

## General world + Lore:

It's offbrand Earth, and like two hundred years ago a catastrophe almost wiped out humanity. I'm thinking maybe the catastrophe was the world splitting open, with cracks and fissure in the crust, and the monsters came from there. Kind of like a supermassive earthquake. People still live in towns and stuff but cities are mostly abandoned bc you cant farm animals or crops there. Its very much undeveloped, no electricity, limited running water and plumbing, people farm for livelihoods spin their own clothes make their own food and live in towns or small communities. What the humans don't know is that a godlike being from another planet has been watching over humanity since it's beginning. The being (we're gonna call them Glowly Alien for now) knows of and communicates with other beings like it, who watch over different worlds with their own sentient species. Unfortunately it's not bc they care, more so bc they made a bet a few millenia ago, that whoever got their species to survive the longest wins. So Glowly Alien wants to keep humanity alive at all costs. After the catastrophe, they decide to give a few humans special abilities to help protect the remaining humans from the shadow creatures left over from the catastrophe. The shadow creatures are creepy ahh horror creatures that look very different. Sometimes they can appear human, while other times they're literally Alien from Alien but with broken looking limbs. Their sole desire is to feed on human flesh, and there is no ulterior motive. They crawled out of the cracks of the earth (kind of based on the fact a lot of cultures believe hell and other such places reside under ground. Maybe they were the glowly aliens first failed attempt at creating things). Some can talk and have basic brains, but theyre still monsters. Think Orcs from Lord of The Rings, and Goblins in most media.

The abilities the special humans get are: Stronger and faster than normal humans, if they die and their body isnt destroyed/irreversibly damaged then after a few minutes their soul can come back to their body, heal much faster than normal humans even if their soul isnt in their body, can channel their soul energy through their weapons to cast these kind of magic stuff which are mostly offensive, and they have a direct link to the Glowly Alien if the Alien wants to talk to them. To recharge these abilities they have to go to (knockoff *Anima wells*) wells of soul magic these places at the academy that are very close to where the Glowly Alien usually likes to float and watch over the humans (it orbit/floats around the planet, but is invisible and undetectable. Many humans throughout time have mistook it for God). They recharge by letting their mind float in the void that Jayce and Viktor from Arcane

were in. They glow their power colour as well. They gotta be in there for a little while then they recharge.

This is because the Glowly Alien basically enhanced the souls natural power. If you use too much magic stuff (spells ig?) then your soul gets exhausted, and there's a chance that if you die when your soul is exhausted then you're not strong enough to come back. You need a weapon to channel energy and use spells, and it must be engraved with enchantments. Guns are fully a thing, but each bullet must be individually enchanted so they're not a popular choice. Ordinary people can't see the enchanted weapons, and their minds distort the memory of the shadow creatures, the magic and most supernatural things. They get a headache from it, possibly nightmares, but eventually forget.

You are born with this, and it manifests at relatively young age (around 12). There is an academy that masquerades as a college, and most people with the supercharged souls are given a scholarship there by age 20. Normal humans just think it's a prestigious college, but it trains the magic people on how to fight the shadow demons for no cost (the Glowly Alien would evaporate them if the academy tried anything that would make more humans die). In the academy place you're assigned a partner, bc some shadow demons like to mess with your head, and on assignments you need to be kept grounded (same gender bc the academy doesn't want to deal with child support).

The academy has a relatively hands on approach when it comes to learning. You learn the basics, then get sent out into the fields. For the first month its basic theory and learning to fight classes. Then its less theory and more advances fighting classes. At the three month mark, pairs are sent out to work. In nearly every village or town theres an old retired magic person, who notifies the academy if theres anything wrong. There often is a lot of attacks, so then a pair is dispatched to that place to clean the mess up. Think Secret World vibes. Then they return to base. The first years are given jobs closer to the academy incase they need help or need to fall back. The shadow creatures are generally weaker closer to human settlements. The entire second year is missions, and once you're qualified they send you out as full professional, and for the next thirty or so years before you retire, you're doing this with your partner. Magic people rarely settle down and have families with ordinary ppl bc of the logistics problems. Every three months at the college there is assessments of theory, sparring in a kind of tournament thing, and agility test kinda things.

The void where you meet the glowy alien and recharge your soul is the Jayce and Viktor void from arcane. Its and endless dark expanse with pinpricks of light, which are people, in it. If the Glowy alien wants to talk to you it'll be there. When you're in there you glow yourself and if you touch someone you can meld your feelings and thoughts and whatever together for a second. You get there by meditating and concentrating really hard on something happy to you. You leave by waking up, essentially.

### **Characters:**

#### **Milo:**

Age: 21

Gender: Male

Appearance: I've drawn him so u know already. His clothes I drew so I'm not describing. Pale skin. Height is like 6' 4". White hair golden eyes. He's buff but a sleeper build buff,. He wears a silver necklace from his mother, which he later gives to Karim. His weapons of choice is two twin hammers, white in colour. His secondary weapon is an enchanted handgun, but he also has a little gold chain on his jacket to channel energy more efficiently. Later in the story after his powers get supercharged, I'm debating whether or not he has to wear two plain gold bracelets on his wrist, that are enchanted to control his soul magic levels so he doesn't incinerate himself by accident. Shadow the hedgehog ahh.

Personality: Ok so at the start when he meets Karim, he's kind of a narcissist because his father raised him to believe he's the best. He actually isn't that great at a lot of stuff he needs to do. He is more dismissive of others and believes himself to be correct most of the time. He can be arrogant. However he also really wants to help others, and is just really stupid at going about it. He's loyal, and doesn't like to stand for injustice (but can't see the fact he can be that injustice sometimes).

Once he meets Karim he is challenged by the one person who doesn't grovel at his feet. They fight a lot, and Karim puts Milo in his place. At first he's sulky about that, but realises he has to work to be better than Karim. He trains and grows throughout the story, and loses the self-centeredness and dismissal of others. He's still a little arrogant tho, but it kinda gives stupidly confident, but he isn't rude towards others anymore. He's awkward a little as he adjusts to the fact he's not the most important person all of the time.

At the end of the story, Milo and Karim are two parts of the same person. They banter all the time and believe they're both indestructible as long as they're

together. Milo is still a paladin type who always wants to help and save people, but can be wrong about going about it. He is super loyal, and is loud about what he believes in and what he believes is right. Milo and Karim are rivals all throughout the story and even when they end up together they still have a healthy rivalry, and are always trying to one-up each other.

Story: Milo grew up in a rich family with his father and mother. Both of them love him a lot, and treat him like he's a godsend, hence his personality at the start. His power manifests when he's four (way earlier than normal), when he gets mad at the butler and his powers break bro's leg. Milo gets super freaked out about it and is also apologetic to the butler for the rest of his life lmao, even when bro leaves the employ. Because of this he is wary to use his magic most of the time, and skates by on his fathers influence. When Milo is eight his mother mysteriously dies (is secretly killed by his father), and this strengthens him and his fathers relationship. Those two are super close. When Karim and Milo are assigned as partners together, Milo doesn't tell his father at first bc he's afraid his father will send Karim away and then Milo will be the only one without a partner (explained in karims backstory thing). He's still reluctant to use his magic once he enters the academy, and one time during a class where they have to fight, Karim says something about Milo's father ig and Milo gets really pissed off. He lets go of his magic control, and accidentally hits Karim so hard in the side of the head with his hammer, the channeled magic completely shatters the protective spell Karim had on him and kills him instantly. Thankfully the protective spell protects Karims skull from being smashed, bc that would have stopped him from coming back. The hammer only snaps his neck tho. Milo and the other students freak out bc while they know you come back after you die, they're all first years so none have actually experienced it. When Karim wakes up, Milo storms off and goes to apply for changing his partner, but Karim makes fun of him, and to save face Milo stays. After that they agree that during spars they wont use their real weapons. They become rivals bc they keep trying to be better than the other. When father finds out he wants to change Milo's partner, fearing that Milo will change and become less malleable to his manipulating. Then the main plot happens so read that. After the main plot and Milo overloads his soul powers, he finds that he can hear voices. It's found in the plot that Milo's body, after being separated from his soul for so long and his soul being so powerful, has a very weak link to his body. This prevents any natural barriers like soul exhaustion or whatever when he's making spells, so if he's not careful he could literally incinerate himself. For instance if he uses a powerful spell on overload, that a normal magic

person simply wouldn't be able to do, he weakens his soul, but because his body can't prevent him from continuing to use that magic, if he continues using those spells in one fight, his soul can become so weak that outside magic from the Jayce Viktor void from Arcane can creep in. Alive people are all already connected to their own bodies, so they're not a problem. It's the place outside the void where the dead reside is the problem. Milo is bloodrelated to all his dead half-siblings (explained in the father character place) who are just as powerful in magic as him, as well as his dead father (dies at the end of the story) who is also that powerful now that he's not confined by a weak body. The souls he isn't blood related to can't hurt him, because it would be almost impossible to invade a completely foreign body even in Milo's weakened state. So when Milo expends too much energy, his eyes hair and hands go all glowy, and he can only focus on remaining in his body. In this state he's constantly being assaulted by attempted takeovers (his half-siblings are half aware they are taking over the body of someone who is still living). Occasionally for a few seconds someone will break through, such as his father, and they will either be confused or threatening, but Milo can keep his body under control enough so that they can't really move using his body. They can say things and see things, but when in Milo's body they're usually very out of it and don't understand where they are, or that they aren't in their own body anymore. Milo's father is more clued in when he tries to take over bc he died recently. This only ever occurs if he removes the gold bracelet band things than suppress his power. Lowkey the song Just a Man by Faith No More.

Karim:

Age: 21

Gender: Male

Appearance: I've drawn him before. He has morpheus sunglasses, dreads in a ponytail and is about 5' 10". Clothes are drawn so. He uses a chain with a blade on the end as his main weapon. His secondary weapons are two long daggers. He has dragon tattoos all down the length of his two arms, and since he wears a vest under his jacket, they're all visible. His eyes are light brown, with a tinge of deep red in them bc of his magic connection. He also has a scar where his left kidney should be.

Personality: Bro is straight up crazy. But not in a clinical way, more like a 'who the frick is this guy?' way. At the start he is super reckless, and while he's supportive and kind spontaneously he also can be rude and super defensive just as

spontaneously. He usually does things his own way with a disregard for rules that he thinks are stupid. He's super talented at fighting and magic tho, so he can back up any wild claims he makes. He gets into fights often and half the time during those fights he's listening to white girl music on his knockoff earpods. He's not responsible in the slightest, except when it comes to his little sister. He doesn't care about anyone in the world other than her at first, and is protective and responsible when she's around, but most of the time they mess and steal food from stalls and whatever. Bc of his defensiveness, he uses humour and banter to disguise himself and cope. No one really knows anything about him, and he likes to keep it that way. Near the middle Karim has grown attached to Milo, despite thinking he doesn't like him. They're in sync, and even when they're fighting at each others sides they're insulting each other, and while Karim doesn't want to get attached, he finally feels less lonely and like someone can truly understand him, despite the fact that they are still hardcore rivals. He hates getting attached, but he likes Milo's company even when they're sparring together and beating the crap out of each other.

Near the end Karim is more in tune with how he feels, and while he still uses humour in serious situations, it's less to block out what he feels and more to express what he feels bc he knows no other way. He is far more comfortable with himself. He is less rude towards strangers, but if he's crossed he will throw hands. He's still lowkey crazy but less than he was at the start, and he tries to not do or say things that could hurt others. He's definitely the loud guy who yells 'you can do this!!' from the crowd when you're failing miserably and you can't tell if he's actually believing in you or saying it ironically. He's still guarded and defensive, but he's opened up almost completely to Milo, and can be at his most vulnerable with him. Him and Milo share a singular half-braincell that neither of them use, neither of them are especially clever. Karim will be like: "If we jump before the elevator hits the ground, we'll live!!" and Milo will be like: "Oh my god you're a genius!!"

Backstory: Karim's parents both have magic souls. They both went to the academy together, and when Karim was nine and his sister was two, his mother and older brother were attacked and killed in their apartment, while Karim and his sister were hiding in a cupboard. Karim saw everything through the crack into the cupboard, and had to remain silent. They were killed by Milo's father's men, who found that they were catching onto his secret (in the father's character thing). Karim and his sister were sent out to live on the outskirts of the city, where the street rats and poor live bc it's most in danger from the shadow demons. Their father disappeared. Karim was forced to steal and rob ppl for money. He operated mostly in the slums with

other tough looking street kids. He was forced to be cold hearted to others so he had enough for him and his sister not to starve. He got in debt with loan sharks by trying to keep a place to stay for both of them, and they took his left kidney, meaning he has a scar there now. Four years later their father comes back, with his excuse being he couldn't look at them anymore bc of what happened. Karim's sister is happy to have her father back, but Karim is bitter and resentful for him abandoning them. The last time he cried was when he was around 13 and a half, when he killed a guy in self defense. From then on he was ruthless in his pursuit of being the best so he could be accepted into the academy and get revenge on Milo's father for ruining his life. He didn't let anyone or anything get in the way of his sister having a good life either.

The academy tries rejecting him at first bc of his families past with it, but he intimidates his way in. Bc he's from the slums, most other ppl stay away from him. Then he gets a partner assigned and then everything else happens.

Milo's dad: No specific character design yet, but he does have white hair and golden eyes like Milo. At first he is very kind, caring and loving towards his son, despite showing signs of manipulating him. He fears death a lot. Near the end its discovered that hundreds of years ago he made a pact with the glowy alien that he would be able to keep living as long as his soul had the energy to keep going. The only way to cure old age with the soul is to restore it with more souls, so at first he ate the souls of like 50 random ppl every 25 years around. He soon realised that was hella unsustainable and he would get caught, it was also hard for him bc he wasn't blood related to them. So he decided he would have a kid every 20 odd years, and eat their soul instead, bc it would be supercharged from him bc of all the souls he ate previously. So that's what he did, and he eventually developed the tactic of loving them so they would willingly give their lives up, believing once they killed themselves for him they would be able to come back. He feigned being sick and not wanting his child to get involved, but the child would love him and want to help. They would perform the creepy ritual that involved them willingly giving their lives up, thinking theyd get revived. Unfortunately he just picked up their souls when they tried to reenter their bodies and ate them. He'd then transfer himself into the body of the kid and go back to the academy like: "Boo hoo my father is dead guess I inherit the role". Every time he had a child, a bit more of his magic was transferred, until it ended up that his children all had super supercharged souls each time. The academy is aware somethings up, but leave it alone for their own good.

Karim's sister: She's small and bouncy, and super eager to experience the world. She's also fierce like her brother. She's super close with Karim, and despite how happy she was to see her father at first, has drifted from him bc of how he treats Karim. She often wears her hair in space buns. She is 14 I think?? (Changed her age)

Karim's father: he's lowkey strict and cold, and he doesn't think he's int he wrong when Karim calls him by his first name instead of father, or talks back to him. he thinks Karim is unruly and disrespectful. he doesn't like him hanging with Milo bc of what his father did. Despite the strain on the relationship, he half tries to fix it but doesn't care truly enough to ask what Karim might want or need. Their relationship is pretty bad, but i think throughout the story they try and repair it a little, and end on trying to start over.

Side characters needed:

**Plot ig:** Karim's character sheet explained what happened with him. He gets into the academy, and gets put with Milo, bc Milo's dad kept putting off Milo's partner random choice bc he didn't want his son to get put with someone who might change his thinking. Unfortunately for bro Milo got put with Karim. At the start they hate each other's guts. Karim thinks Milo is just like his father, so is mean to him and speaks bad of Milo's father. Milo thinks Karim is an overconfident, crazy dude. Karim knows he can use Milo to get to Milo's father tho, and at the start wants to use him to gain access to and kill Milo's father. Throughout the story they are constantly doing missions and tasks for the academy (fighting shadow creatures and other monsters, protecting little villages, idk) around the place, as well as a little combat training and whatnot at the academy. Killing other people is severely frowned upon at the academy, but kicking killers out would be wasting resources, so they just assign them non fighting roles. Some people from influential families can get their kid out of those roles after a few months tho. So Karim always has to watch his back in case someone wants him gone. After about half a year of Milo and Karim spending time with each other non-stop, they develop a weird bond of "You're a bitch but bitches stick together.". Milo knows that Karim believes that Milo's dad killed Karim's family, but defends his father, trying to come up with how it might have looked that way. This is a source of tension for them.

Karim manages to convince Milo to let themselves snoop in the dad's study to prove whether or not the dad killed part of Karim's family. They are doing fine until Milo's

called away and his dad tells Milo that the dad is dying. Milo will do anything to save him, and the dad manipulates him into thinking the dad doesn't want Milo to do this spell to save him. The dad says the spell requires a special circle, in which Milo has to kill himself and then come back, and the residue soul energy will heal the dad. Milo ofc loves his dad so he goes to do it without hesitation. Karim finds out the spell would let the dad take control of Milo's body and eat his soul to lengthen his own life. While Milo is getting the circle and whatever prepared, Karim tries to convince him, but Milo is desperate and doesn't believe him. In a last ditch attempt, Karim tries to kill the dad with his weapon. The dad has to defend himself with magic that should have been too hard for him to do in his near death state. Milo is terrified and confused, and the dad tries to manipulate him again. Karim steps in front of Milo, but the dad throws a weapon at him. Milo shoves him out of the way, but the weapon stabs Milo in the heart, killing him. Karim pulls out the weapon, but the moment Milo's soul would come back he would be in danger. The dad paces as he waits for Milo to come back. Suddenly Karim feels a sharp pain in his head. Frustrated, the dad tries to kill Karim again, but he manages to escape without Milo's body. Karim is griefstricken, bc this was the only guy he cared about other than his family (though he didn't admit it). He has an emo moment in front of the mirror and realises his eyes are slightly golden too. Milos soul is doubled up in Karim's body. Unfortunately this means Karim's soul is automatically eating Milo's (it happens whether the host soul wants it or not), and if they don't return him to his body in two weeks, he will die. They can feel each others thoughts and emotions, but Milo is in total shock and panic for a few days, so Karim has to calm himself and Milo so they don't both spiral. The Academy is lowkey corrupt and will protect Milo's dad bc of his powerful status. After a lot of sneaking around and being declared criminal, they get Milo's body back (The dad kept it in cold storage). They go to face off Milo's dad, but catch him eating a bunch of random peoples souls in the big chamber. It was because he had to keep himself alive somehow, and many weaker souls would be enough to sustain him until he could eat Milo's. Milo is horrified, and the dad tries to get him to sacrifice himself by threatening and eventually killing the random ppl. Milo and Karim jump into action and fight him, but he's still got hundreds of years of experience over them. They almost lose and the dad kills Karim. Karim expended too much soul energy and is dead permanently. Milo unlocks his ninjago true potential and overloads his soul powers with grief, burning the dad and the walls of the room away into a crisp. It was completely uncontrolled so everyone outside of a meter radius of Milo is burnt to a crisp. Milo is still very much glowing all over bc of his overloaded powers, and finds himself in

the void without having to meditate at a soul well. The glowy alien is huge and looming over him, and milo is holding Karims soul, which is slowly fading. Milo begs with the alien to save him, and its all dramatic and shit, and eventually the alien is so intrigued by milo and his powers that it revives karim so it can study his powers closer (if Karim is alive Milo is more likely to stay in this line of work). They both wake up, and stumble out of the room together, and find a random room to sit and process, and patch themselves up. Milo is still glowing, and now he starts hearing voices (his dead half siblings and father trying to invade him bc he's unlocked his power fully.) Then its a bittersweet ending or smth idk. And that's what I've got so far I think. Also the academy declares them uncriminals and they're allowed to come back. Milo gets the enchanted bracelet things soon after to stop him from producing dangerous discharges of soul magic.