

HEAVEN ON EARTH

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A malevolent blackness eerily wraps itself around Auba as he dredges through a haunted forest under a moonless sky. Scattered tree stumps are buried like charcoal tombstones, when a four-eyed owl with jade green feathers swoops down to dig into the ground and pulls out a luminous twin-tailed rat. Before the glowing squirming rodent can be eaten by the owl, Auba appears next to the owl just as it is about to fly away and sweeps his left arm across the air. He has on a thick furry pelt-like cloak. He cuts the head off the owl and reaches for an outlandish blade on his right hip with his left hand. He slices the owl up cleanly, with the feathers still floating in the air by the time he's caught the skinned meat. He grabs it all with his left hand as the rat digs away to hide, and reveals the rest of the right side of his inner pelt, where there is space under his right shoulder for him to hang the meat. His entire right arm is missing, and it seems that that part of his pelt also has a strange cosmic like rectangular metallic box, which he stares at then turns away after securing his meat. Auba holds his cloak tightly with his left arm and looks towards a colossal mountain bathed in a heavenly glow that lights up the surroundings.

“Ehgo...” he whispers to himself solemnly.

A deep driving bassline is resonating within a space age metallic corridor. Yuna strides through calmly, wrapped in dark glimmering angel wings all over her body like a satin dress and almost matches

her complexion. Like an onyx panther on the prowl, she proudly walks up to a large vault like door which has four clunky low-tech droids standing guard. There is a loud mechanical groan and the droids quickly ready their blasters as the vault door starts to open slowly. A strange old looking hunched-back man comes hobbling out, and struggles to lift himself up to make his announcement, “Archangel Liyana greets Angel Yuna.”

He bows onto one knee.

“Where is she?” Yuna coldly replies with only disdain, and the old man slowly gestures for Yuna to walk before him.

“She is busy with Eden. Allow me to guide you to Heaven so that you may be in her presence.”

Auba has left the dreary forest and has made his way into a futuristic steampunk carnival underneath an outsized tent cover hovering over an area, which is surrounded by ruined concrete buildings. Many transfigured humans are dancing and basking in the pale white glow which looms from the colossal mountain, some are even praying towards it. Watching over the festivities in a room which is tethered to the centre of the tent, is a mysterious woman with muted onyx wings which are sylphlike as they sit on her lower back. She looks over to Auba as he steps in towards the crowded rows of street vendors and performers who are trying to earn their fair share of Luna-Skcor. She slowly pulls out a hand crafted mbira with petal-shaped tines made of the same strange metal as the relic Auba keeps under his cloak.

Auba simply eyes random vendors, but is moving swiftly as he notices that the mysterious woman who was watching him had suddenly vanished; he cannot even track her movements. Before he can make it down a grimy flight of stairs filled with androids who are gambling their limbs, the mysterious woman appears next to

him and tries to grab onto his right shoulder, but suddenly a robotic arm shoots out to stop her hand. A creep voice rings out from the shadows, “I think he’s here for me, Yenoh.”

A stone grey cyborg steps out with seven arms. “Kula, I have something I need to settle with him, stay back.” Her emotionless response causes some of the other cyborgs and androids to abandon their games and scurry into the shadows. Yenoh smacks the extended arm away with a flick of her wrist and vanishes only to reappear in between Kula and Auba. She lifts her mbira and plucks three tines to produce a sharp tone, and before the extended arm can return, it explodes violently. “Argh!” Kula screams out in pain.

He escapes into an old sewer without looking back. Yenoh has her eyes focused on Auba to make sure he doesn’t try to make any more rash choices.

“If you’re looking for her, I can take you to see her,” Yenoh says calmly, but she keeps her delicate fingers on the soft tines. “But there’s a heavy price to get you into Heaven.”

Yuna stumbles for a moment after she has been walking for some time, and as she continues again, she notices an indistinct radiance that grows brighter and brighter. Eventually she enters a vast lush garden filled with snowy mountain peaks as well as pre-historic creatures which roam the moonless sky and cloud white soil. The scenery that Yuna is taking in starts to cause tears to well up.

“Heaven ...” she mutters under her breath. She steps into the unreal garden and begins to trail slowly behind the hunched over man who is leading her. She looks up to see an expansive sky, but then she stops and becomes solemn as she thinks to herself, almost reminiscing about the past.

Yuna turns and sighs softly, “It’s hard to believe, isn’t it? That we Angels ended up tethered to the Ancient Garden, our Creator’s original home. I believe they called it ‘Earth’..”

Liyana trails off as she unpredictably appears before Yuna. Her powerful figure as well as her puffy afro make her seem harmless, but her razor-edged metallic wings which she spreads out like two shadow blades cutting through space. They have a much darker and bloodier feel than any others.

“You wanted to speak to me?” Liyana asks Yuna with a callous tone. Yuna musters some courage for her response, stating, “I only want to find out whether you have dealt with the traitor, Ehgo. Her execution will end DWN’s attempt to cause a revolution.”

Liyana sizes her up and turns around without saying a word. “Follow me,” Liyana nonchalantly tells her.

Yuna follows Liyana down a narrow path, then they turn into a sunken area which looks like a large circular pool filled with turquoise water. In the middle of the pool floats a giant metallic cylindrical pod. It hovers with a low drone. As Liyana makes her way to walk over the water, large discs levitate from beneath the water to build a walkway for them. They both calmly continue, expecting the walkway to form as they stride to the giant pod. As they get near it, Liyana turns to Yuna calmly, “With Ehgo under my control, the DWN is no longer an issue. We can wipe them out without worrying about any retaliation.” Liyana laughs softly as she finishes her declaration.

Auba is being followed closely by Yenoh, who has her fingers still placed over the tines, but is now hidden by a sea blue satin cloak. Auba is forced to follow her instructions as he is taken down below into the sewer system, but the direction they are heading

in is towards the massive mountain which was emitting the eerie yet divine light. There's a slow cackle which starts as they descend into an old broken down skyscraper which is now on its side in a gigantic wreck. Kula is standing above the building looking down on Yenoh with malice, "You really think we'd let you go back? We have a pact remember!" he yells.

Yenoh stares at him without any emotion, then walks up to stand next to Auba. "I can help you find her, but you have to help me get past DWN. Kula is one of their 'revolutionaries', but he's just a guard dog for their secret entrance into Heaven," Yenoh explains casually, even though all of this shocks Auba. "And after we get inside?" he turns slightly to look at her, "Don't worry. Since I'm also a traitor, I won't sell you out. Instead, I want to help you."

Yenoh answers him without hesitation, "Ehgo was... she guided me to where I am now. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be here."

Auba cautiously side eyes her as she responds, then turns to face Kula who hasn't moved from his position. Auba slowly lifts his left arm from underneath his cloak and in his hand is his metallic box. As he lifts it out, Yenoh unfurls her tiny wings which enlarge rapidly in size, and extend as if she is poised for flight. "Heaven's Gate!" Yenoh exclaims as she stares at the box.

Boom! The metallic box explodes, but only to fall apart and then reassemble itself over Auba's right arm to form a cyber-genetic arm which is pulsating with a light sapphire radiance. He slowly starts to step forward, then he suddenly teleports on top of the building where Kula is waiting. As Yenoh is shocked by Auba's actions, there is a huge explosion where Auba landed, which triggers her to snap out of her daze and fly over to investigate. Before she lands, she stares at Auba claspng Kula's wrecked body amidst the intense flames.

Yuna is staring into the pod that now has a clear window formed in front of it. Inside, there is a woman who is connected to a ventilation unit to breathe. She's floating around with thousands of iridescent metallic wires feeding into her body. Her eyes are closed for some time, then suddenly open wide, staring right at Liyana who is creeping up from behind Yuna. Liyana walks up to stand next to Yuna and calmly says, "Ehgo's Alpha relic is nearby. I'm not sure how it was activated, but it was also near another Angel; Yenoh." Yuna remains silent while looking at Ehgo, then suddenly turns around to leave. Liyana stares into the pod, calmly observing Ehgo's reaction.

Yenoh is now following Auba as he powers his way through Kula's hideout in search of the hidden entrance. Drove of cyborgs are being wiped out instantly by the sapphire light being cast by Heaven's Gate. Yenoh is in complete awe. She has only ever seen one person wield the Alpha relic, and it is known to only obey those who were stronger than ordinary Angels, so in her eyes Auba was a being comparable to Archangels.

Yenoh bites her lower lip. "With Heaven's Gate, even Liyana won't stop us easily," she mutters under her breath.

Auba finally incinerates the final trio who were about to escape through a hidden door. He pauses to gesture for Yenoh to follow quickly as he bursts through the door.

Auba pauses for a moment and puts his arm out to shield Yenoh from an auburn laser blast. His sapphire light turns into a flame which bursts out to shield himself in the same move, then illuminates the darkened opening that they rushed into. It's an ancient cavern which has ancient paintings that depict beings with black wings painted with a numinous ink. The depictions also show non-winged beings praising the moon in the sky, then another depiction showing a vast moon-like mountain with two shadowy towers in front of it, that

is being praised. Standing in front of a cave leading out, is a young looking woman wearing a cape which looks like it's made from a piece of the galaxy, pointing a blaster right at Yenoh.

“You're an exile from Heaven Yenoh. You have no business crossing DWN's secret entrance,” the dangerous woman says harshly, still aiming at Yenoh, but her focus is rested on Auba since he lit up the cavern.

Auba is poised to attack, but realises that focusing on helping Yenoh could leave him in danger, so he remains quiet as he watches the blaster. Yenoh steps forward with the sapphire flames enveloping her head to form a halo-like crown. Her wings get flayed by the indigo embers and begin to burn with a cosmic flame. She absorbs the powers and spreads her fingers out to strike. The young woman blasts auburn lasers repeatedly at Yenoh in succession before Auba can react, but Yenoh deflects the lasers with her wings and teleports in front of the blaster to knock it away with her hands. Yenoh starts to slowly let her power fade and release the pressure she was giving off a moment ago.

“Lungile, I'm not here to break my vow. I only wish to guide him to Ehgo. As an Angel, it would be shameful to have to sneak into Heaven through The Divide,” Yenoh states plainly.

Lungile watches Yenoh very diligently, then looks over to Auba and his right arm. “Fine. He can go. But since you took Kula out, you have to guide him there,” Lungile replies coldly.

Yenoh turns waiting for Auba's response. He blinks slowly as if to say yes, then he pulls his right arm away under his cloak to follow Yenoh and Lungile into the cave.

Yuna is standing in front of two gargantuan towers which are made of the same metal as Heaven's Gate. Behind her is a holy temple which looks as if it was built by giants, and is also fitted with

futuristic holographic projections which depict a galactic civilisation situated on a rusty red planet which is apparently prosperous. Above the temple, a sign with the word HEAVEN has been carved into the misty silvery stone, but slashed over by a sharp tool as if it's been crossed out. Yuna is facing away from the temple, looking into the distance. As she lets out a sigh and turns around to walk back, there is a huge explosion at the temple, shutting down the holograms and crumbling the sign down. Yuna starts to fume at this sacrilege, but has her wrath dampened by the sight of Yenoh, who walks out alone slowly.

More explosions erupt continuously as Auba rushes forward. Lungile is teleporting all over the interior on the temple, blasting away at machinery and pillars that could lead to more devastation. Her cape waves around with ripples, keeping her safe from any debris. Auba is moving through the pandemonium like a shadow possessed by lightning, making his way deeper into the temple, eventually reaching Eden, the garden Yuna had come from. As Auba enters, the entrance closes up behind him with the rubble from the temple outside. He steps forward cautiously, with his cloak still covering him up completely. Powerful rumbles reverberate into the vast garden, but die down quickly as Liyana appears from the sky, floating down menacingly.

"A sinner like you dares to violate Heaven and defile Eden with its presence!" Liyana screeches. But before she can swoop down on Auba, he's already equipped Heaven's Gate which he now has pointed right at her. Auba has already concentrated his power. He fires an azure orb which crackles through the air past Liyana's face. She's frozen in the air as there is an apocalyptic explosion that detonates beyond Eden, tearing a crater into the surface of Heaven.

Auba is still aiming at Liyana, who is still hostile towards him, but fears the absolute power he was able to bring out of Heaven's Gate. That fact alone has forced Liyana to reassess Auba with the Alpha relic she had previously thought was not a factor, but worse than that, the being in front of her was able to wield high tier relics far better than any Archangel she had known.

She slowly retreats, there has been damage dealt to the pod where Ehgo was being held, and now the water that she was submerged in is flooding out, with the metal rod retracting from her body. Ehgo is released from her pod, and starts to cough as she struggles to catch her breath. She pulls herself up out of her pod and eventually her eyes focus on the scenery around her. She can see the giant dust clouds and unearthly flames which remain in the aftermath of Auba's demolition of Eden and Heaven.

Ehgo stumbles and staggers along Eden as it's burning in the distance. As she makes her way past a grove of primeval baobabs, she comes across Yenoh and Yuna, who appear to be praying in front of a dignified headstone. Yenoh opens her eyes first to spot Ehgo, who is still weak so she can't say anything or even rush over, but Yenoh quickly flies over to her to pick her up and bring her to Yuna. "We were on our way, then we saw Mother's grave. We wanted to say goodbye before we..." Yuna's voice trails off as she looks back to Eden. Ehgo stares at the headstone, then asks, "Where's Auba?" Before Yenoh can respond, Auba's silhouette becomes visible to her, and her reaction causes Ehgo to turn slowly to look at his figure.

Auba's cloak is in tatters, but he barely has any wounds that appear serious. Heaven's Gate is still attached, with a few scratches and burns covering it. Auba appears exhausted, but once he sees Ehgo,

he smiles and hurries over to her to pick her up gently out of Yenoh's arms. Ehgo smiles as she lifts her hands to touch his softly.

"I'm sorry I took so long," Auba says trying to sound calm, but he can't hide his happiness as he hugs Ehgo tightly, with her celestial shadowy wings spreading open to bathe them both in a cosmic light as they kiss.