Everlasting

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9/24/2023

Story Premise

On the eve of her mother's funeral, Sadora stumbles upon a butterfly that changes her life. With the help of what she believes to be her mother's spirit, she discovers the enchanting land of Usara, where she is not only from, but next in line for the throne. Lonely but unafraid she embarks on a journey full of adventure, heroism, and love, reuniting with her long-lost twin sister along the way. After struggling to make peace with her tumultuous past, Sadora learns that life may not be forever but a connection is everlasting.

Historical Background Information

Queen Clarinda, gave Sadora away at birth, keeping her younger twin to raise in the palace. The Queen wanted to protect the girls from the dangers of Usara, and the prophecy of twins born of twins, both she and her husband were twins, and she unfortunately lost her sister to the evils of dark magic. She vowed to keep her daughters far away from the temptations of dark magic and the prophecy. Quickly deciding to separate them for their safety in an attempt to avoid fate.

The only person to know there were two babies was her milkmaid, Kira, who helped deliver the babies in secret. Kira kept young Sadora on the outskirts of town, hiding her from her father, sister, and her corrupt uncle, Prince Yoshua, especially. They only ventured into town when necessary, dressing Sadora in her favorite purple and black velvet-lined cloak, which shielded her magic from her sister, except on their birthday when their magic and connection were strongest.

On the night of their 10th birthday, during the Lunar Festival, the Jasper moon shone bright, as did Sadora's necklace. She was drawn to her sister, Eudora, "Dori", their necklaces agleam, intensifying as they made their way into the town amid the festival. Princess Dori's knight and best friend Raelyn, brought the girls back to the Queen who was unsurprised, as she knew the day would come when they found each other. Unfortunately, the queen was unable to keep Sadora from her father King Yael, who quickly wrote a letter to his twin Prince Yoshua informing him of the young twins. Unknown to his brother, Prince Yoshua had a plan to abduct the girls and steal their magic, with hopes to keep them from fulfilling their destiny. Regrettably for Prince Yoshua, Queen Clarinda worked quickly, wiping both girls' memories, the servants, King Yael, and his brother. Somehow, she missed Raelyn who assisted Kira and Sadora through

a secret portal to Earth. She vowed to the Queen never to tell Princess Dori, but secrets sell the worst lies.

Main Character

Sadora was born in an uncharted land, Usara. She is alien to her current home, Earth, though she is unaware of this. She lives with her adoptive mother, a milkmaid from their home planet Kira. Though she never confirmed her adoption she always speculated, that she and her mother were very different and as she grew older those differences drew them apart. American customs never occurred to them naturally, the racial injustice, and social disparity. Sadora always believed there was more to the world than the blandness of Earth, specifically her hometown New York City. Her mother told her stories of Usara when she was young, feeding her young imagination with tales of beauty and wonder. Sadora grew to become an avid lover of reading and storytelling. Dreaming of Usara and a girl who looked just like her there. In her dreams she could connect with this girl, she felt whole when she was with her, and so lonely when they were apart. Sadora often told her mother it felt like a piece of her was missing, but Kira had taken an oath to the queen to never tell Sadora of her royal blood or her twin sister Eudora.

Sadora was infatuated with the idea of Usara, she fantasized about discovering distant lands. She went to college in New York and became an underappreciated librarian. She decided she loved books and fantasy so much she wanted to introduce other children to the beauties of the worlds you can discover in a book.

Sadora has an autoimmune disease, on Earth they call it vitiligo, but to her people, she is marked for greatness. She is missing her melanin in a patch around her right eye and along her arms and fingers. Her favorite color is a deep plum purple, she loves dark hues and silver, and her two most prized possessions are her Helios necklace and her velvet cloak. The brown of her skin is a deep dark brown, she adorns her face with black and silver makeup always, her signature lip a black lined lip with a dark purple gloss. Her hair is black with a silver streak along her hairline. She enjoys dressing herself in vintage clothing, long dresses, bodices, skirts, and flowy pants. Due to her feelings of not belonging and disconnection, she suffers from depression

and anxiety. Her best friend since college, Lonnie has helped her in tough times, such as losing her mother, as well as her cat Noir. She drives a 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle, which she calls the butterfly mobile, because of the butterfly hood ornament gifted to her by her mother who nicknamed her “little butterfly.”

Supporting Characters: Princess Dori, Raelyn, Queen Clarinda

Princess Eudora “Dori” is the long-lost twin of our protagonist Sadora. She does not know she has a twin but she does dream of her, thinking she is some sort of mirror extension of herself. She is more of a honey brown; she also has vitiligo but her white patch is on her left eye. Her favorite color is blue, like the oceans of Usara, she was gifted a necklace and cloak to help her keep her magic in check. She attends Usara University, College of the Gifted, where she practices using her magic. Her power is to control the ocean and she is learning to control wildlife and flora. Her mother often warns her of the greatness of her power and not to let the Usarians see her use too much, for fear of them hurting her, or stealing her magic for themselves. Dori’s hair is silver with a black streak along her hairline, she has always felt like some part of her was yearning for more, she was often lonely in the palace when she and Raelyn could not play together, she’d beg for a sibling, but her mother could not bring herself to bare another child. She spends much of her time with her lunar horse, and her spirit companion and guides Lazuli her blue and green snake who tends to hide along her arm, in her hair, or under her cloak.

Raelyn is Sadora’s love interest; she is Princess Dori’s knight sworn to protect her with her life. Raelyn is olive-skinned with grey eyes, her hair is stark white, and she keeps it short and out of her face in a frohawk. She does not have any magic of her own but she does have magic imbued armor as well as her sword gifted to her by her father before he died. Raelyn was an orphan after her father died protecting Queen Clarinda in the Great War, the queen took her raising her alongside her young daughter. They have a 4-year age gap and she loves to hold it over Dori’s head. She has a black lion with silver highlights whose armor is also imbued with magic. Her name is Athera, and she is Rae’s spirit animal the two share a telepathic bond; the queen gifted the lion to her for keeping her secret, and the two are best friends.

Queen Clarinda was born a twin, but her sister lost the battle to dark magic. She was destined to meet and marry the king. The two met in college for magic, she was the strongest and he was drawn to her strength. She never thought she would fall in love with a prince but she did. Queen Clarinda’s skin is dark brown and her hair completely silver with pink highlights. Her power is control of minds and objects. She is well-studied, but her magic does take a toll on her energy. She uses her power to read

minds and enter the heads of others, but she does not enjoy it. She used her power on Prince Yoshua and discovered his plans to take her children if she were to birth twins. She knew she was and because of this kept it a secret from him and her husband, she never told him for fear he would not believe her, as she never told anyone she could read minds. The kingdom knows her powers to be telekinesis and healing, as does her husband, she worries Usarians would think her magic is dark and not trust her so she hides her true nature which has come to an advantage. Her heart broke the day she gave birth to the twins, sending her eldest daughter, and next in line for the throne to another planet. She trusted only her milkmaid and best friend Kira with the truth but later grew to trust a young Raelyn. She often goes into her chamber and locks herself in, she uses a blood ritual every new moon to check on Sadora on Earth.

Locations: The palace, Sadora's loft, The hidden portal

The palace is large and beautiful, it is well-known and respected across all of Usara. It is surrounded by fauna and flora, bright hues of, green, blue, and pink. The palace has multiple entrances and towers. The King and Queen's chambers are located on the West side of the palace. Princess Dori begged to be apart from them, so her chamber is located on the East end of the palace where she can overlook the ocean and the beautiful moon and sky. The trees grow tall around the palace in all colors, pink, purple, green, and blue. The palace sits above the oasis of a city with beautiful arches and stained-glass windows. The North side of the tower is the throne room where decisions are made about Usara as well as where meetings with the magic counsel are held. The doors to the palace are silver and purple with large swirls of metal and stained glass in between the panes.

Sadora's apartment is her haven and as such it is decorated with her favorite colors, black, purple, and silver. Her loft is a hidden gem in the city. She lives alone with her cat Noir. When you walk into the loft you have a beautiful arched entryway painted silver, as you move further inside you will find her kitchen decorated in a vintage aesthetic. Her cabinets are purple with black marble countertops and island. In her living room, she has a velvet square couch and a black loveseat decorated with silver pillows on both. Noir has a cat palace in the living room overlooking the windows of the balcony, it is grey with a sign hanging above it naming it the paw palace. The balcony sits behind the couch and the paw palace. It has a gorgeous view of the city and the Manhattan Bridge. The balcony is decorated with black seating and Sadora enjoys having her smoke sessions here. Her bedroom is on the second floor of her loft, the walls are painted silver with some of her art and her purple bed in the center.

The portal to Usara can be opened from anywhere on Earth, so long as the person opening it has magic and an image of where they are going in their mind. When stepping through the portal into Usara the beautiful trees are the first thing you see, the colors sway and blend

creating a celestial image. The animals walk in peace and tranquility, lunar horses and bees, unicorns, jaguars and monkeys. The portal is in the rainforest of Usara at the edge of the city hidden between two willow trees one purple and the other blue. A beautiful pond with animals gathered to drink and bathe, to the naked eye, it appears as a watering hole.

Additional World Information

Usarians who possess natural power were given the name Elementals by the magic counsel many centuries ago. Others who must use rituals and spells to manipulate their magical energy are called Enchanter or Enchantress. Usara's magic runs through the heart of the land producing many raw materials. Minerals, and lumber all contain magical properties that can be manipulated or harnessed, this can be done by anyone. The most powerful Usarians who can master both forms of magic are known as, Eminent. Some Usarians can wield magic-imbued items, but they do not need to possess a power. If someone from another land were to enter Usara and desired to use any of the technology, be it a potion, wand, or weapon they could, but they may not work properly. Potions and weapons can only be enchanted by an Enchanter or Enchantress. Not all Usarians who have magical gifts can afford to attend schooling to be taught to use them, and some do not desire to do so.

Both Sadora and Eudora were gifted necklaces and magically laced cloaks. The necklaces they wear help them to control their magical connection. Their cloaks are laced with magic to help balance their magic when apart. During the observance of stronger moons in Usara's lunar cycle, the gifted are stronger as are enchanted objects, and the magic of the land. The three moons of Usara align with the sun during the summer solstice, this is the twin's birthday. The Jasper moon is one of the most powerful moons for Usara, during this moon all magic is intensified. Gifted ones who practice dark magic have the power to manipulate dark spirits and shadows. During an eclipse, their connection to dark magic is intensified.

Story Synopsis

A young SADORA is sitting on the balcony of her loft having a smoke when she stumbles across a butterfly. This butterfly looks like one she's never seen before, so she believes it to be her mother or her mother's spirit. She follows it down and out to the garden she hadn't harvested for her late mother, KIRA. The butterfly stops and rests on the old mural she'd done of two willow trees with a pond in between, she stood watching it when the wall began to swirl and peel away, revealing the exact mirror image, but somewhere else. Sadora takes two seconds before she wanders through the portal and onto the land of Usara. Upon arrival she meets her twin sister PRINCESS EUDORA "DORI", her knight and best friend RAELYN, and her lion ATHERA. Sadora discovers she is from Usara as was her adoptive mother, Kira. On the journey to the palace, the truth of her past is revealed. Along the way she meets her dad's evil twin PRINCE YOSHUA, who encourages the three to split up, inviting Sadora to his home to convince her to take his dark magic potion. He tells her it will bring back her mother from the dead, but it is a poison that will kill her slowly and allow him to take her magic. HUMIRA, Sadora's ex-girlfriend appears and attempts to help her father seize her. Raelyn who was secretly following behind attacks Humira knocking her away, she retreats and runs into the lion, Athera. Athera roars and bats Humira away sending her flying into a tree and knocking her unconscious. Dori rode her horse to the castle while Raelyn stayed behind, untrusting Yoshua. She knew of his ill intent towards the girls having been warned by their mother. Sadora uses her first element, electrocuting her uncle until his body goes limp. She escapes with Raelyn riding Athera back to the castle. She reunites with her birth mother, QUEEN CLARINDA, who explains her decision to give the girls up while quickly detailing Prince Yoshua's sinister plan to kill both girls for their magic for a ritual during the next Jasper moon. Sadora's relationship with the queen

struggles, she has an initial distrust of her and feels accepting her as her mother would be a betrayal to Kira. Sadora and her sister connect their magic as they'd done in their dreams previously. Sadora grows close to Princess Dori through magic while also falling in love with Raelyn. They practice until the eve of the Jasper moon when their uncle attacks. Their father, KING YAEL arrives back from his journey to the neighboring land Kleptora. He aids in defense of the attack from his twin Prince Yoshua. The King sadly sacrifices himself attaching himself to his brother and jumping from the South East tower and into the water below. Later unbeknownst to the royal family, Humira is seen pulling away a body that has washed up from shore.

Story Excerpt

The butterfly led me down the fire escape and around the building. Dusk was upon us and the beautiful sky bled from hues of blue fading to orange, and pink. I stood admiring my mother's garden as the sparkling insects fluttered through the beets, cauliflower, pumpkins, and winter squash. I'd never seen a butterfly like this before, its wings aglow. Its thorax was a deep blue that faded into purple, and on each side of its body, its wings glowed turquoise. The butterfly's forewing was a radiant shade of coral and its hindwing was a sparkling orchid pigment. It produced a vivid light as it flew on, eventually landing on the mural wall we'd painted about 6 years prior. Before Mommy and I started fighting we'd paint together, and she'd tell me stories of a land she called Usara. The way she described it, I felt like I'd visited it in my dreams. I would tell her the memories I had of my dreams, detailing a young girl who looked like a reverse mirror image of me. I never learned her name and as I got older the dreams began to fade and our connection seemed lost. I drew the mural in resemblance to the dreamscape we would meet in.

I inched forward slowly, afraid to startle the small creature away. I crept close enough, closed my eyes, and turned my head away as I reached my hand out to touch it. My hand lay there for a moment before feeling a surge in my fingertips. I pulled my hand away, jumping back as the wall in front of me began to swirl revealing a world of euphoria.

"Holy shit," I said as I watched the butterfly fly straight through what seemed to be a portal.

"Another world? No freaking way," mystified I placed my hand on what once was brick, but my hand fell through. I yelped pulling my hand back quickly, caressing it as if I'd been burned.

"What in the hell is this thing?" I asked myself aloud, taking another look over. *Bien, aqui va nada.* My thoughts raced as I took a leap of faith slowly entering the portal to this unknown place.

Adobe Visual Element: Abstract Butterfly using Adobe Illustrator

