

Tales of an Endless Sky: Lost Amongst The Stars

A strange visitor from a faraway place appears at Existence's edge. It discovers a planet, and grabs a random soul as a subject.

20-year-old now former dragonkin Chase finds herself on the outskirts of a galaxy, disoriented off a high. She's... not human anymore, and her home on Earth is so far away that the distance between her and her home might as well be infinity.

She's found by the curious overseer of that galaxy, who wonders how she managed to ascend at such a young age, or how she even managed to cross the gap between galaxies.

Now, as she's learnt magic and given a fresh planet to settle down on, how will she figure out her way around godhood? How do you navigate a reality where even your wildest dreams are unable to imagine something like this?

Prologue: The Dream Yet to Be Dreamed

A sparkle of brilliant prismatic light streaks at superluminal speed through a shimmering void. This twinkling flash is just a small fragment of something so unfathomable that the mere presence of its true form in this sparse region of Existence would cause the surrounding space to unravel down to a fundamental nothingness.

An Ascendant. It called itself Faith. A creature not of flesh nor blood, but of light. Shimmering multicolored motes dance around its fragment, leaving a trail no different than a rainbow amongst the stars. If humans could view a larger chunk of the electromagnetic spectrum, it would look more like a surreal piece of art, with the canvas being the space around it.

The light from the anomaly would not have arrived anywhere for several tens of thousands of years. If civilization sprang up here, they'd only have the blink of an eye's worth of time to observe the sparkle zipping between galaxies.

The window was simply too small. This event would never be observed by anyone else.

It scours this wasteland looking for something alive, expecting nothing. Being this far away from the center of Existence means that the probability for life to blossom is immeasurably low. There should be absolutely nothing out here except the twinkle of stars and the silence of cold, dead rocks.

But even the most improbable of events will eventually occur *ad infinitum*, given enough time.

Layers of stacked magic programming scan through entire clusters of galaxies. It feels a hum... then a ping that seems like it resonates throughout the entire universe. It has found something.

It comes to an abrupt stop as it acknowledges the ping.

Out here? Fascinating. Faith ponders. Zooming towards the coordinates provided by the scan, it arrives at a star system. This orange sun is only halfway through its lifespan, perfectly suitable for lifeforms to thrive around if not for its unfortunate location in Existence.

It runs the scan again, and a ping reverberates in its mind, clearly resonating off the third planet from that star. It's returning a *positive* for living organisms. One ping might be a fluke, but now that it has detected the white, blue, and green marble with its own senses, it knows that it has come across a world covered with life.

It wonders how many worlds are out there just like it, lone bubbles of life in an endlessly dead sea of stars. As far as Faith knows, this place is the only planet that harbors living creatures within a couple billion universes' worth of distance. It is a miracle that life can even appear here, as this universe lacks the fundamental particles required for magic. They'll live but will likely never achieve FTL travel. They are confined to this far corner of Existence, within their very own galaxy.

The runes across Faith's fragment shift and reorient as it reprograms its intricate weave from a simple wide-range scanner to a fully detailed analysis tool. It desires a subject for an experiment and so grabs the essence of one being at random. Strangely, this soul does not appear to match the physical body it came from.

Faith reads their memories and observes. It sees magnificent skyscrapers stretch beyond the clouds. It sees a quaint little house. It sees their life. It does not understand the morality of mortals and their wish to live. Nothing truly dies from its "omnipotent" perspective, as souls are constantly reincarnating.

As it sifts through the archives of the soul it has chosen, it learns more about her world.

However, its only desire right now is to know about who this soul belonged to. It digs into her deepest memories, the ones that fundamentally make up a soul. Her name is Chase. She's 20, with a "college" level education, and considers herself a dragon...?

It knows what a dragon is, as it too is seemingly one, it thinks. It is unsure of how a concept like this made its way out here, as it does not observe this world having any living dragons. Digging a little deeper, it finds independently evolved tales of such creatures. Legends of fire-breathing flying lizards, feathered serpents, and many different things of a similar scope. *Fascinating*, it thinks. *To know that a civilization who has not been in the presence of one could dream up tales of such beings...*

It has determined that this world will be perfect for its next experiment.

It does not understand how a creature's soul could have such a mismatch with their physical body. It feels her pain and confusion, her feelings of dysphoria. As this soul is now in its care, it desires to alleviate these problems, as an experiment cannot begin with such a massive flaw.

It crystallizes the soul, ascending it to godhood. With the crystallization of her mind and soul, she will always keep her memories upon reincarnation. It inserts a subconscious thought, and the crystallized soul is now capable of accumulating time for its own purposes. She is now functionally immortal.

However, she's nowhere near as powerful as Faith, and will likely never be. An ascendant is far more powerful than a World Protector, after all. The difference between them is like comparing an atom to all of Existence.

It shapes a body from her memories, creating a long and fluffy blue dragon with a purple mane. It dusts her coat with a layer of shimmer, as it'll remind her of the stars in the night sky. It erects a magical conduit in the shape of three horns, two facing back and one facing the front. Four brilliant green eyes appear on her head, two on each side, with a color not unlike the purest of jades and the most brilliant of emeralds.

It gently inserts the crystallized soul into the vessel. Unlike the previous body which had her soul just crammed in with no regard for her comfort, It slips in comfortably, just as if the soul has finally found its perfect fit.

Such is the nature of Existence, it guesses. Mortals never truly get their way.

She will not awaken until all is set in place. It is too late to return her soul to her world, and it knows that there are those who will grieve for her. But it has already chosen and cannot reverse its decision.

Faith has high hopes for this experiment. It desires to see how a soul untouched by the chaos of Existence will fare within its testing grounds. It might even return her home someday, granting this lonely world a god to watch over it, if the results of the experiment deem her a success. It will drop her off just outside its galaxy of choice for their Time Jumper to deal with. Nothing can predict the future, so it gives her its blessing and stores her unconscious body in a miniature rift for transport.

It notes down the coordinates of this world, taking one last glance at it before zooming off into the endless expanse of stars towards its destination: the Eternal Spiral galaxy.

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