

Silver Light Angel

Elemental Angels the Novel

Volume 1

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Chapter 1

Mortals, angels, and demons exist as the balance of the universe. Without darkness, there would be no light, such as shadows define the features of the light one sees. If light and darkness were to disappear, the mortals would also cease to exist. Mortals uniquely have the ability to choose either light or darkness to rule their lives. Though some straddle the fence, others choose immediately to follow the ways of the angels and guardians, or the demons and hellions that came before them. Still others receive no right to choose and descend into a lifestyle utterly void of the other way of life. All mortals have a guardian, whether an elemengel or hellion. The guardians thrive to protect their mortal no matter how innocent or sinful. The Dionne System has never seen such a struggle between the celestial beings and the twelve clans. The hellions greatly upset the balance. Perhaps a change is just a matter of time.



“Venus! Venus!” A tall, lean, but muscular man stood from his table searching for his now invisible daughter. “Where can that girl be?”



“I wouldn’t worry about it, Jupiter.” A slender young woman ran her hands through her chin length hair. “Venus is like a stray puppy, she will return when she’s hungry.”

“I guess you’re right.” Jupiter sat back down after adjusting the parasol to block more sun. “It sure is hot out here. Halo, are you sure you don’t want to eat inside?”

“No, I’m not use to being outside on a nice day. I rather enjoy it. Besides, we better not move so Venus can come straight back here.”

“I just don’t know where that girl could be.” Jupiter glanced about then back at Halo. “There are so many people out to murder me, they might take her hostage. I don’t know what I’d do if Mihos—”

“Please, don’t mention him unless you have to.” Halo poked her finger into her cup of tea. “You know better than anyone how hard Venus can punch. So please, can we get to business?”

From around the corner, Venus crouched and observed them as they chatted away. Her frown grew deeper every time they laughed. “I wish mom was still here, she would show him a thing or two about flirting with another lady.” She fiddled with her braid hanging over her shoulder, and ran her fingers along the bumps. She turned her back on them and began her daily stroll downtown. She enjoyed people watching, especially when people talked of their problems. She waited on the other side of a phone pole, eavesdropping on a young girl. She had the whitest skin Venus had ever seen. No one could be whiter. Two hair buns bound her long blue hair; her yellow eyes matched the sun.

“You wouldn’t believe it Phoenix, he said no. . . No to me! Can you believe that?” the young girl said to her tall friend.

“I tried to tell you Io, all boys are no good,” Phoenix said.

“Yeah, I ought to kill him, and make him an example to other boys.”



“Wait now, you might end up on a wanted list yourself. You can take your frustration out on our next bounty!” Phoenix patted her little friend, Io, on the back and began walking her down the sidewalk when she noticed Venus crouched next to the pole. Phoenix could not help, but smile down at pretty Venus with her pointed ears. Phoenix smiled and Venus smiled back revealing her large canines. “Come on Io, hop on we gotta get going,” Phoenix said and bent down for her little friend to jump on her back. They ran down the street together laughing the whole way.

“That was close,” Venus said as she stood up. “Those two were real bounty hunters. That’s so cool!” She bounded down the street grateful to have overheard such an interesting conversation. Venus kicked a rock down the sidewalk, hardly paying attention to the passing people coming down the sidewalk. Two boys chatted near old tin trashcan in an alley. *Hey, one of those kids looks just like me.* When he glanced over his shoulder, she ducked and rolled behind another trashcan. She crashed into it and lied still on the concrete ground.

“What was that?” his friend asked.

“Nothing, Dawn, you know how big the rats get here,” the boy said.

“Yeah,” Dawn said and slicked up his hair. “So Helios, why is Mihos acting so strange lately?”

Mihos? Venus was certain she had heard her father say that name before.

“He’s acting happy,” Helios said, “which I guess is a strange look for him. He thinks he has a foolproof plan for killing him. Not even you can get in the way, Dawn.”

“Hey! So, what is this big plan? It’s not going to be at the meeting in the park, is it?”

“Yeah, but it’s just a trick. Tonight in the central park, at around eleven pm or so, he’s going to send a hit man to kill Jupiter.”

Venus’s heart sunk in her chest. *Could it be daddy?*



“That’s all I’ve overheard him say,” Helios boy said. “I bet the real plan is more elaborate for the other leaders. You see, he wants to sit by and watch Jupiter die slowly.”

Venus took a deep breath trying to prevent tears from rushing out. The longhaired boy turned around sharply to see if anyone watched. She moved out of view as they walked out of the alley. She darted out, holding back her emotions as best she could.

Up the street, her father pecked Halo on the cheek, before he helped her into the limo. “Are you sure you don’t need a ride handsome?”

“No, no,” Jupiter said and scratched his upper lip, “Venus doesn’t like seeing us together. That’s probably why she ran off. Good night.”

“Night,” Halo said before rolling up her tinted windows.

Jupiter smiled and waved as she drove off. Venus came sprinting up. She collapsed forward, using the support of her thin legs to keep her standing. “Venus it’s great to see you’ve returned.” Venus sniffled and wiped her arm along her face. “Ah, honey, I told you not to wipe your nose with your arm.” He pulled her arm from her face then stuffed a tissue paper in her fist. He placed her jacket around her shoulders. “Don’t run around without your coat. What did you do, play in a trash can? You must’ve had fun today?”

She nodded, calming down as he took her hand and lead her down the sidewalk. “I helped the old lady feed the pigeons, and, and I saw a blind nun collecting donations... I saw... oh, a rabbit! It was so cute... and then I saw two bounty hunters. They were girls, but you know how they start them out young. Oh, and a boy that kind of looked like you!”

“What?”

“Or maybe it was me that the boy looked like. . . I can’t tell. Oh, and something else. . . uh well.”

“Yeah Venny?”

“Can we go to church tonight? I’ve heard it’s a lot of fun!”



“Are you kidding?” He lifted her by the waist and up onto his hip. “No one has church on a Friday night, unless you’re a ‘blind nun’. Besides church is never fun.”

“Then let’s stay up late and watch a movie, since there is no school tomorrow.”

Jupiter wrinkled his nose in playful confusion. “Um, Venny, you don’t go to school; I never enrolled you. What’s with you?”

“I want to stay up late and hang out with you pops!”

“Pops? Venny, I’m not sure wants going on, but I can’t play tonight, I have an important meeting.”

“Who has meetings at eleven o’clock at night?”

Jupiter paused in the walkway. “How did you know what time my meeting’s at?”

“Um. . . um. . . educated guess?” He paused for a moment to think and then busted out laughing. Jupiter’s powerful laughter thundered through the neighborhood until they finally reached their apartment building.

On one of the wealthiest blocks in the city, in the biggest apartment room of the smallest building there, lived Venus and her father. Their home rested on the top floor. From the roof—their own private getaway—they could view the entire city. He carried Venus up to her room, fixing her diner as she changed into her nightclothes. They watched a couple of shows together, before her bedtime. Although she resisted his authority and even tried the, “If mom was here...” excuse, he still flung her over his shoulder and dumped her in her room. She banged and kicked on the door, as he locked it from the outside.

“If you break the door, you have to pay for it; that means no allowance for a long time.” With one final pound, she stopped beating on the door and sprawled herself along her bed. “That’s better, now you go to sleep before I get back home.”



She sat on her bed and began to cry. “Daddy,” she said. “You might not be coming back home!” She cried out suddenly. She waited a few minutes before moving towards the door. “Daddy? Did you hear me?” She jumped up, catching glimpses of an empty hallway through her peephole. “Dag, he’s gone!” By pressing her ear against the door, she could hear him a rustling around. She dressed, leaped out the window, and slid down the garbage shoot. She crept out of the alley once her father passed, waddling behind him all the way to the park. *East Central Park, just where they said he would go. Well, here it goes.* From the safety of a tree, she watched over her father. She could see a good portion of the park from where she sat, ready for action. Jupiter hesitated then saw a figure standing in the shadows with a heavy coat on.

“So, I thought you wouldn’t show up,” Jupiter said. He dropped his suitcase in the path and popped his knuckles after it landed. “How are we going to settle this? By fighting? Or compromise like two gentlemen?” He waited for a reply. “Huh? What’s it going to be?”

Venus could hear agitation in his voice, as he breathed puffs of smoke from his breath. Her stomach grumbled and gurgled with anticipation. The sound of footsteps scurrying in the distance caught her ear. With a deep breath and a gulp, she forced herself to turn around, and her eyes met with a man speeding toward Jupiter. “Daddy, watch out!” she said. Silver light poured from her body and caught her father’s attention. At the last second, Jupiter spun around as the blade grazed his rib cage. Jupiter reversed the knife in the man’s hands, flinging him to the ground. Blood oozed from the wound Jupiter inflicted on the man, staining the ground beneath him.

A deep rumbling cackle from the man in the coat broke the silence.

“What?” Jupiter asked the man. “You sent him to kill me, and then laugh at his death?” Jupiter ran up to the shadowy figure, and smacked him so hard its head flew off its neck. “This is some robot. That freak; he’s not even here.” He picked up the robot’s head, noticing black eyes focusing on his face. “You idiot,



if you want to start something try doing it yourself!” He crushed the head in his hands then dumped it on the ground. “Piece of sh—”

“Daddy!” Venus said while running up to her father.

“Venus, I thought I heard you.” Venus stood over the body, holding both her gloves in one hand as she felt the man’s cheek. The man’s eyes stared into space and his deep black hair mangled across his pain-filled face. “Baby, don’t touch him!” Jupiter said and pulled her away. He rested her on his hip.

“He’s probably sorry now; we should forgive him. He’s going to be all right, right daddy? He’s just a little cold... we should get him some blankets and—”

“Venus.”

“Or call an ambulance. Wow, I’ve never seen a cut let out so much red, at least when I get a cut it doesn’t. Why is there so much of it?”

He set her on the ground and stared into her eyes. “Well, you see—”

“I think I understand,” she said. He brought her close to his face, breathing warm air down her neck. “Daddy, what am I going to do when you go cold?” Jupiter burst into tears, gripping her closer to him.

Chapter 2

Many days had passed since the incident. The situation caused Venus to question her whole view of her father. Who was her father, really? What does he do for a living? Who was this Mihos and why would he want to assassinate Jupiter? How could her father's hands that brought so much love also bring death? She carried on and smiled at him as if nothing mattered, but Jupiter could see she did not understand him as well as she thought she had. One damp morning when the light could barely break through the heavy clouds, Venus lay in her bed with the covers over her head.

“Rise and shine, sleepy butt!” Jupiter barged through the door, throwing her equipment on the lump she caused on the bed.

“Ouch!”

“Well, you should get back to training. I've allowed you ample time to rest. You'll get fat if you stop training now!”

“You did not give me apple time, liar!”



“Ha-ha, AM-PLE time not apple time.” Jupiter rolled his eyes. “Alright, you give me no choice. I’ll just have to dress you like I did back when you were a baby.”

“No way! That’s why I have this lump on my head.” Venus sprung from the bed and gathered clothes to put on. Jupiter laughed then left her to dress on her own.

On the rooftop was an odd juxtaposition. Jupiter remodeled half of it to look like training grounds, then to the furthest corner on the roof laid a magnificent garden. He waited on the dirt path wrapping his arms in gear. Venus darted up the fire escape, with a teapot balanced on her head; she used it to water the flowers, examining over each patch of color. “Mommy, I wish you could see them now.” She laughed to herself. She sat in front of Jupiter, rushing to place all her equipment on. She hopped up from the ground ready for action. “I’m ready!”

Jupiter ambled up in front of her. He removed the hand guards from her knees, the kneepads from her neck, the headgear from her bottom, and her footpads from her shoulders down to her bare feet. “You’re really not with me today, are you Venny?”

“Yeah. . . I mean no,” she said and looked away. When she looked back, his arm flew through the air striking her in her headgear. “Ow, what was that for?”

“It’s called training. You never take your eyes off the opponent; you should know that by now!”

“Yea, but you didn’t tell me we started.”

“I’ve always made it my policy to start once each person is equipped... properly.” Venus pouted, while rubbing her head. “Maybe there’s something else we can do instead. Here we go.” He grabbed two fencing swords. “You want to become a blade master like your mother, don’t you?” She nodded. “You want the family sword passed down to you, right?” She nodded again nearly



shaking her head off. “Then this is something you should still enjoy.” The sword plopped down into Venus’s lap, with no effort to catch it.

“Why? So you can kill me too?”

“What was that supposed to mean?” Jupiter asked. Venus burst into tears jumping over the edge onto the fire escape. She scurried down to her room with Jupiter in hot pursuit. He went in the opposite direction into the house and down the stairs. “Venny,” he knocked on her door. “Can I come in?”

“No.”

“Is there something we need to talk about?”

“No.”

“Thought so.” He unlocked the door with his key, slipped through the door and sat down next to the lump on the bed. He drew the cover down, but she smacked his hand away and pulled them back over her head. “Come on Venny, we need to talk.”

“I hate that nickname!”

“How about Nussy?” She pulled the cover down to glare up at him. “Okay, *Venus*, how’s that? Can we talk now?” She stretched her big silver eyes up at him. “That’s better.”

“I’m waiting!”

“Oh yes. I would like to admit what happened that night in the park is the usual in my line of work. You don’t have to worry, I’m not a murderer.”

“Then what was it that you did?”

“Well, that man wasn’t exactly a mortal. He was created by some madman; it was some sort of zombie assassin thing.” She shivered and pulled the cover over her head. “Just don’t worry about it.”

“But why would he send a jack-assassin after you?” she mumbled from beneath the comforter.



“Um. . .” Jupiter cleared his throat to keep from laughing. “I work as a . . . uh. . . businessman for the. . . uh, not so nice people. . . and uh. . . try to keep them in line. You could say I am the—”

“Gang leader, mastermind, crime lord, the kingpin!”

“Yes! No. . . well, yeah actually. But, you have to keep it a secret.” The lump in the bed sheets caved in. “Venus, Venus!” He felt around on the covers, until he heard a light giggling. He leaped off the bed, reaching underneath and began tickling her.

“Alright, alright, I’ll keep it a secret.” She removed his fingers from her stomach, and rolled out. “If I stay quiet what’s in it for me?”

“Let’s see here.” He thought rising up to one elbow. “I could take you on the safe meetings.”

Venus frowned, placing a thumb to her chin. “I don’t know.”

“You get to meet other ‘kingpins’,” he said and wiggled his eyebrows.

“Woo-hoo!” She screamed throwing herself on him. He stood up tossing her on his back, and began parading around the house.

“From now on it’s just you and me baby!”



Chapter 3

Jupiter pulled Venus from the cab, paid the driver then waddled her up the stoop of a duplex. “Alright, Venus, here’s your first meeting.” Jupiter rang the doorbell, twice, before they could hear it unlatching from the other side. A lanky, washed out blond, with a dazzling face met them in the doorway. His voice, though slightly deeper than a female’s, had a gentle steady flow to it.

“Ah man, Jupster, what’s up?”

“Not much, Alloy, other than I almost got killed a couple of nights ago.”

“Ah yeah, I heard about that.” Alloy patted his shoulder with a heavy hand then averted his gaze down. “Who’s the cute girl you got there?”

“She’s the one who saved me—my daughter, Venus.” He smiled down at her.

“Come on, man, sit down make yourself at home.” Alloy led them over into the living room. “Your daughter can go play with my bro, Trixy, while we talk, I guess.”

“How is he?”

Alloy leaned in Jupiter’s ear. “I’m sort of afraid to let them play together, you know.”

“Ha-ha, is he still having those ‘visions?’”

“Yeah, and it’s worse; they talk to him. Dude, I’m, like, afraid for your daughter.”

“She’ll be fine.” Venus watched them with a wrinkled eyebrow and two fists propped up on her hips. Jupiter leaned down to her. “This is Alloy ‘kingpin’ of the Rho clan; I represent the Lambda clan, alright. This is the boring part where we talk business; you go play with his little brother, while we talk alright?” He turned



her around and sent her on her way. She skipped to the hall and waved. Once he turned around, she ducked behind the wall. “Alright, so let’s get to business.”

“Yeah, so what... or who are you going after right now?”

“Both, for right now. Mihos’s threat is pretty severe, and only God knows what the hellions are doing. For all we know they might be working together.”

“The Mihos seems to be working on some project called. . . um. . . MU I think, but I’m not sure what that means, or what it stands for.”

“I see,” Jupiter said, sat down on a chair, and placed his briefcase on the coffee table.

“Dude, what all’s in there?”

“Plans to sneak into the government base... I’m meeting with Halo and Gypsy later today.”

“Not at your place I hope.”

“Are you kidding? Of course not.”

“Too bad we don’t have someone who’s a spy with the hellions anymore.”

“Oh, but we do, a fine kid named Pluto. He is—”

“Hey!” a voice sounded in Venus’s ear, ending her eavesdropping and causing her to leap into the wall.

“Shush!” She placed her finger to her lips. The boy peeked from around the corner, but Venus snatched him back.

“Whatcha listening to?”

“Just listening to what they were saying,” she said then stood up. “Looks like I’ll get caught as long as you’re around.” She turned to leave, but his face caught her eyes. His skin drastically pale, bled into his platinum blond hair in an uncombed style. The only color came from his eyes like two oceans. “You’re funny looking, but you’re kind of cute.” She pinched his cheek, which he automatically smacked away.

“Me funny looking? At least I don’t look like I bathed in caramel syrup!”

Venus examined her skin. “Caramel, mum, I like caramel.”

“Then why don’t you eat yourself!”

She glared up at him. “I also like marshmallows. That’s what you look like, yeah, with two blue sprinkles for eyes!”

“Whatever, at least I know that only girls can be cute. Boys aren’t cute they’re awesome!”

“First of all I still can’t tell which you are—boy or girl. Second of all, that’s not true. Girls are awesome, and boys are wannabes. . . why do you think they’re so many cross dressers?” She giggled running from the hall. He pursued her, grabbed her long ponytail, and pinned her to the ground with his elbow. “Wow, you’re quick. My dad even has trouble catching me.”

He sat back, folding his arms over his chest. “You’re pretty fast yourself. What’s your name girly?”

“Girly...? If I tell you my name, you have to promise not to call me that again.” He shrugged then nodded. “I’m Venus. . . and he said your name was Trixy—”



“My name is Matrix! Only my brother calls me Trixy. So you better not, now that you know my name!” The conversation died. While they fell silent, Matrix stared the whole time. She tried to look anywhere but at him until finally he broke the awkwardness. “Can I trust you?”

“I don’t know,” she said. “I mean you just met me and—” He grabbed her hand and led her out into the backyard. “Wow, I’ve never seen so much land behind one house before.”

He flopped from his untied shoes, ordering Venus to do the same. They wandered into the garden feeling the cool earth beneath their toes. Venus fantasized about having her own garden pool someday. He waded in and helped her in. His eyes followed her as she sat on the edge, maneuvering her feet around the fish and tadpoles.

“A woman that looks like a mermaid lives in this pool,” he said in one breath.

“What?”

“She does. She comforts me when I’m sad or lonely. She keeps me company when my brother is at work. Do you believe me?”

“How can I doubt you when I’ve never been to this pool before?” Matrix smiled to himself before wading past the lily pads and picking up a small frog. Venus observed her displaced feet in the water. “Have you ever thought that maybe there are others who see beings as well?”

He shook his head. “You’re the only person who has ever believed me.”

“I will investigate this further,” she said and tried to stand. She plunged backward, but a wave of sturdy water caught her. The watery seat stood her back up to an upright position. “Wow, how in the—”

“I don’t know.” He began twirling a drop of water around on his finger. “It started to happen after I met the mermaid.” Venus touched the drop and it twirled reshaping into different forms.

They remained outside together for a while; Venus realized how the boy’s strange appearance went well with his odd personality and ability. He followed her back inside just as Jupiter and Alloy finished their conversation.

“I’m making a couple of more stops this week; I’m meeting with Sumo as well.”

“Cool, well just stop by later; she should be here by then. Which reminds me,” Alloy said and leaned in Jupiter’s ear. “Could you take the munchkin with you? Aysa and him don’t get along.”

“Yeah, yeah, just throw your problems off on the single dad, as if I didn’t have a hand full already.”

“Awesome, if Venus takes up one hand, Matrix should be fine for the other one. I knew you’d understand.”

“Daddy,” Venus said and ran up to him. Jupiter picked her up off the floor. “Let’s get out of here!” she said through her teeth.

“Okay, but I have a surprise.” Venus guessed wrong until he told her. “Matrix is coming with us. Now you’ll have a little playmate on the next meeting as well.” Venus twitched a little, before forcing a smile at Matrix, who grinned from ear to ear.



Jupiter took the kids on a break to the park. They wanted to play hide and seek. Jupiter spent the entire morning chasing after Matrix and trying to find Venus. Matrix hid in obvious places making him no fun to play with. Then they played follow the leader. Every time Matrix thought he lead the way, Venus skittered in front of him making them follow her lead instead. Finally, he sped up enough, to catch her by the shoulder forcing her to lessen her pace. “Slow down, you don’t even know where to go,” Jupiter said as they exited the park.

A group of three women strolled from a store a little ways down the sidewalk. Jupiter clinched his teeth and ducked into the doorway of a nearby restaurant. Noticing Matrix, still standing in the middle of the path, he snatched him by the head. Venus recognized the two of them as the bounty hunters that she saw at the park. Phoenix and Io strolled by with an older woman holding a few shopping bags. *It’s that super tall girl and that white girl.*

“Do you know who they are?” Jupiter whispered.

“Aren’t they bounty hunters?”

“Yeah, the one in the middle, Carmen, is the leader of the Alpha Clan.” The three women stopped at the crosswalk waiting for the light to change. “If they see me, I got to get out of here. Get ready to hit and run.”

They froze, when Phoenix turned in their direction; she reached for a newspaper from a passing boy and tossed him a coin. They both relaxed until they heard her say, “Jupiter.”

“What about him?” Io asked.

“Wasn’t he the one that started that big fight, the other day?” Carmen asked.

“What does she mean ‘started?’” Jupiter whispered and balled up his fist.

“Ha-ha, fight?” Phoenix said. “More like a bounty hunter paradise! Some of the biggest heads were all together in one massive free-for-all!”

“That would have been nice,” Io said, “considering we couldn’t get those twins from the Theta Clan.”

“Humph,” Carmen said. “You two couldn’t catch a bounty if he was sitting right behind you.” Jupiter and Venus exchanged glances with each other. “You better be glad some of the other girls got the smaller catches otherwise we’d be broke.” When the light changed, they all walked across the busy street disappearing into a group of pedestrians.

Venus, Matrix, and Jupiter emerged with laughter. “Ha-ha, Carmen doesn’t know how right she was!” Jupiter said. “I don’t know how many times I’ve had to avoid them during the day.” He took a backwards promenade to keep them in his sight.

“You should watch where you’re going!” Venus said.



“Oh please, the people behind me can watch where they’re going!” He forced the people coming up the path to do just that. Before Venus could warn him, he toppled into an elderly police officer behind him. “Whoops,” Jupiter said and Venus helped him up. “I’m sorry about that, I—”

“Hello, Jupiter,” the officer said.

“What? Oh no. . . Not you. . . well, if it isn’t old Ocelot,” Jupiter said.

“That’s Sir Ocelot to you, dubbed by the king himself!” he said. His skin was dark pink, and his long dark hair tied back with a bow. Connected to his leg was a little girl, smaller than Venus who only stood a mere three feet tall herself.

I think I’ve seen that girl before.

“What are you doing here?” Jupiter asked Ocelot.

“Don’t interrogate me, you criminal! I should be the one asking you that! I’m just taking a walk with my niece, Aiko here, hoping not to see pest like you out on a nice day like this.”

I don’t get it. I thought everyone liked my daddy.

“I wasn’t looking for trouble today just looking for someone with my daughter—”

“As I can see. You should be looking out for yourself!” Ocelot said puncturing Jupiter’s rib cage with his cane along his wound. He crumpled in pain and Venus held his hand to stop him from hitting Ocelot. Ocelot passed by Jupiter with a smile of vengeance.

“Is that it?” Jupiter asked. “Aren’t you going to arrest me?”

Arrest daddy?

“I have not been able to connect you with any crimes that I know you’ve committed. A citizen committing no crime at time of the arrest avoids incarceration. Unfortunately, for me, I would have to wait for you to commit another crime and catch you in the act, because I blew it last time. Now there’s no evidence.” He strolled along then paused to glare at Jupiter from over his shoulder. “I’ll get you one day, Jupiter, mark my words; and if I don’t, Mihos will. Better me than him, right?” Ocelot smirked at Venus then led his niece, Aiko, along behind him. Aiko kept her eyes on Venus before turning away.

Venus frowned. She could tell by the expression in Jupiter’s solemn face that more than just his side pained him. He stared off into space, her hand dangling in his limp hand. “Daddy.” He met her eyes with a still, shallow look, and then returned a slight grieving smile.

“Let’s head back to the apartment for a moment. I have to pick something up before seeing Gypsy,” he said. He clutched Matrix and Venus’s hands in his. Just before reaching his apartment building, he extracted the key. A shiver came over Jupiter sending an aftershock through his body and causing him to drop the keys.

“What’s wrong, daddy?” Venus asked picking up the keys for him.

“Nothing,” he said and resumed opening the door. “Someone just walked over my grave is all.”

“You already have one dug?” Matrix asked waiting for them to go in first.

“No kiddo, although I probably should. It’s just an expression; I got a cold shiver from something.”



He bent down and cradled Matrix and Venus in his arms. They did not understand why he held them; he held them as if he never wanted to release them. Venus thought she saw a glimmer of a tear from his eye, but it vanished as quickly as the moment.