

Savar, a planet inhabited by strange lifeforms, full of magic, life, and wonder. This is the world Astril found themselves in when discovering a long forgotten portal inside a beach side cavern. After befriending The Farmer, Astril and Ma, aka Leto, decided it was time for a new adventure, moving from Skire to live with The Farmer on the farm as he and Leto managed to hit it off quickly. Six months later, Leto and Astril were fully moved in, and Astril, fuelled by the desire for adventure, made it their mission to explore what Savar has to offer. The Farmer warned Astril to lay low, not to draw too much attention to themselves, as unfortunately, not everyone on Savar is as accepting as he is. Wearing a cloak to hide themselves, they make their way to the largest city on the planet, known as Ojectina, this is where this story starts.

Astril walked through the city streets, finding themselves in the heart of a busy market. The hood on their cloak pulled over their head to make sure no one saw their face. The Farmer warned them that not everyone would be so welcoming, but it wasn't the people that Astril was interested in anyways, even if they were quite peculiar. The people of this world were humanoid in nature, however while they're were several differences between these people and the humans on Skire, the main one was their heads. The Farmer explained these people were known as "Object heads" humanoid creatures with objects for heads, just as the name implies. They were the dominant species of this planet, and according to The Farmer, while he wasn't one of them, he took on the form of one to blend in. More than likely one day Astril would have to learn how to take the form of one, but for now the cloak would have to do.

Astril was overwhelmed by the sights, the smells, the sounds, it got them excited to travel around. This city, while one of the biggest, was just one of many places this world had to offer. Thoughts raced through Astril's mind, what to do first? Where to go? It was exciting, but unfortunately it was rather distracting, and before Astril could realize it, they had accidentally run into someone, bumping into them from behind. Astril took a moment to regain their composure before speaking.

"Oh, my bad" Astril muttered quickly as they went to walk past the stranger, however they quickly felt a hand on their shoulder that roughly turned them around. Astril was caught off guard at the sudden action, and looked up at the person they just bumped into. The stranger was a tall and muscular man, wearing a leather jacket adorned with spikes on the shoulders, a fitting choice, as his head was that of a cactus. Astril saw his sharp teeth, bared in a snarl, he almost looked like a wild animal with how viscous he looked.

"Excuse you, do you know who I am?" The stranger growled. Astril noticed several others starting to surround them. All of them had some sort of flora for their head, all wearing similar leather jackets, which implied that they were a gang of some kind. Astril stuttered as they tried to come up with an answer, not really understanding what was going on, and also trying to not

make the situation worse. Astril didn't notice the man had bent over to get a better look at Astril, when he suddenly yanked Astril's hood back to show their face, which startled Astril.

"Figures, it's one of them Pollengons, I'm surprised they had the balls to travel here." One of the gang members said.

"No no, I don't think that it's one of them, it's too small. Shit does it even have eyes? It's so ugly, no wonder it ran into you." Another one said with a sneer, causing the others to cackle. Astril's ears folded back in anger, they bared their teeth, but didn't dare to speak a word. They only turned to leave, pulling their hood over their head.

"It's mom must have dropped it as a baby or something, or it's just as ugly as it's parents." Those words caused Astril to stop and pause, before quickly turning around and shouting.

"Don't you talk about my Ma like that you prickly bitch!!" Astril yelled, causing several bystanders to stop and watch the scene unfold. The gang went from laughing to silence.

"What did you just call me?" The man asked as he started to walk forward towards Astril. His gang only encouraged him.

"You get em Thorn!" One of them shouted. Thorn stood tall over Astril.

"Did I stutter?" Astril said, not backing down as they stood their ground. Thorn only chuckled.

"You got a death wish, you ugly little shit?" Thorn hissed.

"No, but at least my name isn't as cringe as Thorn." Astril retorted with a grin.

"Oh, I'm going to enjoy this." Thorn said, and without giving Astril a moment to react he kicked them, and with Astril's small size, sent them into a nearby wall with a thud. It took Astril a moment to get up, and when they did they gave a long hiss. That didn't stop Thorn however, as they walked over and picked up Astril by the scruff. Astril squirmed, using their claws to get his hands off them, but his skin was tougher than it looked. Astril was once again thrown, this time to the ground. Thorn went in for another kick, but this time Astril managed to scramble away and avoid it. Astril stood back up, but it was clear they were struggling. Thorn only glared at Astril, a sick smirk across his face.

"Fast one, ain't you? How about you outrun this!" Thorn yelled as he charged at Astril. Astril panicked, and threw their arms up in defense... but nothing came. Astril looked up slowly, and

slowly looked around. The color seemed to be drained from the world around them, and time seemed to stand still. Astril looked around confused, before they heard a voice.

“Why aren't you fighting back?” It asked. Astril seemed even more confused as they tried to locate the source. “Well?” It asked, wanting an answer.

“I... I don't really know how to fight without my magic.” Astril finally admitted. “But... the Farmer said not to use it in front of others, it would be dangerous.” Astril looked down at their hands, a small spark traveled up their arms. They felt helpless not using their electricity magic, but even then Thorn was tough, would magic even be enough?

“What is this?” Astril finally asked. “Did you do this? Did you actually stop time?” Astril asked, and got a chuckle in response.

“No, not exactly. Technically you aren't even moving, it's all in your head.” The voice replied, making Astril confused. “I just made your thoughts faster, you would be surprised how fast the brain can be when overclocked and full of adrenaline.” The voice went on, it paused before speaking again. “You need some help?” it asked. Astril paused for a long while before nodding. As they did so, there was a bright flash, and suddenly, they were back where they were before, with their arms up to their face. Astril looked up, and saw someone standing between them and Thorn.

“The hell-?” Thorn muttered, caught off guard by the sudden appearance of the figure in front of him. Astril was in awe for a moment, seeing the power, the magic coming off of this being, the magic no one else could see, it was blinding. Astril thought The Farmer had a lot of magic, this was somehow stronger.

“Who... are you?” Astril muttered. The figure seemed to hear, as they turned and looked at Astril. They had seven eyes, and seven floating horns to match, their skin a shade of amaranth purple Astril had never seen before. The figure smiled before turning back around.

“I am Pleiades” the figure shouted, her voice was commanding and confident. “And I've seen quite enough. I have no respect for filth like you.” She said point at Thorn. If looks could kill, Pleiades would be dead where she stood, yet her confidence never wavered.

“Are you ready to teach these clowns a lesson?” Pleiades asked as she turned to Astril. Before they could respond, Thorn shouted.

“That runt? You really think they could do anything?!” Thorn shouted, but Pleiades ignored him, shooting him a glare that Astril could have sworn made him flinch.

“I can guarantee this young one has more fight in them than you and your little gang combined.” Pleiades said, turning back to Astril. As Astril wanted to respond, a black mist seemed to be swallowing up Pleiades. Astril heard the gasps and even a few scared yells from the surrounding pedestrians as the smoke now made its way at Astril. As it circled them, for a moment, Astril swore they saw a figure, a shadow of sorts. The silhouette looked like a shadow of them, except this shadow seemed to have seven eyes, just like Pleiades, but it was gone just as quickly as it appeared.

Astril felt a sudden chill run up their spine, causing them to shiver. Their body felt strange, energized, but also as if it wasn't their own anymore. Astril couldn't think for long, as Thorn had charged right at them again, but this time, Astril didn't throw up their hands and hide. As if being pulled by strings Astril jumped to the side, causing Thorn to stumble as they missed their kick.

Astril took the opportunity to jump on top of Thorn's back, wasting no time to bite down on his shoulder. Thorn yelled as he stumbled, throwing his back against the wall trying to get Astril off, but Astril was quicker. They jumped off his shoulder and onto the ground with grace, as Thorn stumbled and charged again. Astril was always faster, and while their attacks didn't do much damage, they were able to use their speed to chip away at Thorn little by little. Unfortunately it came to a head as Thorn managed to grab their tail, and in one swift motion was thrown over hand at a wall.

“Ooo...my bad, yikes that must have hurt.” Pleiades said, their voice coming from the back of Astril's head. Thorn was about to come in for another attack, but this time, one of his gang members held him back.

“Get off Rosen.” Thorn growled, but Rosen stood her ground.

“You've done enough, quit while you're ahead, you can't take anymore of this.” Rosen whispered quietly, so only Thorn could hear. Thorn huffed as he looked at Astril.

“You're lucky Rosen reminded me that I have no time to scrape you off the street.” Thorn lied. “I suggest you fuck off before I change my mind.” Thorn hissed as he turned around, trying hard not to show his limp.

It took Astril a moment to regain their senses before getting up. Putting the hood over their head they made their way back home as quickly as they could, though their injuries slowed them down. By sundown, they had made it home, and walking inside they were quickly met with Bingus. Bingus was quick to make a fuss, beeping and barking, catching Ma's attention.

“Astril?” Ma asked, getting closer to Astril, they tried to pull the hood over their battered face, but Ma came close and pulled it back. She gasped as she saw how beat up Astril looked. She got down on her knees to better look Astril over.

“What happened? Who did that??” Ma asked, she was furious but concerned.

“Ma, don't worry about it, you should see the other guy.” Astril said with a laugh, but Ma didn't seem too amused. Ma sighed as she stood up and shook her head.

“Come on, let's get you patched up.” Ma said as she made her way to the kitchen. Astril's ears flattened as they followed.

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Astril made their way into their room, Bingus following close behind, jumping on Astril's bed. Soon Astril saw the smoke again, and turning around, they had seen Pleiades manifesting from it. The two looked at each other for a moment before Astril spoke.

“Why did you help me Pleiades?” Astril asked. Pleiades had a look of sadness in her eyes as she quickly looked away and out of the window.

“That's... a long story for another day... Why don't you sleep?” She said as she walked toward the window. “Don't worry, I'll be around.” She said as she soon dispersed back into smoke, and out the window before Astril could say another word, leaving Astril alone in their room.