

Ancient Mystics

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Merachi may have been born only 16 years ago, but she has more secrets than anyone could guess. When she meets the X-Men How will her life, and theirs Change? And above all else, why do the secrets of her past reach back to ancient Greece?

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1 - The Begining

Hi! *Waves to readers* Um... yeah this general plot is SO overused. Please don't kill me though!

Yeah any way Disclaimers this: No matter HOW MUCH I want to, I don't own X-men or X-men Evolution. I DO however own my OC's that appear. This disclaimer applies to the rest of the story!

“Telepathy”

/Thoughts/

“Normal speech”

&'s indicate change of scene

And onto the prologue...

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Two vivid green eyes seemed to float in an endless black void. As you look at the eyes a face fades into focus around them. Tanned skin and Asian features form around the oddly round eyes; warm brown hair appears, seemingly self-cut. The face is panicked. Footsteps run by shout of “Find those girls they can't escape. If you let them go I will shoot you personally,” drove the feet faster.

“Phoenix.” The word barely left her lips, when a ghostly girl melted out of the shadows her piercing and yet calm crimson gaze met the wild and scared green one.

"This way, Chimera." The ghostly phoenix reached for the shaking hand and grasped it. Gently tugging on her friend's hand, Phoenix led the frightened chimera girl-child through a shadowy maze that should not have existed but seemed to spring out of the very being of the calm phoenix.

But something had gone wrong; when the two finally reached the exit of the maze guards were waiting for them. A deafening shot rang out the pale girl fell, and as she fell flames surrounded her, engulfing the body and freeing the soul into the midnight air.

Upon seeing her friend fall Chimera became her namesake the fire-breathing beast of Greek myth with the head of a goat, body of a lion, and the wings and tail of a dragon. The guards tried to stop her, and more shots rang out. Yet the deadly bullets never touched her for she had summoned a force field. She roared and blood spurted from the guards as she released her most devastating power, she allowed it to open their scars long ago healed, and recreating wounds that left no mark.

The flames of sixteen candles were snuffed out, obliterated, and the candles smashed, from the rage of the last Chimera.

With the guards no more the girl's rage was quenched. Now before her were the ashes of the phoenix and her transparent and intangible soul.

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Merachi sat stark upright breathing heavily. If someone else saw the dream - no memory - she had just lived in her sleep they might notice that Merachi looked much like the chimera girl-child of her dreams. In fact if one were to think about it they were the same - merely the age and the hair differed.

"Five years and I *still* can't forget that night. I gained my freedom but lost my friend."

"You didn't lose me merely my solid form."

“Nevada, Phoenix. You're still with me,” Merachi started playing with a card, drawn on it was the phoenix as if she had aged. “But I was referring to my brother and friend, Samson.” Another card appeared on it was depicted a copper haired boy surrounded by energy.

“That was unfortunate that he was caught so soon in our escape, but we will find him. On another subject, Merachi Johansson, what do you think of your parents research?”

“I hope they succeed it's a great idea and might prove to the world that most mutants only want peace. Did you see the number of volunteers? There was more than they could ever dream!”

“Hmm yes I saw. Are you excited about moving to assist the research?”

“Very. But then you probably already knew that.” Merachi grinned.

“Go back to sleep you'll need it. I'll fend off those nasty nightmares for you.”

“Thank you.”

2 - Miss Merachi Johansson

Okay! Second chappie!!! The prologue (first chapter) was merely a hook. This'll be less dark and more...hmm...bright? *Sighs* oh well. Hope you enjoy!

This chappie is going to start at school. Figured you might want to know.

Onward!

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The computer sciences teacher was fuming at the interruption. "Miss Johansson you're late." He scowled at the girl.

"I apologize sir, but,"

"No excuses." He bit out. Turning to the other students he started to speak, "Class it seems we have a new student, Miss Merachi Johansson, Miss Johan-"

The girl's vibrant green eyes flashed dangerously. She managed due to some miracle to suppress a terrifying growl as she shot out, "Sir, it was not an excuse, it was a *reason*. Principle Darkholme wished to speak to me, here's the note.

"And let me guess you were going to tell me to sit in the only free seat. Save your breath." With that she sat heavily into the seat next to Kitty Pryde and started the assignment on the overhead.

"Miss Johansson your attitude is going to get you a detention." The teacher spat.

She snorted. "What that little spiel? That, *sir*, was justified annoyance, what *you* have is an attitude." The teacher and pupil had a battle of wills - well actually glares - for mere seconds before Merachi snorted. "Yeesh, but I sure get an attitude when I'm annoyed."

By this point the class had labeled her crazy. Actually they had labeled her crazy when she first intoned her "little spiel", but presented with further evidence there was no scruples about saying that she should be sent to the psych ward...immediately. After all she *had* just gripped at one of the school's most infamous teachers, told said teacher that he had an attitude and that she was *merely* annoyed, **and** admitted that she gets an attitude when annoyed; which *could* be translated to "you irritate me". Yes, indeed, the new student was crazy.

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"Jean, the new girl is, like, totally *insane*!" Kitty and Jean were talking as they walked to their next class.

"Are you sure about that?" Jean queried.

"*Positive*. I swear, like, the only reason she wasn't given a D hall was `cause Mr. Lawson, like, came to the same - ouf," Kitty was cut off when she bumped into another student, specifically Merachi Johansson.

"Oh! I'm sorry, I didn't see you!" Jean took this as an opportunity to study her. She had dark reddish brown hair that looked as if it had been a very short boyish cut, but was now long enough to hang close to her jaw line. Her bangs dangled in front of her eyes. Said eyes were large and round, child-like almost, but something in them told Jean that she had seen far too much for her own liking. The rest of Merachi's features were distinctly oriental; a short slim build, round face, small hands, feet, and waist. She wore a lavender faux turtleneck and cropped kakis both of which seemed almost too large for the girl.

Kitty smiled politely “No problem. Are you, like, alright?”

“Yeah. Uh...Kitty Pryde Right?”

“Yeah.”

“OK. I guess I want to apologize for freaking you out during computer sciences. I've been home schooled for as long as I can remember and...uh... just the way he was treating me got on my nerves.”

“Oh. Well you ought to, like, know that talking back to Mr. Lawson is sorta considered, like, crazy.”

Merachi grinned, “*That* would explain all the weird looks I've been getting.” Kitty grinned too. “So who's your friend?”

“Oh! This Jean Grey,” Kitty took a quick look around. “Wow that was, like, fast. Well this is our class we got to, like, leave now.”

“Wait this is my next class too!”

“That is, like *to cool!*” Kitty squealed.

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“So you know Japanese?” Jean asked for clarification.

“Hmm-hmm, learned it when I was five, I think.”

“Wow that must've been, like, so cool, traveling the world and stuff.”

“Not really. I mean my guardians at the time were completely *obsessed* with mythical animals so I never actually was able to go sight seeing. But I got to admit; learning all those languages and dialects was fun. And the best part is that I'm still a quick learner of accents and stuff.”

“I've got, like, another question, if you already know Japanese why are you taking it?”

Merachi grinned, “Just to annoy the teacher and show of, well that, and there isn't any German or Russian classes. I still have trouble with those.”

Jean looked thoughtful for a bit, “Hey, Merachi, why *were* you're last guardians so interested in mythical beings?”

“Has to do with certain creatures appearing in myths from nearly all ancient cultures. Particularly dragons, phoenixes, and vampires.”

Kitty and Jean looked at each other, “Vampires?”

“Well, They're more modern but they're there.”

Kitty shook her head, “Girl your life is, like, so strange.”

"I know. That's one of the top three reasons I prefer the Johansson's." She grinned again.

"Girl you, like, grin a lot."

Merachi closed her eyes and nodded, "Hmm-Hmm." Unfortunately since her eyes were closed she didn't notice the group of boys that was in her path until she ran into one. "God, I'm such a klutz today."

"Watch it newby." Then he tried to kick her while she was sitting, and to everyone's surprise she rolled out of the way and got up just in time.

Brushing herself off she said, "Ya know it's not nice to hit someone when they're down."

"Well you're not down now." He sneered before he threw a punch, which she sidestepped.

"Excuse me I need to go home. I sincerely hope you don't mind me not fighting you." She smiled then, in a sweet disarming way that shocked the boy. She took the chance to walk around him and the mess that would've ensued otherwise.

The two other girls caught up hurriedly. "You alright? That looked like quite the punch."

"Fine."

"You sure your left hand is, like, bleeding."

Merachi glanced at her hand for a split second eyes wide. "I gotta go." Then she ran off.

“Really? Who?” */This'll be interesting/*

“Her names Rogue. There they are now.” Jean waved to the other girls eagerly and walked up to them.

“Hey Merachi, Jean!” Kitty shouted as the two approached.

Merachi nodded to Kitty and then turned to Rogue, “Hi. Uh Jean told me that Kitty wanted to introduce us...for some reason.”

“Kitty said that Ah'd like ya, Ah'm not dissin' her or nothing but Ah wanted to see for myself...sometimes people just don't...” she trailed off.

“Have the full unabridged story?”

“Yeah.” Rogue looked slightly surprised, “Ya know what maybe mah skepticism was misplaced, but don't expect instant friend ship got that?””

“Yeah I got, and who knows? But I got to ask you, that subtle prankster vibe I'm getting off you, is that you or the clothes?”

“Meh.”

“Cool.”

And that's when the jocks from the day before decided to show up. The head jock stepped forward, “I hope I'm not interrupting any conversations, ladies.”

“Jenna.”

“Several mutants, with healing powers were brought to Africa to help with the AIDS problem. Even though the locals were thankful for any assistance they could get, the World Health Organization's people were wary, in my opinion, for good reason. In national news the mutant registration law has not passed yet. Locally there's been some sightings of goat headed lion with a reptilian tail and bat-like wings. Probably was one of those muties.”

“You clearly watched the news, but I'm only giving you partial credit. I've told all of you that when you report on events that I want an unbiased account. Merachi.”

“I have some interesting news. Two scientist have made large breakthroughs in regards to the whole mutant question. The two of them are studying how to restrain mutant abilities - for the sake of the public and to allow the mutants to live normal lives. One of these breakthroughs is how they discovered how certain powers need different restraints - they can make restraints for several powers at this point, and are developing more.”

“I saw an interview with the scientist and find their work a strong measure against harm to anyone. I'm impressed that you knew about their labor. And good job keeping your report unbiased by mentioning how it would be good news for numerous points of view.”

“Brown-noser.”

Merachi just ignored it - after all she only did the assignment - and continued doing the in class work the teacher had given them.

“Now I'm going to refer back to Jenna's local news. Since we had a myth unit does *anyone* know what Greek myth beast has a similar portrayal?” Five peoples hands were raised. “Alright, Rogue.”

“A chimera.”

4 - Bowling and revelations

Hey!! Just so everyone knows I edited the other chapters.

This is the fourth chapter. I hope you like it!

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It was the week after Merachi met Rogue, and she was enjoying the prospect of sleeping in. That is until a voice tickled the back of her mind, *“Merachi wake up. Mera? Merachi get your lazy @\$\$ in gear NOW! Wake uh-up!”*

“Uh...I'm awake I'm awake.”

“Good. You were going to be late.”

/Gah... does she ever look at the calendar?/

“I do actually you twit. And I wasn't referring to school!!!”

“Mom! What's today?”

“Mera, sweetie, it's Saturday. What are you doing up, it's only seven?”

“My alarm went of.”

“Oh...I'm just your alarm now? Humph. Then I guess I won't remind you the you're going bowling with those girls.”

Merachi look confused for a minute, then she remembered how Jean and the other girls had driven her home and asked her to join them for some bowling the next day. “Oh! Mom I'm going to look around town! Be back `round two.” She said in one breath while hopping around her room and getting dressed. She ran down the mahogany stairs and glanced at her wrist “Ah! My watch!”

“Here it is. Now don't get into any fights.”

“Don't worry I won't instigate anything.”

“Good, now have a pleasant day.” Mrs. Johansson waved her adopted daughter out the door. Stepping outside Merachi was left to gape as her friends pulled up in a cherry red convertible with white stripes.

“Please tell that is merely being bored and that, that, that *thing* isn't any of yours.”

“Huh?” Merachi's friends asked eloquently.

“It's...so...red...and...bubblegum-y-ish,” She scrunched up her nose, “That wasn't a word.”

Rogue spoke, “you're raht ah never noticed dat before. And don't worry it's Jean's boyfriend's.”

“Thank goodness. Let's go then!” Merachi suddenly dropped all of the horror and confusion she had

“Ah'll have a chilli dawg.”

“Um, like, a salad.” Armed with her friends' requests, Jean nodded and went to order the food. As she left a group of boys that was a few lanes over approached.

“You know what I can't get, why a nice *human* girl like you is hanging out with these filthy *muties*. How come you don't come with us, hmm?”

Nearly before he finished his last sentence a familiar voice of her deceased friend echoed through her head, *“They're just trying to get in your pants. Say no, Mera.”* Merachi let out a snort. “Nah, I think I'll stay with the girls, besides I'm not one to correlate with narcissistic, hidebound, impious, twits.(1)” The boys stared at her in shock. Merachi, taking this moment and exploiting started to broadcast her thoughts */I hope one of you is a telepath. We need to get out of here, NOW. Once these boys realized that I rejected and insulted them we only have so much time before they start a REAL fight. And I promised my mom no fights./*

Jean relayed the message to Rogue and Kitty. Then told them to get all of their stuff - shoes and so on - and get to the car. Meanwhile the boys realized the gist of the fancy words that Merachi had said. Enraged, they circled her; allowing Rogue and Kitty a free path to the car (after they dropped off their bowling shoes of course). Merachi backed up slowly until she bumped into the counter that separated the lobby from the bowling area. Easing off the rented shoes she rolled over the counter and kicked a shoe at the idiots. As she ran for the door she took off her socks so they wouldn't get torn up on the pavement outside. Merachi came to the convertible just as it pulled out of the parking lot. Making on last lunge she dove into the car panting. After she caught her breath she grinned, “That was fun - dangerous - but fun!”

“Gal, your insane.”

“I seem to get that a lot. I blame that on my open-mind, and lack of outside influence.” She still had that grin plastered on her face. “So...you're mutants. That means I can add to the summary of my life I told. I'm an esper and a mutant. You see apparently I can shape-shift naturally even when my X-gene was dormant. Then when my X-gene developed I discovered that I can make force fields and I can anti-heal.”

Kitty and Rogue stared at her (Jean would also but she driving the car). Then Kitty spoke, "So you, like, lied to us."

"I didn't actually lie. I left things out cause my *whole* story would cause even the most liberal person to at least faint - if not have a heart attack. The Johansson's didn't learn the entire, complete, unabridged story until last year. It's easier on people's mind's if they learn it slowly and bit by bit - less likely to go insane."

"Ah believe ya. Ah absorb mem'ries and lahfeforces. It's awf'ly hard ta stay sane."

"Now that we got *that* settled which one of ya is the telepath?"

"Jean," the two other passengers said.

"Kay. Hey, Kitty what's your power?"

"I can become intangible, like, I go through stuff."

"That is so cool." A comfortable silence fell. When they approached Merachi's house the shape-shifter peep up, "You three really have to meet my parents you'd get along really well."

"We'd love to, Merachi, but, well, we need to go back. But maybe tomorrow you and your parents can come over to the mansion?"

Merachi's face split into her customary grin, "That sounds great I'll talk to them `bout that. Well either way see you tomorrow." She walked to the house, waving good-bye before going in.

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(1) Basically she said they were pig-headed, horny, and prejudice.

5 - Demitasse and Poker anyone?

Hiya! I FINALLY caught up in my Homework, and dragged my muse back from it's vacation, sorry it took so long. I'll warn you now; the first part of this chapter is Merachi IMing Kitty, Jean, and Rogue. Oh! Fergot to mention this earlier but it's post apocalypse and Gambit's with the X-men now.

Spell thanks to Crazyed Fuzzle for the constructive criticism, I'll listen to Microsoft Word more *winks*

"Telepathy"

/Thoughts/

"Normal speech"

&'s indicate change of scene

Yeah so *anyway*, hope you enjoy!

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ChimeraofMyth: Heya girls. Meeza wondering...could you not tell your prof that I'm a mutant? I know he's one but I want to show them in my own way ^-^.

RedT5L5P1T8: Sure.

WildWhiteStripes: No problem gal.

Shadow Traylor: Ditto.

ChimeraofMyth: Thanks a bunch

WildWhiteStripes: I got a Q... you told us your general history...

WildWhiteStripes: But what about your favs?

Shadow Traylor: She's got a point.

Shadow Traylor: So Fave food.

ChimeraofMyth: Strawberries.

RedT5L5P1T8: Band?

ChimeraofMyth: "E-Street Band" or basically Bruce Springsteen.

WildWhiteStripes: Song?

ChimeraofMyth: Easy "Thunder Road" _

Shadow Traylor: Animal?

ChimeraofMyth: Live or Myth?

RedT5L5P1T8: Live.

ChimeraofMyth: Dolphin

WildWhiteStripes: Now Myth

ChimeraofMyth: Phoenix, I like the symbolic meaning. :D

Shadow_Travler: Book

ChimeraofMyth: Either "Spook" or "Stiff" both are by Mary Roach

RedT5L5P1T8: Time period and place?

ChimeraofMyth: Stumped me. Greece is fave place though. Beijing comes in second.

ChimeraofMyth: Ancient times Greece and China, I guess

WildWhiteStripes: I'm not sure how the boys will take her.

ChimeraofMyth: Don't Worry I know the "Ten Commandments of Conversing with Men"

RedT5L5P1T8: Huh?

ChimeraofMyth: 1) Thou shall never speak of shopping for: clothes, Fashion, or make-up

ChimeraofMyth: 2) Thou shall boost their ego to happiness

ChimeraofMyth: 3) Thou shall never in three trillion millennia insult their mode of transport.

ChimeraofMyth: 4) Thou shall never wear clothes with plunging necklines if thou desire intelligent conversation.

ChimeraofMyth: 5) Thou shall not question their sexual preference.

ChimeraofMyth: 6) Thou shall not insult their intelligence.

ChimeraofMyth: 7) Thou shall not reveal your superiority.

ChimeraofMyth: 8) Thou shall stay upon the safe subjects of music, sports, games, movies, and their status.

ChimeraofMyth: 9) Thou will be wise and not wear short skirts.

ChimeraofMyth: 10) Thou shall avoid topics that make them horny.

ChimeraofMyth: *The last one only applies to non-boyfriends. What do you think?*

RedT5L5P1T8: *LOL that's so true*

WildWhiteStripes: *Gal don't EVER mention these near Remy.*

Shadow_Travler: *That is, like, the best LOL*

WildWhiteStripes: *You DO know who Remy is right.*

ChimeraofMyth: *Yep. I so-orta got him busted for smoking...*

ChimeraofMyth: *See you `morrow! I need to sleep.*

Merachi grinned at the screen. She had close friends already, people who accepted what they new of her with open arms. That and something about Jean reminded her of Nevada...

"Ha ha. Jean Like ME! She is much to prissy."

Merachi jumped at the all to familiar astral voice of her ghostly girlfriend. */You know what I mean. Her AURA exudes similar powers as yours. I'd almost bet that she's the heir to, well.../*

"My, my aren't you the cheery one. Look do you trust her?"

“Only by an inch! And I'm twelve!”

Merachi's mouth opened and closed in annoyance. “Well, your short too.”

“Yeah, for my age, not in general.” He stuck out his tongue in a bratty fashion.

Merachi pouted, but before she could snap at him Jean entered the main hall. “I see you met Jaime already. Come on I'll show you around.”

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“So, let me get this straight. You're Ray, and you're Roberto, and you're Bobby.” The three boys nodded. “Kay. Good, so now I know everyone. But now I'm bored.” Her face scrunched into a look of severe concentration. And then her cell rang. “Merachi Johansson speaking, who's calling and how'd ya get my number? - Terrance why'd you call?” She stood there blinking and listening to the apparent ranting of the caller for a second before responding, “Ok slow down and clarify what you're talking about because I can't understand a bloody thing you're saying.” She fell silent for several more minutes as she listened to the unknown person. “So...you're coming to Bayville?” She seemed suddenly serious, “Look, Tear, That might not be a good idea I get your point but - yes I know what's - Alright but could ya wait a bit? Right just a few days. Kay bye.” She shook her head and sighed. “Cards, yes a card game, that would be very welcome now.”

“Demitasse, ya want Remy ta teach ya poker?”(1)

Merachi grinned evilly for a split second before composing herself and responding, “If your speaking to me, I'd prefer it if you refer to me by my name. Besides I already know how to play poker, and, I'll kick your @\$\$.”

Remy lifted one eyebrow eloquently, “Oh you t'ink dat you can beat Remy?”

She smirked "I *KNOW* I can."

"Oh? And why are ya so sure?"

"Well, Remy, I believe in reincarnation. In my past six lives I was *quite* the talented poker player." She smirked insufferably, "So, I've got a few hundred years on you."

Remy chuckled a bit, "Fine, fine, but, demitasse - don't look at Remy like dat - Remy don't t'ink dis would be very *entertaining* if only you and he played. Why don't we invite some o' dem to play wit us?"

Merachi laughed, "Course who else wants to play? And Remy how `bout Texas hold `em?" Bobby, Kurt, and Rogue sat down, and Remy started dealing.

About an hour later, Jean blurted out a seemingly random question, "Merachi how can the professor not know you're a mutant? He has a machine that helps -"

"Track them down," Merachi finished. "I have nearly impenetrable mental shields courtesy of a friend of mine. As for knowing about Cerebro..." she trailed off waving her cell phone. "Terrance is my friend's younger bother. He has naturally high mental shields himself, though not as specified and flexible, and when your professor had a `chat' with him, he panicked." And as an after thought added, "Your prof must have give him quite a scare, he was speaking a mixture of German and Russian." Faced with blank looks she added for clarification, "When he speaks French it means he's worried about someone; German indicates a sudden surprise; Russian signifies that he's at least mildly fearful; Latin denotes thoughtfulness; and Romanian is pure rage. He also speaks in oriental languages, but that's more for recreation than a sign of his emotional and mental state."

"Oh. That explains most of the things I was curious about," was the amusingly weak reply on Jean's part.

Nothing from that point on was very note worthy, in either party's opinion. Well, except the incident

where Merachi knocked out Remy because he wouldn't stop calling her "Demitasse", that is.