

# Embers to Inferno

By Shiroyuki

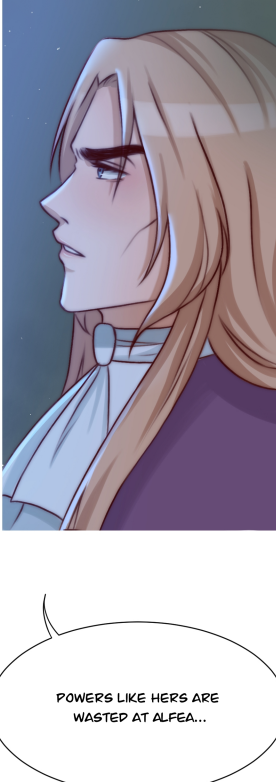
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SO MUCH POWER,  
BUT SHE HAS NO IDEA HOW TO  
PROPERLY USE IT.



POWERS LIKE HERS ARE  
WASTED AT ALFEA...

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE.

I THOUGHT I IMAGINED IT, BUT SEEING  
HOW THE MARK HAD NO EFFECT ON HER...



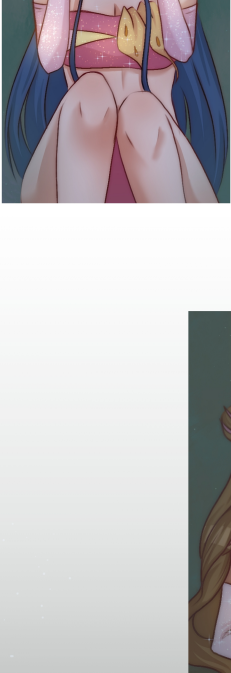
THERE IS A TRACE OF SHADOW AROUND  
HER FLAME.



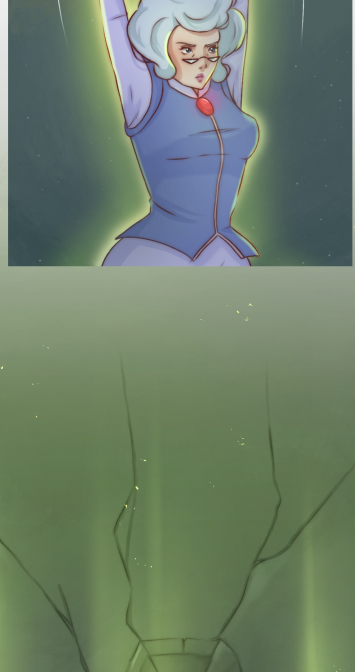
WHIRR



BAM



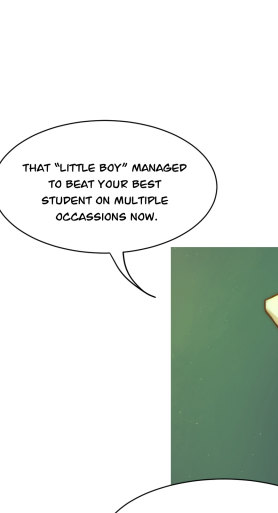
GIRLS! GET BLOOM OUT OF THE ICE! WE'LL HOLD HIM OFF AS LONG AS WE CAN!



THE COMPANY OF LIGHT...  
ARE YOU STILL NOT  
RETIRED?



WE MIGHT BE OLD,  
BUT WE ARE STILL STRONG  
ENOUGH TO HOLD YOU  
BACK, LITTLE BOY!



THAT "LITTLE BOY" MANAGED  
TO BEAT YOUR BEST  
STUDENT ON MULTIPLE  
OCCASSIONS NOW.



SHE CLEARLY HAS NO  
IDEA HOW TO PROPERLY  
FLAME HER DRAGON FLAME.

I WONDER WHY HER PRECIOUS  
TEACHER HAS NEVER TAUGHT  
HER HOW TO USE IT TO ITS  
FULL POTENTIAL?

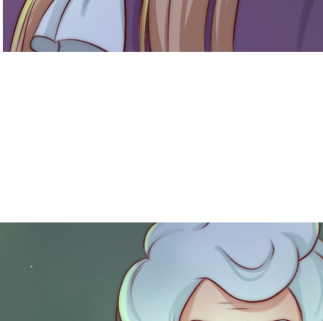


I-I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT YOU MEAN.



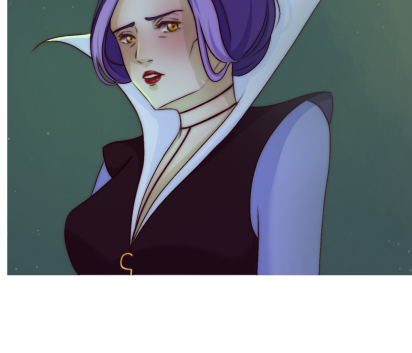
DON'T PLAY DUMB  
WITH ME,  
FARAGONDA.

YOU ARE FULLY AWARE THAT  
SHE POSSESSES MORE POWER  
THAN  
ANY OF YOU, BUT YOU WANT TO  
MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER HER.



YOU KEEP HER POWERS  
CONTAINED, ENSURING SHE  
REMAINS DOCILE AND OBEIENT  
BY YOUR SIDE.

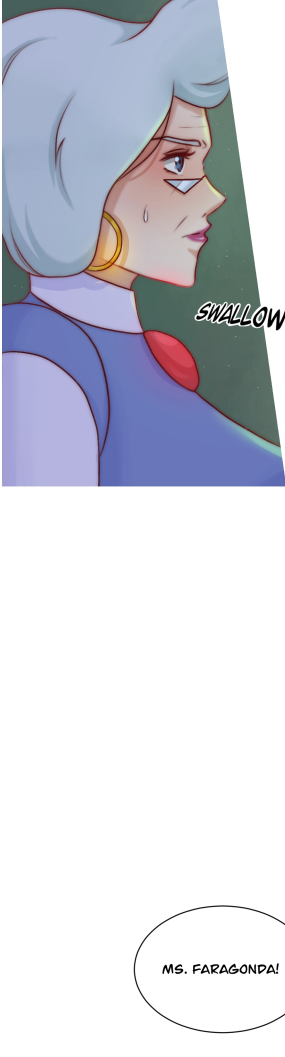
FARAGONDA?



YOU KNOW ABOUT THE STRONG CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR POWERS, AND YOU'VE ALWAYS FEARED THAT SHE WOULD BECOME LIKE ME.



OR WORSE, THAT SHE MIGHT JOIN ME. SO YOU'VE KEPT OUR PRETTY LITTLE PRINCESS IN THE DARK FOR YEARS.

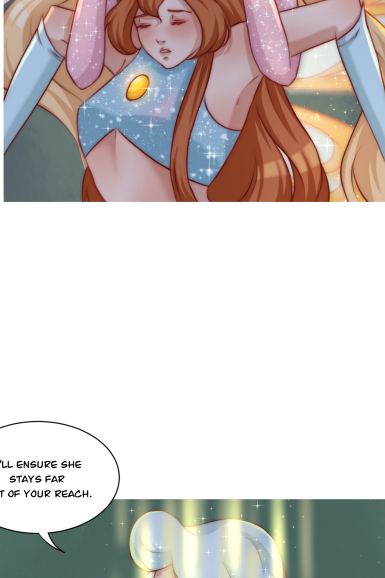


MS. FARAGONDA!

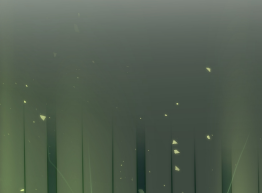
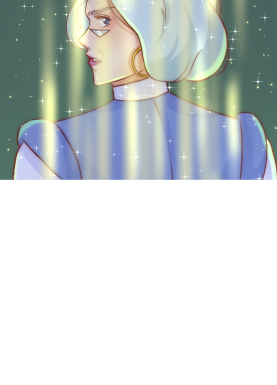


WE'VE FREED BLOOM FROM THE ICE. WE NEED TO GO NOW!

TURN



I'LL ENSURE SHE STAYS FAR OUT OF YOUR REACH.



SHATTER





WE'RE BACK  
VALTOR.

SORRY WE'RE  
LATE.

WHAT A  
DAY...

S

I

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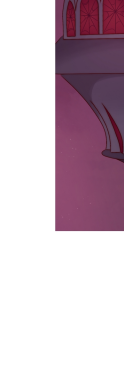
HAH?

BAM

SORRY! NEXT TIME WE'LL  
WRITE EVERYTHING OURSELVES,  
I PROMISE!

SIGH...

GET UP YOU IDIOTS,  
WE NEED TO TALK.



WHAT HAPPENED TO BLOOM?

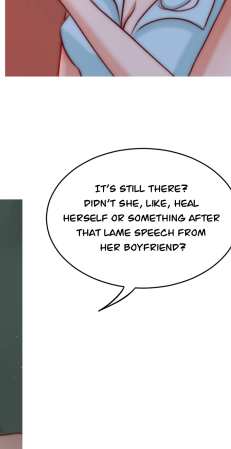
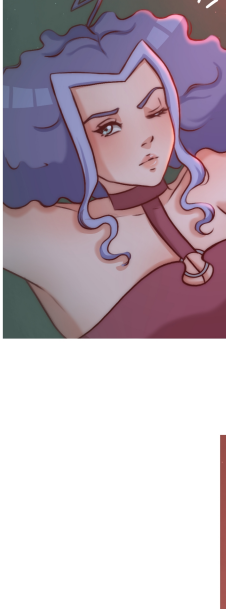


YOU'LL HAVE TO BE A BIT MORE SPECIFIC THAN THAT.

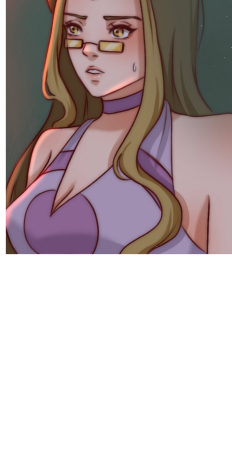
THAT GIRL IS ALWAYS AT THE CENTER OF ATTENTION.



SHE HAS A DARK SHADOW AROUND HER FLAME. IT'S FAINT BUT STRONG ENOUGH FOR HER TO WITHSTAND SEVERE DARK CURSES.



IT'S STILL THERE? DIDN'T SHE, LIKE, HEAL HERSELF OR SOMETHING AFTER THAT LAME SPEECH FROM HER BOYFRIEND?

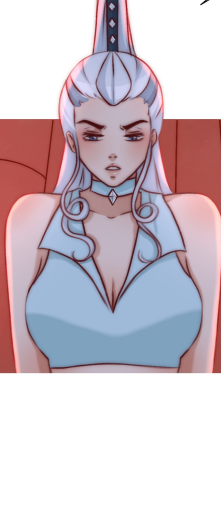


SO YOU DO KNOW ABOUT IT. TELL ME.



IT'S NOT A TIME WE'RE PARTICULARLY FOND OF REMEMBERING.

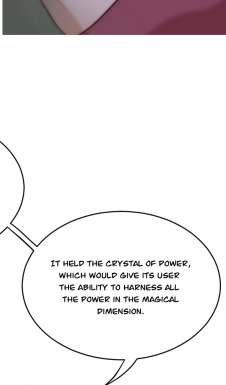
BEFORE WE WERE SENT TO THE OMEGA DIMENSION, WE WERE WORKING FOR LORD DARKAR.





YOU WERE WORKING FOR THAT PATHETIC IMBECILE?

YEAH, ROUGH TIMES. IT WAS THAT OR LIGHT ROCK, AND I WOULD SOONER KISS KNUT ON THE MOUTH THAN GO BACK THERE.



ANYWAYS, PARKAR WAS AFTER THE CODEX AT THE TIME. IF HE HAD ALL FOUR PARTS HE WOULD BE ABLE TO OPEN A PORTAL TO THE RELIX.

IT HELD THE CRYSTAL OF POWER, WHICH WOULD GIVE ITS USER THE ABILITY TO HARNESS ALL THE POWER IN THE MAGICAL DIMENSION.



TYPICAL, HE WAS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR THE EASY WAY OUT.



MADE HIS LACKEYS DO ALL HIS DIRTY WORK IN THE MEANTIME.

WHEN HE FINALLY HAD ALL FOUR PARTS OF THE CODEX...



WHICH WE GOT FOR HIM BY THE WAY! THAT MAN PROBABLY COULDN'T EVEN WIPE HIS ARSE ON HIS OWN.

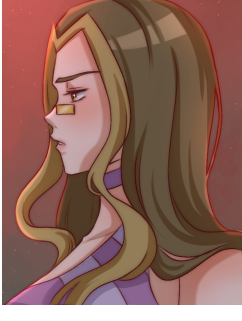
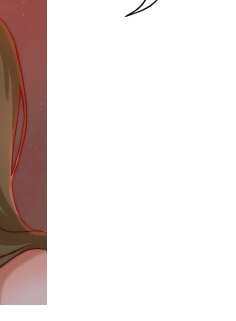


...THE PORTAL STILL WOULDN'T OPEN. HE NEEDED THE DRAGON FLAME TO BALANCE OUT HIS SHADOW.



OF COURSE, BLOOM BEING THE RIGHTEOUS LITTLE PRINCESS SHE IS, PROBABLY WOULDN'T COOPERATE.

FOR ONCE, HE DID THINK AHEAD AND HE HAD ALREADY SENT A SPY TO ALFEA.



IT WAS HONESTLY MESSED UP... EVEN FOR US. THE SPY ACTED AS A PROFESSOR AT THE SCHOOL AND EARNED HER TRUST.

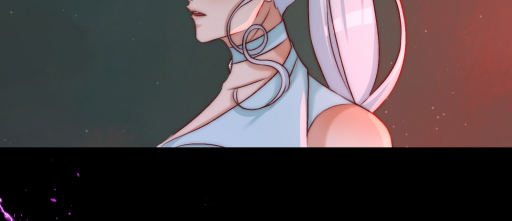
APPARENTLY, THE SPY HELD PRIVATE SESSIONS WITH BLOOM TO TELL HER ABOUT HER BIRTH PARENTS.



DURING ONE OF THESE SESSIONS, HE PLACED A VIRUS INSIDE HER, WHICH TURNED HER INTO SOME SORT OF DARK CREATURE LOYAL TO DARKAR.

BLOOM WAS ALSO THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW WHERE THE CODEX IN ALFEA WAS. TO GET IT HE INTENDED TO TEMPORARILY MAKE HER INTO HIS SERVANT.

BUT WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR HE NEEDED HER POWER FOR THE RELIX, HE HAD THE SPY KIDNAP HER, AND DARKAR HIMSELF COMPLETED THE FULL TRANSFORMATION.



SHE INSTANTLY TURNED INTO AN EVIL AND EMOTIONLESS VERSION OF HERSELF. SHE HONESTLY GAVE EVEN ME THE CREEPS.



WE WERE QUICKLY REPLACED BY HER AND DARKAR BROUGHT HER TO THE RELIX TO GET THE ULTIMATE POWER, WHERE HER STUPID BOYFRIEND WAS ABLE TO BRING HER BACK.



DIDN'T DARCY SAY BLOOM HEALED HERSELF?



SHE DID, BUT IT WAS RIGHT AFTER THE BLONDE WONDER GAVE HIS SICKENING SPEECH.



*Stormy's memory*

*It's sky babygirl. Your sky.*



BUT I GOTTA HAND IT TO HER, I DIDN'T THINK SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF THIS ONE.



WELL, TURNS OUT SHE DIDN'T...



ARE YOU SAYING THAT BITCH IS STILL IN HER SOMEWHERE?



AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, YES. THE SHADOW IS AT LEAST GROWING.

WHEN I DANCED WITH HER ON ERAKLYON I COULDN'T DETECT ANYTHING, BUT NOW...



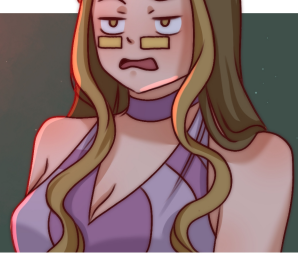
**GRIN**



I THINK WE CAN USE THIS TO OUR ADVANTAGE, LADIES.



OH GOODY, BECAUSE THIS CAN'T GO TERRIBLY WRONG.



*End*



Episode 8

Story • Art by Shiroyuki