

Frozen Souls: Zodiac of the Zodiac Book 2

EXCERPT:

Gallowyn reached the tile floor where she could see Jeremias on the other side of the puzzle. With just a glance, her training as a rogue told her that the area was heavily trapped. She could imagine the mechanisms below the tiles that would immediately trigger with the presence of weight. Most likely each trigger was connected to some form of explosive or gas that would hinder or kill the intruder. She recognized it as a very common trap used in ruins from the past millennia.

Beyond the puzzle, she could see Jeremias moving toward a portal of energy. She called out to him, her voice echoing throughout the cavern.

He stopped for a moment, and glanced over his shoulder. His eyes were full of sorrow as he said, "I love you, *Shadows...*" Jeremias turned his attention to the portal and stepped within, vanishing from sight.

Gallowyn yelled his name once more in vain. With a scream she rolled across the tiles, ignoring the traps. As fire burst from the tiles she dodged around the pillars of flames. Hitting another incorrect tile, she skillfully evaded lightning bolts that surged around the room. Following the lightning, a shard of ice aimed to impale her, but she managed to spring around the spike of death. When she safely reached the other side, the ethereal figure watched without fear as she drew her blades free and charged toward him.

She swung her longsword and rapier in controlled strikes. Kayan dodged the blades with ease. Her frustration became evident as her attacks grew wild, yet his body moved like the wind, evading every attack.

"Where is he? Where did you send him?" she demanded.

“You must let go of such rage, child.” Kayan continued to evade her attack and added calmly, *“He is gone to seek his true self child born of the shadow. You cannot follow him from here.”*

“Open the gate! Let me go with him!” she demanded. “I will destroy you if you do not let me!”

“You cannot destroy what you cannot touch,” he responded.

Growing fatigued, she stopped swinging as she sensed the truth of his words. With heavy breath she pleaded, “Then how can I find him? He found me once and freed me from the darkness. I know now that it must have been him ... somehow. It is my turn to find him.”

“Did he really find you, all those years ago? The flow of time is not one direction; it moves forward and back. You say he freed you from the darkness? Did you ever think that perhaps ... you are the darkness?”

“He freed me!”

“Or did he set the darkness free?”

She dropped her blades and slumped to her knees, “I know ... what I am. I can’t change that. But with him I have a purpose; I can bear the burden. Please, let me go to him.”

“Love and time are both eternal. I will tell you this: your time together will be fleeting. If you truly seek him, to steal time together from the flow of the Epilobium, then go to the Trollspire Mountains. You will find him there within the city of the frozen dead. If he fails in his journey, he will remain a frozen soul for all of eternity...”