

Night Lily

A black curtain speckled with stars and the radiance of a full moon rippled as children stepped on a puddle. A boy with brown hair followed his friend as they traversed the rocky landscape ahead of them. A girl with a scar on her lip marveled at the carvings on the mountainside caressed by moonlight.

"Come on Connor," her hair twirled over her shoulder as she looked back at him. "We're almost there," excited her pace hastened while Connor struggled to keep up with her.

"Er, Ashley, where are we going?"

"I was picking flowers nearby and found something cool." The two children rustled past the dry, lifeless undergrowth, neglected from the light of the sun.

"I don't think you'd find any flowers around here," Connor remarked. Overhead, bats slept underneath the trees which left a fog of shadow making Connor uneasy. "Didn't the Solari soldiers say monsters lurk around here at night."

"You mean the monsters that eat children who sneak out of their village," Ashley laughed. "That's what my mother says."

"Haha very funny," Connor said with his unamused face. Ashley knelt down and picked up a white stone from the ground.

"We're here Connor," Ashley's eyes fell straight ahead. The two children approached a clearing with a circle of towering stones. Each stone engraved with sigils that Ashley has never seen before. She pressed her finger against the marking's grooves. The face of a pearl held by a crescent bed.

"What is it?" Connor asked staring at one of the pillars.

"I don't know I've never seen it befo-." Suddenly, a massive beast rolled from the shadows and collided with one of the pillars. The pillar fell over towards Connor. "Look out!" Ashley leaped to Connor and tackled him out of the way. The two children looked up at the sight of a Terror's petrifying gaze towering over them. It growled in anger while black ichor slid down its shoulder dripping off its claws. "Run," Ashley screamed, "Run, run!"

Ashley and Connor tried to flee, but the beast blocked their path, cornering them. Ashley felt guilty when she saw the fear in Connor's eyes, so she yelled at the creature, "Hey ugly over here!" She distracted the demon so that Connor could escape.

The boy fled, leaving Ashley alone with the Terror. "No," Ashley cried as the horrid shadow approached her. She flinched when the beast flew into the air opening its gaping mouth. Then a flash of silver light pulled the creature away from the girl and sliced off a chunk of its shoulder. Ashley opened her eyes.

A woman stood in silver armor with hair of purest snow and the mysterious sigil gleaming on her forehead. She flicked her blade, removing the creature's blood. Standing between Ashley and the Terror, the woman's eyes glanced back at the girl. "What is a child doing here?" she wondered. Steam fizzled off the body of the creature as its wounds began to heal. The woman squinted at the terror preparing for its next move.

When a dark cloud drifted over the face of the moon, the creature dashed towards the pale woman. Its claws collided with her crescent blade as she deflected the beast's pounce. The silver sword maiden spun around regaining her balance. Her eyes widened as a massive paw swung back towards her. With quick reflexes, she rolled over avoiding decapitation. Now that the terror stood above the silver aspect, it put its claws together to smash the woman. The woman grunted as she put her sword above her with both hands blocking the monster's massive blow. Her arms shook under the pressure of the terror's weight. The earth cracked beneath her feet as the woman bent down to one knee. She opened her eyes to see an innocent girl filled with fear. Just then the clouds disappeared unveiling the full light of the moon.

The woman screamed as three orbs of lunar light collided with the beast knocking it off balance. She flung her blade unleashing a ribbon of lunar luminescence that burned into the side of the creature. Then with blinding speed, the woman rushed behind the beast slashing where the burn left its mark. Snarling in pain and anger, the Terror lashed at the woman. Only to be met by a glistening crescent blade that cleaved through the terror's neck. With a loud thud, the creature slumped to the ground. The pale lady exhaled in relief as the beast melted into a pool of bubbling tar. Ashley gazed in awe at the woman in silver armor, shimmering in the moonlight.

"Heretic!" a soldier of the Ra'Horak appeared with Connor by his side. He saw the white-haired woman standing in front of Ashley. "Diana, let the girl go," the golden soldier ordered. Diana, the white-haired woman, turned towards Ashley.

"Go on child," Diana nodded. Ashley scurried to the Solari soldier and reunited with her friend. After the children were safe, the Solari soldier unsheathed his blade.

"Traitor," the soldier cursed ready to fight Diana. Ashley grabbed the soldier's arm.

"Uncle Gregor, let's go home," she said with a soft voice. The soldier looked down at the girl clenching to his side. When he turned back to face Diana, the moon's aspect had already disappeared. The golden warrior sheathed his weapon. Then escorted the two children back to their village.

On the way back, Ashley noticed small threads of light trickled down the pillars and into the earth. "Ashley look!" Connor pointed to a white lily with an iridescent glow. Silver radiance seeped into its blooming petals replenishing itself by the light of the moon.

"Wow," Ashley cheered astonished, "It's beautiful." She gazed at the moon with a new perspective, and when the two children left the ancient Lunari sight, a bat flew over the night lily to drink its delicious nectar.