



C O L O R S

O F

E T E R N I T Y

A S H M I T A

G H O S H

A N O V E L

# Colors of Eternity

Glittering in the sky so bright  
Flecks of golden stars' tonight  
Swimming in the oceans so blue  
Orange Nemos dancing through  
Pretty in pink, bold in black  
Drowning in the colors of eternity

Green trees intensify  
The harshness of the wood so dry  
Red as blood pouring through  
The embers of the yellow sun  
Pretty in pink, bold in black  
Drowning in the colors of eternity

Neon is now the love of all  
As it crackles through the dawns  
Lightning strikes a dazzling white  
Brighter than burning magnesium oxide  
Pretty in pink, bold in black  
Drowning in the colors of eternity

Royalty exudes a deep purple  
But it's dampened by wisdom's grey eyes  
When it comes to world  
Nothing is truly black and white  
Pretty in pink, bold in black  
Drowning in the colors of eternity

# REMINDER

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# *Prologue*

## *Rainbow: Eternity*

“The only way to survive eternity is to appreciate each moment.” ~LAUREN KATE

Their demonic forces came rushing towards us. At first, I thought we were even in number but the closer they got the more they seemed.

I took a deep breath as I rushed towards a section of the crowd.

One of their wolves tried to attack me so I pulled a dagger out of my holster and stabbed it barely getting away from its claws.

Before I could contemplate my next move a winged monkey demon swooped me off the ground, flying higher by the second. I was terrified of height and I was well aware that I was about to be dropped.

Somehow I managed to grab another dagger and aimed for its heart causing me to drop eighteen feet. If not for my training I would've died, instead I landed on my feet.

Ariana was fending off five demons at once so I took my sword out and ran towards her slicing every demon in my way in half.

I'm not going to act like I was successful without getting hurt or say that I killed any demons on my way without a scratch on me.

In fact, a demon hit me so hard that I landed next to her. See. I did get to her, just not in a way people do in movies.

Two people against so many demons were better than one. The dusty wind blew as we faced the horrendous demons before us.

I caught sight of Theo jumping at John and ripping his head off his body. Theo must have felt betrayed by his pack. Even though they treated him badly they were the only family he had.

Ricardo was surprisingly good with a weapon. He managed to impale two demons. The vamp twins were watching each other's backs while they slaughtered demon after demon.

Nikolas was doing pretty well too. His experience paid off since he was an old vampire.

Tara angrily went after every werewolf she could find on the opposing side, so far she'd managed to live.

Hazel stood at a side with the witches to handle demons with magic, she didn't have much experience fighting, most witches didn't, so she was using magic to fight them even though Ric was on the field fighting.

Jennifer was fighting on our side trying to get to her father, trying to stop him from hurting the people she loved. Her human family meant something to her, even though they died she still had love and respect for all humans.

As I was fighting a Vesttik demon I caught a glimpse of Cara running towards Jovan.

She couldn't be that stupid. She couldn't expect to kill him all by herself. She was walking into her own deathtrap.

She ripped so many demons up in pieces that I lost count. The panic that took over me stopped me from fighting the demons as I watched.

Suddenly a howl of pain chorused through the barren desert.

Cara. A tear slipped from my eyes. Even though I wasn't on the best term with her the past few weeks, she was my friend before

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I knew the truth. She was my friend after I learned the truth. She'd always be important to me. Today, she died a warrior.

"Ash. Rea. Now!" Daddy screamed looking at us while fighting.

I knew I had time to grieve later, I had to avenge the death of my friend now.

The colors of the lost souls floated in air fighting their way out. It was magnificent, the eternal meaning of life clearly visible in the disarray of colors.

# Chapter 1

## **White: New Beginning**

“This is a new year. A new beginning. And things will change.” ~ TAYLOR SWIFT

A while ago, I would have laughed at anyone who said I was anything but a regular city girl. I had grown up in Denver which is the capital of Colorado. My family moved here right after I was born. Even though all my memories are connected to this place, I never truly belonged here.

On my sixteenth birthday, my world changed. I was a regular high school student, a nerd maybe, but I liked it.

On the eve of my birthday, I had a feeling something was up. I was excited that I was going to be sixteen soon. I had this day planned for years. My first wish was to get a car, isn't it every teenager's wish?

Well, I guess fate had something else planned. I remember the day started like any other day, I woke up, brushed my teeth, got ready and crawled back into bed with a book.

I was a rather practical person, I didn't believe in gods, ghosts, fairies, witches, and those creatures but I love those books. I mean, come on, who doesn't like it? I always dreamt of the supernatural world, though, good or bad. I wished it was true and lately that's all I dreamt of.

I walked out to the front porch of our small and cozy house, something told me things were about to change forever. Suddenly an unnatural force of wind hit my face throwing my silky dark brown hair back.

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I could hear an eerie noise of an engine nearby and it was like nothing I had ever heard.

My parents came out rushing, they were clearly as lost as I was. The sound stopped and four suited smart looking ladies emerged from a sleek aircraft which was far more advanced than anything I had ever seen. It was something out of the world!

“Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert. I am Agent West and these are Agent Reid, Agent Ryan, and Agent Lee.” The tall brunette lady said. The four of them had a formal aura about them and it was clear that they meant business, very professional.

“I am Serena and this is Leo”, my mom said shaking her hand with Agent West.

Why were these “agents” here? What did they want with us? Did we do something wrong?

“Dear Ashlyn, there is no need to worry. You see, you have potential. You are our new member. We are from **ACRT. ANGELICAN CIVILIAN REINFORCEMENT TROOP**. You, Ashlyn Violet Gilbert, are a potential future agent.” Said Agent Lee turning her gaze at me. I looked at her as she spoke. She had a distinct Chinese look. She had an intensity about her that shook me to the core. Her pitch black hair was cut short and only reached her ear and her cat-like gray eyes could cut through anyone.

“Me?” I asked unsurely.

“Yes, you.” Agent Reid said coldly. Agent Reid was a cold person. She had ice blue eyes that scared me to death and her light blonde hair made her look as pale as a ghost.

This was surreal. I was definitely dreaming. I knew this could not be true.

“This is a very important thing, all of you need to know the truth, some more than others.” Agent Ryan said. Her heart shaped face was cupped by her shoulder length red hair and her shining and joyous blue eyes sparkled. She seemed like a very playful person and I couldn’t help the smile on my face when she smiled a soft and warm smile in my direction.

“We should talk about this.” My dad said.

“That we should. You need to be briefed with our working manner. This is new for you and we hope to make you understand. We would love to work with you, Ashlyn. You need to know why.” Agent West continued. Agent West was a tall brunette with a kind aura that melted hearts, she had kind aqua eyes that made people trust her with their lives.

We settled in our well-furnished living room. My mom had an eye for design even though she didn’t make a career out of it, she was damn good at anything art related.

“You see Ashlyn, you have never truly found your inner self. You are out of this world, part of something bigger and better. It is a gift that should be embraced and cherished. At ACRT we have others like you working hard to achieve what they are destined to be. This is an agency of spies like CIA and MI6 but not only do we deal with human crimes but we protect the world from what they don’t know, what they can’t handle. We are different and we are the key to the future.” Agent West shared.

“There is no way am I allowing my daughter who has just turned sixteen trained to be some kind of an assassin.” Mom screamed.

“Mrs. Gilbert, calm down. Your daughter will love it, we need your daughter. She has no idea what is to come her way. There is no way she would survive if she doesn’t join us. We have been following her ever since we learned that supernatural forces are after her. Sooner or later they will harm her. They will

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kill anyone and anything in their way. If you want her to live, she will be safe with us. We will teach her to control these powers.” Agent Lee spoke up.

I could see the pain in my mom’s eyes. She stared at Agent Lee in disbelief. I knew what was going in her mind. She loved me so much: wanted me to live but she also wasn’t ready to let me be away from her. And me? I too was confused, a tad fearful too.

I went to my mom, put my arms around her and went in a tight cling. “Let me go, mom. It’s a matter of life or death. I know that I’m in danger. I have been having nightmares, demonic nightmares. I didn’t tell you earlier, lest you would be in deep worry. And mom, consider this: I always thought being an agent is cool. And the ACRT are offering me that. I want to learn what I can do. I want to help people. I can’t say I am not afraid because I am, but unless I take a chance I would never know. I want to make you proud of me.” I said

“You are a very special person.” Agent West said.

“We have this program to teach young people gifted like you how to find yourself. We act like a normal school, proper classes and teachers. Kind of like a hostel. Some of you get to join the agency, become Agents like us and because of your heritage, you are selected.” Agent Reid said.

“What heritage?” I asked.

“You see when your parents,” Agent Lee started but dad stopped her.

“She has no idea.” He said.

“About what?” I asked.

“Honey, when you were a baby someone left you at our doorsteps. You need to know we really love you. We were going

to tell you when you turned eighteen but guess now will have to do. We don't have any idea about your birth parents. Don't forget for a second we love you. We would never think of you as anyone but our own daughter." Mom said but all I heard was 'we are not your parents'. The ground was shaking beneath my feet.

The only thing that ever meant anything to me had no meaning at all. The only people I truly trusted weren't who I thought they were. My mom and dad weren't my mom and dad!

"Who?" I asked the ladies sitting in front of me.

"How much do you know about Angelican Gods?" Agent West asked.

"Absolutely nothing," I said.

"Samuel, Robert, William and Trevor. Well dear, you should know why we specifically picked you out." Agent Reid said.

"Your birth parents are Samuel and Lydia. Lord Samuel and Lady Lydia. I am sorry to drop this on you like this but this had to be done on your birthday. They sent you here to protect you. They put a protection spell on you. On your sixteenth birthday, it wears off. Your cousins were told on their birthdays too. We can give you today to pack and say goodbye but we leave as soon as midnight strikes." Agent West said.

"One more day?" I pleaded.

"Sorry, you are to be there, we gave one of your cousins some extra time, well she didn't want to believe us and we couldn't force her, she almost died. Think of it this way, you get to meet all your siblings." She tried to enthuse me.

They explained everything to me, all the important things and left, leaving me with my parents. The whole thing now was sinking in me. Me a Goddess. I had to meet my real family but I

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loved my mom and dad so much. They meant the world to me. I didn't know what was ahead. And it all had to happen today! What happened to getting pampered on my Sweet Sixteen?

"So," I said.

"Honey, we wanted you to be eighteen before we told you any....." mom started but I stopped her by hugging her.

"Mom. This doesn't change anything. I love you and dad and I understand why you didn't tell me." I said "Now I don't want to spend my last day here sulking. We could go out for lunch and then go shopping. Please?" I asked. I was surprised by my own voice, I had matured so much in the past hour!

It was hard to believe I basically lived a lie for sixteen years but I knew I had to deal with it.

"Anything for you sweetheart," Dad said embracing me.

"Let's go. We have a lot to do and very little time!" I exclaimed dragging them out of the house.

We came back home at ten at night I packed my bags and waited for them to arrive. I wasn't ready to leave now, I was never going to be fully ready.

I was felt very unsure, I would be leaving behind my sweet parents behind, all the things that I cherished, my favorite corner of the city, my favorite diner, everything that you can think of.

I never had many friends but suddenly I felt like I was going to miss my classmates. I wasn't a people person and got hell about it from everyone.

My mom would scold me for not being able to mingle with people, her friends, my friends. I just felt awkward, like I was out of place.

I needed a mediator like a movie or something whenever I was in a social setting, even though I loved spending time with my friends, I was always a bit awkward. Now that I was never going to get another chance to talk to them. And for that I was sorry.

I was going to miss my home. The small three bedroom house, perfect for my small family. I was about to say goodbye to all I ever knew.

I was about to say goodbye to the room I grew up in. The place I said my first words in, took my first steps in and done everything in.

It was so nervous to think that I was about to meet my actual parents and then go into training to become a supernatural agent. I was kind of daunted by what was to come.

It was a lot to take in one day. This day had been so overwhelming. I was suddenly scared of everything. Was it true, or was it just a bad dream? Would people make fun of me? Would I be able to face it?

“What’s up, sweetie?” Mom asked.

“Would I be able to handle it?” I asked meekly.

“You are one of the strongest people I know and you will be able to handle anything. Your birthparents will love you, they probably already do. You will love it, no matter where you are and if you don’t our door is always wide open for you. You can walk in anytime. We will always be your parents and will always be there for you.” She declared.

“I love you, mom,” I said.

The three of us spent the rest of the evening watching old family videos.

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There were videos from my birthdays, of my first steps, of my first time riding a bike, family get-togethers. These memories made my heart sore with memories and made me want to stay.

I looked at my mom's kind brown eyes which made me feel safe and secure. Every time I felt as if I had grown up she made me feel like a child again. Her pretty black hair flowed to her shoulder and her smile lit up the entire world.

My dad had meant a lot to me too. He had been supportive of all my decisions and encouraged me. His black eyes and dark hair were intense but he never seemed scary. Dad was my hero.

'I would miss both my parents.' I thought with a sigh shaking the memories off.

And then the time arrived, Agent West was at the door.

"Time to go," she announced. She was the only one who came to pick me up. I said goodbye to my parents and got in the car. I also applied for a license. I said goodbye to my life and let my tears roll down my face. I couldn't care. I was going to have a new life. New destiny.

"Ashlyn you need not worry. This is an important thing and you are going to be safe. Your biological parents have been dying to meet you. Your sister has everything ready for you." She said.

"Huh?" I said, distracted.

"You have a lot of siblings." She laughed her sharp voice bouncing throughout the car.

"Aren't they gods? Why would they even tolerate me? I can be a handful at times." I said.

"No matter what people say about the Gods, stuck-up-ness, and their almightiness, they are the kindest when it comes to family. They love each other like any normal family. They fight, argue

and act immature even though they are very old. They will definitely love you. I don't personally know you but I know they do. They've been hovering over you ever since they gave you up. They are nothing like the other myths. They love you." She said.

"Thank you, Agent West," I said.

"Sarah." She corrected.

"So, are we going to fly somewhere?" I asked.

"Oh no dear. We will go to our headquarters and teleport to Angelica. The ACRT is not on earth either. Neither of them is on Earth. It's like parallel universes." She said.

"How do we reach there?" I asked curiously.

Before she could answer the car skidded off the road. My heart rate escalated as we drove headfirst towards a tree. I shut my eyes so I didn't have to see that.

"That was a portal!" She laughed "Every place has one. Sorry for scaring you. You can only go to Angelica through ACRT but any supernatural creature can go to ACRT from any place.

I looked out the window, looking at the beauty of nature. The roads were beautiful, fireflies fluttering around lighting the place up. The pathway was lined with flowers. The closer we got to the ACRT the more anxious I became.

I was kind of shocked when we drove through a waterfall. The moment I could see things again I was enchanted. The place was full of small fairies. They fluttered around the room glowing.

"This way," she said. I followed her to a room behind two humungous rocks. The room was very *techy*. There was a huge screen and other gadgets.

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“Welcome to the ACRT headquarters. You are part of the special team, the children of gods. Two of your cousins have been here a while now. You start training next week but you meet your family tomorrow. There are many wings, one for each species. And a wing for training and a common café. There are only three gods here now, you will be staying in the common wing.” She said.

I quietly looked around the room, looking at the pictures of famous ACRT members, the compound plans, pictures of my family, paintings really.

I looked back when I heard the door open again. Two girls, a little older than me walked in. One had golden blonde hair and fierce green eyes and the other had black hair and black eyes, kind of intimidating.

“I’m Cassandra Jasmine Reynolds and this is Reanne Lily Sanders.” The pretty blonde said. I could see myself being their friend, hell, these were my cousins.

Cassandra had long gold locks that flowed to her shoulder with bangs that framed her beautiful face and green eyes were extremely intense like a forest.

Reanne had intense black eyes that lit the room on fire and raven hair that brought life to her pale face. She looked scary and kind at the same time.

“Follow us, we’ll show you around,” Reanne said and the three of us walked out the building towards another building, probably my new home.

This was a new beginning to my life.

## ***Chapter 2***

# ***Imperial Purple: Dreams***

“All that we see or seem is but a dream within a dream.” ~ EDGAR ALLAN POE

Our room was huge even though it was in the same wing as the training center. ACRT was amazing. There was a building for everyone, except us. I loved it already. Our room was at the very end of the common wing.

I spent the day with my cousins, getting to know them, and learning from them.

Though Reanne looked a little intimidating she was really cool. We were different in many ways and yet the similarities were astounding.

Today was the day I was going to see my parents. Why should I even be scared to meet my parents? There was also the fact they were gods!

“So where are you from?” I asked Reanne. Cassandra was already fast asleep and no matter how much I tried I couldn’t sleep. Fortunately, Rea was awake to keep me company.

“Well, I lived in New York City with my parents my whole life. They told me I was adopted when I accidentally heard them talking about it when they were discussing on how they should break it to me. I had returned from a trip around the world with my aunt when I was thirteen. It took me a while to forgive them, I realized it wasn’t their fault. They just took me in, I should have been mad at my birth parents.” She said.

“Wow, you’ve known for that long?” I asked.

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“Only the adopted part. *You're the daughter of William and Dominique* was dumped on me on my sixteenth birthday too. I was at the art studio I went to every Monday, even now, it was as if they expected me to be there, which they obviously did. They acted so strange that my friends started making fun of them and when they found out they were there for me I was dragged in. I got so pissed that I accidentally had one of my friends swallowed by the earth. It didn't take a lot of persuasions to get me to believe I was not human after that.” She said laughing.

“Your friend?” I asked nervously.

“They managed to save her and made everyone forget what happened. I never really liked them much.” She said.

“I want to ask you something. How did you manage to cope with the fact that you were adopted for so long?” I said.

“My parents told me that they found me in a basket all bundled up with a note. They gave it to me when they told me how they found me. I was left on their doorstep, much like Cass. Here.” she said handing me the note from her bag.

The paper looked like it had been read a million times. It had tear drops on it too.

*Eve and Ryan Sanders,*

**Please take care of our little Reanne Lily. We might not be able to keep her but that doesn't mean we love her any less. Take care of her for us. When you tell her of this day, tell her it broke our hearts to give her up but that is the way it is. Tell her we love her.**

*W & D*

“You must be excited to meet them tomorrow,” she said.

“I found out today,” I replied and she gave me a sad smile.

“Tomorrow is going to be a big day. You need to get some sleep in,” she said and I just nodded. I didn’t want to talk anymore, I just wanted to curl up in a ball and cry. I asked her for a book before she went to bed. I read for a long time before I started feeling drowsy.

I closed my eyes and drifted off to my dreams.

I felt extremely anxious in my sleep. It felt as if someone was watching me. I turned and saw a shadow not that far away from me. I took a closer look and was shocked to see a glowing figure.

*A lady walked towards me, her hair was a unique shade brown. She had beautiful and warm chocolate brown eyes.*

*She was wearing a gold crown. Her face had a beautiful glow about it. She was wearing a floor length ball gown that draped behind her and its pure white color shone like pearls.*

*Her hair was twisted in a beautiful French braid by her forehead and the rest of her luscious waves flowed down like an endless paradise.*

*“Ashlyn, dear. It’s so nice to see you again.” She said.*

*If I were being completely honest with myself I’d have to say that this lady felt so familiar. I felt as if she had been a part of my life for a really long time. Her beauty was impeccable.*

*I still hadn’t made any movement. This was something new. I was used to fidgeting a lot. I couldn’t sit still even if my life depended on it but now, I was still as a statue.*

*“Dear, there is no need to worry. I am not here to hurt you. Darling, I’m sorry for what we did. Now we can make it right.”*

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*She said in a strange language but surprisingly I understood every word.*

*Suddenly the world started to shake and I was brought out of my dream*

“We’ve been trying to wake you up for the past fifteen minutes!” Cass said. She was already dressed with her hair in a neat ponytail. I sat up and shook my head. I just met my mother! Lydia!

“Get ready fast. We have to be ready for breakfast in ten minutes.” Rea said.

I sat up straight and hurried to get ready so we could have breakfast.

The banquet room was filled with all kinds of food, from light snacks to a seven-course meal! I grabbed a plate and filled it with some pancakes topped with maple syrup. I followed Cass and Rea to an empty table.

I looked around the room in awe.

“Are they all like us?” I asked.

“Oh no, we three are the only gods here right now, the last generation. There are Witches, Wizards, Fairies, Sibyls, Envois, Genies, Elves, Nymphs, Werewolves, Vampires yadda yadda yadda.” Rea said.

“Sibyl? Envois?” I asked cocking my head to my left.

“Seers, oracles, you know people who see future. Envois are messengers.” She said.

“So how do you feel about today?” Cassie asked.

“Well, I kind of feel relieved. I think my mother tried contacting me in my sleep.” I said.

“Well, that’s good, right? Isn’t she amazing?” Cassie prompted.

“She was amazing. I was talking to her when you woke me up.” I said.

“Oh! Sorry.” Rae said.

“So Ashlyn,” Cass started.

“Ash. Call me Ash.” I said.

“Well Ash, I think we should get ready. I have everything in our room. We have around two hours before they come to retrieve us.” Cassie finished.

“So we go to Angelica, they all live there. Cassie and I visit them often.” She told us.

“You know a lot about these things,” I commented.

“Well, I should. We took a two-year course on Myth. We found out about this two years ago.” She said.

“That would make you eighteen?” I asked.

“Yup. I am a legal adult.” She smiled.

“Me too! Just so you know I’m older than Rea.” Cassie chimed in.

We walked to our room talking about our lives. I learned that Cassandra was trying to attain a BFA in Dance and Dramatic Arts. Reanne was working towards a BFA in fine arts and AAS in Graphic design. They both attended Springfield University, a university in Washington State that was approved by ACRT. That got me thinking how many plans were going to be changed.

I always wanted to finish high school and get a degree in fashion or literature but now I had no idea what would happen.

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I looked in my suitcase throwing the things out trying to find something nice to wear. This was important and I wanted to make a good first impression.

“What is all the mess about?” Rea asked coming out of the bathroom we shared. She was dressed casually in purple jeans and white t-shirt, guess I could go casual. I grabbed a pink halter neck top and some gold high-waist shorts.

Turned out Cassie was the most dressed up, she decided that every event deserves an outstanding reminder and clothes make an impression, she was in a nice red wrap dress, which according to her looked Godly. She made us wait more than half an hour.

We were asked to meet up Agents West, Reed, and Ryan and Lee in the combat room which didn't take us long to get there since the girls knew where it was.

The three of them were already waiting for us in the huge room. The room was full of practice dummies, punching bags, and other stuff. There were a few fighting rings and a shooting range.

“Morning girls.” Agent Sarah West said “As you know you are going to Angelica today. Ash, I'm Sarah West, your supervisor, Elizabeth Reid is Cassandra's supervisor and Gemma Lee is Reanne's supervisor. And that is Pauline Ryan. You are to stay there for a while. We will start your training when you get back.”

“Now, just concentrate on going to Angelica,” Gemma said.

“Uh, how does Angelica look?” I asked.

“Just think of what you think it looks like.” Elizabeth smiled, for the first time.

I closed my eyes and thought of my Mother, the one in my dream.

Before I knew it I felt a slight breeze on my face that made me shiver. It was kind of cold and we were in a closed room a few seconds back.

As opened my eyes I saw what could only be described as Angelica. There were six people sitting on thrones on a pedestal above ground and others on the level lower.

“Welcome home.” A tall, strong man said. He had cat-like sharp gray eyes that could cut through people like a laser. His smile softened his strong, masculine figure and made his inner kindness surface. His wavy black hair flowing to his chin increased his serious aura. His loose jeans and button down shirt made him look more like a part of this century compared to his vintage hair. My father. Samuel.

I saw my mother smile at me from where she was standing next to him.

There were two men on either side of my parents. On my mother’s left stood a man with deep blue eyes that seemed to go on forever like the infinite oceans. He had blonde hair that was cut short in a very modern way and his clothes modified along with time. He was in shorts and t-shirt and nobody would have guessed he was a god, according to the picture above Cassie’s headboard that was my Uncle Robert.

The lady by his side, Katherine had dark brown hair which could easily be compared to a mahogany tree and had it tied in multiple braids which were mounted on her head. Her eyes were as intense as the forest that melted anyone that looked into them. Her style in clothing was much like her daughter with the over the top flare, fancy.

On my father’s right stood pale man whose skin looked quite translucent and had a hypnotic feel. His coal black eyes were intensely magnetic. He was in a suit and his formal hairstyle

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stood out amongst his brothers. That had to be William according to the pictures in the room near Reanne's bed.

To his side was my beautiful Aunt Dominique. Dominique was the example of joyous life. She had a light like eyes, literally, they were blinding like yellow-white glowing. Her light blonde hair was rolled up with loose curls hanging down. She was in a very colorful frock that made her look very young.

Then it hit me like a ton of bricks. The myths were true. Gods stood before me, my family, I was a god and my journey had begun, I was ready for all that was to come. My new family looked genuinely kind and I had already met my mother and I loved her.

The only thing that scared me now was the fact that my life was going to be different in ways I'd never imagined. It was going to be good different.

I smiled brightly at my family and I saw my sister, or so I assumed, wink at me with a smile that to replenish anything.

It was like a dream come true.

# **Chapter 3**

## **Gold: Family**

“Family is a haven in a heartless world.” ~ CHRISTOPHER LASCH

“Welcome home baby sister.” A huge guy said. He had curly black hair and had a smile that could light up the entire world. He was huge and not in a fat way, tall and strong looking. His eyes conveyed genuine kindness that could melt the world. He looked no older than twenty-five and was smartly dressed in snug jeans and t-shirt with a leather jacket emphasizing on his tough appearance.

“Hi. Who are you?” I asked.

“Oh, I’m Ashton, your oldest brother. That is our older sister Ariana.” He said pointing to a woman whose beauty was indescribable. She had long brown hair with red and yellow streaks and her crystal-like eyes had red and yellow in it too, they were clear blue with red and yellow bands that resembled a flame. She was in a floor-length red dress with yellow streaks that bunched at her feet and draped a little.

“Hello darling, do you remember me? I was your teacher in grade 1.” She said kissing my cheek. Now that she mentioned it she did look familiar. Beside her stood a girl who looked my age.

“I’m Alexis.” She said. She short black dress that fit her like a glove and made me jealous of her figure. She had shoulder length brown hair and fierce green eyes. Her smile was so infectious that it made me smile along with her.

“Hi,” I said quietly.

“You have no idea how excited I am to see you! I have been waiting to see you again. I hate being the youngest, sorry you’re

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stuck with it! And I'm only ten minutes younger than Adam!" she said quickly. The girl could speak a mile per hour.

"That would be me." a guy said, ah her twin brother, Adam. He like all my other siblings was welcoming. He pulled me into a hug and smiled.

"See meeting us isn't that bad." He said.

Huh?

"I know what you are feeling and you were nervous about coming here." he said.

He had blonde hair that went to his shoulder and warm brown eyes that felt welcoming. He looked more human than anyone in this room, not because he wasn't as pretty, well not pretty, good looking, but because of his aura. It made him more familiar and human like. He wore shorts and t-shirt and looked pretty casual.

"I'm Rachel." I heard a voice from behind me. A beautiful lady smiled at us, introducing herself to me. She was tall and looked like a supermodel right from a magazine. She had long red curls pulled in a pony and eyes like ice, cold blue. She wore a red halter top and a white long skirt. I was definitely taken back by the intensity in her eyes.

"Little sis!" a buffy man said hugging Cassie. He had deep blue eyes that stood out because of his pale freckled skin and curly red hair up to his ears. He had on a sweatshirt with Angels written on it. On earth, it wouldn't stand out much and it depicted their identities.

I started wondering if they were like those cartoon characters that always wear the same thing and mentally laughed. Since gods were fictional.

“Let’s go to the banquet hall.” My father announced. Alexis locked her arm in mine and pulled me to the huge room.

There was a huge Victorian dining table in the middle of the room and the room looked like it was made of jewels. The walls had diamonds, rubies, emeralds and million other gems that I didn’t know names of.

We all settled down and little pixies flew past our heads dropping menus. That was definitely weird.

The menu turned out to be digital.

“You can select the cuisine and the food or search for some particular food,” Ariana whispered into my ears.

The list was huge and I was finally able to select something. The moment I selected the Chicken Ravioli the menu was replaced by my food.

“Cool, isn’t it?” Ashton said stuffing his mouth with fried chicken like he hadn’t eaten in years.

“Is he always like that?” I whispered to Alexis.

“Pretty much. You haven’t seen him at an actual feast. He eats up the majority of the food.” Lexi laughed and I blushed when everyone looked towards us.

“Oh, I’m not offended.” He said causing me to sink further into the chair.

The rest of the dinner passed smoothly and it was pleasant. I got to connect with my family and bond with them.

Ariana and Alexis led me to my room after dinner. It was more like a single-story bungalow. It had a huge sitting area, kitchen isle, breakfast bar and other stuff. The bedroom was bigger than

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my old house. The entire place had creamy white fluffy carpet and the walls were neon pink velvet.

One side of the wall was completely a window. There was a forty inch LED TV with a home theater system. My name was written with diamonds above the bed with a soft looking comforter.

“Come on, the closets that way!” Alexis said jumping. The closet was definitely a monstrosity too. The pale pink walls with black stripes definitely looked amazing. There were more clothes in this room than I’d owned all my life. The makeup table had tons of lipsticks, eye shadow and other stuff that I couldn’t name.

“Do you like it?” Ariana asked.

“No, I love it!” I said hugging them on impulse. I pulled back shortly but they pulled me back in a bone crushing hug.

“I like you guys,” I said softly.

“Oh, honey, everyone loves their family,” Ariana said.

“Can I ask you something?” I asked and they nodded, “How old are all of you?”

“Oh, well mom and dad and our uncles and aunts are nearly millions of years old and I’m eight thousand, then Chase who is seven thousand, Rachel was born a thousand years later around the same time as Ashton. The twins were born five thousand years ago. You guys were the first in five thousand years. You have another cousin, Tessa Rose Davis. She is a month younger than you so she comes here next month. You didn’t meet our Aunt Genève and Uncle Trevor today.” She said.

“What?” I asked phased.

“We have another aunt and uncle, they couldn’t come back, Tess got into an accident and they are watching over her. I remember when you broke your arm while riding a bike for the

first time when you were ten. Mom was freaking out, we don't ever get hurt but to send you to earth we had to make you a little human." Alexis said.

"So, what are we supposed to do this week?" I asked.

"Well, tomorrow you spend the day with mom and dad and the rest we hang. Though Adam and Ashton wanted to 'hang' for a day, so we can clear your schedule for day after day after tomorrow." Ariana said.

"What are we going to do?" I said nonchalantly.

"Well, I was thinking we shop in Paris," Alexis said winking at me as she walked out. When they left I went and sat on the L-shaped yellow couch in front of the 50 inch TV. Damn, I haven't had this much free time in years.

I got bored of channel surfing after a while so I crawled into the huge inviting bed and snuggled in.

When I woke up in the morning I could hear the birds chirping. For the first time in years, I felt light and free. Any tension or worry was the furthest thing from my mind.

I slowly got out the soft bed that seemed to love me as much as I loved it. God, the bed was soft like butter!

I went outside to the garden and breathed in the fresh air. The beautiful flowers lit up my morning. The sun was bright and warm but didn't blaze in a way that made me want to go indoor.

"Morning!" I heard from behind me. I jumped a little as I turned around. Ashton stood there with a goofy smile and a glint in his eyes that wasn't hard to identify.

"What are you up to?" I asked suspiciously.

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“Want to wake Alexis up?” he waggled his eyebrow and then gave me a puppy dog smile.

I huffed and followed him into her room which was a bungalow, just like mine. In fact, all of us had a bungalow each.

He jumped up and down on his bed screaming like a kid. I couldn't resist and join him. Within seconds the two of us were on the floor as a weird force hit us. Ashton started laughing as I rubbed my neck.

“Sorry. I didn't know you were here. This stupid does that all the time. Sometimes it's hard to remember he is my older brother.” She said.

“I see what you mean,” I said laughing. After breakfast momma and daddy said we were going to look around Angelica for the day.

I'd decided that I'd call my birth parents momma and daddy since I called my adoptive parents mom and dad, just so I didn't get confused.

The place was beautiful. Wherever they took me, I was in awe. The gardens, waterfalls, flowers, all of it, it was breathtaking. I was so happy that I got to bond with my parents.

Our home was just a small part of Angelica. Angelica was much like any country. It had a forest area, a desert, and mountains. There was a place called the Fairy Ville, it was full of fairies. This was where all magic was created. Momma told me about the Duns in the far west of Angelica, the Eastern Ocean that flowed right into the Pacific, the Eastern Ocean basically acted like a portal to different dimensions.

I had no idea that spending time with someone for the first time was so easy. I was as comfortable with my biological parents as I was with my adoptive parents.

“So this is where we said goodbye to you. You needed human experience and you’d all be in danger here. There is a war going on, something so gruesome that even we were disgusted. Being a god isn’t all rainbows and magic, it has dangerous downfalls and responsibilities. We wanted you to be old enough to protect yourselves” Daddy said as we stood in front of the Siesmi Lake on the Kawaieiani Mountain.

“It’s alright. I understand.” I said softly as we walked back towards the banquet for dinner.

“You know we love and didn’t have a choice,” Momma said.

“I know and I love you too,” I said hugging them both tightly.

“Each god has a specialty, all of us have control over something specific. I am the God of Hell and your mother is the Goddess of Heaven. Your Uncle Robert is the God of the oceans, William controls death and Trevor reigns over the darkness. Katherine rules the land, Dominique is the Goddess of life and Genève is the Goddess of light. Ariana, as you could guess represented Fire. Chase is the God of Travel. Rachel is the Goddess of Ice, Ashton is the strongest. Adam is known for his humanity and Alexi, well, she is the Goddess of Wilderness.” Daddy said.

“Rea controls the seasons. Cassie is known for always being joyous and your younger cousin Eve, who you would meet soon is the Goddess of mystery.” Momma said.

“What are my powers?” I asked.

“When you were born a spectrum of colors floated around the sky. We took you to the Duns, the people who identify abilities. You could control all magic, you’re the Goddess of Magic, and magic isn’t just a spell. Magic means supernatural, witches, vampires, nymphs, they all depend on it. We’ve always

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depended on the Duns Sphere for magic but now you're the source." Momma said.

I could believe it. I loved magic!

After dinner, we were all sitting in the garden chatting. They told us stories of the world in different times when Jesus was born, the French Revolution, Hitler. The millions of things they'd witnessed and the various stories they shared were amazing.

It was almost twelve when we went to our room. Tomorrow was going to be a big day for me, my first time outside the States, that is excluding this since it is out of the world.

I dreamt about the Eifel Tower and French food in my sleep. After another refreshing night, we rushed off to.

I waited excitedly for my sisters to arrive as I sipped on my coffee.

"Morning sweetheart," Ariana said kissing my cheek.

"Morning," I said.

"Ready to leave?" Alexis asked.

"Yeah," I said and we were in Paris before I could blink. We were at Notre Dame from what I recalled. The place was beautiful even in the morning since Paris was the City of Lights.

We went from shop to shop buying tons of things, I had no idea how they even paid since they didn't live on Earth they probably didn't earn money. But the amount of shopping we did in one day was more than I'd done in my whole life. Finally, before we left we had dinner at Jules Verne which was *in* the Eifel Tower.

I was looking forward to spending time with my brothers the next day.

Adam told me we were going to this place with sporty stuffies the next day.

The thought of me shooting guns or throwing punches made me laugh.

We did have tons of fun, though. Ashton might not be the most sincere person but he was good at shooting and sports.

They taught me how to shoot an arrow. Though I almost hit Adam once, funny fact, he was standing behind me.

The three of us boxed and played football and soccer. Having brothers wasn't half bad. I loved my new family.

I didn't think I'd be this comfortable between them but I was. It felt as if a missing piece of a puzzle was found.

I had my family, what else could I want.

# Chapter 4

## Amethyst: Knowledge

“Ignorance is the curse of God; knowledge is the wing wherewith we fly to heaven.” ~ WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

When we came back the girls and I exchanged stories about the week since we barely spent any time together up there.

I had loads of fun with our family throughout the week. Classes started the day after our return. The first lesson was on mythology.

This wasn't a myth known to people on earth, people knew Zeus, Neptune, Odin and even Shiva but no one knew of our kind.

It was going to be fun. We were sitting in a huge lecture room which was dark for some reason.

Suddenly a holographic thing appeared in front of us.

“Good morning girls. Ashlyn, I'm Camille deLune, call me Ms. deLune. I'm your myths teacher. Rea and Cassie have been taking my class for a while and you spent the week with the gods, your parents, and siblings you must have picked up a few things. We'll start with the origin of the universe. Cassie, Rea, you can sit in if you want.” A lady in a business suit said.

Her blonde locks flowed to her waist and she was very pale, ghost pale. Her eyes were void, no pupils, it was like fog or maybe you could call it milky. She had this peace sign without the circle on her head.

“About forty billion years ago, a goddess named Kie was the only good thing that existed in the dullness of the blackness, with

absolutely nothing. She had found a way to create worlds, universes. She had three children, two sons, and a daughter. The sons fought for territory for eons, in the end, they ended up killing each other. The world was left all to Leone. She was selfish and had planned the destruction of her brothers and when Kie found out she was outraged and immediately created gods to end her. During this war, universes were formed, dating it up to twenty billion years ago, even though human studies said otherwise.

When the gods got control of the universes they split it into territories so no one died the same way. Terra is the creator of your universe. The other gods back then were, Ares, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius and Pisces, the zodiac signs as you know it.” She said as holographic figures moved in front of us visually showing us what Ms. deLune said.

“Terra is your grandmother, mother to Samuel, Robert, William and Trevor. Lydia is the daughter of Virgo, Kathrine daughter of Taurus, Dominique daughter of Gemini and Genève daughter of Libra. Twenty-five years back all hell broke loose, some demons tried to overpower the gods of Terra in order to resurrect another demon, there had been wars throughout the history but kids were unsafe with gods so you were sent to earth.” She said.

“Now back to the myths, we are going to study each and everything in details. And you learn magic from me.” She said.

The holograph showed us different stages of the universe, ours and the others. It was basically a trailer of what was to come this semester.

“I want you to go through this handout and we’ll study this again next class since this was introductory. This semester, Cassie, you have to submit your report on Magical Creatures and Rea, yours is on the Modern Times. Ashlyn, you will write the report

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on the foundation of the Universe. The reports are to be submitted by the end of the month. Ash has the morning class, followed by Cassie and Rea. The proper schedules are to be followed from tomorrow.” She said handing us the handouts and dismissing us.

“What is she?” I asked as soon as we were out of the class.

“Dear. I am a creature from the world of Lord Pisces. I am a Slest, we’re creatures of the dark oceans.” Ms. deLune said.

I blushed when I realized our teacher was right behind us. I could hear some sounds from the room to our right. I peeked in and gasped. People, all kind of people, were battling against each other, with weapons.

Rea pulled me out and dragged me to my next class. Human studies. It consisted of our regular course, Science, Math, English, Social Science, Language, etc.

I had to pick five subjects plus three languages, at least one Science, Math, and Social course was a must and English were compulsory. I had taken Bio and Chemistry, European History and AP Algebra II.

I wanted to learn a new language so I picked up versatile languages since they actually offered every language on Earth. Hindi, Indian language I’d heard as one of my old classmates was from India, Italian, and Russian.

Rea and Cassie only took languages and mythical course, since they were both already attending Springfield University. Cassie was attending Beauchamp College and Rea was at Picasso College.

Rea took Spanish, French and German. Cassie learned Latin in her high school in Los Angeles and opted for Greek and Estonian too.

After hours of Human Studies with a break for lunch in between, we had field training.

The room was clean white and empty. A man in tracksuit stood tall. His sizzling black eyes seemed to burn the room and his black hair was tied in a ponytail. I was actually scared of the intensity of his glare.

“I’m Dylan Henderson, your trainer. First things first, this is an agency so the fact you all supposed to be trained before an actual mission is inevitable. Today I will just see what Ashlyn is capable of. This room is the Visual Stimulation Training Room. Each of you will come face to face with a scenario and will have overcome it to find reality. This will just show the place you are at. Rea, you go first and Cassie next. Ashlyn, you observe and then try.” He said.

Mr. Henderson led us to a balcony to observe the room and the empty room transformed into a fiery place. The whole thing scared me but Rea just smiled.

Just as a lava stone was about to hit her she did a summersault landing at the other end. Suddenly people, monsters, made of magma ran to her.

She fearlessly fought and stood victorious. We went back down and Mr. Henderson clapped.

“Well done Reanne.” he asked.

Cassie went down to the room and Rea joined us.

“Wow.” I complimented her.

“It’s nothing, Dylan makes us do this so often, it’s kind of annoying.” She said.

“I heard that.” Mr. Henderson said.

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“I wasn’t exactly whispering.” Rea retorted. I never had the guts to talk to a teacher like that but I guess in a close-knit group like this, the teachers were like friends.

“Cassie, go ahead. Let Ashlyn watch.” He said.

“Why can’t you show her? I am tired of this! It’s creepy!” she whined but went when he didn’t answer.

Cassie’s test was just as bad. The room was filled with insects and she brushed them off herself. Just as I thought that was it, an insect monster appeared. It was like a man with insects crawling on him. I was freaking out just watching it. Cassie just sighed and did those back kicks and punch thingies to defeat the huge insect guy.

When she came back up the three of them looked at me.

“If it’s too uncomfortable for you just holler and I’ll stop the stimuli. Cassie fainted the first time she did this, don’t be ashamed of being afraid.” Mr. Henderson said. He wasn’t all that bad.

It was my turn. I was scared before it all began. After I went to that room I could see nothing but black, basically nothing.

I felt something hit my stomach. I decided if I couldn’t see I could surely amplify my other senses.

I strained to hear the sound of the feet behind me and turned and punched. I couldn’t see it but I definitely heard the beast, a growl, it was furry too, an animal maybe.

I took my chances and kicked what I assumed was its abdomen.

Then it bit me and I was thrown across the room. I could feel it getting closer to me so I tried to get as far away as possible. The animal pounce on me. Its weight pinned me down as I thrashed

to get out. I dug my nails in as deep as I could with my bitten nails but that was useless. I could hear more growls.

All of a sudden I kicked it sending it flying off me. Must be the adrenaline. I was fully prepared for another animal to pounce on me but I was back to reality.

“Well done Ash. It’s nice to know you’d be able to hold your ground in a battle. Now, this doesn’t mean you’re good to go. You need training. I want you three here at the crack of dawn tomorrow, you two will show her the ropes of how things work.” He said walking out.

I was still catching my breath after that fight as we made our way to dinner. I was starving. The three of us filled our plates greedily, lots and lots of food.

We made our way to the table at the right corner of the huge room and dug in like crazy people.

“God that was the most tiring day I’ve ever had.” I yawned.

“I know right? I had the same experience when I did it for the first time. I still get tired.” Cassie said.

“I can’t wait to crawl into bed and snuggle with my teddy,” Rea said, sometimes she seemed so tough that people would automatically assume that she was cold, but her heart is so big and she was sweet that you couldn’t compare her to anything but a marshmallow.

After dinner, the girls and I went back to our room. We talked about how great the last week was and how much we already missed the family. I didn’t know them long but I felt really close to my bio-family.

“Two years ago, I was on a trip with my friends from school, we went to San Francisco for the weekend. On my sixteenth

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birthday, they had told me about everything but I refused to believe them, I mean I thought Gods weren't real! So that night we were staying at a motel on the way there as Jen was the only one with a license and she was tired.

We decided to take a break and drive in the morning. At midnight I heard some noises so I went to check, making sure I had my teaser with me of course.

There was a nine feet tall monster there. I screamed and ran as it followed me. Suddenly my brother came in and saved me. He didn't tell me who he was, he just told me to go home and contact Agent Reid, but I felt safe with him around. Imagine my surprise when I found out he was my brother. But I wouldn't want it any other way." She said.

I knew one thing about the gods in the very short time I'd known them. They would do anything for the ones' they love, I would do anything for the ones' I love.

The next morning we had to wake up before dawn for training. I wasn't even completely awake.

Suddenly there was a whistle that made me jump.

We spent an hour doing drills and obstacle training with everyone, all the academy members. When we reached our room I couldn't even stand straight. I set up a hot bubble bath and climbed into it to calm my nerves.

My classes started at nine. My first class was Myth while then I had Science followed by language at eleven.

I had so much fun learning the different languages, each beautiful in its own way.

After language, the girls and I had lunch together and then at two I had to head over to Maths and at three I had English and Cassie and Rea had Myth.

At four I had Social and Cassie & Rea went for Language, that being the only two subjects they were taking and the rest time they would be spending at college. After an hour rest, we headed for half an hour training. That was most packed schedule I'd ever had.

Those two were so lucky! They were free to rest whenever they wanted, well, they had to attend college classes.

I called my parents, my adoptive parents at night. I missed them terribly and it's only been a week.

My mom asked me to come home to see them and I couldn't think of anything better to do, I missed being at home, being lazy, getting screamed at for being lazy. I even missed the very few friends I had back there.

"I could ask if I could come home this weekend. As of now, I have no plans." I said.

"Oh! That would be fantastic. I'll make Chicken Lasagna just the way you like it. Oh and we could go to Elitch Gardens on Saturday. You love that so much." She said excitedly.

"Mom, how about we go to the miniature toy museum on Sunday after brunch?" I asked.

"Anything you want honey." She said.

"Oh and shopping. I never thought I'd miss going out but it's like we're stuck in a room." I said.

"I can't wait for you to come home honey!" she said as we hung up.

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I picked up my chemistry book and read the section on hydrocarbons, the structures were so confusing. These alkanes, alkenes, and alkynes were confusing. I was too buzzed at the fact I was going to see my parents again, even if I'd only been a week, it was a life changing week.

I couldn't help but feel like it had been years since I was home in my all pink room, now that I think of it, it felt silly. I still loved pink but the idea of everything being pink was eek.

I was a naturally messy person, you'd find a week worth laundry laying around in my room. I remembered how mom used to scold me for that.

Living with a control freak like Cassie definitely changed that. She couldn't stand anything out of place. If the bed sheet was set up the wrong way she'll go nuts.

"Hey, are you alright?" Rea asked.

"Yeah. I was just thinking." I smiled.

"A lot to think of. I mean Rea and I've known it all for two years, I keep forgetting it's only been a week for you." Cassie said.

"It's quite surreal. Last week all I had on my mind was my sixteenth birthday. All I worried about was school, or how unsocial I was. Now I have a whole new life. But I can't bring myself to regret it," I said and I meant it.

I knew this was where my life begins and I will surely make the best of it.

There were things I didn't know of and things I longed to learn.

Knowledge is something important and I wanted to know, I had only been here a week but the things I learned were important.

# **Chapter 5**

## **Coral: Friends**

“Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down.” ~ OPRAH WINFREY

The past month had been the best month of my life. Every week I got to see my family, either human or magical. Today was the day the day we would meet Tess. Our supervising agents had gone to pick her up.

My cousins and I were Angelican goddesses who grew up on earth. Before we were born our world was in danger from a demon so our family had sent the four of us to earth as soon as we were born and put a spell on us to hide us until we turned sixteen. On my sixteenth birthday my world changed and now on her sixteenth birthday, hers did.

My birthday was on 22<sup>nd</sup> September which made me a Virgo, the zodiac based on my Grandmother like all the other girls.

Cassie was born on April 24<sup>th</sup>, Rea was born on 26<sup>th</sup> May and today was 20<sup>th</sup> October, Tess’s sixteenth birthday.

We had met Uncle Trevor and Aunt Genève on our second trip to see our family. Aunt Gen was amazing. She was kind and always had a smile on her face. The way her long gold locks hung down her shoulders in soft playful curls and her eyes shone brighter than the sun made me feel bright. She had an infectious laugh that could make the biggest Debby Downer laugh along with her.

Even though Uncle T was the God of Darkness, he had the biggest heart ever. He was like a huge teddy that you could hug and everything would be better. He resembled Uncle Willy in a

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lot of ways. The same coal black eyes and pitch black hair with the intense feel. Like Uncle Willy, he could be a softy.

To say they were excited for Tess to finally meet them was a huge understatement. They were practically bouncing off their thrones.

Rea and Cassie had returned to college last week. We'd all been given new rooms last week because it would've been too crowded for the four of us and there were enough empty rooms, just a big suite with two beds in each. I was staying with Rea and Cassie was even more bubbly than usual about meeting her new roommate.

After we all graduated we could live in Angelica or get our own rooms here. Neither Cassie nor Rea wanted to live without us since we just met.

I knew it would be my turn to leave for college, not exactly leave, along with Eve. I had grown accustomed to my life here in only a month. Teachers, the pixies, the ghosts, the supernatural complex of this place felt so perfect and I was really worried about how I'd fit in at school with humans.

I was brought of my musing by Cassie's high pitched squeal. I tried to catch my breath while glaring at the girl who didn't even notice.

Rea laughed at Cassie's reaction.

"She's here!" Cassie squealed. She was the Goddess of Joy after all.

Tess had no siblings, but we knew that didn't matter. What are crazy cousins for?

A short, an inch shorter than me, red-headed girl with really cute freckles on her cheeks came in. Her black eyes held so many emotions. She was my little sis!

“Hi.” She said meekly.

“Hey. I’m Ashlyn Gilbert, call me Ash. These are Cassandra Reynolds and Reanne Sanders, or Cassie and Rea.” I said pointing to them.

“I’m Eve.” She said smiling.

“Come on. We’ll show you around.” Rea said as Cassie pulled her from where she was standing.

By the time we were in the living area of our suite Tessa had warmed up to us and laughed at our stories.

“So you three actually locked yourselves in a tomb in Egypt?” Tess laughed.

“Yup.” I said popping the ‘p’.

“How did that happen?” she asked.

“Well, we were on a mission. While we were doing research on the Mummy of a thousand-year-old Aquarius soldier who came to earth. The corpse was said to be missing at night and there were some mishaps so we went to look over it.” Rea said.

“Then we heard this movement. Before we knew it the Mummy came out. I was so scared. We did the first thing that came to mind when the Mummy attacked us. Hide. Two hours later we were rescued and heard an ear full.” Cassie said.

“But we did catch it in the end,” I said.

“So, do you guys go on a lot of missions?” Tess asked.

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“Not many. We’re still in training and we have school. A mission here or there. In the last month, we had one mission, a short one.” Rea said casually.

“Tell me about our family.” She asked a little nervous.

At least she was comfortable enough to call them family.

“Well, your mom and dad are amazing people. Your father’s name is Trevor and mom’s name is Genève. My parents are Robert and Katherine. Rea’s parents are Uncle William and Aunt Dominique Uncle Samuel and Aunt Lydia are Ash’s parents.” Cassie chirpily informed her.

“You are an only child. All our parents had to give us away as soon as we were born because of an ongoing war. Angelica was unsafe for us and they wanted us to grow up before we faced the gruesome reality the world. The war is still going on, they were able to cloak us for sixteen years, that’s why they came on our sixteenth birthday.” Rae said.

“I wondered why they gave me up, it’s good to finally know. So do you have any siblings?” She asked.

“Yup. My brother, Chase is the God or you could say Goof of Travel. Rea has a sister, Rachel, she is the Goddess of Ice. And Ash has the most siblings. Ariana is her oldest sister, the Goddess of Fire. You should totally see her eyes.” Cassie started again.

“Cass she asked about her family not what gods they were,” I told her.

“Whatever,” Cassie replied.

“I have four siblings, Ariana, my oldest sister. Ashton, my oldest brother. And the twins, Adam & Alexis. Aunt Gen and Uncle T have always been with you in spirit. The first time I met

everyone, they were on Earth looking over you when you had an accident last month.” I said.

“They were there?” Tess asked with a smile.

“Yeah, even when I met them Aunt Gen was worried sick about how you were,” I said.

“So,” Tess said.

“So what?” Rea asked.

“Is life that different than before all this happened to you? I mean, giving up your life, was it hard? Is it hard to not have friends?” she asked.

“I didn’t find it that hard. Rea and I had each other, I am quite stubborn, you see. I refused to believe them and didn’t want to come. It wasn’t until after I almost got killed that I decided to come here. So, Rea and I had each other and Ash had the two of us. You have all of us to support you. We are like family and friends at the same time. You know how friends say stuff to make you feel better even if it’s not true. Family would never do that. I know these girls would tell me if I do something wrong. Did you ever have friends who would die for you?” Cassie asked.

“No. I lived a human life, remember” Tess said. Poor girl, she didn’t know Cass.

“That doesn’t really matter. Did you have friends you could trust without a flicker of doubt? Did they always stand by your side? Did you ever feel like you didn’t belong with humans?” she ranted.

“No offense, but you’re hyperactive. I like you.” Tess laughed at Cassie’s rant.

## Colors of Eternity

“Believe me, the life we have been living in the past few years is better than anything else that happened to us. I mean I always thought the memories I had were going to be all I could ever have. But meeting these girls I created new memories that are so much more important than anything in this world. Even winning a lottery.” Rae said.

“You guys seem really close,” Tess said in a sad voice which she tried to cover with a smile.

I walked over and hugged her.

“Oh, sweetie. We are family and so are you. I know you had to give up your life amongst other things. We all went through that. I know it must be hard to leave your parents, even if they weren't your birth parents they were your parents, none the less. We are here for you no matter what. I promise.” I said.

“You girls are amazing,” Tess said and we all huddled up in a group hug.

“Come on let's go. The comet shower is about to start.” Rea said.

“I didn't know there was a comet shower today,” Tess said.

“Orionids meteor shower. It's at its peak tonight and tomorrow morning, even if we can't see it then.” Cassie said.

“The Orionids is an average shower producing up to 20 meteors' per hour at its peak. It is produced by dust grains left behind by comet Halley, which has been known and observed since ancient times.” I informed her.

We pulled an awestruck Tess to the roof and settled on the blankets that Alexis had set up for all of us.

“This place is gorgeous!” Tess gasped.

The place was my favorite in the entire ACRT compound. The tower was taller than Burj Khalifa. The top was a concave plane and was a great place to sit and look at the beautiful stars. I loved looking at the constellations even when I was a kid but knowing that it had some sentimental value, I loved it even more.

I liked the peace and quiet while looking at the stars. Even though the sky was beautiful and it was hard to take my eyes off the stars I never understood the constellations.

“Do you come here a lot?” Tess asked as we looked at the comets pass by.

“Ash does. She likes this place. We come here occasionally but not as much as Ash. She is here most nights. I come here to skateboard sometimes. I love the wind blowing through my hair while I face it this high up.” Rea said.

“It’s quite a sight.” She whispered and I hummed in agreement.

“Is it going to be weird seeing my parents for the first time?” Tess asked.

“It’s not bad. They are amazing like we said. I was so scared the first time I went to meet mine. I actually hated them for giving me up. We’ll be there, don’t worry.” Rea said.

“Uncle T was practically on Cloud 9 the last time we saw them. Aunt Gen went crazy over decorating your room. Our entire family is excited. They are like that every time. They went nuts over all of our arrivals. Even though I’m a month older than Rea, she came with me, I was stubborn. I arrived in August. Last month when Ash arrived I actually got to see how excited they were for the first time.” Cassie said.

“What if they don’t like me?” Tess asked pouting and I burst into fits of laughter.

## Colors of Eternity

“What?” She said with a scowl.

“Nothing. It’s just what went through my head when I first came here. They love you. Like I was told, ‘you might not know them but they know you better than you know yourself’ and I bet they do know you better than you know yourself.” I said.

“Really?” she asked hopefully.

“Pinkie swear.” Cassie raised her little finger and we all laughed hysterically.

“So, do you know what languages you’re taking?” Rea asked.

“Yup. Italian, French, and Latin. I was thinking of taking two math courses.” She said.

“You crazy?” Cassie and I asked at the same time. We both shared a dislike for maths. It was scary!

“What? I like maths.” Tess shrugged.

“That’s my girl.” Rea raised her hand for a high-fi.

The four of us laughed and laughed some more until tears fell from our eyes from laughing at each other’s stories.

What a day! I loved my friends, well cousins! Without them, I wouldn’t even know how much I was missing in my life.

## **Chapter 6**

### **Dark Yellow: Deceit**

“God hath given you one face, and you make yourself another.” ~ WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

The weeks after Tess came were great. Cassie and Rea had settled into their college schedules. We still had early morning training and then the class with Ms. deLune. That was my favorite class, learning about the myths and stuff.

I read about Mythical creatures in the book. Today Ms. deLune said I had to give a presentation on Dragons. I spent the entire week perfecting my presentation.

“Dragons. Practically every ancient civilization has its own tales and stories about this spectacular creature.

The two most common interpretations of this magnificent beast are the West European and East Asian or Oriental types.

In general, most forms had serpentine and other reptilian traits with various strengths, powers and physical features.

The quantity of legs, arms, heads and types of skin varies greatly. They also are described in a large variety of differing colors.

Eastern versions were mostly depicted as good, wise and great teachers and allies to the humankind. They were often gentle and the keepers of peace and wisdom.

Their Western counterparts were in general quite the opposite. Many were entirely evil and solely bent on destruction and causing total chaos.

## **Colors of Eternity**

Whether good or evil, they often represented one of the elementals with the ability to control and use its powers to help their allies and destroy any opposing forces.” I said.

I changed the slides which showed the different types of dragons, alphabetically arranged.

***“Amphithere - Creatures with wings and a forked tail***

***Azhi Dahaka - Three headed beast with sharp fangs***

***Balaur - Enormous multi-headed monster***

***Cetus - Large head, clawed forearms, serpent-like body and tail***

***Fafnir - Poison-breathing serpent-like creature***

***Guivre - Huge snake with the head of a horned dragon***

***Knucker - Large flying water beast***

***Ladon - Multi-headed snake-like monster***

***Lambton Worm - Long serpent-like body, huge eyes, and large teeth***

***Lindworm - Extremely large, monstrous snake***

***Orochi - Enormous evil serpent with 8 heads & eight tails***

***Peluda - Green and covered with numerous spikes***

***Smaug - Large, fire breathing red worm with indestructible armor***

***Smok Wawelski - Fire breathing beast with six legs***

***Tarasque - Sharps fangs, body covered with scales, a whip-like tail***

***Wyvern - Serpentine head, winged spiked body with pointed tail***" I read out the description of the beast.

Ms. deLune kept her classes quite interesting and often took us to see what we were studying. Last week she took me to see the Mongolian Death Worm in the Gobi Desert in Mongolia.

It was a deadly, enormous monster with reddish poisonous skin and razor sharp fangs.

The best part was that since it didn't exist anymore so she had to take me to the past.

After my presentation, she took me to this place Capricorn galaxy to see the Smaug Dragon since it no longer existed on earth. Thank god they couldn't see us since we weren't actually there but they were scary as hell.

"Banshee next time?" Ms. deLune teased.

"I'll let you know when I want to die." I retorted. Banshees were an omen of death!

I was five minutes late for my science class but Tess's class was still going on I waited for a while.

Eve and I spent a couple of seconds exchanging pleasantries.

The science class went without a hitch, today we studied Bio, which I enjoyed quite a bit. I loved studying the skeletal system, especially since I started watching BONES. As soon as the class was over I rushed off for my language lessons.

"Namaste." I greeted my Hindi teacher.

"Namaste." She replied, in Hindi, it meant hello.

We were able to read some of *Kabir's Dohes* before the class got over. I headed to Italian after half an hour class of Hindi for a half an hour class of Italian.

## Colors of Eternity

While I was headed for training my phone started to buzz.

I pulled it out and laughed at the text. My mother, my adoptive human, had just learned how to text and every couple of hours I'd receive a new text.

*Can't wait to have you home this weekend! Cousin Marie is coming. See you soon.*

XOXO

*Mom*

Yay! Cousin Marie!

She was my father's cousin's adopted daughter, quite a far relation, but strangely enough, she was my closest friend growing up.

She was two years older than me. She lost her family when she five years ago and Uncle Evan took her in.

"Hey, Ash. How was your day?" Tess asked as she stretched.

"Same old. Can I ask you for a huge favor? Please..." I pleaded trying to pout and failing miserably.

"What?" she said.

"I am going home this weekend and my cousin Marie will be there. I really want you to meet her. She's the best." I begged.

"Cool." Tess shrugged and I hugged her.

That night I extended the invitation to Rea and Cassie. Cassie and Chase had plans for the weekend and Rea had plans with friends from college.

“I really wish I could meet her, but you know how Chase is. He might be thousands of years old but he is a child at heart.” Cassie said.

“It’s alright. I’ll introduce you later!” I said. That night I was extremely excited about seeing Marie again. I spent hours telling the girls about my amazing older sister.

“She took me to my first concert. Whenever she was around we’d spent hours watching movies. She is just the best.” I gushed.

“I can’t wait to meet her,” Tess said. Suddenly out of nowhere Rea started laughing.

“What?” I asked.

“Your actual cousin is going to meet your adopted-adopted cousin.” She explained.

“I don’t see why it’s funny,” I said.

“Whatever. Just be careful. The human world isn’t all that safe. But no magic in front of humans. You might be close to Marie but you can’t tell her anything without running by your parents first.” Rea warned. I loved when she was all protective of us.

“Don’t worry Rea. I just want to spend a fun weekend with Marie. No one’s telling anyone anything. I’m off to sleep. We have training in the morning.” I said yawning and stretching.

“Night,” I said walking into my room.

The rest of the week went by quite quickly. I was so excited that I could barely stop fidgeting. Since we only had the morning training and Myth class, Tess and I had already packed our bags the night before and planned on leaving as soon as she was done with Myth.

## Colors of Eternity

“Ready?” I asked and she nodded. Since Marie and Uncle Evan were already at our place we had to travel in a human way, by car.

My parents, both sets of parents, had bought me a car together. I absolutely loved my car. It was pink!

It was a Lamborghini Aventador, a sports car. It was a convertible and had scissor doors.

Did I mention it was pink?

It was a late birthday present from all four of my parents.

“Mom said my car will be here by Monday,” Tess said excitedly.

“What is it?” I asked putting on my seatbelt.

“Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG Coupe Electric Drive. It’s amazing. It’s a shiny light blue color car. 740 horsepower, 62 miles per hour!” she said.

“Honey, I don’t speak cars,” I said.

“Yeah. Whatevz!” she replied.

We drove out of ACRT and I followed the same route Agent West had taken when she brought me here. As I parked in my driveway Tess stared at my home with her mouth wide open.

“This looks cozy,” Tess said.

“How was your place in Chicago?” I asked.

“An apartment. It felt empty. I had a very materialistic life. My parents, adoptive, I barely saw them. They left before I woke up and didn’t come back until very late. It was huge but wasn’t enough.” She said.

Not having caring and wonderful parents weren't something I could imagine.

"Come on." I nudged her and pulled into a hug "You'll never feel alone again. We will be around so much that you'll be sick of us!"

"I love you, sis." She said hugging me back tightly.

"Me too. Now. Out." I said as I got out of the car too.

My mom was waiting at the front door with a huge smile on her face. I ran to her and launched myself at her.

"Mom, this is my cousin, Tessa Davis," I said.

"Hello dear. It's so nice to meet you. We've heard a lot about you. I hope you enjoy your stay here. Make yourself at home. I hope you don't mind sharing Ash's room with her and Marie. Evan is in the guest room." Mom said.

"It's alright, Mrs. Gilbert." Tess smiled.

"Nonsense. You're Ash's family, call me Aunt Serena." Mom scolded.

"Aunt Serena." Tess laughed.

We went inside and I introduced Tess to everyone. Marie had reddish-blond curls that cascaded down her shoulder. Her gray eyes looked amazing in contrast to her hair. I considered her to be the most gorgeous person I'd met until a month ago when I saw my birth family.

The three of us made our way to my bedroom and Marie told us about her time at UCLA.

"So, how're the parents?" she asked.

"Momma and Daddy are amazing, not that I love mom and dad any less but I finally feel complete. I have four amazing siblings

## Colors of Eternity

to guide me and three cousins that I am closer to than I've ever been to anyone. I love my life. I've never felt more content." I smiled.

"Hmm." She just hummed. For the first time ever I felt uncomfortable being around her. I had an uneasy feeling in my stomach that I couldn't shake.

"So Tess, tell me more about yourself," Marie said looking out the window as if she was waiting for something.

"There isn't much to tell. I'm from Chicago, I want to be a fashion designer when I grow up." Tess said.

"Fashion," Marie mumbled. She was kind of distracted. Every few minutes she would look out the window and frown.

"Are you okay?" I asked for what seemed like the hundredth time.

"Hmm." She said and suddenly a smirk appeared on her face.

The look in her eyes scared me and I moved closer to Eve.

Suddenly out of nowhere, a black crow flew in the window. The window was shut! How the hell did it fly in? It didn't shock Marie, in fact, her smile grew wider by the second. It wasn't a good smile, it was a twisted vindictive smile.

"What the hell?" I screamed.

"Shouldn't surprise you. You are gods after all." Marie laughed maliciously. The way she said *god* made it sound dirty.

"Who are you?" I asked through my teeth.

"What? Don't you know your Cousin Marie?" she said in a sickly sweet voice.

"Where is she?" I asked.

“Oh dear! It was always me. I waited for so long for this day. Not only do I get to kill one goddess, but two of them. Playing human paid up!” She laughed.

I used magic to temporarily blind her, it would only last so long so I looked at Tess frantically.

Eve and I ran down the staircase to save my parents and Uncle.

“Run! Get in the car and drive!” I said rushing them out the house.

Mom and dad complied pulling Uncle Evan with them.

“Where’s Marie?” Mom asked.

“That’s who you are running from. Don’t stop. I’ll explain later.” I said as Tess and I loaded up in my car.

I drove really fast to avoid her. Thank god she was following us and not mom and dad. We stopped at a secluded area and waited for her.

“Why would you? How could you? Didn’t we mean anything?” I asked as tears welled up in my eyes.

“Of course you meant something. You were always a mission. A prey. We demons value our preys quite a bit.” She laughed.

Suddenly out of nowhere, some fireballs were thrown at us. Tess and I barely managed to duck.

I concentrated on using the magic Adam taught me. I tried to think of her as a kettle and tried to raise her body temperature and tried to burst her veins.

“Ahh!” She fell to the floor screaming in agony.

I raised my focus and before I knew it she burst into flames. I killed her.

## Colors of Eternity

I killed a demon, my first kill. I killed my sister.

I dropped to my knees and burst into tears. I felt Tess hug me and tell me it was all going to be okay.

“Come on.” She nudged and I robotically got up.

She put me in the car and got in and drove us back to ACRT. To safety. I heard her call the headquarters and explain what happened.

“Hello, girls.” I heard Agent West’s voice but I didn’t listen to what she was saying as I ran back to my room with tears running down my face.

My sister betrayed me.

At some point in the night, I felt the girls come in and try to comfort me.

“It’s going to be alright,” Rea said.

“How? I killed my sister! She deceived me! How could she play with my emotions like that?” I cried.

“Hush. Breathe.” Cassie said.

My role model, my sister, my hero, deceived me!

# Chapter 7

## ***Bright Green: Uplifting***

“Life is like a camera; Focus on what's important, capture the good times, develop from the negatives and if it goes wrong...Take another shot.” ~ UNKNOWN

A week later I was still reeling with what happened. How could she do that to me?

“Come on wake up.” She heard Cassie say right before her covers were pulled off.

“No pity party.” I heard from behind her. Alexis!

“What are you doing here?” I asked sitting up.

“Brush, dress and we leave. NYC is a great place to shop your tears away. Now. Up.” Ariana said.

“Seriously not in the mood.” I huffed.

“Get dressed now. We have a day at the spa planned and then lunch and then shop till we drop.” Tessa said.

I looked at the six of them, Rachel was also there, and got up. I knew arguing wouldn't get me anywhere with them. After brushing and a quick shower, I got dressed and joined them for breakfast.

“Come on. The day isn't getting any longer.” Rachel said as soon as we were done having breakfast.

“Sure,” I grumbled.

I knew that they were trying to make me feel better but I didn't think it would help.

## Colors of Eternity

We were at a spa in Rea's old neighborhood. She swore the spa we were at was the best in the world.

"Good morning ma'am's." the lady at the reception said.

Ariana blabbed about what she wanted us to have and I tuned everyone out. I was dragged into this empty room by my sisters and I laid down on the massage table after changing.

The masseuse worked on the knots in my body and it felt so good. It was like the weight of the world was lifted off my shoulder. For now at least.

"How do you feel?" I heard Alexis ask.

"I don't know what to feel! My sister, in all ways but blood, had just tried to kill me and I ended up killing her!" I said completely forgetting the masseuse. I gasped when I realized we weren't the only ones in the room.

"It's alright. They aren't humans. They know." Ariana said reassuringly. "And as for your *cousin*, honey, it wasn't your fault. You couldn't have known and what you did was to protect yourself and your little sister. You had no choice! She used you, I get it, and I know it hurts. Don't let the pain or anger guide you. Now that we know they know something, we have to be more careful. She wasn't a trained demon, you are in more danger than ever." She warned.

"What about our parents?" I asked.

"Don't worry sweetie. We have them in a safe place until we deal with the Ewoe Warriors. Even they are working someone." Rachel said and I gasped.

They were considered very dangerous. They could drain your soul and make you live in a lifeless state and still make you feel pain. They were ruthless!

According to what I had studied, their kind ceased to exist on Earth when our parents took control. They wanted to avenge their kind by hurting, no killing us!

“No!” Rea whispered.

“You all need to train to fight against them. You are our only hope.” Alexis said.

“We can’t harm these ones because a witch had blessed them protection from gods but when we sent you all to live on Earth we turned part of you into humans. You can fight them and rid us from their terrorism.” Rach said.

“How long have you known they were planning on attacking us?” Cassie asked.

“We didn’t know! We thought they were dealt with long ago. We would never put you in that kind of danger. Now. Adam, Ashton, and Chase have personally taken up the duty of training you. We will help too. But that is something we would deal with later! Now relax. They whole point of this is to give your body a break. Relax, have fun and enjoy.” Alexis said.

“Everything’s going to be alright?” Tessa asked and our older sisters nodded smiling.

“Everything will be perfect. Enough with the negative. Enjoy!” Alexis ordered.

“Sure.” I laughed. We spent a long time getting pampered. Facials, mani-pedi, etc. I got my nails painted a bright pink color with white stripes. A girly day like this reminded me of how Marie and I used to do each other’s hair and make-up. I put that thought aside. My family was not like Marie, they’d never betray me.

## Colors of Eternity

I even got a haircut! My hair was cut in layers and the longest reached the middle of my back while the shortest layer reached my chin. I also had a really cute fringe. Rachel had convinced me to get some streaks. I'd gotten pink and blue streaks but they were minimal, a few here, a few there.

We left the Spa & Salon around four in the afternoon and headed for a late lunch.

"Feel better?" Alexis asked.

"I feel fresh. But it will take time. Have you gotten betrayed by someone you trusted?" I asked.

"Two thousand years ago. A human was blessed to protect the world, he turned his back on us. We raised him as a part of our family, gave him all that he could want and more but when we needed him to fight alongside with us, he stabbed us in the back and teamed with our enemy. Three centuries after that, we were finally able to take him down. Aunt Kat was so heartbroken. She thought of him as her son and he turned his back on us and we had to kill him." Rachel said.

"Mom never told me," Cassie said sadly.

"Betrayal is a part of life. You know, after every sad day comes a glad day, also, after every glad day comes a sad day. Life is a cycle of good and bad. You can never have all good or all bad. But good things happen. Don't lose faith in the world, in destiny, in us. We might be gods but we don't get all rainbows. No matter what we do, where light exists so does darkness, otherwise how will you know what light is? God and evil can't exist alone. That shouldn't stop you from living." Alexis said.

"Thanks," I said feeling a lot better after her rant. I was going to be better.

"Can I call my mom?" I asked while we were shopping at Macy's.

“Sure. They are completely safe at an ACRT facility.” Ariana said.

“Thanks,” I said walking to a corner dialing my mom’s number.

“Honey. Are you alright? Lydia just told us what happened!” mom freaked out.

“Mom I’m fine. Just a little shaken. How could someone do that? Act like they genuinely care and then try to kill you?” I asked as tears started to fall.

“Honey, I know you were close to Marie. But from what your mother told me, Demons will go to any lengths to get what they want. Sweetheart, don’t feel bad.” Mom comforted me.

“I know. It will just take the time to heal.” I said.

“I’ll see you when you get back. Love you and take care.” Mom said and I mumbled a lame excuse of a goodbye.

“Can we go to a bookstore? I want to get a book.” I said.

“Barnes & Noble’s nearby. Why don’t you head there while we finish up here and meet at Starbucks? Rea, Alexis, why don’t you tag?” Ariana said.

After spending half an hour looking at books, I decided to buy a dystopian novel. The three of us went to Starbucks to wait for others and ordered coffee.

It was like I was on auto-pilot, trying not to feel like a robot. I knew Alexis was dying to comment on it but kept quiet.

“Why the hell am I letting this bother me so much?” I said all of a sudden.

“What?” Alexis and Rea asked surprised by my outburst.

## Colors of Eternity

“I need to get over it and move on! I’m being a Debby Downer!” I huffed. My pain shifted to irritation. My feelings were definitely all over the place.

The sudden change in my mood brought huge smiles on my sisters’ faces.

“That’s my girl!” Alexis said jumping out her chair and bouncing up and down.

The others came back just in time to notice her craziness.

“What’s up?” Rach asked taking her cup.

“Ash’s in a better mood!” Alexis squealed causing a chain reaction with Cassie and Eve.

“Hush! Do you want to get kicked out?” Rea said twisting Alexis’s ear.

“Ow! Ow! Ow!” she whined slapping Rea’s hand away.

“Well, where do we head now?” Tess asked hugging me.

“Home. I really want to stay in.” I said softly.

“We can relax. Oh, you look totes gorgeous with the new hair!” Cassie said, “You’ve got to show it off at ACRT!”

We spent the rest of the day being ridiculous, doing very bad imitations of each other and the rest of the family, watching chick flicks. I felt better with all the noise and screaming and squealing.

At night I sneaked out of my room to see the stars. I could use some relaxing.

I laid there looking at the bright shining constellations as tears made their way once again.

I jumped when I heard a whisper behind me.

Ashton was standing there with a bucket of fried chicken from KFC.

“I’m not good at being an emotional pillow. Chicken?” he offered and I laughed.

I took a drumstick and we just sat there in comfortable silence. When I reached in to take another piece it was empty.

“What are you? A bottomless pit?” I laughed.

“What? I’m a growing boy!” he whined.

“Whatever. Old man” I said. We settled in the silly banter and making fun of each other. At least he didn’t tiptoe around me.

“So I heard about the cousin of yours.” He said.

“And I heard you weren’t an emotional pillow.” I retorted.

“No seriously? How are you doing? Do I have to go to hell and kill her all over again for hurting my little sister?” he asked.

“No, you don’t. I’m doing much better. People constantly taking care of me is a little annoying.” I said.

“That’s what I said to Lexi and Ari. Let’s go shooting!” he said enthusiastically pulling me up before I could say anything and taking me to a range.

We both took the protective gears and guns and went to shoot. He was damn good! All the shots to the heart of the cardboard body. Mine wavered all over the body, head, heart, neck, blah, blah, blah.

It felt nice. I imagined it as Marie and shot. It was a good way of letting out frustration.

## Colors of Eternity

“Hey did you do something to your hair?” he asked.

“Yes, Captain Obvious. I had fun! You are a good emo-pillow! Bye Brother Bear!” I said hugging him.

“Bye Kiddo.” He said as we transported back to our places.

“Where were you?” Cassie launched at me as soon as I came in.

“With Ashton at a shooting range,” I said.

“A note would’ve been good. We went to find you, but you weren’t on the roof.” Rea said.

“I was there but Ashton came up finished an entire bucket of chicken and transported us to some shooting range,” I said.

“Go to sleep. It’s been a long day.” Tess said.

“Took the words right out of my mouth,” I said walking to my bed cuddling in my covers.

“We’re going racing soon,” Rea called as they went out.

*Good night sweetie. Sweet dreams.* 😊

XOXO

*Mom & Dad*

I laughed at the message from mom and replied with a smiley face and a same to you before falling asleep.

It had been a while, well seemed like a while since I slept without nightmares. I almost expected a nightmare my mind was working a thousand miles a minute even in my sleep.

But I didn’t have nightmares. Not a single bad thought. No Marie trying to kill me or hurting Eve. I wouldn’t forgive myself if something happened to my little sister.

For the first time since I killed Marie, I felt normal. I could only hope for better. Hope things would be more comforting.

But I knew that I got the uplifting I needed.

## **Chapter 8**

### ***Pastel Brown: Horror Stories***

“We make up horrors to help us cope with the real ones.” ~ STEPHEN KING

The rest of the week passed by without any further issues. We had planned a weekend on a private island which was beautiful and right in the center of Bermudan Triangle.

Both my parents and my siblings were here so was my Uncle Eric. Cassie and Rea’s adoptive parents were also here. Tess’s parents, Taylor and Gisele Davis, only came to see her once and gave a lame excuse about a pre-planned Christmas party.

Their daughter almost died and they screamed at her for disturbing them.

Aunt Gen got pissed and gave them a piece of her mind. Uncle T had to restrain her from physically attacking them for screaming at her daughter. She all but told them to never show their heartless faces again.

They both looked cold. As they walked out they were all but glaring at us saying we were already destroying their image by making it look like they sent their daughter away and even said they’d take us to court.

Gisele had cold blue eyes cut through the room and she screamed at Tess when she started to cry. Both the Davis’ had blonde hair and blue eyes, like Barbie and Ken.

My parents were appalled at their behavior, so were the other adults.

Cassie's parents looked exactly like her. Blond and green eyes. Kara Reynolds was a famous criminal lawyer who usually took up defense cases.

The moment she and Royce, Cassie's father came into the facility she ran towards Cassie to engulf her in a hug. Royce was also equally happy to see his daughter. He was the Dean of Medicine at some hospital in Los Angeles.

Wesley Sanders was the owner of a well-established online shopping website like eBay. He had black hair and glittering blue eyes which sparkled the moment he saw Rae. Her mom, Daisy was a little distant but she wasn't all that rude. She gave her *daughter* a stiff hug.

She looked like a model with her height and skinny figure. Her flaming red locks and blue eyes were beautiful. She wasn't a model, she was a realtor.

So in light of all the recent events, we decided to spend Christmas at the family island.

That was the secret of the Bermuda triangle, gods inhabited it!

The sky was looked beautiful as the sun blazed warming my skin. The wind breezed floating away with all my worries.

"Let's play something!" I suggesting bouncing on my feet. After Christmas, my cousin's adoptive family had to go back due to work but since my family was technically under witness protection, they could stay.

It was the day after Christmas and us, the *kids* were hanging out. I was glad my adoptive family got along so well with my birth family.

"Sounds great, what?" Rea said jumping up.

"Um. How about Volleyball?" Adam said.

## Colors of Eternity

“Nah. How about we camp?” Cassie suggested.

“That sounds better!” Tess said.

We all went back to our rooms to pack up a small bag pack of necessities and camping gears.

“All set?” Ariana asked. It looked kind of weird. Ari wasn’t the kind’a person who people would think would go camping but she wasn’t someone to be judged.

“So where are we setting up camp? I think it should be somewhere remote. Maybe we would catch sight of some animals. Oh, I love owls. They are quite visible in the northern part of the island!” Alexis said stretching. That girl could speak a thousand words minutes if given the chance. She once spoke without breathing for five minutes straight! Probably because she wasn’t human.

“How many people here know how to set up a tent?” Tess asked.

“Why would we need to know how to set up a tent?” Chase said clicking his fingers setting the camp up.

“That’s so cool! Why can’t we do it?” I asked.

“You can. You just have to learn how.” Rachel said.

“Teach me!” Tess begged, making the cutest puppy dog face I’d ever seen.

“It’s quite simple you see. Just think of what you want.” Adam shrugged.

“Really?” Tess asked.

“Yup. So we haven’t heard who won the car race yet.” Ashton asked getting excited about the race we had a few weeks ago.

“Eve and I were pretty much last from the beginning so we just parked and watched. These two had a very complicated race. Every time we looked at their cars the person leading was different. Cassie’s Ferrari just barely overtook Rea’s Bentley.” I said. I could only see red and purple blurs during the race. The red blur won

“See I told you Ferrari’s are the best,” Chase said high-five-ing Cassie.

“So ‘smores?” Ariana asked.

We all sat in a comfortable circle on logs or on the grass.

“You know what this means right?” Cassie asked.

“What?” Aria asked.

“Story time!” Both Alexis and Cassie squealed. Too loud!

“Oh! I know one. Creation of Ancient Egyptians Gods.” Adam said.

“Bore!” Ashton coughed and Ari smacked the back of his head.

“One day, a hill rose up out of the waters. This hill was called Ben-Ben. On this hill stood Atum, the first god. Atum coughed and spat out Shu, the god of the air, and Tefnut, the goddess of moisture. Shu and Tefnut had two children. First, there was Geb, the god of the earth. Then, there was Nut, the goddess of the sky. Shu lifted Nut up so that she became a canopy over Geb.

Nut and Geb had four children named Osiris, Isis, Seth, and Nephthys. Osiris was the king of the earth and Isis was the queen. Osiris was a good king, and he ruled over the earth for many years. However, everything was not well. Seth was jealous of Osiris because he wanted to be the ruler of the earth. He grew angrier and angrier until one day he killed Osiris.

## Colors of Eternity

Osiris went down into the underworld and Seth remained on earth and became king. Osiris and Isis had one son called Horus. Horus battled against Seth and regained the throne. After that, Horus was the king of the earth and Osiris was the king of the underworld.” Adam said. Always the informative brother.

“Any other stories Mr. Interesting?” Chase asked poking fun of Adam and Adam just made a face.

“Yeah, like you are smart enough to know this,” Adam said.

“According to you, who are the craziest gods according to mythologies known to humans?” Rachel asked.

“Zeus! According to what I’ve heard, he has an ego bigger than the entire universe. I’ve never met the man but still!” Ari said.

“He’s real?” I asked.

“Oh honey, did you think we’re the only real ones?” Alexis asked.

“Yeah!” Tessa and Cassie said though Rea shook her head.

“Well, from what I’ve seen in Thor, Loki!” I said.

“Movies are quite misleading. Even though Loki is one of the craziest gods. Sneaky as hell!” Adam said.

“Apollo. That I can guarantee. Ruthless. We fight like animals!” Ashton said and fist bumped Chase as they nodded.

“Kali. She went on a killing spree.” Rachel said.

“Aphrodite might be beautiful but she is vain!” Alexis said.

“Really?” I asked.

“That’s the first word that comes to mind,” Alexis said.

“Not beautiful?” Cassie asked.

“No, she is beautiful but her beauty pales in comparison to her vainness,” Ariana said.

“So next topic!” Rea said.

“I have a scary story!” Ashton said jumping up.

“Well then, say.” Adam patted his back.

“A man went to a hotel and walked up to the front desk to check in. The woman at the desk gave him his key and told him that on the way to his room, there was a door with no number that was locked and no one was allowed in there. She specifically said no one should look inside the room, under any circumstances.

So he followed the instructions of the woman at the front desk, going straight to his room, and going to bed. The next night his curiosity would not leave him alone about the room with no number on the door.

He walked down the hall to the door and tried the handle. Sure enough, it was locked. He bent down and looked through the wide keyhole. Cold air passed through it, chilling his eye. What he saw was a hotel bedroom, like his, and in the corner was a woman whose skin was completely white. She was leaning her head against the wall, facing away from the door.

He stared in confusion for a while. He almost knocked on the door, out of curiosity, but decided not to. This disinclination saved his life. He crept away from the door and walked back to his room. The next day, he returned to the door and looked through the wide keyhole again.

This time, all he saw was redness. He couldn't make anything out besides a distinct red color, unmoving. Perhaps the inhabitants of the room knew he was spying the night before and had blocked the keyhole with something red.

## Colors of Eternity

At this point, he decided to consult the woman at the front desk for more information. She sighed and said, 'Did you look through the keyhole?' The man told her that he had and she said, 'Well, I might as well tell you the story. A long time ago, a man murdered his wife in that room, and her ghost haunts it. But these people were not ordinary. They were white all over, except for their eyes, which were red.'" Ashton finished grinning.

"When he looked through the peephole, it was her eye?" I asked.

"Uh-uh." Ashton smirk.

"Ew!" Cassie squealed.

"Now it's fun. Once in a little village not that far, there was a problem. Animals had started dying off, one by one. In the morning their owners would see them lying outside with 10 holes in their chest. The people thought it was the work of their neighboring town. Then, one night a man by the name of Fred was closing his store for the night. It was very late, and he was anxious to get home to his family.

He shut off all the lights, then closed the door with a satisfying click. As he turned around to go to his car he saw a dark shape in the distance. He stood still trying to make out what it was.

As it got closer, Fred turned to go. It was the last move he ever made. The next day they found him with 10 holes in his chest. This made the town quite worried. They were scared of more people getting killed. So, one night two brave brothers, John and Jacob went out to get rid of the problem. They each took knives and walkie talkies. They said good-bye to their father, and kissed their grandmother on the way out." Rea said giving a dramatic pause.

"Then?" Tess asked.

“The two boys decided to split up. One would go to the site of the murder, and the other would wander the streets. If one was attacked they could use their walkie-talkie to contact the other. So they set off, keeping a close eye on the shadows. Nothing seemed to be happening. It was a calm night, and it seemed like they would get home safely.

But then suddenly John heard a crackling in the bushes behind him. He tried to call his brother, but it was too late. The figure leaped out of the bushes and tackled him, gouging his chest with its nails.

Luckily Jacob heard the commotion and rushed to help him. He leaped through the air and cut off the creature’s right hand. The creature screamed and ran. Jacob took John to the hospital, and they bandaged him home. The doctors called them heroes, and finally, they got home at six that morning.

Only their grandmother was up, so they said good morning, then went back to bed. Neither of them noticed she was missing her hand.” She finished. God these people knew scary stories. Oh, I got scared easy.

“What that wasn’t even scary!” Chase whined.

“You’re such a big baby!” Rachel said chucking a marshmallow at him.

“Brother dear, what do you say if I suggest a fight off?” Ashton said.

“Bring it on Ashtoon,” Chase said getting up.

“Stop acting like children!” Ariana scolded.

“Children can’t fight like us,” Ashton growled.

“You two are such nuisance,” Adam said as a book appeared out of nowhere.

## Colors of Eternity

“Nerd!” Chase announced.

“Yeah, at least I know London is in Europe and UK isn’t a continent.” Adam retorted.

“Really?” I asked, what kind of a dumb person would think the UK is a continent and London is not in Europe.

“Yeah. Chase once stated, out of nowhere might I add, that UK is a continent where London is and we were dumb to think London is in Europe. He argued for weeks that the UK wasn’t in Europe.” Cassie said shaking her head at her brother’s antics.

“Come on, forget them. I challenge you to an unfair game of FIGHT!” Ashton said.

“Fair game.” Adam corrected.

“I know the difference between fair and unfair. I meant fair as in no rules.” Ashton said, or Toon as Chase called him.

“The loser has to stay on Earth for a week,” Chase said getting up.

“A month.” Ashton increased the time. What was so bad about Earth?

“Earth’s nice and cozy!” Tess argued.

“Earth bets include no magic. For us, no magic is no oxygen. So they make this bet but always know one of them would suffer.” Ariana said.

For the next two hours, they fought breaking trees, rocks and making cracks in the ground. The animals moved away from the crime scene in fear of the two big buffoon’s fighting.

Every time someone looked like they were about to win the other stepped up their game. Couldn’t they just get it over with and continue this trip. As annoying as it was, it was fun to watch

them at each other's neck trying to stay out of the earth. Fools, Earth was beautiful!

I gasped as Ashton got thrown against a tree again and it broke. More sorry for the tree than my brother. It was the fiftieth tree they destroyed.

Finally, they both gave up and since no one lost no one had to go to Earth.

"Both of you lost." Rea corrected.

"We're playing. We know and make the rules." Chase said.

"Yeah." Ashton nodded.

"No rules you fools, you said so. Let's do a bonfire!" Alexis suggested as a guitar appeared.

Have a mentioned my family had a habit of making things appear.

The owls hooted along with Alexis's angelic voice and the surrounding was serene compared to minutes ago when two huge monkeys fought to stay away from earth. The melody of the guitar made all of us sing, as awful as we sounded.

This was definitely a great night. A good way to forget and to be truthful I hadn't thought back to the events of last month all night long, until now that is.

We chatted about silly god, creation of gods according to Egyptians and ghost stories. Definitely, a good way to goof off and share stories even if I was only listening.

## Chapter 9

# Orange: Reality

“You can design and create, and build the most wonderful place in the world. But it takes people to make the dream a reality.” ~ WALT DISNEY

“Kids! Please stop fooling around. We have a plane to catch!” Momma said glaring at Ashton who was on a tree hanging upside down.

“You are six thousand years old. At least act like your physical age!” Daddy scolded as he jumped off the tree and onto daddy’s back.

“But I like having fun!” he whined.

Mom and dad felt weird traveling by vanishing and reappearing, so did Uncle E.

They were humans, after all, I felt weird the first time, but at least I didn’t have to depend on someone to travel. The weeks leading up to the vacay were totally hectic. I had been out of practice and was sure to pull a few muscles during training.

My siblings were still bantering, this was definitely what the perfect vacation consisted of but I had to get back in shape if I ever wanted to be a field agent. Sometimes with all the god and evil coming to end the world, I forgot ACRT was an intelligence agency like the CIA or FBI.

“You’re crazy,” Adam said shaking his head bringing me out of my internal musing, a habit that I’ve had since I was a child.

“At least I’m not a nerd, lil’ bro!” Aston retorted.

“Why did he have to be so childish?” I thought to myself but I knew if I said that aloud I’d be the next subject of his teasing.

“You act younger than me. You’re worse than a five-year-old kid in a toy store!” Adam said responding to Ashton’s comment, he hated being called lil’ bro, but did he have to start? He was smarter than that.

“AM NOT.” Ashton boomed.

“You’re just proving his point and making yourself look more and more immature,” I said walking past my fighting brothers. I couldn’t take any more of their stupid banter any longer.

Aunt Katherine had a private plane so we had our privacy and these morons didn’t expose our identity. Considering Ashton and Chase it would take exactly fifty minutes for the world to know who we were. And of course there was an airport here too so we didn’t have to teleport somewhere.

“Well as if you’re more mature,” Chase said.

“More mature than you,” I grumbled.

“Really? Then when did the Jamor race end?” Ashton asked.

“What is that?” I asked.

“1203,” Rea said coming up behind me.

“Yeah. Well, what about Froton War?” Chase challenged.

“Oh please. 103 to 1132,” Cassie answered.

“Nerd,” Ashton said under his breath.

“You call anyone who knows something that, and Ash hasn’t learned it yet. You two are old. You should know it because you lived through it. We haven’t even lived through WWII.” Cassie said.

“Stop acting like fools and get ready to go!” Ariana said.

## Colors of Eternity

“Stop acting like you rule the world,” Chase said.

“First, I do. Second, stop being random.” Ariana said.

“I’m not being random.” Chase protested.

“Yeah and I’m a unicorn. You’re always random. You crashed a car and then started talking about dinosaurs and how much you missed them.” Alexis said.

“You’re not. They are only found in the North Pole.” Ashton said.

“I was being sarcastic, genius!” Alexis rolled her eyes.

“Ready to leave?” Aunt Kate asked.

“Sure.” I nodded still looking at my siblings laughing at their antics.

“Who would suspect them to be thousands of years old?” She said.

When we reached the plane Ashton started complaining about the trip taking longer the human way.

“Come on man, it’s a challenge,” Chase said.

“Challenge accepted,” Ashton said. They were so stupid!

The plane ride was fairly short and I slept through most of it. Sleeping in the woods was fun but it wasn’t the most conventional means for a night cap, I had a kink in my neck. I needed a night back in my comfy mattress and get buried in it. But classes started again tomorrow.

I couldn’t catch a break, could I?

Mom and dad were staying at some safe place but the location wasn’t given to us. I understood the need to keep their location

classified if a telepathic person came near us and read our minds their location would be compromised.

Cassie, Rea and Tess's parent and close relatives were also being transferred there. Tess's parents put up a big fuss about having to miss out on work but finally decided to move only if they got to go to work.

Ashton and Chase were continuously bantering. Those two hadn't kept quiet for a single minute according to Rach. They even got into a screaming match, just because.

"I was quite the whole ride," Ashton said when we landed in ACRT after dropping my parents off.

"No, you whined and complained about how long it was taking to fly and how you wanted to go to Bahama's," Chase said.

"No, I said that we were taking so long we could be in Bahama's five minutes into the flight," Ashton said.

"Enough you two!" Aunt Dominique said. She didn't get angry easily but when she did, gods forbid. She is one scary goddess when she is mad. Very scary for the goddess of life she could give Uncle Willy a run for his money.

"You two embarrassed us in front of everyone. What would Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert think of us? Not only that. You make them feel uncomfortable about not wanting to travel like us! Have you got no manners even after so many years? What were you thinking? Do you ever think?" she said before vanishing.

"Well, we should leave too. Good luck for school." Rachel said hugging Rea. After an over-dramatic goodbye, they left for wherever they go to and we headed to our room. It was nice to be home, well, it was kind of my home.

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The first thing I did after entering my room was jump on my bed. It felt so great to jump up and down on my bed. I know it was childish but I hated being a grown up. Grownups had responsibilities, and I hated responsibilities. Doing childish stuff made me feel childish and that made me feel good.

Childishness was fun! What can I say, I'm crazy!

The rest of the day was spent unpacking, the funny part was, it took shorter to pack than unpack. Even after that, we had to get up at the crack of dawn. Mornings were awful.

It didn't take long for morning to come and Dylan, our instructor didn't pity us at all. Hundred pushups, fifty sit-ups! That's all I got to say. Not only that, he canceled all our other classes so we were stuck in training, Cassie and Rea could leave since they had to go to college.

Considering my school year just started, well in September, it was going to be long. One more year, though, it was going to be a long year. Long and cruel because of the training.

Cruel!

It had been a while since I did sit ups and my muscles were sore from the sudden exercise. The fact that I had gone out the practice of this monstrosity every morning kind of added to the fact.

If this had been last year I would have died on spot, the thought of exercise made me shiver, me being the lazy person I was. I still am lazy considering I spend all my free time sitting and watching TV on my computer....

Sometimes I thought that my life had changed, not exactly for the bad, it was a different type of good. But even through all the change I still am that silly girl that was too unsocial. My cousins have to force me to talk to strangers, I feel awkward between

people I'm unfamiliar with. No matter how matter I try, I cannot get used to strangers.

We had to go to the stimulation room for a stim-mission, our first stim-mission. Stim fights were realistic enough. I remember the first time I got shot and it actually felt like I got shot. No blood. No wound. Just utter shock at how realistic it felt.

“Okay. The last time you were on a real mission for training purpose, I had to send an extraction team to bring you out. This seemed like a better option. Tess, these missions are quite straight forward. Read the records, analyze them and act on your instincts. You have ten minutes to read up the data.” Dylan said.

The mission was quite simple. People from a small town were going missing one after another and we had caught the culprit but he managed to break out of our facilities and we had to arrest him.

It started out easy. We caught him running down an alley and decided to corner him from both sides. Cassie and I took the back way and blocked the path.

What none of us anticipated was a twist in the plot? I never had much patience for obstacles but sometimes they were hard to ignore, specifically when it came as a dozen of people, armed people.

I didn't need to be informed that they were the abductees. These people went missing and we had to find the culprit.

I knew there was something wrong with such a straight forward mission. There was nothing called a simple mission, not in our dictionary at least.

I remember Agent Ryan saying something about 'no matter how bad things may look on the outside, they're worse on the inside.'

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My musings gave one of them enough time to attack me and I was thrown two feet away from where I was standing.

I slowly managed to get up from my cramped up position. My heart beat fast, I could hear the blood rush in my ears. I could also feel someone creeping up behind me.

Rolled from where I lay and bam. The lady kicked the wall that I fell against. I got up and quickly shot her with a stun-gun, stun-guns were good for brainwashed people. They didn't hurt anyone.

I had yet to shoot someone with a real gun. But I didn't want to. I didn't want someone's blood on my hands.

I helped the girls take down an entire town full of people. It was annoying how they didn't tell us about this but truthfully, in real life, we wouldn't even know half the things about the mission.

A really bulky guy kned me in the face and I almost thought I could feel blood trickling down my face. I touched my nose and looked at my hand. It was bleeding.

"You're dead!" I screamed as I launched myself at him, beating the hell out of him until he was unconscious.

"What should we do next?" Cassie mused.

"What happened to your face, it's a stim isn't it?" Tess asked.

"That's what I thought," I said.

"It only appears that way, it'll be alright. So any ideas?" Rea said.

"There!" Tess whispered. The four of us followed the shadow that Tess spotted in the shadow. The suspect, or criminal now that it was confirmed, was trying to climb the wall.

“Get down and put your hands in the air where we can see them,” I shouted at him.

“What are you four kids going to do?” he smirked.

“ACRT. You’re under arrest for brainwashing an entire town.” Cassie said raising her gun.

“Really, to arrest me you need to catch me.” he said jumping over the wall.

The four of us climbed the wall as fast as possible, the adrenalin coursing through my veins made it seem like no big deal but I knew myself and this was not one of my traits.

I made sure he couldn’t move, by the magic of course and ran towards him.

“Mr. Whatever your name is. You’re under arrest.” I said cuffing him.

“Good job girls. All of you. Good teamwork with the fight. Now that is why it is important to work as a team and I hope you guys continue to work this way. You may all take a break. See you tomorrow.” He said.

“I’m going back to bed,” Tess announced.

“You’re not alone there,” I grumbled.

“Damn it. Do they have to make us work so hard?” Cassie complained but she knew that hard work pays.

Well, the reality was rough and our lovely tanning vacation was over. It was time to get back to work. Back to reality!

But the reality was something that was in my hand and I was hell bent on making it worth my dreams.

## ***Chapter 10***

### ***Midnight Purple: Challenge***

“Accept the challenges so that you can feel the exhilaration of victory.”~ GEORGE S. PATTON

“All inhabitants of the left-wing evacuate immediately.” The mechanized voice rang through the hallways.

I bolted out of my room to see what all the fuss was about. Everyone was running around freaking out. I followed the crowd to the cafeteria.

The sight in front of me made the terror apparent. I heart felt like it had stopped beating. The room was full of dead people and Marie stood between the bodies of my family.

I cried out and sprinted towards my parents’ limp bodies, Marie was dead, this wasn’t real.

But it was so real! When I touched my mother’s now pale skin shivers ran down my spine. Hatred spewed inside me.

Before I could contemplate my actions I launched myself at Marie clawing at her.

I pulled at her hair before she threw me across the room.

For every punch she threw at me I fought back. For every kick, for every time she hurt me, for every time she hurt my family. But in the end, she won and I lay on the floor bleeding, begging for the pain to stop.

I wished for the times when I couldn’t think of anything interesting in my life. Back when I wished my life was in danger.

But I didn't want it anymore, the adrenalin felt good but the aftermath hurt. But at the same time, I didn't want to go back.

I wanted to fight. I wanted to prove that I was worth it. I couldn't let one bad thing determine my life. Sometimes it felt like things were looking up and at others, the positivity went down the drain. The optimism no longer existed.

Then everything vanished I was in a dark room with absolutely nothing. Absolutely no feelings. Numb. I couldn't see or hear. The only normal thing was my mind which ran a million miles a minute. I tried to wake up but I couldn't.

"Ash." A whisper from somewhere nearby clouded my mind.

I could hear.

I willed myself to be stronger. At least strong enough to face the fight in front of me. I knew the nightmares weren't about Marie anymore they were about my fear of what was to come, the impending war that was going to overwhelm all of the humanity. All of us, humans, gods, vampires, werewolf, witches, the spirits and the million other creatures that existed.

"Ash. We're going to be late for debriefing wake up!" The voice got louder and my body began to shake until I was in sweats in my bed.

"Eve." I sighed.

"Yeah, me. Nightmare?" she offered a sympathetic smile.

"Yeah. Come on. Move I need to get ready. We'll be seeing those two after so long." I said as I walked towards the bathroom.

The last time we saw Cassie and Rea outside training was their coronation. It was a beautiful affair. Everyone I knew was there

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and I got to meet the zodiacs, I got to meet my grandma, Virgo, and Terra.

The Angelican gods had a tradition of celebrating their eighteenth new year by declaring their powers to everyone in the supernatural. It was a lavish event.

Cassie wore the prettiest red dress. The dress had a Grecian neckline which was embroidered with sapphires with a bubble skirt that barely reached her knee even though she was supposed to be wearing a gown, she managed to convince everyone.

Rea's dress was far more elegant. It had a sweetheart neckline and with a mermaid skirt. The color faded from dark purple to lavender. She had managed to walk in six-inch pencil heels which she clearly didn't need due to her height.

"Yeah, but you do know we have a mission. Undercover." She said bringing me out of my thoughts.

"I know. No studies for god knows how long!" I said smiling widely and she heartily nodded.

"So. What do you think it will be?" she asked.

"Dunno. A mission is a mission, they don't tell you unless you need to know. I hate the secrecy. There will be things only one of us know so everything isn't compromised, though." I said.

"Like each of us will know bits?" she asked.

"Yeah, the last time it was also like that. They said that many small parts solving a puzzle is better than having the solution all by itself, it gives you a reason to work together." I said quoting Agent Ryan.

"You know sometimes I forget we're at an intelligence agency." She said.

“I think we all forget that it feels more like a school and home, except for the fact we don’t really interact with many people. Also, we don’t often do spy stuff unless we’re in Henderson’s class” I said.

“I bet we can’t name ten others who go here. I knew everyone in my building in Chicago and was considered a busy body,” she informed me.

“I can only name a few. I only know them because Dylan made us do a project with them. There’s Hazel Carter, the witch, and her older brother Ri-something.” I said forgetting her brother’s name. That was why I was so unsocial, I couldn’t remember people’s names.

“I know those two. Haz and her brother Ricardo. Then I also happen to know the vampire twins, Christopher and Aaron Ericson and the witch Janna Korin, the ghost Mr. Fourier.” She listed off.

“You’re forgetting our resident wolves. Tara and John Betz, David White, Theo Easton and Cara Whitney.” I said.

Our conversation about others in our vicinity kept my mind off my unsettling dream. Thank god for the mission.

We had made it to the stim-room before the other two girls but the room was full. There were people of all kinds, well three, Wolves, Vamps, and Witches. Guess the conversation we had wasn’t exactly useless. I could recognize some faces but most of them not.

Witches and Werewolves were born not made. Both kinds stopped aging at twenty-five. Vampires froze when they turned. The witches from Terra wielded their magic from the *Duns* but Gemini witches got their magic from their surroundings because Gemini was a magical realm.

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Witches go to the Duns to find their elemental strength on their twenty-fifth birthday. Each witch excelled in water magic or some over air or fire or earth.

Hazel and her brother stood at a corner of the room deep in a conversation. She was almost as short as me, only taller by an inch. Her eyes were a light shade of brown and her hair was dark. Perfectly in contrast. Her pale skin was a little strange for witches but, oh well. She had saved my life once and for that I'd always owe her.

She was kind but introvert, a great potential friend if I talked to others but I didn't.

Ricardo, I didn't really know, he was Hazel's younger brother. He was a lot taller than Haz and his hair was a few shades lighter than hers but his eyes were blue.

I could also notice people standing amongst their own groups. Vampires with vamps. Wolves with wolves. Witches with their coven.

When Rea and Cass entered the room they immediately caught my eye. Cassie came in bouncing, obviously excited for our second mission, EVER!

I was excited too but way too keyed up.

The wolves were never my favorite, even when I didn't believe in this stuff. I found them to be boisterous, they were always causing mayhem.

But amongst them Cara and Theo were quiet. On our last mission, they were sent to help us, a whole pack of wolves. They disrupted our entire plane on the way back and we thought we'd have to clean it ourselves. Cara was the first to offer her help and seeing his cousin help made Theo help even when every

other wolf made fun of those two for being kind, not that I have anything against wolves.

Cara was sweet, almost exactly like Cassie, with her blonde hair and green eyes but she was reserved. Unlike the others of her kind, she and Theo didn't feel the need to feel the power by putting others down.

Theo was a short kid, maybe a year younger than me, with freckles and red hair. He even had those beautiful green eyes.

The vampires weren't like the books, like any other supernatural creatures they too were immortal. They had fangs but the sun didn't affect them, and unlike in *Twilight*, my favorite book, they didn't sparkle either. They were known for their deathly bite that only turned someone to a vampire if it was a willing move, as in they could bite someone's main arteries or veins without turning them but if they wanted to they could.

Probably doesn't make sense.

I had met the vamp-twins on a trip to Jamaica with my goofy brothers Ashton and Chase. Those two wanted to try and shoot a vampire while they were running. Needless to say, they managed to do so even though the bullets bounced off the vamps diamond hard bodies.

I also remember them bicker like Alexis and Adam about who was older.

Christopher, or Chris, was louder and sharing amongst the two. He had started to tell us how they turned out of nowhere.

Apparently, they weren't very old vampires, both of them turned into vampires when they had gone to visit a Japanese village. There had been a massACRT during their trip and they got bit. The person that turned them was killed by a wolf within a day's time and they had caught the first flight back to the States.

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Chase had stumbled onto them while on his way back from seeing Cassie and had brought them here.

Chris was a bit taller than Aaron. He had dark blonde hair and blue eyes. Aaron also shared the blue eyes but he had brown hair.

Then there was Janna, she was tall, like six feet tall and had a lean figure. Her long dark hair that framed her face and contrasted with her pale blue eyes. I had interacted with quite a few witches but she wasn't someone I exactly liked. She was always rude and ready to show off, her powers weren't half as strong as Hazel or Ric's but she was proud. Pride didn't suit witches, witches were humble.

Then there were the other wolves Tara and John Betz. Tara was short with long gray hair, yes gray, but she wasn't old like sixty or seventy, in fact, she was only twenty-eight! Her eyes matched her lustrous gray hair.

John was also like her. Short, gray hair and gray eyes. They were like the same person of two genders.

Then were Nikolas Goldberg, he was a really young vampire, barely thirteen physically but actually dated back to Trojan War. He had that nerdy teen vibe, he was a little chubby and had short brown hair and chestnut eyes that displayed his youth. He was really smart too, knew all sorts of facts.

I'd heard he only came to ACRT on occasions, he usually went to some or the other school.

And there was one other vampire that I'd known through her reputation. She was the most known killer. At one point she mascaeraed town after town, city after city, village after village. Her innocent appearance was what let people trust her. The warmth in her green eyes reflected what she was like as a

human. Her hair was almost always in a bun with messy strands of red sticking out. She had dark chocolate like skin and still had her African accent.

I got so intrigued by her that I sought her out. Over the last century, she changed her ways and had become good. Every now and then we'd talk about the things she'd witnessed while roaming around the world. Her name was Daisy Tyler.

And then there was Margot Harriet, the witch. She was nice enough but wasn't like the Carters. Her fierce black hair and eyes scared the living hell out of me.

My internal monolog was interrupted when Dylan along with Agent West, Agent Reid, Agent Ryan and Agent Lee came in the room with a grave face. Even if he was a strict instructor, he like Ashton was goofy!

"Attention everyone!" Dylan's voice boomed through the room. "As you all know, we are here in regards to a mission. And we also know Demons are not far from their attack. We have also found a way to defeat them. We have to destroy them from the root. Now we've found them scattered all over the world so we're sending groups of four to go undercover." He said.

So that's there were four of each kind, we'd be teamed up with our kind.

"Each team will consist of one representative of each of your species, this way you are to work together and you'd be stronger with all kinds of powers around." Agent Reid said.

Not fair! I thought we were going to get quality time together! It'd been weeks since I'd seen Cass and Rea outside of training.

"But we'd be more comfortable with each other," Cassie said pointing to us.

## **Colors of Eternity**

“It’s about covering things from all side. A witch to do a spell, a vampire for speed, strength and a werewolf as a protector.”  
Dylan said.

“You would also get to live like normal humans during this, while some of you might despise it, others might actually enjoy it.”  
Agent Lee said.

“So? What are the groups?” I Rea asked.

“Lucky draw!” Agent Ryan announced.

### **GROUP A:**

Goddess- Reanne Sanders

Witch- Ricardo Carter

Vampire- Daisy Tyler

Werewolf- Tara Betz

### **GROUP B:**

Goddess- Cassandra Reynolds

Witch- Janna Korin

Vampire- Christopher Ericson

Werewolf- John Betz

### **GROUP C:**

Goddess- Ashlyn Gilbert

Witch- Hazel Carter

Vampire- Aaron Ericson

Werewolf- Cara Whitney

GROUP D:

Goddess- Tessa Davis

Witch- Margot Harriet

Vampire- Nikolas Goldberg

Werewolf- Theo Easton

I read the screen containing the names of the teams and smiled. I didn't mind my team but I felt bad for Cassie, she had to deal with Janna. It would have been better if we had Daisy but Aaron wasn't half bad.

"Okay so everyone. You know your team. Group A will be in Germany. Group B will be in Egypt. Group C, you will be in Italy. Group D, you're in Greece. I hope you read through your covers and play along. Be friendly. I know it's a challenge being with other species but it is what will help you win." Agent West announced walking out the room.

Oh well, I liked a good challenge. It made my brain tickle. Challenges made you stronger and made you thrive in your own eyes and others.

## Chapter 11

### *Fern Green: Italy*

“Every country gets the circus it deserves. Spain gets bullfights. America Hollywood. Italy the Church.” ~ERICA JON

“Bye guys,” Rea said as she got on the plane to Germany with her group.

Before Cass left for Egypt she shot us a desperate look nodding towards Janna. God, I was scared of Janna. I had to be lucky to not have her on our team.

“You ready?” Hazel asked standing next to me as we waited for our jet to land. It was weird, we had a private jet coming to pick us up.

“As I’ll ever be. But I guess we’ll all be fine. Since we don’t have Janna.” I giggled.

“Amen to that sister. Amen to that.” Cara said putting her bag down next to mine.

Eve had already left for Greece, so my group was the only one left.

“I hope all the instructions are clear. No contacting anyone unless absolutely necessary, that includes Ariana, Alexis, and Rachel. Even Ashton, Adam and Chase.” Dylan told me pointedly.

Only Dylan was here right now since the agents were busy setting up the trips

“Don’t take it lightly, because no matter what the outcome is your actions have repercussions. And at no cost are you to blow you cover. You four are going to pretend to be longtime friends since

you can't exactly pass off as siblings, who have moved to Milan together. You all have been set up at places where we suspect that supervision is necessary and act normal." He told us.

"I know you have to act older than your age, but hey, a real-life work experience." He said to me.

"As for the rest of you. Act a bit more human. Hazel, don't chant wherever you go. Aaron, don't stand so stiff, humans don't do that. Cara, don't go patrolling. It might seem necessary but it will attract attention." He warned them and then ushered us to the plane.

"Well, at least we travel in style!" Aaron said as he sat down on an oversized fluffy seat.

"But goodbye real life." Cara pouted.

"It's not always a bad thing," I said.

"The pack has a full moon party planned. They're still going to have it, we'll just miss it." She said.

"Well, we can have a party," Hazel said.

"You're forgetting the wolves turn during a full moon," Aaron said.

"Hey. Aren't wolves and vampires sworn enemies?" I asked buckling up as the pilot announced our take off.

"Which century are you talking about?" Cara teased and I raised my eyebrows in question.

"Our kinds have had a peace pact since 1259. Not that I was around back then. I'm pretty young for a vamp." Aaron said.

"Well, here's the list of things we need to look over for the missions." I frowned taking the huge stack of paper.

## **Colors of Eternity**

I handed everyone the sheets with their names and looked at my cover.

*Name: Ashlyn Teresa*

*Age: 23*

*Hair: Brown*

*Eyes: Brown*

*Height: 5'1"*

*Educational Qualification:*

*George Bush Primary School*

*Kennedy High*

*Graduated from Princeton University with Bachelor's Degree in Literature & Creative Writing*

*Job: Junior Editor at Esprimere Publication House*

*History:*

*Originally from Denver, Colorado*

*Single child*

*Grew up with her friends- Hazel Santiago, Cara Gray, and Aaron Travis*

*Extrovert*

*Fluent in English and Italian*

*Won multiple awards for writing*

*Improvise the rest.....*

*Mission Info: Demons attacks near Esprimere*

I flipped through the rest of the pages and tried to memorize what I could.

I stared at the list about me, I was so not extrovert, nor was I fluent in Italian. I haven't let anyone read anything written by me, how the hell was I award winning. I actually liked the job, though.

“Cool!” Cara’s squeal brought me out of my horrific thoughts.

“What?” I asked.

“I’m a lawyer.” She said.

“I’m an interior designer. Guess my degree does come in some use.” Hazel said.

“You have a degree in interior design?” I asked.

“Yeah, I graduated last year. Ric and I moved to ACRT when our parents died in an accident. A witch from our parent’s old coven told us about this place.” She said.

I looked at her sympathetically, I couldn’t even imagine losing my parents.

“Well, I’m an architect who is working on a project here. I had no idea I graduated Rhode Island School of Design, I didn’t even know there was a school like that.” Aaron mused obviously not paying attention to Hazel’s admission.

“You didn’t go back to school?” Haz asked, sounding grateful for the change of topic.

“At first it was because we couldn’t be around blood but later we just didn’t think it was important, you know. I mean, we don’t need money, ACRT pays us for working. We have legit government jobs. The idea of studying when you don’t need to isn’t all that inviting.” He said.

“Didn’t you want to become something?” Cara asked.

“Sure I did. I wanted to be a doctor, but I don’t see that happening.” He frowned “The bloodlust.”

“Doesn’t it get better over time?” I asked.

“Sure. I’ll try in a few centuries.” He said mockingly.

## Colors of Eternity

“So what data did they give you about the mission?” I asked, screw need-to-know-protocol.

“There are demons near my workplace,” Aaron said, guess he didn’t care ‘bout protocols either.

“Same,” Hazel said shocked.

“Guess they didn’t know much about this, ‘cause I got the same info. I bet you did too.” Cara said pointing to me.

“Well. You guys do whatever, I’m off to Lala Land.” I said nodding and curling up in my seat plugging in my headphones. I skipped the data about the speculations of conspiracy. They probably left something out too.

I looked out the window saying goodbye to the place that had become a home to me.

Cara sat with the remote in hand flipping through the channels until she came across CW.

“Put on ABC Family. Pretty Little Liars is on!” Hazel said unbuckling her belt as soon as the seatbelt signs went off.

I blocked them as they bantered about what TV show to watch and curled in a ball and went to sleep.

I couldn’t exactly comprehend if I was dreaming or what I saw was real because it could be either, the world we lived in, dreams and nightmares were real.

I looked down at the bottomless pit that gleamed with a horrifying shade of red and my heart leaped at the speed of light and I gasped trying to breathe in as much oxygen as I could. The smell made my stomach crunch in disgust, it smelled like week’s old garbage and death, at least what I assumed death smelled like because it didn’t actually have a distinct smell.

The rough wind cut through my skin like knives and made me bleed, quite literally. There was a huge gash on my collar bone. My eyes went wide when I looked at the huge animals, no monsters, rushing towards me.

I screamed and tried to run in the other direction but my feet were planted on the ground like they were bound by iron chains and I couldn't even move a muscle. My body swayed as the wind hit my body.

There was something about the weather here that seemed to cut through skin and make it bleed, it seemed poisonous.

The monstrous birds flew in my direction and one of their talons hit my face. The blood trickled down my throat.

I felt faint from the blood loss. Just as my body slumped I looked up to see an angel with shining silver wings and the whole world, well dead world, gleamed brightly.

The demons dropped one by one and I could move again.

Her hair flew in the wind as the reddish tint from the air vanished and the foul smell eradicated. The flowers bloomed making the place smell like flowers and sunlight. The sun shined across the sky so brightly that I was actually worried that it would combust of its brightness.

I ran towards the angel that floated away but she was unreachable.

I knew I was dreaming but it felt more real than everything that was happening in my life.

Without a warning, the angel jumped off the cliff.

A scream made its way out of my throat and I lurched myself at her. Her hair floated like a halo in the sky as she dropped into the pit shining like gold.

## Colors of Eternity

I quickly made my way down grabbing the rocky cliff. It wasn't until I got down that I realized that the all my wounds were gone. Not a single scar, not a drop of blood, not a single stain on the silk shirt I was wearing or on the jeans shorts.

I caught a glimpse of her running into the caves by the waterfall which was surrounded by a million flowers as the sweet honey smell made me woozy.

I crouched down and splashed my face with the cold chilling water from the fall, it was sparkling like a million diamonds.

I went in after her, this place was what mortals would call heaven. It looked like clouds and light.

A typical stereotypical heaven.

"Hello," I said though I could barely comprehend my words due to the echo.

"Daughter Samuel and Lydia. It is time you saw the truth." The voice chorused through the cave like a million wind chimes.

"Who are you?" I asked rigidly as the cold wind from the other side of the cave hit me. The place was covered by tons of vines, multi-colored vines. It all seemed too surreal.

"The human mind is oh-so-curious. There was a time when they believed what we told them, no questions asked. The gods might be above us but we angels have always been more in synch with human race than your family. To answer your question, I'm an angel." She said.

"Um, I asked who you were. Since you happen to know who I am, didn't want a history lesson or whatever lesson that was. Besides the fact you're an angel is quite clear due to the wings that stick out of you back. I asked who you are, not what you are." I said.

“Dear child. Curiosity is what will end mankind.” She said.

“Firstly, I’m not human, I’m a god. And secondly, why do people say mankind or man, females exist too you know.” I said.

“Even you have the blood of heaven coursing through your veins you were raised by mortals to be mortal, this is something new to you no matter what you might wish to think, you aren’t as experienced as your siblings, to be truthful you’re probably thinking of this as a game. But believe me, child, it is anything but. The whole world, the whole universe depends on you.” She said.

“What?” I asked.

“You and your little cousins weren’t attacked for no reason. You carry the power of heaven in your veins and to not use it wisely is to end the world.” She said.

“Can you be any vaguer?” I asked.

“Yes, in fact, I’m being as upfront as I can be.” She said.

“You said something about showing me the truth.” I prompted, whatever she said I knew I wouldn’t understand.

“Blood of heaven will perish if you shall make a choice that goes against the heavens will. The prophecy said that the blood in veins of youngest gods is so naïve that the devil can sway the ways of heaven if that shall happen, heaven would fall so deep into pits of hell that redemption shall be impossible. If you wish to protect the world you should know, you have been prophesied to be able to destroy it as easily as you can save it.” She said.

I stared at her dumbfounded. For the first time since I found out everything I wasn’t afraid of monsters, demons, but I was terrified of myself.

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“Come.” She said in a voice so firm that I followed her without a second thought. She led me through the hanging vines to a beautiful lake. At first, I saw the world as I knew it except there were no demons. No fighting Tang Hee demons on Friday nights instead of curling up with a good book. No rouge werewolves attacking innocent people and turning them, no darkness.

But all of a sudden the vision changed. The world like the one I just experienced. But the difference was that I was standing on top of a pile of bodies. Bodies of my family, my mom’s infectious smile no longer there, momma’s face so pale that white would look shades darker. Alexis’s dimpled laugh no longer plaguing my ears. Adam’s quirky facts or Ashton’s constant stupidity.

“Trust no one, even yourself.” She said as her hands surrounded my neck.

I woke up gasping for air, I knew it was a dream but it felt so damn real.

“Ash? You okay?” Cara asked and I noticed the three of them hovering over me.

“Nightmare,” I said.

“Well, get up. We already landed.” Aaron said. I looked out the window, we were in an airport.

I got up from my seat and we grabbed our luggage.

“Welcome to Milan,” Hazel said as we descended the stairs of the plane.

Well, Milan, here we come. Italy, here we come.

# ***Chapter 12***

## ***Blue Green: Demon***

“Demons are part of all our nightmares and to prove our strength we just have to overcome them.” ~ASHMITA GHOSH

We were on our way to the condominium near Parco Sempione, a beautiful park. We each had our own place but had a common room, where we'd gather.

The view got my mind off the angel that I dreamt of. I knew that unless I ask someone I'd never know who she was. I had to ask someone but I wasn't allowed to contact my family. The entire ride to the condo I debated with myself.

I mean I had no idea who she was, I couldn't exactly trust her. She tried to kill me. Hazel, Cara, and Aaron were my friends and I could trust them.

But I thought Marie was my sister and I could trust her too. I banged my head against the driver's seat.

“You alright?” Cara asked me.

“Nothing, I'll tell you later,” I said.

Hazel looked at me skeptically, I was positive she suspected something was wrong but she had no idea what it was.

“We're here, Signore e Signori.” The driver said, his thick Italian accent filling my ears, I giggled at how it sounded.

Italian was my favorite language after English.

The building was gorgeous. I looked at it admiring the vintage feel, the main gate was like carved wood. It was at least three times of my height. As soon as we entered the lobby, the

## Colors of Eternity

security guard came up to us to see proof and things like that. Aaron dealt with the security whilst we went up with our luggage.

My condo had two bedrooms with attached bathrooms and an extra bathroom for guest. There was also a balcony attached to each room and the view of Parco Sempione which was gorgeous.

The entire floor was occupied by us and the lift opened into the shared living room which was attached to a huge kitchen which I would never-ever-ever go near.

I went into the master bedroom of my condo and put my stuff in a corner before crawling into bed to get some actual sleep since in my little nap I almost died.

I probably didn't even sleep for an hour when Haz broke my dreamless slumber.

"Explain." She demanded.

"I was sleeping," I said.

"I think this counts as later." She said.

"Fine. Let's talk." I said. Before I knew it the other two came in.

"Well, why don't you two come in?" I requested sarcastically.

"What happened? You seemed really scared when you woke up in the plane." Cara said.

"I had a very vivid dream that I don't really think was a dream. There was this angel. She saved my life but in the end, she tried to strangle me. She said something about a prophecy and how we, me and my sisters, can either save the world or end it. She also told me to trust no one." I said.

"But you trusted us enough to tell us," Hazel said.

“Well, you did force it out of me.” I joked “Yeah I trust you. You guys have helped us in some way or other. You are quite trustworthy.” I smiled.

“Aww! That’s so sweet!” Aaron said in a high pitched girly voice.

“Dude, what the hell!” Cara looked at him weirdly.

“So?” Haze asked.

“I have no idea what to do,” I said defeated.

“Define her.” She said, “Each angel is special.”

“She had platinum hair and blue eyes. She had gems embedded in her head.” I said recalling the angel.

“What was the gem design like?” Cara asked.

“There were four amethyst gems and an emerald gem at the center. Then by its side, there were pale green curved lines shaping the diamond.” I said.

“Archangel Asariel.” Hazel gasped.

“Who?” I asked.

“She’s the ruler of Neptune, Ruler of the waves. She is known for dream weaving. It probably was real, whatever you saw. No one dreams of her unless she comes to them.” She said.

“So, you think they can end the world?” Aaron asked.

“I don’t know, and we can’t contact the headquarters nor can she contact the gods about what happened. Guess we’ll just have to be careful. It’s not like we aren’t capable.” Haze said.

“So you think we should do this by ourselves?” I asked, “I have to at least tell the girls, know if they had the same dream.” I said

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as I took my cell out of my pocket. “Damn, my phone isn’t charged,” I complained.

“You know they said not to contact anyone,” Cara said.

“Yes, but I think this is an emergency,” Aaron said already dialing.

“Who are you calling?” I asked.

“Chris. He’s in Cassie’s group.” He said.

“Thanks,” I said.

“What if it was just a dream? I mean maybe you saw her before and you’re just imagining it.” Cara said.

“Like I said, Asariel is Angel of Dreams, and no one can dream of her unless she is actually visiting them in their dreams,” Hazel said.

“Here you go,” Aaron said handing me his phone.

“Did you dream that too?” Cassie asked before I could even say hello.

“Yeah, apparently it’s Asariel. Do you have any idea what it could’ve meant?” I asked.

“No idea. Wait, I’ll call you from my phone. Rea called, I’ll conference Tess too.” She said hanging up and calling within minutes.

“What the hell did she mean? It’s not like we would ever do anything to hurt people!” Rea said.

“She said if we got influenced by evil,” I said.

“But that isn’t going to happen. Tess said desperately.

“Come on, we’re kids. Rea and Cassie are barely adults. She is right about one thing, if we switch alliance the world could be destroyed.” I said.

“What?” Cassie asked.

“Aria once told me that we were the strongest of the gods. Come to think of it, we could not only destroy the world we live but also the rest of the universe too.” I said.

“Well, I guess we just have to keep being us and not be evil. Tess said.

“Amen to that sister,” Rea said.

“Bye, you guys know we aren’t supposed to talk. If it’s absolutely necessary to call, otherwise don’t.” Cassie said.

“When did you get responsible?” I joked.

“I’ve always been responsible. I’m the oldest after all.” She laughed and we all said our goodbye before hanging up.

“Let me know if I can help in anyway, okay?” Hazel said.

“Sure.” I said, “I’m going to head out, look around.”

It was still light out so my trip was pleasant.

I strolled around until I reached Milan Cathedral.

I was almost back home when I heard some commotion and me being the busy body I was, went to check it out.

There was a huge man with talons coming out of his hand walking right through the brick wall. There was another guy, short, pudgy, human trying to do the same but he just stumbled back.

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He huffed and walked towards me so I quickly started walking ahead as if I saw nothing. I heard him grumble something about a demonic den in Italian, thank god I learned it, as he walked the opposite way.

As soon as the way was clear I walked back and tried walking through the ball and surprisingly enough, I could. Must be guarded against humans.

I gasped at the sight before me. The music was so loud that I could feel the vibrations, the lights were continuously flickering, and most shockingly the room was packed with vampires, werewolves, witches, and demons, many demons.

“Who are you?” I said in a demanding voice boomed next to my ears.

“Um, hello. I’m Teresa, an Ewoe Demon.” I said, they were the closest to completely human looking, Marie or Axia, her real name, was an Ewoe Demon.

“I’ve never seen you around.” He said, the monster towered over me by at least a feet and was buff, his long tail and pointy horns totally made him look demonic.

“I’ve heard that there has been some impending war coming up. Curiosity gets catches up to the worst of us.” I said whilst trying to look terrifying.

“How did you know about this place?” He said. It was only then had I noticed we weren’t at the entrance anymore, more like a private corner.

“I have my sources,” I said.

“Why should we give you a chance? Why should I not kill you and drain you of every life source you’ve stolen?” he threatened.

“Because, we want the same thing. The gods dead.” I said through clenched teeth, though he probably thought it was because of hatred towards gods, my family, but it was because I couldn’t even say such a thing.

“Why? Not many want to knock heads with them.” He said confirming my suspicions.

“The new little brats killed my sister Axia,” I growled, wow, I could act. He totally bought it.

“You know, Axia worked for with us, for him.” He said.

“Who?” I asked.

“You’ll know if you’ve proven your worth.” He said.

“I’m living with a vampire, a werewolf, and a witch, under the alias of Ashlyn Teresa working as an editor. If you want to talk to me, I’ll meet you here, tomorrow with my friend.” I said.

“Is that what you call them, friends? They are lowly monsters.” He said.

“And we’re greater monsters. But it’s easier to refer to them like that in the human world.” I said.

“Well, then.” He said turning and vanishing before I knew it.

I got out of that place as fast as I possibly could. I walked back home all the while thinking of the strange meeting I just had.

“Where were you? Aaron asked as soon as I got in.

“Nowhere,” I said. I had shared enough for a day, I needed to sleep on this.

I freshened up and crawled into bed hugging the quilt thinking of what to do next. The demon joint was really bugging me, especially because of Marie.

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Maybe we should start our research there. I closed my eyes and let sleep pull me in.

When I woke up everyone was sitting in the living room with take-out boxes.

“What do we have here?” I asked taking a seat on the beanbag.

“Sweet corn soup, bread and fortune cookies!” Aaron said with his mouth full of food.

“What a combination for breakfast.” Hazel wrinkled her nose.

“New job, huh?” Cara asked smiling.

“It’s going to be so much fun. My job is to read books all day long.” I laughed.

“Where did you go last night?” Aaron asked.

“Just walked around. I found a cool club. It was fun.” I said leaving out the demonic part. I was keeping that piece of information to myself.

“What club?” Cara eyed me suspiciously.

“I have no idea. There was a huge line in front of it.” I shrugged.

“You’re not old enough,” Hazel said.

“As of now, I’m 23,” I said.

“Fortune cookie!” Aaron said taking his one out.

“Good will rule the world.” He read out.

“Bad things will disappear.” Hazel read hers.

“Your secret will come out.” Cara paled.

“Demons surround you.” I read and looked up in horror.

“Shit!” Hazel said, “These definitely hold some meaning.”

“Well, let’s get to work people. We’re her to get things in control, good thing the demons surround us.” Aaron said.

Demons. Guess tonight I’m going back to the demonic lair again, alone.

## **Chapter 13**

### **Burgundy: Work**

“My work is a game, a very serious game” ~M. C. ESCHER

I rushed around the room gathering my things while getting ready for work. I was so excited to start working as an editor.

By the time I was ready to leave the others had already left. I looked at the clock and ran out of the house, I was late on my first day.

The office was at a walking distance from the condo and it barely took me five minutes.

“Ciao! Welcome to Esprimere Publication House. I am Céline. How may I help you?” the perky receptionist said beaming at me.

“Hi. I’m Ashlyn Teresa. I am the new Junior Editor.” I said.

“Please take I seat, I’ll be with you shortly.” She said and I went to the seating area.

The front office was a huge open room, completely furnished in white with a black carpeted floor. There was a picture on the wall near the lift that reminded me of home. There was a heavenly touch to it. I finally understood why they set me up for this job.

“Ms. Teresa,” Céline called.

“Yes?” I got up and walked towards her.

“Mr. Vouglar is expecting you.” She said leading me to the lift.

“Thank you,” I said.

“Here’s your gate pass. Use this to get access to the 16th floor. Mr. Vougler will be waiting there.” She said handing me a pass with my name and photo.

There was a soothing tune playing inside the lift and before I knew it I was on the 16th floor completely nervous about the job like I was actually starting work.

“Ms. Teresa, welcome. Wilson Vougler” An old man said. He looked around sixty but his posture clearly signified his strength. He had wrinkles around his baby blue eyes and his black hair was graying but he still looked as strong as anyone younger.

“It’s nice to finally meet you! I’ve been so excited about this job.” I said cheerily.

“I’m glad to have such a fresh mind on the team. I was quite impressed by your résumé. Magnifico!” he exclaimed.

“It’s nice to hear that.” I smiled.

“Come on follow me. Your office is right this way.” He said leading me towards a huge room. The windows were wide and the sunlight streamed in making the dust particles visible. The room smelled like lilacs.

“Perfetto” I muttered.

“Well, I did expect to hear that.” He smirked.

“So what do I have to do today?” I asked.

“Even though it’s just your first day, we’ve got a lot of manuscripts piled up. You’ll have to start working right away. I hope you’re a rapid reader. You have to select manuscripts by the end of the week and have an article for the magazine ready for the weekly magazine.” He said.

## Colors of Eternity

“That’s alright. I love reading.” I walked towards the pile of sheets.

“Well, I’ll leave you to it.” Mr. Vougler said.

After spending hours skimming through books, I came across an interesting story. The protagonist was a twenty-eight-year-old cop that got trapped on an island with a criminal mastermind. The story was based on their survival without any contact with the outside world and how they finally got out.

The thing that captivated me most about it was that the book was about our island, the one in the center of the Bermudan Triangle.

Vincent Bowman. Who was this Vincent Bowman? How did he know about our island? It couldn’t be a coincident. The way he described it was almost as if he’d been there. He knew that place extremely well, better than I did.

Even though I’d only read a couple of chapters, but the similarities were uncanny.

I quickly pulled out my iPad to google him. He seemed to be a twenty-year-old big shot architect, his firm was widespread in Italy, UK, and France and he was a big philanthropist.

I saw someone coming towards my office from the corner of my eye and quickly closed the page.

I got back to reading when a petite blonde girl with excited gray eyes knocked on my door.

“Hi. Come on in.” I said with a smile.

“Hey, I’m Portia ilCingo. I see you’ve already started working. So, you want to grab some lunch, it’s a little late.” She said politely.

“Sure, let me just put this aside,” I said keeping everything in place.

On our way down I noticed a small room, the only room with a metal door. It stood out like a sore thumb in this beautiful office, I mean even the washrooms are awesome, it smelled like vanilla and lilac.

“What’s in there?” I asked Portia pointing to the room.

“Where?” She asked as if she didn’t see the room leading me out of the building towards a small café. All through lunch, my mind kept going back to the room that she couldn’t see or acted like she couldn’t and to Mr. Bowman. Portia kept chattering filling me in about everything at the office not noticing my diverted attention.

“So, last Christmas we had this party, Mr. V, as usual, forgets the date and dresses up as an Ogre thinking it’s Halloween. He’s a good boss. Hilarious!” She said.

“We should head back,” I said getting jittery. I wanted to check the room out.

“Yeah, I have to get back to work.” She said and paid the bill even though I argued but she said it was my welcome treat.

As soon as I was back in my office I kept a look out to see who went into that room. After about an hour a buff man went in, stumbling as he went in. I kept peering over the manuscripts looking at the door. Fifteen minutes later he came back out shoving something shiny into his back pocket, I’d guess a knife, it could be a paper cutter...

The carvings on the back proved it wasn’t a paper cutter, it had a demonic symbol.

## Colors of Eternity

As soon as he was out of sight I rushed to the door, using a bit of magic to unlock the room. It was completely empty, black, like a void. I'd consider it to be a black hole. As I was about to walk out I backed into a wall.

Damn! Invisible! It felt like a table so I tried to find the drawers. The first one I opened was full of papers. I quickly took some pictures. Just as I was about open another drawer, I heard footsteps. I clumsily put everything back in its place.

Just as I was about to leave the man came back.

"Who are you? What are you doing here?" he demanded gruffly.

"Hi! I'm Ash! I'm the new Junior Editor." I said faking a cheerful smile.

"I meant in this room." He glared.

"Oh! I got lost. You see it's my first day here and I barely know my way around here. I was looking for the copy room, I need to make some copies of a few documents and I thought this was it. Though why does this room even exist? I mean it's completely empty. It's silly to get so worked up about an empty room don't you think. So what's your name? How long have you been here?" I ranted.

"Get out. And don't come back." He glared practically pushing me out.

"Rude," I muttered. I probably blew my cover. I mean Portia couldn't see the room, so it might be for supernatural eyes only. Dang!

When I got home that evening, the others were already there.

"Anything to report?" Cara asked.

“I came across a weird room with absolutely nothing in it!” I said, surprising myself and them. Why did I lie?

“And that’s something to share?” she asked.

“I don’t think so. But that’s the weirdest thing that happened today.” I lied again leaving out the manuscript.

“Well, my boss seems to be a shady character and there are a few people I suspect at work.” Aaron started and I wanted to tell him to shut up. What was up with me? We were supposed to work together, not keep things from each other! Well, we kind of were, pieces of a puzzle.

“Well. I have a case to get back to.” Cara said getting up.

“Do we order something for dinner?” Hazel asked.

“Pizza,” Aaron said while watching Sherlock on Netflix.

Hazel ordered the food and went back to her Grimoire, skimming through spells to help track the people we’re trying to find.

I just sat there processing what was happening. Why was I keeping things from my friends? Who Vincent Bowman? What was that room? Who was that man?

I was brought out of my thought by when the food arrived and went down to pay for the food.

Dinner was a quiet affair, with everyone doing their work while eating.

After dinner, I went to my condo to look through the pictures I took. At first, I couldn’t understand anything so I transferred them to my computer and blew it up before printing it.

They seemed to be written in Hebrew and fortunately there was this thing called the internet. They were ancient prophecies. Most of them revolved around me and my sisters, how we were

## Colors of Eternity

fated to destroy all, how we could lose our lives if we protected the people we loved... There were things about the demons wanting to take over. I didn't understand some blueprints. What could they be?

I sighed hiding the papers and going to sleep early. It had been a long day.

Days turned into weeks and weeks turned into months, it was March before I knew it. I had been visiting the den regularly trying to find something.

The next few months had been a disappointing. After that first day, it was impossible to get into the room and I couldn't search for more information. I kept feeling more and more on edge at home, I still hadn't figured out why. There had been no new discoveries on the Bowman front, he was perfectly normal.

As usual, I decided to hit the demonic den, a lot earlier than my regular time, which was after everyone went to sleep.

I managed to convince the others that I was going out with Portia, I did tell her that I told them so telling her I just wanted to get away from my annoying roommates for a while.

I remembered how crazy my first experience here was. Scary. I walked through the wall into the noisy club.

I walked around the club quietly observing everything trying not to get noticed, as if my luck would ever have that.

"You're Teresa, Axia's sister!" a tall lady said. I tried not to stare at her, she had gold color skin. Karman Demon. Each demon had a different colored skin, the gold skin was unusual for them. Gold was a symbol of purity and their skin represented their strongest feature.

"Yeah." I realizing she was waiting for me to say something.

“I’m Jennifer, Jenni.” She said.

“Hi...” the way she behaved kind of shocked me. She seemed almost human!

“I know who you are.” She whispered into my ear.

“What? I have no idea what you’re talking about.” I said panicking.

“Don’t worry. I’m not going to out you. I want to help you. You see I was raised by humans. They’re planning on ending human race after killing your family. I’m in their inner circle. I can help you, they trust me.” she said.

“How’d you get in the inner circle?” I asked curiously.

“Well, you see the person who started this is my biological father. Somehow, he trusts me. Poor judgment on his part.” She said.

“Thank you,” I said.

She took me to the backroom where they were supposed to meet. The room had at least fifty demons, fifty just in Milan. How many were there?

“Father. I want you to meet our new recruit. She’s Axia’s sister.” Jennifer said.

“Axia didn’t have a sister.” The leader said looking at me suspiciously. His pitch black skin left no doubt about him being evil.

“She didn’t share much about her personal life,” I said.

“Yeah, she barely talked to anyone,” Jenni said.

“You trust her?” he asked his daughter.

## **Colors of Eternity**

“She saved my life.” Jenni lied.

“Well then, welcome.” He said but before I could react or say anything a Demonic Leach jumped on me.

Who knew that trying to work separately to get answers would put me in so much danger?

# **Chapter 14**

## ***Pink: Party***

“Sometimes parties can help get over the disappointment called life.”

~ASHMITA GHOSH

I tried to get the demon off me but it clung to my skin, teeth digging into my skin. I remembered studying about them in Demonology.

I took a deep breath calming myself looking around the room. No one was moving, everyone was carefully noticing my movements, everyone except Jenni. She was frantically yelling her father to get this beast off me. This was a test. They wanted to see if I worthy of being in their cult. Pass or die.

I punched my hand into the demon's abdomen and its grip on me loosened. I bent down getting away from the demon. It didn't kill the demon, just made it angrier.

I knew the only way to kill it was ripping its cold dark heart out and crushing it but the layers of skin were going to be hard to get through.

I closed my fist and just as it came to attack me again I thrust my hand through its body and ripped its two-chambered heart out crushing it seeing the demon crumble into dust.

“Bravo!” the head said, “I'm Jovan.” So that's his name.

“Was that really necessary?” Jenni asked.

“Yes.” The two of us, Jovan and I said. I'd proved myself to him.

“Now. You know why we are here?” he asked.

“We're planning on taking those useless gods down,” I replied.

## Colors of Eternity

“Good. We’ve got news of those snoopy little ACRT brats being here.” he glowered.

“How long do you think they’ve been here?” I asked.

“Well, a few months. One of our members caught one of the in the secret room at Esprimere.” He said.

“Well, why don’t we find them and end them. Can’t Damian attack her at work?” a demon said.

“Yeah make it real painful.” Another one chimed in.

“Actually, even if they’re actually here, this Damian guy didn’t meet them. It was me who he found. I got that job as a pretense. When I saw that mere humans couldn’t see that room I thought it was the Angels. But there was nothing in the room.” I twisted the truth. I mean, Damian, would recognize me at some point.

“She can help Damian with the plans,” Jenni suggested.

“We don’t know if we can trust her. I’ve seen her here before.” The demon I encountered last time said.

“We can. I’ve been following her for a while, and besides, she saved my life. One of the ACRT agents almost killed me.” Jenni protested.

“She’ll help Damian. I’ve had demons keep an eye on her too every night in the club.” Jovan announced. After hours of arguing and planning, we finally left. Just as I was about to leave I heard whispers.

“Well, can we really trust her?” the same demon asked. He had long talons that seemed razor sharp and my heart thudded in fear of what was to come if he decided I wasn’t trustworthy.

“I don’t know Jonathan. But Damian will keep an eye on her. Jennifer is always right about others. She trusts Axia’s sister. I

don't trust her but we can give her a chance. Let her prove herself." Jovan said.

I managed to get home without getting interrogated about my whereabouts.

I was deep in thought, I knew I was in deep and the smallest mistakes could get me killed. When I reached home everyone was there.

They were just sitting down for dinner, I was starving. I grabbed a plate and joined them

"Didn't you eat out?" Cara asked.

"No, we were just hanging out." I shrugged.

"Guys. Do any of you have any plans tomorrow morning?" Aaron asked whilst eating.

"I've got a court meeting," Cara said.

"I'm free. Ash doesn't have work tomorrow." Hazel said.

"Well, there's a party at my office. I thought you guys might want a chance to scope things out yourself." He said.

"Yeah sure. We could use a party. We can check the suspects out." I shrugged.

"Well, I'm drained. I'm going to go to bed early. Night." I said going to my condo locking up before finding the medicine cabinet. The wounds had mostly healed so I just cleaned the blood and dressed the wound for the night. Thanks to my cloaking of the wounds, no one noticed.

My room was a mess. I'd been trying to figure out what those blueprints meant, I finally figured out. They were attack plans on my family, not exactly what they were doing, one aspect of it.

## Colors of Eternity

I had managed to get Jenni's cell number so I called her and told her about tomorrow's plan.

"What if I run into someone from your Jovan's organization? They'd tell him and my cover would be blown." I panicked.

"Hey. Axia was known to befriend mere creatures like vampire and witches. It won't surprise anyone if you're seen with them. In fact, your cover would be more efficient and they'd be safer after being seen with you. You're in Jovan's trusted circle." She said.

"Why is he so easy to trust?" I asked.

"People know better to cross him. He assumes that you won't be stupid enough to betray his trust. Trust me. You're safe." She said.

"Okay. Just keep giving me pointers on what to do." I joked.

"Be at the Fear#ub by seven for another meeting next Friday night. You and Damian start organizing the attack plan from Monday." She got serious.

"Fear#ub?" I asked.

"Fearhub, they changed the h with a #, it's the demonic club." She said.

"Oh. I've been calling it the Demonic Den." I laughed.

"You're such a child sometimes." She laughed.

"I'm only a teenager!" I said defensively.

"Well, teenager, I'll see you later." She said as we got off the phone.

I went back to the manuscript I was editing. I'd finished with the one about our island long ago and had another one to edit but I

couldn't get it out of my mind. Vincent Bowman! Vincent Bowman! Who the hell was he?

I needed to track him down and find out who he was.

As usual, my nights were plagued with nightmares. I could barely sleep these days. I woke up heaving from the latest nightmare barely holding it together.

I needed to talk to my family. I hadn't talked to any of them after the Asariel incident but it was important now that I was so close to the truth.

I was so sure I was going to crack under the pressure. I missed the days when school was the most of my worries. I missed ACRT. I missed sleeping at night knowing things were going to be alright. I've never been this unsure about anything.

"Why can't my life be simple?" I huffed and screamed into the pillow. It was almost three in the morning when I finally went to sleep. I needed sleep!

I woke up the loud alarm at seven in the morning just in time for my morning run. I was sad, not sick.

I was running laps around the park when I noticed Damian standing there eyeing me suspiciously. I ran towards him, if we had to work together we might as well try being civil.

"Teresa." He greeted coldly.

"Damian. I assume Jovan told you." I said.

"You better not be lying about the job." He warned.

"And risk my life. I value it too much to betray Jovan. And I will avenge my sister." I lied.

"You didn't find anything in the room?" he asked suspiciously.

## Colors of Eternity

“Not a thing, it was empty. I already told Jovan. I went in there because I thought it belonged to the gods, I had no idea it was his. Though, an empty room is silly,” I said.

“It’s not empty. There is more to it than meets the eye. You’ll see. Be there at noon on Monday.” He said vanishing in thin air. Of course, no one could see that there was a glamor.

I caught a glimpse of Cara on the other side of the park talking to a demon. I was expecting her to rip her to pieces. I ran towards her to stop her from causing a scene. But I was wrong. She shook hands with the demon and walked away.

She’s probably doing the same thing as me.

After that, I decided it was useless to think I could continue, so I decided to go home.

It was a tedious task finding something to wear. I had no fancy dresses here, only casual and office wear. After an hour of pooling through my closet, I finally found something that I could wear to a party.

A light colored summer dress seemed to fit the occasion.

Both Aaron and I were ready in time but Hazel took so damn long just to get dressed. We were half an hour late because of her.

The party was filled with people. It was held on the rooftop of the firm. It was a perfect day for an outdoor party. There was a soft blowing wind. It was so calming.

People were chattering around the room. I grabbed a flute of champagne and walking around aimlessly scoping for demons. That’s when I spotted him. Mr. Bowman. In person, he seemed familiar, he had the exact same shade of red hair as Rachel, which was rare, hell only she had that! He looked familiar, something I hadn’t noticed in the pictures.

I hurried to find Aaron in the crowd of people.

“Aaron. Who’s that?” I asked.

“That’s my boss. The guy I said was a little strange.” He said.

“Why? Do you think he might be one of the...” he trailed off.

“No. He knows something even they don’t know, introduce me to him.” I said.

We walked over to Vincent Bowman, he was talking to a few of the guests.

“Mr. Bowman. This is my friend, Ashlyn Teresa. Ash, this is my boss, Vincent Bowman.” Aaron said.

“Hello. It’s nice to meet you.” He said, his British accent clearly distinct.

“I’ve been dying to meet you in person. I just finished editing your book. I believe you’ve received the edited copy via Mr. Vouglar.” I smiled.

“Yes. I did. I’m quite thankful that you picked my book.” He said.

“It was intriguing. I mean a cop and a criminal stuck on an island. The way you showed the inner thoughts of a criminal. And the reasons for the wrong doings. Their friendship and how the cop stood up for the con after getting out,” I said, actually listing things I liked about it. I didn’t just choose that because I wanted to know how this guy knew about our home, it was a good book.

“Thank you.” He blushed.

“I wanted to ask one thing. The island..” I didn’t have to finish the sentence to see him freezing “Where did you get the inspiration?” I asked.

“Well, I... it just came to me.” he said nervously.

## Colors of Eternity

“Somehow I don’t believe that. So. How do you know?” I asked straight out. I couldn’t keep it in. I just had to ask. The expression on his face was priceless.

“How do you know?” he retorted.

“Well. I asked first.” I said stubbornly.

“Well, I used to live there.” He said.

“How is that possible?” I asked.

“There’s an island there.” He said.

“But only the gods live there,” I said and his eyes widened. Oops.

“Not only do you know about the island, you know about them too?” he asked surprised.

“Yes, of course, I know about them,” I said. I knew he wasn’t a demon. No demon can set foot on our island.

“How?” he asked.

“Well. I’m one.” I whispered really fast.

“You’re Uncle Sam and Aunt Lydia’s youngest daughter!” he exclaimed. Not loud enough that everyone heard. Just me.

“Uncle? Aunt? I know all my cousins.” I said.

“Well, they probably don’t mention me. Four of us went undercover a few years ago. It was decided not to tell anyone for your own safety. If you need any help. I’m here little cousin.” He smiled.

I was too shocked to react.

“Explain in details,” I said.

“Not now. It’s too public.” He said.

“How do I know I can trust you? And four of you?” I asked wearily.

“Ask Reanne. She’d know. She would only know about Rover and me, by the way, my name is Rodger. She’d be unaware about Chloe, Cassie’s sister and Tyler, Tess’s brother.” He said.

“But Tess is an only child,” I argued.

“No, that’s what you think. Tyler is the same age as Ariana. Chloe and Ashton are almost the same age, always so competitive. And Rover and I are twins, three years younger than Rach.” He said.

“How can I trust you?” I asked again.

“Ask Rea. Or maybe your siblings. Call me when you confirm. I’ll help.” He said giving me his card. I was in shock all the way home. I decided I couldn’t stay so I told Hazel that I was taking off.

As soon as I got home I called Adam, the only one that wouldn’t lie.

“Ash. Why are you calling? It’s dangerous!” he exclaimed.

“Adam. Who is Rodger?” I asked.

“So, you met him. Should’ve figured. He is Reanne and Rachel’s brother, they have another brother.” He said.

“Rover. So it’s true. Chloe and Tyler exist too.” I finished his sentence.

“Rodger always had a big mouth. So how is he?” Adam asked.

“A billionaire,” I said and Adam asked.

## Colors of Eternity

“Now that you’ve called, would you mind filling me in? I’d like to know how your mission is going.” He said.

With that, I filled him in on me going behind their backs and doing a thing on my own.

“Be safe. I know it’s dangerous. You’re probably doing this because deep inside you know you can’t trust them.” He said.

“I do trust them.” I defended my friends, not completely trusting my own words.

“Even if you do. Keep this to yourself until you’re sure as to why you feel it’s necessary to keep it a secret, and please be safe.” He said.

We kept the conversation short so it didn’t bring up suspicion.

Well, guess the party wasn’t half bad. I met my cousin!

# Chapter 15

## Silver: Howls

"When the moon is at its brightest, you shall face the darkest of the part of the night and hear a howling chorus through the darkness of the night." ~ASHMITA GHOSH

*'Ash' a voice whispered. I turned around looking for the source. My dreams were creeping me out. This room was coal black with absolutely no light whatsoever. And then all of a sudden the room lit up and an angel arrived.*

*This time I knew who it was, Archangel Michael.*

*"Don't trust anyone, your foes hid behind a friend, your choices will affect not only you child." He said.*

*"What do you mean?" I asked.*

*"You know, deep inside who to trust and who not to." He said.*

*"No I don't," I said.*

*"Look at what's in front of you. Open your eyes," he said.*

*"My eyes are open!" I said walking toward the window that suddenly appeared.*

*"Night sky shines with a lie,*

*Trust in it and you may die.*

*Night sky shines bright with the moon,*

*Doom you shall face soon." He said as I gazed at the moon. It did have glare like look.*

*I fell down what seemed to be an endless hole and ended up in a forest, running. There were shrieks, howls, hisses of pain.*

## Colors of Eternity

*I could hear someone running behind me. I pushed my feet faster, I had to get away.*

*The thud was loud, clearly, the predator was a wolf. But wolves were our allies, Cara was my friend.*

*Something hit me from the back and I fell to the ground, the white furred wolf growled into my face and I flinched at its stinky breath, that and fear of course. Its teeth were bared out as if it was about to bite me.*

*Its green eyes were filled with malice, I was sure it was Cara. But it couldn't be, Cara was sweet, nothing like the rest of them.*

*Suddenly the scene changed and I was in a clearing. The wolves stood in a line with a demon standing amongst them, none of them attacking. Poor Theo lay dead in the middle of the room.*

*"He doesn't know, some morals are too strong to mess with even when you turn into monsters," Alexis said.*

*"Lexi! What are you doing here? Why didn't you just tell us before? I told Cara about my dream. How does Theo not know? How many wolves know?" I asked.*

*"My dear, it's not like I actually knew it before you left. It was after you left that the Angels found out, and well, they contacted you. You're good. You will save us. We believe in you lil'sis. The four of you are pure as an angel. And the only reason I'm able to contact you without any danger is because of the Angels. Not all wolves know, very few do, and unfortunately two of the wolves with you, except the poor boy that lies dead in your dream and another are with Amago. They've been selecting power hungry wolves. It all happened under our noses and we never knew." She said.*

*"But Cara, she's not ferocious," I argued.*

*“Sweetie, it’s called acting, quite a mortal term.” She said. “Now that you know you can’t trust them, try not to make them suspicious, I liked your plan, by the way.” She said.*

*“Well, we’re one member down, it’s harder,” I said.*

*“You’ll do it.” She whispered and I jolted awake.*

I freshened up and got ready for work.

I walked out of my condo to the kitchen to get some coffee as Cara was heading out. I forced myself to smile at her.

“Off to work?” she asked.

“You bet! So where are you headed this early.” I asked.

“I just wanted to run for a bit.” She said showing her phone.

“Well, have fun,” I said.

As soon as she left I screamed to wake the other two up.

“What?” Hazel asked coming out yawning.

“I have news,” I said.

“Well, what is it? I was having a very good dream!” Aaron snapped baring his fangs at me jokingly.

“We should wait for Cara,” Hazel said.

“About that.....” I started biting my nails.

“What?” she sat alert.

“I had another reality dream thing. We can’t trust her. I think subconsciously I’ve suspected for a while.” I said.

The looks on their faces were heartbreaking, I knew what they were feeling, and I had felt the same thing when I found out but I knew I couldn’t let it affect me.

## Colors of Eternity

I couldn't go back to being the person I became when I found out about Marie and that scared me.

I was strong. I would stay strong, even if it killed me inside. Why did people always betray me?

I shook those awful thoughts out of my head.

"What are you talking about?" Aaron asked.

"Last night I had a vision dream, the most of the wolves are working with demons. And I found a demonic hub nearby." I said.

"What? That can't be right." Hazel said. Haz had been friends with Cara since she came to the institute.

"We can't take a risk," Aaron said.

"I found into this demon den when we first came here, that is the best way to infiltrate the demonic world, they are planning something big, against us. I have no idea why I didn't tell you sooner, but I've been undercover for a while." I said.

Then all of a sudden a vase came towards my face, I barely ducked in time.

I looked around the room to find it all in a hazard.

"What was that?" I asked Hazel.

"Sorry, I haven't perfected witchcraft yet, emotions control our magic." She shrugged.

"Well, we have to get to work. Let's meet up after work at the café around the corner." Aaron suggested

"I can't come. I have to meet up with a demon at twelve at work. Part of the undercover mission." I said explaining everything to

them. Somehow I didn't mind sharing with these two. It was Cara I was subconsciously keeping everything from.

"So, you managed to get on the inner circle in two months?" Hazel asked.

"I've been a regular visitor. Last week Jenni approached me and this all happened. Aaron, mind asking your boss to contact me? I lost his card." I said.

"Why do you want to talk to my boss? Is he a demon?" he asked.

"No. He's my cousin Rodger." I said.

"The God of Mortality?" Hazel asked.

"If you know who he is then why didn't you recognize him? I'd never met him but he looked familiar." I said.

"Gods don't fraternize with us. They prefer isolation. They vanished from the history books a few years ago and everyone was asked not to mention them, ever." Aaron said.

"Well tell him I talked to Adam, I believe him. And ask him to meet us here later." I said.

"What if Cara comes?" Hazel asked.

"I'll make sure she doesn't," I said.

I decided to grab a coffee on my way to work and meet up with Jenni.

"So what happened? You said it was urgent." She said as she slid into the booth.

"Cara, my werewolf *friend* turned out a snitch. I need you to keep her occupied. Give her a job or something. I'm pretty sure she works for your dad." I said.

## Colors of Eternity

“Maybe I can send her out of town on some kind of a mission. And she does work for my father.” She said.

“A warning would’ve been welcome,” I said.

“Well, I wasn’t completely sure, I mean I know the werewolves are my father’s personal guard dogs but I didn’t know you had a wolf friend.” She said.

“Who’s Amago?” I asked remembered what Lexi said.

“Shhh! Where did you hear that name?” she said in a whisper.

“My sister. Now, who?” I asked.

“He is the person my father is going to resurrect by draining all of your blood. By that, I mean all gods.” She said.

“Why does your father want him back?” I asked.

“A long time ago when the universe was nothing but a blob when nothing existed, Demons did. My father and Amago were one of the first. He was said to be a mystic and didn’t have a body, he seemed to be a spirit. They weren’t bad, how can you be bad when there is no reason to be. I’m sure you’ve heard of Kie, they tend to leave the rest out, consider her a goddess. Demons exist because of her. If she hadn’t created the world, there would be no good or bad. Demons exist because of envy.” She said.

“What?” I asked confused.

“When Kie created the world she refused to give anything to the others. She was the sole ruler. The envy made the others crack, that is how demons became bad. A simple petty fight came to be such a big horror. They captured land after land, which is why each world has its own demons. They created demonic realms and have been attacking the gods since it happened.” She said.

“Wow,” I said mesmerized by the story. I could literally imagine how it might have been. No one had told me the demonic part of the stories.

When I reached the office it was eleven. I had about an hour before I had to meet with Damian. I decided to kill time writing my article.

I had to write an article on the average American life.

I reminisced the past remembering all the silly things I did. The fun I had with the few friends I had.

By the end of the hour, I'd managed to draft a rough sketch of my article. It was twelve so I couldn't start writing it right now.

Damian was waiting for me outside the door.

“You're late.” He glowered.

I looked at my watch and scowled. I was only two minutes late.

“Get inside.” He barked.

This time the room was different. There was a light, a dim one, but you could see things, even the invisible drawers.

“You read through those files and organize the data according to date.” He said.

“I thought we were going to make plans,” I said.

“We don't make any plans, we organize the data, and Jovan decides the attack plan. We follow, though. These were battle strategies used by demons over the years.” He said.

“So, what do you do here?” I asked.

“None of your business.” He said.

## Colors of Eternity

“If we’re going to sit around looking through papers, we might as well talk.” I shrugged.

“Do what you’re asked to. No questions.” He rebuked.

Whatever. If he wasn’t giving me data, I had to get it myself.

I took a deep breath and used a spell I’d learned from a witch at ACRT. I froze the room.

I got up and took his ID card. He worked at the Accounts Department. I went back to the papers and took my sweet time clicking pictures of all the things in the room.

When I was done, I went back to my place and unfroze everything.

The demon didn’t even notice. He carried on as if not a single second had passed.

After finishing off there I went back to work and finished my article.

I took the article to Mr. V’s room, knocking on his door. When he didn’t answer for a while I went in anyway.

The sight in front of me was horrifying.

Mr. V lay on the floor with a demon holding a dagger over his chest.

“How do you know him?” she asked.

“Wh....o?” he stuttered.

“The god. Dominique & William’s son.” She sneered.

“I d-on’t kn-ow who yo-u’re ta-lki-ng abo-ut. Go---ds don--’t exist.” He cowered in fear.

“Lie!” she screeched and attacked him. Neither of them was aware of my presence in the room so when I tackled her, it shocked them.

She only managed to scratch him but it was poisonous. I used magic to suffocate her and watched her cling to her throat as she crumbled down meeting her death.

As soon as she was dealt with I rushed to Mr. V.

“What are you?” he moved away from me.

“Someone who just saved your life,” I said. “You need to come with me,” I said

“I’m not going anywhere with you until you explain this to me!” he said.

“I’m Ashlyn Gilbert. Samuel and Lydia’s daughter. I’m a goddess. The thing I just saved you from was a demon. Now if you don’t come with me, the poison would spread through you and you’ll die.” I said. That was enough to get him to come with me.

As we walked towards the condo, I heard a wolf howl. Cara.

## **Chapter 16**

### **Red: Argument**

“Every friendship needs an argument just to see how stable it is.” ~UNKOWN

As we walked towards the condo I kept an eye out for anyone who could've been watching. By the time we got back rain was pouring heavily. Mr. V was barely conscious as I dragged him to safety.

Rodger was already there waiting in the living room. The moment I got off the elevator Hazel rushed towards me.

“What happened?” she asked frantically.

“He was attacked by a Demon, I managed to save him but he knows,” I said.

“Are you sure he's not one of them? Who is he?” Aaron asked.

“That Wilson Vouglar, Editor in Chief of Esprimere. I've had eyes and ears all over Milan for years. As far as I know, he is a mortal.” Rodger said.

Before Hazel could even try healing him, Rodger managed to heal him.

He knew heavenly magic. He could do anything flawlessly. I needed to learn that, it was unfair that most people in my family could do that.

“I'll go put him in my guest room so we can discuss everything,” Aaron said taking Mr. V with him.

“Why don't you fill me in on your progress?” Rodger asked.

“Well, the day we came here, I found a demonic den. I started going there on a regular basis. A little while ago, the demonic ringleader's daughter, Jennifer, came up to me and said she'd help.” I said.

“Why would she do that?” he asked confused.

“She has an attachment to humans, she was raised by humans. And I know that because I did a background check. I'm not stupid.” I said as Aaron came in.

“How'd the meeting with the demon go?” Hazel asked.

“You had a meeting with a demon?” Rodger asked worriedly. God, why were all my siblings so over protective?

“Well, that day, I was told to work with a Woques Demon named Damian, who works in my office, with some plans. I thought it was the plan of attack, but it's a collection of every battle strategy they've ever used. I managed to get pictures of all of them.” I said taking my phone out of my pocket.

“Trojan War,” Rodger said looking at one of the pictures.

“How many of these were you around for?” Hazel asked.

“Well, I was there during the Trojan War, of course. I was there in the Orion War. The invasion from the Scorpios Weskelia, Urvai War, Tsucon War. It's a long list. I wasn't there during Karmian war. It was around eight thousand years ago, Ariana was a child back then. The Portherial war was about twenty thousand years ago. There have been so many wars, most of them aren't even a part of the human mythology.” He said.

“So, what should we do? I mean, I don't think they actually trust me. This thing isn't going to work for too long.” I said.

“Try to get as much information as you can by the end of the week, then we take action, we head back to base,” Rodger said.

## Colors of Eternity

We were planning on how to send a message home about our discoveries when Mr. V came rushing of the room frantically screaming.

“Calm down,” Hazel said using magic to calm his nerves.

“What is happening?” he demanded.

“Mr. Vougler, you need to believe me when I say we’re not the bad guys. We’re trying to protect you.” I said.

“Who are you?” he asked scared.

“Like I told you yesterday, I’m a goddess. So is my cousin over here. Hazel is a witch, and Aaron is a vampire. We came here to find the people threatening not only us but the world too. It would be really helpful if you calm down and hear us out.” I said.

“You’re one of them?” he asked Rodger.

“Rodger, the God of Mortality.” He said.

“You have ten minutes to explain or else I’ll have to inform the police.” He said.

“You can’t do that. Our cover will be blown. What we’re trying to do is protect the world. It’s our responsibility. Please. You saw that thing that tried to kill you. That was a demon. They’re everywhere. Even at your office. The guy in accounts, Damian, he is a demon. There are so many more of them.” I said.

“Why are they trying to kill me?” he asked.

“You were seen with me. That makes you a valuable informer. If you refused to cooperate, even if the reason were the fact you don’t actually know him, it would result in your death. Even if you did tell them, you’d die. Life, human or angelic, anything pure means nothing to them. They’d rather the world be empty than be lesser than others.” Rodger said.

“So, you’re trying to say that they will try to kill me again?” he asked.

“Yes, but we can help. All you have to do is listen to us. We did save your life after all. Human life means something to us.” Hazel said.

“What should I do?” he asked sitting down. I felt bad for him. I don’t think that much stress is good for someone of his age.

“You can’t go back to your life, not now. Letting them assume you’re dead is your best option.” Aaron said.

“But I should at least inform that I won’t be going to work tomorrow.” He argued.

“Nothing says ‘I’m dead’ better than telling people you’re going on a vacation,” Rodger said sarcastically.

“He’s right. You can’t go home either.” I said.

“Where am I supposed to stay?” he asked.

“You can stay with Aaron,” Hazel said.

“No. Cara will be back soon.” I reminded.

“He’ll stay with me,” Rodger said. “It’s the safest option. I am the most experienced here, being a god and all.” He smirked.

“If you don’t show up then people will talk and the demons will think you were killed. Of course, they’d check your place first, to see if you’re hiding in fear.” I say.

“You sure it’s going to work?” he asked and I nodded even though I wasn’t sure. He needed to believe he was safe. And we’d make sure he was.

*A volte l'illusione della sicurezza è sufficiente per mantenere al sicuro.*

## Colors of Eternity

*Sometimes the illusion of safety is enough to keep you safe.*

After Mr. V and Rodger left I went into my condo and started looking through the battle plans. There were so many things they could be planning, they could be playing me like I was playing them.

To me, the most probable plan was attacking when we least expected it. Even if I don't have enough information as to what they were going to do, I had to get out before they figured me out.

Otherwise, everything would be useless. Maybe I could fake my death. Have Rodger act like he killed me.

The sun started to rise by the time I was done going through everything. I combed through each little thing making sure not a single piece of information was ignored. I needed to be thorough.

It was weird going into work that day. Everyone was talking about Mr. Vougler not coming in. When I met up with Damian that day, he had a vindictive smile on his stupid demonic face. He wanted Mr. V dead.

Well, buddy, overconfidence was a curse. The worst thing about demons was their boastfulness. They were too sure of themselves and they were stupid.

They believed what they saw. They didn't believe they could fail even though they do every damn time.

Never has well lost. Good always conquers evil.

"There is a werewolf Jovan wants you to attend to today. She will be waiting for you in an alley. She is on the inside, the gods think that she is working for them. She has some information about the gods here. Some of them have set base in Germany

and Egypt, I think a group is in Greece.” Damian said bringing me out of my thought.

Damian handed me a note with the exact location of the alley.

“Kay,” I said. Damn, I had to see Cara. I knew I was going to be under a charm so she doesn’t recognize me, others will see me but she’d see someone she’s never met before.

“So, what do you think happened to Mr. Vougler?” I asked.

“Well, he got what he deserved, what any human deserved. We took care of him.” Damian said walking out making my blood boil at the Demons perception of human life.

Human life was a precious thing. Something that was pure and innocent to what evils actually existed in this world. To the monsters, that wanted them dead.

Those poor beings always ended up as collateral damage.

I thought of a face Cara had never seen, my dead Aunt Sally. She never knew her and there was no one to recognize. It would be a perfect way of keeping things I don’t want Jovan to know from him and at the same time keep a check on Cara.

Aunt Sally died when she was twenty-five to it would fit in perfectly with my cover. Cara thinks the person she is about to meet is in her twenties.

If they think they’re beating us, they’ve got something big coming their way. No one threatens my family and gets away with it.

I didn’t face any other demons that day. It was nice to read for a while. Portia came by during lunch to see if I wanted to go out so I decided I could take a break. The time away was good for me. I felt better after a stroll in the park without a demonic encounter.

## Colors of Eternity

I was reading Rodger's book again, hoping to find something I missed when I came across a weapon.

The Orbalin.

Rodger wrote in detail about a beautiful flower that intoxicated anyone who smelled it, he never mentioned the name but the description fit perfectly. No one but the purest of the heart can harness its magic. It was the flower of heaven. I studied about it at ACRT, this flower had the powers of heaven.

It was considered a myth. It is said to have the power to control the universe, and just one petal could vanquish an evil. The key to our victory.

I decided I'd discuss it with him later. I had an old friend to catch up with.

I decided to go home to inform the others of my impending visit to see Cara so they'd be aware of what was happening.

"We have to go too," Hazel begged.

"I can't glamor two of you. And neither can you. No offense, you don't possess that kind of magic." I argued.

"We'll be hidden," Aaron said.

"It's risky!" I exclaimed.

"Maybe you're the one hiding something." He accused.

"How can you even say that?" I said.

"Well, let us come along then." Hazel pleaded.

"What would you do?" I asked.

"Well, for starters, we'd see proof of her betrayal. It'd ease any doubt we have. Second, you're not undefeatable. Don't act like

you are. You need back-up. No matter what you are, don't overestimate yourself." He said.

"Aaron. You're forgetting, I'm a goddess!" I exclaimed.

"That doesn't mean she can't kill you. She can. She can rip your throat and tear your body into pieces." He yelled.

"Ash, I know you're not used to working with anyone other than your sisters, but there is a reason we were asked to work together. You need us. You know that too. We're just trying to help. It doesn't make you weak if you just get some help. Please trust us." She pleaded.

"But I'm not going to attack her. I'm just going to talk. That's all. It's not like she'll try to kill a *demon*. That's who she was told she was meeting. Come on, you know it is not that I don't trust you, or that I don't believe that I can die. I know I can. If I didn't trust you, wouldn't I have gone to see her without telling you? I do trust you." I argued.

"We're coming," Aaron said stubbornly.

"You're not. You don't get it. This is dangerous. I'm doing this because it's in my blood. You have no obligation to risk your lives for mine." I said.

"Firstly, friends don't let each other die and secondly, we're not doing it out obligation, by the way, we *are* obliged, not because of our jobs..." Hazel started but Aaron cut her off.

"Because we feel the responsibility to protect the world and people we love. We're on the side of good." He finished.

Well, looked like my argument was useless. It was useless arguing with a witch and vampire teamed up against you. Guess I had company to my meeting with our ex-friend.

## **Chapter 17**

### **Yellow: Surprise**

“Sometimes the most shocking surprises are also the most beautiful surprises.”  
~LORI WILHITE

I walked towards the alley where I was supposed to meet Cara. It was pitch black, I could *barely* see anything, barely being the key word.

I could see an outline against the wall, she was here.

“Teresa.” She nodded.

“You must be the wolf,” I said folding my arms.

“Cara Whitney. New York Pack.” She said offering her hand which I looked at with disgust.

She probably thought I did that because demons considered werewolves lowly creatures, I just hated her.

“Jovan said you have information,” I said coldly trying to look detached.

“Well then. A group of ACRT agents is here. I’m currently staying with them. The vampire has noticed a few demons in his office. The witch barely talks to anyone about anything but she mentioned that no one from her firm seemed suspicious.” Cara said.

She was in for a surprised. We’d discovered five demons at Hazel’s firm. They were under the custody of ACRT thanks to Rodger.

“What about the goddess?” I asked.

“She’s slacking, she’s enjoying being human completely ignoring everything. I’m pretty sure we’d be safe. I mean she’s a useless teen brat that wants things to go her way. If it were up to me she’d be dead. I don’t see how they can make these teenagers responsible for something so big.” She said.

“What do you mean?” I asked. I was not slacking. I hated when people judged me, especially when they were wrong. Why can’t they just mind their own business? It would be so much better if they did.

“The gods put these amateurs to infiltrate demonic cartels. Are they really so scared of the demons that they can’t get off their stupid pedestal? They send their children into war hiding in their safe haven. They say demons are ruthless, but even we wouldn’t do that to our blood.” She said.

“You don’t send them to war but you tear them apart as a way to become the alpha,” I said scrunching my nose.

She had no idea what my family was actually up to. Ashton, Chase, Rachel and Ariana had already left for Sylok, a demonic realm to find out more about the attack.

Adam and Alexis were the only ones here, operating from home base. Momma and daddy were in Virgo, the universe Momma was from gathering an army, and so were my uncles and aunts, in their own universes.

If they thought that we were sitting around ignoring the impending war, they were in for a huge surprise. We were more prepared than they thought.

“None of the gods from the higher order of heaven have ever participated in a war. They always send their children to war while they sit back and watch.” She said.

## Colors of Eternity

Was she stupid? Everyone knows Uncle Robert had a habit of getting himself in trouble with my Daddy with his continuous participation in every war, even human ones.

“It will be fun to rip their throats into pieces. They think they’re better than all of us, we’ll show them. They have no idea what’s coming towards them.” She said.

I was kind of shocked to see her behave this way. I remember when I first met her. I thought she was the best werewolf ever, oh, was I wrong.

*I had just been told that we had a mission, our first one ever! I’d barely been at ACRT for two weeks and we were going to Egypt.*

*I was jittery, worried about what I’d do with so little training. I was quite known for my clumsiness.*

*That was something people always made fun of, not that it ever bothered me. I was never bothered by what people said about me. Their views wouldn’t change me. Only mine would.*

*To make things even worse, we had a pack of werewolves coming with us.*

*This was the first time I would be interacting with anyone other than my family and tutors at ACRT. The thought of meeting new people made me nervous. I could never quite start a conversation.*

*Also, from what I’d heard werewolves were quite destructive. They were going as the guard team while we investigated the mummy.*

*I was brought out of my thought as a huge guy came in banging his hands on the entrance making me jump a feet in the air.*

*“Wes.” Rea greeted. Wesley Karison stood tall along with two other wolves. His eyes were a light shade of brown and he had spiky black hair.*

*“Reanne. Cassandra.” He boomed, his loud voice scaring me.*

*“This is Ashlyn. She just joined us.” Cassie introduced me to the rest of the werewolves came in.*

*Most of them were huge and walked in a proud way. Two of them caught my eye. A tall blonde girl had her nose in a book, ‘Tale of Two Cities’, I remember reading that back in high school.*

*“Oi, Cara! Get your nose out of the stupid book!” A girl shouted even though she was within hearing distance. She had a broad shoulder structure and was at least a head taller than Cara, who was definitely a foot taller than me, but again, I’m just five feet.*

*“Leave her alone.” A meek red-headed boy said.*

*“Or what? You’ll rip my head off? Please, you wouldn’t even do that if I killed you little cousin.” The other girl said.*

*“I think that’s enough!” I said, surprising everyone.*

*“Well, look. I know you’re a god and all, but it will be best for all of us if you stayed out of pack business.”*

*“Yeah, you don’t want to fight with them. They’re all immature and hot headed.” Cara said.*

*“What did you say?” some blonde werewolf said enraged. His black eyes seemed to be sizzling.*

*“I said...” Cara started but before she could finish what she was saying he turned into a wolf and attacked her.*

*“Quinn, that’s enough. Stand down Quinn Duncan.” Wes said but it didn’t affect the rogue wolf. Cara screamed as he bit her.*

## Colors of Eternity

*Just as the redhead was about to interfere I pulled them apart with magic.*

*I wasn't very good at magic so it shocked me that I could do that.*

*"Quinn. We'll talk about this later. You disobeyed my order." Wes said with authority, so he was the Alpha!*

*"Are you alright?" Cassie asked kneeling next to Cara.*

*"I'm fine. This happens a lot." She said.*

*"Come on, let's get you cleaned up," Rea said helping her up and taking her to the side room. Her nerdy cousin followed us.*

*"Why do you tolerate that kind of behavior?" I asked.*

*"There is nothing we can do about it. And thank you for helping me." she smiled at me.*

*The rest of the mission went without a fight within the wolves, though the buffy wolves did make fun of us for hiding from the mummy.*

*On our way back they managed to break so many things in the plane. My mother's portrait by Picasso lay on the floor. The glass separating the cockpit and the rest of the plane shattered when one of the stupid wolves ran into it.*

*They even tried to fly the plane but Rea wouldn't let them near the controls. The five of us sat in a corner away from the mayhem they were causing.*

*"That's it! That's it! That's it!" Cassie shrieked making them freeze on spot.*

*"What are you doing? Don't you have the decency not to destroy someone else's property?" Rea asked.*

*"We're celebrating our victory," Wes said.*

*“Well, celebrate after we get down! Now. Help us clean.” I said.*

*“Why don’t you just use magic like you did last time?” the guy who attacked Cara said.*

*“It’s okay, they won’t help. Where is the broom?” Cara asked.*

*While we cleaned up their mess, they laughed at the two nice wolves, because they were nice.*

“Um, excuse me. Are you even listening?” Cara said bringing me out of my thoughts.

“What were you saying?” I asked.

“I got a message from my pack member in Egypt, the brat there has caught on to something, but she hasn’t discovered our betrayal.” She said.

“What about Germany and Greece?” I asked.

“How do you know about them?” she asked suspiciously.

“You told Jovan, who had Damian tell me,” I said, Damian did say that. I think.

“Well, they don’t know.” She said. But Tara and John were related, why would John be the only one they tell?

“Why didn’t you tell the others?” I asked.

“Some wolves have too high morals, telling them would mean telling the enemy. They’re weak snitches.” She said. How could she say that about her own cousin?

Maybe the whole innocent thing was an act from the start, but how could she have fooled Theo, she probably knew him all her life!

## Colors of Eternity

I tried to come up with a reason for her betrayal.

“All the goddess does nowadays is read. She’d always have a pile of papers with her. Though it is possible that she found something there and doesn’t want to share it with anyone.” she said.

“And you haven’t tried to find out what she’s hiding?” I asked.

If she suspected something, she might have tried to figure out what.

“Believe me I have. But every time she leaves her condo she puts a protection spell, I even tried to break the stupid spell. The witch I hired died. Her magic is stronger than it used to be. A lot stronger.” She said.

‘My magic killed a rogue witch?’ I thought horrified. I killed another person!

“Ah! So we have something to be worried about.” I said.

“No. Even if she’s stronger, she doesn’t stand a chance. She’s still a novice. And the gods are stupid. Their pride will be their end. They’re too sure of themselves.” She smirked.

Was she trying to tempt me? Because it wasn’t working. If we were so sure of ourselves, would we be all around the world trying to find ways to defeat them? If we were, then we’d just sit around thinking we could kill them easily. We know better than to let power get to our head!

“Don’t be so smug. If your confidence is misplaced then we are in a huge deal of trouble.” I warned.

“Believe me, it’s not.” She smiled. It wasn’t the smile I was used to from Cara, it was a menacing vindictive smile.

“What do you mean?” I asked.

“Let’s just say they trust blindly. Just pretend you’re some helpless puppy and bam, you’re in.” She laughed. So that was a show. Poor Theo didn’t even know his cousin. I felt a pang in my chest remembering Marie. The wolves had planned it.

Cara probably pretended to be weak in front of Theo to get his sympathy.

“So, how many of you are on our side?” I asked. I just wanted to know how many we were against.

“About five wolves from my pack. Our alpha might be all high and mighty and ruthless but he’d never go against the gods. He believes in the bigger picture. It’s all bull. The concept of the bigger picture. It doesn’t matter who gets hurt as long as the end is good.” She said bitterly.

“Um... how many?” I asked as if I didn’t care about what she said. ‘She was doing this because she was mad about her parents’ death.’ I realized.

They died in a battle against some demons. Why was she mad at us? She was working for the people that killed her parents.

Wait. Was she a double-double agent?

“The whole LA pack. And two wolves from French pack. There are none from South America or Africa. Nine wolves from Ohio and fifteen from Vietnam. There are a lot more, though.” She said.

“So, have *you* discovered anything?” I asked.

“No.” she answered curtly.

“Fine, I’ll tell Jovan of your discoveries,” I said turning around.

Just as I was walking away a gush of wind washed over me blowing my hair back.

## Colors of Eternity

“Oh, and by the way, next time you do this, change your scent. Ashlyn *Teresa*.” Cara said.

Dang. I changed my appearance but she can smell me. She’s a wolf.

Everything happened so fast after that. Cara changed into a wolf and ran towards me. I felt something hard slam into me pushing me towards the side wall and heard a loud cry.

I looked at the scene horrified.

A demon attacked me and Aaron had rushed to my side at vampire speed.

Quickly recovering from my state of attack I threw the attacker off Aaron and rushed towards him. I needed the help after all.

Hazel came running in to help. We held off the attacker as Cara ripped him to pieces.

This was not what I expected out of this meeting. It was a surprise meeting. A huge surprise indeed.

# ***Chapter 18***

## ***Blue: Healing***

“Every wound heals, some just take more time than others.” ~ASHMITA GHOSH

I was in shock. Everything happened so fast. A minute ago I thought Cara was going to attack me. Now she saves me. Maybe the dream was about wolves in general. Cara surely wasn't on their side.

“You idiots!” she exclaimed.

“What?” I said dumbfounded.

“The plan was perfect! Why the hell did you have to doubt me?” she asked.

“I'm sorry that you hanging around demons was suspicious,” Hazel said trying to heal Aaron.

“Ash has been doing the same!” she said incredulously.

“But she told us about it,” Hazel argued.

“Guys, stop fighting. Right now focus on the most important thing. Healing Aaron.” I said.

“Let's get out of here first,” Cara said.

The two of them helped an unconscious Aaron up and I teleported us to home.

As soon as we reached home Hazel ran into her condo to get her Grimoire.

## Colors of Eternity

“What demon was it?” Hazel asked looking through the old dusty book.

“Vernic Demon,” Cara said.

“What was it doing there?” I asked her.

“How am I supposed to know?” she screamed “I wasn’t actually on their side!” she exclaimed.

“You could’ve told us!” I said.

“You wouldn’t have let me kill the people that annihilated my family!” she said.

“I wouldn’t have stopped you! We would have killed them anyway.” I said gloomily.

“No, you wouldn’t have. You would’ve given me a lecture about right and wrong.” She said.

“You don’t know me. Don’t decide what I would or wouldn’t have done.” I said.

“It’s not that, you have a clear head when it comes to this. It’s not personal for you. It is for me. I want nothing more than to rip them to pieces with my own teeth.” She growled.

“It is personal for me. They are threatening my family. If you would’ve told us, so many things would’ve been easier. I wouldn’t have to ask Jenni to send you away if I invited my cousin over!” I said.

“Your cousin? You know, they actually believed you! That would’ve blown your cover!” she screamed.

“Shut up you two. You’re distracting me.” Hazel snapped.

“Only met him a few days ago,” I grumbled. “Your hatred for us seemed so genuine,” I said.

“I don’t hate you. You’re my friend. I’m just a good actress.” She said.

“How long have you been keeping this from Theo?” I asked.

“What makes you think he doesn’t already know?” she retorted.

“He has a conscience,” I said.

“I couldn’t drag him into my revenge plan.” She said.

I kind of understood where she was coming from and how she felt but I couldn’t understand her lying to us about lying to us! It was so confusing.

My head was spinning because of the million things that were going on!

I went out of the room into my condo. I needed fresh air. I went out to the balcony.

I spent the entire night looking at the sky.

There were so many things to worry about. Screw the cover! We enough information. I wanted to go back home!

I spent the night worrying about Aaron. Why did he push me out of the way? Why did he put himself in danger? Was he stupid? If anything happened to him it would be my fault.

Finally, I couldn’t take it anymore. Why couldn’t Cara just tell us? Things would have been so much simpler!

Why did I always end up hurting people I cared about?

Maybe people should stay away from me.

There was one thing I was absolutely sure about, they knew. It had just been confirmed by the text Jenni sent me.

Jovan was going to send demons to us. I knew it.

## Colors of Eternity

He found out when the demon he sent didn't come back. The demon was his eyes and ears around the world.

Jenni said she'd meet us at our condo as soon as she was sure no one was following her.

I took out my phone and looked through my pictures. Pictures of my family. My friends. They gave me hope. I knew I wasn't alone. I had my parents, my siblings, my cousins, my friends.

I had a good support system.

As I watched the sun come up and a warm feeling went through me. Hope.

Aaron would be alright.

After a while, I decided to go back to the living room where everyone was. I splashed some water on my face, wiping the dried tears and walked out.

For the first time in a long time, I left the door to my condo open. I could trust the people in my home.

I sat on the beanbag near Hazel while Cara stood at a corner.

Hazel was still trying to do the spell. She spent most of the night getting the equipment.

"Last night, when you were talking about my family, your hatred was clear. Why?" I asked Cara.

"I didn't know it was you until the wind blew in my direction. I thought you were a demon." She said.

"You don't hate the gods?" I asked.

"I really don't care. I will do whatever to get my revenge." She said.

“Did a witch really die because of me?” I asked.

“No. It was just another story.” She replied and I sighed thankfully.

I didn’t kill another person.

The two of us looked at each other for a really long time until Hazel screamed in frustration.

“Um... Guys,” Hazel said hesitantly.

“I can’t do it. The spell isn’t working.” She said.

“Let me try,” I said going over to the couch.

The spell seemed pretty simple. I took the knife and cut my palm a little bit fed Aaron my blood and then sprinkled holy water on him. Thanks to Hazel I didn’t have to set the room up for the spell, it was already arranged.

“Un se limn hua

Un que dedso set trui

Wor Maut Nsr

Fow gwen tri se un se dedso” I chanted over and over in Geminic, the language of Gemini.

The universe Gemini was where witches originated. I learned Geminic from my cousin so I knew the translation.

*‘Let him feel magic*

*Let it heal his soul*

*Calling magic spread*

*Bring peace to him and let him heal’*

Suddenly Aaron started glowing and floated in the sky.

## Colors of Eternity

Just as we thought the spell was working his body dropped back on the couch and he was back to being motionless.

I tried again and again without any success.

He couldn't die. Not while saving me.

Just like that, all my hope went crashing down. I tried to calm myself enough to do something productive.

I did the only thing I could think of.

I quickly whipped my phone out and dialed Rodger's number.

"Hey. What's up?" he said casually.

"Rodger. Please get here as fast as you can. I need your help." I said frantically.

"I'm at work. It might take more than a second. I'll leave right now. Be there as soon as possible. What happened?" he asked.

"Aaron..." I sobbed.

"What happened? He isn't at work today." Rodger said making another round of tears gush.

"Get...here....fast," I said between sobs. I was just so confused right now that the smallest things had the power to break me.

Poor Aaron paid for my recklessness. I thought what I was doing was so safe, that there was nothing wrong but I should have been more careful.

By the time Rodger arrived, which wasn't as long as I'd anticipated, I kept trying to do the spell.

"Sweetie. Rodger is coming he'll figure it out. Neither of us knows how to do this." Hazel said.

"It's my fault!" I said.

“We insisted that we go.” She said.

“No. I should’ve convinced you otherwise.” I sobbed.

“You tried.” Hazel hugged me and the two of us waited for Rodger to arrive.

Within minutes Rodger rushed in the room.

“What happened?” he asked rushing over to Aaron’s limp body.

“A demon attacked him,” Cara said drawing his attention to her.

“Is that the wolf that betrayed you?” he asked.

“Wow. News spreads fast doesn’t it?” she said mockingly.

“You turn your back on gods and expect to be forgiven?” he was livid.

“She was a double-double agent,” I said glumly.

“This isn’t important. Please focus on Aaron!” Hazel said.

Rodger kneeled by Aaron’s side.

“Vernic demons.” He mumbled.

“How’d you know?” I asked.

“I have experience. They are very deadly. Almost incurable.” He said.

“But there is a spell,” Hazel argued.

“There’s a spell for everything. It’s not always useful. This spell won’t work on anyone other than a witch. Aaron happens to be a vampire.” He said.

“You said almost,” I said hopefully.

## Colors of Eternity

“There is an antidote. But we have to go back.” He said hesitantly.

“Our cover’s blown. We have to go anyways.” I said.

“What happened?” this time Cara asked.

“The demon was Jovan’s eyes and ears,” I said.

“Well, we have to get out now!” she said frantically.

“I’ll call Dylan. Let him know that we’ll be teleporting soon.” Rodger said.

“Tell him to withdraw the other groups too. We’ve all been discovered.” I said.

Hazel and Cara took Aaron to the guest room in Hazel’s condo where she had made a Wiccan-chamber to make teleporting so many people easier.

“It’s done. They’re already contacting the others.” He said.

“So. We should leave?” I asked.

“Yeah. I’ll go back and get Mr. Vouglar. I can’t leave him alone here. It’s unsafe, especially now that they know.” He said.

Just as the two of us were about to walk towards the room, the front door was kicked open.

A cluster of demons rushed in, all with different weapons.

“Damn it!” I screamed.

There was a Vasperia Demon coming towards me at a really high speed. I barely moved out of its way on time.

“I hate demons,” I said sprinting towards one of them.

The room had all kinds of demons. High level and low level.

I took a knife out of my back pocket and dug it into the demon's skin dragging it as the monster screamed in pain.

I sensed someone come up from my back and punched a hole right through its heartless chest. There were just so many demons I had no idea how to handle them. I jumped on one's shoulder tearing its head out from his body.

I looked around to see I wasn't the only one having a problem handling so many demons. Rodger was surrounded by a dozen of them. I managed to put off the ones trying to attack me and made my way to my brother.

I grabbed his hand and raised mine in an effort to make a force field. Rodger soon got the memo and joined me in this, making keeping the demons away easier.

We started to walk backward towards the room but Jenni came in before we got there.

"Stand back." She said with authority and all the demons stood back with their heads down.

Slowly she walked towards us and I internally sighed.

"You will all go back to base. I'll deal with them." She said.

"But Madam! Your father gave us orders to kill them." A demon piped up.

"Now. I'm giving you the order to leave. I'll deal with them." She said.

Some demons left without resistance and some didn't go until she glared at them. But worst were the ones that refused to go. There were still two demons waiting.

"I thought I told you to leave." She said.

## Colors of Eternity

“But madam, the master said, no matter what happens they should be dead.” He said.

“I’ll deal with them. Leave now.” She snapped.

“No,” the other demon said adamantly.

“Your loss.” She said as she leaped into the air to attack them.

I ran for the other demon who readily fought back. One blow and I were on the floor with a gash on my abdomen, continuously bleeding. I managed to strangle it to death and took a deep breath, the pain increasing.

“Are you all okay? I’m sorry I’m late.” She said rushing over to me as her and Rodger helped me into the room as he healed me.

“It’s alright. I don’t think we’d be able to handle so many single handily. Thank you.” I smiled at her.

“What happened?” Hazel asked seeing the blood on us.

“Demon attack,” I said.

“You could’ve called me for backup,” Cara said.

“Aaron needed people to protect him.

“Besides, I was here,” Hazel said.

“What happened, happened,” I said.

“Come on. Go home I’ll get Wilson.” Rodger said as he vanished.

Hazel and I held on to each other as we chanted the spell to channel power. The two of us helped Aaron up and I held Jenni’s hand while Hazel held Cara.

A bright white light appeared in front of my eyes and I the next thing I knew, I was home, my real home.

We were back in ACRT.

Mr. Henderson was waiting for us when we arrived.

“What happened?” he laughed. I was in no mood for smiles.

“Help him. We need an antidote to the poison.” I said.

“Sure. What happened?” He asked taking Aaron to the infirmary. I filled him in on the events of the past few days as we rushed towards the infirmary.

It was a crazy, quite hectic if you ask me. We’d managed to get back in time before the poison severely attacked his nervous system. At least he’d be healed.

## **Chapter 19**

### **Indigo: Adventure**

“Every person needs some adventure in life. If you can’t have it in reality then be adventurous through books.” ~ASHMITA GHOSH

“Ash!” I heard Cassie’s voice echoing through the halls. I turned around and ran towards her.

“When did you get here?” she asked.

“What? Aren’t you here because of the message sent about retreating? They found us out.” I said.

“They discovered us a long time ago. We’ve been back a while. What happened?” she asked noticing my worried expression.

“Is John, the wolf here?” I asked.

“Of course. Why?” she asked. I grabbed her by the arm dragging her to my room.

“Some werewolves are siding with demons. He’s one of them. We thought Cara was too, but she isn’t. She was a double-double agent.” I said.

“No.” she looked horrified.

“Well, another really bad thing happened.” I hesitated.

“What?” she asked, her voice breaking.

“A demon followed me to the meeting with Cara and she figured out it was me by the end of it. The demon went to attack me but...” I said.

“What? What happened?” she asked frantically.

“Aaron. He pushed me out of the way and got hurt. That’s why we had to hurry over here so fast.” I said.

“Is he going to be alright?” she asked.

“Yeah. He’s in recovery. The others also have to come back. We’ve been made. We need to get our information together.” I said.

“Good. ‘Cause I found something we need to take care of, fast.” She said. “Ash, I’m going to go tell Chris that his brother is in the infirmary.” She said.

“Yeah. We should do that.” I said nervously. It was my fault Aaron got hurt.

The walk to the Vampire wing was dreadful. I’d never been to any other wing than my own, where only the four of us lived. It was like a small house.

But this place was huge with a lot of antique decorations. I followed Cassie to the fourth floor where Aaron and Chris shared a room.

I sucked in a breath as Cassie knocked on the door.

“Hey.” Chris came out yawning and smiled brightly upon seeing us.

“Hi. Something happened, you need to come with us now.” She said frantically.

“Aaron got hurt and before you freak out, he’s fine. He’s in recovery. I’m sorry.” I said.

“What?” Chris asked flustered his expression changing suddenly.

“It was my fault. The demon was about to attack me when he pushed me out of the way.” I said waiting for him to snap.

## Colors of Eternity

“It was our job description to protect you. And if it weren’t for you, my brother would be dead. So thank you. But let’s go.” He said.

“Christopher, I was going to send someone to get you.” Mr. Henderson said as we arrived at the infirmary.

“How is he?” Chris asked.

“Well, he got here in time. A little sleep and he’d be good as new.” Dylan said.

“Can we see him?” Cassie asked.

“Sure.” He said moving out of the way.

I went in the room feeling oh so guilty about what happened. I didn’t know how I’d face him.

“Hey, man. You thought you could get rid of me that easily?” Chris teased sitting by his legs.

“Well, a guy can hope.” Aaron retorted.

“But seriously. Never do that again.” Chris warned and hugged his twin.

“Dude! That’s embarrassing.” Aaron mocked.

“How’re you feeling?” I asked worriedly.

“Never been better. That thing Henderson gave me, well it’s quite strong.” He grinned.

Seeing he was alright made me feel better about what had happened to him. Thank god!

“Sorry.” I apologized.

“Friends don’t say sorry or thank you.” He warned and I smiled tentatively.

The rest of the time there Chris and Aaron kept on bantering so Cassie and I slipped out.

We were sitting exchanging our findings when I felt someone tap my shoulder.

“Miss me?” Tess’s shrill shriek made me jump.

“Tess!” I hugged her.

“Thanks for blowing the cover by the way.” She glared as Rea joined us.

“Yeah, what the hell?” she asked.

“They knew. Some werewolves were on their side.” I said.

“Theo? Tess asked and I shook my head and she sighed looking relieved.

“Only John from the ones’ on the undercover missions. But there are four others. Cara was pretending. She wanted to kill the demon that hurt her family.” I said.

“I just saw a demon in the café,” Rea said suspiciously.

“She’s with me. She was helping us. She helped us get away. She and Rodger!” I said.

“You met him?” Rea asked “Chloe was with us for most of the trip. I found her killing a demon once.” She said.

“You met my sister?” Cassie asked.

“Yeah. She doesn’t really look like you. She looks a lot like Chase, with her deep ocean blue eyes and fiery red hair. She is gorgeous, guess that comes with being the beauty goddess.” Rae said.

“Well, coincidentally Rover was in Egypt,” Cassie said.

## Colors of Eternity

“So I’m the only one that ran into their own sibling? Tess asked.

“I’ve met all mine.” I shrugged.

“Tyler was in Greece. He barely left my side. Went all protective older brother on me. It was annoying but nice.” She said.

“Girls. Quit the chatter.” A musical voice called.

I was sure that was Tyler. He had a mischievous glint in his black eyes, I knew it all too well because of Ashton. His long blonde hair flowed as he bowed down to greet us teasingly.

“Everyone is waiting for you in the cafeteria.” He said.

And it was true. Everyone was in the cafeteria. Everyone that wasn’t a traitor. Tara looked like her heart was torn into two, which would happen if you learn that your brother betrayed you.

Hazel was sitting with her brother away from her coven talking, probably about the mission, with a huge grin.

Cara seemed to be explaining everything to Theo, who looked absolutely livid.

Jennifer was sitting with Mr. Vougler away from all the groups.

I also saw Alexis and Adam standing at a corner with Rodger and two other. The boy had coal black eyes and long brown hair that was pulled up in a ponytail.

He seemed to be wearing a jersey with *HEAVENLY GAMES* printed on the front and *ANGELICA* on the back. Since Rodger was the god of mortality, he must’ve been the god of immortality leaving Tyler to be in charge of music, which explained the small harmonica on the chain he was wearing.

“Ash!” Alexis said hugging me.

“This is Rover and this is Chloe. You’ve already met Rodger and Tyler.” Adam said pulling me out of Alexis’s arm and crushing me to death.

“Everyone! Attention.” Dylan’s voice boomed through the room.

The authority in his voice got everyone’s attention. Ms. deLune along our four supervising agents walked to the center of the room clearing her throat.

“As you know, we had four groups go in undercover. We’ve had some great progress even though we’ve been made. The group we sent to Germany found out when they plan to attack. We don’t have much time. We have to be prepared. Two days. The group in Egypt found out they were going to attack us in India. We have managed to get Vishnu and Brahma to cooperate but they refuse to part take in our war. And the group from Italy found the leader of the movement. Jovan. His daughter is currently here with us, fully intent on helping. The team in Greece figured out that a mythical flower. The Orbalin. The flower of heaven.” Camille said.

“It’s on our island,” I said causing everyone to look at me. “I read about it in Rodger’s book and I remember seeing it there.”

“But no one’s ever seen it before. I don’t think it is the flower.” Rodger argued.

“I know it is,” I said.

“We can’t waste time on all this,” Adam said.

“But if she is right, then wasting time on everything else,” Chloe said.

“Ashlyn, Reanne, Cassandra and Tessa, the four of you are going on that trip and we’d look everywhere else.” Agent Lee said.

## Colors of Eternity

“Rodger, where did you see it on the island?” I asked.

“It’s a moving flower. It’s never in the same place for too long.” Adam said.

“How come none of you know where it is?” Cassie asked.

“Because it has been around longer than us. It’s kind of hard to find something you’re not even sure exists.” Alexis said.

After a lot of argument and discussion, it was decided the four of us, me and my cousins, would go to retrieve the flower. We knew this was going to be hard.

They had absolutely no useful data about this so we had to go in blind. The island was exactly as I remembered. Beautiful.

The island was always green and humid. It was the one place on earth not affected by pollution. No cars, no A/c, not a single thing contributing to global warming. That was what I loved most about this place.

“Let’s go to Mt. Equin. We can see the entire island from there. Maybe we can spot something from there.” Rea said.

“Does anyone know how it looks?” Tess asked.

“Here,” I said taking the page out in Rodger’s manuscript.

“The flower sounds so pretty!” Cassie sighed.

“Do any of you know what it is supposed to do?” I asked.

“One petal from the flower on the source of evil, Jovan’s life source, will end the war. All his followers will die along with him. The only problem is that we have no idea where it is.” Cassie said.

We decided to take the short route up the mountain.

I'd only been here once and that too for a short time, so I knew absolutely nothing about the island.

The route we took was short but twisted. An hour through the walk I dropped down and laid down on the floor.

"Are you crazy? This is so dirty!" Tess shrieked.

"I'm exhausted. It's hard walking up a mountain, it's a surprise I'm still breathing!" I huffed taking a sip of my water.

"You know we train for these things." Rea laughed.

"How are you two coping? I'm tired too. And I hate getting my clothes dirty." Cassie said laying down next to me.

"Get up you two. We need to get going. Short on time here!" Rea dragged me up and I grabbed the grass trying to stay down.

Don't get me wrong. I wanted to find the flower but I needed a break. An hour walking against gravity does that to you.

Finally, after five minutes we started up again.

When we reached the top of the hill we looked at the island. The place looked so beautiful.

It was already dark and the fireflies fluttered through the sky lighting up the entire island.

The beauty kept my attention deviated for a while but there was a glow in the far left corner of the island. It was way too bright to be a firefly.

"Guys," Tess called pointing to the same thing I was looking at.

"That has to be it!" Cassie squealed.

We turned around and were about to make our way down when Rea stopped us.

## Colors of Eternity

“Look.” She pointed to the light but it was moving.

Dang! Why couldn't it be easy?

“True of heart can cross the line

Catch the flower to save a life

If you are a poisoned seed

You shall pay for your deeds.” A translucent figure appeared. She looked quite familiar.

“Terra!” Rea said.

“Our grandmother Terra?” Tess asked.

Then it hit me. I remembered her from Cassie & Rea's coronation.

“The line!” I exclaimed looking at the line forming at the edge of the cliff ignoring the fact I saw my grandma for the second time ever.

“I think I know what line,” Cassie said.

“We have to cross this line to prove we're worthy,” I said.

“But if we're not then we fall down the pits of the valley.” Tess completed my sentence.

“I think it has something to do with the prophecy. We can either be the salvation or destruction of the world. And if we are the destroyers then we're better off dead.” Rea said.

“So... who wants to try first?” Cassie asked.

The four of us stood in an awkward silence waiting for one of us to speak up. We all wanted to do something but we were all scared. Who wouldn't be?

“I’ll go first,” Tess said.

Hearing her say those words scared me. She wasn’t much younger than me but she was still my younger sister!

“No,” I said and tried to walk in front but Rea pulled me back.

“No. I’m older. I should go.” She said.

“Oi! I’m the oldest. I’m not about to let my younger sisters go risk their life.” Cassie said.

“How about we all walk together?” I asked holding Tess and Cassie’s hand. Cassie grabbed Rea’s hand and we stepped on nothing but air.

I closed my eyes expecting a fall but there was solid ground. I looked down but we were standing on nothing. I could see the pits of the valley, it seemed deeper than I’d imagined.

The glowing flower seemed to move even faster but this time towards us.

“Dear child, you have passed the test of the courage there is no emotion stronger or purer than love. The sacrifice you all were ready to make, proves the purity of your heart.” Our grandmother arrived again.

“Do you know where Jovan’s source is?” Rea asked.

“Unfortunately I do not. But I do know the source exists in a place of darkness. Darker than hell.” She warned.

She looked at us like she was reminiscing a happy memory.

“You are like your fathers. They always stuck together through everything. Family always matters. This love shall guide you through the darkness. Beware. Not all shall go. The war is dire, you need as many warriors as you can get. Two of you go find

## Colors of Eternity

what you need and the other two fight. That is the best way.”  
Terra said.

She took the floating flower and plucked a beautiful clear petal.

“Use this carefully, once your enemies know what you possess, they will come for you.” She warned.

“Thank you,” Cassie said completely awed by the beauty.

“My dear grandchildren, be victorious!” she said vanishing leaving us standing with our mouths wide open waiting for who knows what.

It was a great adventure. I could only hope for the best but I was terrified. Adventures might be exhilarating but they are scary.

# ***Chapter 20***

## ***Black: War***

“Even if you come out victorious in a war, you lose something. A war can’t be won without losing many battles.” ~ASHMITA GHOSH

When we arrived back at base with the petal, Rachel secured it so no one else could get their hands on it.

My family and I moved to our room along with a few trusted people and our instructors. We explained our run-in with Grandma Terra.

“Who wants to go?” Rover asked crashing on the futon in my room.

“Where?” Tess asked.

“You know the dark place thingi.” He shrugged.

“I know what you meant. I asked where it was.” She said.

“I do. Well, not exactly. Father used to visit a house in Siberia. He owns a place near Lake Baikal. Nobody has been there, not even me.” Jenni said.

“I’ll go.” I offered.

“Me too,” Rea said.

I knew it was going to be dangerous, who knows what was guarding the place but I had to do it.

“I want to go too,” Cassie said.

“Only two,” Adam warned.

“But we stick together.” Tess pointed out.

## Colors of Eternity

“It’s for the best. They’d be able to do it without any issues. It’s nothing to worry about.” Chloe tried to convince them but it didn’t work, probably because she was a blubbering mess.

“Here,” Dylan said coming over and handing us earpieces.

“Why do we need these?” I asked.

“This will help you keep contact with us. See how the war is going. You don’t leave until after the war starts. They need to see you there. They can’t be suspicious that you’re there.” He said.

Since no one had ever been there we were going in blind. We’d never seen this place and neither had Jenni. We had to hope things would turn out for the best.

We spent the day at the armory regrouping. I managed to snag a gun and a few throwing knives securing them in my waist holster and a sword for an emergency.

The practice room was empty when I got out probably because they were still in the armory.

Most of the ACRT wards had been cleared, only a few were still here for the war, a few trusted ones.

We couldn’t have cowards who’d turn their backs on us at the first sign of danger.

I set up a target and held the gun away from my face imaging a demon in front of me, imagining Jovan in front of me, and shot.

One. Two. Three. Four. Five. Six.

The target moved towards me proving my improved shooting skills, three to the head and three to the heart.

I reloaded my gun with poison bullets for the battle and threw my knife at the door.

“Sorry, didn’t know you were mad,” Aaron said coming in.

“I was just practicing,” I said retrieving my knife.

“We’re about to leave. Might want to come.” I smiled at him reloading my gun.

“You’re the only person excited about a war everyone is terrified of.” I shook my head walking out with him.

When I got back there was a portal open, not a small one. A huge portal, big enough to transport all of us to India.

We had been successful in narrowing down the attack location, for a small country had many places, it was seventh largest but way smaller than the US.

It was going to be in Rajasthan, Thar Desert.

Alexis was waiting for me to come join her, Adam had already gone through.

“You ready?” she asked.

“Yeah.” I nodded.

“When I give you two the signal, you teleport to Siberia and try finding the darkness and kill the demon,” Camille said.

“Now. Let’s go.” Ashton said appearing next to me.

“You’re here!” I squealed.

“I couldn’t let my baby sister go to war alone.” He shrugged.

“We’ve got a big enough army. All of us have some recruits, I think we have a fair shot at winning.” Momma said.

They were all back.

## Colors of Eternity

“These are the Virgo Warrior and this is the Gemini Coven. Libran Soldiers and Taurus Warriors.” Daddy introduced the room full of soldiers who were standing in files.

The warriors left through the portal leaving just my family behind, well minus Adam.

“How’ve you all been?” Aunt Kathrine asked.

“It’s been a bumpy ride. Kind of scary.” Rea said.

“Let’s end this war. Crush this fear. Make them pay for keeping our children away from us.” Uncle T boomed as he jumped in the portal.

One by one everyone followed suit. As I was about to step through the portal I looked behind. If I died today, I’d die a hero. I’d die satisfied with who I was and where I was.

Taking a deep breath I jumped through the portal crashing into a desert. The Thar Desert.

It was so hot here!

I could see the demons lined up to attack far away from us. The werewolves changed to their wolf form ready to attack.

Their demonic forces came rushing towards us. At first, I thought we were even in number but the closer they got the more they seemed.

I took a deep breath as I rushed towards a section of the crowd.

One of their wolves tried to attack me so I pulled a dagger out of my holster and stabbed it barely getting away from its claws.

Before I could contemplate my next move a winged monkey demon swooped me off the ground, flying higher by the second. I was terrified of height and I was well aware that I was about to be dropped.

Somehow I managed to grab another dagger and aimed for its heart causing me to drop eighteen feet. If not for my training I would've died, instead I landed on my feet.

Ariana was fending off five demons at once so I took my sword out and ran towards her slicing every demon in my way into the half.

I'm not going to act like I was successful without getting hurt or say that I killed any demons on my way without a scratch on me.

In fact, a demon hit me so hard that I landed next to her. See. I did get to her, just not in a way people do in movies.

Two people against so many demons were better than one. The dusty wind blew as we faced the horrendous demons before us.

I caught sight of Theo jumping at John and ripping his head off his body. Theo must have felt betrayed by his pack. Even though they treated him badly they were the only family he had.

Ricardo was surprisingly good with a weapon. He managed to impale two demons. The vamp twins were watching each other's backs while they slaughtered demon after demon.

Nikolas was doing pretty well too. His experience paid off since he was an old vampire.

Tara angrily went after every werewolf she could find on the opposing side, so far she'd managed to live.

Hazel stood at a side with the witches to handle demons with magic, she didn't have much experience fighting, most witches didn't, so she was using magic to fight them even though Ric was on the field fighting.

Jennifer was fighting on our side trying to get to her father, trying to stop him from hurting the people she loved. Her human family

## Colors of Eternity

meant something to her, even though they died she still had love and respect for all humans.

As I was fighting a Vesttik demon I caught a glimpse of Cara running towards Jovan.

She couldn't be that stupid. She couldn't expect to kill him all by herself. She was walking into her own deathtrap.

She ripped so many demons up in pieces that I lost count. The panic that took over me stopped me from fighting the demons as I watched.

Suddenly a howl of pain chorused through the barren desert.

Cara. A tear slipped from my eyes. Even though I wasn't on the best term with her the past few weeks, she was my friend before I knew the truth. She was my friend after I learned the truth. She'd always be important to me. Today, she died a warrior.

"Ash. Rea. Now!" Daddy screamed looking at us while fighting.

I knew I had time to grieve later, I had to avenge the death of my friend now.

The colors of the lost souls floated in air fighting their way out. It was magnificent, the eternal meaning of life clearly visible in the disarray of colors.

I took a deep breath looking at the souls moving from our world to an eternal life way beyond us and teleported myself leaving a handful of sand in my place.

"She's dead. Cara." I told Rea as we landed.

"I saw. Poor Theo. How are you coping?" she asked.

"It's surreal. Let's end it so it can feel real." I said walking towards the lake.

Lake Baikal was beautiful. It was known to have twenty percent of the world's unfrozen fresh water. It was the clearest lake I'd ever seen, also the deepest and considered oldest on earth.

It was an ancient rift valley, which was enough to give the location of the *house*.

"You thinking what I'm thinking?" Rea asked and we smirked at each other.

We tried to teleport ourselves down but our magic wasn't strong in a place of such darkness. Jovan's power controlled the safe house.

No one with good magic could enter with magic. No good magic had a value there. We were on our own.

We could still use magic outside the barrier and use charmed objects.

Rea managed to conjure the things we needed to climb down.

I fastened the harness around my waist and fixed the anchor tightly. The rope was long enough, magically so, to reach the bottom.

The closer we get the less our magic works. And when we touch the ground, goodbye magic.

Rea had already started climbing down when I finished setting everything. The mountain was quite high and I was scared of heights. I slipped so many times that I was sure I was going to die here.

I had to use magic every time I slipped but the closer I got to the lake.

We were barely a hundred feet above shore when my rope snapped and I went falling.

## Colors of Eternity

I closed my eyes waiting for the impending doom that never came. Rea caught me.

“Thanks.” I smiled clinging on to her as she helped us down.

“We stick together.” She said.

The lake was clear and beautiful and there were some frozen fragments since it was just early April.

I thought it would’ve been some cottage near the lake, we all thought so but it wasn’t. I could see a small roof peeking out from under the water.

“Rea?” I asked nervously.

“How are we supposed to go in there?” she asked.

“We have no choice,” I said, more to myself and held my breath as I jumped in.

This was the deepest place I’d ever swam in. I went down into the water towards the house holding my breath.

It was hard holding it so long but I managed to hold it until I reached the cabin like house.

Rea wasn’t far behind me. She looked like she was about to pass out from the shortage of breath. She was usually the sportiest one.

She once told me that swimming was her worst suit.

I held onto her hand as we swam into the dark house together.

Unfortunately for us, even the house was filled with water. I couldn’t see a single thing. It was like a black hole without a single ray of light.

How were we supposed to find the source of evil when we couldn't breathe, much less see?

Our love will help. I remembered and let go of the breath I was holding. Rea looked at me horrified.

For a second it felt as if I was sinking, and even though the collapsing feeling went away for a minute, it was back. All of a sudden everything was fine.

A soft golden glow surrounded the two of us illuminating the darkest room I'd been in. I could breathe. I took in a deep breath showing Rea.

"How're you doing that?" she asked before covering her mouth in horror.

"The same way you are. Love." I smiled.

"Let's end this war." She said swimming through the room as I went in the other direction. There was only one floor and the only thing abnormal about it was the underwater thing.

I was swimming around aimlessly as I crazed into a wall. It hurt but I was too intrigued to care.

"Rea!" I called and she rushed over.

She gaped at the wall in front of me in awe. We found it! It was a hollow wall with a hole in it big enough to see through.

A dark shadow of a man stood illuminated in the light we were emitting. He had to be Jovan's shadow. We started to break the wall and went through.

The moment we went through everything went black.

"Rea!" I called but no one answered me.

## Colors of Eternity

I tried to find something or someone, but it was empty until I heard a sound, a voice.

“Ash...” she whispered. I knew that soprano voice anywhere. It was my sister.

“Alexis!” I said, “What are you doing here?” I asked.

“I’m here to finish the job Marie started.” She said charging at me flinging me at the wall. I hit the floor with a thud as she came closer.

“Alexi, what are you doing?” I asked cowering.

“Killing you of course.” She said coyly.

“Why?” I asked heart broken.

“Because, you’re useless.” She said as her long water marble painted nails dug into my skin.

I screamed at the sharp pain the coursed through my body as her eyes went white.

This wasn’t Lexi. My sister would never ever hurt me.

This was an illusion stopping me from going home.

I lashed out at the demon that took the form of my sister and pierced its heart with my sword.

As soon as I did that half the room was lit up again but Rea was still there. I just faced my biggest fear. Being betrayed by someone I trusted incorrigibly.

What could be Rea’s fear?

Suddenly her side of the room lit up. The shadow stood in the middle of the room, unmoving.

Rea took the petal out and looked at me.

“Do you want to do the honors or should I?” she asked.

“We’ll do it together,” I said grabbing her hand.

As soon as we put the petal on the shadow, it burst into flame throwing us back.

“We did it!” Rea squealed. I’d never heard her squeal!

“Yeah, we did!” I hugged her.

“Guys do you read me? Do you read me?” Dylan’s voice came in through the earpiece.

“Yeah, Dylan. Is it over?” Rea said.

“It is. Why weren’t you two responding after you started to climb down?” he asked.

“No magic,” I answered.

“How can you hear me now?” he asked

“Jovan’s gone. So is his magic.” Rea said.

“We’ll be there in a sec,” I said as Rea and I held hands and closed our eyes.

I pictured my family, finally free and happy. The reason for them to send us away was gone.

We ended up at ACRT. How did they all get here so fast? Of course they could, Gods were with them.

The moment we reached we were attacked by Cassie and Eve.

“Never do that again. We walk into deathtraps together.” Cassie warned.

“Alright,” I said hugging them tight.

## Colors of Eternity

People were celebrating and grieving. We won but we lost many. We lost one of our most valued vampire, Daisy Tyler, and countless other valuable people.

We lost the alpha of New York pack, our wolf rep, Daisy was our vampire representative. Witches lost so many. Hazel was devastated about her coven getting slaughtered but she understood. Some Gemini Coven witches decided to stay back, one of them being their leader, Harry, an earthly name I know.

I lost a friend, Cara. Poor Theo lost his last living family. He sat in a corner all alone sulking in his misery. I saw Tess walk to him to check up on him. He refused to talk to anyone so she walked away disappointed.

I went managed to get us all candles.

“Everyone!” I called loud enough to get their attention. My family, who’d never all been this close to others were sitting in a corner.

“I request all of you to light a candle and join me in a moment of silence to respect our lost friends. May they always find peace. Their time on earth might be over but they live on, on some other plane and if not, in our hearts. If you sulk around, you are disrespecting them. Everyone here knows the pain of loss. So a minute to remember the things you lost is acceptable. War has a price. They paid it for us, we should honor it.” I proclaimed.

Everyone took a candle and we sat remembering the people we lost and the people we loved.

Farewell to all those who were lost and welcome to those who were gained.

“Ashlyn, I was hoping you’d come back to work for me.” Mr. V said coming up to me as everyone dispersed around the room “For real this time. You’re a great writer, a valuable asset.” He said.

“Mr. V, I’d love to but I’d like to finish school and then attend college. But after that, I’d definitely consider it.” I smiled.

“How old are you?” he asked.

“Seventeen, well, almost. I’ll be starting college this year, well I have a lot of courses to make up for. And would you mind writing a letter of recommendation or something? And say I was an intern at Esprimere?” I requested.

“Sure.” He smiled. “You can always have your old job back, even without an actual degree. By the way, thanks for saving my life.”

I smiled at him and walked to my family and sat snuggling against Lexi. My adoptive parents were here, so were the other girls’ parents. Even Tess’s parents finally saw the light. They seemed genuinely worried about her.

My whole family was together and my friends were close by too.

War was a vicious thing. Even when you win you lose.

But I knew one thing, everything was going to be alright.

# ***Epilogue***

## ***Rainbow: Eternity***

“I’d rather be happy for a moment than be satisfied for all eternity.”~ ASHMITA GHOSH

I was so excited about today, I was going home. It had been a few years since the Jovan war and we were about to celebrate Tess and my coronation, we were both eighteen and it was New Year’s Day.

It was a tradition that on our eighteenth New Year, the New Year after our eighteenth birthday, we were old enough to take heavenly responsibilities.

I remembered Cassie and Rea’s coronation was held before the Jovan war. All the gods were there, by that I mean the Zodiacs. I got to meet my grandma, Virgo and Terra back then.

It was the first heavenly celebration where the *lower* creatures were allowed to attend the ceremony. It was beautiful.

I was a second-year student Springfield University majoring in Psychology.

When I started attending school there I got an apartment close to campus and moved out of the institute. Rea, Cassie and I shared it until those two graduated. Tess didn’t stay with us because she wasn’t attending Springfield. Now that we were safe we had that option. But I still had to go there for myth class and training before my classes.

The campus looked more like a castle than a school. With my oh-so-strict tutors at ACRT, it wasn’t hard maintaining a 4.0 GPA

even through all the mayhem and get a perfect SAT score. That was enough to get me a full ride.

I loved studying about the inner workings of a person and analyzing it.

I'd chosen psych because over the last few years I'd seen the world in ways I'd never imagined. Before all this, I wanted to study English lit. I knew I could still write without a degree but this, this I wanted to study.

Mr. V had asked me to join back at Esprimere this year, I could still continue with classes. He said I could be the new advice columnist and have my old job with a slight change, he made me an editor, and I could also work from the US and just e-mail everything to him and attend important meetings. That was enough to convince me.

I knew that my psychology degree wasn't going to be completely utilized if I chose to continue working for Mr. V but for now, it was enough.

Even though I was only working there because of a mission, I actually loved it. I missed Portia and a few other people I met.

I was so excited to go back home today. Even though the school was out I decided to stay on campus for a while, finishing up with my work before leaving.

We were all meeting up at ACRT before the ceremony.

After the war, some of the agents like Tara had left and some became closer than ever.

Harry, the Gemini witch was still on earth. He had managed to build a life here and was working for ACRT. He looked quite human with tousled blonde hair but had orange eyes and pointy elf like ears even though he was six feet tall.

## Colors of Eternity

Chris had been promoted to head of Vampire and Harry, who was a member of the Gemini coven, was head of Witches at ACRT so they were full-time agents.

What surprised me most was Aaron, he said he was too afraid to go after his dreams, but the war changes everyone.

A few weeks after the war when Chris had been promoted Aaron decided to take a break from field work and study medicine. He was attending Springfield too, it had one of the best medical programs in the world. He wasn't as dumb as I had presumed.

Besides it was nice having a non-human friend around when I needed to use magic.

Theo had gone M.I.A. after Cara's death. We found him in Savana all by himself barely surviving. After he was found lying half-dead, he brought to the headquarters he was admitted to the psych ward due to PTSD.

A few months later after a lot of counseling he was able to come to terms with what happened. It was hard watching a friend suffer, that is what led to my studying psychology.

Six months he left on an archeological expedition, something he wanted to do before he started working for ACRT. He still lived there, though.

Ric decided he wanted to teach kids but he never liked studying. He opened up his own music school in New York City, which was right above Hazel's firm. They'd discovered their parents left them some money to start with their lives and decided to do something useful with it.

Hazel had started up her own design firm. She had this website where people contacted her and she beautified their homes.

Janna, she still scared me, had left ACRT after the war. She decided to live a normal life away from all the chaos that came with being an ACRT agent. From time to time she still consulted on missions, only consulted.

Little Nikolas, I knew he was older than me, was as nerdy as ever. He went back to school. From what I'd heard about him, every few years he joined a different school sometimes in different countries.

Cassie managed to get a job at a ballet company, 'CassaSwan' right out of college.

Rea had opened a gallery in Manhattan to display her artwork after finishing school. She earned quite a commission selling her paintings even though she didn't need it.

Eve decided to skip the whole *college scene* and started up her own fashion label, which was going quite well. She started up small online but within weeks *Angelic Princess* was the new big thing.

Being home with all those I loved felt so good.

As I walked into the familiar waterfall I was greeted by my supervising agent, Sarah West. I'd grown to view her as a friend more than I saw her as my boss, probably because she was so nice.

"Everyone's here. The common room." She said hugging me.

"Thanks, Sarah." I smiled.

Since we'd gotten over the hierarchy there was a new wing built that had nothing to do with training or classes. It was just a place for all of us to be united.

## Colors of Eternity

No one was a god, or a witch or vampire, we were just normal people in there. That was my second favorite part of ACRT, first being the roof!

“Hi!” I said going into the room full of people. My cousins were there, Chris, Aaron, Hazel, Ric, Harry and Theo were sitting around the room. It was nice to see Theo back in a civilized world.

“Ah! I haven’t seen you in so long! Get your nose out of your books long enough to come see us!” Tess said jumping on me.

“I’ve just been busy! You try studying psychology.” I said.

“That’s the point, I don’t want to. Go easy on yourself.” Cassie said pulling me to the seat next to her and I dropped face first.

“Yeah, she doesn’t even join others for dinner at school, not unless it’s a study group,” Aaron said and I ignored him. So what if I didn’t like wasting my time on people who didn’t really care about me?

I didn’t like being fake. I would always find time for the people I loved but I couldn’t bring myself to act like people who I didn’t really like and who didn’t like me were important to me.

“Excited for everyone to know you’re a goddess?” Hazel asked Tess and me.

I still had trouble coming to terms with being a goddess, especially with my ordinary life, well as ordinary as it could get with being a secret agent.

“It’s going to be so much fun. We’ll have our own thrones in Angelica and we get to see Grams again. They barely come. Even though Terra was in this universe she never actually comes to spend time with us unless it’s a big festive. I love grand

celebrations. Especially the ones held for me! I can't believe it's going to happen in a while!" Tess said excitedly.

I had one crazy family.

Sometimes Alexis drags me out of bed after I spend an entire night cramming for a test to take me shopping. Each time I have to convince her to wait until my exam was over.

Once she walked into the classroom during the exam saying our mother was in a terrible car accident. Of course, I knew that wasn't true, momma didn't drive a car.

But she started crying in front of everyone and the professor had to excuse me. I didn't talk to her for days.

No matter what people say, I like studying. I like learning new things. If I didn't learn new things, I'd never have known about my true self.

Rodger decided he loved his earthly life, being a millionaire, or, was it, billionaire. He went back to Europe. Living so far wasn't a big deal because all we had to do is teleport. The distance is the same, even if we lived in the same apartment we'd be this close.

Rover decided since they were a twin, whatever belonged to Rodger belonged to him and made himself the part owner, which Rodger complied to after some argument about privacy.

Ariana decided to go back to teaching first graders like she did when I was a kid. Adam had magically procured himself a job at NASA, which I thought was cool.

Alexis and Ashton, those two spoilt brats, didn't want to live up there either but instead of getting jobs they'd each bought a few apartments around the world and decided to live life freely.

Chase started working for ACRT. He decided some action was necessary for his life and sitting up in heaven wasn't cutting it.

## Colors of Eternity

Chloe and Rachel were the only ones still up in Angelica. Even momma and daddy had moved to earth along with my uncles and aunts.

We all had lived on earth but Angelica would always remain our home. We gathered there for every occasion. They now celebrated human festivals.

Last Christmas we all gathered in Angelica, including all of our adoptive families. It was the best Christmas ever, even though we celebrated all festivals up there was something special about this one. There had been snow in Angelica, which never happened.

Angelica was known for its moderate and mellow climate and even though we didn't really feel cold, it snowed. No one knows why. I mean our parents didn't do it. It was probably Terra.

"Hello! Where did you wander off to?" Rea asked. She like me didn't really like loud conversations like we were having now.

"Just thinking," I said putting my head on her shoulder.

"You know, if you're nervous about what's going to happen today, just remember all these people are your family and they love you." She said.

Before I could answer Ariana came in to take Tess and I with her to get ready.

The dress they had picked for me was gorgeous. It was an off shoulder dress whose back was buttoned with blue sapphires and had a frilly high-low skirt. The front of the skirt reached my knee but the back draped around me as I walked.

I wore the diamond pendant that mom, Serena, gave me on my eighteenth birthday. I had my hair up in a cascading waterfall braid that went perfectly with the off-shoulder look. The only

thing that actually signified me were the combat boots I was wearing.

I know they didn't suit the outfit but I loved them and they were my lucky charm.

Eve was still in the Frozen phase so she made sure her dress was a replica of Elsa's dress, she even made sure her hair looked like Elsa, well except the fact it was red whilst Elsa was a blonde.

"The two of you look gorgeous." Mom said wiping a tear.

"Of course they do. They have heaven in their veins." Momma said with pride.

"Come on now. Everyone is waiting. You two wait until we call you and you arrive in front of everyone. You remember what Rea and Cassie did, don't you?" Aunt Genève asked.

"Of course we do mom. Don't worry I won't let Ash screw up." Tess nudged me playfully.

"We should be worried about you, you're too excited." I retorted.

"Well, girls. We're proud of you." Momma said before they left. Mom went to join the audience where dad was standing while the other two went to their throne.

Things happened too fast after that, and no, I didn't screw up. I was brought back to reality when Grandma Terra announced "Hail to Goddess Ashlyn, the Goddess of Magic and Tess, the Goddess of Mystery. May your powers flourish with time. Blessed you be." She said as a gust of wind came.

In all this chaos, an old friend's words came back to me.

## **Colors of Eternity**

Margot Harriet, a witch we lost during the war, once told me something. "I'd rather be happy for a moment than be satisfied for all eternity."

And in this moment I was truly happy.

# REMINDER

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# Ashmita Ghosh

I am a young writer who wants to use this platform to share her work. In the crazy hectic mess that is my life, writing happens to be my only escape from reality. The pen is mightier than the sword so fight the battle of life with the best weapon there is! Writing is like magic and it's beauty is incomparable to anything else in this world.



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# Colors of Eternity

Colors of Eternity is a story filled with action, family, betrayal, deception, trust, love, hate, skills, magic, and a drive to succeed.

Colors of Eternity portrays the disarraying shades of Ash's life as she transforms from a girl to a goddess.

Ash's journey isn't an easy one but it's one worth reading. You'll flip through the pages wanting more and before you know it, you will be one with the characters and live the lives of the Angelican gods...

Heaven and hell haven't seen anything like this before.

Colors of Eternity portrays the disarraying shades of Ash's life as she transforms from a girl to a goddess.

Magic is in the air. Feel it course through you and experience the exhilarating effect of Angelica through a mere book.

What is life without a little magic?  
So, dive in and experience the unknown.

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