

The Last Ember in the Skyforge

(Line Edit as if part of a larger piece)

The Skyforge ~~was making a weird buzzing noise, kind of buzzed~~ like an angry bee trapped in a tin can. Arlen stood there, staring at everything ~~like he had no idea what he was doing, which was probably true, and looking lost.~~

Lyssa ~~came stomping in, breathing hard for no reason~~ stomped in behind him, shouting. “Did you touch something?” ~~she yelled, even though she wasn’t even sure what she meant.~~

Arlen ~~shrugged in a way that made his shoulders look uneven~~ gave her a lopsided shrug. “I might have... interacted... with a gear. A *little* one. Hardly worth mentioning.”

Something exploded, ~~but not very loudly, which was disappointing considering the huge room with a disappointingly soft boom.~~ Iridescent flecks slowly spun and swirled in the center. The middle of the glowing Skyforge, ~~glowed like someone had spilled glitter glue into a whirlpool.~~ Lyssa squinted ~~at it like she was trying to read tiny print, trying to focus on the shape within.~~ “Oh, great. That’s the Ember, I guess. It’s doing... something.”

The Ember flickered and ~~made a noise sort of like a burp mixed with a sigh.~~ Then a voice boomed ~~out of nowhere:~~ “WHO IS POKING ME NOW?”

Arlen winced. “Hey, uh, sorry. We didn’t mean to wake you.... Or we did...?”
Actually, I don’t know what we meant.”

Lyssa slapped his arm ~~for no clear reason.~~ “Stop talking! This is a big magic thing! Or a cosmic... ~~thingsomething.~~”

The gears overhead ~~started moving~~ began turning; their metal teeth, in desperate need of lubrication, grinding against one another, ~~except some didn’t, and others made grinding noises like they needed oil.~~ The Ember glowed brighter. “YOU TWO ARE REALLY ANNOYING.”

“Yeah,” Arlen kicked a loose bolt across the floor. “We-we get that a lot.” Arlen said. ~~He kicked a loose bolt across the floor, where it clinked sadly.~~

Lyssa threw her hands up. “We’re apprentices! We don’t know what we’re doing! Please don’t blow up everything!”

There was a moment where nothing happened and everything was strangely awkward.

Commented [KKPG1]: This scene reads as 3rd omniscient. Other chapters have been 3rd limited.

Since it is Lyssa’s “turn”, I’m editing in her POV.

This scene reads as the younger end of YA rather than your targeted NA or adult audience.

Commented [KKPG2]: This is a common metaphor targeted to a younger audience and takes the reader out of the experience of SF. Consider describing the sound more fully. Is the buzzing deep enough or loud enough they can feel the vibration?

Commented [KKPG3]: I tried several variations of this sentence but failed to find one that both kept most of your phrasing and that I felt worked.

Commented [KKPG4]: For the “sound” of it, consider using “spilt” instead.

Commented [KKPG5]: I liked the imagery but I “aged up” the language.

Commented [KKPG7]: Out of nowhere? Or from everywhere? Subtle difference between the two — but consider the latter.

Commented [KKPG8]: Arlen’s speaking style has been hesitant and filled with pauses — use those here.

Commented [KKPG9]: Because this is Lyssa’s POV, you can give her reason if you like.

Commented [KKPG10]: Breaking up the format of the sentences. A lot of “action - dialogue” before this.

Commented [KKPG11]: I don’t necessarily want you to explicitly tell her mood — but this action combined with the dialogue doesn’t tell me if she is angry or frustrated or despairing.

Then the Ember said: "FINE. JUST STOP TOUCHING THINGS."

The lights dimmed. The buzzing stopped, ~~—~~ mostly.

Arlen scratched his head. "Well, ~~" he said,~~" that was terrible. Let's go before the universe changes its mind."

~~They both Together, they~~ stumbled out, arguing about whose fault it was, while the Ember made a ~~sound that might have been a cosmic eye-roll, noise that sounded suspiciously like an eye-roll.~~

Commented [KKPG12]: Because this is an "action" by the Ember, the paragraph break is not required.

Commented [KKPG13]: Tried to hit the same tone as your humor in prior scenes. You used "cosmic" about half a page up, and you don't want to re-use it so close together. I think the word is more easily dropped here than there.