

FADER

(Act I)

by RYE-N

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Let me get you up to speed. It's 2045 and we've come a long way. The unexpected Gamma Burst of Alpha Centauri turned our world upside down—figuratively of course. There was just one problem: we lived. It's been everyone's understanding that in the event of a Gamma Burst, the extent of the radiation produced from said burst would be enough to decimate Earth and all its living species.

And yet, we're still here.

The electromagnetic radiation emitted from the Gamma Burst appeared to have somewhat of an unlocking effect in regards to those susceptible. Thus awakening inner affinities that seemed to lie dormant, somehow waiting to be triggered. Long story short, many were endowed with special abilities.

Equally impressive, animals of various species—just like humans—are well equipped with special abilities as well. It should also be noted that the animals susceptible to the benefits of the Gamma Burst have an unusual added benefit: with each new consecutive reproduction, the animals—depending on their original size—tend to double, triple, and in some cases, quadruple, in size. And it doesn't look to be slowing down any time soon.

But don't get me wrong, the transition didn't just go smoothly. The world was inundated with people and animals with special powers. The animals had to be tamed in such

a way so that they didn't become a threat to the general public, and if they couldn't, well, they were exterminated. Humans were a different beast in of itself. After the Gamma Burst, within a matter of seconds, people started discovering their special abilities.

And that's where it all fell apart.

Now, the random guy walking down the street could have the power to wreak havoc on an entire city block. The kid holding his mom's hand could effectively take out an entire country with his power to control the weather.

Unaware of the onset of these new found abilities and more importantly, how to control them, havoc ensued throughout the world. In every continent, every country, every state and city. Boundaries were crossed; treaties and laws were ignored; and inevitably World War III commenced.

If all of this doesn't seem bad enough, this also ignited the international robot arms race. If you were to ask my personal opinion, it was more like the robot arms blitz. It happened so fast it was quickly thrown into the conflict. Its main purpose was to protect those without special powers from those that do—essentially level the playing field.

But just like those with powers used them for good or for bad, same went for those with robot allies. Something had

to be done to end this bloodbath. And it was only when the world had lost more than two billion lives that its leaders realized enough was enough. Negotiations were held; treaties and laws were put in place to accommodate the new structure of what the world's nations were capable of. After five years of around the clock destruction and bloodshed, World War III crawled to a halt.

Despite this, tolerance for those with special powers and those with robot allies walked a thin line. Separation was the only logical decision the Global Defense Council was able to institute. Each "faction" was segregated into its own academy. The five factions and academies are as follows:

Evoker Academy / Sealer Academy / Infuser Academy /
MechEng Academy / Artificer Academy

Dr. Saturn, along with Saturn Robotics—the foremost distributor of the world's robotic needs—has initiated a plan to build The Saturn Academy, the first academy to pull 25 cadets from all 5 factions. Coincidentally, on their first day, these five teams of five will be tasked with defending the world.

FADER (Act I)

a Screenplay-Novel

by Rye-n

It's the most serene environment: A few million miles away from Earth with no indication of his surroundings; just tunnel vision of our very own planet.

So, what was so disturbing that caused TK to frequently wake in a cold and clammy panic? Earth, our one and only habitable planet is encased with water; filled to the brink of our stratosphere.

Earth... is nothing more than a watery tomb.

INT. HIGH-RISE, EVOKER ACADEMY - MORNING

TK

(clenched teeth)

GET. OUT. OF. MY. HEAD.

MILES

(half asleep)

Hey... you alright?

Miles Da Costa

Origin: São Paulo, Brazil

Class: Evoker

Affinity: Air

Armed: Carbon Bow

TK

Yeah. Bad dream.

(beat)

It's nothing.

ENZO

(half asleep)

Liar. Your heart is beating so hard it's
about to rip out of your chest.

TK

(sighing)

It's nothing.

ENZO

(smirking)

Liar.

RAIDEN

SHUT UP!

KAIRO

SHUT UP!

Raiden and Kairo simultaneously launch their pillows
toward TK and Enzo's vicinity.

Raiden Nakamura

Origin: Tokyo, Japan

Class: Evoker

Affinity: Lightning

Armed: Katana

Kairo Ilaoa

Origin: Pago Pago, American Samoa

Class: Evoker

Affinity: Fire

Armed: Samoan Fire Knives

TK reclines back. The pillow misses its intended target. The pillow makes a beeline towards the glass of water located on his bedside table. The glass topples over and begins to spill. He extends his right arm. A deep aquamarine aura illuminates from his hand. He suspends the contents of the glass. With his left hand, he repositions the glass back in its upright position and slowly guides the water back with his aura induced hand.

TK Vera

Origin: Manila, Philippines

Class: Evoker

Affinity: Water

Armed: GES (Graphite Eskrima Sticks)

KAIRO

Argh. I can't go back to sleep.

MILES

You could sleep through an earthquake.

ENZO

Did someone say earthquake?!

TK/MILES

NO!

RAIDEN/KAIRO

NO!

Enzo Okuma

Origin: Lagos, Nigeria
Class: Evoker
Affinity: Earth
Armed: Titanium Bo Staff

Three beds separated by bedside tables line the north wall. They contain: Raiden, Enzo, and Kairo, respectively. Opposite the foot of their beds lining the south-side wall is TK and Miles' bed.

The five are sprawled across their beds; silent. Awake. Enzo dons his blackout sunglasses and grabs his titanium bo staff. Starts spinning and tossing it. Catches it. Repeats.

TK

I can't believe this is the last time we'll
be waking up in this room.

RAIDEN

I can't believe this is our last day and
also our first.

(beat)

I feel so cheated.

It's the last day of school for all five corresponding academies. A new initiative is being lead to form the new Saturn Academy. 25 students from various backgrounds and academies organized into core groups of specialized cells.

TK, Miles, Enzo, Kairo, and Raiden, are 5 of 25.

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