling for others, where they came in vain. *"Come to the water quickly"* Finn cried, then upon the fountain *"Birds they were, now be free, lift the curse 'n the Capilli"* he incanted. His staff he raised above the fountain water, it shone light, where the water became clear, from the green, the poison he nullified.

"What a curious basin"

"It show's ya what yer heart is cravin'"

"Perhaps it will show me the moon and the sun."

"Have a look It's worth a run"

There, Aurora turned to the fountain's pond. Looking into the magical water, to see what her heart is craving for, and to have a glimpse of what is beyond. Seeing

her father, the duke, in bed he lays. And yet a steward of his, a conversation between them she witness, where the steward says.

“Please. It is Holy Saturday. I beseech, Your Grace”

“The people await your speech, Your Grace”

“My Aurora. My heart... Broken”

“Your Grace?! Someone bring the doctor! Your Grace!”

Aurora, from the vision shocked. The fear on her face written, what a result!

“Father!” “Did you see the sun and the moon?”

“Make your magic again. Quick!”

“It only works once”

“I am going to be sick.” crying

For their surprise, when they went out of the deep well, to see, that the crows turned to people, the citizens of Capilli, from the curse they are free. An old man in a similar outfit as Finn, but green in color, otherwise everything else to Finn is akin. Rushing towards Aurora and her friends, while waving his walking stick, to Finn he arrives.

“Finn!” “Grandpa! Good to see ya about”

“None of that. Come here ya cowardly lout” “...”

The Capilli leader, a beautiful woman, also with a similar outfit. Though it is darker green, and her anglerfish lamp like a piece of jewelry and bigger a little bit. She, Approached Aurora with a smile on her face, Aurora’s hand she shakes.

“Princess” “Aurora, lease, Madame” showing her faux crown

“Thank ya, on behalf of my people, Aurora”

“We were afraid ta never again see, the soft green hills of Lemuria”

After that, Aurora, by crying she react.

“I wish I could be happy. My heart is colder than frost”

“I fear that for my father all hope has been lost.”

“The Lady’s flute! Let us see what it will do, fingers crossed”

Aurora, taking out her flute, she start playing music, melodies with saudade feelings, it did imbued. *“Aurora, you sing like a bird”* Igniculus said, *“What sweet music I jus’ heard”* Capilli leader said. Aurora, playing a little bit more. Suddenly, the music stopped she is not playing anymore.

“Nothing changed at all, not even the weather”
“Yet, somehow, I feel a little better”

Aurora, approaching the Capilli leader, her mood is better, the smile on her face is brighter.

“Goodbye! My path home I must set”
“The Capilli thank ya. I thank ya.”
“We will not forget”

The explorers, on their way out of the village, the people cheered for them and thanked from every street and cottage. *“Your bravery, we’re very impressed. Thank ya for saving us princess!”* an old villager said with a wide smile on his face. *“Tha girl who went into tha well! Tha girl who broke tha evil spell”* other said. On the outer skirt of the village, they spotted a young lass with elegant, angular visage. Sat alone playing guitar, from the village, not very far. *“Pardon me, have you seen the highest of high?”* Aurora asked, *“Never heard of it... but by-the-by. Tha Temple of the Moon is up tha Cliffs of Erin nearby”* The young lass replied.

“So, where exactly are we heading?”
“That is the question I have been dreading”

From village came running, they turned around to see what is towards them is rushing. It was Finn, tired from the run, he start sayin:

“Wait!”
“Did we forget something?” “Most definitely. Me!”
“I just up ‘n turned thirteen last month, which makes me a man, ya see?”
“Thirteen? With that beard?”
“We Capilli age rapidly”
“But I’ve bungled it. Grandpa threw me out. ”
“Brave I need ta be. Will ya help me?” “Fine. You can join our cavalry”
“Only please no snoring”
“She’s right. From you it sounds like roaring”

Then, the explorers went into the forest, going up the hillside, Finn said it was the shortest. On the way up, the wind gets stronger, blowing from every direction, with each step they take, it gets colder. The long trees, with their big trunks, bend to the ground from wind gusts. They spotted a wooden sign, getting nearer to it *‘To the Plains of Rambert’* it stated. With this wind they couldn’t go any further, thus they looked for a cover. Until they found an underground tunnel, going

Chapter 4
The Deep Dark Well

inside escaping the trouble. Into a channel made out of stones, dirt and trees roots. *“The wind was not this strong before”* Aurora said *“Father, help me. Home I yearn for”* Aurora added. *“So much feeling, I wish I knew”* Igniculus said, *“Aurora, what does a father do?”* Igniculus asked, *“A father tucks you into bed, He holds you when you are sad, He always knows what to do, He is the best friend you ever had”* Aurora Answered, *“How can one father do all that?”* Igniculus Asked, *“That is what fathers are good at”* Answered. Finally, they exited the tunnel of stones and roots. Into a plains of long pine trees and rocky grounds.

Aurora marched through gloomy meadows
Down to a dusty plain.
Searching high and low for the sun and the moon,
Despairing as she came.
But just when she was certain
Her quest was hopeless, she was done
The path twisted to reveal... No, not the sun.
Be patient, child, we have only begun.



Chapter 5 An Unexpected Reunion



On top of a high rock in the plains, Aurora jumped into the air, flying above the terrains. *“Oh, Igniculus, fly on by. The lowest of low I do not spy”* Aurora said, *“Oh Aurora, search the sky. Because I don’t see the highest of high.”* Igniculus replied.

They stopped by an arrow shaped metallic sign, *“To the Windwheels”* written in such antique design. Down the path Aurora spotted some stuff, she got down to the ground, to see this stuff close enough. These things were a box and a drum, what to their owner have become?

“What’s this stuff beside the path?”

“The circus, it shimmied through here!”

“Once we find the tent, my vocals I’ll let loose”

“The beginning of a brilliant performance...job.”

“I am certain you mean ‘career’”

And thus, Aurora and her friends continued their journey, through the terrains of giant rocks and pine trees in a hurry. For Rubella to catch up to her brother Tristis, in that travelling circus. At that time it was dusk and windy, for Aurora is better to walk than to fly to move quickly. There were waterfalls pouring from the sky, its source is unknown, to see it was too high. And then after a while, they saw in the furthest what their eyes can grasp. A mountain, a huge one, rocks and pine trees past. But what caught their eyes was not the mountain, for them to gaze, it was enormous pieces of land floating above, to the ground held in by massive steel chains.

Continuing their journey, arrived to abandoned mines. Occupied by none, but rusty iron carts, debris and broken twisted rails. To the mines, they got closer. They saw a beast, a dark creature looks like an Ogre but smaller. It was a hairy

Chapter 5
An Unexpected Reunion

one, carrying rocks on his back, the rocks held by a net made of ropes, it looks like it uses them to attack. The Ogre like a beast, throwing rocks at Aurora and her friends, the beast was not alone, there were two others else. From the sky they descend, to the fight they attend. Shaped like dragon flies but much bigger, made of what it seems wood with no legs, only a body and head but vigor. Therein, the heroes fought bravely, to defeat the dark creatures, and continue their journey. With Aurora's sword, Finn's magic, Rubella's Acrobat and Igniculus light, they defeated the monsters, and rejoiced in delight.

Thereafter, exploring the mines, and passing a wind wheel. They spotted a young lass in white dress, is she a ghost? or real? With such a bright hair of pearly color, she stood alone at the edge of a broken bridge structure. Illuminated by candles from within slab rocks hollows. The slabs stood around her, there were three of those. The lass waved to them to come near, Thus Aurora approached her without fear.

"My eyes deceive me. Igniculus, is it her?"

"Yes, it is. Sweet Norah, my middle sister!"

"How can this be? Tucked in your bed"

"Cheeks of ash, still as lead, I saw you..."

"It is a miracle! Mother and her duke tears of joy will shed"

"How long have you been here? How is Father?"

"Fairing ever so poorly, I regret to say"

"Since he has been taken to his bed, it has been a day"

"To cheer him, I sang sweetly"

"with the blackbirds of the garden fair"

"Lilac perfume in the air"

"Then, horrors! I was dragged up the tower stair"

"And carried, helpless, through a mirror inside"

"A mirror! Sister, do you know where it resides?"

"Let us go home to mother and father"

"Nothing would make me merrier"

"The way lies up a mountain high"

"We face many a barrier"

"As family we overcome together"

"Any obstacle, now and forever"

Chapter 5
An Unexpected Reunion

Therefore, Norah joined her sister Aurora, and they became five after they were four in size.

They continued their journey, fighting beasts and dark creatures, in these abandoned mines, through tunnels and rails above a valley. Norah suddenly stopped, and asked her companions in a manner of abrupt.

“What is this abysmal place?”

“The dark wild of some elf land”

“Not for nobles of our race”

Then, Norah in astonishment asked Aurora

“Where did you learn magic?”

“And you as well have wings”

“The Forest Lady unveiled the stars to me”

“Ah, you met her additionally! She gave me these magic rings”

“Little she did gift me, a tiny flute only.”

“I am your elder sister after all”

“it is my role to guard you”

“Hardly. This crown protects me from any fall”

Reaching the other side of the valley, another arrow shaped metallic sign they found. It showed *“To the Town of the Bolmus Populi”*.

Further ahead, they espied a big stone door. It was an entrance to one of the wind wheels yet obscure. Finding a way to open it, Rubella did it. Getting inside, all astonished by the sight. Many mechanisms and gears, moving sideways and down upside. Such complexity inside the wind wheels, and simplicity from outside.

Moving along, the explorers did, to the door where it was behind gears and cogs it hid. Opening the door, This time Finn did. Through it, they did pass, and another valley was before them, they looked for a way to cross over, a path. A collapsed mine rails they found above, a cart was hanging by the rails edge, held by a rope barley enough.

While they were moving along, Norah started mumbling something alone.

“The mirror, I fear it is there”

“That temple up in the air”

Chapter 5
An Unexpected Reunion

Where Aurora overheard her sister, she couldn't help but to give Norah an honest answer.

"We cannot fly that high"

"Perhaps there's a path through the sky"

"Let us ask someone nearby"

"Why, a talking faery!"

"As if! A firefly true"

"Ha, you are a feisty Blue!"

"Aurora this bug is perfect for you"

Finn, where before, he was nervous, did not know how to introduce himself, he was speechless. But now herein, gathered his courage and start sayin.

"I'm Finn, nice ta fight beside ya"

"How adorable! A garden dwarf"

"Thank ya kindly Miss"

"Pst, what's a garden dorff?"

"Must be the door to a garden" "Orf"

The explorers continued their journey, in the collapsed and abandoned mines bravely. They did fight monsters, defeating dark creatures. Wonders they witnessed such sky waterfalls and wind wheels on giant rocks held.

Finally, they got out the abandoned mines land. Again, into the forest of pine trees and giant rocks that the wind withstand. There, they heard a caller, *"Come here little band, who's that on ma land?"* tracking the caller's voice, to find where it points. They found a lady standing and basket filled with flowers near her, and a small lamp illuminating the place, in color of silver. The lady was a Capilli, smoking a pipe and exhaling smoke as if she is a chimney. Aurora approached her to ask about the temple's route, to find a way to the mirror they pursue.

"Madame Capilli, pardon me"

"A route to the elevated temple we seek."

"Don' ya "Madame" me, I ain't like them towny Capilli"

"Don' trust 'em. I'm not some mint freak."

"Did ya ever ask yerself, "Why does it taste cold?"

"They won' tell ya. I have ma theories"

"I appreciate the warning, but I really should be going"

"Wait! I see ya carry oculi, I'll give ya a series"

Chapter 5
An Unexpected Reunion

“Ya want ta protect yerself?”

“Here’s a tip they won’t give naw:”

“Ya can combine oculi to make more powerful ones.”

“Ya go figure out haw”

“Ya can also assign oculi to those ya trust”

“I recommend sharin' ”

“Now get out of here little girl,”

“I don' like tha way yer staring”

They left the lady alone, and from her, moved away. Just a little further ahead they found a huge rock looks familiar in the way. It shaped as a man’s foot, it is part of a huge mountain, clearer it seemed as they approached. Nearby, they found another arrow shaped metallic sign. It showed *“To the Town of the Bolmus Populi”* but pointed up this time.

A waterfall its source seemed from the mountain’s top. Aurora, took a flight following the waterfall source, and witnessed what makes her jaw drop. The whole mounting was a person, laying on its back in these vast woods in seclusion. Aurora was sure, because from his face, she saw his eyes closed and breathed in a slow pace. The huge earthen man was sleeping. While his hand opened as if he was pleading.


Moving to the top of this mountain man, they espied a town, people and a moving caravan. *“I spy a town past this peak”* Igniculus said *“They will know the route we seek”* Aurora replied.



Chapter 6

Of Mice and Magna



he town was full of life, quite the opposite of the woods wildlife. Children play around the town's square, merchants and shops are everywhere. The people dressed elegantly, while their eyes on Aurora and her friends looking skeptically. Many beautiful houses and high towers Aurora recognize, but to her surprise, the town's folk are just man size mice.

While Aurora walks in the city streets, a couple of mice talking she overhears. *"Forget this rat race, this trading zoo"* says the first *"It's the fairest, Margaret, I wish to woo"* the second referred. And more as Aurora walks *"Any news about the vault?"* a woman says, *"The vault is still under assault"* another woman replies. Also a mother telling her child *"An eye to the currency rates today! Do not tell me the rates are floating away!"* and the child nods to obey. While they continued their walk, an elderly mouse sitting with a sad look, suddenly he spoke *"Once Magna begins again to roam, I wish to speculate in beach-front loam"*. As aurora and her friends walked, they moved towards a hill where the city hall there they sought. Other two mice aside the street were also talking *"Commodities are dropping wide"* the first says, *"Quick! Catch the commodities before they slide"* The other replies.

From there they entered a shop, where they saw the shop keeper and there they did stop. A strong bitter smell filled the place, entwined with sweet smell that entertains. The shop was decorated elegantly, quite the opposite of the simple style of the Capilli. It sells tea and coffee, and all the requirements for any tea party.

Aurora, there asked the shop's lady, in good manners she did gaily. About the city hall, what directions to it, is it the big building with the stonewall? An apathetic nod the woman gave, and muttered something unintentionally, sad expressions on her face. *"A savior must the vault target, someone must bring liquidity to the market!"* the woman said.

Aurora and companions left the shop after what the woman said, to the city hall up the hill ahead. Arriving at the destination, they entered the hall having neither anxiety nor hesitation. Though it looked very lavish, for people who should come in fine dresses, luxury pearls and jewelry, items of precious. The interior was decorated in luxurious fashion, from floor to the ceiling as if it is a private mansion. Along the red carpet with yellow designs they walked, until they reached an old mouse enjoying his tea in comfort. Sitting on a big pink white striped pillow, three wooden stairs steps separate her from that mellow. Dressing in nobility and behaving gracefully, holding a walking cane in one hand and a teacup in the other holding both them elegantly.

Aurora approached him, and with well manner she started, asking about the temple's directions, and how to travel to it.

"Pardon me Sir. The way up can you tell me?"

"Looking up is silly, in this economy"

"We have more important worries plenty"

"Our poor vault might as well be empty"

"Ugh, gigantic vermin. How distasteful"

"Speaking with them is quite wasteful"

The Mayor after this being said, he arrogantly spoke, his teacup in his hand he still held

"Unless you have a source of capital to impart"

"Please all of you depart"

Thus, Norah left the Mayor, followed by her sister Aurora. And the rest of the explorers, out of the city hall they went in good behavior.

Out at the city hall's entrance a mouse they met, a young one wearing brown boots, a bow and arrows he beheld. The small tawny hat on his head, with a long white feather on it as if he is a town's cadet. With a smile on his face and glasses on his eyes. He welcomed them crying *"Salutations!"*

*“You wish to reach the temple high above presumably?”
“I will present you with a locomotion opportunity”*

*“Allow me to accompany you on this venture”
“I believe it will pay off handsomely”
“Both for you and for me” “Lead on”
“To the promontory!”*

Norah was not satisfied, with anger to Aurora she replied

*“If that mouse comes near me”
“I shall crush him like a daisy”*

Therefore, Robert the mouse joined the party in delight, and six they became after they were five.

Out of the town they went, to the mountain man where he slept. Reaching its face, Norah impatiently complained. About where Robert having them remained.

*“Aha! No bridge far and wide do I see”
“Ohhhh Magna... can you help me?”*

Robert, after making that call, Aurora wondered *“I see no one near--”* and then the mountain man, her it did enthrall. With a thick voice the face replied *“Me neither. Where are you, dear?”* while opening its rocky eyes and dropping his jaw. The explorers astonished by what they saw, looking terrified at the mountain man and cried in awe

*“My stars!”
“Dive!”
“Run! The mountain is alive!”*

*“Little visitors do not go”
“Can I get you anything?”
“I have water, fresh from an ice flow.”
“Thank you kindly, but no.”*

*“Aren’t you charming? Call me Magna”
“Magna, Pleased to meet you”
“The temple in the clouds we seek.”
“Is that all? Let me shake off my dew”*

Magna after shaking, the whole earth were quaking

*“Oh, that’s taken the wind out of me”
“I desperately need to rest”
“Something’s wrong with my heart you see”
“Sweetheart, truth is I’m not at my best”*

*“Magna, we seek to go inside”
“To access the vault of the Bolmus Populi”
“Always so busy you are Robert”
“All right. Take care. Goodbye.”*

Magna opened his rocky mouth, for them to enter, it allows.

As they entered Magna’s mouth bravely. Aurora started addressing Robert thankfully.

*“Robert, thank you for your generosity”
“This opportunity was not free entirely”
“A catch. You see!”*

*“The Queen imprisoned our accounting”
“Release the door of our sealed vault”
“And news of my promotion will be sounding!”*

*“Are we to be this monster’s diet?”
“Robert, why is it you live upon a giant?”*

*“The Populi travelling traders we”
“Magna moved us from place to place”
“Low and high, we bought and sold”
“At an exhilarating pace”*

Robert, after being in full enthusiasm and happiness, his countenance flipped from cheerfulness into sadness.

*“Until the new queen Umbra came to dwell”
“And night and Magna fell”*

Robert, after saying that, said with confidence while adjusting his hat.

*“Excise her cobwebbed heart and its spinners four”
“Then Magna will carry you to the temple’s high shore”*

Magna’s inside was as any mountain seen. Rocks, minerals and lava, hot to the extreme. Carved from inside as tunnels in mines. True it is, because of machines

Mazen Bushnag

and baskets of gold there shine. But not all of that there is to be found. Giant spider webs all over the place and around. Yea, the place with dark creatures and fiery spiders, crawled the place on ground, walls and webs fibers.

Aurora, Rubella and Igniculus, with Robert, Finn and Norah fought their way with courage and guts. As when they were on their way, to save Magna's heart from sickness and decay. Igniculus, by Robert's bow and arrow skills amazed. He approached him and said.

"Wow, Robert, where did you learn to fight?"

"Have you been to a business meeting?"

"This kind of combat is light"

Finn, Intrigued by the conversation. Came up to them and joined the occasion.

"I didn' know funny lookin creat'as like ya, Existed in Lemuria"

"Ha. Small talk aside, you willing to put a price on your pipe?"

"Not on yer life" annoyed

Rubella, Cheerful as ever. Jumped where they were, and stated to Robert with pleasure.

"Love the bow and arrows getup"

"Excited to fight by your side!"

"Likewise. You with the circus that just passed through?"

"Look! Foes to battle. The circus can wait... outdoors." "You mean "outside" "

There Aurora saw a strange rock, between different rubbles it stuck

"Never have I seen metal of such putrid color"

"Worthless like it is"

"But shaped into pins and scepters"

"Hooks and buttons, belt buckles, and ornamented candy for kids--"

"Kids?!"

"Of Magna, that is --"

"You will discover that it skyrockets in value"

"The principle is simple:"

"Even a weed when glided can be sold,"

"Or a lowly bolmus raised in status kindle"

"The love of a fair maiden..."

"And earn her smile bright..."

“Little mouse, are you in love?” excited

“Of course not! I am just demonstrating my business might.” annoyed

After a while inside Magna, they witnessed a giant thing enwrapped with cobweb phenomena. Throbbing behind that rampart, what they beheld is Magna’s heart. There they espied, a huge evil spider dwelled inside. Aurora encouraging her friends said *“Onward! The spiders await”* then after Igniculus with anxiety replied *“Please, Aurora, don’t use me as bait”*. At that moment Aurora continued *“A heart fashioned out of crystal, three cobweb spun, therefore loved little”* There Aurora to the spider said *“Sir Spider come out and face us on the count of three!”* there Igniculus continued *“1” “2” “3” “...”*. No answer from Sir Spider, which made Aurora annoyed *“Then your three webs we shall burn, wait and see”* Aurora replied.

At that moment Igniculus got curious and asked *“Aurora, what is love known by?”* with a face of innocence, Aurora answered *“When it hurts to say goodbye”*

As on their way around Magna’s heart. Through rocks and lava, Igniculus remarked *“One of the spiders after Magna’s heart!”* when a giant spider ahead he espied *“We will halt its dark art!”* Aurora replied.

Aurora and her friends, fighting the beast. With Finn’s water magic and Rubella’s acrobat, the spider they did defeat. *“There! One has been unraveled”* Aurora cheered, *“Where now? Underground I am so baffled”* Igniculus peered.

And continued their journey, looking for the other two. Searching inside these tunnels maze, for the sake of Magna’s heart rescue. There Aurora cried *“A spider! Stilling Magna’s veins!”* Determined she said *“We must free the heart from its chains”*.

Aurora and her friends, fighting the beast. With Norah’s magic and Igniculus shining light, the second spider they did defeat. *“That makes two!”* Igniculus said, *“These webs stick to me like glue”* continued upset.

And then, continued their journey, looking for the last one. Searching inside these tunnels maze, for the sake of Magna, the heartbroken. There Igniculus cried *“Aurora, look! Spider wraps its web”* Determined she replied *“Then we shall have to slay it dead”*.

There together, fighting the last one. To release Magna’s heart from their domination. With All strength, magic and light, the third and last spider they did defeat after a heroic fight. There they started hearing a beat. It is Magna’s heart, it

is relieved. *“The heart of the mountain beats loud and clear”* Aurora happily said, *“But the last spider sits near!”* Igniculus anxiously replied.

But then, Aurora looked worried, therefore Norah approached her and asked *“Aurora, What’s wrong?”* Aurora being concerned, answered *“Robert! He is gone!”*.

Thereafter the group for Robert they looked. Here and there, in Magna’s tunnels of lava and rocks, to the bottom endmost. Until they found him perplexed, all now standing in front of a huge circular gate impressed.

“The Vault. Here we go”

“Aurora, no!”

“Please. Help me break the vault’s enchantment”

“Oh? For your own career advancement?”

“No! Yes, my future depends on it”

“You lie!”

“The truth you want? I...”

“Do it all for Margaret”

“Her portrait beyond compare”

“With checkered locks of dusky hair”

“With velvet skin and eyes that reflect my stare”

“From smoky head to dainty paw you will not get”

“A bolmus as fair as Margaret”

“If we the vault reclaim”

“I surely will receive fame”

“Alongside a promotion”

“And Margaret will seek me with devotion”

Robert, as he walks towards the vault. Spoke with confidence and did exalt.

“For me and Margaret’s sake”

“The vault’s combination break”

“The combination I cannot assign, so here I will stay and pine” Robert complained. Inspecting the gate *“The mechanism appears ancient”* Aurora said, *“It is. Since Lemuria’s founding. Rambert’s ancient store”* Robert replied. *“It*

seems tightly sealed... Give me a minute” said Aurora, *“Thank Rambert! The lost combination restore”* Robert thanking Aurora.

Aurora, seeing two levers, and three symbols on the gate. The levers positioned each on each side, one on the left and the other on the right. Each lever controlled two symbols of the whole combination. The one in the center and the one represented by the lever location.

After a while and many trials. Aurora did find the combination, of the vaults dials. The place started shaking its grounds, while the vault’s gate started to open and making loud creaking sounds. *“We did it, the door is open”* said Aurora in cheerfulness, *“How about that? Not bad for a pin”* said Igniculus full of confidence. *“Well done, as a matter of fact! But, quickly, let’s go in”* Aurora replied.

Inside, what they found made each one of them drop a jaw. Because of what in front of them they did behold and what they saw. Mounds of gold and riches. Diamonds and rubies, all of that just beneath the town of business.

“The Populi’s capital has been regained”

“Now Margaret’s heart will be reclaimed”

“Help yourself to a couple chests, old”

“Ooh, look at all this gold”

“Igniculus, desist at once! It is not ours to hold”

Now, leaving all that gold behind, Aurora and her friends have a task, Robert, they did remind. To save Magna’s heart and reach the sky temple. To defeat the last spider that sits near, and make Magna again, cheerful.

Back now they went, to where Magna’s heart is. They clearly now see, a spider a disease. There Aurora again to the spider said *“Sir Spider come out and face us on the count of three!”* there Igniculus continued *“1” “2” “3”*, *“Your time is up little girl, wait and see!”* The spider replied.

Sir spider appeared before them, brown in color, having eight eyes, each of them shining like a gem. A giant one, in a size of a Capilli house, the biggest yet, the one that Magna’s heart befouls.

With his giant claws assaulted Norah and Finn, they barley dodged them, and there Sir Spider made an evil grin. There he did it again but to others, trying to cut each one of them, with his sharp giant scissors. There they had to work together, to beat the giant beast, Sir Spider. Rubella took her role to get his
Mazen Bushnag

attention, while the others, each one took his position. Now ready they are, started Igniculus shining like a star. Finn, using his fire magic to attack, from above hitting the beast's back. Blinding Sir Spider, there Aurora and Norah took their chance, and with their swords cut the legs of Sir Spider. The beast, falling down to the ground, Robert taking his aim, shooting him in the head, while it is set aflame. They won the fight, after each one of them fought like a knight.

"Magna's blood flows strong" Aurora said, *"And, hopefully, for long"* Happily Igniculus said.

After then, they returned to Bolmus Populi, to visit the mayor and tell him about their gallant journey.

"Bolmus Populi, hark,"
"Magna's heart beats free of the dark"
"And I have saved our enterprise,"
"The vault lies open, rid of the Queen's mark!"

"Princess" *"Aurora, please, Sir"* annoyed
"Thank you, on behalf of the Bolmus, Aurora"
"With our capital liquid once more"
"Our market shall roar across the golden plains of Lemuria"

From Aurora's back, to her came Norah, she told her with a warming aura.

"Your charity"
"Inspires me."

"It was noble what you did, Aurora"
"I love you too, Norah"

The mayor continued, addressing Robert with graceful attitude.

"Robert! You have that promotion down pat--"

And there, Margaret, appeared.

"Did you hear that?"
"Margaret,"
"Your smile is like the winds of trade,"
"Your voice is shrill like market bells,"
"Magna is healed, and the vault is saved"

*"All for the paw of thine"
"Fairest Margaret, will you be mine?"*

*"I am not a venture or market stall,"
"Robert, you do not know me at all."*

*"Margaret, wait"
"My heart is faint."*

And there, Margaret left the place, Before hearing Robert explains.

*"All hope is lost"
"Perhaps this flute will ease your cost"*

Aurora, taking out her flute, she start playing music, melodies with saudade feelings, it imbued. *"Such a rich song, The pain is not nearly as strong"* Robert said.

There Aurora returned to the mayor, to bid her goodbyes favor.

*"Goodbye my friend!"
"My path home I must set."
"The Bolmus Populi thank you,"
"And will return the debt, we will not forget."*

*"Speak with Magna below the Town Populi"
"To raise up to the temple high."*

In their way out walking on the red carpet, by the door they saw sad Robert.

*"If only love was governed like the markets"
"I am aware these matters are delicate,"
"But Father often terrorized his banker,"
"Monsieur Mustache. His investments ran a major deficit"*

There Robert regained his confidence, thought about Monsieur Mustache consequence.

*"True. The market can be unpredictable,"
"If you do not know it."
"Wait, Monsieur Mustache? That was his name?"
"Keep quiet if you are introduced or he is liable to throw a fit"*

“His mustache requires more wax than candles tall and fat,”
“And once unfurled it curls up and up around his hat,”
“So Father and I dubbed him that.”

Thereafter, Aurora and her friends, headed back to Magna. To ask him a favor, to take them up high, of the shores of temple up in the sky. To what known in Populi town as the Cliffs of Erin, where Aurora and her companions' next adventure will begin.

Arriving to where Magna stay, Magna sensed them coming, opened his hand, inviting them there without delay. They stood there, on his giant rocky palm. Started Aurora, asking how he has become. *“How fares your disposition?”* Aurora asked, *“My dear, I feel young again. My heart, it's simply divine, free, by Rambert, no chest pain!”* Magna replied, *“I'll raise you high in the sky, then I prepare to zoom. Those little darlings on my shoulder, Have a trade route to resume.”* Magna continued.

There, the whole earth got shaken, by this mighty mountain as he stood up, ready for migration. Just a few strides, and Magana is by the high temple near. Where he stretched his arm towards the temple in midair. Thrusting the cloudy floor, taking the explorers to the sky's land shore.

“Thank you Magna for the unusual ride,”
“For bringing us up to the skies!”
“Robert, much luck on the routes of trade.”
“Wait, Aurora, I must join your enterprise”

“If I secure new markets yet unfound”
“Margaret is sure to come around”


“Welcome to our cavalry.”
“Hmph. I do not anticipate anything but bankruptcy!”

After they bade Magna farewell, towards the temple they went, for them, stepping upon onto the land, they felt a new journey's thrill.



Chapter 7 The Duke and the Duchess's



he place was engulfed in mist, although it was just out of clouds it consist. They noticed an arrow shaped metallic sign. It showed “*Up to the Temple of the Moon*” and pointed up this time. They went forward and higher, and more and more the air gets lighter. There, what they could espy, just endless long chains only. But there is more, a swinging figure, as they got close to it, it was a piece of land, the chains were the gripper.

They went higher and higher, and the sun started to shine brighter. And to their surprise, Aurora caught her falling crown, as she saw and they too, a town in midair turned upside-down.

The houses and buildings were separated, each was on a piece of land floating and by chains was held. There they noticed Circus equipment all over the place, they wondered if something happened or these just someone did forsakes. “*The circus dropped pieces all over*” said Igniculus, “*We are certainly getting closer*” gouth Aurora with hope on her face.

This high up in the sky, the place was very windy and difficult for them to defy. The overturned town caught Aurora’s eyes, it was abandoned, long before they arrived. “*This floating city is dark and dreary*” Aurora said, “*I feel weak and weary*” Igniculus replied.

Despite that being said, the city streets by dark creatures are being tread. The explorers fought their way there, searching for the circus, on streets, in buildings and everywhere. Until they reached at the edge of the town, where there they saw circus flyers and colored balloons hanged on walls of the color brown. “*The circus passed nearby*” Aurora said, Igniculus looking around replied “*What did they leave up here in the sky?*” and there, beside a broken carriage belonged to the

circus, sitting at the floating town's edge, a crying jester, he was Rubella's brother, Tristis.

Aurora approached the sad jester, with Rubella and others all together.

"Melancholy jester, why"

"Do you cry?"

"For the lost light, the eternal dread"

"The empty rooms that house the dead"

"The empty people that house the living"

"The end of the circus, unforgiving"

"For the old man who can barely walk"

"For the young child who can hardly talk"

"For you and for I"

"That is why I cry"

"See that refuse over there?"

"The circus left me in despair"

"Why?" you may ask, honey"

"Because, gouth them, I wasn't 'funny'"

"My sister I had intended to invite,"

"Instead, I intend to end it all this night"

Then Rubella appeared before him, from behind with a big smile and vim.

"Stop, Tristis! I am here."

"Rubella? Do my eyes deceive this bliss?"

"Tristis, come. Forget the circus." "But our dreams bank on this."

"Me, a comedian extraordinaire, you, Lemuria's premier vocalist."

"The little lady here, Aurora."

"Escorted me on a grand adventure."

"Truthfully, as jesters neither of us is any good,"

"But as warriors, we could have a cracker-jack joint..." "Venture?"

"We might take on the dark--"

"With our acrobatics, flexibility and healing prowess."

"Doubtless."

"Then, Aurora, count us ...in!"

After the siblings' warm meeting, for their looked forward venture, looked at Aurora for leading them, on a grand adventure. And joining their cavalry did Tristis, and seven they become after they were six.

Tristis, just like Rubella, a jester too. With a cap 'n 'bells on his head in white and blue. Has three cons, unlike his sister's, each doesn't have a stripe in yellow, his foule-bordeau. Having eyes of green and a bluish hair, a true vocalist in Lemuria, a premier. A slightly blue nose and cheeks, the opposite of his sister, a depressed personality, an elf, the one that Rubella seeks.

Following Aurora and leaving the circus behind, to the Temple of the Moon, a magic mirror to find. *"Soon I will have to bid my friends goodbye"* to Igniculus, Aurora said, *"You're really going to leave? What about the high and low, the Lady, the sky?"* Igniculus anxiously asked. Aurora kept moving forward saying nothing, to answer her friend or a gesture to ease his worrying.

Wondering and looking at Igniculus, Tristis, couldn't help it and touched him with his fingers.

"Faint light, are you a spirit?"

"Hey, watch it! I'm warm and bright"

"What a sad sight."

"In the darkest night, one little light"

"Makes me weep"

"Good grief"

There, Finn and Norah moved toward Tristis, to greet him, welcoming him and starting their new friendships.

"Nice to march beside ya"

"I hope I'm not pryin', ba,"

"Why're tears drawn on yer face?"

"To impart the humor of life"

"Oh... I don' get it"

"Exactly right"

"Tristis. I am Norah, Aurora's sister"

"A pleasure. Sorry if I seem bitter."

"Poor soul! Do not be glum."

"Inspiring it is you pursued your dream,"

Mazen Bushnag

“But it was wise of you to halt.”

“We all have a role to play, a team,”

“When cast appropriately”

“I take Solace in that lately,”

“Free to try and fail, I learned greatly.”

Soon Tristis saw beside him Robert walk, recognizing him as a Populi he started a talk.

“What brings a Populi trader here?”

“For more than the open market’s strife”

“Love of a fair Bolmus named Margaret,”

“Who I plan to impress and hope will be my wife.”

“Such a tragedy looms on horizon nearly in sight,”

“And you still dare to love. Exquisite.”

“You realize that we’re all doomed, right?”

Throughout the town they marched, reaching a high wall, a fortress once was, through it they walked and beyond. Until they arrived at a colossal garden, where trees and flowers arranged in a beautiful pattern. In the middle, a huge magical building, they realized it soon, it was the Temple of the Moon.

The garden became windy, as if a storm passed nearby. But it was not, a huge beast before them appeared, a tawny Griffon, the temple guardian, from its slumber it risen. By its giant wings it manipulate the wind, a fight that it is a must, a one they cannot prevent. Aurora drew her sword and stepped forward *“Face me foul beast! We are not afraid of you, not in the least”* bravely she said.

Started the Griffon, from above aiming at the jester siblings, diving towards them by bending its huge scary wings. By their skills and nimble moves, avoided its attack and then the beast its wings in the air it suffuse. By bow and arrow, Robert did try, aimed at the flying beast and shot, but he missed, the beast was very high.

Igniculus, the griffon did follow, but couldn’t keep up near, due to the strong gusts of wind, austere. Here again it dived, not at the jester siblings but at Robert, this time it attacked. Barely that one Robert survived, but looking at the beast after, everyone on land was surprised.

The jester siblings, Rubella and Tristis, managed to get on its back, trying to tackle its wings. While the jesters with the beast struggle, Igniculus saw the chance and towards its eyes he flew, blinding them putting the beast in trouble.

Robert, this time focused his aim, at the beast wings he shot, a perfect hit and down it came. Together they delivered the final blow, Aurora, Norah and Finn, putting the Griffon to its end.

While moving towards the temple, the wind became gentle. More trees and green the nearer to temple they get, until they espied a statue fountain and there a caller voice they heard. “Aurora... My daughter...” it called “*Father!*” Aurora cried.

Aurora, towards the fountain she did run, followed by everyone. There is a pond around the fountain, similar to the one in the Capilli village, but the center was no woman, But statue of man, of Erin.

“*Basin grant me sight. Show me his plight*” Aurora said, and there Aurora looked into the water, as the magic as before in Capilli village, she saw the steward standing, and on bed her father.

“*Your Grace! The dam has torn asunder,*”
“*The farms all under the current.*”
“*The water rises by the minute!*”
“*Please advise me, your humble servant.*”

Then the vision ended, leaving Aurora Saddened. Running to her sister Norah crying, after seeing the vision where floodwaters are rising, and worse, her Father was dying.

“*Norah! Father is dying,*”
“*The dam has burst. Flood waters are rising.*”
“*We are nearly home.*”
“*There, there. No crying.*”

Therefore, through the temple they continued, her friends followed her, they worried and wondered what the fountain basin viewed. Along the way, they saw many of Erin statues, in various sizes and stances amidst of green and flowers that gave beautiful views.

Until they reached a big marble gate, the flowers and plants climbed it, and covered most of it. The gate was a couple of stairs up, on each side of these stairs, there was a short pillar, and on it what it seems like a vase, a very big cup. From the ceiling up there, where they can't clearly see, water pours into the temple garden, as above this floating land, a floating sea.

“Thank goodness, we are here at last.”

“Aurora, it is time to say goodbye. Be fast.”

In front of the marble gate, Aurora stood, around her, her friends stood crying, saddened by Aurora’s leave, the little girl they adored.

“Melancholy Tristis, do not cry”

“Abandoned once more, not a surprise.”

“We all are, in the end.”

“The trick is to remain happy while we are alive”

“Do not fear, I live to fight on against the dark,”

“And make the future slightly less stark.”

“Farewell fierce Rubella.”

“Smack in the middle of our adventure.”

“You’re leaving, just like that?”

“Tumble on without me, make it even better.”

“Take care gruff Finn.”

“Yer leaving us? What’ll I do? I’m afraid.”

“I must go home to my family, it’s as simple as that.”

“We all must learn to be brave.”

“Good fortune enterprising Robert.”

“My adventure has gone bust. Margaret adieu.”

“Stop being ridiculous,”

“I would invest in you.”

“Oh Aurora, search the sky” pleading

“Because I don’t see the highest of high.”

“Igniculus. Goodbye” tears in her eyes

Entering the gate, hearing the last words from her friend Igniculus, the little bright of blue *“I will miss you.”* Where Aurora replied, *“I will miss you too”*.

On the other side, Aurora and Norah walked until they finally reached the magical mirror, where it is at the hall’s end, looked old without any glitter. Still a beautiful scene as it is, an ancient bronze magical mirror, behind a carpet of long grass and stood amidst, some stairs up between four bronze statues, the way to back home, the one they will now use. In front of it stood Norah, encouraging her sister Aurora.

"You are so good-hearted and charitable, Aurora,"

"But some people are different from you."

"And no matter what you say or do,"

"Nothing will ever get through."

"Do not waste your time explaining,"

"Life is too short to be so accommodating."

"We no longer have to roam"

"Aurora, go on through,"

"This is the magic mirror home."

"I shall follow you."

Aurora, gathered her courage and entered, the magic mirror home, followed by her sister, they ventured.

It was a gloomy place at the other side, the sky was gray and clouded and there was not a single ray of sun light. On a rocky bridge stood Norah, beside a woman warrior statue, waving for Aurora. "*Norah, where are we?*" Aurora anxiously said, ignoring the question her sister did, "*Follow me.*" She replied instead.

Looking at the sky, Aurora followed her, water drops fall, the rain made the place even creepier. At the path's end, Aurora surprised by seeing her stepmother, on a castle's veranda beside her stood her sister in a dress of black color. "*Stepmother! Cordelia, fair sister!*" Aurora cried, from the rocky path under.

Her stepmother in a long dark purple dress, she has dark silky hair, a silver crown that impress. All that not only royalty emits, beside that and her beauty, also power she did possess.

Cordelia, looks similarly to Norah but that aside, the dress and hair color are pitch black instead of white.

"Aurora, what a surprise."

"Where am I? Where is Father?"

"Resting his eyes."

"Hold her."

Norah, holding both of Aurora's arms, responding to her mother's commands.

"..." "What are you doing?"

"Family first, now and forever?"

*"I am sorry, Aurora,"
"We are not together."*

*"Sister. Norah--" "Nox is my real name"
"You I admire, but you are not family."
"Through my blood, I am royalty."*

"And I am Umbra the Queen. That lowly marriage to your father was a fantasy."

"This is blasphemy!"

*"Rude creature, I will stop the breath in your throat."
"And for your father, such agony."
"Those arms you cling to bone shall be."
"This is what comes of a weak family."*

*"I am the rightful ruler of Lemuria."
"You are my enemy's daughter."
"What has my father done?"
"Who? That old squatter?"
"You do not know?"
"Your mother banished mine from Lemuria long ago."
"My mother?! She hadn't that power"
"That witch! We laid her low."*

*"Hah! The fallen queen of Lemuria was my foe,"
"And therefore you, her daughter, have to go."*

Umbra the Queen, on Aurora a thunder spell she casted, but to her, nothing happened as if by a magical barrier she was protected. Still the powerful spell shock her and made her faint, on ground she fell unconscious, just in front the Queen's castle gate.

*"What? A protection spell?"
"In her false crown it lies."
"Guard! To the tower with her until she dies."
"In the meantime, her torture I advise."*

Approaching her, a big red masked white beast with long sharp claws, heeding the Queen's orders, whereas the Queen grinning at the girl she abhors.

Aurora, in a dream now is, walking in a vast land of grass following her mother, she wondered if this is a bliss. *“Look at the beautiful sky.”* While walking her mother said, *“Mama I wish I could fly.”* Aurora innocently replied. Walked, until they reached a big apple tree in full blossom, stopped there and rested in its shade, a place felt of serenity like a sanctum. There the mother continued to her daughter, where the place cannot be any more than that quieter.

“In some parts of the world people do.”

“Where? I never knew.”

“You will go someday when you are ready.”

“I just want to stay with you and Father.”

“And we with you, but there is more to life, plenty.”

“For instance, perhaps one day you shall be a queen.”

“Who must sojourn with her subjects.”

“I shall send them post from our castle unseen.”

There were small blue fireflies nearby, Aurora’s mother then said under that clear sky.

“Silly girl, catch that firefly!”

“I have it in my eye!”

“Mama, mama. Come see!”

“Aurora! Where are you? Aurora!”

“Right here! Past the old apple tree.”

Aurora, returning to the apple tree, answering her mother’s call, she found her mother sitting there, as if there is something made her thole.

“I am tired, Aurora.”

“Let me help you”

“My heart. Oh my heart.”

“Mama, stop! You are turning blue.”

“No... this evil will come after you.”

“There is... only one thing I can do.”

There, her mother started praying for her daughter, the one most loved by her and her father.

“Guardians of Lemuria hear my plea.”

“Protect my daughter.”

“From the hand that poisoned me.”

Mazen Bushnag

*“If mortal harm befall her.”
“Bring her to your altar.”*

*“This spell I cast upon my death,”
“And seal it with my final breath.”*

Then the dream is put to an end, where Aurora opens her eyes, realizing that in a cage she was set. A spiked cage hanging by the edge of the castle, there she sat sorrowfully and felt frazzle. *“Papa, please help me! Mama, hear my plea”* she wept alone knowing there was nowhere to flee.

“Come back to me, come back” quoth she. Finding her wooden flute, she started playing beautiful music, feeling each musical note.

A figure from outside approached her, *“That song, I know its melody”* commented on the music played by her. It was the previous guard, the one Umbra ordered and called.

*“I heard it played by my lady, the Queen of light”
“You are her child who fights the dark!”
“You will stop the fiendish Night.”*

*“How can I?”
“A little girl who has lost her way.”
“I simply want to go home.”
“Coward! Is that what your mother would say,” “If she were alive today?”*

*“You have to leave your castle”
“To face the world on your own”
“For what it truly is”
“To find your real home.”*

*“If I aid you, swear to me, you will the darkness fight”
“To save our land and people, our light.”
“I swear it.”*

*“Now, be strong, get ready for battle.”
“I will free you from your shackle.”*

Freeing Aurora from her shackle, the cage. To fight the darkness side-by-side as the guardian just promised and said.



Chapter 8

The Highest of the High



Together, Aurora and the Guard, left the castle's edge cage and into the castle they went, its passages looked really perplex and bad, with the surroundings being dent. The castle's hall divided into many paths in every direction, right, left, up and down leading to another intersection. The place was old, rotten and abandoned, broken furniture and tattered flags found everywhere, they wondered what had here happened, which made Aurora proceed with care.

They decided to go up, using the creaking stairs, to a dark and gloomy place where no one... to go there dares. What they found was terrifying, a giant dark leafless tree, with cages and skulls hanged on it, swaying back and forth, a sight they did never foresee.

On top of that sad castle, listening to the roaring thunder and standing under the crying sky, they decided to go back inside, where it is a little bit warm but dry.

Deeper in the castle's passages they wandered, the more they walked the dimmer the light becomes, and which way they should take they pondered. While looking for the escape route in this gloomy castle, they heard voices and sounds, they were not alone, other guards lurking in this place...more trouble.

To keep moving forward, there was no choice but for them to battle, there were two of them, a man size birds guards, they were crows of evil, equipped with armor, helmet and sword, but Aurora's companion ambushed them and took them down with a pummel.

They continued their exploration, until they found a big machine deep in the castle within, with a lot of gear and cogs of different sizes, they slowly spin.

“What a monstrous machine!”

“I cannot operate the gears.”

“Like you, I am a prisoner of the night,”

“Bound to serve for my remaining years.”

“We require light. If only Igniculus were here.”

“Igniculus?” “My dear friend the firefly.”

“Search the cell near”

“More prisoners from the moon temple high.”

Nearby the mysterious machine, there was a red wooden door, calls from behind it emerged, a caller did implore. *“Help!”* the voice said, *“Stop that! Yelp!”* another replied, *“Someone please! I miss the forest breeze!”* the first continued and cried.

Going inside they did, Aurora astonished by seeing all her friends caged, each in one separately and hanged from the ceiling away from the gate. *“No! None escaped the Queen? Not one? What have I done?”* she said sadly, after seeing her friends being treated so badly.

“Aurora! Up here!”

“We are in the cage near!”

“Yer back!”

“Free us from the darkness black.”

“Spring us from this... prison!”

There Aurora quickened to the lever, the mechanism she did use whichever, to free her friends and then all joined her happily together.

“Igniculus, thank goodness--”

“You came back.”

“I apologize for cruelly leaving you.”

“Let’s get back on track.”

“Aurora! Are ya a ghost?!”

“Most definitely not!”

“Hurrah! I tried ta be brave, but ”

“Yer sister, she threw us in the dark to rot.”

“Stand tall with us, Finn, sister she is not.”

“Aurora, you changed your plan?”

“A faulty investment was made. But enough.”

“Robert, I am delighted to see you again.”

“My stock just shot up.”

“Little lady, what a disappearing act!”

“Hats off to you.”

“Ready to take this show on the road?”

“Vehemently. Prepare for battle too.”

“What a happy turn of events!”

“Do my ears deceive me?”

“My happiness will not last, believe me.”

“If we could only engrave it for posterity.”

The explorers finally again became together all, but they have to find a way out, from this prison for freedom's call.

Aurora, going back to where the monstrous machine is, they all followed her, her truthful friends. Arriving at the complicated mechanism, her companions wondered how to use it, to open the door way out, their permission.

“Now, how do we our exit gain?”

“First, unfurl the spool of chain.”

Getting ready to open the gate, Aurora asked Igniculus to prepare and to the mechanism aim his light.

“Igniculus, free us from this plight.”

“Ready to shine my light!”

The gate did vibrate, Aurora was right, the machine responded to Igniculus light. But the way out did not open, something stuck in there, chains... they were what prevented the gate's motion.

“We've got to let the chain out!”

“No need to shout.”

The chains then they did remove, now, nothing to stop the cogs, they are free to move. Then again, Aurora and Igniculus give it another try, the gate start moving, it is opening, all thanks to the light of Sir Firefly. The guard requested Aurora to haste, eagerly he did, he did not want any more time to waste.

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“Princess, down we go, not a moment to lose.”
“Crepusculum is on her way, the prisoners to abuse.”

“What are the risks? Will we get caught?”
“Run! We have ta git outta here! Trot!”

And so they hastened through the gate, once again, together, the brave explorers to save Lemuria from its dark fate. Looking at her brother, Rubella cheerful as always, with a bright smile, while running in those hallways.

“Isn’t this swell, Tristis? We’re in the same troupe”
“In battle, I suppose our act will be sharpened.”
“Ha! You always make me laugh.”
“My only fan. Thanks to you, I’m not disheartened”

To get out, it was not easy as they thought, more guards were on their way, they had no choice, so the evil they did fought. Crows, crocodiles and dogs, all tried to stop Aurora and her friends, but they could not stop them, not dark creatures and not these thugs.

The good Guard suddenly halts the party, they wondered what is wrong, the guard approached Aurora slowly. She was standing beside a big red door, he walked towards her, while she was wondering why did he do that and what for.

“Crepusculum holds the moon near on the bridge’s top.”
“You join us not?”

“Princess, my name is Óengus, the Kategida my clan.”
“Soldiers, we are the best.”
“We strike with Jupiter’s lighting”
“When we are put to the test.”

“Once the darkness fell, sword and spear we raised to the sky.”
“The Night, she arrived in a chariot, flaming serpents at her side”
“By Erin, she flung magic, and none of us could fly.”

“My clan to the top of the tower drew,”
“The highest of the high.”
“Metal gleamed faint in the twilight.”
“We were destined to die.”

“The Night took the tower,”
“Condemned, our sentence she was to carry out.”

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*“Until my sword I raised and pledged to aid her.”
“She sent the other Kategida to jail with a shout.”*

“Princess, I must free them, there is no doubt.”

With that Óengus made his mind, he gave Aurora two options to choose from, for her journey to guide.

*“Enter the prison with me or fly.”
“You must decide.”*

There Aurora stood, and with her friends shared, about what Óengus to her said. She was in thought, She started with a smile of pure innocence, apparently she made her mind and picked a choice.

*“We shall help the Kategida out.”
“Your majesty. Beware the other guards, dark creatures devout.”*

And so they entered the prison, to save the Kategida from there was the mission. The prison was much more crumbled there, but it was a wide space, even tents were up, they belonged to the Kategida, the warriors who were once in despair. But no one there to be seen, were the Kategida really were locked here by Umbra the Queen?

*“Rise, my warriors!” “Where could they be?”
“No! All trapped in Erin’s labyrinth cell.”
“Oh woe! The brave Kategida.”
“Fallen to the Night’s spell.”*

*“We must free them.”
“The gates lie at the camp’s center.”
“The labyrinth is magical.”
“Be careful when you enter.”*

But before heading to the labyrinth, they wanted to make sure that no one is there, so firstly they wanted to check the camps’ tents. The light in these tents were dim, they could not see well, so the bright Igniculus illuminated the place for them.

*“Bless you spirit for your sacred light.”
“Stop it you’re making me turn bright.”*

“What a curious dwelling.”

“My old station. Home of the captain of the Lemurian guard.”

“Here I raised my younger brother.”

“Taught him how to charge.”

“Wait until you hear our stories, Princess.”

“So many battles he and I fought together.”

“If the Queen hurt him...”

“Come. We must rescue them down in the nether.”

While continued, here and there, and from tent to tent, hoping to find someone, but as it seems, no Kategida found in this search attempt. There Finn greeted the Kategida warrior, Óengus, and complimented his strength and braveness.

“Thank the loose leaves yer aboard,”

“I feel safe behind yer sword. ”

“Much gratitude for bravely fighting as the Princess’s ward.”

“Aurora, just one question.”

“How come Princess he gets ta call ya?”

“Because Finn... it’s simply an expression.”

And as they thought, no one was here to find, there is one place to go now, to Erin’s labyrinth cell door they espied. Walking in, Aurora and her company, to search for Óengus clan, who are imprisoned in this labyrinth of agony.

Looking around, Aurora with a questionable look on her face, she finally decided to ask Óengus to remove all doubt about this place.

“This prison seems ancient. Who made it?”

“Some say Erin, the explorer”

“Who hailed from distant shores.”

“Lemuria founded by the four.” “Brr.”

There inside they found three doors and a statue of a Lemuria’s founder, the statue held a spear in one hand, and a shield with a moon on the other. The doors were the same, made of redwood and brass, except each door have a yellow flag on both sides, showing the sun, the moon and the stars. They chose a door randomly and entered, and to their surprise, they found another three doors and another statue in the hall they ventured.

The place was indeed a labyrinth, in each hall they walked in, the doors and the statue were there, until Aurora noticed, that each statue held a shield with a

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different sign, and by that, they became aware. They understood that it is a sign to guide those who are lost, in Erin's labyrinth to find their way out.

If they walked the path of the shields signs, Aurora thoughts, and followed each through the resembled door sign, they will find the Kategida proud knights.

And so on, they started following Aurora's lead, through the doors of the sun, the moon and the stars, until at last the Kategida they have met. All were sitting on ground, but the astonishment on their face after seeing the explorers was profound.

"Who has opened Erin's path and freed us from the night?" the warrior asked, *"Behold. A princess of light!"* another cried.

"Thank you, on behalf of the Kategida, princess..." "...Aurora."

"Aurora. Now we can again protect the starry skies and floating peaks of Lemuria."

Óengus stepped forward, and with a sorry voice, his brother called.

"Brother-" "What is the traitor doing here?"

"You should have let us die with honor,"

"The Queen of Night you served. For shame!"

"Cuchulain, please, be calmer."

"Brothers we no more be."

"You are banished. Fallen from grace. Flee!"

And after Óengus had such scolding from his brother, the Kategida captain, Óengus in grief and sorrow left, with nothing but feeling shame after his clan abandoned him. There in that cell, the Kategida thanked Aurora and her company, for freeing them from the labyrinth curse and giving back their liberty.

"Night shifted Erin's Labyrinth, trapping us inside."

"Thank you for finding the path. Turning the tide."

"We are free of the Queen's prison."

"Our fortress we will reclaim. The Kategida have risen!"

"Your majesty, we will assume our posts on high."

"Our duty we will die for. To protect the Lemurian sky."

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After hearing all these thanks and acts of gratitude, Aurora, and her friends headed back to the prison entrance, to resume their journey of what they perused.

“Goodbye.”

“My path I must set.”

“The Kategida thank you for our freedom.”

“We will not forget.”

The explorers, Leaving Labyrinth of Erin, in the hall near the labyrinth entrance, they found Óengus sullen and sadden. *“I am an outcast. Worse than death.”* Said he bitterly, *“A disgrace to your name, Princess Aurora.”* *“You bravely shielded your clan.”* Aurora replied soothingly *“Remember who you are. A great warrior of Lemuria.”*

To cheer up Óengus, she took out her wooden flute, she started playing enchanting music, the same of Queen of light musical note.

“That melody, strong like armor.” Óengus said strongly, *“Join us to regain your honor.”* Aurora replied passionately. Therefore, Óengus happily agreed, to join their party, and with their adventure to proceed.

After Norah betrayed the six of them and left, that much is certain, with Óengus now on their side, the company come to be seven. *“Now let us leave this tower. The moon we shall return this hour”* Aurora said with a voice more than usual, louder.

Together they hastened towards the castle’s gate, Óengus showed them the way, until they are out again, standing above the rocky bridge and beneath the sky of gray. They run along that bridge passing the woman warrior statue, where at the rocky bridge’s end, they saw and met Cordelia, with her, Aurora did argue.

“Cordelia, sweet sister, hand the moon to me.”

“Aurora, you look wretched. Not fit for nobility.”

And thereafter, Crepusculum burst into an evil laughter.

“A ruler you will never be”

“When you parade around so commonly.”

“You were always sweet to me.”

“I never liked the way you smiled,”

“Or the way you chewed your food,”

*“The way you ran through the halls,”
“Your cheerful mood.”*

*“You were a perfect disgrace.”
“And I, Crepusculum, aim to put you in your place.”*

Then up in the air she floats, once who Aurora admired as a sweet sister. Where she started to ascend slowly, engulfing herself in a black smoke, looked something sinister. A spell she casted upon herself, a dark one it seemed, from within the black cloud of smoke a loud roar heard, and then a giant winged black serpent rose, and before them appeared.

And the serpent was not alone, two dark creatures also with it emerged, looking threatening, two black ghosts akin to soul reapers, by them the explorers discouraged.

There Aurora, Óengus and Igniculus, stood bravely to face Crepusculum, where the rest faced the ghosts, the fear of them become none. Óengus charged with his long claws, but the dark serpent dodge it, Crepusculum found an opening and assaulted but Aurora, him defended.

Rubella and Tristis playing the decoy, by their acrobatic skills they did enjoy, while Finn by magic and Robert by arrows at the ghosts to destroy, they managed to do it successfully, but it did not work, their ploy.

The dark creatures then assaulted them furiously, Robert, Finn, Rubella and Tristis avoided them barley. Until in that tough fight, Finn used his fire magic, the dark ghosts strangely retreated, what they feared was the light.

Finn, telling Aurora the ghosts' weakness and their fear of light, Aurora came up with the plan to change the tide. Rubella, Tristis and Robert, to confuse and fight the black serpent. Where the rest with Igniculus bright light, and Finn's fire magic's light, the dark creatures weakened, Aurora and Óengus delivered the final strike.

The dark creatures are now beaten, what remains is Crepusculum, the serpent demon.

This beast fought wrathfully, the heroes defend and struggled, but with all of them fighting together, Crepusculum finally defeated.

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A black smoke concealed the serpent for a moment and then did fade, there was only the one who Aurora once admired as a sweet sister, on her back, on the rocky bridge, laid.

Aurora approached her, Crepusculum mumbled knowing that she could not last longer.

*“The moon yours for now shall be”
“But Mother will end you, wait and see.”*

And then she turned into ash of black, the moon from within it emerged, flew over and in Aurora’s hand it sat. Where it then gleamed strongly, in bright light engulfed her. Shining so brightly, her friends they could not witness what is happening in there and see. But after the light faded, they flabbergasted at what they saw and perceived.

Aurora did change, a beautiful maiden she became, in a yellow princess dress, but her kindness and innocence is the same.

They approached her in wonder, they questioned if she is Aurora or someone... another, looking at her searching for an answer.

*“Whoa! Where did Aurora go?”
“Igniculus, have you become smaller?”
“Maybe it’s the light of the moon”
“But I think you’ve gotten taller!”*

*“Who cares wha' size Aurora is,”
“We jus' killed a dragon. What'a team!”
“Our strengths trounce the competition.”
“To tha extreme!”*

*“What do we do now?”
“We must recover the sun.”
“To the lowest of the low,”
“Quickly, let us run!”*

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The Highest of the High

The moon shone through her misty veil,
The stars winked joyfully,
As Aurora left the tower
And made her journey to the sea.

If the highest of the high
Was in the sky, the lowest of the low had to be
Beneath the white-capped waves
Of the Lemurian sea.

The waters of the flood continued to rise,
The Duke was at death's gate,
Umbra and Nox waited in the dark,
Little time left to alter the hands of fate.



Chapter 9 The Piscean and the Ogre



The Lemurian shores were rough and rocky, the waves were raging, the sky was raining and the weather was windy. *“Oh, Igniculus, fly on by. The lowest of the low I do not spy”* Aurora started, *“Cheerful place, isn’t it?”* Igniculus responded, *“Perhaps for a firefly.”* Aurora answered.

Looking at the sea, Igniculus wondered what is he seeing, looking at it in bewilderment, so he started with Aurora a talking *“What I’m confused about is why the ground is covered with patches of sky.”* Aurora, with a smile on her face answering, *“The land has flooded and tricks your eye.”*

And towards the white-caped sea they went, beneath the crying sky and above the foggy shores, they were not alone, not yet, dark creatures are roaming, especially the dark boars.

They fought their way forward, Óengus in the lead, striking the monsters without fear, after the path had cleared, Óengus stood by Tristis near. Tristis looking at him with his usual sad face, he started and to him had saith.

“Sir, you strike terror far and wide.”

“I’m afraid to fight by your side.”

“Do you remove your mask when you sleep?”

“I never sleep.” “My eyes open I will keep.”

Continuing their journey on these rocky lands, wandering against the rough wind maneuvering around the cliffs to find a pass. Ascending and descending many times on their way, until they found on top of a high rock, a statue of man colored

gray. Surrounded by mysterious crystals of green, big pieces, shiny and like it before they never seen.

They walked to the statue, Igniculus found some scribbles carved beneath It, he thought it might be a clue, to the lowest of the low, an opportunity he could not let go.

“Aurora, what’s it say?”

“To find the treasure of the golden rectangle, study earth’s emerald middle.”

“In the Cynbel sea, do not stray from the path of light.”

“The answer points of out the riddle.”

The explorers, all of them about the text they thought, none found a meaning of it, better to carry on the journey they sought. On their way, more dark creatures they fought, but the heroes defeated them gallantly, Robert and Tristis then had talked, short it was, Robert asked Tristis if he is travelling happily.

“You fight with a tear in your eye.”

“Are you not happy to travel the world?”

“I have seen more than enough unfurled.”

“Often I wish I had stayed in bed curled.”

They walked and walked until a village they spot, houses built above the sea made out of ships and boats, giant tortoise shells as roofs atop, the village abandoned, they wondered who lived in those abodes.

“Where is everyone hiding?”

“I hope not transformed into more birds flying.”

“Aha! Perhaps this is a good spot for profit mining.”

Igniculus flying above, he noticed a smoke rising from one of those houses, thus they decided to go to from where it comes. They arrived, it was boathouse “A fire.” Igniculus cried, *“Someone must have lit this pyre.”* Aurora assumed.

There a little green girl came from behind a barrel there, the door opened and followed by a green old person with a long white hair. Aurora greeted the girl cheerfully, happy to see the people of this village on sea.

“Oh! Hello little one.”

“What is your name?”

“Shhhh. Be careful. You’ll wake the Ogre.”

“Behind your back? Is this a game?”

“Genovefa! Get back here and hide.”

“No, I’m going inside!”

The little girl went inside upset, the old man followed her, Aurora and her friends wondered what had here happened, to ask them they followed after.

The boathouse was modest and small, consists of a two stories bed, a desk and a round wooden table, the place was barely enough for them all. The old man and the girl were in unique attires, the old man in a long beige robe, and the girl in a purple dress, they were elf like with tails, are they of rare kin last survivors? The girl had her pink hair in three ponytails, looks like flowers giving out a beautiful essence.

The old man wearing his glasses started to grumble, about the little girl but in an attitude of a humble.

“She doesn’t listen to me,”

“As you can see.”

“He’s Drust. I’m Gen for short”

“I am Aurora. Is an Ogre troubling thee?”

“Troubling? The whole village is gone.”

“The Ogre guards the caves under the sea.”

“He would visit us.”

“Every time he gets hungry, he... he...”

“I can’t say it in front of the girl.”

“Down into the sea”

“He took my mommy and daddy.”

“But they can breathe underwater easily.” “We’re sorcerers, you see.”

“Genovefa and I are all that’s left.”

“Aurora, will you bring back my mom and dad?”

“I will. Child, do not worry.”

“Hurray! I am glad!”

There, Robert was deep in thought, to himself made a note.

“I wonder if her parents would sell the village for scrap?”

“That would put me on the map.”

Looking at Aurora’s wings interested, Gen did. *“Can I feel your wings?”* she asked Aurora then, *“One touch and I shiver like violin strings.”* Aurora answered

therein. And upon leaving the boat house *“Be careful out there.”* Drust cried, *“You too. Take care.”* Aurora replied.

And so they travelled through the sea village under the heavy rain, to find Gen parents and relieve her loneliness pain, they went to the village’s end and beyond, to find an arrow shaped metallic sign, pointing towards the vast sea *“To the Cynbel Sea”* in strange bold font carved.

They wondered what was there further in the sea, they saw light torches standing on water, as if showing the way, they followed them, they wanted to check and see.

Along the journey, Igniculus had a small conversation with Aurora above the sea.

“Aurora, what’s a princess?”

“That’s simple, the daughter of a queen Igniculus.”

“Oh”

“Why did you leave me in the sky?”

“I thought I had found my way home.”

“Oh”

“I was afraid.”

“Sometimes we grow when we are alone.”

They travelled until they arrived at a big rock sculpture, carved to give the face of a Piscean, there also they noticed, *“To the Piscean Village”* arrow shaped but opposite direction metallic sign.

In the middle of the Cynbel sea, at a place looks as if a Piscean shrine, a shrine it is not, but a light house to give wandering ships a sign. They ventured inside and looked, Carved inside this huge rock, abandoned. They saw a huge wall with many white scribbles and figures, the dark wall with writings was standing on only four pillars.

“Look at these glowing branches.”

“Numerals, Igniculus. Numbers in Latin cast.”

“What are they for?”

“To remember the past.”

Suddenly, the floor they stood on shook, a glass peach shaped lift ascended from the dark wall beneath, a shadowy giant figure was inside, the explorers all at it did look. *“I guard the door, I will smash you to the floor”* a thick voice called

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loudly, *“Give us back the villagers, you boar!”* Aurora replied bravely. *“You will not get those Piscean gnomes back, I ate them all. What do you think about that?”* continued the Ogre, as he let out an evil laugh.

And out of the glass lift he came, with two wolfs in he did tame, brown in color wearing masks made out of bones, both of them looks the same.

On front of them he stood ready to assail, in his left hand holding a giant war flail. The look on his face is flagrant, wearing on his left arm a golden arm bracelet. His long hair and beard brown as copper, his giant figure as a huge boulder. Wearing pants in blue, big leather shoes, what a sight! Arms reaching his feet, a figure that gives people the fright. His arms are long and hairy, carrying what it seems his bag. And having a long nose peeping out of his face shag.

The two wolfs rushed at Aurora and attacked her, but the jester siblings knocked the wolfs out of the way, joined them Robert the archer. Óengus, toward the Ogre he run, then jumped to attack him, Finn followed to back up, but the Ogre dodged aside, and easily knocked them.

The wolfs with the jesters and Robert are in battle, the jesters dodged swiftly, suddenly, beasts rushed towards Roberts to tackle, by then he shot an arrow quickly, one got hit but the other reached Robert and did grapple.

Knocking Robert on the floor, trying to bite his throat, Rubella and Tristis quickly came to help, with a joined attack from behind, they put an end to that fierce wolf.

Aurora and Igniculus while fighting the Ogre, Finn is unconscious on the floor, but the Kategida warrior, again on his feet, it is yet not over. The Ogre rushing towards Aurora hurriedly, she tried to stop the huge monster, but she could not, pushing her aside, then struck the jester siblings surprisingly. With his massive war flail, they tried to avoid it, but they did fail.

Both of them, knocked on the ground unconscious, now it’s up to Aurora, Igniculus and the injured Robert and Óengus. Igniculus flew up to the Ogre’s face and shone brightly, the Ogre annoyed by his light, tried to hit him with his flail badly. Robert seizing the opportunity, shot a couple of arrows to his legs, trying to hinder him, Óengus with brute strength tackled him, the Ogre now flying in airs. Tripped, falling on his face, the ground shook with the fall of his giant figure gave. Aurora, taking the chance, she thrust her sword on the back of his head, to such a cruel monster she defeated and putting him to an end.

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Coming to their senses, the unconscious ones, seeing the Ogre on ground lying dead, for them to join the others, each one over him jumps. Now all together gathered with saddened faces, Igniculus at Aurora sadly gazes.

“What about the little girl, Gen?”

“What will she do, abandoned, forgotten?”

“If she waits long, I will bring more pain.”

“We’ve got to tell her then.”

From there, tracing their way back and travelling above the Cynbel sea, they reached the Piscean Village, and went to Gen’s boathouse for the girl to see.

There she was alone, Drust, the old man was not there, happily the girl cried *“Aurora! You’re here!”*, Aurora softly replied *“Gen come near.”*

“Drust went out a while ago. But it’s all right, since my parents are coming.”

“What do we do until they come into sight?”

“Can I play my flute?”

“Yes, please, it will make the night bright.”

Aurora, taking out her flute, she started playing music, melodies with saudade feelings, it did imbued. To calm her, then about her village and parents tragedy she told her. Little girl Gen sobbed and cried, her feelings she could never hide.

“Aurora, she makes dew, just like you. What does it mean?” Igniculus said, *“She’s heavy too.”* Aurora sadly replied.

“My mother sang that song to me long ago”

“While she was still alive.” “Oh.”

“Little one, we go to recover the lost sun”

“And bring on the day. Please. Come.”

The girl gathered her courage and stopped the cry, now for the Dark Queen she have huge enmity.

“The day will stop the Dark Queen?”

“Wait until I use my magic,” “I will make her scream.”


Joining the explorers’ party of seven, now they became eight, they travelled to the abandoned lighthouse, to find the sun in the lowest of the low, and change Lemuria’s dark fate.



Chapter 10

The Lowest of the Low



he peach shaped glass lift was still there, All got in and down they went, to the Ogre's lair. Far they went beneath the Cynbel Sea, until they arrived at place made of crystals clear. The ground, the ceiling and the walls, made out of blue clear crystals, including the giant pillars that supports the spacious halls.

They walked out the peach shaped lift in astonishment, though the place's beauty, it looks ancient. The explorers wondered who made such a place, and if still anyone living in this huge space.

Looking at the crystals *"Valuable crystal. I could take it to the market!"* Robert thought, *"... Margaret or I could go at any moment. And I am always away, seeking profit."* then he afterthought.

The more they walked there the more wonders they saw, fascinating windows along the hall walls, wide with elaborate decorations giving out magnificent glow. Beneath the vast sea, in those large halls, water was flowing, in many places, many waterfalls.

Until they reached a big ancient mechanism, with a blue shiny ball on top, three large crystals connected to this system, these crystals branched everywhere, far and beyond, nonstop.

They walked until they reached to a dark hall, near there was a big crystal of green, similar to the one at the statue above the sea they had seen. *"This crystal is blank, unmarked."* Aurora remarked, *"It's lost in the dark."* Igniculus observed.

This hall was short, just after the green crystal there was a sign, pointing towards the dark hall “*To the Palace of the Sun*” said the crystal sign. but just at that sign, there was a cliff, leading to nowhere, it is an abyss.

Illuminating the place, there Igniculus shone brightly, and to their surprise, the place was full of numerous crystals, corals, seashells and various statues, the place was amazingly sightly. Numerous shapes and colors, the impact of such a scene, was on Aurora and all the others.

But these were not there alone, dark creatures appeared there, they used this place as it is their home. Fighting them was necessary, the heroes have to cut their way through, they fought the monsters together, Gen there, with her magic put a remarkable show.

Robert and Finn Amazed by her skills, a small conversation therein begins.

“Gen, where did you learn magic with such a speed?”

“From the book of Piscean spells. I love to read!”

“How old're you, Gen?”

“I'm almost ten!”

“Sigh. How quickly the young 'uns replace you again”

The journey they resumed in this land under sea, travelling through the wonders and fighting monsters, along the journey they removed all doubt, this place is waterless sea. At the bottom the waves are frozen, the air was cold, they had to keep themselves in motion, and keep travelling on the road. To find the sun, in this waterless sea and caves, it must be done.

All the time since she joined them, Gen, glancing at the jester siblings, keeping a detested look on them, As if they done her a wrong thing. Cheerful Rubella wondered what's the matter, she walked toward her and talked to her in a good manner.

“Hi little lady-”

“Stay back, I will attack!”

“Are you a clown?” “No, no! I'm a jester.”

“I'm watching, not one joke you better crack.”

And that how it went between the two, Gen might be afraid of clowns, Tristis thought that was the clue. There Gen walked beside Óengus, she looked at his armor and the mask on his face, in bewilderment she asked the proud warrior, out of curiosity and she did saith.

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“Hey Óengus, why do you wear all that armor?”

“Without it I’m shorter than you.” “is that true?”

“Does he have a sense of humor?”

“Ask ‘im.” “No, you.”

After then, they found themselves in front of a purple crystal cave, they stood in front of it, lost in thought while they all gaze. There is no choice but to move forward inside, they kept their guard up, because these sort of places are where monsters hide.

The cave, inside it branched in many directions, many tunnels, together they went here and there, to a dead end, to a cliff and sometimes they felt going in circles. But they did not give up hope, they continued until they found the exist that leads to a coral slope.

There they witnessed grand walls and pillars, ancient, There Aurora espied another magical basin, towards it she hastened. It was a statue fountain, of two horses and a man, standing, holding a seashell in his hand.

Aurora, to the fountain she cried, asked to see her father, if he is alright.

“Basin grant me sight.”

“Show me Father’s plight.”

There, Aurora turned to the fountain’s pond. Looking into the magical water, to see what her heart is craving for, and to have a glimpse of what is beyond. Seeing her father, the duke, in bed he lays. Yet a steward of his beside him stands, a conversation between them she witnessed, where the steward says.

“Your grace, the waters rise higher!”

“His breath is shallow. The situation is dire.”

Seeing her father still as a rock and silent, she become more worried, unquiet. *“Father! Please rise.”* Aurora cried, *“Hear your people’s cries.”* Calling him more she tried.

Sitting and just calling won’t help, Aurora Thought, to find the Sun, is better she sought. There the explorers moved towards the ancient palace, until they reached to the outer gates, statues of giant two fishes on either side, mirrored in balance.

At that gate they heard a strange sound, *“What’s that sound?”* Igniculus said, a giant monster at the gate Aurora has found, she stoped her friends *“Stand your ground!”* Aurora cried.

Two more dark creatures appeared, the beast was not alone, but the heroes were not a bit afraid, strength and bravery they had shown. Together they fought the enemies, each used the best of skills and abilities.

Aurora's sword and her magic of light, Igniculus too the bright. The Kategida's might, Óengus also joined, Tristis and Rubella with their acrobatics skill, the monsters decoyed. Finn and Gen used their magic, to hit the dark creatures from a distance, Robert the archer too, provided assistance.

With their powers and skills united, the dark creatures they bravely fought, with sword, magic, acrobatics and arrows shot. They ended the fight in their victory, and then marched to the palace's internal gate near, for the sun to seek and see, their mission, the premier.

There they found four statues of the Lemuria's founders, two at each side, each has at its base a moon stage, maybe it is sort of a guide. The gate shut closed, to the Sun Palace, blocking the road. The carvings and the patterns on the door was elaborate, a big sun in the middle, a spear going through, stages of moon and sea waves were also engraved on that gate.

"This gate to the Sun Palace goes,"
"It's never been shut before."
"In the blue do we see any clues?"
"Well, here stand the Explorers four..."

There Aurora, about the gate and statues she thought, how to get in, what way, which sort.

"Darkness this gate fixed."
"To open it, we end the solar eclipse."

Aurora with the help of Igniculus solves the barred gate there that lies, where each of those statues held an item, that fits in the gate's engravings as keys, a place where each can occupy.

They took the items, the heroes did, and the first one in its place they inserted and fitted.

"The first one lit!"
"The path to the eclipse, this must be it."

Trying the second, but it did not go well, for there must be a mistake Aurora thought, it made her dispel. *“Something must have gone wrong.”* Aurora said, *“Perhaps there’s an order, like a song”* Igniculus remarked.

Trying again, now they understood, that the items of the statues order, are to be matched with the Moon stages, it should. Matching the ones on the statues and the gate, they fitted them in order and place, the gate before them shone and opened, slowly and with grace.

And there inside they went, flabbergasted all of them, by the beauty of the place, as if they entered a totally different realm. Things are made of glass and crystals mostly, where the rest is marble pure white, tall marble pillars and crumbled stairs, both are of extraordinary height.

Through doors and vast halls they walked, through the crystal ceilings, light came through dimly, crystal blue chandeliers high hanged, such a wonder hidden below the Cynbel Sea.

They travelled through the Palace, until they reached what it seems a big theater’s stage, Dark creatures there were many but frozen, as if pieces of art they became. Many of these frozen creatures also, from the high ceiling hanged, as if they were marionettes for someone to control and command.

There also who once named Norah stood, the one who tricked Aurora and lured. Nox seeing Aurora coming towards her, as Aurora came near, there started the traitor, with a voice so arrogant and clear.

“Oh my stars, Aurora,”

“Look at you. Such fair skin and hair that shines.”

“A shame such a foul bloodline.”

“Gave birth to locks so fine.”

“A princess would never dirty her dress.”

“Cavorting with insects and common folk.”

“How dare you insult my friends.”

“What are you some kind of a joke?”

“A double-crosser like you wears mud as her cloak.”

“Enough!” “Aurora, you are a perfect disgrace”

“And I aim to put you in your place.”

There Nox casted a spell and hastened to the exit, left the place and the doors she locked. The place was filling with a deadly poisonous air, Aurora and friends
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looking for a way out, there is none anywhere. Except for the gate from where they came inside, and the one Nox run through and hide.

Both are locked, they went to the one Nox went through and thus, but it was magically sealed, and some started to lose conscious. There Gen appeared with her sorcery to break the spell, she did and succeeded, and saved her friends from the doom that on them would befall.

The heroes followed Nox path, until they arrived at a magnificent throne, all made and surrounded by crystals blue, as if itself a huge precious gemstone. Positioned on water, a wide circular place with no corner. Giant Piscean statues around wearing crowns, seeing Nox near the throne, Aurora there addresses Nox and recounts.

“Your tricks shall not halt me.”

“A ruler you will never be!”

“This is the end of your family.”

“Don’t worry, you will rejoin their number.”

“Our land shall be up top, yours down under.”

Then up in the air she floats, then into the water she did dive. Where deep in there, she engulfed herself in a black smoke, the heroes she terrifies. A spell she casted upon herself, a dark one it seemed, from within the deep water a loud roar heard, and then a giant pearl white serpent rose, and before them appeared.

The serpent was a sea monster, two giant tentacles also with it emerged, looking threatening, like her sister, into a monster Nox changed.

The heroes worked together to defeat Nox, so they first targeted the beast’s tentacles. Robert started shooting arrows at it, the tentacles avoided them but that didn’t make Robert quit.

Rubella and Tristis playing the decoy, by their acrobatic skills they enjoy, while Finn and Gen by magic together, the beast they managed to annoy, There Aurora and Óengus seizing the opportunity, they cut the tentacles, they managed to do it successfully, their ploy.

Nox fought back, breathing ice to freeze the heroes, they jumped and dodged, Robert there at the right moment he chose. To shot the arrow towards the beast’s face, he did and it did hit the eye, Nox’s face he did deface. There the final strike they did together throw, the finishing blow.

This beast fought wrathfully, the heroes defended and struggled, but all of them fighting together, Nox finally defeated.

A black smoke concealed the serpent for a moment and then did fade, there was only the one who Aurora once admired as a sweet sister, on her back, on the crystal ground, laid.

There the Queen of Night Umbra appeared and said *“No! My youngest dead. The bloodline broke, by a babe and her band of primitive folk!”*

Then the Queen of Night Umbra, scornfully said to Aurora.

“You belligerent bellicose brat!”

“Fortunate you are I am merciful, stepdaughter.”

“Give me the moon and the stars,”

“And I will let you go home to Father.”

Umbra, there opened a magical window for Aurora to see her father, for a moment they were able to talk after they were parted so long asunder.

“Papa!”

“I am delirious. It cannot be... My...”

“My dearest Aurora... Return to me.”

“Without you now... I die.”

“Papa, I love you.”

“I cannot let the Lemurians die.”

“My... Aurora...”

“Good...”

“Adieu!” The Queen of Night waving her hand, the view disappeared of Aurora’s dad. With her Father death, her magical crown now gone, the one her Father gave her when she was little, to own.

“Ha! He gave that crown to you. Haha! Lemuria belongs to me.” Umbra said, *“I will... set them free.”* Aurora angrily replied. The Dark Queen striking Aurora with thunder magic, she got hit, Aurora took the sun, and jumped into the water, injured, quickly she did.

She was caught in the water stream, that took her to the Cynbel sea. On the vast blue surface above, unconscious, floated she. Her friends found her and rescued, then all went to Lemuria’s alter, refuged. They put her on the alter, Aurora still senseless, There beside her, stood the lady of the forest motionless. Her ragged

hooded cloak she removed, it was quite a sight, a long blonde hair lady appeared, it was Aurora's mother, the Queen of Light. In Pure white dress and hooded cape, and appeared young in age.

She took out an ornamented flute, played a mesmerizing note, the one Aurora played often, to cheer her friends and give them faith and hope. The music echoed near and far, Through the Lemuria's plains and woods, reaching villages, cities and shores afar.

Around Aurora gathered all of her friends, also the people whom she did help, from all across Lemuria that through her journey she met. With the stars, moon and the sun, the Queen of Light casted a spell, to cure her beloved daughter and make her again well.

There, a light shone from Aurora bright, none of the witnesses could see what happened or have insight, but when the light faded, there is Aurora stood well and alright, the people around her rejoiced in delight.

Now, she is in a pure white gorgeous dress, and a crown, looks like the one her father gave her, colorless. It seems made out of glass or crystal, Aurora looks as ever beautiful.

She looked around her in wonder, there beside her she spotted her mother. "*Behold! The Princess of Lemuria.*" Her mother declared, "*Mother?*" confused, Aurora said.

"Hello, Aurora."

"This must be a dream or... or a spell I am under."

"No. It is real, my dear."

"I am here."

"My heart is full, it is true."

"I have so much to tell you."

While Aurora is talking to her mother, the others are meeting with their loved ones and family, like Óengus, now is meeting with his brother.

"Captain, I-" "Valiantly you fought to protect the Princess f Light."

"Come, embrace me brother."

Where Finn also there, met his grandfather, Avo felt happiness seeing his grandson fine there.

“Avo-” “Finn. Ya faced tha dark.”

“Yer a man now, ya duffer.”

Also the merry Robert, saw there his love Margaret.

“Margaret, can we spend a little time together?”

“I’m quite busy, it’s dreadful.”

“Oh.”

“But... let me take a look at my schedule.”

After that happy reunion, Aurora made a remark, to her mother about the Queen of night, Umbra the dark.

“Umbra waits near. Until she falls,”

“Lemuria will never be free.”

“Go. Make your noble exodus.”

“After all, a princess needs a castle.” “Rarely.”

“How to fly there quickly?”

“Allow me!”

Aurora flew up far high, as for her friends, she casted a spell upon them and now they can also fly. Up in the thundering sky they went, through dark clouds black as coal, around the floating debris and the thundering roar.

There they met, who will change Lemuria’s fate.

“Aurora, the exiled child.”

“We share that in common from long ago.”

“Cast out, cursed to walk among the common and the weak.”

“Why your foolish mama left Lemuria I will never know.”

“Murderer.” “Righter of wrongs! The greatest civilization we.”

“Descended am I from Cynbel the wise,”

“You from Erin the Conqueror be,”

“We Explorers inherited this world, it is our prize.”

“Princess, welcome home. Heir to the throne.”

“Princess? Most certainly not. I am Aurora, alone.”

“The stone has crumbled into dust,”

“Empty the halls be.”

“What once was is long dead,”

“A failure of a country.”

“The Lemurians survived,”

“Once you are gone, we can build anew and thrive.”

“You would give this land to common tribes?”

“We fight for the citizens of this country and their lives!”

“She’s right. This is bigger”

“Than me and my family.”

“I rise my sword for the Populi.”

“For the Kategida.” “For the Aerostati, the Capilli.”

“Fer all o’ Lemuria!”

“Together, we are not afraid of ya!”

“I will do what my mother could not”

“And stop this heresy.”

“This land is mine to govern as I see fit”

“It will never be free.”

She looked at them scornfully, Umbra, and then said angrily to Aurora.

“In Austria, you evaded my poison’s pall”

“But now the last of Erin will fall!”

Where Umbra there turned into a mighty dragon, the only one left, to free Lemuria, the final one to be beaten. Up high in the thundering sky, took place the destined fight, between Umbra the Queen of Night, and Aurora the Child of Light.

The Dark Dragon fought furiously, but the heroes weren’t at all afraid, they fought the night bravely, with magic, Arrow and blade. The dark Queen now surrounded by the heroes of Lemuria, The Dragon targeted the Child of Light but Óengus defended Aurora. There they attacked by magic Finn and Gen, casted spells on the dragon, again and again. Where Umbra dodged many until by an arrow she got hit, Robert was shooting many arrows, for Gen and Finn to assist. Tristis and Rubella, tackled the Dragon wings, to hinder it movement, but for not so long, they could not withstand the winds torrent. There Óengus with his claws assaulted the dragon’s side, the dragon roared in pain, hit back the Kategida throwing him aside. Igniculus there, flew to the dragon’s eyes quickly, then he

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shone the brightest of light, with all her strength, Aurora thrust her sword in the dragon's neck, putting an end to this heavenly fight.

There appeared Umbra dying, the last of her words she was saying.

*"I only wanted a home."
"Someplace... I could call my own"
"In this world, for ill or good,"
"We live together, not alone."*

In Austria, The faithful steward stood in front of the Duke's empty bed, saying sadly while lowering his head.

*"The Duke is dead."
"The flood waters rise."
"The people on five hills cry."
"The end is prophesized."*

At that time, at the Temple of the Moon, Aurora stood in front of the magical mirror in the highest of high, with her friends, she gathered them and impatiently did loudly cry.

*"I need volunteers to follow me."
"Are ya joking? Course I'll come!"
"The advantage lies at your side."
"This'll be more than fun!"*

*"By my honor, let's go inside."
"We'll tumble on through."
"It's what we do."
"Princess, I am with you."*

There Aurora after hearing that, she rejoiced and continued the chat.

*"Through the mirror into the mud"
"To rescue my people from the flood!"*

The bell tolled six on Easter Sunday.
All looked quite lost.
The people covered on five hilltops
That were nearly under tossed.
As the icy deep rose to meet them
Who should unexpectedly appear
But Aurora, resurrected
With a host of creatures, queer.
Ticky split, the group split up
And in less than half an hour
Aurora and her friends
Led the people up the castle tower.
They entered to an empty room,
The water lapped at their feet
No way out except to drown,
Their doom they were sure to meet.

But of course Aurora smiled.
Before their eyes, astonished
To a mirror she led them
And they stepped through it instead.

From that day onward in Austria
Only a small island remained,
My people safe in Lemuria,
Their future regained.

And Lemuria began to grow again
Each of us leading, together.
Soon it will be your turn, Princess
To leave on an adventure.

Now, my dear, the fire has died,
The night is dark and deep.
Close your eyes, let go
And drift off to sleep.

Epilogue



Epilogue



Somewhere in the vast Lemurian meadows
Beneath a blooming apple tree,
The Queen of Light was fading,
As salt slowly disappears in the sea.

Not much time for her left,
As for Sir Firefly it was hard to see
Aurora's mother and Igniculus there did meet,
And a short talk there happened to be.

"I think my heart might make dew."
"Now she is a queen through and through."
"But she forgot to talk to you."
"She has more important things to do."

"Watch over Lemuria."
"Goodbye, my queen, Aurora."