

The Amara Chronicles

Angela Knight

22112009AngelRose@gmail.com

Copyright (c) 2019

This screenplay may not be used or reproduced for any purpose, including educational purposes, without the express written permission of the author.

SC1

INT. GALEA'S CHAMBER

A young woman wakes suddenly from a nightmare, clasping a hand to her throat in panic. It is the same nightmare that has haunted her for many nights. It is always the same; a huge bear attacks the young woman, who is accompanied by a young Pegal. The bear pins the Pegal by the tail. The young woman attempts an attack on the bear but it takes one swipe with its mighty paw, ripping her throat open. That is the point at which she always wakes. She gathers herself and prepares for the day.

SC2a

EXT. ALASYMY

GALEA (A COMBINATION OF VISUALS AND
V.O.)

I came as a surprise to my parents. They are Pegals, and naturally expected to have a Pegal foal. What they got was a human Pegal. Mostly human in appearance, but with the addition of a yayal on my forehead, which changes colour with my mood, horse ears, white wings and a white horse tail. Everyone told me that I looked like that because my mother, Shayli, has a little human ancestry from long ago.

SC2b

For most of my life the tale of my birth was one of perplexity and awe. I was born in a forest clearing on the tenth day of the eighth month in the year 2331. My mother and father were grazing when she suddenly went into labour. My father, Loka, the ever reliable stallion that he was, remained calm and lay beside my mother to calm her. A messenger bird was sent for a human nursemaid who cared for the young foals when the parents were away.

It was a tradition brought on by the first human who'd aided a Pegal hundreds of years before. The Pegal mother had been in distress, having lost her mate and no one was there to help her. By a stroke of fate, a young farm girl had happened upon the mother, having heard her painful cries. The young girl knew how to help deliver animals and was not afraid as the baby Pegal came into the world with blood and grime. The kindness of the farm girl had created an unbreakable bond between her and the Pegal. The girl's descendants went on to care for the future generations of Pegals all the way up to my birth.

SC2c

The nursemaid who attended my birth is named Sarah and she was well equipped to handle the birth of an Pegal. Although rare, there are sometimes terrible complications when one is born and without help, both foal and mother could die. My father told me that when it was time for me to emerge into the world, the nursemaid looked shocked and wasn't able to say anything when she held me in her arms. My mother and father were just as, if not more stunned at seeing a wailing baby in her arms instead of a foal struggling to its feet. My parents didn't know what to do with a human baby, relying on Sarah to calm me down. When I refused to drink my mother's milk, Sarah offered her own since she had just given birth to a child, but tragically lost it. After the initial shock, my parents cradled me between them, nuzzling me with their snouts in loving affection.

SC3

10/8/2349

It is now my eighteenth birthday, and young as I am, I know I am ready to take the next step on life's journey; to seek my Ama. Everyone says it is high time that I began making more human Pegals; there aren't very many left in the world. Although they mean well by that, it pains me whenever someone points it out. No matter how much I am loved by my family and community, I am the only human Pegal around. No one is like me so no one truly understands me. Sarah understands my human side, but not my Pegal side and vice versa with my parents.

She plays a huge part in my life, ever since she brought me into the world. Almost like a second mother to me. She lives in the village below the Pegals' floating hill, with the Sarysas. They are a peaceful and gentle culture, always living in vastly green areas with a clean source of water so that their amary can channel easily and also be stronger. If it wasn't for the tragedy of the nursemaid lineage falling apart, there would only be Sarysas. But since Sarah, the last descendant of the very first nursemaid, had nowhere else to go and no family, she was given the otherwise never-heard-of privilege to live with them.

Sarysas are very solitary creatures and live near the Pegals because they can coexist without problems with the Pegals in the air and the Sarysas on the ground.

I visit with Sarah on a daily basis, the short interactions meaning as much to me as they do to her. Sarah is alone in this world otherwise. The Sarysas are friendly enough, but being the only one of your kind separates you at some point. She also doesn't have a mate, having lost her Ama not long before I was born.

I remember asking her one day as we were eating apples at her house, what had happened, but almost instantly regretted it. She had looked so sad, it had broken my heart (light blue). But being the Sarah I love, she drew up her strength and told me a simple version. Her Ama, James, had been killed while she had been carrying their child. They were attacked by thieves and slavers who wanted to take Sarah away. He'd managed to drive them off...only to sustain a major gash to his side. He died within a couple of hours from his wounds. Not long after, Sarah's baby died of an illness a day after it had been born.

To that day I had never felt more grief, and it wasn't even my own. I feel like I helped fill the hole in Sarah's heart, as if I could be the child she lost years ago. I also feel that Sarah understands my own pain of being alone and wanting an Ama.

SC4

EXT. ALASYMY

But true grief struck hard and fast when my baby sister Tana died, before she'd reached her third year. I and my fully Pegal sister had been inseparable since her birth. Sarah had allowed me to witness her birth and it was the most amazing thing my younger self had seen. Her glossy white coat reminded me of newly fallen snow and her eyes were the golden color of caramel. I'd loved her since the first moment she opened her eyes (light pink) and even more so when she'd used her first shaking steps to approach me and curled up at my side. The two of us had been close ever since, so much so that it was I who taught her how to fly. On the afternoon that I was to teach Tana how to use her strong legs for defence, we were attacked by a mad bear. The bear had gone for me first, pinning me by the tail with its massive claws. Tana had tried to help, aiming kicks at the beast's vital areas. But it had turned at the last moment, catching her with its claws. Our parents arrived moments later to fend off the bear, but they were too late to save Tana. Her carotid artery had been severed, leading her to bleed out in seconds. She died in my arms.

SC5

I never forgave myself for that day. Even though everyone tried to comfort me, telling me it wasn't my fault, I never felt truly at peace in my home again. And after numerous meetings with potential Pegal mates, I saw my differences more and more. I felt that no matter how trimmed my hoof-like nails were, how well brushed my white hair and tail, how preened my wings were, or clean my horse-like ears it wasn't enough to make up for my differences.

SC6

Loka sees Galea's growing distress (light blue) and nudges her to follow him. She grips his mane in comfort as they walk together in silence for a while. They stop on top of their floating hill which overlooks the valley where the Sarysas' village is nestled. A waterfall births a wide river that flows through the valley to the distant bay a few leagues away. Loka looks at Galea with light green eyes so much like hers.

LOKA

I know what troubles you.

Galea looks at him through her hair.

LOKA (CONT) (CONT'D)

You feel that you no longer belong here.

GALEA

I...

Galea sighs and nods. Her father is silent for a moment.

LOKA

It's time for you to find your Ama, Galea. (pause) However, I don't think you will find him here, or in an Pegal like me.

GALEA

Father!

Galea starts to protest but Loka nips her arm gently.

LOKA

It is not an insult to me or your mother. But you must find someone more like you.

GALEA

(despairingly)

How father? There are none like me around here.

LOKA

Then you must travel, follow your instincts and your heart as your mother and I taught you.

He sees the fear in Galea's eyes (black) and tucks her under his head.

LOKA (CONT'D)

(CONT)

You will find your way my daughter.

Galea nods in understanding and hugs him tightly around his strong neck. They walk back in silence and then she goes to her chamber to pack.

SC7

INT. GALEA'S CHAMBER

(grey)

Galea takes very little; her small rucksack specially made by Sarah, an extra pair of shoes, a portrait of her family, a brush, a stone for her nails, her journal and twig-pencil, some food and a change of clothes. Then after thinking it over, she stashes a small knife, made from the horn of one of her father's distant ancestors, and gifted to her by him, in the side pocket just in case.

Someone knocks on her door and she opens it to find Sarah carrying a small bundle in her arms. (light pink) She gives Galea a tearful smile and asks if she can come in.

GALEA

Of course.

Galea lets her in and she sits on the bed, setting aside the bundle.

SARAH
(softly)
Your father told me you're
departing to find your Ama.

Galea nods.

SARAH (CONT'D)
I wanted to give you some advice,
before you go.

Galea sits beside her and Sarah takes her hand.

SARAH (CONT'D)
(CONT)
I love you like a daughter Galea,
you know that right?

GALEA
Yes.

SARAH
All I want for you, is to be happy.
If this is what you desire, then I
will pray you find it. I...I only
want you to be prepared for the
dangers and cruelties that lie
outside our world.

GALEA
What do you mean?

Galea sees the haunted look in her eyes. It hurts her to see
it.

SARAH
Just promise me that you will
listen to your instincts. If
something doesn't feel right, fly
away. Don't hesitate.

The grip on Galea's hands tightens with urgency.

SARAH (CONT'D)
(CONT)
And if you feel that the man you
find is your Ama and you love him,
fight for him.

Galea hugs her tight, thanking her for the advice and love
she'd given her.

SARAH (CONT'D)
(CONT)
One last thing...

Sarah pulls away to smile at Galea.

SARAH (CONT'D)
(CONT)
...please come back to me. You're
all I have.

GALEA
I promise.

Sarah hands Galea the bundle, then leaves. Opening it, Galea is amazed to see a beautiful blue dress inside. It falls to her knees and looks like it was cut to fit her form perfectly. The narrow straps were made to accommodate her wings, the fabric light and airy, the simple design suiting her style. There is also a brand-new journal and twig-pencil, with a note written in Sarah's neat script:

A new journal for your new beginning.

All my love always,

Sarah

Galea smiles and changes, then finishes packing.

SC8

EXT. ALASYMY

After a brief, tearful farewell, Galea begins her journey North, where she was told humans lived. (white) Spreading her wings, she flies for many leagues over vast forests until she reaches a part that is inhabited by Yryayms; enormous beasts with heads and wings like eagles and bodies like lions. She dives down into the trees and begins walking from there on. She travels much longer than a normal human could, until she comes to a beautiful small clearing with a pond that feels safe. She curls up and falls asleep, using her rucksack as a pillow.

SC9

EXT. NORTH OF ALASYMY

11/8/2349

The next morning, as Galea is packing up and getting ready to go, she hears rustling in the bushes behind her. She pulls out her knife and waits for the animal to come out. A small ball of brown fuzz jumps out, hitting her in the chest.

GALEA

EEEEK!

She is thrown back and the wind is knocked out of her so hard all she can do is stare up at the tree canopy. Then a pair of huge brown eyes look down at her.

DANBO

Sorry! I thought something was chasing me so I jumped!

GALEA

(wheezing)

I'm alright.

Galea sits up and looks at the small creature. It is a cute, fuzzy brown rabbit with a twitching pink nose and a fluffy white tail, and wearing a green collar with a Baelon pendant hanging from it. His ears are straight up at attention and twitching as he listens to all the sounds around him.

GALEA (CONT'D)

(CONT)

Where did you come from?

DANBO

(whispering despairingly)

From far away. I lost my Master.

GALEA

Where did you see him last?

Galea sits cross legged and offers Danbo some grass to nibble on. He chews slowly and she does the same.

DANBO

The Maginist Tower. Some leagues from here.

GALEA

Well, if you can point us in the right direction I'm sure we can get you home. That is if you wish to travel together. A rabbit like you shouldn't be by yourself.

Danbo's eyes light up and he looks at Galea with gratitude.

DANBO

Oh that would be most wonderful!
Thank you!

Galea nods and stands, grabbing her rucksack and getting ready to go when she stops.

GALEA

You know, I didn't even bother to ask your name! Mine's Galea, what's yours?

DANBO

I'm Danbo.

Danbo offers his paw to Galea. She shakes it with a smile. They then set off towards the Tower.

SC10

14/8/2349

GALEA (V.O.)

It takes us three days to get through the forest, even travelling swiftly and sleeping only a few hours each day. I'm not sure why, but something is drawing me to the Tower and I feel I have to get there as soon as possible. Danbo is just as eager to return to his Master, feeling a great despair from the separation. He explains that he and his Master had been together since he was just a few hours old, needing protection after his mother abandoned him. He says that being matched to each other was the greatest thing to have happened to them. He'd been an ordinary rabbit till then, without a voice, and with a short lifespan, gaining his traits and abilities after Leera, the Head of the Order, had bonded the two of them.

(MORE)

GALEA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Danbo has great admiration for his Master; I can hear it in the praise whenever the little rabbit speaks of him. I can't help but smile, wanting to meet this mysterious Master. (light green) What does he look like? Is he one of those rare human-looking creatures? Or is he a completely new creature I had never heard of or seen before?

My curiosity and desire to meet this Master drive my feet until I can't go any further. Eventually I am forced to rest and Danbo offers to watch over me while I sleep. He will awake me if there is anything amiss.

Not long after I close my eyes, Danbo is shaking me awake in a panic. His ears are standing on edge and his nose is twitching wildly in fear.

DANBO

(squeaking softly)
Something is out there...!

GALEA (A COMBINATION OF VISUALS AND
V.O.)

(black)

I sit up and have the little rabbit hide behind me. In the bushes in front of me, I hear the low growl of a very large beast. I take out my knife and get into a crouching position, readying my strong legs in case I need to jump. The air is alive with static, a storm seeming to brew in the distance. The wind rustles through the trees with an eerie scream but it doesn't drown out the low growling. All the little hairs on the back of my neck and arms stand on edge from the spiralling energy, my heart pounding in anticipation. This is my first danger, my first battle alone. I was usually protected by my herd; I'd never had to deal with something on my own, apart from the bear of course. But just as I am able to rein in my fear and brace myself, the creature decides to retreat.

The storm of energy is gone, and so is mine. I collapse, releasing the breath I hadn't realized I'd been holding.

Danbo crawls into my lap and I hug him tightly. The comfort the little rabbit gives me soothes my fears and I thank him. Danbo nudges his fuzzy head under my chin, muttering calming sounds in my ear.

SC11

It is very difficult for me to sleep the following night. (white) I keep feeling eyes watching me even though Danbo doesn't sense anything around us. But my paranoia is warranted when somewhere in the middle of the night, I am awoken by the sound of heavy footsteps. I bolt up, knife in hand as a shadowy figure stands over me. He backs up in surprise, then starts laughing.

STRANGER

Calm down, I didn't mean to startle you.

Danbo finally wakes up and hisses at the intruder.

GALEA

(demanding)

Who are you? What are you?

The figure reaches into his pocket and pulls out a small rectangular box. From inside he withdraws a long wooden stick with a weird nub at the end. Striking it against one of the box's sides, fire erupts from the end, casting away the darkness. Galea jumps back from it.

STRANGER

It's just a match, don't worry.

He has a large nose on a thin face, patchy fuzz on his chin, and clothes that hang very loose on his skinny frame.

GALEA

(demanding)

Who are you?

STRANGER

(casually)

Just a traveller, that's all.

He looks Galea over.

STRANGER (CONT) (CONT'D)

What the hell are you? I thought you were just a girl but...

He looks at Galea's yayal with awe.

STRANGER (CONT) (CONT'D)
Is that an opal...?

He reaches out to touch Galea but she thrusts the knife towards him in warning.

GALEA
(warning)
Back off! You might be the first human I've met on my journey but that doesn't mean I won't defend myself or my friend.

The man steps back with a shrug.

STRANGER
No hard feelings love. I'll just be off then...

The match dies so he tosses it to the ground and disappears into the darkness.

DANBO
(muttering)
Something's very dark with that man.

Danbo watches the spot where the man vanished. Galea agrees and quickly packs up her belongings, ushering Danbo away from the spot in case he decides to return. They don't stop until the sun is nearly up, and then they only take a quick nap.

SC12
The stranger moves through the trees towards a silver glow. As he nears, the glow is revealed to be emanating from a tall silver man.

SILVER MAN
Is she on her way?

STRANGER
She is. Do you have the food?

The silver man tosses him something. The stranger devours it.

SILVER MAN
You have done well. Now I release you.

The stranger turns to leave, but the silver man reaches out a hand to him. And the stranger is gone.

SC13a

15/8/2349

Galea and Danbo resume their trip. (white) Galea is so wrapped up in her thoughts, she doesn't hear the sounds of chatter right away. Danbo jumps in front of her to stop her from walking further.

DANBO

(whispering)

Galea, we are close to a village! We should not go further.

GALEA

(excitedly) (light green)

A village? What kind of village?

DANBO

A human one!

Danbo shivers and hugs Galea's leg.

DANBO (CONT.) (CONT'D)

Humans eat rabbits like me! The collar doesn't always protect us acolytes. Please, let's not go nearer!

GALEA

But Danbo...what if my Ama lives there?

Galea kneels beside him.

GALEA (CONT.) (CONT'D)

This is why I am journeying so far from my home.

Danbo's ears droop with dread.

GALEA (CONT.) (CONT'D)

(sighing)

Why don't you wait here where it's safe? I will explore for only a short time, then I will return for you.

DANBO

Promise?

Galea nods, giving her word that she will return. Danbo dashes into a thick bush to wait for her and she quickly heads towards the village.

The sounds and smells become much more prominent as she draws closer and her stomach growls when she smells freshly baked bread.

SC13b

EXT. AMARA/VILLAGE

As Galea wanders into the village, the people start to notice her and draw back in fear.

GALEA
 (happily) (yellow)
 I mean no harm. I only wish to
 explore your village.

MAN
 (puzzled)
 What is so interesting about our
 village?

GALEA
 ...you are human.

The people murmur softly but decide to go about their day, keeping a curious eye on Galea the whole time. She finds the bakery that is providing the bread she's craving and picks one up.

BAKER
 (yelling)
 Have you earned that?

Galea pauses.

GALEA
 Earned...?

BAKER
 I don't give free handouts. Even to
 creatures like you.

Galea puts the bread down.

BAKER (CONT.) (CONT'D)
 (yelling again)
 Get out of here!

Galea hurries past him, moving deeper into the village. She receives a lot of curious stares. She studies everyone she encounters, wondering if any could be 'The One'.

But although she explores as much of the village as she is able, she doesn't encounter anyone she might be able to make a meaningful connection with and she leaves, disappointed.

SC14

EXT. OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE

Galea returns to where she had left Danbo.

DANBO
(cheering)
Galea, you've returned!

He pops out from the bush. Galea picks him up and cuddles him, seeking comfort.

Galea sets up camp for the night and after a small meal of some berries she found, they settle in for the night beside a fire.

SC15
16/8/2349 (white)

Galea and Danbo wake, ready to resume their journey. They breakfast on fresh grass and continue on.

SC16a

EXT. THE MAGINIST TOWER

WIDE EST.
They eventually come to the edge of the forest. The trees start to thin and more and more sunlight filters through the branches. Eventually they reach a clearing that overlooks a slope into a beautiful and peaceful valley. A river snakes through the tall grass plains then eventually disappears beyond a bend where we hear the sound of a waterfall. The plant life is so vibrant it is hard not to miss the huge, bright towered structure emerging like pale purple thorns towards the heavens. It is built out of thick, oblong stones thrown down by nearby mountains. No two stones are the same shape, size, or even the same shade of purple.

(MORE)

WIDE EST. (CONT'D)

There is one large main tower, with five others beside it, arranged in a rough circle, each with ornate conical tops. The towers are connected by tunneled walkways that snake down into the ground to the lower parts of the structure. From what Galea can tell, there isn't an obvious way into the Tower, making her wonder if it is more of a fort than an institute. Nearby are various people, some human, some not, some in robes, some in dresses, some in tunics and trousers. Some of the robed people are accompanied by animals and birds.

There is a simple dirt road that winds its way past the Tower and alongside the river, disappearing around a bend in the mountains. In the far distance are small plumes of white smoke swirling up into the sky.

SC16b

BACK TO THE COMPANIONS

The sky is perfectly clear and the warm sunlight reflects off the delicious morning dew on the dancing grasses. Galea plucks a few blades, first licking the fresh dew off, then nibbling on the plant itself.

DANBO

(cheerfully) (picking up
Galea's thought about
morning dew)

It's my favourite too. (He says
this around a mouthful of grass)

Galea laughs at his bulging cheeks. Danbo wrinkles his nose at her. Galea removes her rucksack, laying it on the ground, and they sit and eat the grass, as Galea stares mesmerized at the Tower.

DANBO (CONT'D)

What are you looking at?

TIGHT ON GALEA AND DANBO (CONT'D)

Danbo hops on top of Galea's shoulders and rests his head on hers.

GALEA

The Tower. (She points to it)

Danbo bends over her head and she looks into his eyes.

DANBO

Why?

GALEA

I think it's beautiful.

She picks up Danbo and settles him in her lap.

DANBO

If you think the outside is
beautiful, wait till you see the
inside!

GALEA

It's made from mountain stones
isn't it?

Galea scratches behind Danbo's ears. He shudders in delight and confirms that it is.

SC16c

WIDE ON THE TOWER

Galea turns back to the Tower and sees brush and rocks part from between two of the towers, forming a rustic path for a front entrance and a figure emerging. From such a great distance, it is hard to distinguish whether or not it is male or female, especially with the figure wearing a hooded green robe. Danbo follows her gaze and instantly perks up and shoots off like an arrow from a bow towards the figure.

SC17a

ELIAS (writing in his journal)

Where do I begin? I'm 31 now; if I begin at the beginning it'll take at least that many years to write everything down. But I wanted to get this out there. I suppose I could begin with Rensa, as he's the worst. ALL the carnivores are the worst bullies. Most of the omnivores are pretty bad, but most of the herbivores are great. But since Rensa was old enough, he's been a barbed thorn in my side, with the encouragement of his parents, who I'm pretty sure killed the pet humbug I had when I was a child. Worse; a barbed, venomous stinger, pumping its venom into me at a steady rate. Benna does what he can to protect me, but it's not enough. And I hate the idea of burdening Danbo, so I don't talk to him about it, but I know he knows how troubled I am. And that's just the males! The females are almost as bad! I've been told they find me attractive, and that's why they try to gain my favour.

I can't see it myself, and there's not one of them that I like in that way. Maybe there's no one for me; I'm still alone at 31 after all. I've come to terms with that. I hope Danbo has someone soon though; there is that white rabbit with the blue acolyte collar who he seems to really like, but nothing's happening. Is he waiting for me to settle down first? He'll be waiting a long time! I would like to Bond, but I've not met anyone I felt I could do that with. Soon I will be undergoing intensive training, which is intended to force me up to Ama from Trainee. I don't expect it to be effective. For several days I will be unable to leave the Tower, but I never go far from it anyway, unless necessary. Despite the horrors it holds for me I feel safe and comfortable here.

Elias sends his journal back to its place on his shelves, then goes in search of Danbo. He teleports outside first. He casts around but doesn't see him. Then the white rabbit who he'd mentioned hurries up to him.

WHITE RABBIT

Master Elias, Danbo disappeared!

Before Elias can begin to search for him, he feels a weight on his left shoulder. He looks, and sees Syl. Her presence confuses him.

SYL

(calmly)

Go to your training.

Elias is panicky, and wants to search for Danbo rather than train, but he nods, and she vanishes.

Elias returns to the Tower reluctantly. Benna meets him and he tells him about Danbo, and also Syl's behaviour. Benna tells him not to worry. Elias enters the Training Chamber and attempts to prepare himself.

SC17b

The Training Chamber is gloomy, but there are two points of yellow light, somewhere in the distance. They gradually move closer, and a shape forms around them. It's the shape of a humanoid black leopard. (Rensa) Elias backs away as he approaches. He hears Benna's voice in his mind.

BENNA

It's a Level Ama simulation.

Elias dons his battle robe and summons his staff, and the simulation dons its own battle robe and summons twin swords. Elias stops moving backwards, takes a deep breath, and advances.

The simulation grins evilly at Elias and swings its swords, but Elias dodges out of reach and swings his staff. It connects with the weapons and the simulation is driven back. It recovers and comes at Elias again, faster this time. He matches its speed, and when they are in range of each other, they swing their weapons again. Hard. The impact throws them clear of each other.

Elias prepares himself to attack again, but the simulation lowers its arms and stands very straight, looking right at him with a smug expression on its face. Elias readies himself for whatever he's about to face. The swords vanish.

Elias dismisses his staff and readies his magence, lowering his arms and spreading his hands. The simulation puts its hands behind its back. Then it tilts its head slightly, regarding Elias, and reveals its hands to him. Two small fireballs rest on its palms. Elias shields himself with a bubble. The simulation flings the fireballs at him, and he dodges them. Two more appear and are flung at Elias, who dodges again.

Then the simulation raises its arms. Elias looks up, and there's a boulder above him! It falls, breaking apart when it hits Elias' shield, but still pinning him to the chamber floor. The simulation approaches. A sword appears in its hand. It raises it high, meaning to bring it down on Elias' neck. He closes his eyes and waits.

SC17c

BENNA (CONT'D)

Open your eyes my son.

Elias opens his eyes, and sees Benna. He scans the chamber for the simulation, but it's nowhere in sight. He transforms his battle robe into his usual robe and gets to his feet. (the boulder is gone)

Benna looks at Elias sympathetically.

ELIAS

(resignedly)

I'll try again.

BENNA

Rest first.

Benna provides food and drink. After eating and drinking his fill Elias resumes training. It's disaster after disaster. He's strangled by vines; pinned by more boulders; drowned; thrown off a cliff; even swallowed by a giant Danbo! Each time he must be rescued. This continues for days.

Elias thinks his concern for Danbo is affecting his abilities, and Benna agrees, because he tells him he can go in search of him. He raises his hood, hoping to avoid attention, and leaves the Tower.

SC17d

He's not gone far when he hears a voice.

DANBO
Master! Master!

Elias looks up in surprise to see Danbo running towards him at full speed. When he reaches him he leaps into his arms and he holds him close, overjoyed to see him. Then he senses another presence. He releases Danbo and stands, nervous.

Galea stands before him. She's regarding Elias with interest.

DANBO (CONT'D)
It's alright Master, she's lovely.

Elias swallows nervously and slowly lowers his hood. Galea's eyes widen and she gasps. (light pink) Then Danbo nudges Elias.

DANBO (CONT'D)
Tell her your name.

Elias swallows again.

ELIAS
E-Elias.

Galea is smiling at Elias.

GALEA
It's nice to meet you Elias. I'm Galea.

Then her smile brightens, and Elias can't help but smile back at her.

Danbo nudges Elias again.

DANBO
Why don't the two of you get to know each other?

And before either of them can say anything he's run off towards the white rabbit with the blue collar.

SC18a

There are several people nearby, regarding Elias and Galea with interest. Elias offers his arm to Galea. She smiles at him and takes it. Elias leads her away from their audience, towards the river.

They reach a quiet spot, but there are still all eyes on them. Elias sneaks a look at Galea. She appears tired, so they sit, and she rests her head on his shoulder. Her ears droop and her head lowers. Her eyes become heavy. Little by little, her head lowers further, until it's in Elias' lap. And she's asleep. Some of her hair has fallen on her face, and Elias carefully moves it away. He leans over her, gazing at her, drinking her in.

Suddenly, Galea's eyes snap open and her head raises so fast it slams into Elias' nose. She's immediately apologetic. Elias can't see through the tears in his eyes, but he manages to tell her it's alright. Then he raises his hand and uses magence to heal his nose.

Elias wipes his eyes and see Galea's concerned face before him.

GALEA

I'm so sorry! (brown)

ELIAS

I'm alright.

GALEA

Are you sure?

Galea reaches for Elias' nose. She hesitates, her fingers almost touching Elias' face. Elias reaches for her hand. They feel a sudden sting as he touches her, which startles them, and coloured sparks fly from their fingers. (light pink) Elias takes a moment to recover, then tries again. This time, he's able to touch her hand to his nose.

ELIAS

It's good as new.

Galea examines Elias' nose, with her hand, and with her eyes. Then her eyes meet Elias' eyes. She leans in. She draws closer, then rests her head on Elias' shoulder and wraps her arms around him. He looks panicked! Then he looks down at her, and calms. He carefully wraps his arms around her. She smiles and leans into him, tightening her arms around him.

SC18b

They are interrupted by a shriek. It sounds like Danbo. Galea hears it too and is suddenly alert. Danbo is heading towards them at great speed, Gandax behind him.

Elias and Galea stand. Danbo leaps into Galea's arms, she being nearer than Elias. Gandax skids to a halt, his powerful paws tearing up the ground. There's no sign of the white rabbit.

Rensa is striding towards them. Elias quickly steps in front of Galea and Danbo, hoping to shield them from him.

RENSA

I see you've found your lost bunny Eli. (then from beside Galea) And something even more appetising.

Elias takes Galea in his arms, turning his back towards Rensa, something that he would never usually do. Rensa chuckles.

RENSA (CONT'D)

You want her do you Eli? Do you think she'd look twice at something like you? A long-in-the-tooth weakling of a human, who's been a Trainee for eighteen years?! You're pathetic Eli! (to Galea) Forget this loser and come with me, my pretty little pony.

But Galea frowns, and draws closer to Elias.

ELIAS

You have your answer. Now leave.

RENSA

Come now Eli; you know I always get what I want.

GALEA

(firmly)
Not this time.

RENSA

We'll see about that Galea.

GALEA

How do you know my name?!

RENSA

It's all I can hear in Eli's mind. It's like music to him. It sickens me!

DANBO

Leave them alone Master Rensa!

RENSA

Shut up pip-squeak! When I've finished with your Master I'll present your fur to my mother.

Danbo shivers.

RENSA (CONT) (CONT'D)

Why is she all you can think about?

He leans close to Elias and sniffs. And his eyes widen. Then he laughs uproariously.

Rensa eventually stops laughing and gathers himself. He wipes tears of laughter from his eyes.

RENSA (CONT'D)

You don't seriously think she could fall in love with you in return, do you?!

Galea gasps, and tears prick Elias' eyes.

RENSA (CONT'D)

Forget this loser and come away with me Galea.

GALEA

(defiantly)

No! I don't want you; I want him! I love him!

Elias looks down at Galea in surprise, and she meets his gaze. He notices Danbo grinning at him, and blushes. Galea notices him then, and smiles. Elias can't help but smile as well.

RENSA

(raging)

No! A creature like you should be mine!

Rensa punches Elias in the face. He stumbles, loses his grip on Galea, and falls. He's dazed, but heals his face and rises.

Rensa is pulling Galea towards him. She struggles, but he's too strong. Then he yowls in pain and shoves Galea away. Danbo, who she managed to keep hold of, has blood around his mouth. Rensa heals his wounded chest, then roars at Galea and Danbo.

Elias places himself in Rensa's path, then summons his battle robe and staff. Rensa appears momentarily stunned, then bursts out laughing.

RENSA (CONT'D)

Very well. Would you excuse us my dear? This won't take long.

Rensa summons his battle robe and twin swords.

Galea clings to Elias, looking up at him pleadingly. (black)

ELIAS

There's no other way.

GALEA

There must be.

Elias shakes his head slowly.

ELIAS

There isn't.

Elias summons vines from the ground. They wrap around Galea and Danbo and move them to a tree a safe distance away, where they are deposited in the branches. Then Elias faces his opponent.

SC18c

Rensa snarls at Elias, and he attempts to hide his nervousness. Rensa begins to circle, confidently, and Elias circles too. Without warning, Rensa attacks. Elias raises his staff and wards off the blow. The clang of steel on ironwood is jarring. Rensa swings his weapons at Elias' legs, but he jumps over them. Then Rensa attempts to run Elias through, but he leaps back and deflects the swords.

Gathering his strength, Elias rushes at Rensa. He hesitates, surprised. Elias aims for his hands. His staff connects, and Rensa yowls in pain and drops his weapons. Elias turns his staff and jabs the end into his chest.

Elias forces Rensa back. He stumbles and falls. Elias raises his staff high to deliver a killing blow.

Galea's concerned face appears before Elias in his mind, causing him to hesitate. Rensa kicks out, knocking him onto his back. His staff flies from his hands and he lies winded and helpless. Rensa stands over him, victorious. He raises his hands and two small fireballs appear on his palms. The fireballs grow steadily larger. As Elias regains his breath he realises; he's escalated the battle.

He's free to utilise magence, so he does the most obvious thing; he teleports away.

He finds himself in Galea's tree. She throws herself into his arms. He holds her close.

ELIAS (CONT'D)
I must end this.

GALEA
(sobbing) (light blue)
No!

ELIAS
He won't stop unless I stop him.

Elias pulls back slightly. Galea's eyes are filled with tears. Before Elias can lose courage he kisses her cheek. And in the next instant he's again on the ground.

Elias faces Rensa, calms his mind, and focuses. Vines snake from the ground around him. When they are large enough he extends his arms towards Rensa, commanding them to attack. They race towards him, surrounding him, hiding him from view. Then we hear crackling, and see smoke. Then flames, which spread swiftly, until the entire mass of vines is ablaze. Through the flames we see Rensa, standing calmly.

Gradually, the fire dies down. Rensa regards Elias.

RENSA
(unimpressed)
Is that the best you can do?

Rensa builds the fire up once more and extends his arms towards Elias, sending the blaze rushing at him. Thinking quickly, Elias extends his arm towards the river, summoning its water as a shield. Rensa's fire surrounds him, but his shield holds, and the flames gradually fizzle out.

Rensa glares at Elias, then grins nastily. Thick black smoke issues from the ground around him.

RENSA (CONT'D)
Feast on him!

The smoke takes the form of three black lions, which rush towards Elias. He summons pillars of stone, which surround him, frustrating the lions' attempts to reach him, but allowing him a view of Rensa, who he attacks with more vines. He's beaten back, focused as he is on the lions.

RENSA (CONT'D)
 (roaring)
 Get these things off me!

The lions hurry to obey, tearing at the vines until they retreat into the ground. Then they dissipate.

Rensa extends an arm, but not towards Elias; to the area behind him. He turns and sees a carnivorous elephant heading towards him. It reaches the pillars and rears. Elias teleports to the top of one that's as far from the elephant as he can get. The elephant comes down and some of the pillars fall. It comes towards Elias again, and again he teleports away as it rears. More pillars fall. This happens a third time. The fourth time there are no other pillars to escape to. The elephant rears one more time.

From Elias' hiding place he watches the elephant bring the last of the pillars down. Rensa appears angry to be unable to see him.

RENSA (CONT'D)
 (to Gandax) Find him!
 Rensa's acolyte paws through the rubble, keeping a wary eye on the elephant, which is also looking for Elias.

When it becomes clear that Elias isn't there Rensa angrily dismisses the elephant. Then he turns to the tree that Galea and Danbo are in. The sky grows dark. And Rensa grows taller. Before long he's as tall as the tree. And Elias attempts something he never had before.

Elias also turns his attention to the tree. He focuses, and begins a transformation.

Rensa has approached the tree and is reaching for Galea.

GALEA (black)

(screaming)

Elias!

Rensa laughs.

RENSA (CONT'D)
 Eli can't save you; he can barely save himself!

Elias approaches Rensa from behind. Galea draws back in fear as she notices him, then looks surprised as she recognises him. Rensa turns. Now it's his turn to look surprised.

RENSA (CONT'D)

How did you manage that?!

Before he can do more Elias grabs him and shoves him away from the tree.

Rensa faces Elias, and takes in his tree-like form. His hair and attire have become leaves, and he is formed of branches. His eyes are sapphires. Rensa sneers at him.

RENSA (CONT'D)

That won't save them, or you, old man.

Elias roars at Rensa in his tree voice, and Rensa roars back. Elias makes the first move, extending an arm and producing a vine from his palm. It wraps around Rensa and Elias pulls him towards himself. He struggles mightily, and succeeds in breaking the vine. Then they rush at each other. Elias takes hold of Rensa's shoulders and attempts to push him over, and Rensa takes hold of Elias' sides and digs his claws in. Elias removes his hands from Rensa's shoulders and takes hold of his arms instead, attempting to extricate himself from his grip. Rensa takes the opportunity to headbutt Elias in the face. Angry, he retaliates in kind. Rensa releases him and Elias punches him, over and over, not allowing him an opportunity to recover. He falls back, and Elias advances. Then something slams into the backs of Elias' legs and he loses his balance and falls. He'd forgotten Rensa's tail! He immediately attempts to rise, but Rensa places a foot on his chest and presses down. He raises his hand and a fireball forms around it. He draws his hand back.

RENSA (CONT'D)

(booming)

You're finished Eli!

Elias closes his eyes and allows tears to fall.

GALEA

(shouting)

Elias! I love you!

Elias' eyes snap open and, roaring, he kicks out, and Rensa flies over his head. He lands hard, and before he is able to recover Elias summons pointed rocks from beneath the ground. He directs them towards Rensa. But Galea shrieks and Elias turns them away at the last second, forming a cage instead, which he reinforces with vines, and with branches from himself. Rensa returns to his usual size and attempts to escape, but the cage shrinks with him. He is trapped. Elias is victorious.

SC19

Elias turns to see Galea and Danbo rushing towards him, and quickly returns to his usual form, welcoming them into his arms. Galea buries her face into his shoulder, sobbing.

ELIAS

(soothing)

Shh. It's over, my alaya.

Galea stops crying and looks up at Elias, smiling. (light pink) Elias lowers his head towards hers, as she raises her head towards his. Then Elias hesitates. Galea is confused.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

I want to be your Ama more than anything, but...

Elias suddenly stiffens and turns white. He gives a choked gurgling noise, then collapses on the ground, his eyes rolling back. Galea cries out in fear (black) as she tries to help him, but her weak magence does nothing.

THOMAS

(gentle and reassuring)

Do not worry...

Galea's head snaps up and she gasps in surprise as she sees four humans; two males, two females. One female wears a gold acolyte collar and carries a large white mouse wearing a gold robe and a Baelon pendant, the other wears a green acolyte collar and carries a large snail with a green crystal shell and a Baelon embedded in the shell. One male wears a yellow acolyte collar and carries a large yellow butterfly with the Baelon symbol as part of his wing pattern. The other male wears a black acolyte collar and carries a large dogfaced bat, who wears a black robe bearing the Baelon symbol. There is also a hare, about four feet tall, in a blue robe, with a swallow wearing a blue acolyte collar on his shoulder, and a dragon/human hybrid woman wearing a white robe and a Baelon pendant, with a chameleon wearing a white acolyte collar. A little further back are two Maginists with red robes, a female with a tiger/leopard cross wearing a red acolyte collar and a male with a maned tiger, also wearing a red acolyte collar.

THOMAS (CONT) (CONT'D)

(gentle and reassuring)

...my Master can help him.

Galea refuses to allow them near Elias, her ears flattening back as she bares her teeth at them.

LUCY
There's no need to be afraid.

GALEA
(demanding)
Who are you?

DANBO
They're the High Council.

The humans who carry Leera and Parnax bring their Master and Mistress closer so they can inspect the unconscious Elias. Benna also approaches, with what appears to be concern mixed with pride showing on his face.

BENNA
We need to tend to him carefully,
Leera.

Leera nods silently and for a moment there is a blinding light.

SC20

INT. THE TOWER/INFIRMARY

When it fades, Galea is inside an infirmary with Leera, Benna and Parnax, and their acolytes. The chamber is made of bright, pale purple stones just like the outside of the Tower, stained glass windows letting in rainbows of beautiful light to make the chamber seem more peaceful. There are only five beds, each simple in design with linens and two pillows and a bedside table.

Elias is placed on the far bed and the Thomas, with Parnax, and Benna stand by his side while Lucy, with Leera, stands beside Galea. Then Leera turns to Galea and speaks.

LEERA
Parnax will heal him just fine. No
need to worry. Now, you may go and
rest while you wait.

GALEA (grey)

(protesting)

But...

Leera holds up her hand. At the snap of her fingers a small creature appears. It is about three feet in height and has the tall ears and bushy tail of a desert fox.

It wears a simple tunic with pockets but no trousers which free his bowed legs. Danbo bristles at the creature and it gives a humorous cackle similar to a hyena.

LEERA (CONT'D)

He will escort you to a guest chamber where you may wait.

SC21

Galea thanks Leera and follows the small fox creature down winding halls and stairways until they reach a secluded, heavy wooden door with a keyhole the size of the creature. He reaches into the pocket of his tunic and pulls out a massive bronze key and slips it into the keyhole. The door swings open and he bows as Galea and Danbo enter.

The chamber is simple. Just a few scattered chairs and a window or two.

While they wait, Danbo explains why there is such animosity between Elias and Rensa. He says that Rensa has always been a thorn in Elias' side, that Rensa is descended from a proud, ancient line of black leopard Maginists, and that Elias is descended from a long line of human acolytes. Elias is the first of his bloodline to be a Maginist, giving him a lot of attention from the High Council. This made Rensa's parents, and eventually Rensa himself, feel threatened by him and caused them to bully Elias, making him feel inferior. Other carnivore Maginists also bully him. Danbo hates that his Master is put down, believing that if he can only overcome Rensa's family's manipulation, then certainly he can reach his full potential as the first human Maginist.

SC22

After some time Benna enters to the chamber and tells Galea and Danbo Elias is out of danger. He tells them to follow him and Galea assumes they are returning to the infirmary.

They stop in front of a pair of white gold doors that are engraved with Maginist symbols. Galea is confused as to why she was lead to the chamber of a Maginist, then the doors open. (light pink) Elias lies peacefully on the magnificent bed inside and Galea looks at Benna for confirmation. He chuckles.

BENNA

You are a smart mare, Galea. Yes, it is as you think. Elias has finally progressed beyond the level of Trainee, thus we have moved him into this chamber. He will recover swiftly.

Galea thanks him and enters the chamber, with Danbo.

SC23

Galea barely notices her rucksack is beside the bed; her attention is focused on the figure under the covers.

Galea draws close to the bed and sees Elias asleep. She leans over him to brush her lips against his cheek. He smiles, but remains asleep. Danbo hops up onto the bed to take a look at his Master. After sniffing around and tenderly touching Elias with his tiny paws, Danbo is satisfied that he is alright, and lies beside him. He soon falls asleep, snuggled in the crook of his Master's arm. It isn't long after that Galea too is overcome with exhaustion. Slipping off her shoes she lies beside Elias, briefly brushing his arm with her hand, and falls into a deep sleep.

SC24

EXT. THE TOWER

Deep amongst the trees the two red-robed Maginists wait. The male (KARNA) growls impatiently.

EELA

Patience my love.

Finally, they see a silver glow approaching. Karna strides towards it angrily. It is their contact. Before Karna can reach him to rend him with his claws, he walks into an invisible barrier. He snarls mightily, but Eela quiets him swiftly, lest someone should hear.

SAR ARSAM

Why did you request this meeting?

EELA

We wanted to inform you that it has begun; the seed has been sown. Eli's true self has begun to emerge.

SAR ARSAM

Good. It won't be long now.

KARNA

(impatiently)

How much longer? We've waited more than thirty years already!

SAR ARSAM

You would do well to remember who granted you the power you needed to gain your seats on the High Council. In time, you will get what's coming to you. I will contact you if you can be of further help.

With that, he turns and strides away.

EELA

Come my love, let us go home.

And they return to the Tower.

SC25a

INT. THE TOWER/ELIAS' CHAMBER

Elias wakes slowly, with Galea in his arms. She reaches out and touches his face, making him shiver, and he realizes he needs to shave, so he passes his hand over his face. Then he appears puzzled.

GALEA

What is it?

ELIAS

This feels familiar.

DANBO

Because you've done it before. Mistress (surprise registers on Elias' and Galea's faces) wouldn't remember; she'd just been born. But Master, this was one of the most significant experiences you had as a new Trainee.

Elias suddenly recalls the event he's speaking of, and sits up. Getting out of bed, He crosses to his bookcase. Galea turns red. (ON HIS TOP HALF)

DANBO (CONT'D)
Uh...Master...?

ELIAS
(tersely)
Not now!

Elias looks over the books.

DANBO
But Master...

ELIAS
(exasperated)
What, Danbo?!

Danbo hops down from the bed, taking a robe that is hanging from one of the bedposts and carries it over to Elias. PULL BACK He's puzzled, then swears under his breath as he hastily dons the robe, covering his nakedness.

DANBO
(matter-of-factly)
Mistress was uncomfortable.

Elias' face burns with embarrassment. Clearing his throat, he turns back to the bookcase, running his fingers over the spines. Not finding what he is looking for, he goes to another bookcase. The second bookcase is much taller than the first, a rolling ladder on one end of it. Elias climbs the ladder, then makes a noise of excitement and stomps on the ladder with his left foot. It glows and moves halfway across the bookcase then stops, reaching a particular book. Elias takes it and slides down, then flops onto the bed beside Galea. It is a rather thick book, leather-bound with a Baelon embossed on the cover. Elias opens it and starts flipping through the pages.

ELIAS
Galea, where were you born?

GALEA
Why does that matter?

Galea shifts into a comfortable sitting position. Elias looks at her pleadingly.

GALEA (CONT) (CONT'D)
South of here, in Alasymy.

Elias' face lights up and he looks at Danbo, who looks smug.

GALEA (CONT) (CONT'D)
Elias...what's going on?

ELIAS

Read this...

Elias passes the book to Galea, his hands trembling with excitement. She gives him a puzzled look, then glances down at an entry with her birth date. The book is a journal, written in a very neat script.

I'LL WRITE THESE IN DENARAN IF WE'RE GOING TO SHOW THEM HOW THEY'RE WRITTEN

SC25b

10/8/2331

I decided to take Elias out into the world today. I felt it was time for the boy to see what it was he would be facing when he became a full Maginist, as well as what he would be protecting. At first I wondered if maybe I was too hasty in my decision. Elias and Danbo were fearful of every shadow and it was difficult for him to concentrate on his practices. However, near the end of our journey we happened upon a Pegal couple, their human nursemaid and what I presumed to be her Ama.

The female was in deep distress, her Ama doing his best to calm her. Elias wanted to help the poor creature, but I held him back. Not knowing what to do could endanger her. There was the added danger of a very protective father who could perceive him as a threat. Luckily, there was no need for interference and the birth went splendidly. What wasn't expected was the babe turned out to be a human Pegal, a unique sight to behold. I told Elias that this was one great example of what he would protect; the beauty of a child coming into a safe world. When the babe had suckled, I made our presence known, though the father had long sensed us in the brush, and asked if we could have the honour of blessing the child.

The father nodded in agreement and Elias and Danbo were able to meet the child. She was a small thing, but perfectly hale with powerful wings and a small round yayal on her forehead. I made the Sign of the Baelon (I know how to do this) over her and encouraged Elias to do the same. Elias was at first afraid to hold the baby, not knowing if he would hurt her...

Galea smiles a little at that.

...then he carefully took the baby in the crook of his arm as instructed. She fussed a little but Elias soothed her with calm words and rocked her gently. Danbo sniffed the baby and made her happy by tickling her with his whiskers. I could see the happiness and wisdom this brought to my young apprentice and hoped that he would remember this day.

SC25c

GALEA

I remember my mother telling me of this. I had no idea that was you!

Galea looks at Elias, and he smiles at her fondly.

GALEA (CONT) (CONT'D)

Where were you born?

ELIAS

Here in the Tower. My parents were acolytes.

Then Elias shows Galea the entry for Danbo's birthday.

SC25d

11/12/2329

While gathering plants, I came across a litter of newborn kittens, just lying on the ground. There was no blood, but the evil in the air led me to believe that dark magence had been used to steal their lives away. My instincts told me their mother had long since abandoned them. At first I thought they were all dead, but then I noticed the smallest one breathing shallowly. I picked him up, increased Sen's size so I could ride him, and we flew home swiftly; the little rabbit being too weak for teleportation. I fed him and kept him warm.

When Elias returned from school, I showed him the baby rabbit. I allowed him to assist me in caring for him, and the two soon became inseparable.

SC25e

Then Elias shyly shows Galea the entry for his thirteenth birthday.

SC25f

12/1/2331 (CONT'D)

As his time approached, Elias became very nervous, so I attempted to reassure him by telling him of my own time. I explained that myself, my family, my future trainer, the High Council, and their acolytes had been present in the Great Hall, along with all the other Maginists and their acolytes. Leera hung a Baelon pendant round my neck, then presented me with Sen, put an acolyte collar on him and Bonded the two of us using her power. Then I was presented to the other Maginists, and as one, they welcomed me. Elias appeared to relax, and little Danbo appeared happy for him, although troubled at the same time; he was clearly worried he and Elias would drift apart after he was Bonded to his acolyte.

Finally, Elias' time arrived, and he, I, with Danbo, the other High Council members, the other Maginists, and our acolytes stood together in the Great Hall. First, Leera hung a Baelon pendant round Elias' neck. Then, I stepped forward and presented him with Danbo. Both their faces lit up as they understood. Leera put an acolyte collar on Danbo, then Bonded the two of them, and Elias was finally one of us. I could see the joy on Elias' face when Danbo spoke for the first time, calling him, "Master".

SC25g

ELIAS (CONT)

When a Maginist reaches the age of thirteen he or she is matched to an acolyte. It's a lifelong pairing similar to a Bonding. When the Maginist is no more the acolyte disappears. When the acolyte is no more the Maginist feels the loss deeply and remains alone, unless he or she is Bonded, in which case the loss is easier to bear. If the Maginist is not Bonded at the time of loss a Bonding will be unsuccessful.

GALEA

When a Maginist with a Bonded acolyte is no more, what happens to the Ama when the acolyte disappears?

ELIAS

He or she is simply left behind, heartbroken.

Elias takes Galea's hand and gives it a comforting squeeze, seeing fear in her eyes. (black) Then she looks up into his eyes, and calms.

ELIAS (CONT) (CONT'D)

This was Benna's journal.

Elias turns to a blank page and passes his hand over it. Instantly, words start to emerge as if being soaked through the paper from underneath, creating his own entry. Then he lets Galea read it.

17/8/2349

When I was at last permitted to leave the Tower, to go in search of Danbo, I saw he'd returned, in the company of the most beautiful woman on Denara, who I fell in love with the moment I saw her. And amazingly, she had fallen in love with me! I'm still amazed by that, and wonder if Syl had foreseen yesterday's events.

When Galea finishes she hands the journal back and Elias dismisses it with a wave of his hand, returning it to its place on the shelves. Galea watches in fascination. Then she turns to Elias.

GALEA

Thank you for showing me that.

Elias squeezes her hand again. She takes a deep breath.

GALEA (CONT) (CONT'D)

I love you.

Elias smiles shyly in response.

ELIAS

I love you too.

Then there comes a knock at the door.

ELIAS (CONT) (CONT'D)

Enter.

SC25h

The door opens and Benna enters. Elias' face lights up to see him.

ELIAS (CONT) (CONT'D)

Benna!

Galea appears uncomfortable. Elias looks to Benna, confused.

BENNA

When you collapsed, Galea was very protective of you.

Benna projects into Elias' mind exactly what happened. He sees Galea crouching protectively over his unconscious form, baring her teeth at anyone who dares venture too close.

ELIAS (to Galea)

(with feeling)

Thank you for that.

She smiles in response.

BENNA (CONT'D)

Parnax is preparing a healing bath for you Elias.

ELIAS (to Parnax, telepathically)

Thank you Parnax.

PARNAX

You're welcome Elias.

BENNA

I've made sure that the new servants are aware of your special needs for the medicines and what kinds of foods to prepare for you.

GALEA

How do you know so much about him?

Benna and Elias are silent for a moment, then Elias takes Galea's hand with a sad smile.

ELIAS

Benna raised me after my parents were killed.

GALEA

What happened?

ELIAS

They were killed by a bear.

Galea flinches at that. Elias regards her curiously, wondering why.

ELIAS (CONT) (CONT'D)

It would have killed me too but I teleported away. Benna found me. He and his Ama are unable to have children so they took me in.

GALEA

How old were you?

ELIAS

I wasn't yet one.

A tear trickles down Galea's cheek at that. (light blue) Wiping away her tears, Elias attempts to soothe her.

ELIAS (CONT) (CONT'D)

It's alright. It was a long time ago and I'm fine.

BENNA

I wouldn't make light of it, Elias. We Maginists don't usually teleport until we're walking. Elias teleported across a chamber to reach a toy when he was still a small baby. It was soon after this that his parents were killed. It was fortunate we of the High Council were observing him after having been informed of his first teleportation.

Galea manages a smile at that. Elias smiles to see it.

GALEA

Definitely can't make light of that. What's going to happen to Rensa?

BENNA

He will be banished. He was in breach of multiple tenets of the Code.

ELIAS

(grimly)

Eela and Karna won't stand for that.

GALEA

Who are they?

ELIAS

Rensa's parents. They're on the High Council, along with Leera, Benna, Danielle, Darfor, Syl and Parnax. Rensa and his family have never liked the idea of humans being anywhere near the Tower, that it was a waste of resources. They've looked for the smallest excuse to be rid of me and the human acolytes for years.

Elias runs his hand through his hair as a dreaded thought occurs to him.

ELIAS (CONT) (CONT'D)

And now they have one.

GALEA

What are you talking about? You've done nothing wrong!

Elias looks at her with a mixture of longing and hopelessness.

ELIAS

Even though Rensa breached the Code, I started the battle. I attacked my superior.

Benna approaches then.

BENNA

Elias, calm down...

GALEA

(fearfully)

What will happen to Elias?!

BENNA

(firmly)

He will face no consequences. His actions were taken in defence of the woman he loves.

Galea smiles at this, relieved, and Elias blushes. Galea kisses him on the cheek, and he blushes harder.

BENNA (CONT) (CONT'D)

You should take it easy Elias. Danbo can get anything you need.

DANBO

That's right Master. I'll go and get your breakfast.

Danbo hops off the bed and passes through the door, surprising Galea!

BENNA

Lady Galea. A Maginist has been sent to fetch your family. You can't have a Bonding Ceremony without them.

ELIAS AND GALEA

Lady?!

Bonding Ceremony?!

GALEA (to Elias)

My father is Lord of the Pegal herds. As his firstborn, the leadership of the herds will one day pass to me.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

(stunned)

I see. A Bonding Ceremony is a Maginist tradition. It's magence that binds two people together, so Bonding is very important to us.

Galea nods in understanding.

BENNA

I'll take my leave now. Enjoy your breakfast; I expect Danbo will return with it soon.

ELIAS

Apologies for ruining your birthday father.

BENNA

Nonsense; I couldn't have wished
for a better birthday. Farewell.

ELIAS AND GALEA

Farewell.

GALEA (CONT) (CONT'D)

And Happy Birthday.

BENNA

Thank you!

Benna leaves.

SC25i

Elias sneaks a look at Galea and sees she looks sad. He edges closer and she turns to him, wrapping her arms around him and burying her face in his chest. He carefully wraps his arms around her.

ELIAS

What's wrong?

GALEA

(sadly)

You said your parents were killed
by a bear. My sister was killed by
a bear.

Galea proceeds to tell Elias about her sister, and the events leading up to her death.

GALEA (CONT) (CONT'D)

Yesterday, I thought I was going to
lose you too.

ELIAS

(reassuringly)

I'm not going anywhere.

Galea looks up at Elias then, and smiles. Then she raises her head, and he can't help but lower his. Then the door opens and Danbo hops in, followed by a servant carrying a tray. Elias and Galea spring apart, startled.

DANBO (to the servant)

Told you!

The servant places the tray on the bed, bows to Elias and Galea, and leaves.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

What was that about?

DANBO

Everyone wants to know if the rumours are true.

ELIAS

What rumours?

DANBO

That you've finally met someone. They all say that it must be fate, and that you just had to wait for Mistress to be old enough.

Elias blushes, embarrassed to be spoken of in that way, but pleased at the same time. He places the tray between Galea and himself, then makes the Sign of the Baelon over it. Galea watches this with interest. When he's finished, the three of them eat.

After a while, Galea kisses Elias' cheek! It startles him so much that he chokes. Galea slaps him on the back, apologising all the while.

ELIAS

It's alright; I'm alright.

Galea doesn't appear convinced, so Elias gathers his courage and kisses her own cheek. He doesn't intend for his lips to linger there, but they do. When he eventually pulls away, embarrassed, he sees Galea is smiling happily at him. Then he sees that Danbo is looking up at them, and also smiling happily. Feeling rather awkward by now Elias returns to his food.

As they finish eating there comes another knock at the door.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

Enter.

The door opens and three men enter. Two of them who look like they could lift mountains are carrying a bath full of water between them, and the third carries a towel, sponge and a bottle. They set the items down at the foot of the bed, turn to Elias and Galea, bow, then leave. Danbo drags the tray out of the chamber, then returns, presumably having found a servant to take it back to the kitchens.

Elias approaches the bath to check the temperature of the water. Satisfied, he goes to remove his robe, but remembers Galea and stops and turns his head to look at her.

Understanding, she turns away. Elias removes his robe and gets into the bath.

ELIAS (CONT'D)
You can look now.

Elias' arms rest on the sides of the bath. He tilts his head back and closes his eyes, sighing with delight as the magencial properties of the water soothe him.

ELIAS (CONT) (CONT'D)
I could get used to this..

DANBO
(laughing)
Perks of being a Sayam Maginist,
Master.

He is sitting on the lip of the tub.

DANBO (CONT) (CONT'D)
Is there anything else you need?

Elias shakes his head slowly and Danbo hops down before departing once more. The room is completely silent. Then Galea carefully makes her way across the room.

Elias opens his eyes and looks at Galea.

ELIAS
Where are you going?

GALEA
I-I thought I'd leave you in peace.

ELIAS
Please don't go.

Galea stays where she is for a time before she slowly returns to the bed and settles herself on it once more, turning away from Elias.

ELIAS (CONT) (CONT'D)
Why won't you look at me?

GALEA
(sighing)
Do you have any idea how attractive
you are?

ELIAS

(smiling)

A lot of people have told me that, but I never really believed them, although some of them made it very clear that they wanted to be my Ama. They scared me!

GALEA

I didn't?

ELIAS

You were the first one who didn't scare me.

GALEA

I was scared though. I'd never felt anything like that before.

ELIAS

Neither had I.

Suddenly embarrassed, they lapse into an uncomfortable silence. Elias washes his hair, then the rest of him, sneaking glances at Galea all the time. She retrieves her brush from her rucksack and brushes her hair, then her tail. When that is done, she makes a journal entry, describing her journey here, and everything she found.

SC25j

All of a sudden, two human women burst in.

OLDER SERVANT

Come along dear; it's time for your own bath.

This one has silver hair tucked away from her aged face. The second isn't as old, having some colour left to her hair and fewer wrinkles on her face, but her eyes hold a deep wisdom. Galea hesitates as she stands, unwilling to go with strangers.

Elias rises.

ELIAS

(calmly)

They're some more servants, Galea.

The older woman shrieks and covers Galea's eyes instantly.

YOUNGER SERVANT

Master Elias!

OLDER SERVANT

Have you no decency? Your Ama-to-be
shouldn't even be in this chamber
with you like this.

Elias apologizes softly before Galea is ushered through the door.

SC26

INT. THE TOWER/CORRIDOR

She is led along corridors, until they reach another chamber. The women are silent and firm in their grip.

SC27

INT. THE TOWER/PREPARATION CHAMBER

Inside the chamber, there is a bath similar to Elias' in the middle, and a screen behind. Everything else is bare except for another door in the far corner. Galea stands silently as the women begin checking the bath and soaps provided.

OLDER SERVANT

(authoritatively)

Get to it dearie.

Galea flinches at the harshness. The younger one sighs.

YOUNGER SERVANT

(gently)

You have to wash up hon, it's not
long till your Bonding Ceremony.

GALEA

(stuttering)

M-my what?

The women pause to look at each other. The older one decides to answer.

OLDER SERVANT

Has no one told you yet? You are to
be Bonded today, there can't be any
delay with something this
important.

Seeing Galea's confusion she sighs and shakes her head.

OLDER SERVANT (CONT) (CONT'D)

Get into the tub and I'll explain.

Nervously, Galea sheds her dress and underclothes and folds her wings around herself to spare her blushes. When she gets into the tub, the hot water instantly relaxes her and her nerves dissipate slightly. The older woman starts washing her hair and begins to explain.

OLDER SERVANT (CONT) (CONT'D)

A Bonding Ceremony is a Maginist tradition. You and your 'young' man stand in the Great Hall in front of all the other Maginists, their acolytes, us servants, and your families. You confirm your unending devotion and attachment with each other, exchange amylas, and then you Bond in front of everyone. Most of the acolytes have the same ceremony, and a few of us servants.

GALEA

Amylas?

YOUNGER SERVANT

You'll see deary.

The younger one scrubs Galea's nails.

YOUNGER SERVANT (CONT) (CONT'D)

You each have one. It goes on this wrist (she indicates her left wrist).

OLDER SERVANT

After the Bonding there's feasting and dancing. It's a grand celebration, but I wouldn't be surprised if Master Elias faints before he reaches the Great Hall! He's never been one for large gatherings, or having all eyes on him.

YOUNGER SERVANT

Try not to worry about him dear. I'm sure he'll be fine with you there. Now get on with your bath.

They leave Galea to it. She's barely dressed afterwards when a knock comes to the door.

GALEA

Enter.

In walks a doe Maginist and her dove acolyte. The acolyte flies to a perch a short distance away, while the doe looks Galea over, a look of concentration on her face. Then she smiles.

MELINA

I think I know just what will suit you.

Then Galea realizes she is expected to wear something different to what she is.

The Maginist raises her hands.

MELINA (CONT) (CONT'D)

Be still.

In seconds, Galea's dress and shoes transform, and her hair is no longer down, but up. The Maginist produces a full-length mirror, and Galea marvels at the transformation. Her hair is twisted in an assortment of braids and curls that flatter her face. The dress she wears is much more elaborate than she would have ever seen back home. It has a large and heavy skirt that she finds difficult to move around in. The low cut of the bodice is also unnerving to her. What she does like about the dress however, is that it is made of the prettiest ice blue she has ever seen and the fabric of the dress captures light in a way that gives her a glow. The flowers sewn into the hem of the dress also please her and when she looks closer, she realizes they are real, living flowers that bloom and shed petals around her.

MELINA (CONT) (CONT'D)

Perfect! Come along, we're ready for you.

SC28

INT. THE TOWER

Galea follows her along corridors and down stairs, with some degree of difficulty from the heavy dress, until they reach a set of imposing double doors. The Maginist hugs Galea briefly.

MELINA (CONT)

Congratulations!

Melina vanishes, and the doors open on their own.

SC29

INT. THE TOWER/GREAT HALL

There an enormous round chamber, and a crowd of people encircling it, with a space down the middle, at the end of which is Elias, wearing a robe made of a white fabric similar to Galea's dress with elegant green embroidery along the hem, edges of the sleeves and neckline. His hair has been tamed as best it could be. Galea barely notices that Benna is in front of him, apparently attempting to calm him, and Danbo is sitting at his feet looking concerned.

Galea walks towards Elias. Benna notices her and indicates to Elias that she is here. He turns his head and his face lights up. Then Galea sees her parents and Sarah over to the left. She smiles happily at them and they smile in return.

Galea reaches Elias' side and Lucy steps forward, carrying Leera. And the Bonding Ceremony begins.

LEERA

Welcome! We are gathered together to unite these two people, and to celebrate that union.

Elias turns to face Galea, and Leera indicates she should do the same. Then Elias reaches out his hands to her, and she puts her hands in his.

LEERA (CONT'D)

Elias, do you love this woman with your whole heart?

ELIAS

(shakily)
I do.

LEERA

Galea, do you love this man with your whole heart?

GALEA

I...I

Elias regards Galea with concern, and squeezes her hands gently, trying to comfort her.

But suddenly it is all too much. Galea releases Elias' hands, turns, and spreads her wings. But the restrictiveness of the dress catches her off guard and she lands hard, tangled for a moment in it. Panicking, she tears some of the skirt as she gallops through the doors, trying to find safety.

SC30a

INT. THE TOWER

Galea runs and runs until she can't any more. The weight of the dress takes much of her energy and she finally collapses in a small alcove that overlooks the river. The quiet helps soothe her as she pants laboriously, trying hard not to release the tears brimming in her eyes.

EELA

My, my...

Galea looks up at the overly pleasant voice and sees a beautiful woman standing over her. Her jet black hair falls in loose loops around her head, framing her oval face and showing off her green cat-like eyes. Her skin is pale as fresh snow and her attractive body is shown off by a well fitted robe. It is a startling red colour with rich gold trimming. She also wears a Baelon necklace. Her luscious red lips are pulled into a slight pout as she studies Galea.

EELA (CONT) (CONT'D)

(chirpily)

Are you alright my dear? It's all very overwhelming isn't it?

GALEA

(softly)

Y-yes...

EELA

I didn't think they should have rushed it, but no one listens to me...

There's a black leopard tail flicking out from behind her. She grins, showing off her sharp teeth.

EELA (CONT) (CONT'D)

Perhaps it wasn't meant to be, Galea.

GALEA

How do you know my name?

EELA

Everyone knows who you are, girl. You caused quite an uproar.

GALEA

I...I didnt mean to...!

EELA

No of course not...

Eela slowly kneels, careful not to wrinkle her skirts, and puts an arm around Galea, who clings to the comfort.

EELA (CONT) (CONT'D)
Perhaps though...you were meant to be with someone else. Someone...who will be wrongfully banished...

DANBO
(harshly)
Mistress Eela, get away from her!

Galea sits up at Danbo's order. He hisses at Eela as Sarah arrives right behind him, panting heavily. She looks relieved to see Galea but then angry at Eela.

SARAH
(sternly)
You heard him.

Eela slowly rises and looks Sarah over slowly.

EELA
Nice to see you again, Sarah.

She walks past with her chin in the air.

EELA (CONT) (CONT'D)
We must catch up sometime.

Sarah snorts at that then sits beside Galea, hugging her tight as Danbo curls up in her lap.

SARAH
(gently)
Galea, what's the matter? I thought you wanted to be Bonded to Elias.

GALEA
I...I do but...

DANBO
Mistress.

Galea looks down and sees Danbo's concerned little face.

DANBO (CONT) (CONT'D)
Mistress, do you love Master?

GALEA
(whimpering)
With all my heart.

DANBO

(on the verge of tears)

Then why did you run away? Master was terribly upset when you left. He thinks you don't love him after all. His heart is broken.

Then Galea starts to cry. Sarah coos and comforts her, telling her that if she's not ready then it is alright.

GALEA

It happened so fast; I don't even know who Elias is. And once we're Bonded, we can never love another; what will become of me when he dies? Or him when I die? I thought we'd have more time. I did think we'd Bond right away, but I'd just got caught up in the moment. This is all too much.

DANBO

Master has the same fears. But he loves you too much to let them get in the way.

GALEA

He does?

DANBO

He'd never fallen in love before; that's how he knows it's meant to be.

SARAH

(firmly)

Meant to be or not, if you're not ready then you're not. Elias will understand if you want to wait, because that is what love is.

GALEA (to Danbo)

Do you think he'll ever forgive me?

DANBO

(smiling gently)

I know he will.

Sarah pulls out a handkerchief and dabs at Galea's cheeks.

SARAH

I think the High Council is in a rush to have you Bonded because exiling Rensa may take a while. They dont want another incident like what happened yesterday.

GALEA

(sheepishly)

You know about that?

Sarah laughs softly.

SARAH

Everyone knows sweetie, it's very romantic.

She suddenly turns serious.

SARAH (CONT) (CONT'D)

But you must not talk to that woman again, understand?

GALEA

Why?

DANBO

(bitterly)

She's Master Rensa's mother. She's a nasty piece of work.

GALEA

She was nice to me though...

Sarah snorts again.

SARAH

She was nice because she was trying to convince you that you're meant to Bond with her son, and that might prevent him from being exiled.

Galea is stunned.

SARAH (CONT) (CONT'D)

(pleading)

Just trust me on this, please.

Galea agrees. (white)

GALEA

My mother and father told me to always follow my heart, not my head. They said because I'm part human, my head would lead me astray, but my heart never would.

DANBO

Master Benna taught Master the same thing.

GALEA

Why do Maginists have a Bonding Ceremony?

DANBO

Its a very old tradition Mistress.

GALEA

Rensa didn't seem to care about that.

DANBO

He wouldn't, but Master wanted to give you time to think about whether you really did want to be Bonded to him. He was scared that, in the end, you wouldn't want him after all, but he just wanted you to be happy.

GALEA

He's going to live a long time, isn't he? Because of the magence flowing through him.

DANBO

A very long time Mistress.

GALEA

I want to share in his life. I want to share everything with him. Pegals live a long time too; even human Pegals. I want to always be by his side. He's the reason I came here. I love him so much it feels as though my heart will burst. (to Sarah) I know losing your Ama, and your child, caused you great pain, but if losing your heart to someone was a waste of time, no one would ever fall in love.

(MORE)

GALEA (CONT'D)

And I must follow my heart,
wherever it leads me. I already
couldn't love another. It will
always be him.

She stands then.

GALEA (CONT) (CONT'D)

I'm ready. But my dress...

DANBO

I'll be right back Mistress.

Danbo hurries away. He soon returns with Melina. She fixes the dress in a moment, and Galea returns, with Sarah and Danbo, to the Great Hall. They re-enter, and Sarah and Danbo take their places, while Galea returns to Elias, feeling all eyes on her. When she reaches him she sees his face is red and tearstained, a terrible sadness in his eyes. Taking a deep breath to steady herself, she takes his hands in hers and smiles at him (light pink), hoping to reassure him.

SC30b

INT. THE TOWER/GREAT HALL

GALEA

I'm sorry. I do love you and want
to be with you, but I thought we'd
have time to get to know each other
before we Bonded. I got caught up
in the moment before.

Elias appears to relax a little.

ELIAS

It's the same for me, but the High
Council, most of it anyway, wants
to banish Rensa as soon as
possible.

There comes a low growl, which makes Elias shudder, but Galea tries to ignore it. Elias turns to Leera.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

Could we possibly have some more
time?

Leera smiles.

LEERA

I'll give you as much time as I can, but when I call you, you must come.

ELIAS

I understand. Thank you Leera.

Elias bows deeply to her. Leera acknowledges his bow with a nod, then Lucy raises her up.

LEERA

(loudly and clearly)
There will be no Bonding Ceremony at this time, but prepare yourselves for the next time we gather here.

She turns to Elias and Galea.

LEERA (CONT) (CONT'D)

You are excused. Learn all you can of each other.

GALEA (curtseying)

Thank you Leera.

ELIAS

Thank you Leera.

He bows to her again. Then Benna takes Elias to one side. Putting something in his hand, he whispers in his ear. Galea doesn't mean to eavesdrop, but with her ears she can't help it.

BENNA

I'll handle Leera if it comes to it.

Elias thanks Benna and returns to Galea's side.

GALEA

What did Benna give you? And what did he mean when he said he'd handle Leera?

Elias makes a swift gesture, and his hand is empty.

ELIAS

Would you mind if I explained later?

GALEA
No, of course not.

ELIAS
Then perhaps we could step outside
for a while. It's too crowded in
here for my liking.

GALEA
Alright.

DANBO
I'll leave you to it Master.

ELIAS
Very well.

SC30c

Elias offers Galea his arm. She takes it, and he leads her out of the Great Hall, along corridors, down stairs, and eventually outside. They head away from the Tower. As they walk Galea slides her hand down Elias' arm and takes his hand in hers. And he promptly vanishes! He reappears seconds later, looking sheepish.

EXT. THE TOWER

ELIAS
Sorry. Can we try that again?

And he shyly reaches for Galea's hand. A sudden sting, sparks flying from their fingers startle them. This time Galea's hand slides into his, and their fingers close. Smiling at each other, they continue their walk.

ELIAS (CONT) (CONT'D)
I like your dress.

GALEA
I wasn't sure about it, but if you
like it...

Galea looks up and sees Elias looking straight down her bodice! He realizes what he is doing and whips his gaze away.

ELIAS
(stammering)
I-I'm sorry.

Then he looks worried.

GALEA
It's alright.

ELIAS
(whispering)
I'm sorry I'm so different.

GALEA
I don't care that you're different.
Actually, I like it. In case you
hadn't noticed, I'm even more
different than you. I never felt
like I truly belonged, until I met
you.

Elias manages a smile at that.

GALEA (CONT) (CONT'D)
I was taught that people are often
flawed, but if whoever I fell in
love with had a true heart,
whatever flaws they had would be
unimportant. And now I know it's
true. I don't see any flaws.

Elias gives her a smile that is tinged with sadness.

ELIAS
You might not say that if you lived
with me for a while. I don't know
how Benna or Danbo ever put up with
me.

Galea turns to face him.

GALEA
My feelings for you will never
change. I will always love you and
only you. I know this in my heart.

Elias looks a little stunned, but then he smiles.

ELIAS
I feel the same way.

The late Symar sun is shining down on them, casting their
shadows over the grass. Strangely, Elias isn't moving, but
his shadow is! Galea points it out to him.

GALEA
Do you see that?

ELIAS
I do.

They watch in amazement as Elias' shadow plucks a daisy from the grass and puts it in Galea's shadow's hair. Galea's shadow draws Elias' shadow to it and they kiss! Elias ends up sitting on the ground in shock.

Galea sinks down beside him.

GALEA
Are you alright?

ELIAS
I don't believe it. I've heard of it, but I've never seen it before.

GALEA
What is it?

ELIAS
We're Shadow Bonded. It means our Bonding is inevitable, and therefore, that we are meant to be together.

He makes a swift gesture, and on the palm of his right hand are two snake-like dragons.

ELIAS (CONT) (CONT'D)
These are what Benna gave me. They're our amyklas. He was giving me the opportunity to Bond with you in my own time.

GALEA
I see.

ELIAS
We don't have to Bond right now. We can do it whenever you're ready.

He tucks Galea against him, resting his chin in her hair. They sit together in the grass, talking, learning all they can of each other, until the sun sets behind the mountains. The valley is suddenly too chilly and they return to his chamber. On the way, they hear rising voices coming from a corridor and stop to listen. (light green)

SC31a

INT. THE TOWER/CORRIDOR

KARNA
You have no right to send our son to that place!

EELA

The human bastard should be the one punished, not Rensa.

BENNA

The decision is final.

Galea peeks down the corridor and sees Eela and Karna arguing with Benna, the hare standing as tall and firm as he can manage.

BENNA (CONT) (CONT'D)

He will be escorted to Ayla tomorrow morning. I suggest you say your farewells now.

Karna, who looks almost exactly like his son, growls low in his throat, his claws and fangs ready to strike. Eela rests her hand firmly on his arm, while keeping a calm expression.

EELA

(cooly)

And what if he is truly meant to be with that mare?

Elias and Galea stiffen instantly, their hands finding each other in a tight grip. (grey)

EELA (CONT) (CONT'D)

You separate them forever and both will live a long, miserable existence.

That seems to give Benna pause and Eela grins with satisfaction. She's found the tiny hint of doubt in the powerful hare's mind.

GALEA

(shouting angrily) (red)

I will never Bond with that cruel monster!

She flies towards them, then stops so fast that the gust of wind nearly throws them off their feet. Eela smiles smugly at her.

EELA

Say what you will my dear, but I know that you're meant to be with a much more powerful man.

A look of pity comes to her green eyes.

EELA (CONT) (CONT'D)
 I know you care for the human, that
 he's an adorable creature and is
 misunderstood like you.

She takes Galea's hands between her two powerful hands.

EELA (CONT) (CONT'D)
 But Bonding is forever, don't waste
 your life on a worthless human who
 can never satisfy you.

Her words are said in a soothing, motherly tone. She has a powerful way with them, somehow being able to pull you into a trance. (purple?)

GALEA
 (muttering)
 Elias is human...

She looks at the man in question. He looks angry and concerned at the same time, not knowing what to do. He has no authority to attack the two higher Maginists, but his love for and need to protect Galea is almost too much to contain. Seeing his naked expressions snaps her free of the powerful trance. She turns back to the evil woman.

GALEA (CONT'D)
 (firmly)
 ...but he is more of a man than
 Rensa will ever be.

Eela draws back in surprise that her spell has failed, then in a second, draws back her claws and strikes Galea across her face.

ELIAS
 Galea!

Elias rushes to her as blood blinds her.

ELIAS (CONT) (CONT'D)
 How dare you?!

EELA
 (coldly)
 No one addresses me or my son in
 that manner.

Eela wipes her claws onto a handkerchief. Benna seems to snap out of his own trance in that instant and angrily orders the two of them away, telling them he will deal with them later. Elias begs Galea to let him look at her wounds, but she won't look up as she weeps in agony. (black and light blue?)

BENNA

(calmly)

Elias, carry her to your chamber.
This will take a good amount of
healing.

Elias obeys and lifts Galea like she weighs nothing. Once there, he places her on the bed and Benna crouches beside her, gently pulling away her hand from her face.

SC31b

INT. THE TOWER/ELIAS' CHAMBER

ELIAS

(whispering mournfully)

Oh goddess...

Deep gashes run from Galea's temple across her cheek to her nose, one over her left eye. Her tears are mixing with the blood, staining her pale face and hair.

BENNA

Hold still.

Benna places his paw over the marks. The magence burns and Galea pulls away with a cry.

BENNA (CONT) (CONT'D)

You must let me heal you Galea,
else you won't regain your sight.

GALEA

(whimpering)

No...

She turns away. Elias holds her tightly, whispering calming words into her ear.

ELIAS

It will only hurt for a moment.

Galea slowly calms then turns back to Benna to allow him to finish healing. Elias holds her tightly for comfort as well as to make sure she doesn't turn away again.

BENNA

Parnax, I need your help.

And the butterfly Galea saw on her first day here appears. Benna and Parnax work together to heal her ruined face. Before long, it is as it had been before.

Parnax leaves her, and Galea turns towards Elias, trembling and weepy. (light blue)

PARNAX
(buzzy)
She should sleep now.

Elias thanks him and Benna and when they leave, he undresses Galea and puts her into a nightgown. Once she is ready for bed, he pulls back the covers, then tucks her in gently, smoothing her sweaty brow with his cool hand. When he draws back, she grabs his arm, afraid he means to leave.

ELIAS
I'm not going anywhere.

Comforted, Galea releases him, then drifts off to sleep. Elias removes his Bonding robe and boots, then gets into bed. In her sleep, Galea snuggles against him. He wraps his arms around her and falls asleep too.

SC32
18/8/2349

The sun has barely risen when there is a knock at the chamber door, waking Elias. Getting up carefully, he throws on his robe.

ELIAS
(softly)
Enter.

Benna slips in.

BENNA
I've spoken to Leera and the other High Council members, excluding Eela and Karna, and we are agreed that there should be no more delay in sending Rensa to Ayla.

Elias nods grimly.

BENNA (CONT) (CONT'D)
(softly)
We will use the High Tower, that way we can be sealed in without interference from Eela and Karna.

Elias sighs in relief. Using the High Tower means an instant banishment instead of the long journey that could have many dangers along the way if they went on foot.

BENNA (CONT) (CONT'D)
 Leera, Parnax and I will be in the
 High Tower, the others will be
 around to look after you both and
 make sure that nothing else goes
 awry.

ELIAS
 Thank you Benna.

He looks back at Galea. (white)

ELIAS (CONT) (CONT'D)
 There is something I wish to tell
 you before you go.

Benna nods.

BENNA
 What is it?

ELIAS
 Galea and I have Shadow Bonded.

His eyes are bright with joy and excitement and Benna looks
 at him like a proud father.

BENNA
 I am happy for you my boy.

He pats Elias' leg.

BENNA (CONT) (CONT'D)
 Now I must be going, much is still
 to be done before we enter the High
 Tower.

And he vanishes. Then Galea wakes, groaning softly.

ELIAS
 (tenderly)
 How do you feel?

He kisses her hand.

GALEA
 Better.

Opening her eyes, she smiles softly at him. (light pink)

GALEA (CONT) (CONT'D)
 Thank you for taking care of me.

Elias' face instantly flushes red.

GALEA (CONT) (CONT'D)
It's alright, Elias.

She touches his cheek. He sighs in relief and kisses her cheek. Then Galea looks around.

GALEA (CONT) (CONT'D)
Where is Danbo?

ELIAS
With a friend of his.

Then he gestures and a tray appears.

ELIAS (CONT) (CONT'D)
You should eat Galea, healing sessions take a lot out of you.

They eat in comfortable silence, then leave the Tower to go for a walk. They're quiet for some time.

SC33

EXT. THE TOWER

GALEA
Danbo referred to you as a Sayam Maginist. What does that mean?

ELIAS
There are nine Levels. Trainee; Ama; Sya; Syra; Ayr; Aya; Sy; Sayam; Ays. The High Council is made up of all eight Ays. Rensa was Sayam, and my defeat of him has shown that I am at least Sayam.

He doesn't say this with pride, but in a matter-of-fact way. Suddenly a blizzard comes out of nowhere, and in an instant everything turns white. Galea reaches for Elias, but can't find him. She tries calling his name, but can't hear her own voice over the noise. She reaches out again, and this time takes hold of an arm, and breathes a sigh of relief. Then the blizzard lessens, and her vision begins to clear. Through the snow, she sees she is holding something red. She rubs her eyes in an attempt to clear them, but when she looks again she sees more red.

SC34

EXT. AYLA

GALEA

Elias?

She raises her head. But it isn't Elias who she sees before her. (black) She turns and starts to run, but Rensa grabs her by her own arm and pulls her towards him. Gandax is close by.

RENSA

(purring)

We have unfinished business.

GALEA

You can't Bond with me.

RENSA

Oh?

He is unamused.

RENSA (CONT) (CONT'D)

And how would that be, my dear?

GALEA

Because Elias and I are Shadow Bonded.

RENSA

Really? Well I can soon verify the truth of your words.

And with that, he positions Galea so she is in direct sunlight. And her shadow is cast on the snowy ground. The shadow of Elias is standing protectively in front of hers. It seems to give Rensa pause. But shortly he smiles.

RENSA (CONT) (CONT'D)

No matter; I have nothing to fear from a shadow. Particularly here.

GALEA

How did you get me here?

In answer, Rensa raises one hand, showing her her blood on his claws.

Then Galea flaps her wings furiously, trying to knock Rensa off his feet. He reacts instantly and digs his claws into her upper arms while his feet dig into the ground. She cringes at the piercing pain but refuses to give up. Kicking as hard as she can, she connects with Rensa's chest, sending him flying into Gandax.

Wasting no time, she takes off into the raging blizzard, not knowing where she is going, only that she needs to find shelter and safety. The raging snow blinds and confuses her. She hears Gandax's echoing roar behind her, making her fly even faster. Panic is starting to set in as well as the paralyzing cold. Then a patch of sunlight breaks through the storm and shadows a cliff face with a sheltered edge. Galea collapses heavily onto the smooth rock, barely able to crawl to the face of the cliff before exhaustion wins over and she falls unconscious.

SC35

When she wakes, she is in a massive cave that is outfitted like a home. There are rugs and tapestries to keep the area warm and dry, simple furniture like the sofa she lies on, a wooden desk and dozens of candles. Her ears prick at the sound of soft padded feet on the ground. A large shadow shifts out of the darkness and moves to the front of the desk. A man with a shock of black hair and a feline look to him. Galea stands swiftly, nervous, and then she sees the rest of him. He is a Maginist with a gold robe, but without a Baelon, and with no acolyte in sight. His torso ends at the waist, where it meets the body of a black lion. Galea looks back up, at his face, and sees he is looking at her like he knows her. He smiles broadly and rounds the desk, but Galea moves away.

INT. ARNO'S HOME

ARNO

I'm not going to hurt you.

Galea's ears fold back and she bares her teeth in warning. (black and red?) Arno isn't fazed. When she spreads her powerful wings however, his eyes widen in intrigue and he studies her with intensity.

GALEA

Who are you? Why did you bring me here?

ARNO

My name is Arno.

His voice is deep and coaxing, much like Loka's.

ARNO (CONT) (CONT'D)
I brought you inside so that you
wouldn't freeze to death.

GALEA
Are you working with Rensa?

Galea quickly looks for anything to use as a weapon but nothing is within reach. Arno chuckles at her.

ARNO
No my dear, I've no business with
that cur.

He turns and walks a little way, lighting more candles with his fingertips as he approaches what looks like a kitchen area with cabinets and bins for food storage.

ARNO (CONT) (CONT'D)
I assume you're hungry...?

Galea's stomach growls loudly in reply. Arno chuckles again and finds a particular bag.

ARNO (CONT) (CONT'D)
These are a bit different than what
you're used to, but I think you'll
like them.

He holds out the bag and after a moment of hesitation, Galea tentatively takes it and looks inside. She grimaces and looks at him as if he were mad. Inside are what look like dried, rotten plums.

GALEA
These are rotten!

Arno shakes his head.

ARNO
They look odd, but trust me when I
say they're fruit all the same.
Just dried and preserved.

Galea takes one out and sniffs it. Indeed it smells like a ripe plum; maybe he isn't lying. Taking a small bite, she is surprised to find that not only does it taste good, but juice squirts out from the inside. Delighted, she devours three more without thought. (white)

GALEA
 (softly)
 Why do you do this to such
 delicious fruit?

ARNO
 Food grows for a very short time
 here and without magence to aid me,
 I have to think creatively.

GALEA
 No magence? What place has no
 magence?

Arno motions for her to sit on the sofa and he sits beside
 her.

ARNO
 This is Ayla. There is no magence
 here; it was stripped away during
 the war between the Sar Ala and the
 first Maginists.

GALEA
 If there's no magence here, does
 that mean Rensa can't use his?

ARNO
 No, he can still use it, but once
 it's gone it can't be replenished.
 Bringing you here would have used
 up a great amount of his magence.
 Rensa is indeed obsessed with you.

Galea shivers heavily.

GALEA
 (timidly)
 Can you help me get home?

Arno looks sad at this.

ARNO
 Its supposedly impossible to leave
 this place; when the Maginists
 realized what had happened here,
 they shielded it so they could use
 it to banish those Maginists who
 repeatedly violated the Code.

Despair hits Galea like a battering ram and she bursts into
 tears. (light blue) The feeling of helplessness and loss of
 Elias is too much to bear. Arno brings her into his arms for
 comfort.

ARNO (CONT'D)
 (whispering)
 Shh...

He strokes her hair.

ARNO (CONT) (CONT'D)
 It's alright Galea. I won't let
 anything happen to you.

She sits up in shock. (black?) Her mouth opens but the words
 stutter on her lips. Arno appears to sense her questions and
 takes her hands tightly in his.

ARNO (CONT'D)
 I know your name because I am your
 creator.

GALEA
 (angrily) (red)
 You're not my creator. I was born
 to Loka and Shayli.

ARNO
 (sympathetically)
 Is that what they told you?

Getting up, he motions for her to follow him to the bookcase
 next to the desk. He reaches for a large tome and searches
 through it, then he lays the book on the desk and gestures to
 it.

ARNO (CONT'D)
 Take a look. This is the Pegal I
 chose to be your sire.

Doubtful, yet curious, (light green) Galea approaches the
 book. And sees an image of her father looking out of the page
 at her! (grey?) Trembling, she grips the desk for security.
 Arno then turns a page.

ARNO (CONT) (CONT'D)
 And this is your mother.

She is younger in the picture, but it is Galea's nursemaid,
 Sarah! Her knees suddenly give way, and she nearly falls to
 the floor, but Arno catches her. He scoops her up and carries
 her back to the sofa, where he lays her down.

ARNO (CONT'D)
 (gently)
 What's wrong?

GALEA

The woman in the picture is my nursemaid.

At that, Arno settles himself beside her.

ARNO

I think I'd better explain. Long ago, I lived near Alasymy. I could never quite settle into the Tower so I made a double of myself to do all my chores and take care of my responsibilities.

I became fascinated with the Pegals. I wondered if I'd be able to create a creature like myself with their materials and I studied, I studied, I studied, and I studied, until I found the perfect specimen. Using my skill with magence I took what I needed. But there was something else; I needed more. I needed a female. I considered the Sarysas but then I saw your mother. She came to me. She was begging to be better, to make it better. For the pain to go away. She couldn't live with the loss.

So I promised her I'd help. I said I'd do whatever I could to release her from the pain. I welcomed her into my home. I worked tirelessly on the experiment.

As it got closer to the end when I realized what I had done I had also realized that I had fallen for her. So I injected it in myself and became her lost love. Then we kissed, and I Bonded to her, but she couldn't Bond to me.

And when she found out what I had done she ran. She ran and she ran and she was horrified. I think she saw Loka in one of my books and decided to make him your adopted father, your adopted parent.

She left me, but I followed her. I followed her into the Sarysas' village in disguise, just to catch a glimpse of you. I followed her into Alasymy. She would take walks into the woods. Be alone. Find herself, to find peace. She didn't know I was watching. I wanted to make sure that she was OK; you were OK.

And one night, on one of these walks, she went into labour. I didn't know what to do. So I ran back, to Loka, and he came to our aid, to her aid, him and his Ama. They didn't know it was me. And something happened; I saw you. The most beautiful creation that I had ever made. I love you, my child.

GALEA

Why didn't I know about you?

Arno shakes his head.

ARNO

Your mother never forgave me for what I had done to her. She forbade me from coming anywhere near the two of you. Then someone reported my doings to the High Council. According to them, my methods were different and unorthodox, so the others of the High Council turned against me. Leera defeated me in single combat, but before I could be exiled, I fled. I was caught eventually of course.

Stunned, Galea can't say anything for quite some time.

GALEA

Where's your acolyte?

ARNO

After I was exiled here, I lost him.

GALEA

I'm sorry, I know Maginists and their acolytes can have a close bond. (white)

ARNO

You know some Maginists?

GALEA

My Ama-to-be is one.

ARNO

You're not one yourself?

GALEA

No.

ARNO

That's unusual, but it does happen. What species is your Ama-to-be?

GALEA

Human.

Arno's eyes widen at that.

ARNO

I know of him. The two of you must make a wonderful couple. So when do you think you'll Bond?

GALEA

I don't know. We're getting to know each other first.

ARNO

May I offer you the benefit of my wisdom?

Galea nods her assent.

ARNO (CONT) (CONT'D)

Don't wait too long. Seize the moment, as I did with your mother. He's bound to come here looking for you, and you don't know what might happen.

GALEA

But once we Bond, that's it forever. If I lost him, I couldn't ever move on.

ARNO

Would you want to move on?

GALEA

No.

ARNO

Then why wait?

He shows Galea the amyla he'd created after Bonding with her mother.

ARNO (CONT) (CONT'D)

To Maginists, Bonding means more than it does to a non-Maginist. You might not think so, but it's true. Its because magence is involved in the Bonding, even for humans, and magence is a part of us, much more than it is for non-Maginists.

Galea yawns.

ARNO (CONT'D)

You can sleep on my sofa. You'll be quite safe.

GALEA

Are you sure? Rensa's out there.

But he again assures her that she'll be safe. So she settles herself on the sofa and he covers her with a blanket. Then she drifts off to sleep, resolving to find a way to return to Elias the very next day.

SC36

19/8/2349

INT. ARNO'S HOME

When Galea wakes, she is confused at first. Then she recognizes her surroundings. (white) Hungry, she helps herself to some of the dried plums. As she is eating, Arno enters the chamber.

ARNO

Did you sleep well?

GALEA

Yes thank you.

Arno then takes a plum and bites into it, making a face.

ARNO

I don't think I'll ever become accustomed to being unable to eat meat.

GALEA

You can't do that here?

ARNO

The plant life is so poor, animals couldn't survive.

Galea looks worried. (grey)

ARNO (CONT) (CONT'D)

You have nothing to fear from me; you are my dear daughter.

She smiles brightly at that. But her face falls as she realizes she has no idea how to return to Elias and Danbo. She begins pacing the floor, becoming more and more agitated. (brown: worry)

ARNO (CONT'D)

It's alright Galea, we'll find a way.

GALEA

You were Head of the Order; don't
you know a way?

ARNO

Once you're sent here, that's it;
there's no escape for anyone. I do
know the technique to leave, but it
became ineffective when I was
banished.

GALEA

(wailing)

So what am I going to do?!

She paces faster. And faster. Until...

SC37a

EXT. THE TOWER

Elias hears Galea calling his name, very faintly. He teleports to the balcony outside Benna's chambers. He focuses, scanning every inch of the place. It's empty.

INT. THE TOWER/BENNA'S CHAMBERS

He teleports inside and to Benna's bookcase. He passes his hand over Benna's maps. Then he senses the one he needs. He takes it from its shelf and unrolls it. Knowing now where Galea is he returns the map to its place among the others and focuses on his destination.

SC37b

EXT. JUST OUTSIDE AYLA

Elias finds himself in a vast open area, devoid of vegetation. Before him is a transparent dome which is so large he is unable to see its top and sides. He summons his battle robe and staff, then places his hand on the dome and focuses. At first, nothing happens, but then a small hole appears. Elias focuses on it, causing it to expand. When it is large enough he steps through.

EXT. AYLA

Once on the other side of the dome Elias again places his hand on it, focusing, causing the hole to shrink, until it is gone. Then he takes in his surroundings.

Snow lies everywhere. Elias starts running, looking all around. He's very exposed here, he can't see anywhere he might hide.

Up ahead and to the right are two boulders with a space between them. Elias picks up speed and races towards them.

Elias dives between the two boulders and stops to catch his breath, taking in his new surroundings. There are many more boulders here, forming a natural shelter.

Elias makes his way through the boulders. Suddenly, something slams into him from behind and he falls. He feels a heavy weight on my back, then teeth pierce his shoulder and he can't help but cry out. Then a pair of black leopard legs come into view. Elias tries to rise, but he's in too much pain, and Gandax is heavy, and bearing down on him.

Elias' staff disappears, and his battle robe is replaced by his usual robe. And Gandax's teeth are able to sink in further, making him cry out again. Rensa approaches.

RENSA

Release him.

The weight leaves Elias, but in the next instant a clawed hand grabs a fistful of his hair, and he's yanked to his feet. He's flung against one of the boulders, which sprouts chains that wrap around his arms, trapping him against it.

Elias heals his wounded shoulder and regards Rensa, who looks at him like he's something he scraped off the bottom of his foot.

RENSA (CONT) (CONT'D)

I suppose you expected to rescue Galea. Well you're too late; we've already Bonded.

Rensa shows Elias the amyla wrapped around his left wrist.

RENSA (CONT) (CONT'D)

We've mated as well, several times. She never wanted you; she was only using you to make me jealous.

ELIAS
 (hollowly)
 You're lying.

RENSA
 (laughing)
 I knew that would work. You're so
 pathetic, you'll believe anything!
 You even believe you're human!

Rensa strikes Elias across the face, scratching his cheek with his claws. Elias winces, and heals himself. It seems to give Rensa an idea. He positions his claws at the top of Elias' chest, then digs them in and drags them down. Elias tries not to cry out but he can't help it. He heals himself again.

Before Rensa can claw Elias again he teleports away. Or attempts to. Rensa sees the confusion on his face and laughs.

RENSA (CONT) (CONT'D)
 You're not going anywhere!

ELIAS
 This is forbidden!

RENSA
 Do you think I care?! Besides,
 who's going to stop me?

Rensa rakes Elias' chest again, slowly. He waits until he's healed himself, then rakes him again. They continue like this for what seems like hours.

SC38

Galea finds herself in a barren, rocky place, sheltered from the weather. She hears cries of pain, and cruel laughter, quite close by. She moves slowly and quietly towards the sounds. She peeks round a corner and sees Elias chained to a boulder, and Rensa, clawing at him. Elias' robe is shredded, and he appears weak. Rensa appears to be enjoying himself, and so does Gandax. Elias heals himself each time Rensa claws him, but the toll this takes is painfully obvious. Then Galea's ears pick up soft footfalls behind her. She whirls round, and sees Arno.

ARNO
 (whispering)
 I can handle those two; you get him
 away from here.

GALEA

But how? How do we get through the barrier?

ARNO

However he got through it coming in; I suspect there's more to him than meets the eye. But we must move now, before he's too weak.

GALEA

OK, I'm ready.

Too late, Gandax notices them.

GANDAX

Master.

RENSA

Not now Gandax, can't you see I'm busy?

GANDAX (backing off)

But Master.

RENSA (CONT'D)

Shut up Gandax!

Then something catches Rensa's eye, and he turns to see Arno throwing himself at him. He ends up on his back with the full weight of Arno's lion body on top of him.

Galea rushes to Elias. She manages to loosen the chains enough to free him. He collapses to the ground.

GALEA

You have to get up Elias. We have to go home.

Elias laughs weakly.

ELIAS

I was supposed to be rescuing you, not the other way round.

Elias struggles to his feet. Galea supports him as much as she can, and together they head for the barrier, which they can see in the distance.

Rensa has managed to get Arno off him, and they are clad in their battle robes, armed with twin swords, and clashing ferociously. Arno is a powerful fighter, but Rensa is quick, and doesn't fight fairly.

Elias and Galea reach the barrier. Elias places his hand against it and concentrates. And a small hole forms. It slowly grows until it is just large enough to squeeze through. When they are on the other side Galea tells Elias she's going back for Arno. He protests weakly. Galea turns back to the hole. Just in time to see Rensa run Arno through with both his swords. Arno collapses and lies still. Rensa notices his audience, raises one of the swords, and licks blood from it. Galea collapses, sobbing. Elias closes the hole and gathers her into his arms.

SC39

EXT. JUST OUTSIDE AYLA

Benna is there, looking concerned, but also relieved. He draws closer, and transports the three of them to the Tower. Once there, Elias is given immediate healing. Galea remains by his side.

SC40

Later, Elias is sitting up in bed, Galea clinging to him. (light pink and light blue?) He's looking at Benna in confusion.

ELIAS

I'm not human?

BENNA

Now you understand how you're a Maginist, and breached the barrier. You're a Sar Arsam, one of the Sar Ala.

ELIAS

But aren't they evil?

BENNA

Yes, but you weren't raised that way.

ELIAS

Did my parents really die the way I was told?

Benna's ears lower, and he looks guilty.

BENNA

(quietly)

Yes, but I materialised the bear that killed them.

(MORE)

BENNA (CONT'D)

We of the High Council finally learned the Sar Ala had infiltrated the Tower many, many years ago, in the guise of acolytes. Even the best seer's visions can be unreliable, or they would have been discovered far sooner. For generations, all they produced were acolytes. Then you were born. I took them unawares and executed them, but I couldn't kill you; you were just an innocent baby. You destroyed the bear anyway. As you know, your mother and I never had a child of our own, so we adopted you. But Leera placed wards around you first, suppressing your true self as much as she could.

ELIAS

So if my parents had lived to raise me themselves, I'd have become like Rensa?

BENNA

If only! At least Rensa was somewhat controllable. No, you would have been far worse. And because your parents weren't around to raise you, the Sar Ala manipulated Arno into creating you Galea. You were the key to unlock Elias' true nature.

ELIAS

Am I a danger to anyone?

BENNA (his ears are twitching, and he's looking awkward)

Leera has decided to isolate that part of you, as much as she is able. She recognizes that the strength it gives you is useful, but it must not be allowed to get out of hand.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

Of course. (to Galea) Does this change anything?

GALEA

Of course not. But how did you get through the barrier to me?

BENNA

I can answer that. The Sar Ala are more powerful than us Maginists.

(MORE)

BENNA (CONT'D)

We should have lost the battle that created Ayla, but a lucky blow was struck.

GALEA

I see. (to Elias) I'm ready to Bond with you. (light pink)

ELIAS

Are you sure?

GALEA

I'm sure. I was talking with my father, and he helped me to realize I was ready.

BENNA

Would you like another Bonding Ceremony?

ELIAS AND GALEA

Yes please.

BENNA

(smiling)

Then I'll arrange it. In the meantime, just relax. Farewell for now.

And he vanishes.

ELIAS

Are you sure you want this, now we know the truth about me?

GALEA

(smiling)

I've never been more sure about anything.

Elias smiles, and kisses her on the cheek. Then they catch each other's eyes, and their lips are irresistibly drawn together...

Right before they touch the door bursts open and the two servants from before bustle in. (grey)

OLDER SERVANT

Oh no you don't! I thought you told Master Benna you wanted another Bonding Ceremony?!

Without waiting for a response, the two women take Galea from the bed and lead her to the door.

GALEA

I love you.

ELIAS

I love you too.

They return to the preparation chamber.

SC41a

INT. THE TOWER/PREPARATION CHAMBER

OLDER SERVANT

Do you intend to run away again?

GALEA

(stunned)

No!

OLDER SERVANT

I hope not. Many of us humans are proud of Master Elias. And the ones who aren't are jealous. We don't know how it happened, but we're glad it happened at all. And he doesn't need you breaking his heart.

GALEA

I wouldn't!

OLDER SERVANT

I hope not. When he fell for you he fell hard. I don't want to see him hurt by a girl who's not even come of age. I nursed that man after his parents passed. Do you even understand what it means to be Bonded?

GALEA

My mother's Ama died; I understand what it means. You're fond of Elias, aren't you?

OLDER SERVANT

(gentler)

Why do you think we're here?!

Before Galea is able to respond, the chamber door opens and Melina walks in. Her acolyte flies to her perch.

MELINA

Enough!

The servants curtsy to her, then leave without another word.

MELINA (CONT'D)

They mean well. (she transforms Galea's outfit again) Many of us love Elias in our own way.

She looks so sad when she says that.

GALEA

Did you fall in love with him too?

MELINA

I did, but no matter what I did to gain his affection, he showed no interest.

Galea backs off a little, suddenly nervous. (grey)

MELINA (CONT.) (CONT'D)

Have no fear. I'm happy he's finally found his true love, even though it clearly isn't me.

She suddenly puts on a smile, and introduces herself.

MELINA (CONT'D)

I'm Melina. This is Sal.

SAL (male voice)

Hello

Galea shows surprise.

MELINA (CONT'D)

I wasn't always female. I was born male but it didn't feel right, so when I was old enough and had learned the correct technique I changed.

GALEA

I see. I'm Galea. But you probably already knew that. (white)

MELINA

I did. And I can see how Elias fell in love with you.

GALEA
 (guiltily)
 Sorry.

MELINA
 It's alright. I truly am happy for
 you both. All I want is for Elias
 to be happy. Now let's get you
 Bonded.

SC41b

She escorts Galea to the Great Hall, as before. She hugs her warmly, then vanishes. The doors open and Galea enters the Great Hall, and makes her way to Elias. (light pink) As she passes her family, they smile encouragingly. Then she reaches Elias.

SC42
 Galea stands nervously before the High Council. Elias, in contrast, is beaming proudly, as is Danbo. Eela and Karna are noticeably absent this time. Lucy steps forward, carrying Leera.

LEERA
 (smiling)
 Welcome! We are gathered together to unite these two people, and to celebrate that union.

Once again, Galea places her hands in Elias'.

LEERA (CONT.) (CONT'D)
 Elias, do you love this woman with your whole heart?

ELIAS
 I do.

LEERA
 Galea, do you love this man with your whole heart?

GALEA
 I do.

LEERA
 Bonding ties two people together permanently. It is not something to enter into lightly. To be Bonded to someone you don't truly love courts disaster.

(MORE)

LEERA (CONT'D)

I am proud of Elias for saving Galea from being Bonded to the wrong man, and I know Benna is too. He is like a son to all of us on the High Council. Elias and Galea.

They force their gazes towards her, transfixed as they are by each other.

LEERA (CONT.) (CONT'D)

You enter into this union of your own free will. Exchange amylas.

Benna approaches, the amylas in his paws. Elias takes the smaller one, which comes to life in his hand. With trembling hands, he touches it to Galea's wrist, and it wraps itself around it.

ELIAS

I am yours and you are mine. Bonded forever. I love you.

LEERA (to Galea)

The amylas attach themselves permanently. They will grow with you.

Galea takes the larger amyla and touches it to Elias' wrist, and it wraps itself around it.

GALEA

I am yours and you are mine. Bonded forever. I love you.

Then Elias takes Galea in his arms and lowers his head towards hers. She raises hers to meet his and welcomes his kiss. Magence appears to swirl around them chaotically.

Suddenly, into their minds come a flood of images, too numerous to see clearly, but they all feature the couple.

When they break apart, they are lightheaded, but grinning happily.

LEERA

What you have just seen are possibilities. It is up to you to make them realities. May Mayara bless your union.

VOICE

Do you know what to do with her Eli?

There is a momentary pause.

VOICE (CONT.) (CONT'D)
Ow! What bit me?!

Elias is attempting to appear innocent, Benna is attempting to hold back a laugh!

A large dragonfly is hovering nearby. He's been making portraits of the couple the whole time.

LEERA
(loudly)
Let the dancing and feasting
commence!

Then from out of nowhere, slow music emanates from somewhere and Elias, looking embarrassed, wraps his arms around Galea and they start swaying.

The music ends, and livelier music starts up, and Galea sees Melina nearby, so she parts from Elias, approaches her, and wraps her arms around her. Elias appears puzzled, so Galea explains.

GALEA
She's very dear to me.

Realizing what she's said, she bursts out laughing. So do Elias, Melina, and everyone within earshot.

The celebration continues until late. Towards the end, Elias and Galea grow weary, make their excuses, and return to their chamber. Once there, the inevitable occurs...

SC43
Eela and Karna are sneaking away from the Tower, but are spotted by a servant; a little ant. He quietly follows them and sees them meeting with their contact.

SAR ARSAM
It is time. Draw out Elias' true self fully, then you will get what's coming to you.

The servant hurries back to the Tower and reports to Leera.

SC44a

Elias and Galea wake, wrapped in each other's arms. (light pink)

GALEA
Elias?

ELIAS
Yes?

GALEA
What do I do, now I'm a Maginist?

ELIAS
You wait to be accepted into the
Order, then you train.

GALEA
Can you train me?

ELIAS
I don't see why not.

Galea smiles. She kisses him deeply, and he responds. Then,
hungry, they prepare for the day.

The couple has been joined by Danbo.

SC44b

Soon they have another visitor. It is Benna.

BENNA
You must come to the Training
Chamber Elias. You must be tested
to determine if you are an Ays.

ELIAS
(confused)
But there are only eight. How can I
be one?

BENNA
Eela and Karna have been banished.
It was discovered that they were in
league with the Sar Ala. There are
two vacant seats on the High
Council.

Elias looks a little stunned, although Galea looks proud.

ELIAS
Very well. I'll come.

BENNA
The two of you are welcome to
witness his test. I will transport
us all.

So Benna teleports the little group to the Training Chamber, where the rest of the High Council awaits.

SC45

INT. TOWER/OUTSIDE THE TRAINING CHAMBER

Outside the Training Chamber, where Elias will be tested to determine if he is indeed an Ays, and therefore entitled to one of the two vacant seats on the High Council, Benna faces him.

BENNA
Are you ready?

ELIAS
(hopefully)
As ready as I'll ever be. Who am I facing? Is it you?

BENNA
You will soon see who it is. Make ready.

So Elias turns to Galea, and kisses her as though he is never going to see her again.

GALEA
Whatever happens in there, know this: I couldn't be prouder of you.

Elas smiles, pleased.

DANBO
Good luck Master.

BENNA
It is time.

Somewhat reluctantly, Elias turns and enters the Training Chamber.

BENNA (CONT'D)
We can observe from here.

He indicates a large paneless window at eye level. Galea joins him, placing Danbo on the sill so he can watch too, and they all peer through it. They see Elias walk to the centre of the chamber, looking nervously around. Then a figure emerges from the darkness at the edge of the chamber. He wears a red robe, has black hair, and a black leopard tail.

GALEA
That's not Karna, is it?

BENNA
It is. It made sense to make him
Elias' opponent. Now Elias won't
hold back, as he would have with
any other High Council member,
except Eela of course.

GALEA
(frightened)
But he'll kill him!

BENNA
(calmly)
None of us will allow that to
happen. Trust us, as Elias does.

So Galea watches fearfully through the window.

SC46a

INT. THE TOWER/TRAINING CHAMBER

The two combatants circle each other, Karna feinting every
now and then, causing Elias to flinch.

KARNA
What happened to that little pony
my son had his eye on?

ELIAS
We were Bonded yesterday.

Karna finds that uproariously funny, and doubles over. Then
he notices Elias' serious, and somewhat angry expression.

KARNA
(surprised)
Oh! You're serious! I suppose you
hope to impress her with your
'skill' and replace me on the High
Council?

ELIAS
I don't need to do that; I just
need to best you.

KARNA
Well there's only one way to do
that; you'll have to kill me. And
you don't have the guts.

ELIAS
 (fiercely)
 We'll see about that.

And he dons his battle robe and summons his staff. Karna dons his own battle robe, and summons a larger, more wicked pair of swords than those of his son. And they clash. The sound of steel on ironwood echoes in the vast, empty space. The battle is almost a dance, and the two appear evenly matched. And, as in the battle with Rensa, neither can gain the upper hand. So, inevitably, it comes down to a battle of magence.

Dismissing their weapons, the two Maginists prepare themselves. Elias makes the first move, causing an earthquake that shakes the chamber and splits its floor. Karna loses his balance for mere moments.

KARNA
 (scornfully)
 Is that all you've got? My turn.

Elias falls to his knees, gasping for air. Galea tries desperately to reach him, but Benna holds her back. Just when it seems Elias can't take any more, Karna releases him. Elias gets to his feet, a fierce look in his eyes. Then, without warning, mighty thorns erupt from the chamber floor. Karna barely teleports to safety in time. Then he summons a gigantic black spider.

ELIAS
 (growling)
 You're using forbidden techniques!

KARNA
 Who's going to stop me? Those High Council weaklings?

ELIAS
 Those are your peers!

KARNA
 They're not even in the same league as Eela and I! Enough talk; back to the killing!

The spider advances. Elias summons his staff and runs beneath its body, swiping at one of its legs. But the staff passes through as though the spider was made of smoke. So Elias gets clear, and focuses magence into the staff. Then he tries again, and this time, it works. Karna looks on in amazement as Elias destroys his creation bit by bit. Then, adrenaline pumping through his veins, Elias advances on Karna, who looks hard at him, then smiles.

KARNA (CONT'D)

There you are!

The look in his eyes isn't merely one of fierce determination, but one of hatred. Not only that, but they have taken on a silver tinge.

Karna places a wall of fire between himself and Elias. Elias just gives a sinister smile and keeps advancing. And a faint silver glow spreads over his entire body.

Karna backs away as Elias passes through his firewall. Then Elias reaches out his hand and Karna rises from the floor. He struggles with everything he has, but to no avail. And then he begins to rotate. The rotation begins slowly, but gradually increases in speed. Eventually he is spinning so fast he is no more than a blur. And suddenly, silently, Karna explodes into tiny pieces that fade away and disappear. Then Elias collapses, the glow disappearing.

SC46b

Galea dives through the window and flies to Elias, who is already sitting up, and looking around in confusion. (black)

ELIAS

(puzzled)

Did I win?

GALEA

You did! You were amazing! (yellow)

DANBO

Congratulations Master!

ELIAS

Thank you Danbo.

BENNA

(proudly)

Congratulations son!

ELIAS

Thank you father.

LEERA

Congratulations Elias!

ELIAS

Thank you Leera.

LEERA

Return to your chamber and rest;
you will be summoned later.

GALEA (white)

Elias?

ELIAS

Yes?

GALEA

What does the High Council do?

ELIAS

Study and update the Book of Denara; uphold the Code; maintain order; oversee important functions; make the big decisions.

GALEA

That's a lot of responsibility!

ELIAS

Yes; I hope I'm up to it.

Galea smiles and takes his hand. (light pink)

GALEA

You are.

Elias smiles back.

ELIAS

Thank you. We will also have new chambers.

SC47

INT. THE TOWER/HIGH COUNCIL CHAMBER

In the High Council Chamber, Leera is leading a meeting of the High Council, in which they are discussing a potential eighth member.

LEERA

I know it's most unusual to appoint a High Council member without testing, but I feel Galea has much potential, her father being an Ays, and the former Head of the Order. Therefore, I propose we accept Galea onto the High Council. I believe she will adhere to the Code, and represent us well.

BENNA
I concur. I believe she is worthy.

LEERA
Are we all in agreement?

EVERYONE ELSE
Aye

Benna returns to Elias' and Galea's chamber.

SC48a

INT. THE TOWER/ELIAS' AND GALEA'S CHAMBER

ELIAS
Has the final member been
discovered?

BENNA
(smiling)
Yes. Prepare for a lunchtime
ceremony. I must assist with the
preparations. Don your ceremonial
outfit Elias. Lady Galea, I'll have
Melina make you something new. I'll
see you at the ceremony.

He vanishes. Elias removes his silvery-green ceremonial
outfit from a cupboard, and changes into it.

A knock on the door startles Galea.

ELIAS
Enter.

Melina enters.

MELINA
Are you ready?

GALEA
I'm ready.

And her dress is transformed into a female Maginist's robe,
in a flattering shade of blue! Her hair is left down, but
tiny blue flowers are woven into it. (yellow)

MELINA
Perfect!

Then she glances at Elias and smiles. Galea looks, and sees
Elias gazing at her with a dreamy look on his face.

(light pink) Then she smiles too. When she looks back, she sees Melina has slipped away.

GALEA
Should we get going?

ELIAS
I suppose so.

SC48b

So Elias transports the three of them to the Great Hall. Inside, there is a festival atmosphere. Elias leads Galea to the front of the crowd. On the way, nearly everyone stops them to congratulate Elias.

INT. THE TOWER/GREAT HALL

The High Council is gathered on the dais. Leera claps her tiny hands for attention, making a surprisingly loud noise. Everyone turns to face her.

LEERA
It's time to introduce you to the two newest members of the High Council. Let us congratulate Elias Grahamsson and Lady Galea Sarahsdaughter! (yellow)

Elias offers Galea his hand, which she takes, and they step up onto the dais. Nearly everyone in the Hall cheers and claps; a few jealous types jeer. Lucy holds Leera so she is level with Elias' face.

LEERA (CONT.) (CONT'D)
Congratulations Elias.

ELIAS
Thank you Leera.

Then Lucy holds Leera so she is level with Galea's face.

LEERA
Congratulations Lady Galea.

And she places a Baelon pendant around her neck.

LEERA (CONT.) (CONT'D)
I have something else for you.

And Danielle steps forward, carrying a beautiful young white lop-eared rabbit. (light pink)

DANIELLE

This is Ysa.

She gives Galea the rabbit. Leera jumps into Galea's arms and touches Ysa on the neck, and a blue acolyte collar appears round it. Then she places one hand on Ysa and the other on Galea, and sparkles of light surround them. As the sparkles fade, Leera returns to Lucy. Then Ysa looks up at Galea.

YSA

Mistress.

Galea holds her close, thrilled at this new development. She smiles up at Elias, who is looking very proud, and then she sees the goofy look on Danbo's face as he gazes at Ysa. He comes closer, and Elias picks him up and he sniffs her, then his ears stand straight up.

DANBO

(amazed)

It's you.

YSA

(confused)

I don't understand.

DANBO

Because it hasn't happened for you yet. I've seen you around. I asked who your Mistress was and you said you couldn't tell me. We dug holes together. We became quite close.

His cheeks turn red beneath his fur.

ELIAS

Time travel.

BENNA

That is a rare gift for an acolyte. Guard her well.

GALEA

I will.

Galea cuddles Ysa closely.

GALEA (CONT.) (yellow)

Thank you Leera!

Then Leera faces the crowd again.

LEERA

The fifth and sixth days and months will belong to Elias and Galea. The fifth day shall be known as Alyasay, and the fifth month shall be known as Alyasmamsy. The sixth day shall be known as Layalasang, and the sixth month shall be known as Layalasmamsy.

More cheering and clapping.

LEERA (CONT.) (CONT'D)

Let us begin the celebration!

The High Council, with their acolytes, gather round their new initiates, offering congratulations.

Then the Amas and offspring of the High Council come onto the dais, wanting to introduce themselves and offer their congratulations.

Eventually, Elias and Galea manage to extricate themselves from the small crowd, only to find themselves surrounded by the much larger one.

After quite some time, the couple is able to partake of the food, and they tuck in hungrily. While they are eating, Galea's family joins them.

GALEA (after they've eaten)

Do you think we'd be able to sneak away and see our new chambers?

Elias looks relieved.

ELIAS

We can do that.

SARAH

We'll ensure you're not disturbed.

GALEA

Thank you.

So Elias teleports the four of them to the part of the Tower where they will now live.

SC49a

INT. THE TOWER/HIGH COUNCIL RESIDENCE

GALEA

Which one is ours?

The doors carry portraits of the High Council members with their acolytes.

ELIAS

It's this one.

He's pointing to a door that bears a portrait of the four of them.

EST.

SC49b

They enter. The first chamber is very large, and contains a huge fireplace with a Baelon above, comfortable sofas and armchairs, a round table and four chairs, a deep carpet, bookshelves, and a spider sphere on a pedestal. There are four single doors, two on each side, and a set of double doors in the far wall which lead to a large, well-made stone balcony with a balustrade. The first door they try leads to a luxurious bathchamber. Everything is shiny and clean, with gold and silver fittings. The next door, on the same side, leads to a large bedchamber with a deep carpet, a huge bed, two large wardrobes, a lectern, an altar, containing various mystical items and a soft toy rabbit that Elias tells Galea is the toy he teleported to, and a door to the bathchamber. The next door, opposite the bedchamber, leads to Danbo's chamber. It is as luxurious as the other chambers, with a proper bed and running water. The final door leads to Ysa's chamber, which is furnished the same as Danbo's. Every chamber is decorated with pictures and ornaments.

SC49c

INT. THE TOWER/NEW CHAMBERS

GALEA

What do we do now?

They are gathered in the main chamber.

ELIAS

I suppose I move our belongings in.

And with a simple gesture, it is done. Then he makes a suggestion.

ELIAS (CONT.) (CONT'D)
 We could visit the High Council
 Chamber.

SC49d

So they leave their chambers and walk along the corridor until they come to a large door bearing a Baelon. Elias opens the door and they enter. There is a large round table in the centre of the chamber, with eight chairs around it. At the far end is a lectern with a large book on it.

INT. THE TOWER/HIGH COUNCIL CHAMBER

GALEA (light green)

Is that the Book of Denara?

ELIAS
 Yes. And as High Council members we have free access to it. But only you and me. This book contains the Maginists' Code, and our techniques, along with thoughts on these. It also contains the entire history of Denara. They say that everything that ever happened in our world is contained within this book.

A sudden voice at the door makes everyone jump.

BENNA
 I'm glad to see you here. Your first task as High Council members is to study the Book of Denara. Take a copy to your chambers. Keep it in your bedchamber at all times. Take it now, then return to the Great Hall and enjoy the remainder of your celebration.

And he vanishes. So Elias approaches the lectern and lifts the Book from it. Then they all leave the chamber, and as they do, a copy of the Book appears on the lectern. Then they return to their chambers, where Elias takes the Book to the bedchamber, placing it on the lectern.

INT. THE TOWER/NEW CHAMBERS

GALEA
 Will it be safe while we're gone?

ELIAS

No one can enter our chambers
without permission. Not even the
other High Council members,
although they're able to override
that. And the Book has its own
defences. It's perfectly safe.

And with that, they return to the Great Hall.

SC50

INT. THE TOWER/GREAT HALL

Elias and Galea take to the dancefloor.

And they do.

At the end of the day they retire to their chambers.

SC51

21/8/2349

INT. THE TOWER/NEW CHAMBERS

The day dawns bright and clear. Elias and Galea decide to
study the Book of Denara, while Danbo takes Ysa on a tour of
the Tower. (white)

From the Book, Elias and Galea learn the history of Denara,
including the creation of it by Mayara, who is revered as a
goddess by Denarans. They learn that, until Elias' ancestors
arrived, the Sar Ala never returned, remaining amongst the
stars and biding their time. The Book also speaks of the
first Maginist, the creation of the Order, and the rise of
the various Heads of the Order. And it speaks of Elias'
activities since meeting Galea and his ascent, with Galea, to
the High Council.

When they finish their studies it is late, and they are
hungry. Also, Danbo and Ysa return. Elias replaces the Book
on the lectern and they leave the bedchamber.

DANBO

I'll get dinner Master.

ELIAS

Thank you Danbo.

By the time dinner is over, everyone is weary after the long
day they'd all had. Elias and Galea stroke Danbo and Ysa, and
they all go to bed.

SC52

22/8/2349

Elias and Galea train together. (MONTAGE)

SC53

INT. THE TOWER

While taking a break from training, and walking through the Tower, Galea's family arrives on a Transport Baelon, and approaches the couple.

Sarah smiles to see Galea, but then her face falls.

GALEA
(concerned)
What's wrong?

SARAH
(sadly)
It's time for us to leave.

GALEA
Must you? (light blue)

SARAH
Galea honey, we can't live here always. We have responsibilities. But we'll return for special occasions, and you can visit us whenever you're able to.

Galea hugs her mother tightly.

GALEA
I'll miss you... mother.

SARAH
We'll miss you too.

Then Galea hugs Loka and Shayli. Then Benna appears.

BENNA
Are you ready?

SARAH
(tearfully)
We're ready.

She waves, as Benna teleports them all back to Alasymy. Then Galea throws herself into Elias' arms and cry. He holds her close. She calms and relaxes into Elias' embrace.

Then they return to their chambers, where Elias and Galea talk until dinnertime.

INT. THE TOWER/NEW CHAMBERS

After dinner, Galea is in need of an early night, so she and Elias go to bed.

SC54

The next few days are uneventful:
Elias and Galea train. Then one
day..

SC55a

26/8/2349

EXT. THE TOWER

Elias and Galea are taking a walk along the river, when they hear terrified screams. Two Sar Ala, a male and a female, are striding towards them. (grey) Elias moves Galea behind him. The Sar Ala stop a short distance from them.

MALE

Greetings brother!

FEMALE

(flirtatiously)
Greetings!

ELIAS

(nervously)
W-what do you want?

MALE

We want you to join us in cleansing
this world of the pathetic
creatures that have infested it.
This is our world; we created
everything that lives. That was a
mistake, which we will rectify,
with your help brother. You are the
strongest of us. We became
overconfident and apathetic; too
late, we realized our error. Now we
are ready to take back this world,
with your help.

GALEA

(fiercely) (red)
He'll never help you!

MALE

He won't have a choice. His transformation has already begun.

GALEA

What transformation?

MALE

I'll show you.

The male Sar Arsam darts in, far too swiftly to fend off, and attacks Galea. It's just a slap, but Elias is already angry.

ELIAS

(fiercely)

Leave her alone!

Then the female darts in, and does the same as the male, but her long fingernails draw blood. (black) And Elias attacks ferociously. But before he can lay a finger on either of them, there's a blinding flash of light, and he is transformed. All of him is various shades of silver, including his outfit.

GALEA

(uncertainly) (grey)

Elias?

Elias turns to face her. He looks her up and down, then dismisses her with a sneer. He approaches the female Sar Arsam, takes her in his arms, and looks deep into her eyes. She turns her head to smirk at Galea. Then Elias moves in for a kiss. But the woman is wrenched away as Galea flies at her. (red) Elias attacks Galea. (black) She summons a staff and attempts to fend off Elias, but she can't bring herself to attack him. He wrenches her wings, and throws her around, and wears her down. But just as she thinks she can't take any more, she sees an opportunity. She trips Elias, and he lands on his back, with her on top of him. And she presses her lips to his. He struggles against her. And then she loses consciousness...

SC55b

Elias returns to himself. He sees Galea lying terribly injured, and knows he is responsible. He approaches the Sar Ala, murder in his eyes. And they are terribly afraid. They run, as only Sar Ala can run. But as swift as they are, Elias is swifter. He catches them. Thankfully, there are no others around, because he summons everything he has. And there is an almighty explosion, the shockwave flattening trees and knocking people off their feet. And all that is left is a crater.

SC56

29/8/2349

INT. THE TOWER/INFIRMARY.

Galea comes round in the infirmary. She sees Benna and Ysa nearby. They've been crying. (green)

GALEA

(weakly)

What happened? Where's Elias?

Benna approaches. He tells Galea what happened while she was unconscious.

WIDE SHOT: BENNA TALKING TO GALEA

MOVE BACK IN

GALEA

(fearfully) (black)

Benna, where is Danbo?

BENNA

(tearfully)

He disappeared. No one's seen him or Elias. That was three days ago.

Then he breaks down.

GALEA

NOOOOOOOO!!!! (light blue)

END