

The Other Side

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Another author-gets-thrown-into-Hyrule-crap. I couldn't resist! SO, the auther and some of her online friends get thrown into Hyrule! Who called them there? Why are the needed? WHY CAN'T I WRITE GOOD SUMMARIES?! Just read it, and enjoy.

Provided by Fanart Central.

http://www.fanart-central.net/stories/user/chocolate_luver/4720/-The-Other-Side

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1 - Prologue

~~~~~Prologue ~~~~~

???'s PoV

I am running through the emerald feilds of some perfect land of bliss, at least.... upon the first sight. I can hear the giddy calls of children, frolicking. unaware of the fast approaching doom that was soon to make itself known. I slink into the the shadows of the tall grass of the meadow, waiting, waiting for the perfect moment to pounce upon my prey. Looking among the happy rabble of children, I see the weakest link, I spot.... \*him\*. My lighter side. It makes my blood churn to look at him, after what he had done to me, all those years ago. . I felt somewaht sick to relive the day I fell deeper into the shadow that already held me captive. So deep, that I was drowning in the deep abyss of darkness.I shiver as I remember the punishment I had to endure, a pain worse than death. I glare up at the sun, silently cursing the radiance that was being expelled from the glowing ball, suspended in the endless blue that was the sky.

I have been spotted. And of all people, it had to be \*him\*....

"Curse him!" I growled, my breath a whisper on the wind "Why has he thwarted all of my plans? ! I just don't understand!"

..... \*\*he's your other side. remember? He can sense your presence whenever you approach\*\* .....

..... oh, yeah, I had forgotten about that.....

..... \*\*you're not the brightest star in the sky, are you?\*\* .....

Shut up.

I (again) cursed as I see \*him\* approaching the place whrer I am hiding. I knew that I either run, or face a pain worse than the last. I throw a deadly blade in hopes of hampering his pusuit. I smile to myself as I hear a gasp of pain and surprise. I could hear my dagger enter him, drawing blood. I am now running back into the shadow from whence I came.

\*\*\*\*\*

ozf/ Jana's PoV~

Gasping, I wrestle my way out of the tangle of blankets I had somehow gotten wound up in while I was trapped in my ..... well, I don't know if I could call it a nightmare, it wasn't..... nightmare-ish enough. Hm. Oh, well. I look at my digital clock. 7:30. Great. 15 minutes and I hvae to leave for my band's concert.. I grabbed my clarinet as well as the sheet music I had borrowed from my music teacher. Legion of Liberty, and Nocturnal dances. I can play both of them now, after much practice. Go me! My eyes wander and rest upon the drawings I had finished the previous night. My favourite vidoe game character,

Link, The Hero of Time was on top of the pile. I had drawn him and Zelda, Princess of Hyrule, standing hand in hand, staring off into the distance., then I sorted through all of my Zelda pics. There was chibi Link (a way of drawing my online friend imazeldagirl had taught me), chibi Zelda, Malon, Saria, Nabooru. I had also drawn Zelda's Mother.

Seven forty. I pull on my favorite blue jeans with fake wear marks on them, and a light green tank, and put on over that, a red zip-up sweater. I mill around, looking for my brush, and find it on my bedside table. I run it through my hair, until all of my tangles are just a rather painful memory. I pull my brown shoulder length hair into half a ponytail, leaving out two little strands of hair. I quickly apply some eyeliner and eyeshadow, walk out my poster plastered door, my arms full of the things I wanted to bring (including my drawings), nabbed a piece of toast, and was out the door, into the cool, refreshing morning of the spring. I looked around in surprise, though.... for it was not into my greening lawn that I had walked into.....

## 2 - Chapter One

~~~~~Chapter One ~~~~~

I look around in surprise, for the place I was now in was not my front yard. The land upon which I stand upon does not consist of a yellowing lawn, neatly trimmed hedges, or that beautiful little maple tree which I had planted when I was eight. Now, I'm fourteen.

I'm gonna be laaaate.... I mused to myself.

I took a deep breath. I run through my mind, but I cannot think of where I could be. The place where I stood now reminded me of an old forest I loved to bike through, but the trees looked somehow younger, but..... oddly wiser, and more noble. It sorta freaked me out. And to make matters worse, it was not morning as I thought it was, just a minute ago, it seemed to be the pitch of night. I shivered, having nothing but my thin sweater to ward off the bitter cold.

Where on Earth am I?

** Earth?..... What is this "Earth" you speak of?.....**

I screamed. I mean, I don't think it's normal to hear disembodied voices in my head. It had only sounded like a whisper on the wind's breath, but I know it is far more than that. I verbally demanded to know who the voice's keeper was..... no answer.... hmmm.... the.... voice..... answered my thoughts, so.....

Okay, let's try this, who are you, and how are you speaking... in.. my head?

** you know not of where you stand?....**

*Uh, no, I know perfectly well where I am, I'm just doing this to annoy you! No, dimrod, I have no clue of my current location. *

** now, child, no need to be hasty....you stand in the realm of Hyrule, where the tribes of fire, water, sand, shadow and light dwell....**

The voice now sounded amused, and somewhat feminine. And clearer too.

** start walking to the north, and I think you shall be pleasantly surprised.... **

Hyrule?! Dude! I thought that was only a video game land! And what do you mean by "surprised"? Tell me!

..... no answer.....

Now two choices lay before me.... walk north, or stay here and... well.... starve, I guess..... huh.

I can't beleive I'm doing this. Taking advice from a disembodied voice. And I'm not sure what the "pleasant surprise" is, and I'm not sure I want to. And Hyrule? HYRULE?! This must be someone's sick idea of a prank... but... how could they manage this? Turning my front yard into a forest? And freaky... voices! ... ugh....

As I let my mind go away, I don't notice the trees are changing.... They are somehow... livlier.... hm. My feet snag on some invisble root, and I am airborne for a short time, and then come crashing into darkness

3 - Chapter Two

~~~Chapter Two~~~

Margaret/ imazeldagilr's PoV

It's been two hours since I have somehow dropped into this lush forest. I can feel new life tingling around me, as well as old life, fading away. I don't know where I am, but I am itching to find out.

... I can't wait any longer. I must know where I am..... I start to walk, my destination unknown to even myself...

My mind wanders into one of my favorite websites, Zelda Legends' Art Gallery. It's become more of a chatroom, but me and my online friends are trying to sort that out. I am also building a new site called "Anie Artists" with Lisa and o.z.f. I mean, Jana. She's also from the gallery.. She says she's from Canada, and has SNOW. Snow! And she makes it sound so bad! Well, I guess maybe it can get a little annoying, but, really! Oh, well.

Still walking. And my braces hurt. Stupid orthodontist. BAKA ORTHODONTIST!!! They're all far too happy.

..... \*\*dear heart, do you know where you stand?....\*\*

Oh. My. God. A voice.... in... my head.

"W-who?" I squeak. I swallow, and try again, in a firmer voice (but not by much) "Who are you?"

Nothing. Maybe \*it\* only answers to a mental response [not the insane kind of mental, dimrod!]

\*Who are you?\* I try to form the words in my mind, where an unearthly presence lurks.

\*\*..... that is of no concern to you. Please, dear heart, answer my question, previously asked....\*\*

Question? Oh! Yeah, the where I stand thing. Okay, I can do this!

\*Uh, I'm in a forest.... I've gotten that far\*

\*\*.... go now to the south. I think you shall like what you find. A pleasant surprise awaits you....\*\*

\*Like what I find?! WHAT will I find?! Who are you??\*

No answer.

I belt out my demands mentally as well as verbally, until my throat is raw from screaming, and my head aches in pain.

So.... I either go south... or stay here and ... rot....

Now, I am not without a destination. This voice wants me to go somewhere, and it's really the only way to go.

To the south! And may only the pain of death stop me!

\*\*\*\*\*

## 4 - Chapter Three

~~~Chapter Three~~~

"Wake up!"

Uggnnn..... mom's already at me for sleeping in on a Saturday, heavens forbid should ANYONE sleep in on a SATURDAY!

"Wake UP!"

"Mmmrrrrrrhhhhggggg....."

I hear a frustrated sigh.

"For the last time, WAKE UP!"

SMACK.

"OW! What was that for?!" I cry, and it up, rubbing my head where I had been struck.

"To wake you up."

My mom is nowhere to be seen. Instead, a girl with brown hair, and jeans that are slightly too big for her looks up at me... like everyone else. I'm 6 '1 after all. And this girl doesn't look more than five feet, give or take an inch. I look around, trying to shake off my sluggishness. I'm in a dense forest, full of trees that I have never seen before..... I am definitely not in my room. I hear an almighty snore behind me.

It's none other than Rob. I could see foot prints near him, so the girl must have tried to wake him up. Needless to say, her efforts failed. I look back at her and look her over again. She has her arms loaded with all sorts of stuff: music sheets, an instrument case, and a couple of sketch pads, and a few loose sheets of paper. She has a rather large bruise on her forehead, which is bleeding; a trickle of blood is making its way down her face. The skin around there is stained slightly red from the blood she must have wiped away.

"Do you know him?" she asked me, pointing to the snoring figure of Rob.

"Yea, that's my friend Rob" I say.

"And you are...?"

"Kevin" I fill in for her, "And you?"

"Jana." she says.

*Jana... where have I heard that name before..... *I muse. Jana also looks as if she is in deep thought, brow furrowed in concentration. even Rob has stopped his snoring.

"If you don't mind me asking, what's your last name?" She asks, now chewing on her finger.

"Hughes" I answer absent-mindedly.

"Kevin Hughes..." I hear her murmur under her breath..... She wipes away the little stream of blood that was making its way down the bridge of her nose, "Hey, do you know about this gallery for Zelda fanarts, and people are always complaining about chatroom crap?"

Jana! Now I know where I've heard the name!

"Obsessed_zelda_freak?!" I asked incredulously, a slow smile spreading over my face.

"Ganondorf?!" She asks just as amazed, a wide grin breaking over her face also.

"Oh my God!" She says, her eyes fixed on me, looking me over. I was still in my clothes from last night, and I was kinda needing a shower.

"Is that IronKnuckle?" She asks looking over at Rob again.

"Yea, that's him alright" I say. Jana walks over to him, kneels down and pokes him.

"No.... don't.... my shoes... don't... est... my shoes...." he says, still in his dream. A wicked grin spreads over Jana's face. I go over to join the fun.

"They're gonna get your hair next" She says to Rob.

"Are.... they coming on Tuesday?" He asks, still sleeping.

Jana gives me a confused look, then resumes her evil plan, "No, they're coming..."

"....when...?"

"Now, they're gonna fire you from your newspaper position, and they're replacing you with...." she casts around in her head, trying to think of something.

"Me" I say.

"NO! KEVIN I'M GONNA KILL YOU!" Rob shoots up, whacking me in my already hurt head. Jana is laughing quite hard now, with tears of mirth rolling down her cheeks.

Rob calms down as he looks around, "Uh, Kev, where are we?" He notices Jana, who is now recovering from her attack of the high pitched giggles, "And who's that?"

"That is Jana" I say, pointing to her. Rob raises an eyebrow.

"Who?"

"O.z.f."

"You're kidding."

"No, he's not." says Jana, coming over to us, "I'm sorry about that."

"Liar"

"Okay, I'm half sorry"

Rob glares at her. He must look intimidating from Jana's point of view.

"A third sorry."

"Whatever"

Rob looks over at me again, "Where are we?"

"I... don't know...."

We look over at Jana.

"Hyrule" she answers.

"Come on, be serious." Rob says, obviously not rid of the morning grumpies.

"I WAS being seriuous."

5 - Chapter Four

~~~Chapter Four~~~

ozf's/Jana's PoV

I STILL can't get over that the two people walking drowsily with me were people I had known for four months.... I kept poking them to make sure they weren't just a figment of my imagination. I discovered that neither particularly liked to be poked.

"Ozf", said Rob, trying to break the awkward silence. "Do you have ANY idea how we got here?"

"No", I sighed, answering the SAME question for the gazillionth time, " I just walk out my door... and.. into... Hyrule, supposedly.... "

"How do you know we're in Hyrule?" asked Kevin.. for the MILLIONTH time... they were evidently still quite tired.

"I've told you a million times, Kevin!" I snap. "Freaky voice, tells me to go north, I went north, I fell, woke up, walked a while, sun rose, and I found you two!"

"Bite my head off, why don't you..." grumbled Kevin.

"Sorry..." I said sheepishly, "I'm not really one for patience, especially when I'm stressed. "

"No, I should have been paying attention," Kevin mumbled.

"Yea, it's a bit.... overwhelming, "Rob added, "To have been picked up outta our beds, and into this weird freaky forest, find you, only tell to get told that we're in Hyrule."

"We're ALL sorry, how about that?" I said, " Hey, wouldn't that be awesome if we met up with Link, or something?"

"Yea, that'd be pretty cool" said Kevin, laughter apparent in his voice.

"Yea, he'd be running from z-girl."added Rob.

I snicker. I can SEE the scene rolling out in my head, "That would be a good drawing." I say.

"Yea, that would be" Kevin said.

"Ozf," Rob started.

"Jana" I corrected automatically.

"JANA, do you have your drawings in your notepad there?" Rob asked.

"Yea, I do, " I say, "I guess you wanna see them then?"

"Sure, "Rob said, holding out his hand.

I tried to hand him my notebook without dropping everything, but, failed miserably. There were clarinet pieces, papers and pencils going in all possible directions.

"Wonderful" I say, bending down to pick them up, and gather most of my stuff, and look up to see Rob and Kevin, each holding out some of my stuff that they picked up. Unaccustomed to people HELPING me, I stand there for a couple of seconds, just gawking like an idiot, then take them with a quick "Thanks" making sure that Rob had my notebook.

He flipped through the pages, and then sopped on one, laughed out loud and looked at me.

"Who is this?" He asked, pointing to a 5-second scrawl I had done the previous night. I scowled at it. It was a little demon me, biting off My Stalker's head, chibi-fied.

"Wesley" I say, "My stalker."

"Jana has a stalker" Kevin says in a sing-song voice under his breath.

I was about to punch him, when something crashed into me from behind.

## 6 - Chapter Five

~~~Chapter Five~~~

"OH MY GOD! JANAJANAJANA, IT'S YOU JANA!" shouted the thing that was clinging to me... it sounded an awful lot like...

"WELSLEY!!!! NO, GET OFF! GET OFF OF ME NOW!" I screamed, looking at Rob and Kevin who were looking at me and the person strangling me in bewilderment.

"OH MY GOODNESS, I FINALLY FOUND SOMEONE I KNOW!!!" it screeched "I WAS SO SCARED, AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE I WAS, AND NOW YOU'RE HERE!!!"

"DON'T JUST STAND THERE YOU IDIOTS! HELP ME!" I shout at the two guys. They come out of their stupor, and each took an arm and pull. The person on my back froze.

"JANA! THEY'RE GOING TO GET US!" the person immediately jumped on Rob and Kevin, knocking them down, but... it wasn't Wesley... it was a girl, taller than me, with brown-blondish hair, with a t-shirt and jeans.

I blinked in confusion, "Hey.. you're not Wesley..."

"Wesley? Oh, that stalker guy?" said the girl, trying to pin down Rob and Kevin, and was surprisingly succeeding, "No, I'm Margaret, Maru, or whatever you wanna call me."

My eyes went wide in surprise, "Get off of them! That's Ik and Ganondorf!"

"Oh" said Margaret, getting off of Kevin and Rob, "So, which one's which?"

"The tall guy is Kevin, and the shorter one is Rob." I say, trying not to laugh as they were rubbing numerous limbs in pain (legs and arms, you dirt-minded nitwits!).

"Hey, Jana, do you know this kid?" asked Rob, glaring at Maru, who seemed to shrink underneath his gaze.

"Three guesses." I say, smirking.

"Oh, come on, Jana," Kevin said " It's too early in the...." he looked up at the sun, which was now high in the sky "... afternoon..."

"Yea, FAR too early in the afternoon, Kev." I mock, "She's imazeldagirl."

"Good for you, Jana," said Kevin, rolling his eyes, "Now, who is this?"

"I'm imazeldagirl, you goofs!" said Maru, "You know, the chibi drawing girl at "Zelda Legends"?"

I looked at her. She did look different than the picture she had sent me on msn. But, I recognized her now.

"Z-girl" said Kevin and Rob in unison, both staring at her awestruck, the same way they has when I told them I was... me.... it's a guy thing I guess.....

"Whoa....." said Rob, looking at us as if we were freaky monkey aliens. I did the same to see his reaction.

"What are you lookin' at me like that for?" he asked, confused by the look on my face.

"What are you lookin' at ME like that for?" I said, trying to keep the look on m face. I had a feeling that I was exaggerating it a bit.

"Well, think about it," Rob said. I did. I still didn't think that this would be some kinda excuse to pull really weird faces.

"And we didn't know what you or Margaret looked like." Kevin added, he looked down at me, "Man, you were right, you ARE really short."

"Hey, Jana's the shortest here!!" observed Maru, "Ha, poor LITTLE Jana. So short and misunderstood."

Rob and Kevin were gaping behind me. Must be another guy thing. Pah.

"Yes," said a masculine voice, "She is. And she is also trespassing onto the lands of Hyrule, as are all of you"

I looked up to see a figure on horse back, sword drawn, and at my throat. Figures. Pick on the short one!

7 - Chapter Six

~~~Chapter Six ~~~

Rob/IronKnuckle's PoV

TRESSPASSING?! What is this guy TALKING about? Who is he? Stupid sun! ( the sun is blocking total detail of the person image, they can just see the silhouette. And WHY does he have that sword at Jana's throat!

"Coward" I murmur under my breath, so faintly that I can scarcely hear it, but it does not elude the sharp ears of Jana's captor.

"Perhaps," began the guy, "You would like to trade places with your friend?"

Jana spun around, making the sword dig into her neck, tracing a thin red line around her neck, but she either did not feel it, or was too focused on something else to notice.

"Would you like to take this d\*mn thing off of me?" she snapped, "I have no clue where I am, how I got here, or whether I've gone mental or not! This is NOT a good time to make me angry!"

"Oh," he mocked "And making a WOMAN angry is what I should be afraid of?"

That was the wrong thing to say.

Jana leaped off the ground with a cry of fury, pounced upon her captor, and knocked him off his horse, which bolted.

Jana was on the ground wrestling with a man twice her size, and maybe triple her weight.... But... surprisingly enough, she was doing a good job on winning; she had already disarmed him of his weapons, which lay forgotten on the ground next to them, and she was working on the shield, tugging at it, and whacking Mr. Man occasionally over the head with her fist, earning a cry of pain from him. I KNEW he was a wimp.

"Don't" WHAM "Ever" WHAM "Do" WHAM "That" WHAM "AGAIN!" WHAM!

Jana has a temper.

Not wanting to be left out of the fight, and afraid that Jana would give this guy a serious concussion, or kill him, I tug her off him (suffering a few whaps in the head, and then receiving a sheepish apology), and put my right knee in the middle of Mr. Man's back, who was now panting, and bruises were appearing all over his face. I could now get a look of his face; He was a fairly heavily built man, Short, brown, curly hair, and look around in his late 30's, with a ruddy face.

“What were you hoping to accomplish, there?” I snarl at Mr. Man (Don’t ask), as Jana plopped down beside me. Blood was trickling down her neck, and there was a bruise on her left cheek.

“ Ah, please, Ahm onlay doin’ meh job, aye, I am!” he said, losing his smug tone, and putting on a weird accent,” ‘A won’t cut off me costard, will yeh?”

I look over at Jana, wondering about the term “costard” was.

“His head” she mouthed.

“Do I look like I’m armed?” I say.

“Nay, it don’t seem of the like, I wis,” he said, confusing me further.

“Wis?” I mouth at Jana.

“Think” she mouths back. HOW does she know this?

I motion for Jana to hand me a weapon from the pile of them beside her. By now, the others have gathered around, but did nothing. Jana gave me a dagger, engraved with symbols and markings of which I’ve never seen the like of. I hold it to Mr. Man’s throat.

“Your name?” I ask.

“Kenned Weromirian, son of Aremeth Weromirian.” he replies.

“Why did you attack my friend?” I inquire further.

“ ‘Twas meh job.” Kenned quickly replied, “Meh and me boys; we saw a strange light o’ere this ‘ere ‘ill, aye, that we did. I was assigned by the Captain tah see what it ‘twas, for none of us had ken what it was.”

I roll my eyes, exasperated, “Ken?” I mouth over at Jana, who replies “Know or think.” she mouthed back.

“Who’s your Captain?” I ask, getting tired of this game.

“Ah, he’s a good lad, ‘e is, a good lad,” Kenned says fondly, “ ‘e’s our own Hero, a miracle sent from the three Holy Goddesses above!”

“His NAME?” I sigh.

“Why, haven’t yeh guessed?” Kenned asks in amazement, “ ‘e’s non other than Link, the ‘Ero of Time!”

## 8 - Chapter Seven

~~~Chapter Seven~~~

ozf/Jana's PoV~

I knew what was ahppening before he even opened his mouth. I've seen it in so many movies, read it in so many books, heard

it in so many campfire stories.....

....."something's coming".....

We, or the miniuature army, loads everything that can be carried onto their horses, and leave all that can be spared on the

ground. Me and the others just stand around, trying not to get in the way. I'm feeling ansty, I can't just STAND here! I see that

my friends feel the same. I look around the bustle and spot a shining blue ball, no doubt Navi, and head towards it. If I had not

had the expirience of trying to get to my locker wen the day was out, would have been trampled on. But, after many weeks of

weaving, ducking, and dancing around, I made it to Navi, who was accompanied by Link. He was busily talking to Kenned in a

language that I didn't know of.

"Ika wertoi!" Kenned said exasperatedly, "Ika wertoi, Pacoint!"

Link sighed in frustration. None have them had noticed me yet. d**n my shortness.

"Mero, Kenned," said Link, sounding as exhausted as he looked, "Ika juvea re isvet." He looked down at me and gave me a weary smile. So he had noticed me.

Kenned boed clumsily, and ambled of to a chestnut horse, and started loading it up with various parcels, weapons, and foods.

"Ut domra poiyer?" He asked in his language. I raised a eyebrow. He shook his head, while the little glow ball started nattering at him for ... talking in a language that I didn't understand. He glared at it.

"He MEANS "You need anything?" but being the slow one that he is, he doesn't even use proper grammar, how stupid, Link, you really must remember we have LADIES in our company now, you must shape up and -"

"Behave like a gentleman, I KNOW," Link said, glaring up at Navi who had still not shut up. Stupid. Annoying. Fairy.

"SHUT UP YOU STUPID GLOW BALL!!!" I screamed. And it worked. In fact, everyone stopped and stared at me. I could feel myself going red. Link waved them to get back to their business. They did. Navi went off muttering darkly, now a bright shade of red.

"Did you need anything?" he asked, a hint of a smile pulling at his lips.

"No, I was just wondering if I could be of any help," I murmured, looking at my feet. I had a serious doubt that he would let me help, seeing as I was so small.

"Hmm...." pondered Link, furrowing his brow. A moment later he came out of his trance, "Are you any good with horses?"

"I love horses!" I said, perking up immediately, "What do you need me to do?"

"You see the beige mare over there?" he asked, leaning over slightly to the right and pointing. I leaned over and spotted a healthy looking lone mare, looking around at the bustle around her listlessly.

"Yup." I said, looking her over. She was a well-exercised, beautiful mare, around ... six years old. She had a English saddle on.. that could be a problem, if Link wanted me to ride her, I wouldn't be able to, I can only ride Western.

"I need you to load her up with food, and any weapon I will show you later that you want. She is yours for now, since you cannot go on foot, you must ride her. Your friends do not look so experienced, I can sense it, they way they shuffle about nervously when a horse approaches them."

"Oh" I say, furrowing my brow "Uh... I don't really know how to... ride in that kind of saddle" (using the term "English" would have seemed weird, and I'm too tired to put a whole thing about "OMG, what's English?" thing up).

"Hm?" Link came out of his trance of looking around him while keeping a firm hold of a rudy mare that had walked of to him by the bridle, "Oh. Well, we do have one other kind of saddle, I hope it suits your tastes better." He walked away until I could not see him anymore and realized that the horse was walking slowly away.

"Oh, no you don't," I say, and firmly grab the horse's bridle and yank her head over to face the direction Link had gone in. She gave a snort of disapproval and tried to get away, I only held her head more firmly. The horse looked familiar... EPONA! I'm so stupid! I began humming "Epona's Song" slowly, and I felt Epona calm down as her muscles eased out of their tensed state. I did this for a few minutes, and did not even notice that Link was standing beside me with a bemused look on his face.

"Hello...?" He said waving a hand in front of my face which was now resting on Epona's neck.

"Huh?" I say, and snap out of my trance. He holds out a Western saddle. Good. "Thanks, this is the one I'm used to." I take it, and nearly fall over due to the immense weight of the saddle.

"The.. saddles at home.. aren't... so heavy.... " I grunt. Link laughed.

"I thought you would fall right over!" he laughed as I walked towards the mare. I paused, still having one question on my mind.

"What's the... mare's..n-name?" I manage to get out.

"Thydoreth" he answers, still laughing at my struggle with the saddle.

I manage to get over to Thydoreth without falling over and drop the saddle on the ground. Still in this d**ned forest. I reach out to Thydoreth and gently take her bridle and massage her ears; she looks nervous and tense. I smile to myself, as she relaxes. Thank goodness for cousin's who live on a ranch. I look under her belly to find the buckle and undo it.

Big mistake.

With a scream, I go flying over Thydoreth's side due to the weight of the saddle, and land on my back, on her left side, on a pile of evil little pebbles that scrape my back and the saddle on top of me. I struggle to free myself and surprisingly, the saddle came off easily. Then I realize the faces of Rob and Kevin are smiling down at me, holding the saddle above me easily and trying not to laugh.

"What?" I say, rolling out of the evil little pebble pile, "It's heavier than the one I was carrying, and it's more than likely heavier than me!"

Margaret and Lisa were really getting a kick out of this they were leaning on each other for support. Steve was just standing there, his shoulders shaking with laughter. I could hear the high pitched giggling of Navi, and the guffaw of Kenned too. Great.

I got up, and picked up the saddle I had dropped, and put it on Thydoreth without her bolting, and buckled it up. It wasn't hard to find food, and I looked around for Link, and found him being nattered by Navi again. Thydoreth had learned to follow her master, so, being a smart horse, she had followed me. Link turned to me with a triumphant smile and pointed at the assorted weapons on the ground.

"I've somehow managed to find very spare weapon here. So, we have a broadsword," he pointed at a sword not unlike his own, "and a spear," he pointed at a dangerous-looking spear... I can't throw to save my life... "and double daggers," he pointed at two identical knife-y looking things, "A shortsword," He pointed to a little sword, a miniature duplicate of the broadsword he showed me, "and a bow and a quiver of arrows" OH! One thing I was pretty good at! Archery!

"Bow and arrow..." I said. Link picked up the bow and quiver and handed them to me. I slung the quiver over my shoulder, and the bow around the quiver.

"Do you know how to use those?" Link asked.

"To some extent" I said, and got the bow off my back, fitted a feathered arrow to the notch took my aim and-

"THAT NEARLY HIT ME!" screamed Navi, who was bothering Steve who was glowering at her, and now shaking with laughter.

"Oh, it did?" I say, putting on mock shock, "I'm SO sorry! Silly bow! My these arrows sure are dangeruos huh?" I pull the arrow from the tree it had been embedded in.

Link was laughing also. Navi turned a shade of red and attacked him, throwing herself at him, abruptly turning Link's laughter into cries of surprise. I fitted the same arrow to mybow and took my aim. Navi frooze, and went a shade of yellow, then zipped off squealing.

Link was not lughing as everyone else was, though. He was looking off in the distance, a worried look on his face.

"Time to go" he said simply, and swung up gracefully into Epona's saddle. I mounted Thydoreth, though perhaps not so uch as graceful as Link was. Poor Steve was having troubles as was everyone else getting onto the back of some warrior's horse. Impatiently, they yanked my friends on behind them.

Something was coming, it was apparent even in my mind and I had a feeling that everyone else knew that too. I looked at the greying sky, knowing full well that the light of day could mean either escape or capture.

9 - Chapter Eight

~~~Chapter Eight~~~

Ozf/Jana's PoV ~

We were galloping off a rate that I found surprising. Must be Hylain bred horses. Kevin rode up beside me.

"I never knew you could ride a horse!" I half-shout over the wind, squinting my eyes against the harsh wind.

"I didn't know YOU could ride a horse either!" he said back, also squinting also.

I looked behind the group, and saw a tiny black speck over the rigid horizon, dark against the rising sun. U knew that was trouble. It was getting bigger fast.

"Kevin?" I said, losing hope, "Do you see that?"

"Hm?" Kevin said. I pointed to the now noticeable black dot. It had wings. Oh no, wings, not good. Dragon probably. Kevin's eyes widened. "Oh no... that does not look good..."

Link came up on the other side of me (we were in the second row thingy thing, quite near to the front where Link had been leading us) and noticed what we were looking at.

"Don't look at it" he hissed as faint as a rustling, "It can strike fear into even the bravest of hearts. Don't look at it."

I had a hard time tearing my eyes from the ever-growing dot, but Kevin still had his eyes fixed on it.

"Kevin!" I hiss, trying to be heard by Link, lest Kevin get in trouble. I poked him in the arm. "Kevin!"

"What?" he said, head snapping over to look at me.

"Didn't you hear Link?" said, "he told us NOT to look at that.. Dot.. He said it could.. 'strike fear into the bravest of hearts' or something."

"He did?" Kevin's eyebrows raised a bit, "Hm. This wax must really be working." He pointed to his ear, which was stuffed with... what looked like... wax... [not EAR wax, I'm sure Kevin's got better hygiene than that.. Until then ...\*\*edges away from Kevin]. "Sorry, couldn't hear. Didn't he give you any of this?"

"No, he was giving me my bow and quiver" I shift my shoulders to that they were visible. Kevin scowled.

"All I got was a little knife" Kevin said. I could see the end of the sheath poking out from beneath his

shirt.

We rode on in silence from then, then Rob called Kevin over to talk with him, and I was left alone. A few minutes Lisa, Margaret and Steve called me over. I slowed my horse down, and soon I was riding along side them and some scary looking soldiers who were in command of the horses.

“Isn’t this crazy how we’ve all met up?” asked Steve who was beaming over Soldier #1’s shoulder.

“Yea, freaky crazy” said Lisa from behind Soldier #2.

“Jana? You okay? You look a little pale...” Maru said, obviously concerned.

“I live in Canada.. I don’t see much sun in the winter” I say, half-lying.

“M’lady” said Kenned who had ridden up beside me. “The captain wishes to speak with you”

“O..kay....” I said, a bit taken off guard. I said a quick good-bye to the three, who looked jus as confused as I did. I guided Thydoreth over to the front row, where Link was.

“I hope you did not tell your friends of that....”

“Dot?”

“No, ‘tis more than a dot..” Link looked pale, “That is one of the most feared beings in the world.. . The \_”

Link didn’t get to finish his sentence, for the most bloodcurdling shriek went like a knife through the air. I could feel it go through my heart, enveloping me in an icy shadow. I can feel an invisible hand pull at my heart.

\*..come to me, One of the Spirit...\*

Another voice. Different than the first one, which was serene, calm, and pure. This one was cold, harsh and mocking, full of hatred and evil.

I feel sick, and faint, as though I am about to pass out. I can still hear the constant thumping of the horses hoofs, but it sounded rather like a muffled heartbeat, as if I was hearing it from underwater. Black spots clouded my vision, growing, growing, puling me into a deep abyss of fear and darkness.

I try to scream, but I can’t move. I am frozen to the saddle (am I even on a saddle?), paralyzed with fear.

I can see something now. I can’t see it clearly, it’s too fuzzy, as if my contacts had come out. I could see my memories... not the joyful ones... but the ones full of despair... I nearly cried out when I saw my mother fall down the stairs, remembering how cold and limp she felt in my arms... and my father's face passed, but that was enough to scare me out of my wits... I wanted to scream, to scream so loud, to block out the voices that had taken over my mind, accusing me of things I cannot recall of doing. Let it

stop, please, please.... I felt like I was being suffocated as another unearthly shriek went through my body, taking more energy from my already exhausted body.

"DAMMIT!" said a voice, sounding masculine. I was too tired and despaired to care any longer.... I wanted to sleep..... I could feel something on my arm, pulling me up.. Hmm.. I must have been sliding off Thydoreth... I could hear other voices, full of fright and terror... all I could see now was pure black... and... two red dots.. eyes... the colour of blood.. I have never felt such petrification in my life.

A third shriek ripped through the air and my body and mind was enveloped in such a pain, I could only scream silently, my eyes blank and my mouth wide as I sank into the deep cavern of darkness....

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Steve/Linkmaster's PoV

A cold grip took hold of me as Jana went limp on Thydoreth. I shouted over to Link, who cursed and lunged as far as he could to grab her. I could hear little whimperings coming from Jana as everyone rode up further to see what was happening. I could hear a faint screeching, blocked by the wax in my ears. I looked back. A small form of a dragon was approaching... fast. That's what was .... doing that to Jana. She must not have wax in her ears [NOT ERAWAX!! I have no earwax in my ears. I have very good hygiene. See? \*\*squeaks\*\*] That screech nearly drove all the wit out of me, I can't imagine what's going on with Jana!

I could see the same emotions playing across everybody else's face too. They all looked downright terrified.

Link shouted out a command and dragged Jana onto Epona, as the archers turned on their horses (who kept at the same pace; they must have been trained to follow the general direction of the moving pack) and let fly arrows; slim and feathered towards the now quite near shape of the dragon.

There was gashes in it's wings and a deadly looking spike on each joint of it. It's teeth looked like a million swords twisted into unrecognizable shapes. The chest looked like the biggest barrel in the world, tough as steel, armoured by scales as big as plates; coal black. It's talons looked like an eagle's, only magnified one hundred times.... I don't fancy being tangled in them.. and it's tail was long, thin and whip-like.... but the thing that terrorized me most.. was it's eyes... the colour of mottled blood, piercing, unforgiving, full of deep hatred, and murderous desires....

"DAMMIT!" Link shouted as Jana's eyes went wide and blank, full of pure horror and pain, and mouth opened in a silent scream. It seemed like she couldn't see, but her eyes were fixed on the dragon's.

As we crested the hill, I could see what looked like a town, grey through the faint mist... but still far away... we will never make it... I sank into a hopeless trance as the city didn't seem to get any bigger, and as the dragon was gaining fast, nearly over the last frantic soldier in the assembly...

What can we do now?