*A.N: this is the first of potentially three stories, a large freaking thing of a story, well large in my terms. There really isn’t much to say, but there are some warnings, Anxt, violence, slight femslash, not much just because I can’t right that stuff, rape and death. This is going to be ugly and stems eight numbered chapters, two interludes and an epilogue. This is “Starlight’s Warriors” here is some background This story takes ideas of the powers of good and positive emotion and gives them power over the powers of evil and darkness, but good and light have their own problems to deal with, so light can be dimmed too, just in a different way.*

*Chapter one: Foreshadowed by prophecy*

“I think I’m going to be sick!” Skyler took one look up at the sound of her sisters flat emotionless voice and rolled her eyes,

“Keyra, you don’t look green around the gills, you are standing in front of me, you are not emitting any heat and your hair isn’t sparking, therefore, you are not sick, or going to be sick.”

Keyra sighed and whipped her hair away from her face. Sighing she sat down on the soft white couch next to her older sister and groaned, “This is easy for you to say, you’ve done this already, I haven’t. I thought you said I was allowed to be nervous.”

Skyler chuckled, “You are allowed to be nervous, but come on, you know Ryo, he’ll be here any minute with your mentor, and you want to look presentable don’t you. You know someone who is a starlight warrior, but you don’t know what it is like to be a starlight warrior. It’s not all you make it out to be. Well alright it is, but many others will tell you otherwise. Now, come on now little starling and let’s get you set.”

Keyra and Skyler were sisters who were as close as sisters can be. Skyler was the elder with Keyra being the younger. Skyler had short black hair with brown eyes and a very muscular body most often covered by a crimson top, blue jeans and a white cloak held together with a golden star clasp. Keyra had long red hair, amethyst eyes and a thin lanky body. She was just starting to fill out in all of the right places and therefore didn’t look right in anything she wore, so she most often wore a black silk top, black jeans, black sneakers with little silver studs in them and a silver star chocker around her neck. Neither of them knew about their roots, but they really never paid that much attention, stars were created by someone, not born, but there were some who were, but they were never as powerful. There were Stars and then there were the Starlight warriors. Stars could use the powers of the light, but they had to take a certain star form to use them, then there were the handful who could become warriors, who were vastly more powerful, had a wider range of abilities and who could use the powers of the light in human form and shape it to their will.

Skyler sighed as she heard a knock on the door. She saw the tall wispy haired man leaning against it but didn’t see anyone else. She walked over to the door and opened it and pulled her mentor and lover into the house. Ryo was a tall man with white wispy hair. She peered around his shoulder, and groaned.

“They want Zeiry to be her mentor, fine, but lover, what the fuck did she drink this morning, a gallon of coffee?”

“Well Sky, that’s exactly what she did. Despite all appearances, even mentors of new warriors can get nervous too.”

“But a gallon of coffee!! She’s going to drive Keyra up the wall, but then again, maybe not.”

While Skyler was talking to Ryo, Zeiry made her way over to the younger girl leaning against the wall.

“So, you’re the little sister I’ve heard so much about, you’ll do, you’ll do quite well..”

“I’ll do? What do you mean I’ll do, do for what?”

Zeiry backtracked, “Sorry, I get away from myself sometimes, My name is Zeiry, I was the one chosen to be your mentor as a starlight warrior. And I can tell that you are going to do great things.”

Zeiry quickly shut up after that last comment because Skyler sent her a quick slashing look. Keyra wanted to know why, but she knew better than to ask.

Keyra did the polite thing and knowing that it was probably pointless, introduced herself which made the older woman smile slightly.

“Let’s just say that I already knew that and move on to more important things. Like, getting to know you, you getting to know me, me starting your training as soon as I possibly can, and bonding you to me.”

Keyra was a bit impressed that Zeiry can say all of that in one breath, and looked over at her sister, “What did she have for breakfast this morning, a pound of sugar?”

Ryo looked at her and laughed, “No, but she acts like it, it was actually a gallon of coffee.”

Skyler and Ryo exited the house to go do whatever it is that they do and Zeiry sprawled out on the couch while Keyra sat sideways in the recliner chair. Keyra took a moment to look at the person who was going to be bonded to her for the rest of her life, however long that was going to be. Zeiry had short golden blond hair and eyes that reminded Keyra of a cat, yellow and slit like. It should of looked intimidating, but Keyra found it oddly attractive in a strange sort of way.

“Now Keyra. I take it you know what is supposed to happen right? You might not like me now, but after tonight, that won’t matter. But I am not trying to force you into anything. I want you to know that. I won’t force you unless I ever had no choice to. And even if I did, your sister would probably have my head.”

“What do you mean you would never force me to unless you had no choice?”

“It’s how a mentor disciplines another warrior, a combination of physical and mental rape. And I hope for your sake you never do anything that warrants that kind of punishment.”

“I’ll keep that in mind Zeiry. Now, how do we do this anyway, I mean we still have time, so…”

To answer Keyra’s question, Zeiry moved over to her and pressed her lips to the younger girls. Keyra felt something in her grow progressively warmer and moaned into the rather soft kiss and that was when Zeiry took the chance to slide her tongue into Keyra’s open mouth and her hand somewhere else, somewhere that no one had ever touched on her before.

An hour later as Keyra lay totally spent in Zeiry’s arms, she knew that this was going to be a whole new part of her life, that things would be interesting. In a world where survival depended on your training, she knew that she would survive. But what she didn’t know was for how long she would survive, she had no idea that her life was foreshadowed by a prophecy, and that no one would tell her, the only one who knew what it said was her sister, and Skyler couldn’t tell her little sister, not yet. But she did have to say something, and soon.

Chapter two: rashness and impulsiveness.

“Wakey wakey Keyra, we’ve got a lot of work to do today!!”

Keyra rolled over in her bed, she was comfy, and didn’t want to move, last night was heavenly, and she didn’t want to let go of the feeling of zeiry’s hands on her, Zeiry inside her, surrounding her, bonding her. She knew that if she got up she was going to be in a fair bit of pain, but she kind of didn’t think of that little fact as she snuggled against the hand poking her in the head.

“mrumph,” she mumbled while pulling the pillow over her head.

Suddenly she was flying through the air. She instinctively moved so she would land on her feet and managed to catch herself.

“First lesson little Keyra, always be aware of your surroundings, as soon as your body clock says it’s time to get up, it should be like that. Constant awareness, constant defense, constantly ready to attack on a split second notice. Now let’s go get something to eat.”

Keyra followed the too cheery Zeiry out of the room and couldn’t help but wonder why she was so perky. Meeting up with an equally cheery Ryo and an equally grumpy Skyler just made her laugh slightly. She had never seen her sister look grumpy in the morning, but then again she guessed that Sky had always been up with the sun, but that didn’t mean she liked it.

“not funny Keyra. And you shouldn’t laugh, you’ll be up this early from now on too.”

Keyra just continued to laugh at her older sister. She knew that Skyler was right, but she just couldn’t help but laugh.

It was a few hours later that Keyra found herself in the middle of a grassy field but she had no idea how she got there.

“Alright Keyr, this is going to be easy. Starblades aren’t that hard to form, but they are hard in the fact that you can’t be feeling any emotion while forming them. If you want it to be caring or anything else, you need to blank your mind, and let your instincts make it what they will. In a fight or any other time you cannot, and I repeat cannot show emotion, emotion makes someone weak, and in this world, weakness can get you killed.”

“weakness and almost anything else that I do, rash, impulsiveness, stubbornness. What can I show, I can’t be a cold hearted detached bitch Zeiry, I just can’t.”

Keyra glared up at her mentor because right after her outburst she found herself on the ground.

“This training might be harsh but you can handle it, now shut up and stand up and let me see what you can do.”

Keyra stood up, did her best to wipe her mind and let a small ball of energy form in her hand which slowly turned red.

Excellent little starling!”

Keyra smiled and forced her palm out slamming Zeiry in the stomach knocking her back.

Skyler watched the two from a clump of trees and really didn’t like what she saw. She knew that Zeiry was just doing what she needed to do, but Keyra could not hide her emotions, Skyler knew that all too well. She had tried it herself and it didn’t work, it made things for her while using her powers, harder, but then she remembered that the more Keyra hardened herself the easier it would be for her to put power behind her attacks when her emotions were showing. This was something everyone knew needed to be done, but just how much longer could she wait to tell her sister, how long could she wait to tell her best friend that she was fated to die.

“You don’t like watching her do you, but then tell me Sky, why do you watch,”

Skyler turned to see Ryo sitting next to her.

“Zeiry is trying to turn Keyra into something she’s not, I know it needs to be done, but it’s my sister, I can’t let her close herself off, you remember how hard it was for me, it’s going to be harder for her, but everyone knows it needs to be done, but the question is, once I do tell her, what will she say, what will she do, will she even do what needs to be done?”

Ryo sighed and placed an arm around the older woman’s shoulder, “if truth be told lover, I don’t like it either. I’ll have a word with Zeiry about this. you just keep Keyra grounded, she’s going to need you.”

The two leapt off the tree as Zeiry and Keyra came over. Keyra leapt over to her sister who pulled her into a hug. Ryo noticed the look on Zeiry’s face and pulled her a good distance away so they could have their talk.

“Skyler?”

Keyra sounded nervous and Skyler sighed

“What’s up angel,” using the nickname she called her when she was still very young.

“Why do I have to hide my emotions all the time, you don’t, ryo doesn’t and it looks like Zeiry doesn’t, so why me, why do I get the feeling that I’m somehow different from everyone else?”

Keyra, you are different, but I can’t tell you right now, but when I do tell you and it will be soon, please don’t hate me for it. And you don’t have to hide, at least, not from those closest to you.”

Keyra and Skyler headed back to the house where Sky put a hand on the younger woman’s shoulder, “I want to show you something, well a few things. The first is how to break the control of a mentor if things get too tough, to allow yourself some small amount of control over your life when you feel like you have none, do note that this is only to be used in an emergency only.”

Keyra watched as an aura of silver glowed around her sister before she vanished. Then she heard Skyler’s voice next to her ear, “This turns you invisible to everyone, but they can still feel you, I’ve only used this once, and that is not a story I’m going to get into right now.”

Keyra sighed, mustered everything she could and tried to match the feeling of her sister’s power, how the energy was working around her and finally felt herself there, but couldn’t see herself. Moving into the kitchen and turning visible again the two began to cook lunch for when Zeiry and Ryo returned, both knowing that a step had been taken, but there were still a few more steps to go before secrets were revealed

Chapter three: As close as close can be

“I still don’t see why you need to go so hard on her Zer, I know what she has to do, you know what she has to do, Ryo knows what she has to do, but, and this might sound selfish, but why can’t we let her live a little bit. She is not just a weapon, not to me, and I don’t think she is to you either, or Ryo.”

Zeiry and Skyler were sitting on the roof while Ryo was down with Keyra, doing, they didn’t know what, but the two women needed to talk, warrior to warrior, sister to mentor.

“I know I’m hard on her, but I’ve been pulling that back in the past two weeks. I don’t want this to hang over her head, and I just hope that no one pushes her, because, then where will we all be. Skyler, I wish I could say that we had years with her as a warrior, doing the simple things, but we don’t, I put it at a month at most. Trust me, she does mean something to me, I love this girl, thank you very much, and it’s not just the mentor warrior relationship love I mean, I truly do, and Ryo, he sees her as a little sister. I just don’t know how things are going to play out. Once she does die, well, and if she does come back, nothing will change, even if she finds another, I will always consider her a friend.”

“Do you know something?”

“No, well yes, it’s just a feeling, not now, but many many many years down the road, something is going to happen, and, she might hate us, we might hate her, but, the hate will ease, and we will be, if not the best of friends, at least allies.” Skyler looked at Zeiry, and sighed, “I wish it didn’t have to be this way, I really do, but there is nothing for it.”

The two heard a boom and then saw something that looked like fireworks shoot out of the windows,

“Just what have the two of them gotten up to. Somehow I don’t want to know.”

Skyler dove into the house and saw a giant piece of paper with random colors on it.

“Lover!!! What the fuck did you do!!!”

A few minutes before that outburst, Keyra was sitting on her bed when Ryo walked in.

“Hey starling, up for learning something, mostly for fun?”

“Sure.”

“I heard from sky that you used to like to sing, so I told her I’d teach you voice magic.”

The two were standing in a room where nothing was breakable, incase the magic got out of control. Ryo showed Keyra some typical voice warm ups and did them himself.

“Now, just watch this, don’t watch me physically, watch the energy flows.”

A clear tone resonated from the man and Keyra turned to watch the energy, it seemed to dive, spiral and swirl as his voice changed pitch and intanation, and volume. She felt her emotions change depending on what his voice did. That was the point of voice magic, to make the person feel what you wanted them to feel, just by the power of song and your voice alone. That was how mentors sometimes calmed their charges, and trained them as well, to work through those emotions.

Smiling once he was done, Ryo looked at the younger girl, “Now you give it a shot.”

Ryo leaned back and watched as Keyra took a deep breath and let her voice fill the room they were in. The older man smiled as he felt the energy from his friend, and yes he did consider the girl a friend, not just his lover’s little sister. He did care for her, like he knew the others did.

The two smiled and clapped their hands once and a bevy of small sparkes flew around the room and up the chimney and onto the paper that Ryo had sitting on the table.

It didn’t take them long to hear Sky screech, “Lover, just what did the two of you do!!”

Gulping the two moved out into the kitchen to see Skyler and Zeiry glaring at both of them, but they still had amused glints in their eyes. Sighing, the two singers explained and they all settled down for a late night snack, or two, or three, to them, it didn’t matter. They just enjoyed the feel of their partner beside them.

Keyra was out in a field with sky who was asleep, ryo and zeiry were cooking lunch and so she had decided to take a short walk. Leaning over a stone wall she caught a glimps of a woman with long black hair, black eyes and pail skin,

“Looks like she’s a few quarts low on blood,” She felt a hand on her shoulder that gave it a violent shake,

“Come on,”

She and Zeiry turned back, Keyra not able to get the woman’s features out of her head.

“Who was that Love?”

“That, angel was the ‘Dark Lady, also known as Zephoris, she’s not someone you want to cross, not now, or ever.”

Keyra looked and shuttered as Zeiry pulled her into her arms and rubbed her neck.

“Zeiry, you know what that will do to me,”

“Oh yes, I do know, It’s been too long Keyra, too long.” Zeiry’s voice had a low husky throaty tone to it that made the younger girl feel like she was going to turn to jelly.

Laying Keyra down on the grass, not caring, because, Zeiry knew that no one else could see them she slid off Keyra’s shirt and pants, smiling down at the naked goddess beneath her, her hair mussed,her eyes glassy, her body gleaming with sweat and need and Zeiry couldn’t take it any more, she dove in for a long, deep kiss, bringing her charge over the edge, hard and fast, the way she knew they both liked it. There was still time, and they would all make the best of it and use it for every second it was worth.

Chapter four: All the star’s a battlefield

She was finally out and allowed to have some fun. The wind wipped through her hair making it fan out behind her like a crimson flag in the sunlight. Keyra now knew what Skyler meant when she said that the thrill of flying can take away all your problems and she was loving it. Diving around poofy clouds she heard Zeiry trying to catch up to her, but at the moment she didn’t care, she was too carefree, even if only for a little while.

“OY, starling, slow down,”

Keyra heard the laugh in her mentor’s voice and doubled back to give her a light punch in the arm. Zeiry dove for her but Keyra danced out of the way. The two started flying after each other and Keyra pulled ahead, trying to see how fast she could go. Zeiry let her fly, knowing that Keyra needed this, she had been training hard in the past few weeks, and was doing marvelously. She could still sense her, so she knew her charge was alright.

Turning back to Skyler and Ryo she smiled before her body arched and she dove to the ground, her face pale and her entire body feeling like it was on fire. She knew that she was only feeling what Keyra was feeling, she saw the girl laying on the ground, but it would take her and the others a few minutes to reach her.

Keyra groaned and looked up. She didn’t even see the ball of shadow energy flying towards her, but she did hear the girl laughing not that far away.

“Little Keyra, can’t even defend yourself from a loan shadow ball. And you call yourself a warrior. Pathetic little weak girl.”

She knew who the girl was, she had been on her nerves for the past as long as she could remember. Mara and her had never gotten along but to laugh at her when she was down, that just stung more than a nest of fire ants. Standing up and dusting herself off she turned away, not wanting to deal with the bitch at the current moment. She was in too much pain to. Way too much pain. She could work through it, she had to, so she started walking away, back towards the forest of trees that she liked to think in. That was until she felt another pain go through her body and two star blades landing on either side of her. She didn’t know what she was just hit by, but she didn’t care. She heard Zeiry’s voice in her head telling her to wait, but she ignored it, Mara had almost killed her, and they all knew it.

Zeiry stopped short and called for Dion, Mara’s mentor before calling to Keyra, “Don’t do anything, just wait, I saw what happened, and I felt it, Do, not, do, anything, Dion and I are on our way.”

She just hoped for Keyra’s sake she listened, there was no law against murder in self defense, but, in a situation like this, it would be really bad. A tall dark skinned man landed next to her and sighed.

“I seriously don’t know what Mara has done but if it’s got you looking like you want to kill, I shutter to think of what your charge is feeling, let’s go.”

Zeiry hated dealing with him, she really did. She saw Skyler and Ryo behind her and the four ran off to the two fighting warriors.

Keyra felt high, the endorphins corcing through her body made it easy to ignore the pain and the shaking, the two girls had this fight coming for a while, and mara was doing her best to kill her. She wasn’t going to just stand there, forming a fist, she slammed it into the back of Mara’s kneck, knocking her out and making her fall to the ground. Suddenly she felt a pair of arms around her and a harsh voice in her ear, “Didn’t I tell you to wait, didn’t I, didn’t I!”

Keyra knew that Zeiry was pissed, but if she didn’t know what happened, “I was only defending myself, Mara nearly killed me!!, don’t you see that.”

“What I see, is a dead warrior,” Keyra looked round to see Skyler and ryo and a tall dark man that she assumed was mara’s mentor. None of them looked too thrilled, but the man looked as if he expected it. Picking up the girl he warped away as Skyler grabbed Keyra by the hair and the two warped back to the house.

Zeiry and Ryo stood there, Zeiry breathing hard, and Ryo just watching her.

“Don’t go to hard on her Zer, after all it was only in self defense. That is all I’m going to say, but Keyra is your charge.”

Ryo leapt away to go and make sure that Sky didn’t rip into her sister, too much because he knew that Zeiry would be doing that shortly anyway.

In a far off house, a woman stood, smirking, she couldn’t of planned this any better than if she had actual control of the girl, Mara. Things were falling into place. And now it was time for the final few acts in this game of hers. She smiled and stroked the arm of her chair that looked like the head of some sinewy serpant as ideas formed in her mind.Shadowy figures all chuckled as they heard the evil laughter of their mistress.

“At long last, the prophecy will be forfilled, but not in the way they think, Keyra lang will die by my hand, but first, it is time we have some fun with her. Get ready my children of the night, because in two days, little Keyra and the rest of the warriors will be no more, and we, we shall rise to greatness. Dark will triumph over light, Night will take over day, and the dawn will give way to night never ending!”

Chapter five: Everyone yells at Keyra

“Keyra, you are a fucking idiot!! What in the world made you think you had to go run off and face them without any fucking backup? Are you trying to get yourself killed!! I don’t need my little sister dying on me right now! I just don’t want that. You mean too much to me, to us, to all of us.”

Keyra sighed as Skyler continued to rant. She knew she was stupid and deserved everything she had a hunch was coming her way, and really couldn’t defend herself except with the line of it was self defense.

“Zeiry is waiting for you in your bedroom. My only advice I can give you right now is to just relax and take what she has to do.”

“What she has to do?” then what Zeiry said the first day the two met came back to bite her in the ass and Keyra’s face paled.

“Oh fucking bloody hell no!! and you are going to let her do that to me!! My own sister is going to let my mentor!! Skyler…”

Skyler turned from her sister and vanished with a soft pop.

Keyra knew that she had no choice, but dam it, why now, the only good thing was that this was going to be private at least.

Keyra entered her room and turned to see Zeiry leaning against the wall opposite her

“Shut and lock the door Keyra.”

Keyra turned, and locked the door after making sure it was shut. Before she could turn around to look at her mentor again she felt something press against her and quickly vanish her clothes

Zeiry spun the younger girl around, she didn’t want to be doing this, she knew that killing Mara was in self defense, but Keyra did kind of run off on them and didn’t wait. She didn’t want to have to disiplin her charge, but she had to and that just added to her anger at the entire situation. Pinning the girl to the bed Zeiry pressed a kiss to her neck making Keyra groan.

“Dam it Keyra, you have no idea how pissed I am at you right now, but dam it, you are beautiful.”

Zeiry’s voice took on that seductive tone that made Keyra weak in the knees, but she could feel something else behind it. Her head started to feel like it was being filled with cotton and she felt a strange warm feeling behind her eyes.

“Zeiry, what…?”

“Keyra, shut up, all I can say is that this is going to get worse before it gets better.”

Keyra felt zeiry’s hands moving over her body, and steadily getting lower. Closing her eyes she was flooded with images that both made her body sing and her heart starte to race. Opening them she saw Zeiry staring at her, letting her eyes drift lower Keyra’s face turned a ghostly white, but she really couldn’t be surprised by what she saw. Zeiry was huge, she didn’t notice the first time because she was too caught up in everything, but it still made her a bit queasy, knowing what was about to enter her.

“Oh fuck…” Keyra tried not to scream as Zeiry quickly thrust inside her, not even giving Keyra time to get adjusted, just pounded away at the girl beneath her, all the wile flooding her mind with images of highly arotic and highly painful situations. This was quickly turning from something simple to something very very painfull. Her body was on fire, and she couldn’t help but let a scream rip out of her mouth. Suddenly, everything just stopped, and Skyler was standing in front of her along with Ryo.

“Zeiry, that’s enough.”

Keyra had never heard Ryo sound that angry.

“There is a line between the normal disiplin and out right rape.”

Sky didn’t listen, she just dove and slammed Zeiry against the wall and slugged her in the stomach before moving back over to Keyra and pulling her out of the room and into the bathroom.

Her eyes were glassy as Sky helped her into the bath tub. She let out a low snarl at the sight of all the blood between Keyra’s legs and pushed her back to wash her little sister. She never thought that Zeiry would let her anger at the entire situation drive the disiplin, one or two or three quick thrusts, fine, but not an out right pounding. Keyra didn’t deserve that, and she was right, it was only out of self defense.

“I’m sorry Skyler.”

Skyler turned and looked at her, “No, this time it’s the rest of us who should be saying sorry. Zeiry has a temper, and she lets things get the better of her sometimes. You have nothing to apologize for, and honestly, you were right.”

Keyra climbed out of the tub after a few minutes of soaking while Skyler went to get her some clean clothes. As soon as she was done she entered her room to be engulfed in a bone crushing hug from Zeiry who was in tears.

“Keyra, can you forgive me for this..”

“Of course I can, I understand why you did this, and I deserved it to an extent, so. Zeiry, there is nothing to forgive, we’ve punished ourselves enough for this.”

“The star council wants a word with you Keyra.”

Keyra, Zeiry, Skyler and Ryo entered the chamber of the Star Concil, a group of elder warriors who kept tabs on the younger warriors and mentors. They were out for their own ends, and they setteled disputes between other warriors in a civil and fair way.

“The’Dark Lady has been getting stronger by the day, and has been showing an increased movement with her attacks with in the past few weeks. Long ago, there was a prophecy made fortelling that there is only one person who can defeat the ‘Dark lady’.”

Skyler and Zeiry and Ryo all glared up at the council members but they ignored the three of them, Keyra was wondering why until she heard their next words.

“It is the careful opinion of this council that there is only one person in this room who can deal with the’Dark Lady’. The duty and responsibility falls to Keyra Lang as foretold by prophecy”

Chapter six: Pushing, and pushing, and pushing

“It is the careful opinion of this council that there is only one person in this room who can deal with the’Dark Lady’. The duty and responsibility falls to Keyra Lang as foretold by prophecy”

She didn’t hear any of it, she didn’t hear anything at all. She only saw the blazing gold eyes of her mentor and the sad eyes of her sister. She was nothing but a weapon to these people, but she didn’t want to be. She should of known but she didn’t.

Keyra turned and walked out of the council chamber walking past Ryo who tried to grab her arm. She didn’t want comfort, she didn’t want anyone. She just wanted to be left alone. She should of known, but she didn’t. Why was she getting the training of a warrior early, why was Zeiry being so protective, more so than a mentor should be. And most of all… why was Skyler so worried and distant. Where was the sister she knew before she started her training? What was she afraid of. It wasn’t like she was going to die…

Then something the council said hit her, “Prophecy, What prophecy.” She would have to ask Skyler or Zeiry about it.

Skyler stood a few feet behind her sister, just watching her. She knew what it was like to have the weight of the world on one’s shoulders. Taking a step forward she wrapped Keyra in a fierce hug. The younger girl turned into it and couldn’t help but scream.

“Why me, why me, there are other people who can do this Sky, so why me.”

Skyler sighed. “It is a prophecy. And as you know, prophecies are binding.”

“*one soul, one spirit, one sacrifice. One realization of all the joy before death, The younger of two will do what all others combined cannot.*”

“So I have to kill her. She said that, but, but, I don’t know why.”

“You are stronger than you will ever know Keyra. You are so much more than what you think you are. You are not just a weapon, not to me, not to Zeiry.”

“but I am to everyone else.”

Skyler sighed, for the past few weeks she watched as her sister slowly became less and less the person she knew, and more and more like what everyone made her out to be. And everything she had done didn’t seem to help much. Skyler saw Zeiry slip up onto the roof and sighed. She could probably do what an older sister couldn’t. but she remembered what Zeiry had done to her little sister and she couldn’t help but squeeze Keyra’s shoulder before stepping away and leaping off the roof.

Keyra fell into Zeiry’s arms and buried her face against the older woman’s neck. Zeiry led her over to a low wall and leaned her back against it. Keyra moaned and tried to push her mentor away.

“Keyra, relax, I know you don’t want to think right now, but this will help you feel better. Just relax and feel, and let me do all the work.”

Keyra sighed as she felt Zeiry’s hand slide under her shirt and slowly squeeze one of her breasts. Everything became a blur for the younger girl, Zeiry’s hands moved lower and into the place that makes a woman a woman. Keyra closed her eyes and surrendered everything to her mentor as Zeiry brought Keyra over the edge, long and sweet and slow. There was nothing rough about this time of love making like the last time.

Keyra slumped against the wall and Zeiry leaned over and whispered in her ear, “You get me angry sometimes, but by gods you are so beautiful,” as she placed a light kiss on Keyra’s neck.

Keyra’s eyes snapped open as she heard a scream coming from somewhere farther off.

“Skyler!”

Keyra and Zeiry ran to where Sky was and found her in tears holding a piece of black paper. Keyra froze, fully knowing that something Zephoris did had finally reached home, but she didn’t know if it was her fault or not.

“Ryo, the bitch took Ryo!! She took my lover. I’ve got to go, I’ve got to get him back.”

“Skyler, are you nuts, That’s what the ‘Dark lady wants you to do. You know that if you go it will mean a death sentence for your sister,” Zeiry bent down to get on Skyler’s eye level.

“The council might think her ready, but she isn’t, not yet. She still has some things to learn. And I need your help to show her what’s left.”

“So that’s all the reason for me becoming a starlight warrior, so I can kill Zephoris, that’s it!”

“No, you even if this prophecy wasn’t made by Ladia you would of still been a warrior. It was only made a few months before you were born, we had planned on teaching you for centuries before this was made. It’s just rotten luck that your life has to be cut as short as you want to make it.”

While this conversation was going on, four of Zephoris’ servants slipped up and quickly one clamped a hand over Skyler’s mouth while another knocked her out with a ball of shadow energy and the other two distracted Keyra and Zeiry. Not in the mood for games or any of this Keyra formed a small blade of blue energy in her palm, charged it for a moment and let it fly, slamming into the two shadow warriors making them vanish.

“Skyler!!” Keyra screamed and tried to run off, but was tackled by Zeiry and quickly knocked out.

“I’m sorry Keyra, I have to, for now till we can get the troops together. It won’t be long now, but I wish that it could be different. I wish this was never put on your shoulders.”

Zeiry pulled Keyra into a warp and landed in her house placing the unconscious heartsick girl on her bed. Pulling a mirror out of her pocket she spoke the spell to contact a few select people, the mentors that herself and Ryo were friends with and from there everyone would get mobilized. The final battle was about to begin and destiny would be realized. But first they had to get Skyler and Ryo back.

Chapter seven: I will take from you everything

“What does it matter anymore?”

What did it matter if she died anyway, just as long as her sister was safe, and why the fuck did Zeiry have to knock her out. What was left to learn. She wasn’t overconfident but she was confident that she could do what was expected of her. Keyra slipped out of the top floor of her house and turned invisible to everyone’s eyes, not even Zeiry could find her that way, it was something Skyler had showed her a few weeks before she started her training. She said that there was a system of checks and balances, the mentor could have control, but the warrior needed a way to break that control if they ever needed to. Skyler made her promise that she would never use it unless it was an emergency.

“Well, this constitutes an emergency, consiquences be dammed. It didn’t matter anymore, nothing matters anymore. It’s not like I’m going to live to see the next sunrise anyway.”

Keyra sped off to where she could feel her sister. She knew it must be a trap, but, if she was prophosised to die, then everyone knew that. She would never admit it to anyone, but she was worried shitless about her older sister, the one who was there for her through everything, the one who conforted her after her fierce disciplining by Zeiry. Keyra didn’t want to think about that because that still made her stomach curl up into a led ball. She didn’t think, just kept moving, that was all she could do.

Landing outside a large stone house she took a deep breath before blowing up the front door and striding in to automatically be surrounded by an army of shadows. She didn’t want to fight them, she wanted to save her energy, but she had to get rid of them. Forming a ring of energy around her she pushed it outward and as it went it turned from it’s usual white to a strong red. Keyra didn’t even get a chance to look to see what her attack did, she felt her body go cold, but she was not about to go down so easily. Balling her hand into a fist she slammed it outwards and a ball of silver energy blew a path through the shadow warriors but was impacted and surrounded by a dark aura as Zephoris was standing in the hallway.

“Ahh, little starling, worried about your sister, am I right.”

Keyra just glared up at her as she fell to her kneese with her arms pinned behind her back.

“Not to worry, you will be seeing her soon.”

Zephoris halled the younger girl up with an arm around her neck and carried her into a darkened room before droping her, making her land with a thump.

“Skyler, someone desided to come and find you, and now this is going to be fun, don’t try to escape because it won’t work.”

The ‘Dark Lady’ slammed and locked the door behind her. Keyra quickly stood up and formed a small ball of light in her hand, not too bright, just enough for her to see her sister diving for her.

“Keyra, you stupid, brave, idiot!”

“Look, I know what I have to do, and I wasn’t about to let anything happen, Zeiry knocked me out, but I had to come Sky, I wouldn’t ever live with myself, not that there is much longer for me to live anyway,”

Skyler put her hand under Keyra’s chin and made her meet her eyes, “I wish things were different, you don’t expect to see the sun rise don’t you. Oh Keyra, you are so much more than you will ever know. So, so, so much more.”

Keyra didn’t know what to do right at the moment so she tried to get out the door and felt something like an electrical shock run through her and she dropped to the floor where Skyler knelt next to her, running a hand through her hair.

“They haven’t done anything to you have they Sky,” Keyra asked weakly, determined not to cry, but that was becoming harder the more she tried to hold back, her and sky were alone, so she wasn’t afraid to show emotions, but she didn’t want anyone else who might be watching to see it.

“No they haven’t. and that in itself is not a good sign, now that you’re here, well, I don’t want to think about that thought. They have no reason to keep me or Ryo, they already let him go. I just wish that Zeiry and the others would show up.”

“Are you in that much of a hurry for me to die?”

“No, and I would never want you to die, I was referring to getting out of here. Come here Keyra. You and I both need someone to hold right now.”

Keyra and Skyler clung to each other for what felt like hours before they heard footsteps out in the hall.

“Grab the younger one, make sure she doesn’t fight either of you. I have something planned. She won’t live to see the sun rise,”

“Neither will you if I have anything to do about it,” Skyler snarled as she squeazed keyra’s shoulder and just looked at her for the brief second it took for this look Keyra was quickly bound and pinned to the wall by two armed shadow warriors. Skyler formed a blade of pink energy and hurled it at the door hoping for a cheap shot on the ‘Dark Lady. The blade was brushed aside as Zephoris walked into the room.

She had done away with her typical outfit, opting for a leather jacket and leather pants with odd things hanging from them. Keyra realized what they were a split second before her sister. She tried to get away from the two holding her and snarled.

“Keep your darkling paws off of my sister! I swear I’ll kill you if you do anything to hurt her!”

“Ahhh, little Keyra, I will take from you everything that you love until there is nothing and no one left to fight for. Then I’ll make you the last and watch all your friends die.”

“Dam it you fucking bitch, you won’t do this to her!” Skyler was tossed to the ground dazed as Zephoris leaned over her and whispered, “I know what the council wants from her, and she won’t be able to do it,”

Skyler growled as she felt the lady’s cold breath on her ear. It happened too fast for either of the sisters to comprehend Sky was quickly stripped and Zephoris was running her hands over her body, leaving bloody trails in their wake. Skyler didn’t say anything, she just layed there and took it, she wouldn’t give the bitch anything else to use against her or her sister. But dam it, it hurt, she couldn’t help but think of what Ryo would think of her now. Doing something with another women was something that she couldn’t deal with. She was more for males, but still.

Looking up she met Zephoris’ gaze as she was leaning over her. She couldn’t do anything as her tongue slid snake like into her mouth, making it so she couldn’t scream, but she didn’t have too, Keyra did it for her, flinging Zephoris into the wall and vaporizing the warriors holding her. Skyler stood up and whipped herself off as two gold clad figures entered the room, Ryo ran over to her and pulled her into his arms where she just cried.

“That’s it, this ends now. With everything I am I will kill her, there is nothing left for it, if I’m faited to die, then I’m giving it all that I can. I may not last to see the sunrise, but believe me, there is no more of a glorious way to die but for that in which you believe. All the stars a battlefield. This ends now.

Chapter eight: All the joy before death

“That’s it, this ends now. With everything I am I will kill her, there is nothing left for it, if I’m faited to die, then I’m giving it all that I can. I may not last to see the sunrise, but believe me, there is no more of a glorious way to die but for that in which you believe. All the stars a battlefield, this ends now.”

Keyra could be seen by everyone who was there surrounded in a strong golden light. She turned to her sister and her mentor and her brother and sighed. She knew the time had come, but it was still hard, she didn’t want to say good bye, so she just said

“I love you guys,”

Skyler grabbed for her but it was too late, Keyra had already flown straight up to meet Zephoris in mid air.

“Little Keyra, you actually think you can destroy me,”

Keyra didn’t say anything to Zephoris, just formed a ball of energy and hurled it at her. Her aura emerged, the soft golden color with flecks of green, blue, pink peach and white. Zephoris’ was the pure dark of night with dark flecks of something unrecognizable. Their powers clashed time and time again, Keyra’s powers building up to something she had never felt before. It was entoxicating, but scary at the same time, she knew what it ment and she also knew what she had to do.

While her Friends and family were fighting the shadow warriors down below she concentrated everything that she was and all that she could be into one enormous sphere of energy.

“Carosai!”

The nova blast flew from her and surrounded Zephoris who screamed as a large portion of her power was ripped away from her and vaporized.

Keyra landed on the ground and fell to her knees gasping as she felt her powers leave her. There was one more thing she had to do and she had just enough of her power left to do it. Taking on a soft iridescent glow she prepared her final death blow. She didn’t die on anyone’s terms but her own. Reabsorbing the power of light and hope she concentrated it into a continuous beam filled with all the love and courage she could muster and let it fly.

Her eyes felt heavy and she blacked out for a moment when she fell to the ground and blinked her eyes open to see Skyler staring at her. Straining her eyes up she saw that they were finally winning, that everyone was fighting their hardest to win. Reaching her hand up she felt Skyler grasp it and squeeze.

“Please my sister, do not let my sacrifice be in vain, promise me that. This is all I ask. I need to know that this is never going to happen again. I love you Skyler, more than I should but I love you.”

Keyra felt the cold nothingness of death closing in but she had to hold on, for a little longer, she had to hold on.

“oh Young Keyra. Your sacrifice will not be in vain. We will destroy her utterly. I just wish it didn’t have to end like this. I promise. You don’t have to be strong anymore. You’ve given us all the hope we could of ever asked for. Let goe little starling, it’s alright now, you can let yourself go. We will find you, someday, we will find you.”

Skyler ran her hand softly through Keyra’s hair and leaned down to place a kiss on her forehead.

It was time now. Keyra knew it. It was time to let go. She finally let the tears fall. It hurt too much to keep them in anymore. “*One soul, one spirit, one sacrifice. One realization of all the joy before death, The younger of two will do what all others combined cannot.*”

The tears fell hot and unbidden, but she let them out. It was all over. Her eyes slowly shut as her heart and breathing slowed and Keyra Lang breathed no more.

With a long cry of “Keyra,” Skyler, Zeiry and Ryo dove into the fray Zephoris would not last the combined force of the three people who loved Keyra for who she was, not for what she was. She was more than a weapon, but they were the only ones who saw that, the only ones who could accept that. Zephoris screamed over and over again while trying to fight, but it was no use. She felt her powers drain and forced them all away with one final blast of shadow energy, she didn’t know how many died, but she would take down keyra’s friends one way or another. The last thing the ‘Dark Lady’ saw was a blade of pure love from the three hit her and she knew no more. At long last Zephoris was finally dead and vaporized.

Landing next to Keyra Zeiry shut the girls eyelids and picked her up. Placing her in the center of a stone circle she began the chant that would be the only way to honor such a sacrifice. Her powers flaired and she was quickly joined by Skyler and Ryo. Flames slowly began to consume the younger woman’s body and it was slowly empowered by other warriors, other mentors who had all realized too little too late what they had lost. The flames grew higher and brighter and they all thought they saw a flash of something gold flash away into the night sky before the flames were turned to a bright gold and slowly drawn back into the earth. In it’s place was a marble head stone with angel wings on the top of it.

Zeiry knelt down in front of it and let the tears fall as she wrote the inscription for her lover and her friend.

“Kerra lang, ‘n noobel vegter, vriendin, sister en geliefde. Die rialisasie van al die vreugde voor die dood was nie vir jou nie, maar vir almal. Hulle het almal te laat geweet dat jy meer vir almal was dan hulle oit sal weet. Jy het soo baie gehaat om te leer. Ek is life vir jou my life. Ons sal weer ontmoet, ek belowe vir jou.”

Zeiry stepped back and then ran as fast as she could away from everyone. They had no clue when Keyra would be reborn, but they knew that she would someday.

Inscription Translated into Afrikaans by louise du Plessis, the actual English translation is:

“Keyra lang, a noble fighter, friend, sister and lover. The realization of all the joy before death was not for you, but for everyone else. They all knew too little too late that you were so much more than anyone will ever know. You had so much more to learn. I love you my love. We will meet again, I promise you that.”

Epilogue: in memory of…

A loan headstone sat overlooking a small run down house. A woman stood gazing down at the words inscribed on it’s weather worn surface, “Keyra, you brave stupid idiot. I promised and we all delivered. Your sacrifice was not in vain no matter what other people may say. I just wish you could be here to see what has happened in the past million years. Zeiry is dead, she committed suicide, even though everyone knows you will come back… someday. Ryo and me are married, as you knew we would. You were like that, you always new. But dam it Keyra, why, why did you never tell me, why did you never tell me you loved me before that last night. I wouldn’t of run, we were as close as sisters could possibly be, and then even closer. But dam it, you were brilliant, perhaps too brilliant, but you never knew that your life was foreshadowed by prophecy, but you still knew you were fated to die. You let them push you, the council is no more, Zeiry, Ryo and me took care of that, so if you ever come back, they won’t push you around anymore. I want my sister back, Keyra, I know you’re out there somewhere, and I’m determined to find you, I will find you. I don’t know what life will be like for either of us, but I promise I’ll find you again, some day.”

She leaned down and placed a kiss on the top of the tombstone and felt the wind brush past her hair, She didn’t know if it was true, but she thought she heard her sisters voice repeating the words, “Navu, Shadow, and dragon” over and over again. She had a place, a name and a species, now she just had to find Navu.