

Chapter 9

I growled and stepped forward, holding my staff out, ready to blast him.

"Where's Catori?" I demanded. I was more angry than scared.

"Oh, your little spitfire? Let's just say my dear friend is taking care of her." I turned to the others.

"Friend?" The winged figure appeared, the skinwalker...

"She's all done, Pitch. Shall I bring her out?" Pitch and the skinwalker made eye contact before turning to all of us. The skinwalker snapped her fingers, and a smaller figure was pushed out into the open by black sand.

My heart fell into my stomach when I saw her... Catori.

"CATORI!" I shouted. I felt driven by something within me to save her. I needed to get her out of there. But then, the skinwalker lifted up Catori's limp head, who appeared to wake up upon her head being moved, and I saw her eyes, those weren't the same eyes. A beautiful sunshine yellow; they pure fire. Pure anger. A type of anger in her eyes I had never seen before, and it terrified me.

"Catori!" The Guardians yelled from behind me. Eshe, Heath and Akilina got into defensive stances and threw their powers all at once together in Pitch's direction, but without warning, a wall of scorching heat rose up from the ground.

Catori's fire. It was hotter than ever before. But when I looked closer, I saw hints of black in it. This was a different fire...

"Jack!" North cried, grabbing me by the hood, "We need to get out of here!"

A portal to the Pole appeared and all of us leaped through it, closing just before Catori's fire got through.

As we all settled down and processed what'd happened, I got lost in my thoughts. What on earth did Pitch and the skinwalker want with Catori? What did she have that they wanted? So many questions and not enough answers.

Meanwhile, Heath was losing his mind, he'd never been inside the Pole before, Eshe and Akilina rolled their eyes, they were like his older sisters in a weird way.

I joined them instead of North and the others. I never really got to know Eshe, Heath, and Akilina before, so I decided now would be a good time.

"How do you guys know Catori so well? How did you meet her?" Akilina smiled so lightly.

"I met her almost right after she was Reborn. She was timid, and didn't understand what was going on. I don't think she understood what she was dead for a while. Poor thing..."

"The three of us have been sticking by each other's sides since Heath was Reborn. We kinda became a dysfunctional group of siblings. Akilina introduced us to Catori a while later." Eshe jumped in. She had her thick black hair tied up into a bun with a vine.

"We always thought of her as our little sister," Akilina said.

"She's a delight to be around." Heath laughed, "Whenever she got annoyed at me, she'd make it really hot around me while Eshe and Lina were perfectly fine."

"That's because you've always been a nuisance," Eshe said, lightly socking him in the shoulder.

I drowned out their voices, thinking about Catori. I had only just started noticing how she made me feel. That lively spark in her eyes... Her personality, I loved all of it, and... I loved her. And I had to get her back. I had to save her.

I suddenly felt that it was my responsibility to save her from Pitch and the skinwalker. If I didn't I wouldn't forgive myself.

[Continue reading next part](#) 