

A Love Across the Astral: The Tale of Cora and the Starry Wanderer

In the vast, uncharted expanse of the Astral, where stars are not just lights in the sky but realms unto themselves, I roamed. My name is Cora, an ambitious and spirited mage from the League, determined to unravel every secret the cosmos had to offer. And yet, even with all the beauty and mysteries surrounding me, there was a lingering emptiness within.

I had heard stories of love in the Astral. Tales of fate bringing adventurers together in moments of peril, in battles against monstrous foes or through the stormy seas of the Astral itself. I had laughed at these stories, dismissing them as nothing more than romantic ideals. After all, who would fall in love in such a chaotic place? Who would dare let their heart grow tender amidst the unrelenting dangers?

That is, until I met him.

It was a routine expedition, nothing too unusual—just another journey to explore new Allods and collect resources. I had joined a group of adventurers for the task, eager to move quickly and return home. We sailed through the Astral in our ship, the shimmering lights of distant stars painting the sky around us. But the calm was shattered when we encountered an unknown Allod. At its center, there was a colossal temple, its surface glistening with a faint, ethereal glow.

We docked our ship and disembarked, but as we approached the structure, something stirred in the shadows. A figure emerged from the gloom—a tall, mysterious being with eyes that gleamed like distant stars. His skin shimmered with a celestial light, and his voice, when he spoke, was as soft and distant as the wind that stirs across the endless expanse of space.

"Do not be afraid," he said, his voice carrying an aura of warmth, "I am but a Wanderer, lost in the vastness of the stars."

We were all taken aback. None of us had seen anything like him before, and I could not help but feel an odd connection, something that tugged at my very soul. His presence was calming, yet it stirred emotions I had long forgotten.

I stepped forward, unable to resist the pull. "What brings you here?" I asked, my voice trembling, though I wasn't sure why.

"I seek a way home," he replied, his gaze turning distant, as if he were peering through time and space itself. "But I have been trapped here for what feels like an eternity, caught between worlds, unable to find my place."

There was something tragic about him, something I couldn't quite place. I learned that he had once been a noble protector of the Allods, tasked with guarding the Astral realms, but something had gone awry, and now he wandered aimlessly, lost between realms, unable to find peace. His name? He never shared it. To him, names were irrelevant; he was but a wanderer without a past, without a future.

As the days went by, we grew closer. Every time I visited the temple, I found him there, waiting for me. We spoke of the stars, of distant lands, of forgotten tales, and shared moments of silence that felt more profound than any words. I began to understand him in ways that words could never capture. His pain became my pain, and his hope, however faint, became my hope.

But love, as always, is complicated.

One evening, as we stood together beneath the glow of a thousand stars, I confessed the feelings that had been growing within me. "I don't know how to say this," I began, my heart pounding, "but... I think I've fallen in love with you."

His eyes, so full of sorrow, met mine. For a brief moment, time seemed to stop. But then, his expression softened, and he gently placed his hand on mine. "I do not belong here, Cora," he said quietly, "I am but a fleeting star in the night sky. To love me would be to love something that cannot stay."

Tears welled in my eyes, but I didn't look away. "I don't care," I whispered. "I want to be with you, even if only for a moment. Even if our love is brief, it is worth it."

He gazed at me for a long while, as though weighing the depth of my words, and finally, he spoke. "Then, Cora, I will make this promise to you. I may not be able to stay, but I will give you a part of my heart. A heart that, no matter where I go, will always remember you."

And so, with that, he faded into the light of the Astral, leaving me with a piece of his soul that I would cherish forever. I returned to my ship, to my friends, but I knew that a part of me would always be with him. The love we shared was not meant for the realm of the living—it was a love bound to the stars, to the fleeting moments between time and space.

But even now, when I look up at the night sky, I know that somewhere out there, he is still watching over me. The Wanderer, my starry love, forever lost in the Astral, but always with me in my heart.

And maybe, just maybe, we will meet again.