

SEVER THREADS

Written by

Roberto

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

The early silence as the dawn blankets the massive mountain overseeing the land of many cluttered and vibrant green trees and foliage is interrupted by a thunderous crash that rattles the ground and trees. Birds are seen flying into the sky.

EXT. FOREST EDGE - CONTINUOUS

MARISSA emerges from the forest while dragging a massive creature over her shoulder.

She steps up to her wagon, where her Ox is attached to, and places the creature's corpse on the wagon. Dusting herself off, she hops onto the seat of her wagon, placing her spear behind her, and readying her Ox to begin moving down the nearby trail.

EXT. PLAINS ROAD, WAGON - CONTINUOUS

During MARISSA's trip down the road, her focus is fully set on the large black tendril that she can see off into the horizon. As her focus remains unbroken, she begins to daydream.

EXT. CHAPEL, COURTYARD - FLASHBACK 17 YEARS

MARISSA's gaze continues to stare at the tendril, until her focus is broken by SMITH, who pops his in her view.

This ends up startling her on the bench and she quickly brings up her hands to cover as much of her face as possible as she tries to wipe away tears. SMITH's face does show signs of worry for a moment, but he quickly brings up his smile. SMITH extends his right hand out. MARISSA looks up at him for a moment. Then reaches out her own hand for SMITH's.

EXT. CITY, GATE - PRESENT - AFTERNOON

MARISSA snaps back to reality as her Ox is stopped at the city gate. Security halted her. She only has to gesture at the back, where the creature is exposed.

Security sends one man to check on the creature, shivering in their boots and approaching with caution. They take the butt of a wooden pole and quickly poke at the creature from a distance. Once they get no response, they give a thumbs up to allow the Security to motion her inside the City.

EXT. CITY, MARKET CENTER - CONTINUOUS

As MARISSA rides to her usual spot in the market, the bustling city of people seemingly pave the way for her as though theirs a certain distance they don't want to breach. As usual, most of the market stands are already occupied by usual sellers of house hold scraps and the rare sightings of edible harvest. These rare stands are always filled with a mob of customers trying to bargain. MARISSA has no choice but to follow her usual set up, of parking her wagon near the city wall, quite distant from the rest of the crowd.

As MARISSA begins to set up her own roughly made stand with tree logs she brought with, other people in the market are always finding a way to sneak in glances and scoffs and go on whispering to others. MARISSA eyes a few of them while setting up, but always goes back to finishing up her stand.

Finally, MARISSA brings out the creature and begins to chop it up in sections with her knives. Placing the new sections of meat on display for purchase. Now passerby's are eyeing the displayed cuts of meat. Some stop in their tracks for a moment, while others catch themselves getting too close. MARISSA kicks back on her Ox waiting. Arms folded.

After awhile, MARISSA dozed off and the sounds of shuffling can be heard approaching MARISSA's stand. This wakes up MARISSA who stands up a little surprised. Although she cant see anyone by her stand.

HUN HUN. MARISSA looks over her stand to find a young boy in an oversized purple tunic attempting to reach the edge of the stand table with both arms outstretched. MARISSA stares at the boy puzzled for a moment as they lock eyes. She slowly begins to raise her left hand from the table, about to move it towards the boy, until the boy's mother rushes in from his right and embraces the child. The mother gives a glaring stare back at MARISSA and thrusts her finger towards her direction, barking an exclamation at her. MARISSA slams her hand back down onto the table, rattling all the contents on it and straightening her posture. This frightens the mother and she runs off into the market place with her child still in her arms. This grabs the attention of the rest of the crowd and they all begin to surround MARISSA, barking more exclamations at her from all sides.

MARISSA clenches her fist, about ready to say something in return, but before she can, a tomato is hurled at her, but from the corner of her eye she manages to nearly avoid it by ducking.

VOID, PREVIOUSLY THE MARKET CENTER - CONINUOUS

As MARISSA stands back up, she find herself in this void of space and the crowd in front of her has become this amalgamation with the faces of angry people yelling at her.

MARISSA readies into her fighting stance, slightly bending her knees, with her legs at shoulder distance, and raising up her arms.

The amalgamation hurls a rock with the word 'FRAUD' at MARISSA who mages to avoid it by dodging to her right. Then to her left from another, a book, with the title 'LEECH' on it.

The amalgamation shows its frustration with an ear piercing cry and begins to hurl more objects in faster increments. Cabbages, dolls, balls, and more all thrown at her and each with its own unique word carved or written onto it such as: 'LIAR', 'OUTCAST', and 'NOBODY'. MARISSA continues to dodge all of them with ease, with a deadpan face.

Then everything stops as the sound of a blade echoes throughout the void. MARISSA reveals a startled face as she slowly looks down. On the left side of her torso is a knife embedded a few centimeters inside of her. MARISSA's breath begins to heavy as her blood slowly drips onto the blade.

As the blood travels on the blade, it ends up forming itself to reveal the word 'MURDERER' as blood on the knife. MARISSA begins to have shortness of breath as she huffs through her mouth and her body begins to tremble. She can't seem to avert her eyes from the knife.

The tension between the two is ultimately broken as the amalgamation begins to let out another cry. This breaks the trance that MARISSA was in. In lightning fast speeds, MARISSA reaches her right hand out to grab something from behind her.

EXT. CITY, MARKET CENTER - AFTERNOON

MARISSA clutches her spear that was laying on her wagon and with full force, whips the spear in front of her, extending it as far as she can. The tip of the spear ends up being just millimeters away from the face of someone in the crowd.

MARISSA's panicked face begins to lessen as she becomes aware of her surroundings again. She looks down to find the knife, but it is nowhere to be seen. She looks back up and finds the crowd has been left frozen and frighten. All eyes are on her. MARISSA exhales a sigh of relief and spins her spear back towards her and places it back in the wagon.

She herself hops on top of her seat and remains standing up to get one more look at the crowd.

She looks back to the front of her wagon, over the city horizon line to once again stare down the Black Tendril. She sits back down and once again readies her Ox to begin moving. As she goes through the Market Place, the crowd once again moves out of her way.

EXT. CITY - CONTINUOUS

As MARISSA makes her way to the other side of the city, she halts her Ox as she encounters a statue at an intersection in front of her.

The statue consists of SMITH, wielding the Axe of Gaia with his right hand.

HAWTHORNE, a large man wearing spiked gloves.

Lastly, KANNA, who has their signature large witch hat.

MARISSA would have also been here in full, but her statue remains unkept, dirty, broken, missing pieces and covered with graffiti.

I/E. CASTLE, SANCTUM COURTYARD - FLASHBACK 7 YEARS

A Priest is leading SMITH and MARISSA down the sanctum interior. The walls are filled with drapes of purple, embedded with the symbol of an eye with a clock for an iris.

MARISSA shyly walks just a few steps behind SMITH, who follows the Priest with confidence and drive.

SMITH turns his head to the side a little to say something to MARISSA, but in doing so notices how far away she is. MARISSA's head is down, as if deep in thought. This is quickly broken as SMITH squats down in front of her placing his smiling face in her view. MARISSA snaps back to her senses.

SMITH offers his hand, in which MARISSA takes and the both of them quickly catch back up with the Priest who remained oblivious to their absence.

The Priest directs them to the flower garden of the sanctum, where he motions his left hand towards new strangers, KANNA and HAWTHORNE.

KANNA is channeling magic through the amulet on her necklace to create little sparks of magic on her finger tips that then forms into a bird that remains perched on her finger and seemingly seems alive.

HAWTHORNE is wrapping his right in a bandage in the same way his left hand already was. Behind him is a wooden dummy with a breastplate on it, but the breastplate has a massive dent in the front that has gone so far into the wood that it has splintered it and you can see sharp edges of the wood protrude out from all orifices of the armor.

Both of them focused their attention on SMITH and MARISSA as they came in. SMITH is the first to walk up and introduce himself by shaking their hands. Naturally he brought a smile on their faces almost immediately. MARISSA didn't move from her spot until SMITH noticed once again.

SMITH motions his hand towards MARISSA and at the same time he motioned her to come meet the others. Thus MARISSA finally walks towards the others as she walks away from the camera rendering any conversation ineligible to listen to, her spirits seemingly lifted more than before.

EXT. CITY - PRESENT

As MARISSA continues to be entranced at the statue, the silhouette of a person comes into view behind the fourth story window of a nearby building. MARISSA feels the gaze and turns to towards the silhouette, but is interrupted as a flask hits her on the head.

She turns to find a street full of people who freeze up when they see her gaze. One young man can be seen in a throwing position, the culprit of the can. MARISSA stares at the man until he stands up straight and continues to glare at her. MARISSA's deadpan face doesn't budge. She continues her travel.

INT. HOSPITAL, FOURTH FLOOR - AFTERNOON

The HOSPITAL PERSON, keeps their watch on MARISSA and follows her travel through the city. As she escapes her view from the obstruction of other buildings, the HOSPITAL PERSON moves away from the window.

EXT. WITHERED WASTELANDS - EVENING

As MARISSA leaves the city behind, she continues to move towards the Black Tendril. The land here lacks any vegetation.

No grass, shrubs, rivers, lakes, or even animals remains. The trees are leafless and withered. The ground is nothing, but pale dry and cracked dirt that spans for miles. Even the color bestowed by the sun seems to lack in color.

EXT. PALE VALLEY - DUSK

MARISSA stops her Ox here. She brings out a tub of water and a barrel of hay and corn and lays them out for her Ox. She also releases the Ox from being restrained to the wagon and gives them a head rub.

MARISSA then grabs her spear and makes her way down the valley.

EXT. EYE OF THE WITHERING - CONTINUOUS

MARISSA arrives on the other side of the valley, thrusting both feet and spear onto the ground. She stands atop the ridge of the eye that is tens of feet elevated from the rest of the eye below.

At the center, the Black Tendril lies. It spawns from a two-dimensional void the hovers up in the sky. The Black Tendril extends all the way down into the pale ground. A seemingly motionless object of vantablack.

At the base of the Black Tendril, halfway between it and MARISSA, lies the Axe of Gaia. It's blade embedded into the ground. MARISSA stares at the Axe.

EXT. EYE OF THE WITHERING - FLASHBACK 5 YEARS

MARISSA, SMITH, KANNA and HAWTHORNE lead a small militia group and some priests. They all stand atop the eye ridge, gazing at the Black Tendril in awe, this time the Axe of Gaia is held by it's chosen, SMITH.

As MARISSA stares at the Black Tendril nervously. HAWTHORNE gives MARISSA a noogie with a huge grin on his face. A magical falcon flies between both of their heads pushing their attention forward towards KANNA while the falcon flies back and disperses into her necklace.

SMITH points his Axe towards the Black Tendril. Everyone resumes their approach towards the Black Tendril. SMITH confidently walks up first readying his Axe to swing. MARISSA's shows an expression of gratitude with her eyes tearing up.

EXT. EYE OF THE WITHERING - MOMENTS LATER

MARISSA sits in shock with blood splatters around her body. Clutching at the corpse of SMITH.

The tendrils off in the distance piercing through bodies. One of the tendrils heads straight towards MARISSA.

Before striking her, it is blasted by fire and halted in its tracks.

KANNA then swoops in to pick up MARISSA riding a large magical bird and flies away through the valley, with other tendrils not far behind.

MARISSA continues to stare back at the flaming scene, the tendrils chasing after her, and finally the Axe of Gaia, left embedded into the ground. The vision reflects off her eyes.

EXT. EYE OF THE WITHERING - PRESENT

MARISSA closes her eyes. She takes a deep breath as the wind starts to pick up around her and begins to whistle in the silent valley.

Then, on her exhale she opens her eyes as the scene cuts to black.