

# Shattered Horizons—At worlds end.

Pilot/prologue

Thunder illuminated the battlefield, bodies upon bodies of those he once knew, it made Avery sick, gripping his sword tighter he noticed a shadowy figure looking off at the distance, he staggered closer, knowing well what this person is capable of.

“Tell me...Winters...Do you ever feel a strange sadness as dusk falls.” He said, turning around with a cold stare, his hollow yellow eyes faintly visible behind his long black hair, he walked closer with a sense of eagerness.

Avery remained silent, he backed up a bit, frightened but determined to at least try and fight back.

“Have it your way...” Winters stated, drawing his blade from the dirt and pointing it towards Avery, he continued walking forward, each step was precise and orderly, he’s done this before, somehow, someway, he’s been through this before.

Avery hesitantly followed winter’s lead, walking towards him, his heart felt heavy, the wind howling, his journey has come to an end, for better or for worse.

The two stood away from each other, the sound of thunder pierced through the storm, Winters towered over Avery, his coat flourished in the wind, it was smudged with dirt and blood, a painful reminder of what he couldn’t do, what Avery couldn’t do.

Avery was lost—breathing was hard; the grip on the handle of his sword was painful; he had nothing to fight for, nothing to lose or gain; nothing waiting for him at the end. It felt like a turning point.

Winters softly smiled, he was having fun, tormenting someone that has done nothing, it made him happy, knowing that he’ll finally get to see her once this is all over. With a sudden jolt his sword towards Avery’s chest, sparks flying across the field as he just barely managed to block it. The force propelled Avery back, he recoiled back with his own slash that was dodged smoothly. Another burst of Thunder illuminated the area once again, showing Winters grinning.

“I am...The only one that matters.” Winters chuckled as he swung his blade again, cutting Avery’s scarf, purposely missing his neck, wanting the fight to last slightly longer.

Avery didn’t have time to mourn over some scarf, as he was forced to evade another swing, continuous sparks leaped through the air, the sound of clashing steel rang through their ears. Avery felt overwhelmed, each strike left more and more strain on his shoulders.

Avery was forced to juggle the constant pressure of winters striking his sword, the raging storm pelting him with freezing rain, the howling windus biting at his skin, and the slippery ground— threatening his every step.

It all eventually became too much, Avery's stance shattered as his sword slipped from his grip, he fell to his knees. He looked up at Winters, who was relishing every moment in this one sided fight.

"Your struggle is meaningless." Winters stated, looking down at Avery. "For the outcome was already decided."

He drew Avery's old dagger out of his coat and pointed it towards its owner's neck.

"If you ever want to win," he added with a grin, "You have to be selfish."

He flicked Avery on the forehead—teasing him.

Winters swiftly cut Avery's neck, as lightning tore across the sky—

Avery jolted awake at the sudden burst of thunder, he sighed and sat upright, the bus he was in slightly bumping, getting faintly lit by each passing street lamp.

"Morning sleepyhead." Nicks Oren teased with a smirk, holding onto one of the poles.

"Why do WE have to do this mission, especially at this hour? There are so many others who could be doing this..." Avery immediately complained, sinking into the seat.

"I don't know about you, but it's nice to get some practice in, especially for tougher challenges we might face in the future," Nicks stated, adjusting his sheath and cloak.

Avery reluctantly nodded in agreement, unsheathing his dagger, it slightly glistening in the moonlight, he fidgeted it around his fingers with a bored expression, before dropping it on the floor, groaning and picking it up.

"Be more careful, you might cut yourself, wouldn't want that happening." Nicks said, side eyeing Avery as he looked out the window.