

Junior Division, Prose

Maurizio Barberio, Gander

Eternal Darkness (an excerpt)

"Do you know why the two of you were called here?" the principal questioned, looking at the two students sitting across from him.

"There could be many reasons why he's here" The female with dark brown and green hair answered, "But I don't know why I am."

The white haired male glanced towards the female and sighed, "No sir, we don't."

The principal placed his hands on the desk and pushed himself to stand up, grabbing his cane. "Do you know what this academy stands for?" he questioned.

"It stands for the protection of civilians who can't protect themselves," the boy answered.

"Right you are, Elren," the principal praised. "We train the mightiest and strongest protectors known to man. Anyone with enough practice can be the hero they've always dreamed to be."

"I was gonna say that," the girl huffed, crossing her arms and sinking into the chair.

"A protector's duty is to slay the creatures of Zehyah, the Givail. And lead all civilians to safe keeping. But that is not possible without a team" The principal continued, "The two of you have shown exceptional skill, more than the other students who have graduated. Though you lack teamwork, the most important aspect of being a protector." He explained, walking around them. "Which is why I have called you here. There have been sightings of Givail near Scofield, the two of you are assigned to investigate the area and report back immediately once all are eliminated."

"WHAT?! I HAVE TO WORK WITH HIM?! THAT'S STUPID! I DON'T WANT TO BE ANYWHERE NEAR THE LIKES OF HIM!"

"Sylvina, do not take that tone towards me. The two of you must learn how to cooperate, or your learning at this academia will end."