

LITTLE LIGHT

Written by

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EXT. CASTLE - BALCONY - DAY

Sunlight glitters across white brick. White halos hold the castle afloat above ground.

JOSHUA YANG, 17, white-haired mage, sits in a bean bag chair. He flips through a book titled "Magic Guide". An orb of light hovers over him.

JOSHUA

Now, what if I tried flying without
the staff's assistance?

He stands and clasps his hands. They glow. Halos form around his wrists. Joshua jumps and hovers. He grins as he glides over the balcony's edge. *

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Halos seem stable, now for
something a little more -- *

The halos fade and disappear. Joshua falls, but is caught in a white bubble and lifted back to safety. *

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Uh, thanks, Dad. *

JOTUNN YANG, 43, in a knight's helmet, enters and sighs. *

JOTUNN

How many times do I have to tell
you, Son? Before you cast any
spells, hold your stabilizer staff! *

Joshua dusts himself off.

JOSHUA

But you do fine without one. I
wanted to use my halos like you do. *

JOTUNN

Three days of living here and
you're already tossing yourself off
the balcony. Your mother would -- *

The horn of an airship blares outside. It's surrounded by a BLACK SPIRIT swarm.

A hologram of the CHANCELLOR, 35, wearing all grey, appears.

CHANCELLOR

Attention, Yang family. Your powers
are required for our new arcane
enhancement experiment.

The Chancellor snaps his fingers. Black spirits swarm around the castle. They gnaw at the castle's outer structure.

CHANCELLOR (CONT'D)
You'd best comply, or else.

JOSHUA
Hey, screw off! Go inside, Dad. I
can handle this.

Joshua grabs his staff. He points it at the nearest clump of black spirits and its tip glows blue.

The black spirits shriek and tear away from the castle. More take their place.

JOTUNN
There are too many! Get back
inside!

INT. CASTLE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Joshua and Jotunn rush in. Joshua hits a button on the wall.

EXT. CASTLE - DAY

A shield envelops the castle.

INT. CASTLE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Joshua sighs. Jotunn grabs a mug off a table and drinks.

JOTUNN
That should hold them off for a
while. For now, we prepare.

JOSHUA
Prepare for what?

JOTUNN
To face the Chancellor. He will
soon break through our defenses and
force us out of hiding.

JOSHUA
And we're gonna just sit here until
he does?

JOTUNN
No. I will call for reinforcements
from the Guardians.

JOSHUA

We can't wait that long! Who knows what that guy'll do to us if we let those spirits capture us.

Through the window, cracks form on the shield.

JOTUNN

The knights never fail to do their job. We must wait for them.

JOSHUA

But --

JOTUNN

No buts! This is the only way!

JOSHUA

Fine.

Joshua folds his arms.

The shield breaks.

Black spirits pour into the castle's living room.

Joshua points his staff at the black spirits. It shoots a fireball that blasts the black spirits away.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Screw this. I'm going to stop the Chancellor myself.

Joshua heads toward the window.

JOTUNN

Child, get back here this instant!

JOSHUA

I can't hear you!

Joshua waves his staff at the window. The staff glows and the window opens. Joshua jumps out.

EXT. CASTLE - DAY

Joshua rides his staff toward the airship.

Dark clouds form over the airship. The Chancellor's hologram reappears.

CHANCELLOR

This experiment will make your magic stronger. Why resist this?

JOSHUA

My mother is sick because of you.

CHANCELLOR

The procedure will be quick. I just need you to cooperate!

JOSHUA

Why should I trust you?

CHANCELLOR

I'm the one with her powers.

Lightning flashes around the airship.

JOSHUA

You can't just strong-arm me into doing what you want. Either give me her powers back, or I'm coming after you.

Joshua gazes at the castle.

Jotunn watches from the balcony. He shakes his head.

Joshua ignores him and turns to the Chancellor.

CHANCELLOR

I'm warning you, Joshua. Don't do something you'll regret.

JOSHUA

Too late.

Joshua flies toward the airship. He aims the staff at a hatch and blasts it open with a fireball. He enters.

INT. CHANCELLOR'S AIRSHIP - LAB - DAY

An array of glowing purple tubes protrude from the walls. Scattered monitors display runes.

The Chancellor sits in a chair. Purple plugs connect to his back. The nerves in his skin visibly pulse purple.

JOSHUA

Ugh, what happened to you?

CHANCELLOR

Don't rush in and ruin the surprise, Joshua. That can very well get you killed.

JOSHUA

Absorbing my mother's powers? Why?

CHANCELLOR

If I'm being honest, it was out of spite. Your mother betrayed me by destroying my research. I'm simply doing Karma's work.

JOSHUA

Liar. She always has a good reason for doing things.

CHANCELLOR

Oh, really? Can you justify the destruction of divine knowledge?

He snaps his fingers. The monitors switch to camera feeds of documents and arcane equipment lit up in flames.

JOSHUA

This was never about the experiment. You just want revenge.

CHANCELLOR

I was this close to unlocking the secrets of life, but she disagreed and said it had to be kept hidden.

The Chancellor stands up, clenching his fists.

CHANCELLOR (CONT'D)

This is justice, Joshua. I'll continue my research without her.

The Chancellor pulls the plugs from his back. Purple liquid leaks onto the floor. He drops the plugs, then opens his hand.

Five BLACK SNAKES seep from his fingertips and bare their fangs. The black snakes lash out at Joshua.

Joshua holds up his staff and backs up.

One of the black snakes snatches the staff with its mouth, then snaps it in half. Sparks fly from its innards.

JOSHUA

My staff! That's the second one my
dad gave me!

CHANCELLOR

Your father would've made a great
assistant if he wasn't so stubborn.
I'm sure you understand that.

Halos form around Joshua's wrists. He hovers above the black
snakes, but struggles to stay afloat. The halos fade and
disappear, Joshua falls.

CHANCELLOR (CONT'D)

Fall.

Right before Joshua is attacked by the black snakes, a rope
of light is thrown in his direction.

He catches the rope of light and is reeled toward a floating
SUIT OF ARMOR made of light. Instead of legs, its lower torso
emits smoke to keep it afloat.

Beside it is Jotunn, whose wrists are aglow with halos.

JOSHUA

Dad?

JOTUNN

Where is your staff?

JOSHUA

I, uh, lost it.

Jotunn sighs.

JOTUNN

We'll talk about this later. Watch
your back!

The black snakes hiss. They launch themselves at Joshua, but
the suit of armor blocks them with its body.

The suit of armor unsheathes a sword and cleaves the black
snakes away from itself.

JOSHUA

Try and cut their heads off! I'll
set it on fire!

Halos appear around Joshua's wrists. With great effort, he
forms a wick of fire in his hands. Joshua grunts as he
maintains it.

The black snakes charge at Joshua, but the suit of armor cuts one of their heads off with an upward swing. The black snakes writhe in pain.

The suit of armor raises its sword for a downward cleave, but the black snakes snap at it.

The four remaining heads wrap themselves around the suit of armor. They squeeze it until the suit of armor implodes. It vanishes in a puff of smoke.

The black snakes assault Jotunn, but he blocks them by creating a shield. The black snakes thrash against it.

Joshua puts his all into forming a fireball. He yells as he throws it at the black snakes.

JOTUNN

Son, wait!

The fireball explodes, vaporizing the shield and burning Jotunn's arms. He falls to the floor and rolls toward a wall to put out the flame. Smoke engulfs his arms.

The black snakes writhe and thrash about until they're reduced to ash.

JOSHUA

Dad!

Joshua rushes to Jotunn and helps him up.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry, I didn't mean to --

Jotunn grunts. He folds his arms and shoves Joshua aside. He faces the Chancellor.

JOTUNN

Chancellor!

CHANCELLOR

Jotunn.

JOTUNN

Answer for your crimes. This has gone for long enough.

The Chancellor breaks into laughter.

CHANCELLOR

Crimes? I've done no such thing. You on the other hand should worry about yourselves.

Amidst the ashes of the black snakes, a single black snake emerges. It jumps out and bites Jotunn's neck. Purple fluid seeps into his neck.

Jotunn screams.

Joshua rushes to Jotunn and conjures a knife of light with one hand. He cuts the black snake's head off, its tail falls to the floor.

The dying black snake releases Jotunn's neck and falls, leaving a purple bite mark.

JOSHUA

We gotta get you out of here.

CHANCELLOR

Yes, leave.

The Chancellor sits back down and taps a button on his chair. Double doors open behind him, revealing a cockpit. A small stack of documents sits on the counter.

CHANCELLOR (CONT'D)

You think I'd actually return her powers after all that?

The Chancellor's chair recedes toward the cockpit.

CHANCELLOR (CONT'D)

What I've done here should pass for now. I have research to rebuild.

JOTUNN

He is going to escape!

Jotunn lunges at the Chancellor, but collapses. He coughs.

Joshua lifts Jotunn up and supports him.

The Chancellor presses a button on his chair, forcibly closing the double doors.

EXT. CHANCELLOR'S AIRSHIP - DAY

The cockpit disconnects from the body of the airship. Rockets unfold and push it forward as it flies away.

INT. CHANCELLOR'S AIRSHIP - LAB - DAY

Jotunn curses under his breath.

JOTUNN

We were this close to capturing
him.

Jotunn groans. The purple coloration spreads across and down
his neck. He slumps, but Joshua supports him back up.

JOSHUA

This is my fault. I got you hurt
and now you might lose your powers.

Jotunn raises a reddish hand and forms a halo on his wrist.
It fades away.

JOTUNN

This will pass. It has to.

JOSHUA

Let's get you home first. Okay?

Jotunn nods.