

Book

PATRUDEA SPLIT

Novel One.

Written By Nebulous

(POLLING VERSION: This version of the book includes a polling feature, where you can comment on where you think it will go. I will take these comments into a poll and have people vote from there.)

PRELUDE

"Chaos Syndrome"

Location: Coalition Research Facility, Purrithinia District, Patrudea

"Coalition Research recording, begin." A man in a monotone expression said, he was wearing a suit, tie, and a badge attached to the suit that said 'CRF Head Scientist'.

"The date is uh... July 27th, 2000. Is it, Marshal?" Marshal checked his company-issued watch, nodding.

"Indeed, I'm surprised you needed to ask me though. YOU are the scientist, I'm just your supervisor."

He smirked, before giving a monotone expression once more.

"Anyways, focus the camera on the subject. I'm not willing to waste time due to your apparent lack of time awareness."

The camera then focused on what looked like a leech in a glass casing, its body was made of a hard material, its veins could be seen however, the veins pulsed a bright pink color.

"We Found this around 12 hours ago, we haven't been able to identify it, though. From what we could see, it is most similar to a leech."

The camera then turned to Marshal, who had his arms crossed around his chest and a stern look on his face.

"Comments, sir?"

"We've done extensive testing on this thing's body, which showed that its body was formed by blood clots, unusually hard blood clots."

The scientist who was holding the camera gave the camera to Marshal, they got another glass casing, this one had a pigeon in it.

"I'm going to test how this leech-like creature interacts with other animals in a localized environment, nothing should go wrong, hopefully.."

"...It shouldn't." Marshal interjected.

Once the scientist put the other casing next to the original casing, they walked towards Marshal, and then opened the doors the two casings had. As the leech was introduced to the pigeon, it got on top of the pigeon, using its tendrils to penetrate the pigeon's brain.

The pigeon's eyes turned pink, it started to go feral, its wings and body grew, until it no longer looked like the pigeon that was there moments ago.

"Oh my god... we have to kill that thing, NOW."

The scientist took out their pager, and sent a distress signal to several CRF Agents.

"They're on their way now, I can try to hold it off."

They took a taser out of their pocket, compared to the beast before them, it seems like they don't have a chance.

"50,000 Volts should be enough..."

The scientist prepared their shot, fortunately, it was a direct hit. Unfortunately, the raging beast was still on its feet.

"Shit, Charge it up to 70K volts! Hell, use an actual gun! JUST KILL THAT THING."

Marshal was panicking, seeing his life flash before his eyes. He decided to take matters into his own hands, taking the taser from them, he then dropped the camera and took out his own gun, a modified .45 caliber S&W pistol. This modified version allowed for powerful energy blasts, the power output depends on the situation.

"Where the HELL is our backup?"

"They're 20 minutes close, just hold it off!"

He started blasting at the creature, with intermittent bursts from the taser. One of its legs got weaker, however, that still wasn't enough, it roared loudly. He thought it'd be a good idea to shoot at its eyes, perhaps then he could kill it.

"HA HAI Shot the son-of-a-gun in the eyes!"

It swung its giant tail towards Marshal, luckily he was able to dodge it just in time.

"...But I can't gloat, not while that thing is still kicking."

While it was blind, Marshal took it upon himself to offer the finishing blow. He combined several energy blasts and the taser's electricity, climbed up on the beast, and shot it in the mouth.

Its eyes soon turned fully white, it was dead. Marshal sighed, finally free of... whatever it was.

"Call off the backup, it's dead."

Unbeknownst to Marshal, a tendril was slithering towards the scientist, targeting its next victim.

"Hey! Are you deaf? I said call off the--"

The scientist turned to face him, pink eyes, they were its next host.

"WAY AHEAD OF YOU, MARSHAL."

"SHIT!"

He tightly held his gun and taser, not wanting to use it on them. This feeling was odd though, he was *shaking*, it was like he was staring in the face of all that was evil.

"You *HAVE* to be joking, I'm not shooting you!"

"OH YOU WILL, YOU DON'T CARE, JUST ANOTHER 'Liability for the company', RIGHT?"

It smirked at him.

"I HAVE GAINED KNOWLEDGE ABOUT YOU FROM THIS BODY, THINGS THAT WERE OVERHEARD FROM MEETINGS, PERSONAL GATHERINGS, WORK PARTIES. MEMORIES ARE WONDERFUL, AREN'T THEY? THEY GIVE ME AS MUCH KNOWLEDGE AS I NEED."

"I'll find another way to get rid of you, I swear."

Marshal reaches for his pager and sends another distress signal, however, it was onto him. It lunged for Marshal, taking away his pager.

"OH NO YOU DON'T, IT'LL JUST BE THE TWO OF US. IF YOU RUN LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO, YOU'LL NEVER GET RID OF ME."

He bashed both of their heads together and escaped from its grasp. He then reached for his guns once more, preparing a shot from the Taser.

"I got rid of you once, and I'll do it **AGAIN!**"

He hit it with 20 volts, and it fell down. Marshal turned it over and started trying to rip out the leech, but its tendrils were already

inside the brain deep enough to where he couldn't do it like he wanted.

"Damn it, guess I'll have to carefully cut into it... starting with the tendrils."

"No! Don't, I'm fine! *I SWEAR...*"

"*STOP FUCKING WITH ME!*"

It laughed, enjoying Marshal's anger. He kept his nerves intact, though. Once he found a safe spot to cut, he grabbed a knife from a travelbag he brought with him.

"*...You're done for.*"

Marshal began cutting through each tendril, as he did it, he pulled out each tendril that was still in the scientist's head, as a last resort, it started screaming, that alone didn't stop him. Once each tendril was removed, he threw the leech far from the both of them.

"*Thank God, gotta get you back to the facility.*"

He held the scientist's body and put them in the backseat of his car.

"*The drive to the cryo-labs should take about 25 minutes.*"

"C- Chaos... that was pure chaos."

He sighed, rubbing his eyes.

"*Look, if you can't handle this job, just quit. You're a liabil-*"

"*I can handle it... I- It was just one tiny error...*"

He stopped the car to a halt, and patted the scientists shoulder

"*...And that error nearly cost your LIFE. If I wasn't there, you'd already be dead.*"

The entire ride to the cryo-labs was completely silent after that. Once they got there, he set up a cryotube for the scientist for about 24 hours.

After everything that happened all he ever thought about was going home, he clocked out at about 5:00 PM, he got into his car and drove to an apartment complex.

"*Apartment 206... Where the hell is it again?*"

After about 10 minutes of searching, he found his apartment room.

"*I don't miss this dump, this feels like a college bachelors room except a thousand times worse.*"

This, of course, was true. His entire apartment was messy, there were still some boxes from when he first moved in, pictures of his parents he never hung up, and other miscellaneous things.

"I'm.... sleepy.."

He retreated to his bed, before he went to sleep however, he set his alarm for 11 AM. As soon as he closed his eyes, he felt something touch his cheek, it was a soft and gentle touch. When he opened his eyes, he saw the scientist he saved in a white room.

"Hello, Marshal."

"How are you out of your cryotube? Actually, no- where the fuck are we?"

"Don't be alarmed, let's have a chat."

Something felt off, Marshal rubbed his eyes, he was still there, except now there was something different about the scientist, they had pink eyes this time.

"Don't try to wake yourself up. I've made sure you won't get up until I have everything I need from you."

Suddenly the room he saw changed, a checkered floor with a table and two chairs appeared, with two coffee cups.

"You're free to walk around, however, just don't try to leave."

"Is this... actually a dream? Where am I, really?"

The entity, seemingly calmed from its usual tone of voice, sat in the chair, it took a sip of the coffee.

"No, this is your mind. I am neither a construct nor a hallucination, I am a Chaos Offspring."

"How did you get into my head? You never dug into it."

Marshal was reluctant to take a sip of the coffee in front of him, but he took a sip anyway.

"When you held the scientist I took over, my cells were still in them, allowing the cells to spread to you."

He spat his coffee out.

CHAPTER ONE

Heaven, the highest realm, is titled as 'THE CITY OF GATED FAITH' not because those who can enter are the pinnacle of good, but because of its defenses. Heaven's city is encircled in a stone wall, with seven towers. At the seventh tower is a large silver bell and two thrones.

"Naelrom, I've made breakfast!"

"Ah, hold on! We forgot to ring the bell, Remnia!"

Naelrom was in the master bedroom, rushing to get to the main tower, before getting stopped in his tracks.

"I can ring the bell, Nael. No need to hurry, go have breakfast with her."

"Thank you, Varel."

Naelrom went downstairs, joining Remnia.

"Good morning, Nael."

Remnia greeted Naelrom with a smile, on the table were two plates, both plates had an equal amount of scrambled eggs.

"Good morning, Remnia!"

Naelrom walked by Remnia to get a drink, in the fridge was a thing of orange juice, tea, and other various things.

"Hmm..."

He picked the tea and poured a cup, he sat back down at the table and got to his plate.

"I hope you like it!"

Naelrom ate about half the plate of breakfast, the cup of tea was nearly gone, he sighed happily.

"I think I may go on a walk, would you like to join me?"

"Maybe! I'm gonna go back to our room though, perhaps read a book."

She walked to their bedroom, Varel was standing right by her.

"Hello, Varel."

"Enjoyed breakfast with Naelrom?"

"Although I didn't eat with him? Yeah, I guess."

Varel seemed perplexed by Remnia's response, usually she was a lot cheerful, he needed to do something.

"Is something the matter, Remnia?"

"Perhaps... I always feel like I'm in a loop, like every single day is the same, nothing exciting seems to happen anymore."

"Do you still love him?"

"Of course I do! But what do we do anymore? What happens to the people we decline from entering Heaven because of their misdeeds, do they just... decay?"

Her nose started bleeding, not red, but a pink color. Varel picked up on it, he quickly got tissue paper from the bedside and gave it to Remnia.

"...When did it start?"

"Right when I started getting these doubts."

"I won't tell Nael, don't worry."

Varel walked out from the master bedroom, Remnia sat at her bed to read a book.

Naelrom was out and about walking around Heaven's city, he took a second to look at the Fountain, the Fountain itself depicted Naelrom and Remnia. Varel was in the armory sparring with one of the archangels. His sword, aptly named the Sword of Eden, is the most powerful sword seen by Heaven yet.

"You're doing very good, Icarus."

He went behind the archangel, and summoned a few Yggdrasils near him.

"But to get to me, you have to break through these Yggdrasils, which won't be easy."

"I see..."

Icarus activated his blade, flying over the trees in front of him.

"I see your Winged Blade is useful in this scenario, however..."

The yggdrasils grew larger, effectively making it harder for him to fly through, he has to improvise, quick.

He sliced through the Yggdrasils and quickly flew out of the hole he created, he was almost there, just one hit.

"YES!"

Icarus tapped his sword on Varel's shoulder.

"You've improved, so much so that you were able to best me in a sparring match."

Varel smiled at Icarus, patting his shoulder. Icarus disarmed himself,

"Perhaps you're ready to be a part of Heaven's defense squad."

"Wait! I don't wanna do that yet, maybe I can spar with the other Archangels?"

He waited a bit before responding to him.

"Well... the sparring is usually done by me, perhaps once you're higher up on the rankings."

Icarus pouted, although Varel's reasoning was well... reasonable.

Varel walked out of the armory, waving towards Icarus.

"I'll see you later! And make sure to put your sword up on the rack!"

He walked towards the tower, he saw Remnia and Naelrom in the living room, both were reading a book.

"I see you two are pretty busy!"

"Yeah, George Orwell is a pretty good author..."

"I'd argue Ray Bradbury is better..."

Remnia felt something drip from her nose slightly, she quickly went to the bathroom to clean up.

"Is she...?"

"She's okay, give her a moment."

After a few moments Remnia went out of the bathroom and upstairs to their bedroom.

"I suppose it is pretty late, I hope you sleep well, Varel."

Naelrom and Remnia both retreated to their bed, Remnia fell asleep.

About 30 minutes after she began to sleep, she heard a voice.

"Hello, Queen Remnia."

"H- Hello...? Who are you?"

The mysterious voice came into view, pink eyes pierced her soul.

"You should know me by now, I've been here since the beginning."

The entity sighed, seemingly disappointed she didn't realize anything yet.

"But if you insist, you may call me Chaos."

"Well... what are you doing here? Wait... how are you here??"

"Don't worry, this isn't real, or at least a part of it isn't."

Chaos stepped closer to her.

"Your doubt is growing stronger, isn't it? In turn I'll grow stronger..."

Remnia tried getting up, but some sort of invisible force stopped her from getting out of bed.

"Oh... No. Not yet, anyway."

Chaos tapped her forehead lightly.

"Tell me... Are you bored? Do you wish for Eternity to have an end?"

"Maybe...? What do you mean?"

"I mean... Do you wish life was more exciting? Do you wish things had consequences?"

Remnia sighed, her nose started bleeding again, pink again. She realized something odd about this, as if they were both connected, as if it was the source of everything.

"Wait... Are you the one that's been causing these bleeding issues??"

"Not important right now, just answer the question."

"...Yes."

Chaos grinned, liking that answer.

"Excellent! Luckily for you... I have a plan."

CHAPTER TWO

"Chaos Syndrome II"

Location: Marshal's Mind

"What the hell?" He was confused, bewildered even, '*a thing like that could transmit itself?*'

"Yes, I can transmit my infected cells to anyone, regardless of bacterial protection."

"I have to tell the lab, I can't let anyone near them."

"I agree, however, you can't let anyone near you either."

He took a sip of the coffee once more, the room changed more, the same checkerboard-pattern and table, but now it has walls and sunlight.

"So, tell me, what is this planet like?"

"It's... beautiful, we all live happy lives..."

"...Until I came along?"

"Yes, actually."

Chaos laughed, Marshal didn't look too amused though.

"Do you happen to believe in Heaven, or more specifically, God?"

"Yes, I believe in both Remnia and Naelrom. They created this planet."

Marshal began tapping his foot impatiently, he took another sip of the coffee, the room changed again. This time with a hardwood floor and lime green-painted walls, the table changed too, this time a marble texture.

The entity's appearance changed too, they looked more human, neither masculine or feminine. They were wearing a white hoodie with black pants and black shoes, their eyes changed too, they were lighter*

. "This... is much better, now I don't appear as a monster to you."

(*: From now on, when Chaos appears in a chapter within Marshal's mind, they will be denoted by this color.)

"Interesting, has my mind accepted you as a part of me, I assume?"

"Perhaps, although it won't appear so to other people."
Chaos took a sip of their coffee, nothing changed this time, interestingly enough.

"I have a deal for you, get me close to Remnia somehow, and I'll slow your aging by an astronomical amount."

"And how exactly should I trust you? And how would I even get close to one of the creators?"

"I have you in a chokehold, you cannot go unless I let you go. You could decline, but if that becomes the case..."

Chaos changed their form, they returned to a shadow of the scientist, their eyes returning to a bright pink.

"...things won't go so well for you."

And as quickly as they went to their original form, they returned to their humanized form.

"As for getting close to them, you must make an offering towards the creators, this one must be of substantial value."

Chaos pulled two gems out of their hoodie pockets, one blue and one purple gem, the purple one had a distinct pink glow to it.

"I am supplying you with what you need for this, the purple gem contains micro-tendrils."

"...And what will that do?"

"She will become one of us, a 'Queen' for the Chaos hivemind, I trust you won't mess this up?"

Marshal hesitated for a moment, realizing his life hung over the balance.

"Fine, I accept, but on a few conditions."

"Hm? And what would those be?"

"First, you don't get to take over my body, only I get to choose when you come out. Second, tell your 'hivemind' to-"

"Get off your planet? No, that's impossible for reasons I won't get into yet."

His brows furrowed, unamused by Chaos cutting him off.

"Yes, you can read my thoughts, but that doesn't mean you can be a smartass about it."

He calmed back down, his body relaxed.

"Anyways, why can't you? Why is she of all people important?"

"This planet is important, it's our nest. We were born from Remnia's doubt, the doubt of Naelrom's love for her, the doubt of eternity. She created us from that, and we'd like to connect back to her."

Marshal's cup was nearly depleted of any remaining coffee, he wanted to say something, but didn't want to interrupt Chaos.

"One more thing I'd like to explain to you, this thing we're in is called The Mindspace, the reason everything has been changing around you is due to something called a Trigger, this 'trigger' can take many forms, including the cup of coffee on the table. The trigger can change Mindspace's properties, the environment around you, like what's been happening and what you're seeing in front of you."

Chaos went on with their explanation, Marshal sat in a focused state.

"...This allows people, in certain circumstances, to manifest objects into physical being. In gods it's a lot more potent, and because us Chaos Offspring came from a goddess, the ability is just as potent."

"But if you take over someone, they can't even use it, so what's the point?"

"That's the thing, I'm working with you *for now*, you get that ability. That is if it gets us closer to my goal, of course."

"All about you, huh? Fine, I'll do my best so you meet that goal."

"Glad we've reached an agreement, Marshal..."

Marshal took one last sip, and Chaos' Form changed, the same shadow. The room was pitch black, the only visible thing being Chaos' eyes.

"...Don't Fail me."

He then woke up, at his bedside were the two gemstones Chaos pulled out, however that wasn't the most important thing to him right now. It was 10:30 AM, then it dawned on him, he can't let anyone see him like this.

He turned on his flip-phone and dialed the extension for CRF's reception.

"I can't make it in today, sorry, no I'm not grieving over yesterday, you should know me by now!"

"I'm sick, I don't know how long until I'll feel better. In fact, lock my office down, don't let anyone schedule appointments."

Marshal put the gems in his pocket and walked out of his apartment, getting into his car, he drove to the Purrithinia Praetorium and Chapel. The chapel itself has beautiful architecture, with stained glass both purple and blue on each window of the building, the blue stained glass depicted Naelrom, a shark. The purple stained glass depicted Remnia, a feline.

In the middle of the building, there was a piece of violet stained glass where the two stained glass pieces met. There was a priest and priestess there, the priest wore blue clothes while the priestess wore purple clothes, both praying in front of it.

"Oh, Heavenly Father..."

"...Heavenly Mother..."

"Should you return, we bear you both gifts, gifts that you both shall cherish..."

"...In the Holy Name of Remneirom, and all in duality, we bless thee both with gifts of praise."

Marshal began to walk towards them, figuring he found the area to complete the offering. Once the priest and priestess finished praying, he sat down near the violet glass, brought out the two gems and began praying.

"Oh heavenly father and mother, please accept my gifts. I know I haven't been the best, but I bring you both gifts, hopefully then I can mend our relationship. These gems are the tokens of my repentance, in the Holy Name of Remneirom."

After he concluded praying, he put the gems near the violet stained glass, the priestess walked up to him, the priestess was much shorter, but much older, than Marshal.

"I see you've come back, Marshal. Was there something on your mind?"

"I just felt like I haven't gone that much, so I'm changing that. It's been... what? 10 years or so since I haven't gone?"

"Indeed, I'm surprised to see you back."

"I suppose.. I should be coming back more often."

"And I'd welcome you with open arms, dear."

He went back to his car and drove to his apartment. Once he got there, he sat in his bedroom, listening to his portable radio.

"...In other news, the Coalition Research Facility was under attack by an unknown creature, inside witnesses say it was an alien! Can you believe that?"

"Bullshit! That was no alien, that was a mutated squab!"

One conspiracist claimed, he listened to the same thing for over an hour, and soon he decided it was about time for him to rest his eyes.

CHAPTER THREE

"Blessings from Patrudea"

Location: Remnia's Mindspace / Heaven

She had a perplexed look on her face.

"A plan? What's this plan of yours?"

Chaos smirked at Remnia, he began to tower above her, its eyes acting as a spotlight.

"You will be given a gift by one of my messengers from Patrudea, two gems."

"A gift...? Alright..."

The two aforementioned gems appeared in her view, an amethyst and a lapis lazuli.

"Take the purple one at that moment, our plan will come to fruition."

Chaos stepped out to the window, fading away. Remnia woke up along with Naelrom.

Both of them quickly ran up to the top of the tower, ringing the bell.

"Nael, Remnia, would you both like to go down to the postal office? I believe there should be new gifts.."

Remnia and Naelrom looked at each other.

"Yes, that's probably a good idea."

"It is sunday, right?"

Remnia, Naelrom, and Varel walked together to the post office, the building itself was titled the 'Dead Letter Office', this is where every single blessing gets sent.

There were several packages in the office, there were two smaller ones too.

"These two come from a Marshal... Funny though, he's never been to the chapel for a while, how come he's suddenly going?"

"It's good, right? That means he's still hoping."

Remnia picked up the two packages, '*Could this be the gems Chaos was talking about...?*'

"Are you okay, Remnia? You seem awfully quiet."

She snapped out of her silence, she remembered what Chaos said.

"Y- Yeah! I'm okay."

"Well, wanna head back home? We can stop somewhere first!"

She thought about it for a few seconds, she ultimately nodded.

"I'd like to go back home, I'm very curious on what this could be!"

All three of them headed back to the tower, Remnia settled down on the couch, holding the package.

"Should we go ahead and open them?"

"I don't see why not."

Naelrom opened his package first.

"Ooh... Very nice, perhaps I can make a ring out of this?"

Remnia opened hers second, she felt very shaky, worried about whatever Chaos planned.

The gem she held was different from Naelroms, it of course was amethyst, but something was off, it was pulsing pink. At first she thought nothing of it, but when she held it close to her, a few tendrils came out.

"VAREL! CUT THOSE OFF!"

"I'LL TRY!"

The gem suddenly shrunk down, the tendrils thickening. Soon what was once a gem became a choker, Remnia passed out.

"W... Where am I?"

A figure came into view, it was Chaos.

"HA.. HAAAAHA... HELLO REMNIA!"

"What did you do?? Why did that thing..."

"THAT WAS A PART OF MY PLAN! THE BEGINNING OF THE PARTY."

"Marshal was your messenger? Why?"

Chaos smirked at her wittingly, gleefully answering her question.

"I NEEDED A CAPABLE MESSENGER, SOMEONE WHO'S SEEN ME IN ACTION, SOMEONE WHO BELIEVED IN BOTH OF YOU BUT NOT ENOUGH TO ATTEND."

A rush of dread fell over Remnia.

"What's your goal? Why did you trap me here?"

"DEAR... IT'S IN THE NAME!"

She could hear snippets of Naelroms voice, he seemed... scared.

"Remnia! We're gonna help, just wake up!"

Remnia awoke, but it was exactly her, her irises turned pink. The double halo started to melt perpetually, becoming a dark inky mess.

"She won't be able to come out yet, Naelrom."

"What are you?? What did you do to my dear Remnia?"

"I didn't do anything, she was always like this. As for what I am..."

The thing that took her body transformed, four purple tendrils came out of her back.

"...I AM CHAOS."

"Oh dear... She never told me it was this bad."

"What was this bad?? Varel... IF there's something she hasn't told me, you have to tell me, NOW!"

Chaos floated up to the top of the tower, destroying anything in its path, the only thing that remained was pink scorch marks on the floorboards.

"We have no time, we have to stop it."

Naelrom and Varel rushed to the top, Varel had his sword in his right hand.

"You have to pin her down! I'll use my sword to cut the choker off!"

He flew up to face Remnia.

"I'm sorry, but I have to do this, I know you're not her but still."

"HMM? YOU'LL HAVE TO DO WH-"

Naelrom sucker punched her, enough to knock her down to Varel.

"Okay, just one tug of the choker, then a snip."

Back in the Mindspace, Remnia was staring down Chaos.

"Let me take back control."

"I DON'T THINK SO, I HAVEN'T COMPLETED MY MISSION YET."

Suddenly, Remnia felt a jolt of pain, seemingly near her cheek.

"OW- Where did that come from??"

"OH, SORRY. AS I WAS TAKING CONTROL, THEY ATTACKED ME!--"

"Because *YOU* took over *MY* body! *YOU* started destroying *OUR* home!"

"IT'S MY JOB, PRISSY LITTLE PRINCESS."

She stared Chaos in the eyes, anger boiling.

"WELL IT'S MY JOB TO GET RID OF YOU!"

Remnia woke up, overriding Chaos's power. Her left eye going back to normal, the tendrils retracting a small bit.

"Naelrom, Varel! Break the gem, the tendril snip won't be enough!"

Naelrom pinned her down, allowing Varel to pierce the gem.

"Do it, now!"

"Understood."

Varel pierced the gem, the pink glow the amethyst had is now gone. Remnia heard Chaos's voice one last time.

"I WILL RETURN, THIS WAS ONLY A SMALL SETBACK, I PROMISE YOU."

And then she passed out once more, it was over, for now. Naelrom carried her over to the living room, letting her rest on the couch.

"Nael, I feel like we should give her a few days to rest. And considering the trauma she's been through, she may be comatose for those days."

"...Agreed."

— [3 days later...] —

A few days later, Varel had nearly repaired the tower, Naelrom was reading a book beside Remnia.

"Nael...?"

Naelrom rushed in, hugging her.

"Remnia! Thank the heavens.."

"How long have I been out?"

"3 or so days."

Remnia noticed the damaged gem, she smiled.

"That long? Huh... Well... we could purify and repair it, maybe I can make a ring out of it and the lapis?"

"I wouldn't be opposed to it... Perhaps we can get an opal and make a ring for Varel?"

Varel came down from the ladder, overhearing them.

"I'd be glad to get the materials, once I do, I'll head to the smithery."

"The gems should be on the table in the living room."

"Got it, I'm sure I can find an opal, perhaps there's one at the Jewelry store down in Purrithinia."

"Actually... I have an idea."

Varel looked at her, curiosity in his eyes.

"And what would that be?"

"Sleeping!"

He seemed rather confused, considering the obvious. 'What does she even mean??? Sleeping??'

"Sleeping? How is that going to help? That just sounds like you're being lazy."

"Agreed! But I'm sure she knows what she's talking about."

"Just listen, I can sleep AND get the opal! All it requires is concentration and lots of sleep."

"I'll trust your judgement..."

And then Remnia went off to the bedroom, getting as comfy as she could to get into a deep slumber. As soon as she slept, her eyes opened, she was in the bedroom. No one was there, not even Varel or Naelrom, she thought of the opal she needed.

Soon, a large pulse was felt, it was coming from the living room, she went downstairs and into the room. The opal itself was glowing from purple, blue, and white, she grabbed it and headed back into the bedroom, placing it on her bedside.

CHAPTER FOUR

"Chaos Syndrome III - Flashback I: Operation Zephyr"

Location: Coalition Research Facility

Marshal sat at his desk, reading through reports given by his employees. One of the reports, however, caught his attention.

"Energy spikes? Near the outer core? Why would it happen there of all places?"

Marshal called every scientist in the vicinity into one of the many meeting rooms, discussing something.

"So... It appears something is in the outer core, perhaps a structure of some kind. I want all of you to start digging near these coordinates."

He gave each of the scientists a copy of the report and coordinates, the coordinates matched up with the tallest mountain in Patrudea, Patrudea's Peak.

The mountain itself had a cave system, this cave system would lead them to the source of the energy spikes. As they descended down the cave, the walls became metallic, most of the walls were overrun with vines.

At the bottom of the cave, the ground was made up of the same metallic material as the walls. On the middlemost wall was engraved with the words 'ATHEUS Core Facility', although most of it was scratched off.

"What the hell happened here...?"

As they headed deeper into the facility, a voice could be heard.

"H-Hel...lo! Welc...ome to the...."

It continued on, its voice becoming more discordant as it went on.

"...ATHEUS... Facility!..... My job.... Is to help.... you.. get.... acclimated....."

Marshal readied his pistol, no shaking.

As soon as they got to the deepest part, they came across a gate, the gate itself was already broken, slashed in the middle just enough for them to sneak through.

"W-Wait..... Don't y...ou want..... to relax?....."

Marshal stopped in his tracks, still armed.

"Relax? What is this place?"

"Th....e ATHEUS..... Core..... Facil.....ity....."

He sat down at what appeared to be a visitation center, in the visitation center was a broken vending machine and a few tables and chairs.

At the table was a newspaper, the newspaper itself read:

'BREAKING: WORLD WAR III RAMPING UP DESPITE MULTIPLE WARNINGS FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS'

"...Huh?"

The intercom jumped to life, a masculine voice spoke.

"Leave this place."

"Who are you?"

"That doesn't matter, you must leave."

Marshal exited the first gate, now it was just a straight shot to whatever laid before him.

"Fine, be that way, just know that whatever you find here won't be to your liking."

He descended to the deepest part of the facility, Marshal found a terminal near the end, at the terminal was a large glass door, and outside that door was the core.

"WARNING, FACILITY STABILITY IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION, EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY."

The door suddenly started whirring, slowly shifting to the slit in the wall. Marshal walked into the room before him, where the chassis of the core lies.

The chassis itself had six labels at the top and four labels at the bottom, the top labels read as:

'AFSM-1: ARIA, AFSM-2: THESEUS, AFSM-3: HERACLES, AFSM-4: ERINYES, AFSM-5: URANUS, AFSM-6: SISYPHUS'. The bottom labels

read as 'ARTEMIS, ICARUS, POSEIDON, SOCRATES'. Most of the equipment in the core room was destroyed, spores and mold were the only things that remained in its place.

"...I do have one wish, however..."

"Huh?"

"Free me and my brethren from this place."

The only functional thing in the room was a terminal,