

# *In the Eye of the Storm*

*By Ellie .M.W.*

## *Chapter 1 – The Beginning*

Above the clouds, a majestic, flex-winged creature roamed the skies before landing loyally on his master's airship. Longing to help Olga search for his lost and first love, he knew his friend couldn't live without her.



Soon the robot would have to let his beloved companion leave as he would make his chances of finding Verida slim (one in a hundred).

Although the clouds and their skyline were gorgeous, it was excruciatingly painful for the creature to look at but a sight for sore eyes for the cyborg pilot.

Clashing against the soft, natural beauty of the sky, floated the metallic, camera-shaped ship. With chains bashing against the variety of cog mechanisms, it was hard to hear the roar of the engine's fire as the pilot stoked it. Pacing softly along the timber pier towards the hull, he gazed earnestly into the unknown.

## *Chapter 2 – The Void*

In the blink of an eye, Olga turned to his pet seeing a glint just below the floorboards. Just then, his ornate windchime chimed, the sky went dark and rain fell on his fleshy face. "We need to get you out of here!" he hollered as he dashed to the key in the ligneous floorboards. Unlocking the dragon's collar, he gestured into the howling hurricane. To himself, he muttered, "I'll miss you, old friend." Hastening towards his pirate-like wheel, he was determined to exit the storm to finally find answers about his beloved Verida.

Just then, an emerald-green hollow appeared out of the darkness, as if it were welcoming him in. Without any complicated thought, he turned his ship towards the light and braced himself as he darted forwards. Tilting upwards slightly, the ship was hypnotised by pulsating flare. Suddenly, the whole aircraft was thrown back and convulsed from side to side. In horror, the solitary pilot realised he would have to jump. Counting down from five to one, he tried to calm his nerves before he jumped. With a deep breath, he leaped from the safety of his ship and hurtled heroically into the green void.

## *Chapter 3 – The Eye*

In a daze, the wary Olga awakened to discover that he was being carried by a giant robo-bird above industrial rooftops. Turning suddenly, the huge talons loosened their grip on the dangling pilot. Falling swiftly through the air, he landed softly in the new planet. Struggling to stand up, he approached the modern city. He was hit by the wind's warm embrace. The moon – which offered a silvery sneer – relished in the inhabitants of its world. Tall, metallic spires rose up majestically out of factory roofs, like cakes in the oven. Breathing heavily out

of his mask, the dark figure navigated his way down the unfinished walkway which led to the city's heart.

Emerging from the shadows like a zombie, an ancient, wise woman shuffled vigorously, trying to make her way to the confused man who stood before her.

"I know what you seek and I must warn you, once you leave this world, you can never return", whispered the old hag before gesturing her frail arms deeper into the secretive city. "Please tell me what I seek. Where is she?" he asked desperately.

The hunched cackled, "She is everywhere but nowhere. She is hidden and yet seen. Must I go on?"

As she turned to leave, the pilot grabbed her cloaks and bawled, "Please, I'm desperate! I don't understand! Tell me in plain language."

Looking past him, she answered quickly, "The answers you must find for yourself. I have given you as much help as I can."

Turning her back on him, he did not see the sinister glint in her beady eyes as she sneered.

#### *Chapter 4 – The End is just the Beginning*

For the rest of the day, a disappointed Olga turned to hundreds of different houses, knocking desperately on their doors but receiving no reply. As night descended, the downcast figure fell to his knees in exhaustion and finally admitted defeat, allowing his depression to overwhelm his mind. He closed his eyes and blacked out.

Suddenly, his awareness switched back on and he awoke to find himself lying in front of the magical, glowing void once again. Standing up, he turned to the horizon, watching his feathered-ride fly away. Weakly he called out, "Thank you", wishing he could have kept him as his new companion, replacing his black-winged friend.

With the old woman's ominous warnings of no return echoing through his mind, he shrugged and said aloud, "There's nothing for me here, anyway". Stepping blindly towards the green glow, the world inside the storm began to fade away. Before the mist swallowed him completely, he turned back for one last glance....to see his beautiful Verida, running towards the portal. "Olga!" she screamed as he disappeared completely into the eerie fog.

*The End... or is it?*

