

The Emergence

Featuring Rosalynn, Syren, and the Freedom's Flight gang

Tonight was a good night. Which was a welcome surprise to Rosalynn given the events of the past month. For once, Syren didn't have a show tonight, and Darren had given Rosa express 'orders' to 'guard Syren for the night.' Which was his way of giving the Nautipod permission to spend time with Syren instead of doing a different security job in lieu of the absence of needing to protect her charge for a show. So, Rosalynn was happy to spend the evening with her girlfriend and have a much needed date with her.

They had considered going out, but decided against it due to Syren's popularity and neither wanting to be bothered. So, they ordered drinks and food from the bar, which Aphrodite dutifully delivered to their room, and the two watched a movie, cuddled, and laughed while they talked about anything. Not a single tremor disturbed their peaceful evening. The two were even able to share some intimacy in the shower and before they slept. Yes, Rosalynn thought to herself, *today has been good*.

At the end of the evening Rosalynn held her CCCat girlfriend close with an arm wrapped around Syren's shoulders as she curled into the Pod. A rare smile graced Rosa's lips, as she listened to the sound of her partner's comforting purrs and watched the lights flicker through the edges of the closed window curtains from the city below. Rosalynn sighed contently and closed her eyes.

"Rose..." a soft voice roused the Nautipod and she opened her eyes to look down at the source.

"Yes, Syren?" she asked gently, and a happy little smile appeared on the CCCat's lips as she nuzzled Rosalynn's chest.

"I love you..." Syren said sleepily and Rosa chuckled, "I love you too, dear," The Pod replied before relaxing into the pillow and closing her eyes. Sleep came easy for both of them, and dreams would have been pleasant, if not for the sudden tremors that started up randomly in the middle of the night...

Rosalynn's eyes bolted open on instinct and she immediately surmised that more tremors had begun. This was followed quickly by deep annoyance that caused Rosalynn to groan thus rousing the sleepy Syren from her rest.

"Huh?" Syren asked sleepily, looking around in confusion. The shaking continued, and Rosalynn put her hands on the CCCat to steady her against the rumbling. The two held each other for balance, Syren looking up to Rosalynn in concern and the Nautipod staring at the ceiling in frustration. Both waited for the tremors to calm down and eventually stop, and they lessened for a moment... only to start up again even bigger than ever.

"Sh**," Rosalynn hissed as the bed and frames on the wall started shaking violently. A vase sitting on a dresser bobbed until it hit the carpeted floor, thankfully not

breaking. "Rose-," Syren said with mounting concern as the pair looked around their room at the shaking world around them.

"Hold on, Syren-," Rosalynn said as started to sit up and move to a more stable position. A light from outside caused the Nautipod to look up and realize something was very wrong. There were sounds coming from outside and Rosalynn hastily got up from the bed while commanding Syren to stay down. The CCCat obeyed while Rosa made her way to the window. Halfway there, a massive shockwave rocked the ground and the Nautipod was thrown to her knees while multiple items in their room crashed to the floor.

"Rose-!" Syren called out in fear as she clutched the end of the bed.

"I'm okay!" Rosalynn called back again as she shakily got back to her feet, using the wall and windowsill to steady herself. A cacophony of sounds like the shrieking and whining of trees breaking or the cracking thud of rocks being smashed, but on a much higher scale, emanated from outside. Rosalynn threw open the curtains just in time to see it.

Far in the distance, the ground shattered and thrust upward with an otherworldly force sending massive shockwaves that wracked the world. Eerie purple light glowed amidst dust and smoke that billowed in all directions while the ground broke apart in the distance. Rosalynn watched in horror as it happened, clutching onto the windowsill to keep herself upright. As her mind wonders about the creatures and Skireans who are dying or being brutally injured near the wreckage, her CCCat partner made her way carefully to the window, which Rosalynn didn't even notice.

Only when Syren grabbed onto the Nautipod and asked, "What's going on- Oh gosh..." did Rosalynn look down. She quickly wrapped an arm around Syren to steady the two as they watched the earth continue to heave upward and a dark form showed from underneath. As the dust cleared slightly, they watched a being of tremendous size move in slow motion to pull itself from the newly formed hole in the ground. Its sides glistened with slick oily liquid that dripped down and pooled around the earth below. Sickly white protrusions jutted from the titanous creature as it reared its head towards the sky. Upon reaching a peak, the Titan's bony and unnatural face opened to let out a wailing cry that echoed across the world and caused the pair of Skireans to shrink back and wince in pain. Rosalynn only barely noticed a small crack form on the window from the Titan's below.

Eyes now wide in horror as this unknown creature finished its ungodly scream, the two looked out the window in absolute fear. *What in Ofae's name*, Rosalynn thought to herself, insurmountable fear rising through her, *is that thing? What just happened?* Her mind raced, trying to comprehend what they just witnessed all the while a small voice in the back of her head whispered about the end of the world; and Rosalynn, who was used to slaying monsters, was inclined to believe as she gazed upon a monster that caused true and genuine terror to wrack her form.