

Chapter 1 : The Landing



Crash! Like a meteorite, Leandra's soul essence slams in the middle of a vast, blazing desert. Sand and dirt blast high into the air and a giant crater is formed in the ground. In a flash, Leandra's soul essence begins to take solid form once again and Leandra's body becomes fully visible.

Leandra lays on the ground on her side, semi covered in shadow from the edges of the crater she just created. After a few minutes, Leandra slowly awakens, feeling the intense heat from the yellow sun beating above her. She gently rises to her feet, feeling dazed and disoriented. Leandra uses her hands to cover her eyes from the rays of the sun, unable to remember anything. *I don't recognize this place. What is this material on my hands?* Leandra watches as sand sifts through her fingers.



Leandra steps closer into the shadow of the edges of the crater to get herself out of the sun. She holds out her hands in front of her, and looks at the clothing she's wearing. *Who am I? Why can't I remember?* Leandra makes her way out of the large crater and looks down into it as she reaches the top. *Did I make that happen? How am I still alive?* Leandra looks around and sees the desert sands stretching as far as she could see, hardly any plants in sight. Far

off in the distance she sees a thin pillar of smoke billowing from behind a dune. *Maybe there's someone over there.*

Leandra heads towards the smoke, noticing how difficult it is to move quickly in the sinking sand and the extreme heat. After walking over a dune she sees a sign post made of wood. There are signs pointing in multiple directions with writing on them, indicating a fork in the road. Leandra focuses her eyes on the sign post and at first cannot decipher what the strange writing says. After a few moments she sees flashes of images in her mind and hears different voices she's never heard before. She cannot remember when she's had this experience before, but she feels as though this is not the first time. When Leandra looks again at the sign, she realizes that she can now understand what it says.

"Clan." Leandra reads aloud the sign pointing towards the smoke. "Caves." She reads the sign pointing to her left. "Cairo." Leandra reads the sign pointing to her right. She walks for at least an hour to her right thinking that Cairo must be the name of a city. She walks until she makes it to the edge of a cliff. Looking down, she can see that the road continued down hundreds of feet down the steep cliff, but she knows she would probably die if she continued down that pathway.

"Who could go down a pathway like that?" Leandra says to herself with slight annoyance. She feels the incessant heat warming her skin. She takes a moment to feel a strong breeze blowing up from the bottom of the cliff, giving her a slight reprieve from the heat.

Back at the fork in the road, she decides to follow the direction towards the "Clan", where she can see a plume of smoke billowing in the distance. There she finds huge metallic gates covering a large rectangular building complex that appears to be piecemealed together of different types of materials. Two men dressed in hodgepodge outfits made from different substances quickly spot her and wave their hands in the air. Leandra feels cautious but decides to move towards them.



“Over here!” One of the guardsmen yells at Leandra as she moves towards him. “Where’s the shipment?”

“Shipment?” Leandra asks the man. “I think you might have the wrong person.” She still feels cautious speaking with them.

“Well then what are you doing here?” the man asks. He becomes agitated and tells Leandra to leave. Rather than argue with the man, she realizes she should leave and probably isn’t safe there anyway.

Back at the fork in the road, Leandra decides to try the last location labeled, "Caves". Halfway there though, she could hear loud vehicles coming up from behind her over the sand dunes. They roared in front of her and all around her until she's surrounded. A group of men get off their vehicles and begin to harass Leandra for whatever she has. Leandra recognizes one of the men from the Clan where she visited earlier.

"Hey pretty lady, what are you doing way out here?" the guardsman from before asks Leandra. Instead of responding, Leandra remains quiet, looking around herself. "Aw come on lady, you thought you could just stroll up to the Scorcher's base and go tell everyone where we are? We know you don't have any shipments, but what else ya got for us?"

"Please leave me be." Leandra pleads with them.

"Well maybe we could at least add another slave to our ranks." the guardsman tells Leandra. Suddenly, a red hovering vehicle, much larger than the Scorcher's, flies down into the fray. The woman controlling the flying vehicle snaps it back and forth knocking out Scorcher after Scorcher. The woman jumps off the bike and continues to fight them off with a metal pipe.

WACK! The mysterious woman with short maroon hair jumps after the Scorchers knocking them out with her pipe. **BLAST!** The Scorchers fire blasts from their guns, but the woman grabs one of the downed men and lifts him up as a shield from the blasts.

"Here we go!" the woman shouts as she gets closer to the remaining men on their feet. She flings one of their lifeless bodies at one of Scorchers, then throws her metal pipe at the head of the last Scorcher still standing. He falls to the ground with the rest of them, unmoving on the desert sand. More Scorchers come running up from behind a sand dune ready to attack.

At first scared, Leandra feels a huge surge of energy and emotions flow over her. She sees flashes of memories and experiences of fighting before. Her fear dissipates as she poses for battle. She joins the fight, using her fists and feet to fight off the Scorcher's advance. The woman helping Leandra takes off her helmet, and uses it as a weapon, knocking out the Scorchers, one by one. One of the thugs recognizes the woman and yells out, "Mava!"



"Ellis," Mava says to the man while she stops advancing her attack. Leandra senses that they know each other very well. Mava yells as she runs towards Ellis.

Leandra and Mava take turns fighting the man named Ellis with their fists and feet. Mava throws her helmet at Ellis, but he quickly dodges it. Leandra is pushed to the ground by Ellis, but before he can attack again, Mava knees Ellis in the face. Leandra quickly swipes her leg at his ankle causing him to fall to the ground. Seeing that they've been defeated, the Scorchers jump back onto their hover vehicles, then fly away as quickly as they came.

"You Scorchers are worse than sand in my boots!" Mava yells at the men as they fly away. "Get out of here while I give you the chance! And don't think that you can scare me just

because there's more of you than there are me! I know this desert better than the desert vipers! Get out of here!" Mava continues shouting even as the Scorchers are long out of earshot.

The man Ellis that Mava spoke to earlier, limps to his hover bike and muffles under his voice, "We're out of here, but you'll be dead before you know it." Ellis pushes a button on his vehicle turning it on, then he flies away out of sight in the desert.

"That's some pathetic fighting, but at least you didn't get your butt killed." Mava says after realizing the Scorchers are completely out of sight. Leandra is offended by Mava's remark, but more grateful to be alive.

"I don't know how I was able to defend myself." Leandra says. "I stopped thinking and just moved my body." She looks at her hands as though they were more powerful than before and realizes that they can be like weapons. "Thank you for your help. Mava, Is it?"

Mava holds out her hand towards Leandra. Leandra struggles with understanding what Mava is waiting for. She wonders if Mava wants to meet their hands together, so she stretches out her hand to clasp with Mava's. Mava looks at Leandra's empty hand and swipes it away.

"I'm not looking for some lovin'!" Mava shouts. "I'm looking for some payment! Some crystals?" Mava loses the little amount of patience she has. Leandra looks all around her as though looking for something to give to her, but realizes that she has nothing.

"I don't have anything to give you." Leandra says. "I don't even know where I am." Mava crosses her arms and looks at Leandra in disbelief.

"You're probably lying like everyone else who ends up in this crazy desert." Mava says. She forces her way with Leandra, frisking her, looking for something to take. Leandra is upset by Mava's actions, but lets her check anyway, knowing that she has nothing to give. Mava is irritated, realizing that Leandra is telling the truth.

"Well what do ya know?" Mava says. "The one time someone is honest with me, and I end up with the venom up my ass!" Mava doesn't hesitate to show her anger and disappointment in her tone and demeanor. She takes a moment to shake it off, and then walks over to her flying vehicle and gets on.

"Wait!" Leandra shouts, running towards Mava.

"Don't-" Mava says, interrupting Leandra. "-even try to bother me. I'm not your mom, and even if I was, I don't even know what a mom is supposed to do with a helpless child like you."

"But, I'm not asking you to be my mother!" Leandra shouts, but Mava cuts her off before she can continue.

"Well good! I'm glad that's settled!" Mava shouts. She turns on her flying vehicle, drowning out any possible noise that Leandra could make. Before putting on her helmet, Mava shouts, "Don't die!" She veers away from Leandra and drives off into the desert.

Leandra feels puzzled regarding the whole situation. She considers that Mava probably was just trying to take something from her, as the Scorchers were. She lets herself have a moment to think before heading back on her way to the caves.



After a few hours and with the sun constantly beating down on her, Leandra arrives at the entrance of a cave. The only entrance that she sees is blocked and locked by a large wooden door. By this time Leandra feels exhausted and the sun is beginning to set. She finds a small covered cave that is somewhat warm, and a small round mechanical device in a rocky niche. She holds onto it and falls asleep.

Leandra wakes up a few hours later when she hears a few men talking. When she looks she sees that they are dressed in brown robes, entering the cave door that was locked earlier, but is now open. The men in robes don't see her in the niche she's sleeping in. After the men enter the cave, Leandra comes down and follows them. Dehydrated and sunburned, Leandra feels like her strength has left her. *I need to find something...to eat, or drink, now.* Leandra's mind begins to wander.

When Leandra enters through the large wooden door, she notices that the men are gone. She looks around a room filled with different colored crystals and gems that glimmer. It's a circular room with a stone column in the middle. She sees murals on the wall depicting a story of a mystical woman who is decorated in shining crystals and gems. She figures out a pattern in which the stones were to be lit up that matches the sequence of the murals' story. When the gems are lit in a certain sequence Leandra can hear one of the doorways unlock. She heads through the now unlocked door leading further into the cave. She finds a new hallway with different closed doors on both sides.

Leandra looks around and sees what looks like books sitting on shelves all around her. *This is obviously some type of library, but what are these men reading?* She grabs a few of the books and skims through some of the pages. She finds sketches and an illustrated book about the woman in the murals, but she can't recognize the text. In a different room there are beds with lanterns next to them on end tables.

In another room Leandra finds a metal contraption with a lens at one end. She follows the path of the metal piping and notices that it goes through the roof of the cave. She also finds maps of the stars and constellations. She feels a slight sense of *deja vu*. *Why do I feel like I've looked at these sorts of things before?* She looks into the lens of the metal pipe and sees the current night time sky, along with stars scattered about. She maneuvers the device around to a point where it's focused on the brightest star she can find in the sky. When she does this she hears a **click**.

She leaves the room and tries to open the last door she hasn't entered yet. She places her ear against the door and hears people conversing with each other. *Well, here we go.* Leandra pushes the door open and sees the men in robes from earlier. The men all seem startled except for one; he stands up and introduces himself.

"How did you get in here?" says the eldest looking man dressed in a brown robe. "This place is secret and I do not know you. Does anyone else here know this woman?" All The Monks shake their heads.

"I'm Reswet." one of the younger looking men tells Leandra. He too is dressed in a brown robe like the eldest man. Reswet stares at Leandra, intimidated by her beauty.



"I'm sorry for coming in like this, really." Leandra protests and apologizes. She explains how she couldn't remember anything about who or where she is. After some time the men in robes begin to believe her. There are five of them; Race the eldest, Reswet, Wenem, Min, and Akha. They call themselves monks living in the Monk Society. The Monks know by Leandra's strange clothes that she's not from there. They feed her different types of meats and plants

and explain who they are. They tell Leandra that they're a society of people who are hiding from the dark forces and collect wisdom from throughout Earth's history to hopefully one day restore it to peace. Akha brings her to a bedroom.

"We study all of the time, read books, make stuff. Nothing like Cairo." says Akha. Leandra is unsure of what he is talking about.

"What is Cairo?" she asks. Akha is startled by the question. Race tells the boy to leave and so he leaves Leandra to sleep and says he'll return in the morning.

Leandra thinks to herself for hours. *Where am I? Who am I? Should I trust these people?* Before she knows it she falls asleep. In her dreams a character visits her and speaks to her. This person is all light, no details of her body are visible. All Leandra can remember herself saying is, "Remember", then she wakes up saying her own name, "Leandra." Leandra can hear the clamor of people moving about and talking in the other cave rooms. She gets out of bed and bumps into Min.

"Breakfast is in there." He points to the last room, with a sign above the doorway which says, "Convening room". Leandra goes into the room and joins them for breakfast. They all enjoy conversation and laugh over some jokes about their daily tasks. They also joke over guessing who she is, and Leandra tells them what she thinks her name is, Leandra.

"She's a dream princess!" jokes Wenem.

"No, a fairy elf mistress from Gornelf!" says Min. Leandra joins in with the laughter. The jokes are new to her and very unfamiliar but she feels comfortable with these men. Reswet continues staring at Leandra while keeping very quiet.

"Is there a reason you keep staring at me?" asks Leandra.

Reswet smiles and says, "I'm not staring, I'm just thinking."

"About me?" Leandra asks.

"Maybe." Reswet says and turns his face to look away from Leandra. Leandra leaves it at that and smiles back at him.

Race moves her away to the back door which leads to a staircase. He wants Leandra to follow him to their village. He assumes she must be from Cairo, the largest city near them. He warns Leandra that it is dangerous to get there from their village.

"I want to remember somehow, can you help me?" Leandra asks. Race informs her of a very old woman that many call The Oracle who was last seen in Cairo. He explains that The Oracle might be able to help her.

Leandra and Race walk together to the heart of The Monk village. So many monks about, male and female, not all in robes as the first group of monks that she met. There are structures of all sorts made from wood and other types of plants. Leandra meets different types of people who all have unique stories on how they ended up at The Monk village and how grateful they are. Some used to be part of a gang called the Scorchers. Other people tell Leandra they used to be part of a group called the Coilers. While other people tell Leandra that they used to be citizens of Cairo or stragglers traveling the desert to be free from the dark agents controlling the major cities.

Race takes Leandra to a place he calls the main hall. Here they allocate her a backpack and a note for The Oracle that Leandra can give to her when they meet. They also give her a map of Cairo, pinpointing The Oracle's location in what is called the "Broadcasting District".

Leandra takes a gulp of bravery and inquires into how she's supposed to get to Cairo. Race lets her know they have a boat that could take her down the Nile to the sewer entries of Cairo. Leandra feels unsure about her upcoming journey but assumes she could figure it out.

Leandra explores The Monk village before trekking out. She meets many helpful people and learns some great skills like apothecary, how to mix items into potions that could aid her on her journey. She finally agrees to go down The Nile on the ship Race had mentioned earlier, trusting her new friends.

Down The Nile she meets a roadblock, branches and rocks in a narrow part of the riverway. She breaks her way through the first batch of twigs and branches, but eventually overturns, losing the ship, the letter for The Oracle and her map.

Leandra swims ashore easily as she's not far from the edge of the water. She looks around for a while but finds no one in the hot desert sun. The next thing she knows she sees a hoverbike come up the river. Leandra recognizes right away that it's Mava, the woman who saved her earlier from The Scorchers.

"Hey, it's you!" Mava shouts, sounding oddly welcoming to Leandra.

"Long time no see." Leandra replies. "Maybe you could help me again?"

"Need a lift?" Mava asks.

They exchange words but eventually Mava agrees to take Leandra to the city of Cairo. They ride on Mava's hoverbike to the Broadcasting District, which is the only thing she can remember from what she lost in the river. Luckily, Mava says she had planned on heading over there anyway. As they fly to the city, Leandra looks down and marvels at how the city is mostly submerged in water. The people in gigantic buildings that emerge out of the water, and even have additional buildings built on top of them. They arrive around 6pm at night, the sun still not set.



Leandra lets Mava know that she doesn't really know where to start searching for The Oracle. Mava suggests the bar nearby where they can ask people there about The Oracle. Leandra feels an aching feeling as she enters the first bar with Mava. She sees people that resemble

the Scorchers that she ran into in the desert. Mava whispers something to the bartender and Leandra is unable to hear her.

"You stay here, I'll be right back." Mava says. She walks towards a room in the back of the bar, then she turns towards Leandra. "I mean it, this place is dangerous."

Leandra feels a spring of fear and adrenaline. The bartender hands her a drink and says, "On me." He looks away and wipes a dish with a towel.

Leandra looks at the drink for a few seconds, then gets up from her seat, "I need to um, you know." Leandra says then pauses.

"Wet the bush?" the bartender asks. Confused, Leandra stops and stares at the bartender for a moment. He points down towards his crotch indicating something. *Please tell me he means what I think he means.* Leandra decides to play along and see where it goes.

"Yes!" Leandra says. "Where is it?" The bartender points towards the entrance.

"Many thanks!" Leandra says. She slowly moves out of the bar then runs for the exit and leaves.

Down the street Leandra explores nearby buildings, but can't find the woman who's named The Oracle. Some people Leandra ask have heard of The Oracle, but no one has a clean trail. Leandra passes by what looks like a storage building, previously blocked by a truck, and hears a clamor behind the doors. She makes her way in and watches from a safe place upstairs, able to hear the conversation. There are three men who look similar to Scorchers, two small and one larger one that looks monstrous and cat-like. An old woman sits in a chair while tied up and blindfolded.

"You either succumb willingly or die here today!" the Large cat-like character says.

"Giving into Chaos will bestow upon them my ability of foresight." the old woman speaks. "Here's a prediction for you..." The old woman's face looks up as if looking at Leandra. "The Pharaoh's and Queen's reign will soon end!"

"Bah!" shouts the large looking thug. "Leave her be, she obviously can't predict the future."

"But the Pharaoh says he wanted her alive and transformed." one of the smaller thugs says.

The larger thug smacks the smaller looking one on the back. "I know that! Come on men!" The three thugs leave the room. Leandra climbs her way down through the open window to

the old woman.

"You're here!" says the old woman.

"Shh!" Leandra shushes the old woman as she whispers. "What do you mean you're here? Were you expecting someone?"

"My child..." the old woman begins saying. "I am The Oracle. I knew you would find me here, that's why I let them capture me."

Leandra stands up and looks at The Oracle and says, "I figured you were the Oracle. You knew I'd find you here? You're really putting her life at risk assuming I'd find you. What if I didn't show up?" *She's really confident in herself.* Leandra walks and attempts to free The Oracle from her binds.

"Leave me!" the Oracle says.

"But-" Leandra attempts to start her sentence before being interrupted.

"Trust me, leave now!" the Oracle says increasing her volume. "Through the door behind you! Hurry!" Leandra thinks for a second, but trusts the woman and dashes out the door, out of the building. She ends up behind the building next to a huge metal tower.

Back at the bar, Mava enters a barely lit room. A shadowy woman with long dark braided hair and a small black hat, sits cross legged on a chair. She looks up at Mava waiting for what she has to say.

"She's here." Mava says.

"Good." The shadowy woman speaks slowly.

"I'll retrieve her." Mava says to reassure the woman. The woman turns her head away from Mava and no longer speaks to her.

When Mava leaves the room and returns to the bar, she notices that Leandra is gone. "What!" Mava shouts questioning the bartender. "I don't know what this woman will do to me if I don't find her." S

"Well you know what to do then." the bartender says.

"Damn." Mava says under her breath. She storms out of the bar looking for Leandra.

Leandra finds a wooden plank under the tower but it's screwed shut. "That woman told me to go this way for some reason." Leandra says. She finds a toolbox in the area and tries to use a device labeled electromagnetic. Using the device allows Leandra to unhinge the plank easily. She lifts it to find a spiral stairwell that leads deep, deep down to where she can't see anymore.

Leandra goes down further and further into the hole. There are some bats fluttering about until she makes it to a tunnel that echoes sounds of water moving and dripping. It is large enough for her to get in, so she does.



She lands in a sewer that shoots her very, very deep and far. She swims her way up to the side and climbs out. She looks around and marvels at the construction of the huge sewer system. Leandra notices that the water gushing out all seems clean.

"How do I get out of here?" Leandra asks herself.

Leandra is wet and cold but keeps on moving through the wet corridors. There are doors that lead nowhere and some that lead to unknown tools and items. In one room she finds a man who introduces himself as Widd. He's a willowy, thin man who wears glasses and a lab coat. Leandra notices that his clothes are very dirty.

"Oh you startled me, who are you?" Leandra asks. She introduces herself and they converse. Widd explains that he and his friends are hiding from the Cairo rulership. He describes how he used to be a mechanic for the Pharaoh's army but now lives in the sewers. He lets Leandra know he found a way to grow food and filter the water to make it drinkable.

"Can you help me out of here?" Leandra asks.

"Hmm, that's tricky, but I can lead you to the outer city that leads to the desert." Widd explains.

"Alright let's go." Leandra says.

They travel the sewers and Widd gives Leandra insight on where to go and where not to in the area. He also uses a green balm type of medicine on her wounds and Leandra notices how quickly she begins to heal. She also notices a boost to her energy. They continue to walk until they make it to a dead end.

"That's strange, my map shows a way out of here behind this wall." Widd says. A group of six people approach them from behind. Leandra notices that they appear extremely dirty and have a strange dark glow around them. *This is not good.*

"Come on Widd!" Leandra shouts. She grabs Widd and dives into the waterway leading to the other side of the wall. The group of people follow them and jump into the water. When Leandra and Widd emerge from the canal they find a way to seal the waterway before the group of six could reach them.

"Come on Widd!" Leandra yells.

"Great survival skills!" Widd compliments Leandra.

Before they make it to the next room though a tall mean looking man bursts from the airway above them. He wields a huge metallic staff. He says nothing but tries to attack them with the staff, swiping left and right. Widd and Leandra fight the man off even though he seems very strong. They entice him to follow them into the next hallway then release the water to flood him over and run upstairs. Widd points to the manhole above them.

"This leads to the outer city." Widd says in a hurried voice.

"Come on Widd!" Leandra reaches out to him with her hand.

"I can't! This is the safest place for me." Widd tells Leandra.

"You consider this safe?" Leandra asks, bewildered.

"I know, I know." Widd replies. He waves at Leandra as he walks away. "Good luck Leandra!"

Widd takes off and Leandra climbs up to exit from the manhole. She sees the desert not too far ahead, just beyond some ruined buildings. Behind her she can see the towering city of Cairo that she had just left. Mava rolls up in front of her in her hover bike as if she was waiting for Leandra.

"Mava!" Leandra shouts. Mava crosses her arms.

"You'll never make it back before nightfall, and at night, the desert is a death trap." Mava says. Leandra doesn't know how to react.

"How did you find me?" Leandra asks.

"Hmmm, well I live just over there. I guess it is lucky you happen to be here just as I am coming home." Mava replies. Leandra peers at the building, a huge twelve story apartment complex, looking half destroyed. She looks up and sees that the sun is almost completely set.

"Come on Leandra, you can stay at my place." Mava says reassuring her. Leandra is hesitant but follows her. Mava asks about The Oracle, but Leandra keeps her lips sealed, diverting the conversation.

There is almost no talking before they go to bed. Inside Mava's apartment is a bed, a kitchen, everything spaced out and the windows are huge open spaces of wall. Mava pushes some buttons on the wall and it seems to trigger an electric force field around the room.

"I can take you back to The Monks tomorrow, if you want." Mava says.

Leandra, not trusting a word Mava says replies, "Alright."

They go to their separate rooms, Leandra sleeps on the bed in the living room. A few hours later, she wakes up to the sound of marching feet outside. She notices that the sun is just beginning to rise. She looks outside to see a child playing in a courtyard. She goes looking around the room and finds some useful items including some books. She sees the panel Mava activated earlier. She hears a whispering voice in her head, "Careful." Leandra removes the power cells from the panel and she sees the force field deactivate.

She leaves through the front door, goes downstairs and eventually to the courtyard. She thinks of going into the desert but she has no idea which way to go. She finds the child she heard earlier out in the courtyard. The child doesn't speak, but prances around. Leandra follows the kid around to another building. Here Leandra meets some of the Outer City residents and gets a better idea of what is going on in the Cairo area and the world. One person reveals to her the way back to the caves, following the stars. Leandra decides to leave, but again, Mava is waiting for her, this time with a gun in her hand.

"What is that?" Leandra asks.

"Ha! You really must be from another world!" Mava replies.

"What?" Leandra says with anger.

"If I pull this trigger, you'll be scorched and fried, now I'm sure you don't want that to happen." Mava says.

"What do you want?" Leandra asks.

"Go to bed and stay there." Mava commands.

Leandra follows and doesn't say a word. In the apartment she sees Mava do something to the force field panel. Leandra falls asleep again and so does Mava in her own room. She wakes up again to footsteps and notices that it is daylight. When she looks outside she sees the thug she saw earlier with The Oracle. He is accompanied again with his two smaller thugs.

Leandra panics. She sees that Mava's room is open and she is gone. The thugs are headed towards the apartment. She can't leave out of the front door as she did before because there is some kind of code lock. She finds that Mava's bed lifts and there is a secret staircase that leads downward. She goes inside and puts the bed back down to cover her tracks.



Atop Mava's apartment building, she sits on the roof watching the thugs approach. "Dabu..." Mava whispers to herself.

Leandra follows the path back into a sewer. She makes her way again through unfamiliar rooms and locks. She finds useful items though, like wrenches and clothing. She makes it to one hallway where she sees the six people from before in the sewers minus the guy that washed away. They see her and begin to run after her. A guy wearing a hard hat, wielding a wrench, and a woman in tattered clothes wielding a crowbar come from behind her. They knock out two guys, then turn to Leandra.

"Run!" the woman shouts. Leandra contemplates running but then stops.

"No!" Leandra puts up her arms and is ready for battle. Widd comes from behind her too with a weird slingshot weapon.

"You're back!" Widd shouts. They battle the thugs and win the battle. The thugs withdraw into the waterways. Leandra sighs and rests for a moment while Widd heals her wounds with some type of device she has never seen before.

The woman turns to Leandra and asks, "Are you ok?" Leandra notices that her voice is sweet and reassuring.

The man in a hard hat hands her a flashlight saying, "I'm Angel."

"And I'm Rachel." the woman says.

"These were the friends I was talking about." Widd tells Leandra.

Leandra thanks them and they converse for a few moments. They explain to her that these people were tormented by darkness and somehow ended up in the sewers. They don't know exactly how it happens. Leandra is unable to explain who she is, but tells them that she needs to escape.

"Escape?" Angel asks. "This is our home."

"You could stay with us since you're in trouble and all." Rachel tells Leandra. Leandra shakes her head.

"I'm worried." Leandra explains her story to them of what's happened to her since she woke up in the desert, not remembering who she is. She also lets them know about The Monk Village.

"Another city?" Widd asks. "We have never considered that. Is it safe?" Widd makes a perplexing expression.

"I hope so, nothing seems certain here, but I know it's safer than the sewers." Leandra assures them.

"Let's go! I can't live like this anymore either!" Rachel says.

Angel is resistant for a few moments but eventually says, "Alright." Widd finds a map to the sewer ways that lead to the open Nile River, and leads them in that direction.

"Let's go." Leandra says to the group.

They go through more mazes and arrive at an open sewer. "No!" Leandra hears someone screaming above them. There is a staircase that leads to a manhole opening.

"You'll get her, I promise!" the woman shouts. Leandra recognizes it as Mava's voice.

"Please! No!" Mava yells. **Boom!** Leandra hears more ruckus above them.

"Let's go Leandra!" Angel shouts.

"No! I can't just leave her." Leandra says while looking up.

"Who?" Rachel asks.

"Mava, she's in danger." Leandra says as she starts climbing. "I know it has something to do with me."

"Wait for me! You can't do this alone!" Widd yells.

"I'm in." Rachel says, climbing up the ladder.

"You're all crazy!" Angel says as he follows behind.

They make it above land to find Mava's hover bike destroyed and Mava being held by the two thugs. They have guns pointed at her. Mava's gun lies on the ground.

"Leandra!" Mava shouts. The large thug looks at Leandra. "Dabu don't!" Mava yells at Dabu. Dabu starts to reach his hand for Leandra but Rachel jumps in front of her

"Hmm...." Dabu says, pondering. "Hahahaha! Give yourself up now or she gets it!" Dabu points at Mava.

"Why do you want me?!" Leandra yells. "How did you find me?"

"Don't ask me." Dabu replies. "Just do as I say."

Leandra looks at Mava, noticing her looking down at the ground, then says, "No." Leandra feels a powerful sensation within her body.

"Raaarr!!!" Dabu shouts, rearing up for an attack on Leandra.

"Ahhh!" Leandra yells. She holds her hands out as wide as possible. Dabu flies back from a powerful gust of wind summoned by her. "Free her, now!" Leandra yells at the other thugs. They look at Leandra and point their guns at her. They fire their energy weapons at Leandra but the energy blasts absorb into the green aura around her body. A huge funnel of wind surrounds Leandra blowing the remaining thugs away.

"Remember." The voice in Leandra's head returns. Leandra closes her eyes, safe within the wind funnel. She opens her eyes and Leandra notices the aura of light glistening from her body. Rachel, Angel, Widd and Mava look shocked at Leandra along with the thugs. Mava sees her chance and wiggles free to join Leandra and her new friends.

"So you really are special!" Dabu says, rising back to his feet. "You're coming back one way or another."

A battle ensues. Leandra and her new friends along with Mava are able to knock out all of the thugs, including Dabu who falls to the floor. Leandra's colorful green aura around her body dissipates until it disappears.

"What is that?" Widd asks.

"That is awesome!" Says Rachel. "She just blew them away!"

"You saved our butts Leandra." Angel says graciously.

"Thank you guys, but we have no time, you should head to the sewers!" Leandra says. The group all agrees.

"I'll follow shortly." Leandra tells the group. Widd, Rachel and Angel all go back down to the manhole into the sewers. Leandra walks up and approaches Mava.

"What the hell do I do now?" Mava asks angrily.

"Come with me." Leandra tells Mava. "Back to The Monk village. We can escape this place."

"Easy for you to do." Mava replies. "If I join you I'll be sought after just like you. There's no turning back. The Pharaoh's army won't restrain itself."

"We can worry about that when it comes." Leandra says, patting Mava's shoulder. *I know I shouldn't trust this woman, but she seems pretty desperate at this point. She knows her way*

around and can defend herself. Maybe I can use this to my advantage? Mava shakes her head in recognition.

"Don't you hate me?" Mava asks.

"There's no point in that." Leandra tells her. "We can get out of here together and leave all of this behind." Leandra awaits Mava's reply while she looks at her hover bike.

"Damn! It's destroyed!" Mava yells while stomping her foot.

"I know another way back, through the sewers." Leandra says.

"Alright Leandra, let's make them pay for this." Mava says with vigor in her voice. Leandra watches as Mava heads down the manhole with Leandra following. The trio isn't there when they make it to the bottom of the ladder.

"They must have already left." Leandra says in a bewildered voice. Leandra and Mava go down the waterway ending up at a Nile opening. She sees her boat she lost the day before, docked at the river bend.

"Your boat!" Mava exclaims.

"I guess Rachel, Widd and Angel went somewhere else." Leandra says. She looks away and feels saddened that her new friends are nowhere to be found.

"Look down." Mava says.

Leandra looks down and sees some writing in the sand. "Leandra, we made it. We must leave but hopefully we will see each other again. Thank you for running into us - Widd, Rachel and Angel." Leandra looks up towards the sky. *I hope I do see you again.*

"Wow, you've made some friends already." Mava says, as they move towards the ship to escape.