STARR JEWEL SAGA

SECRETS OF THE STARR SWORD



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Long before humanity appeared in the universe, at the dawn of time itself, there existed a powerful artifact. It was a star-shaped crystal, forged from the raw cosmic energy that surrounded it. For eons, it drifted through the eternal void, absorbing the energies of distant stars, dying galaxies, and newborn worlds. With each passing age, its power grew until something extraordinary happened. The crystal became self-aware. At the same time, it became aware of a dangerous dark presence. The crystal believed this dark entity wanted its power. If it was to survive, it must find ways to protect itself. It instinctively reached out. It acquired a name. Apzar. The crystal did not experience fear but somehow it know Apzar is trouble. It knew Apzar had the capacity to destroy. Fearing for its existence, the crystal started to move. It drifted from star system to star system for billions of years through the endless void of space. Then fifty thousand years ago it found what it was searching for. It felt a pull, a calling, from a mountain made of crystals. As it got closer to Felicana, something told it had finally found home. As it began to slow down, the calling became stronger. Less than five thousand kilometers above the ground, it encountered a mighty species that resembled dragons. For the first time since its existence, the crystal reached out.

Who are you?

The mysterious dragon's eyes pulsated. *I am Bravesmoke*, the entity replied. *This is my son, Galahab. We welcome you to our home. I sensed you are in danger. Is someone after you?*

Yes, the crystal replied with joy. *I don't know why or how. I know his name is Apzar.*

Apzar is a lord of chaos. Galahab said. *We saw his arrival in our visions. We can protect you*.

How do you know? Are you unaffected by me? You can read my thoughts?

As a matter of fact, yes. We felt your power. We are destined to be your guardians. Please enter here. Krystall will protect you. You will be safe with us.

Thank you. I owe you.

No, you do not. We are pleased we can help.

The crystal merged with Krystall moments before Apzar appeared near the foothills. Within moments, what normally would take millions of years, the small mountain grew thousands of times its original size. The crystal was now at the center of the mountain. It was layered with crystals upon crystals. Each layer radiated their own frequencies and signatures. Even from this distance they felt powerful waves of chaotic energy washed over them. The dragons stood their ground. They stopped less than ten meters apart. The dragons stand their ground. Alien writings surrounded the surfaces.

"*The crystal is mine*," Apzar declared. "*Hand it over now or I will take it from you*."

"The crystal belongs to no one, Apzar," Bravesmoke spoke out loud. "Yes, we know who and what you are. It is under our protection. You will never reach it."

"*It is not wise to underestimate me*," Apzar growled.

Galahab dismissed his outburst. "Nor are you with us. We are not amused, Apzar."

Apzar paused. "*We shall see*," he grumbled as he vanished.

Galahab stared at the spot where he faded from view. He blinked.

"He will be back, father," he remarked. "We won't be around to protect it."

“True. This is why we must prepare. There is a young species right here on Felicana. We need to pass our knowledge to them. We have long lifespans, but we are not immortal like the crystal or Apzar. They are called the feloids.”

“We should contact Ottis. He knows the feloids. Especially the children. He hosted a regular story time once per week in the Royal garden.”

“He is ally to the fairies. I can talk to Sylvia on the crystal’s behalf.”

“I agree we must protect the crystal.” Bravesmoke closed his eyes.

Thousands of kilometers away, inside a quiet office of the university, Khan Starr, the feloids’ most recognized scientist, looked up from his work. At the same time his wife, Kai, short for Katherine, peaked from the doorway. She did not need to meet his eyes. She saw what was in his mind.

“What is it?”

“We have a new enemy,” he simply said. “Someone who will go to extremes to destroy us.”

“Is it cainods again? Why can’t they just leave us in peace?”

“No, my heart, it is not cainod. It is something more dangerous. We will need help. We must consult with Ottis.”

“I thought you don’t believe in talking trees.”

“I don’t normally. But Ottis helped us in the past. He will help us again. I had come to trust his judgement. Please prepare a transport. We will leave within the hour.”

Ottis was waiting with his translator in the garden. Theo looked up from his scripting when Kai and Khan Starr approached. He set his writing aside. He gave the noted scientist a

bow of respect. He gently brushed Kai's hand with a kiss.

"Greetings, Lady Kai, Lord Khan Starr," he spoke formally. "We had been expecting you."

"I am not a lord, Theo. Just a normal scientist."

"A scientist which hold more than ten master's degree in every field of science. That is hard to beat, sir. As you wish, we will address you as doctor." He paused as he adjusted his glasses. Khan could not help but smiled. Theo was the first, maybe the only feloid, who ever wore glasses. He suspected they made him looked more intelligent even though he did not actually need them.

Within his mind's eye, he saw Apzar attacking Krystall. He had a horde of shadow demons with him. He felt waves of pain, death and suffering as his creatures cut the fairies down. Apzar had somehow figured out a way to drain their *kah* and add them to his own. Each time a fairy fell, Apzar's *kah* grew stronger. He feared Apzar will grow to such a point in the cosmic scale that he could become unstoppable.

"We must combine our powers," he declared. "It is the only way to stop Apzar."

"Are you sure this will work?" Sylvia, queen of the fairies spoke, a few days later at their meeting. "Even with the crystal Apzar will be difficult to stop. He will regenerate and return if there is darkness to feed his *kah*."

"It is a risk we must take, your highness," Galahab remarked. "Which is why we are here to discuss today. We should fuse our powers into the crystal. We can forge it into Kalibur."

"Who, or what, is Kalibur?'

"Kalibur is the saber for which the crystal decides to make as its mobile self. It will henceforth be known as the Starr Sword."

"I heard about the encounter between the crystal and the feloid named Khan Starr. He was the first feloid to touch the crystal. It nearly killed him. He called it the Starr Jewel."

"Not death, but close to it. His mind was overloaded. He is now in a comatose state at the hospital. I am in contact with Kai. She and Princess remained at his side."

"You know Kai and Princess, Sylvia?"

"Yes, I do, Galahab. Princess is young but her bloodline could easily pas on the Starr Jewel's powers and abilities."

"...Through Kalibur," she observed. "This way every time Apzar appears, no matter where or when, we will have a weapon use against him. Brilliant plan. But what about all species and races throughout the universe? We cannot protect all of them."

"The crystal will take care of that," Bravesmoke said. "It will seek out individuals who have the wisdom to continue its mission now and for all times. The crystal will have guardians posted throughout all these worlds. Most of them will work quietly in the background. It also had its own agendas. All will be revealed when the time is right."

"How do you know all that?"

"I am in telepathic communication with it. It is, in a similar way, how it talks to Ottis in the Royal Garden. You can hear it too if you allow your mind to grow quiet and let it enter your *kah*."

Slowly she nodded. She mentally projected her inner self into her private sanctuary. Several hours later she first felt it. A gentle light. Almost timid in nature. It remained out of reach, barely visible over the distant horizon.

“Hello…?” she called out. “Do you understand me?”

For a moment there was only silence. Then from the darkness came a faint voice, almost childlike in nature. The entity emerged from the walls. It took the form of a little human girl. Her bright childlike eyes were washed with fear.

“Who are you?” she peeped.

“Fear not, little one. My name is Sylvia. I am queen of the fairies. We live in the Crystal Kingdom not far from here. You appeared to be the same age as my youngest daughter. What is your name?”

“Amber,” she whispered. “How did I get here? Where are my parents? Where is mama?”

Tears swelled in her eyes. The sight of tears tugged heavily at her heart. Sylvia shook her head.

“We will help you find your parents, little one,” Sylvia said gently. She extended her hand. “Please come with me.”

Amber ran around the tree laughing with joy. Sylvia knew Ottis had a way with children. She never realized how much until now. Amber and Amy, Sylvia’s youngest daughter settled in the shades of the tree. Brilliant gentle lights descended on them. Soon the two little girls felt asleep next to each other.

“Who is she, Ottis? Where did she come from?”

"*I know what you are thinking, Sylvia. I had scanned her. No, this child is not an illusion. She is human from a future time. From a distant world known as Earth. The Starr Jewel can transcend time and space. Her kah is pure innocent. It is one of the reasons why the crystal is drawn to her. She is here for the crystal to assess how it might approach the humans to seek their cooperation.*"

"You got all that from her *kah*? Where is this planet Earth? I never heard of it."

"*That's because it does not exist yet. Not for another one hundred billion years.*"

*"*This child is from one hundred billion years in the future? That is amazing.*"*

"Correct. She is Kaya's daughter."

*"*You are telling me Amber is the future daughter of our reignor, who is feloid. *How is this possible?"*

"As far as I can tell," Bravesmoke said a few hours later, "The Starr Jewel can retrieve Amber from a future time. We still don't know why she is here. This is getting complicated quickly."

"Since she is here, we can assume Apzar still exists in the future on this Earth," Sylvia mused. "There is only one way to be sure. We must consult the archives in Kapon Keep. It is known the archives can see through the vile of time itself."

"But we know the future is not set. One random element might take it off course. Reality will then need to adjust accordingly to the missing…." He blinked. "This child is from an alternate dimension where Apzar defeated the Guardians."

"I am starting to see the picture, Bravesmoke," Sylvia said with a nod.

She waved her hands in a specific pattern. Soon a viewer materialized. As they

glanced into it, the destiny soon became clear for the feloids and humans for all times to

come.