

Fair Warning

I am not good at writing.

The End

Prologue

In the southern reaches of the Colwest Port resides a long presumed abandoned warehouse, deep within this warehouse is actually an expansive bunker housing hundreds of government workers working tirelessly to find and collect, or destroy those who have been deemed threats to humanity, Reapers. It is believed that Reapers are aliens who have begun the invasion of Earth, but there is little evidence to prove such a theory. There has been a recent breakthrough in fighting Reapers, in which a sect within this bunker managed to synthesize what they have dubbed Fighter Crystals. Using these crystals, they can empower those compatible to use Reaper's powers against them, Magic.

Alone sits a woman in a slim formal suit, typing on a keyboard while flashing lights spread across the room and reflecting through her glasses. The woman sighs before leaning back and stretching, her chair creaks under the motion. Her amber eyes glance to the corner of the room, shrouded in darkness. "How long do you plan on standing there? Tell me what you found." Her annoyed tone was very clear, she had been forced to work well over her usual time due to this 'anomaly'. She stares, her brow furrowing with more annoyance. "Shades-!" She gasps before quickly standing up.

A man walks out, his right arm covered in bandage wrappings and burns, his face poorly covered by a neck gaiter and head covered by an oversized hood, his long coat tails rustling against the back of his walking legs. "Yo, Miss Aeri." He says in a low raspy voice, almost devoid of emotion. The man walks closer, barely illuminated by the many monitors in the room, only his slightly glowing purple eyes being visible in the darkness.

Aeri quickly pulls out a gun which was holstered in her belt and points shakily at the strange hooded man. "Tell me how you got inside of here. Are you a Reaper?" Aeri's voice roared with a subtle shake.

The main door opens suddenly and a man wearing a suit similar to Aeri's and sunglasses walks inside talking on the phone. "Yes, I understand. I am here now, I'll call you back." Shades' eyes scan the room before locking onto Aeri with her gun pointed at an empty dark corner of the room. "Hey uh... are you goo-?" He stammers back as Aeri snaps the direction of her gun towards him.

She quickly turns back to the now very empty darkness and sighs out of relief. Lowering her gun, she walks over and past Shades into the brightly lit hallway before turning around and facing him "I'm getting some coffee, I've been awake too long, come tell me what you found while I do." She says before sighing once again.

Aeri and Shades walk through the facility, passing by other tired agents who are vastly underpaid for this kind of stressful work. Shades pulls out his phone and holds the screen up to Aeri showing an image. "What is that, an empty black box?" She scoffs.

Shades smirks, "Not exactly, that wasn't the only thing we found at the site. You see, we also found him." He swipes his phone, showing a picture of a boy no older than 18 years.

Aeri stares and blinks a few times before looking at Shades. "What's special about him?" She says before the two walk into a break room.

Shades sits at one of the tables and begins scrolling through more pictures he's taken. "Well, you see, we believe he is a natural Fighter, found in the wild, like M-"

The hooded man is walking through the dark empty streets, the flickering of the one functional street light drawing his attention to a nearby park, perhaps a place to rest. *I need to think of something new, I'm running out of time.* The hooded man thought to himself, not immediately realizing that he's stepped in a thick liquid, he stops walking and looks down. "Yeah, this might work." He reaches deep into his coat pocket and pulls out a small black box wrapped with small chains, placing it within the liquid and walking away.

Chapter 1

Pain. My arms hurt... Why do they hurt? Where am I, what was I doing? There is a pause before a worrying thought creeps into her mind.. *Who am I?* The girl struggles to move, her arms fully wrapped in bandages and most of her body refusing to respond, as if it had just woken up from being in a coma.

A man in a police officer uniform walks over, looking down at the girl and giving a reassuring smile. "Oh, good. You're awake, I am Officer Chime. What is your name?" He kneels down next to the couch that the girl is currently laying on.

The girl stares at him, not knowing how to respond, nor if she can even speak in her current state. How did she end up like this, was she beaten so badly that she lost her memories and motor functions? The girl opens up her mouth but no words come out. What can she say? She doesn't even know.

A door opens and an older male's voice can be heard speaking. "Ah, there you are, Mel. I was worried about you. Where have you been?" The man walks forward and stops just in front of where the Officer Chime is kneeled.

The officer looks at the man who has slightly greying hair, yet almost no wrinkles in sight. This couldn't possibly be her father, could it? Officer Chime stands up and looks into the dark purple eyes of the man standing in front of him. "Excuse me sir, do you know this girl? She seems to be in shock from whatever happened to her." The officer walks over and places his hand on the man's shoulder. "Perhaps you could come with me and confirm your relationship to her, then we can talk about what happened."

The older man ignores the officer and walks over to the girl, Mel, he places his hand on her head and kneels down. "I'm here to pick you up, are you ready to go?"

A moment of silence, Mel stares at the man, looking deep into his eyes as a surge of memories begin to flow back into her mind. Yes, this is her father, her name is Mel and she was in the park when she was attacked by a dog. Her arms hurt because of the bites from the dog. Mel's eyes are wide with shock and remembrance. "Father, I think I should see a doctor, I was attacked by a dog and my arms hurt really badly." She holds up her bandaged arms.

Officer Chime looks between the two before accepting that this man is most likely her father. Mel's father glances at her bandaged arms before taking her hand. "Are you able to walk, Mel?" He tightens his grip and attempts to lift her onto her feet, she staggers, barely maintaining her balance.

Mel's father looks to Officer Chime as he begins to walk with Mel. "It was a wild dog attack, there is no need for a statement. We are leaving."

The officer watches them as they walk through the exit while feeling a bit disgruntled, he pulls out a small notebook and begins to write.

Mel and her father enter quite a drab apartment, it feels very foreign and not at all welcome or homely. It is an odd feeling to Mel, as she feels out of place here. Is this really her home? Why didn't they visit a doctor?

Her father lets go of her hand and begins walking into the kitchen. "Go clean yourself up and change your clothes, I will make us something to eat."

Mel makes an affirming hum before walking into the hallway and glancing between two doors. *Which door is mine?* She thinks before walking over to the door on the right and trying to twist the doorknob, but it is locked. She turns around and opens the other door, then walks inside the room, noticing a set of clothes on the bed, they look like a newly bought t-shirt and shorts.

Mel walks over to the wardrobe near the closet and opens it to find better clothes, it is completely empty. "Huh? Do I not have any other clothes?" She mutters in confusion, she doesn't remember many details outside of what she remembered at the police station.

Mel enters the bathroom and undresses herself, pausing to look into the mirror at her own reflection. Blonde hair, green eyes, bruises and cuts. Her father has mostly black hair, and dark purple eyes; she doesn't really resemble him that much.

She looks down at her arms wrapped in bandages and begins to unwrap them revealing wounds that were once hidden, less like dog bites and more like bear claws slashed across both arms; there are also many shallow cuts along her wrists. *Did I... do this? I can't remember.* Her expression twists into one of sorrow and confusion.

Mel's father begins setting the small table, barely big enough to fit two people at once. He places down two plates with chicken curry. *I should have gathered more food before we arrived here. This might not be to her liking.* He pulls out a student ID, Mel's student ID, still covered in some blood from the attack. He places it back into his pocket and pulls out a flip phone, opening it and texting.

Mel walks out wearing the clothes that were prepared, her arms now covered in clean bandage wrappings. "It smells good." She walks over and sits at the table, her father closes his phone and sits down.

"Your new semester will start soon, we're going to have to order a new uniform for you." He says giving Mel a glance before he begins eating the food before him.

Mel looks up to him, "Oh, okay. Speaking about clothes, where are all of my clothes?"

Her father stops eating and stares past Mel, as if deep in thought. "We can buy you more clothes tomorrow." His phone buzzes, glancing at it he stands up and walks out of the apartment, leaving his food.

In a nearby park a group of government workers are investigating a Reaper attack that occurred a few hours before, two key members in this team are Aeri and Shades. Aeri looks over to the one of the Fighters they brought along then calls out, "Mika! Are there any signs of the Reaper?"

A girl with messy short brown hair, brown eyes, and a claymore strapped onto her back turns around, "No Ma'am. It looks like whatever caused all this bloodshed left shortly after."

Shades looks around and pipes up, "Aeri, Mika, do you guys notice anything strange about this scene?"

Aeri and Mika look around, taking in the scene of gore, and suddenly Aeri gasps. "Of course, there are no bodies!" Shades lowers his head with Aeri's correct assessment.

Mika's eyes go wide "W-What? That isn't possible, Reapers don't let people live, they have **never** let someone get away... wait, that means its target might still be alive!" Mika pulls out the claymore that was strapped to a belt wrapped around her torso and looks over the blood trail before dashing into the forest to find the victim in all of this.

Aeri looks at Shades then kneels down over the blood. "Shades, out of all of the cases of Reaper attacks, how many stay in the general area once they kill someone?"

Shades stops and begins contemplating. "I suppose... At least 25 out of the 27 attacks we've discovered since we've been assigned to this."

Aeri stands up and faces Shades, "Not quite correct, those two cases where the Reaper wasn't present was due to the Fighters we've found."

Shades pulls out his phone, scrolling through the pictures of the most recent Fighter, the boy, and of course Mika. "Are you suggesting that we've just discovered another Fighter? With what evidence?" Shades looks up to Aeri who tilts her head looking her eyes towards the ground, where there is an open black box, wrapped in small chains and empty.

Darkness, that is all that one would see in this deep pit below the city, a single light shining down upon the throne made of swords and staffs, with human skulls adorning the floor below. At the base of the throne are beasts made of pure darkness, Reapers, they look almost like wolves, massive claws, their teeth bulging from their snouts, monsters in every sense of the word.

Sitting on the throne is a man covered by black robes and a hood covering his head, only hands covered in burns and his smile can be seen clearly. The man raises his hand as the two monsters dash off back into the darkness. "Yes, as I thought, they get stronger and more intelligent with each devoured human." The man begins laughing to himself. "I am curious to see how they will evolve further... let us see."

The man forms a crystal ball within his hand and stares into it. Images of beasts ripping people apart and eating them, consuming their magical essence cycle through until landing on a girl fighting three of these monsters, Mika.

"Well, well, Maverick, it seems you've made your counter to my Reapers... Fighters, was it?" The man begins laughing loudly, echoing through the dark below. "Foolish idiots, they are far too weak for my beautiful creations, but I'll play along, let us see who will win our little game."

Mel's father is walking up the stairs of the apartment, morning has long since arrived. *I was gone too long, I wonder if Mel is still asleep.* He walks into the apartment quietly, looking to the table which still holds his food from the night prior. "Mel, I'm back. Are you awake?"

He waits a moment before walking to her room, knocking then opening the door. "Mel?" He looks around the empty room. "She's gone." His eyes narrow as he turns and begins walking to the exit, pulling out a cigarette. Exiting through the door he pulls out his flip phone, opening it and looking at the screen before sighing and closing the phone, continuing to walk out of the apartment.

Black vehicles cover the street, blocking the entrance to the park along with many people in suits examining the area. Mel stands on the opposite side of the street, gazing upon the scene ahead. *That is the park where the dog attacked me. Why did I come back here?* The thoughts continued to swell in her head before she took a deep breath and walked beyond the black vehicles to the park entrance.

Shades is squatting down in front of the dried blood while taking pictures of the evidence, as well as the strange black box. He stands up and glances around, noticing the blonde haired girl making her way through the park entrance unseen by the other agents.

"Hey, stop!" Shades shouted before taking a single step, then slipping in some wet mud, falling onto his butt. "Huh?" He groaned in a strained voice, confused and full of pain..

Aeri didn't think much of Shades shouting to stop, as it's very common for the newer agents to make many mistakes, that was until he actually fell down. "Shades!" She shouted, quickly making her way over to offer him a hand. "What are you doing?"

Shades remains laying on the floor, gazing upon the sky, half of his view being blocked by Aeri's body.. "Ah, today is beautiful, isn't it?"

Aeri grabs Shades' hand and pulls him onto his feet. "Stop being a clown and tell me why you were shouting."

Shades' quickly turns his head in the direction where the girl went. "There was a girl who entered the park, we have to hurry and catch her!" He begins running in the direction the girl went.

Aeri can do nothing but sigh at the sight, she turns to the rest of the agents “I expect you all to finish up here, we will be back soon.” She follows quickly after Shades.

Mel wandered around the forest within the park grounds, looking for any trace of the dog that attacked her, any chance to jog her memories. She slows into a walk, following a path of broken branches and folded long grass.

Suddenly a yelp is heard nearby. Mel quickly makes her way over, hiding behind a thick bush, peeking through the leaves, seeing a strange girl with a big sword. The girl stabs the sword into the ground and stretches. Just below the girl is a large wolf, pitch black fur, and blood covers the grass below.

Who is this psycho lady, is that the dog that attacked me? This was a mistake. Mel takes a step back, breaking a twig behind her. She freezes, holding her breath.

“Huh? Shades, Ma’am?” The girl calls out, pulling her sword from the ground and looking at the bush Mel is hiding behind. “I already killed the Reapers, but I didn’t find who they were chasing!”

Shades and Aeri run out from some shrubs nearby and look to Maki, Shades takes off his shades and looks around “Hey, did you see a kid, about this tall run through here? Blonde hair, green eyes, female.”

Aeri turns and stares at Shades, “You are terrible at describing people, you know that?”

“No, I haven’t seen anyone other than you two, Shades.” Mika says while strapping the Claymore to the belt on her back.

Shades looks to the dead Reaper, “So, was that the only one?” He kneels down to get a closer look at the teeth and claws.

Mika begins walking back to the path that leads to the entrance of the park, “If there were any more then they would have left the park grounds by now.”

Shades looks at Mika with a face full of confusion. “Wait, didn’t you say that Reapers never-”

He is quickly cut off by Aeri. “That’s enough, we need to hurry and find that girl, we don’t have time to waste arguing about Reaper behaviors.”

“Yes Ma’am.” Mika said, quite happy to drop the conversation here and now.

Shades clears his throat before opening his phone and looking at a satellite view of the park. “If we’re leaving it there then I will check the eastern quadrant, our associates are still guarding the southern entrance so I suggest you two go north and west. If we don’t find her, then we will return to the park entrance by the hour’s end.”

The group of three split off in different directions now beginning the hunt for the mysterious girl, the girl in question still hiding in the bushes near the slain Reaper wolf. Mel finally lets out her breath, relaxing after what felt like an eternity. She walks out from the bushes and kneels in front of the black wolf, the thing they called a Reaper.

“What are you...?” Mel said in a whispered tone. This wolf was very large, the size of a larger human male, unlike many other wolves.