



v. Shattered Like Glass

They had reached the place where Lucian was staying, a small and grimy flat just outside of city limits. Auralie shuddered at the thought of Lucian living in such filth. At least her orphanage had been clean. But the flat itself was clearly unimportant, because Lucian led her straight towards the basement.

Auralie shuddered as she went down the stairs, she could almost feel someone waiting for them. But the woman in the huge basement was not the biggest surprise in store. No, it was the slivers of other worlds that Auralie could see flashing everywhere. She had seen similar things before, flashes from other dimensions would open in little rips, then be gone in an instant. For some reason, her power over light allowed her to see them. But she had never seen so many in one place. At least now she knew why this place had been chosen for the hideout. It provided easy escape.

Lucian couldn't see them, Auralie realized, from the way that he walked past them carelessly, without a glance. Even if he was used to the constant portals winking in and out, he would have still wanted to see what was inside if he could. Her brother had a curious nature.

The woman clearly could see them though, at least that was what Auralie could tell from the smirk playing at her lips. She was a tall woman, with a regal face and white-blond curls that fell down her back. She looked like an elf from Lord of the Rings, but far more dark. She wore a long black dress that covered her to her feet, and had lace sleeves that covered her arms and hands. She would have been beautiful except there was a cruel look in her ice blue eyes that made her seem more horrifying.

"Auralie," Lucian announced, "this is my savior and boss, Elory the Executioner."

Elory gave a cold smile, "why, hello Auralie. I have been wanting to meet you for quite some time. I almost thought I lost you 6 years ago, but it turns out you had the talent to survive even without my help."

Auralie decided the best way not to get killed was to be polite, "thank you for saving my brother. He means the world to me."

"So I've heard," Elory sneered, "tell me Auralie, do you know what the power that runs through your veins really is?"

Auralie shrugged, "not really."

"Magic my dear," Elory explained. Lucian was standing beside the Executioner, grinning with excitement. He assumed once his sister knew about Elory, and what she had to do with them, she would want to help.

"Magic is just from stories," Auralie dismissed.

Elory smiled, "no my dear, magic is real. At least on other worlds. And in other dimensions. I come from one of those dimensions. And so do you two, at least in a way."

"I'm human," Auralie scoffed.

"No," Elory shook her head, "you are a hybrid. You see, I was working as a nurse in a hospital, in Great Britain, waiting for the right opportunity. Then one day, a young married couple expecting twins came in for an exam, and I was expected to give it to them. I saw my chance. I embedded the unborn twins with my DNA and powers, creating powerful hybrids. People with incredible powers. Not the raw magic like I have, but more focused. My experiment was successful."

"You aren't human," Auralie asked.

Elory sighed, "no child. I come from another dimension, one of magic and power. I tried to save my home but it was destroyed long ago. Now, I am here to keep yours from going the same way."

Auralie cocked her head, "and what do I have to do with that?"

Elory laughed, a high and cruel sound, "well, I'm sure you can figure out who the twins I changed were. But I changed them because people need to become more powerful, need to evolve into stronger beings. My kind became weak, so humanity needed to do the opposite. And you two will be the ones to help me show them the way."

"But what if people don't want to change," Auralie argued, "who are we to decide that?"

Elory strode over to Auralie with her brisk, striding walk and looked down at the child. Auralie trembled, terrified of this magical creature that had supposedly made her what she was. Elory spat, "because I am the powerful one, the superior one and I know better. They don't."

Auralie whispered, "what have you done to my brother?"

Elory patted the girl on the head, "I showed him his destiny. He chose to accept it. You can choose to join us too dear. I'm not sure how I lost track of you all those years ago, but we still have plenty of time to change the world."

Auralie was so unsteady on her feet. She felt herself sinking towards the floor. Her knees hit the concrete and her her throat felt tight. But she managed to choke out a small, "no, I don't want to help you."

"Pity," Elory sighed, as she strode away from the young girl. She ordered, "Worldshaker, kill her. We can't have her getting in the way."

Auralie thought he would have at least hesitated. That he would have asked Elory to reconsider. That he would have looked at her with regret. After all, they had loved each other more than anyone. She still loved him more than anyone, for he was her twin and apparently the only one like her in the whole world.

But Lucian gave no hesitation, he was far too committed to Elory's cause for anything else. He shook the building to its core, and Auralie felt the ground caving in underneath her and immense pain going through her body. She lit up, light streaming from her, her powers reacting, hoping to save her. Auralie screamed her twin's name, but he turned and walked away, through one of the portals, following Elory.

Auralie had been betrayed by the one person she thought would love her eternally. But it wasn't the action itself that shattered Auralie's heart like a fragile glass rose. It was the knowledge that while she would have done anything for Lucian, the knowledge that her love for him was unchangeable, it wasn't the same for him. The knowledge that though she cared so deeply for him, it wasn't enough to make him see reason. That she wasn't enough to save him. That she wasn't enough. After all the hits and the blows of life, it was that realization that broke Auralie's shadow.

With a heart now in fragments and a slim chance of survival, Auralie gave into the pain and the dreariness and passed out, not caring if she woke up again or not.

.....

Maria Hill found the girl in the rubble, alive but hurt. Shield had sent backup to get the girl to safety and get her medical attention, but Maria was the one to carry her out of the rubble. She had seen the light fading from around the child, seen the tear residue on the unconscious young woman's face. Maria had known whatever had happened had been horrible, and had something to do with Auralie's brother. And as she looked at the fragile, broken, yet strong and bright creature in her arms, she was reminded of her promise to make the girl a Shield agent. She would make good on that promise, even if she had to fight everyone in command. But Maria made another promise to herself. She promised that she would give this girl as much happiness as possible, and give her some semblance of family.

Don't worry Auralie, Maria thought, I'll do better than he did. I am going to be the best sister you could ask for, and no one is going to break your heart again, not while I'm here.

A/N: I hate Lucian, even though I created him. But Maria and Auralie are going to be great sisters, so that's a plus.

Continue reading next part [↗](#)