

The Winding Key

& the Beating Heart

Her heart kept beating as her gears kept rotating, when her cranks kept moving, and while her father's life was fading.

Orianna was the only child of Corin Reveck, the clockwork inventor of Valoran's City of Progress, stricken by a disease caused by her own innocence. However, any progress that the renowned innovator could have done was halted when his child's deteriorating body threatened to take her away. He took his time away from the business to extend Orianna's life by transmuting her as his finest marvel, the Lady of Clockwork, before the disease reached her heart. As long as her clockwork body had to be winded through the key on her back, Corin could always have the daughter he almost lost. But even if she was granted with the gift of spending more time walking the Magic Earth, in her world, she would feel as life has only paused.

However, her father's passage of time would fast forward as if it was the neck of his hourglass was widening. His own body became afflicted with the same virus that would decay his flesh and blood more rapidly. There is little hope and little time to save him as it eats away his heart.

What is left of his daughter to do? Move on as her father meets this painful fate? He was the one that given up everything to let his daughter's heart keep beating. It was not her body that made her alive, it was the love of her father that remained. Every nook and cranny of her was the result of her father's love. The last and only present she could possibly offer was the very gift that her father had given her. And through advancements in clockwork, Orianna upgraded herself to not rely on a winding key to function.

She does not need her heart anymore, nor her father.

Orianna knew for a fact that she was not who she was before. Her body was cold and her eyes were lifeless. Creating the lady of clockwork did the opposite of giving life to a body, it gave birth to an emotionless android. To truly free herself from her human past, Orianna had to let go of these earthly attachments. Letting go before allowing her father to realize that his daughter died a long time ago was doing him a favor.

But she will always walk her path with her father always around. His skills, his talents, his art that he passed along to the next generation would always and forever will be a part of Orianna. Although she does not need to be winded, she does not need her heart beating, she will always need clockwork to move forward.