





It had been centuries since they had last crossed paths. And yet, the familiar, burning hatred for one another reawakened as if it were only yesterday.

The otherworldly beings broke the sound barrier as they rocketed toward each other. With no humans to witness the spectacle, neither hesitated to unleash their immense power.

The air inside the basketball gym whistled as their wings carried them effortlessly. It took only a fraction of a second for them to close their distance.

"Revenge, at last!" Mordana grinned with an evil expression.

"Justice, at last!" Hope's face rejoiced.

Both their thoughts were on the same wavelength moments before contact.

"Finally, it will be over."



A blinding light shone from high above as both angel and demon alike were restrained from movement. It was no different than the firm grip of parent's hand upon a child's wrist. Just as their vision had been lost, so had their hearing. In its place was a calming humming that seemed to know no end.

"My my my. Look at the mess you've created. And with my ring, nonetheless." A new voice, stoic in nature, rang into their ears.

It wasn't until Hope blinked repeatedly that the ocean of white in her vision had cleared. When her sight had been restored, she found herself on the floor - Mordana as well - with her powers completely disabled.

"...Destiny, I-I can explain." Hope began with a firm tone.

The taller, more voluptuous angel shifted her weight and peered down her nose at Hope. "Oh? What possible excuse could you have to explain your actions?"

And aura of vibrant pink and purple emanated from this angel. Clearly, she was more powerful and more important than Hope.

"I was protecting my mortal in the face of a dire threat! That is my job, is it not?! Something YOU refused to willingly assist me with!"

Destiny's eyes spoke more honestly than the rest of her, as her irises erupted into a bright and powerful shade of purple. Hope had struck a nerve.

"It's no wonder The Great Seven sought my promotion over your own."



Only when the burning in Destiny's eyes had died down did she take the time to address the demon that lay groaning on the floor.

"This one's familiar to me. Are you certain this is not a convenient excuse for a more... deep-seated resentment?"

Hope's eyes darted between Destiny and Mordana. "N-No! That is not the case at all! Let me explain!"

"I really do not care, Hope. Your qualms simply do not matter to me. As an archangel, I have bigger issues to attend to." She extended her open palm to the lesser angel. "Now, return my ring at once... before you concoct more chaos upon the mortal realm. Need I not remind you of what could arise if it were to fall into the wrong hands."

"Of course." Hope instinctively tapped against her skirt pocket before realizing it's location. "It's not on me, but I can go get it!"

The archangel rolled her eyes. "Run along. Go retrieve it while I clean up this mess you've caused."



As Hope's footsteps grew distant, Destiny breathed a long sigh of contempt as she surveyed the extent of the damage left behind. Wood, concrete, and shattered glass sullied the once pristine basketball gym. A battle took place here. That much was certain.

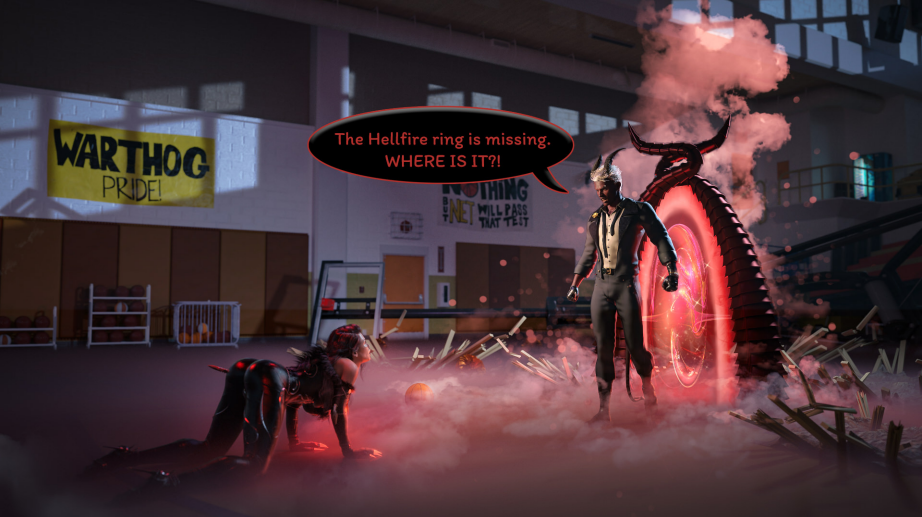
Destiny swung her beautiful form in the direction the two cheerleaders fled, and her eyes brightened once more. As the archangel considered her next line of action, the silhouettes of the young girls shone through the walls. Nicole and Keiko were already being consoled by others nearby, draped with towels for modesty, just beyond the school premises. It wouldn't be long before more came to investigate...

"There isn't enough time to clean up this mess." She muttered to herself in frustration, and positioned her staff firmly in front of her. Her nostrils flared as she angrily glared down the shaft of her armament. "God DAMN you, Hope! Even after I've surpassed you in both title and notoriety, you still remain a thorn in my side."

Destiny regained her composure after a lengthy breath and a roll of her shoulders. "It must be done." She straightened her back and resumed her stoic demeanor. "A soft reset. There are no other options." Destiny raised her staff high above her, "To restore tranquility and order across the realms," She began to chant a mantra shared among the angels. "And to maintain the innocence of mankind." She postured to unleash her bidding with a single thrust. "Peace WILL be upheld!" Her muscles flexed as she began the downward motion!... but she hesitated.

A deep rumble began to emerge from the ground as smoke and darkness began to spew forth from the many crevices left behind. The sharp sound of wood paneling ripping as easily as paper filled Destiny's ears as two giant horns erupted before her, coiling in on themselves as they grew, and forming what could only be a demonic portal.

"Mordana, you insolent worm!" A male voice growled from just beyond the portal. "Where the FUCK are you?!"



The Hellfire ring is missing.
WHERE IS IT?!



I-I-I don't have it! I swear!

quiver!





"You little..." "L-Lucifer, p-p-please!! If you would just UGHHCKLL!!!" Mordana's words were cut short as her body was effortlessly lifted into the air by the most powerful demon of all.

"Tell me, has a single truth ever spewed forth from that vile mouth of yours?" "C-c-can't b-b-bbrrr---!!!"

"Your demon has taken things too far, Lucifer." The archangel spoke up. "And from the looks of it, in more ways than one."

"I'm handling it!" He snapped at the angel before turning back to Mordana. His eyes quickly scanned her from head to toe before addressing her once more. "Your plans have been foiled, Mordana. Just as they always have been! Doesn't failure get tiring for you?! Try as you may, I will always be one step ahead of you. After all, it is my DESTINY to remain on top of the demonic food chain. The Lord of Hell! Your King!!" He allowed a smile to escape him during his self-admiration. "Now, quit your scheming about in the background. You know the Hellfire ring is MY property. The rightful owner!"

"I-- Gnnhhknngg" She attempted to clear her throat beneath his grasp. "I... told you! I don't have your... stupid ring. And even if I did, do you really think I would tell you?!"

His grip tightened. "You impudent, ungrateful SWINE!!!" A powerful kick sent Mordana flying through the air and landing dozens of feet away.

"Trash." He spat. Lucifer's hair covered his face as he breathed heavily in anger. He wiped the sweat off his brow and flung his bleached blonde hair back into place before turning to address Destiny. "Where are the mortals?"

"They've already ran." "So then...?" Destiny nodded. "Very well."