

UNVEILED

NEXUS WARRIORS



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CHAPTER 1



AMORA

I could feel the rhythm of my heart through my eardrums. Sweat blistered through my skin as I stumbled over my own two feet. I was engulfed by darkness, caged in by damp narrow walls with only one way to go. Forward. I couldn't stop. I had to keep moving, or it was going to catch me. I couldn't see what was chasing me, but I could feel its presence enclosing on me. I could feel its hatred and murderous intent. I knew if I were to stop, even for a second, that I would become submerged by its abhorrence until I was no more.

It felt as if I were running for hours on end with no hope of ever seeing the light, but my body began to slow down until a gleam of hope energized me. "Light," I whispered to myself. I was beginning to lose hope of ever seeing it again. I wanted nothing more than to embrace its warmth as it blanketed my body, protecting me from the darkness.

Distracted by my thoughts of its magnificent glare, I tripped and rolled over to my back, and in seconds, the

shadow-filled figure pounced, locking my arms to the ground.

My heart was pounding so loudly that I could barely hear the soft growl the creature made just inches from my face. I shut my eyes, shaking uncontrollably, trying my best to stay calm. A single tear drifted down my cheek, as I could feel the creature's sharp teeth and soft grumbles inches from my lips. Squeezing my eyes tighter, I prayed to myself, to God or whoever was listening.

"Please. Help. Me," I pleaded softly. In that moment, I could feel all of the darkness, hatred, and loathing that the creature was holding onto seep into my pores, my mouth, and in that instance, I felt an inconceivable amount of power. The power to face my fears and strike down those who would dare stand in my way. I wanted more. My arms relaxed, and I began to embrace this proud new ability, when suddenly, light pierced through my eyelids, replacing the hate and evil that had overtaken me with love and warmth.

Opening my eyes, I was overwhelmed, as they were scorched by the light. They finally adjusted, and I couldn't believe what I was seeing. "Woah," I whispered, as I gawked at the ever growing void of pure illumination and solicitude. I couldn't help but smile and take in as much of the light my skin would allow. I frolicked though the void as the rays from the room clung to my now naked body. But that did not last, as my joviality came to a halt when I heard a soft whisper of my name. "*Amora.*" The whisper came to me again as I peered around and came to a stop when I spotted a little girl.

She had her back to me and was hunched over, face in

her palms. Soft sobs drifted towards me, and on instinct, I made my way towards her.

"Do not go any closer!" My brain kept yelling over and over again, but my body ignored the pleads and continued moving without my consent. It felt like some invisible force pulled me to her. I couldn't help but to feel like those idiotic people in horror movies that always wanted to check out those unexplained noises To only get murdered. I had always told myself that I would never be one of those girls, but yet, here I am, going against all my intentions, walking straight into some kind of trap.

"I'm an idiot," I murmured. Finally, my body stopped in front of the crying little girl. She had long jet-black hair and was covered in what looked like a white nightgown. My eyes widened in shock when I saw her black charcoal-colored veins zigzagging through her arms and the parts of her legs I could see. I tried to back away slowly, but my feet would not move, as if I was still drawn to the child. Like I had some kind of unbreakable connection to her. So, I sucked in a big gulp of air and knelt down beside her.

"Hey, are you okay?" I said, placing a comforting hand on her shoulder. The girl picked her head up from her hands and turned her deep black eyes to me. I gasped and fell back, staring at what looked like a seven-year-old demonic version of myself. Black veins also coursed through her face, and an eerie smile curled cheek to cheek, showcasing a predatorily set of teeth. Shivers went through my spine, as I stared helplessly at what felt faintly similar to the shadow that had chased me through the darkness.

"N-no!" I tried crawling back, but my arms felt like

they were filled with concrete. “I-it can’t be. How are you here? Who are you?”

She said nothing. Just sat there, peering through my eyes. I finally broke away from her wicked gaze only to see her enlarging Freddy Krueger-like claws. Okay, they were more like talons, but the point is, they were scary as hell.

Before I could even blink, she pounced on me, and her jaw unhinged showing rows of shark-like teeth. With my left hand, I held her sharp talon-like nails from penetrating my face as I jammed my forearm into her neck, keeping those razor-sharp teeth from chomping down on me. I struggled, as she kept inching closer to my face. I couldn’t help but to feel all of that self-loathing and wickedness climb its way into me.

“Amora!” the familiar voice called out to me. “Amora! Amora! Wake up!” The voice began to fade as I felt the hatred and darkness seep into my pores. The light around me began to fade, and I started slipping into unconsciousness. “Amora!” The mysterious voice gave one last heart jolting shout.

My body shot up, and my heart was ready to pounce free from my chest. I was sweating profusely. A couple of deep breaths later, and I finally realized I was in my own bed. I recognized the damp, blue, weighted blanket and my neighbor’s disgustingly tan house. I felt a soft hand on my back. Looking up to my right, all I could see was my mom’s crystal blue eyes filled with concern. I calmed my breathing before coming to reality.