

01.09.2007-prologue (To be finished in own time)

It was a calm Saturday, sun shining, birds chirping, the village bustling with people setting up for the market. Kids ran through the streets, weaving through legs and under carts, as their parents haggled with shop owners. Dogs barked and chickens squawked, and in the distance a sheep bleated. At the edge of all the noise and bustle, a boy sat on a cobble wall. He gently nocked his legs against the stone, singing to himself sadly. "Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday dear Jack, happy birthday.." The young boy sighed. What's the point? He asked himself. It's not like anybody cares. Silently, he jumped off the wall and walked over to a pie stall.

"Hello there young man" the stallholder looked down at him. "How much is a pie?" Jack asked quietly as he stepped closer to the stall. He distracted the stall holder by reaching up towards the top of the stack, and snuck a pie from the bottom of the tray into his bag. "5 dollars," the seller answered. Jack reached into his bag, but stopped halfway. "Sorry, I just remembered I left my wallet at home. Have a good day." Jack feigned embarrassment, before walking away. However, as he stepped past a stall selling dresses, a dog walked up to him and started sniffing his bag. "Go away," Jack whispered panicky. Soon, a crowd gathered around the boy and dog. "What's happening?" "I think the dog found a thief" Whispers floated through the crowd, and Jack cursed under his breath. He reached down, and punched the dog on the nose. The dog yowled and let go of the bag. Spinning on his heels, Jack ran over to an abandoned cart, climbed onto it, and leaped up onto the roof of the building behind it. Ignoring the cries of surprise and indignation behind him he leaped from rooftop to rooftop until he reached his favourite place; the chapel roof. Panting slightly from the sudden exertion, the boy sat down with his back to the chapel spire and bit into his warm pie. He ate ravenously, and finished the pie in a few seconds. Jack wiped his greasy hands on his pants, and reached into his pocket for his ancient flip phone. He opened the phone, and cursed when he saw the time. Hastily, he stuffed his phone into his bag and swung it over his shoulder, and raced over the rooftops towards his house at the edge of the village.

As he neared the culdesac where he lives, Jack sighed in relief when he saw its empty driveway. He leaped up the front steps, and yanked the rusty door open. He slipped his shoes off, before leaping up the creaky steps and onto the landing. He turned, stepping over the hole in the floor he made last week, and opened the door to his bedroom.

11 years later

Jack smiled excitedly as he looked at himself in the mirror. Tall, deep brown eyes, reddish-brown hair styled into a side part, he looked good. But, something doesn't look right, He thought to himself as he eyed the navy blue suit he was wearing. He pulled the suit off and stood for a second before shrugging on a pair of jeans and a black leather jacket, his usual outfit. Much better, he thought eagerly as he ran out of the room and down the hall, stopping only to grab his phone and keys. As he locked his apartment door behind him, he patted his jacket down and smiled when he felt the familiar weight of his butterfly knife sitting in his breast pocket. He turned and started the short jog towards the park.

As Jack entered the park, he heard his phone ring. He slowed to a walk as he pulled the phone out, and put it up to his ear.

"Hello," he answered.

"Hey Jack, it's me. I'm at the park, where are you?" a soft voice spoke on the other end.

"Oh, Lu! I just arrived, I'm at the gate."

"Ah, I see you now."

Jack looked up, and his eyes connected with those of a petite blonde haired man. "I see you too" Jack spoke softly into the phone before hanging up. He swiftly walked over to the man and drew him into a warm hug, separating with a peck on the lips. He took a step back and gazed lovingly at his boyfriend, before clasping a small hand in his. They started walking when suddenly there was a blinding flash of light. Jack heard a scream as his boyfriend's hand was ripped from his. "Luhan!" he screamed, whirling around to where his boyfriend was a second before. Hovering a few centimetres off the ground, Luhan hung in what looked like a rip in space. Jack reached out towards him. Suddenly, there was another flash of light, and Jack found himself lying on a hard, white surface.

He leapt up, pulling out his butterfly knife as he did so. Glancing around, he saw that he was in what looked like a rocky plateau, except everything was a stark white. Standing in front of him was a red-haired woman. Acting on instinct, Jack leapt forward, his knife aimed just above the woman's heart. The woman smirked and vanished, appearing a few meters to the left of where she had been standing.

"What did you do to Luhan?" Jack growled menacingly. "And why am I here?"

"I need your help." the woman replied. "I've broken time, and I need your help to fix it."

"Why me?"

"Because of your abilities."

"Why should I help you? What's in it for me" Jack asked.

"You'll help me because this is your only chance to get your boyfriend back." the woman replied coldly.

Jack hesitated a second, then stood up straight, letting his hands fall back to his sides. "What do you need me to do?"

Jack sat on a white rock, playing with his butterfly knife as he ran over what he had learned about the situation. The woman's name was Erika Klock, and she was from the year 2120. She had made a time machine, and while using it caused time to start unravelling. She plans to restore time by collecting ancient artefacts from the Lost Continent of Hamara, and technology from the future found on the distant Planet Kelm. If she succeeds, time will go back to normal and Luhan will be returned to him. Jack stood up, having made his decision.

"I'll go to Hamara." Klock smiled and snapped her fingers. Jack swore as he felt a bolt of pain shoot through his hand. Looking down, he saw a strange bluish green crystal embedded in his palm. "This crystal is made of Zerodium. It will allow you to pass through any time gates I create." Klock snapped her fingers again, and Jack gasped as the rock face opposite him melted away to show a glowing blue portal. As the air crackled with electricity, Jack stepped forwards into the glowing azure vortex. The ground beneath him seemed to crumble and fall away as he fell backwards, tumbling into the maelstrom.