



A Tormented Prelude

- Woody007 -

zeldacurio.com/dusk.html

Chapter One – The Spectacle Return

The Land of Hyrule came into sight as they swooped over Death Mountain's peak, the blurred Kakariko Village ahead. They looked down into the depths of Death Mountain. Swooping downward, down the Death Mountain trail, Giant Boulders crashed to the floor, and they dodged each one, it seemed, with ease. They flew over the gate that opened out to Kakariko, the lively village. They circled above the village, taking in the sights of the village's inhabitants, the houses. They then carried on, past the Windmill, and over the fence to the graveyard. Dark clouds began to enshroud the flyer as the graveyard and its gravestones came into view. A lone hut in the corner. They departed and flew out of the confines of the village, into the open and vast; Hyrule Field.

They looked around as they hung in the air. A ranch straight ahead of them, a name hanging above the entrance: Lon Lon Ranch. To the right of Lon Lon Ranch, stood the magnificence that was Hyule Castle, its town at its foot. "Soon..." the voice atop the flyer whispered. Past Lon Lon Ranch, a pathway to a valley it seemed. Far in the distance, far to the left of Lon Lon Ranch a great Lake sat, its water, still, bar a few ripples in its centre. To the flyer's left and behind was a river, a river with an entrance. It dived down and through the low entrance, coming out the other end to a wonderful river; they followed it up right round the corner, past a gate with a strange man sitting in front. They carried on, left then right past the large section of land, and a small body of water beneath them. The river seemed to narrow and so the flyer gained altitude. The river carried on a sort of ramp with a plate set into it, a sort of inscription engraved into it; and there, the waterfall. Then, the flyer turned back towards where it came and flew with great speed, back out to Hyrule Field. They flew inwards toward Lon Lon Ranch, and sat, suspended above its confines. In front of them, a passage lead toward a great forest – a lost forest.

Slowly they followed the trail, turning past a large tree, the roots of which nearly took went straight through the ground to the surface. Through the hollowed tree that lay on its side. The flyer landed on the bridge; it creaked. The voice from atop dismounted the flyer and proceeded onwards into the Kokiri Village. There he walked past the small houses, it seemed like a town for children, and one house in particular seemed to catch its attention. It was one of the smaller houses, it was higher than the others, and a ladder was propped up against it. It knew it was a town for children but there was a greater one who resided here. Nearing the passageway, it stopped, and looked back toward the entrance. It looked back toward where the great one stood... He walked backwards, then turned and picked up pace. He mounted the flyer and it flew back out, returning to Hyrule Field. They toured the land, heading toward Lake Hylia. Over the gates, and into the fresh air that surrounded the Lake. Two bridges made access to the loan island

near the far right corner possible. Looking over at the Island it saw small platform. It had seen one of the same when it looked into the depths of Death Mountain, at the back of the graveyard. Somewhere in the forest one resided. "Now..." the voice whispered. The flyer soared through the air. Then flew close to the ground, passing over the field, flying in between trees, the grass waving in the wind it caused. As it followed the hill it carried on flying upwards. It was high above the ground as it hovered atop the clouds; nothing in sight, except. The spikes of Hyrule Castle pierced through the clouds and the flyer soared straight at them. They neared them; it seemed as if the spikes were hurtling right at them.

The flyer sat atop the tallest spike and its rider looked out over the land.

Chapter Two – The Destined

"Huhhhhh..." She gasped as she awoke in a cold sweat. The patter of the rain against the window was quite loud, maybe that had woken her. But no, it was something worse than the loneliness of nightfall and the ferociousness of a storm.

The flyer snarled, “Wretched rain...” the voice said as it sat under the cover of the flyer’s wing. “I have to pick the right moment, otherwise-” A light shone onto the ground, someone had awoken. “Ah, Princess Zelda...how innocent you seem...I am sure you will be of great importance in the future...alas, you do not have a future.”

“What is it Zelda?” the maid asked.

“I just had a very bad nightmare.” Zelda gazed out of the window to see something fly past at great speed. She was stunned; it had come and gone so quickly. Another flash of lightning, there it was, fixed in its position. All was dark once more nothing in sight. A flash of lightning again, it was right outside the window. Zelda jumped out of her bed, and she and the maid ran towards the door to the room. The window smashed in, glass flew everywhere, Zelda and the maid took cover behind the door. The long draping curtains now flapped in the great wind that blew, rain fell inside the room and lightning continued to crack; as the flyer and its rider slowly entered the room.

Chapter Three – A New Threat

Link leaned against the wall, his arms folded, in the alcove of the Temple of Time, just in front of the entrance. It was raining heavily. He watched as a few guards ran past and up the pathway toward Hyrule Castle. He moved away from the wall and stepped further out of the alcove. More and more guards seemed to be making their way to the castle. A guard ran up to him, “Link, come on, there’s been an incident at the castle involving Princess Zelda.” Link followed the guard as they sprinted up to the castle, through the gate and into the castle itself.

They stopped in the great hall. It was standing there its flyer sitting on the chandelier. It walked towards them Zelda in its hands. It looked down at Link, “you, do you remember me?” Link didn’t respond. “You don’t do you. In fact you’d probably say that you’d never even seen me before-but, you have actually. Perhaps you just don’t realise it...maybe I’m just going on but you know who I am, from your childhood, when you were young and brave. You seem to have matured a lot but...hmmm I don’t know...” Three guards circled it; it laid Zelda upon the floor. “Come get her,” it said. One of the guards walked cautiously up to Zelda, he was beside her, and he bent down to pick her up.

He stretched his arms out...nothing happened, he tried to move, he couldn’t. The guard was in shock, he tried to shout but nothing came out. It raised its hands and the guard was hauled into the air in his foetal like position. The guard knew it was the end. It held its right arm straight out and raised his left arm into the air. A circle of fire surrounded the guards; it stood on the boundary. The fire then enshrouded in the guards and screams of pain echoed in the hall. Link unsheathed his sword- “What!” It turned to look at Link, “Why do you not possess the Master Sword!?” It demanded. “You are foolish, what has happened to you? You can in no way defeat me as you are now. This is no fun! Stand before me when you become who you were...” It picked up Zelda and the flyer returned to its master. It mounted the flyer, Zelda in hand; and flew out of the castle.

“Ganon...?” Link whispered to himself.

“You’re safe! Quick follow me!” a bright, even if small, light said.

Chapter Four – The Enlightening

“Hurry up; we’re going to see the Great Deku Tree. By the way...my name’s Navi.” Link followed the fairy as they walked through the passageway and across the bridge into Kokiri Village. “They all sensed it; they all knew of it straight away and went to hide in their houses. That’s why it seems so desolate here.” Link looked around, and saw an empty house. It was one of the smaller houses, it was higher than the others, and a ladder was propped up against it. They followed the passage down to the vast opening where the Great Deku Tree resided.

“Link,” the Deku Tree began, “a great evil has returned. He has pursued thou, and wants to claim this land for his own. In your return your memory of future actions were removed so that you would be able to live a life free of danger and destiny. However, thou was born to be destined and so, to fulfil this destiny he has followed you back. Let me enlighten you...

“You fought a valiant battle against the evil that was Ganon, you fought in the ruin of his castle, Zelda by your side. You defeated him, finishing him with the power that is the Master Sword. Zelda and the other sages sealed him away into the Evil Realm. Zelda then sent you back to before thou and her met; so that you could relive your childhood and be free of fulfilling any destiny. However, all has not gone as planned, somehow, maybe the triforce of power aided him, he was able to return with you and has waited, waited for 8 long years for the right moment, the moment when he would once again terrorise the land of Hyrule. Unfortunately he knows of everything, he therefore has the upper hand against us, you don’t have much time; you must retrieve the Master Sword at once.” The Great Deku Tree paused. “Navi, go ahead now, you are much faster than Link. Give this message to the holders of the Spiritual Stones, The Hero is on his way – he who we have feared has returned, the Master Sword must be lifted from its pedestal, when the hero arrives, ask for his name – Link.”

Chapter Five – The Gorons

“Here,” the Great Deku Tree said, “take this.” A small emerald floated over to Link. “That Link,” he took it in his hands, “is the Spiritual Stone of the Forest. Once you have collected all three come back to me; under no circumstances must you go to the Temple of Time or Hyrule Castle, doing so may alter the course of history to that of the evil actions that took place before.” Link nodded and set off for Goron City. “Link,” the Deku Tree bellowed, “you won’t remember, but in the Lost Woods there is a portal to Goron City, take that, the faster we acquire the stones, the faster we can rid Ganon from Hyrule.” Link ran back down the passage, and over to the top right corner of Kokiri Village. He climbed the small wall, using the vines, and then ran into the Lost Woods.

“Should have asked for directions,” Link thought. He decided to go right, another three way choice...left, then in front of him was another passage but, instead of it just being a wooden passage, it had a stone border to it. Slowly he walked up to it and stepped through the portal. As the world blurred around him he closed his eyes. The floor seemed to have left his feet until suddenly, he felt it again, yet this time, in the grass’s place, hard stone. He walked forward to find a city, a city of rock and stone, three levels. Link looked up and saw a glimmer. He raced up the ramps to the top level, all the Gorons were still and their eyes pierced through the Hylian amongst them. He reached the top level and saw the platform holding the Spiritual Stone, hanging in the air. The platform was only accessible by walking across the ropes. Link had second thoughts, also the Goron on the other side didn’t seem to happy. He looked around, no Gorons were moving, and they had long black streaks down their arms and legs and down the sides of their body. Also they had piercing eyes, fierce red eyes. There was something else on the platform. A very dim light in the middle, it was very faint and fading as well.

Link put his right foot onto the rope, and cautiously, walked it. He made it to the other side. “My name is Link. I have been sent by the Great Deku Tree to collect the Spiritual Stone that is in the Goron’s possession. The Goron’s face was blank and it said nothing. Link asked again; still no response. “Link...” it was Navi, “Link... they’ve been brainwashed by Ganon.”

“How am I supposed to get the Stone?” Link asked. Navi hovered slowly up to Link and sat on his shoulder. “Just take it and run!”

Link kept an eye on the Goron as he reached his arm around to pick up the Spiritual Stone. He walked backwards until he came to the edge of the platform. Link turned and began to amble along the rope. He'd gotten about halfway when he heard the rope snap. He fell, plummeting to the ground: he grabbed hold of the rope and hit the swung into the wall in front. He looked behind his shoulder to find the Goron kneeling at the edge of the platform. Link pulled himself up and over the edge. The other Goron's started towards him. Link ran, they gave chase. He sprinted down the trail, turned the corner, he slipped. Link rolled down the hill, Navi still on his shoulder. He held the bag that contained the Spiritual Stones as best he could. Link put his feet out, trying to stop them but to no avail. They came to a ramp and they flew through the air, over the gate and landed on the grass in the middle of Kakariko village; Link passed out.

Chapter Six – The Zoras

“Heyyy, wake up!” Navi flitted about in front of Link. He sat up. “Look Link, I’m gonna go on ahead and try and ask the Zoras if we can have their Spiritual Stone ok.” Link rubbed his eyes. Navi whizzed about impatiently, “ok I’m going now!” Link watched as she flew off down the steps. He picked himself up, shook himself, stretched and ran off for Zora’s Domain.

He stood on the plate, in front of the waterfall; and took out the Ocarina of Time. He started to play Zelda’s Lullaby; the waterfall continued to flow. Link looked on puzzled. A light began to shine just behind the waterfall; then a silhouette of a Zora, “Link, Li-” the silhouette disappeared. Link jumped, and crashed through the waterfall. He rolled and stood up quickly and ran down the path towards the King’s throne room. King Zora just sat there, not moving, his eyes red. “Link!” He could see the Zora walking down to Lord Jabu Jabu’s fountain. He walked past King Zora cautiously, he didn’t move. Link picked up the pace, he came out to see the Zora standing in front of Jabu Jabu, the sun shining bright in the sky. Navi was on the floor, nothing more than a glint in the sun. The Zora turned to look at Link, big black eyes, evil eyes. A sharp fin suddenly protruded from the Zora’s arms, it swung them round and poised for battle.

Link unsheathed his sword and raised his shield. The Zora ran at Link, he held his shield up, it vibrated in Link’s hand, the Zora continued to run, and just as it passed Link, he swung his sword. The Zora jumped, dodging the blade by a hair’s breadth. The Hylian and the Zora fought gallantly. Their prowess with a blade matched with every blow. Link’s ease to manipulate the sword and shield, the Zora’s agility, then it came. “Link, you cannot even defeat this low level Zora, how do you expect to beat me even with the Sword of Evil’s Bane?” Link became enraged. He put everything into this fight, the Zora was no match now and the Zora’s demise came when Link’s sword penetrated its stomach. The eyes of the Zora narrowed, they became more...more, peaceful. Link pulled his sword from within the Zora and it fell, its hands clenched at its wound. “Heh,” Ganon said, “that’s more like it.”

“Link,” Navi said, still on the floor, “the spiritual stone, Princess Ruto has it; she is hiding over there in that cave. We must hurry Link! Let me rest here.” He ran over and dived into the water once the ground beneath him ended. He swam over to the cave and pulled himself up onto the ground; he ran into the cave. Princess Ruto was curled up in the corner. “Princess Ruto,” Link said, “I must take the Spiritual Stone from you, it is of great importance!” She stood up straight.

“But this is my engagement ring!”

“I must have it,” Link said.

“Only if you take me with you.”

“It’s too dangerous.”

“You shan’t have it then!” She sat back down. Link sighed.

“Okay...you can come.”

She stood up and followed Link.

Chapter Seven – The Provocation

Link and Ruto stood before the Great Deku Tree, Navi flitting about in front of his face. “We got the stone- oh, sorry...but why...” Link heard it too, Ruto was the only one oblivious to the fact that the Deku Tree was speaking to Link and Navi telepathically.

“I must tell you this quickly Link, Ganon is waiting just at the other end of the passage, he followed you and is about to kill me. You must by no means, remove the Master Sword from its pedestal. I know, I know...I know I told you to get them but it was just to keep Ganon occupied. He knows that once you take the Master Sword from its pedestal he will have a second chance at ruling the world. Remember this.” The Deku Tree paused. “To defeat him you must collect the medallions from the sages, a guardian shall wait at each Sage’s dominion and you shall fight to prove your worth. Now go...” With that, Ganon appeared before the Deku Tree hovering in the air. He raised his arm; and shot backward! Ruto was hit, and killed...“WHY?” Link cried, she is of no matter. “Link!” Navi flew past Ganon and through to the Kokiri Village. “Leave...NOW!” The Great Deku Tree bel- lowed, Link ran.

“You shall not succeed Ganon...” The Deku Tree whispered.

“Heh, for once Deku, you are not so wise in your words. I have fought this mere boy before and as he currently is, he has no chance against me. This world will be mine, and unfortunately for you; you will not live to...” Ganon smirked “...experience it!”

Fire, came through the passage way, Link dived, the flames just singeing him. He quickly put them out. Link looked back down at where the ashes of the Deku Tree lay to see Ganon; he smiled, then disappeared. “Link, I’m going to stay with the Kokiri and watch over them. Good luck!” The Kokiri came out of their houses and watched as Link left into the Lost Woods and onto the Sacred Forest Meadow.

Chapter Eight – The Howling Forest

Link made his way through the maze and then up the many steps, until he reached the Forest Temple. The Platform that held the Forest Medallion’s sign stood in front of Link. All went dark, only the platform alight. A voice came, “Only if you pass this guardian’s test may you receive that which it guards.” Suddenly an abnor- mally large Wolfos materialised from beneath the platform and stood upon it. “Begin...” the voice said.

Link unsheathed his sword and raised his shield. The Wolfos was at least double his height and snarled fero- ciously. How was he going to beat it? The only light was shining upon the platform, other than that, it was pitch black. If Link was to succeed he would have to fight on the platform alone. It paced the platform, and once it saw Link run toward it, it turned to face him but didn’t move. Link ran at it, the Wolfos lowered its head. Then, just as Link had reached its head, the Wolfos opened its mouth and was about to bite at Link, when he leapt from the floor and onto the Wolfos’s back.

Link buried his sword into the Wolfos's back, the Wolfos roared and went up on its hind legs. Link started to fall, his hand still grasped onto the handle of the sword. The sword burrowed through the Wolfos, a massive gash that spanned the spine of it. As Link reached the tail, he took the sword with both hands and heaved it from the creature as he pushed himself from the Wolfos. The whole of the sword was almost covered in blood and now the Wolfos ran into the darkness. Link moved slowly into the middle of the platform, listening out for any wheezing or rasping coming from the Wolfos, as to know of its whereabouts. However, it kept quiet. Then it pounced from behind Link, its emerald eyes wide and going for the kill. Thinking quickly, Link slid underneath the pouncing Wolfos and drove the sword into its stomach, swiftly twisted it, then removed it from the beast. The Wolfos landed on its side and didn't move.

Everything came back into view and the Wolfos disappeared. Link walked over to where the Wolfos once lay to find a green medallion. "Well done, you have passed. Now go to Death Mountain to meet your next challenge."

Chapter Nine: The Dark Delay

Link walked out of the village and into Hyrule. The sky was malevolent, a raging dark orange filled the sky, and a light breeze floating just above the grass. Link took out his fairy ocarina, and began to play. Epona didn't come galloping toward him, there was no sign of her, there seemed to be an eerie atmosphere in the air. He wished he'd taken the shortcut through the Lost Woods.

He started jogging, there was a sound, a weird sound that seemed to come from all around him. He picked up speed, the bridge leading to Kakariko not far from him. He stopped, the ground in front of him, trembling, the ground becoming upturned. A creature began to rise up from the earth, and with it a sword and shield. Link hadn't noticed but another had risen up from behind him, and to both his sides...he was surrounded. He unsheathed his sword and readied himself for a battle. The one in front and one behind ran at him at the same time, Link bent down slightly, his sword up close to his face his sword stretched out toward the one behind. They neared, Link jumped back stabbing the skeleton, and as the one in his sights gained ever closer; he pulled his sword up, dragging it through the bones of the enemy, slicing the skull in half and chopping the head off of the one at his knees.

After witnessing their two comrades fall, they retreated once more to the ground, it returning to its previous state. Link stood straight, sheathed his sword and placed his shield on his back. He climbed the steps to Kakariko, and to his horror, found the village not in ruin...but in darkness...

Chapter Ten:

There was a foul wind, and with it, a hot piece of ash. Looking up at Death Mountain, a site of destruction stared back at him. Colossal clouds encircled the mountain top, ash falling slowly down. He walked on, the tree that once stood in the village now consumed to cinders. The roofs of the houses were coated in thick grey ash, the ground the same, Link's footprints being left.

Wiping the window of a nearby house, Link peered in. He found a family huddled in the corner, not moving, their eyes shut...Kakariko had obviously not seen this coming, and the darkness that swept over the quaint village now reigned. The steps were almost covered by the steps as Link began to climb. The guard at the gate lay motionless on the floor, his spear a couple of feet from him. Link pushed with all his might to prise the gate open. Once he had he ran on to Goron City...hoping they had survived...

Chapter Eleven: The Veiled Mystery

Devastation was all Link was finding after his triumph at the first Guardian; it was as if he had spent a life time fighting it...The eruption seemed to have carved anew, Goron City was no more, condemned to rubble, the top of Death Mountain clearly in sight. He heard something, a very soft yet distorted breath. He followed it; it grew louder as he neared the rubble. Without wasting anymore time Link started to move the stones. He could see an arm...but it wasn't the arm of a Goron. He took its hand, and rubbed it, trying to get a better response from whoever it was. A triangle seemed to appear on the hand, it was very faded though and there was a lot of dirt covering it.

Link sat with the girl, and gave her what little water he had. He could only see her mouth and nose, the rest of her face covered with a black hood, which was part of an elaborate black cloak. "Who are you?" Link asked. The girl did not respond, just continued to drink. "If you don't tell me who you are, I can't really help you," "I...must help you," she said. Link was confused, how was this girl going to help her, after all, she would have certainly died if he had not saved her. "How exactly are you going to help me?" Link was unsure of what to make of this mysterious girl. She refused to tell him anything, but simply help out an ocarina – a blue, ocarina...

Chapter Twelve: A Guardian Gem

Link took the ocarina, a slight glow emanated from it; he thrust it back into the girl's hands. "I used this to return here..."

"Return?" Link wasn't sure what he was hearing.

"Yes, there is no time to talk now...the Mountain is on the verge of another eruption and the guardian is calling for the one who was victorious over the Forest Guardian." Link didn't know how to react, or even what to say. She stood, Link still sitting, "I shall be at the castle...or what is left of it; the power of Death Mountain is unimaginable...Link, don't fail otherwise..." A tear cut through the thick layer of ash covering the ground, "otherwise what?" Link said.

"The future Link...destiny..."

The trek up to the top of Death Mountain was now much easier, the force reshaping the ascent. He pulled himself up over the edge, the Owl's perch still standing, even if slightly lopsided, and the Great Fairy's fountain, still standing; he stepped inside. The inside was grey, and the small fountain at the end empty, except for a small glinting gem. Link went to pick it up and a small round shield enshrouded the gem, and a face, a face in agony faded in out of the aura. Link stepped back slowly, the shield receding, and left the fountain. There was no need for a ramp into the pit of Death Mountain; the magma level had risen and only the platform bearing the emblem of fire remained.

"Only if you pass this guardian's test may you receive that which it guards." The same voice sounded once more. A Dragon rose up from the depths of the Mountain...and spouted fire at Link, who had to dodge quickly.

Chapter Thirteen: A Hero's Sword

Link backed up, the Dragon watching his every move; he fell back over the ridge, his sword now well away from him. The dragon dived at him, Link holding the giant claws back with his shield. He didn't know how to get out of this one. With his free hand, he was able to put much greater force behind the shield; he smacked the shield up, pushing the claw away momentarily. Link rolled away, the claw smashing the shield and landing in the ash.

Great, no shield and his sword was hidden in the ash. The Dragon hovered above once more, scheming on how to kill its prey. The Dragon came in low this time, Link dived over the ridge, and hit the Owl's perch, breaking it in half. He tried to get up, his back stinging now. He moved slowly over to the Great Fairy's fountain, keeping eye contact with the Dragon constantly...it came in low again.

Link jumped and landed on the Dragon's neck, he held on as best he could as the Dragon crashed through the fountain. As the Dragon flew above Death Mountain, the slight glint of the gem could be seen, now exposed. The Dragon was agitated, trying to bite at Link but to no avail. It was breathing fire everywhere now, and slashing its tail about. Link concentrated desperately trying to hold on. The Dragon went in low once again; little did Link know, the gem had managed to raise itself up into the air.

The Dragon was speeding toward the fountain, and as it did, started to twist upside down. Link held on for dear life. Just as they passed the gem, it transformed into a green bladed sword, the face that Link saw covering the blade. Link swiped it from the air, grasping the blade tight. The Dragon righted itself, and with that Link plunged the sword deep into its neck. The Dragon wailed and spun round fast, sending Link plummeting to the ground. Link broke his fall and the Dragon tried one last desperate attempt at defeating Link. It swooped straight downward, its mouth open. Link threw the sword and it sunk into the top of its mouth and into the head; the creature died as it fell, and hit the ground, to the sound of the voice...“Well done, you have passed. Now go to Lake Hylia to meet your next challenge.”

Chapter Fourteen: A Failed Prophecy

Disregarding the fire medallion that lay before him, Link walked over to where the gem was, back in the fountain...He went to pick it up and the shield surrounded the gem, yet this time it grew. It got bigger and bigger, it was twice Link's height and he could make out a body on the aura. The shield burst to form a fairy, only slightly bigger than him, and it floated. There was no colour in the fairy; she was just shades of grey. “And so the guardian falls,” she said, “the one that was to be the Hero of Time would not need to defeat the guardian's to be entrusted with the sage's medallions...but by travelling through time he would gain the title that proved his worth. A hero appears to stand before me, his courage reflecting that of the prophecy's words, yet how can this figure be the Hero of Time...and with that only time shall tell...” Link stood there, bewildered, not knowing what to do with what he had just heard, it wasn't real...she spoke once more, “destiny can only be changed by one that possess the power of time, that power has been used once already, to happen again is impossible... yet it has happened, the ocarina being the instrument used to manipulate time itself. Low...using it too much and for a purpose that does not fulfil destiny can bring about catastrophic consequences; for the use of the ocarina to be righteous, it must be used once only, and put aside...yet this has not happened, the destiny therefore must be fulfilled again, if it is not, only dark days will be...”

“Link,” she looked down at him. “Your triumphs may gain you the medallions, but your worth as a hero is yet to come,” His sword flew gently towards him into his hand, and a new shield materialised before him. There was a flash of red and in his hands the fire medallion was. He put it into his small pack, placed his shield on his back, and sheathed his sword. “Time, my destined one, is of the essence...the evil that is to be, like you to be the hero; is spreading and gaining power, let me send you to the next guardian...” The world around Link started to spiral and then; the lake before him, calm, he looked out from the guardian's platform.

Chapter Fifteen: The Fall of the Guardians

“Only if you pass this guardian's test may you receive that which it guards.”

A pitch black figure, no features just an outline rose up in front of Link, it wasn't much different to Link, but it could have been anything with just an outline. A long dagger slowly protruded from the hand of the figure and it leapt at Link. He dodged its every swipe, flipping and rolling whenever necessary, Link gained a bit more space and took out his bow. The arrow stuck into the figure, but it kept moving as if there was nothing there.

Link felt a burning sensation, and his small pack started to glow a livid red. He kept his eyes on the figure, which was spinning its dagger in its hand, slightly hunched; as he grabbed the hot medallion from in his pack. Link winced as he held the edges of the fire medallion, the heat was excruciating, and the fire medallion got brighter. It seemed the figure had had enough of waiting around and ran at Link. A cylinder of fire was sent hurtling at the figure, the fire engulfed it...the figure started screeching and fell to its knees. The medallion became cool again and Link returned it to his pack. He took out his sword, and silenced the screams. The head then turned to cinders which in turn became the water medallion.

Link expected the voice to tell him where to go next but it wasn't to be...he had no one to go to for advice...but that girl knew something. Link ran across the bridges and headed for Hyrule Castle.

Chapter Sixteen: Time has flown...

After climbing past the fences, Link staggered through Hyrule Field. He had never seen it this way before, the light fading, the grass brown and brittle, the trees bare. He continued walking, he could see the ranch at the top of the hill; no lights were on. Link could hear heavy breathing, and the flapping of something. He ran toward the sound, and once he reached the top of the hill, he could see the girl running up to him, coming from the castle. She held onto the hood tightly, keeping it down over her face. She reached Link...

"There is no more time Link," she said, her voice not wavering. "The princess is being tortured for the information to the power that he wants." Link brought forth his sword instinctively- "there is no need...Link," he stared back at her.

"How do you know my name," Link asked.

"There is much you do not know about me, and much you shall never know...to know would be useless, and in the same instance, would benefit...him." She outstretched her arms, it got darker around the girl and Link, and the markings on the girl's cloak began to glow. Two streams of light emitted from each hand, the left going to the desert – a golden light, the right heading to the graveyard – an incandescent purple light. The light at her hands soon got stronger, and shapes were forming in the air.

Link stepped back, as the ground shuddered; two beasts appeared to the sides of the girl, the light flitting about at great speeds, shaping the creatures. And now, all but the light forming the outline of the beasts moved into the middle, to structure circles. There were two great flashes either side, the light was too bright, white was all Link could see. He shielded his eyes. "Link," the girl said, "look." To her sides lay a medallion, on her left the Spirit Medallion, and on her right the Shadow Medallion. Link picked them up and felt the force surge through his body; he placed them in his pack. "Now Link...follow me..."

Chapter Seventeen: The Unforeseen

Link followed the girl as she picked up pace. They were near to the moat when the drawbridge started to rise. “We can’t miss this,” Link heard the girl say. They were still running when he heard a soft melody. All of a sudden the world around them lost all colour, and everything stopped, the wind ceased to blow, and the drawbridge rose no more. They reached it and the girl jumped and grabbed the edge, and pulled herself over. Link followed and they slid down. The girl played the ocarina; and the colour returned...the drawbridge closing.

“What was that?” Link asked.

“I had to...” the girl replied.

“But how-”

“As I said before, there is no need to know.” They walked on through the market, the closing of doors echoing through the small streets, and the eyes glaring out of window as the two strangers passed on. Looking at the highest spike of Hyrule Castle, the two of them could see the rider’s beast. It looked as if it had noticed them; it swooped down and into the still broken window of Zelda’s chamber. The castle looked no different to when they left it, the sun setting behind it. The girl was further ahead than Link, and walking faster. Link gazed at the intricate designs on the girls cloak...the symbol of the eye most catching his attention. “Where did you get that cloak?”

“It was given to me...” the girl pressed on, brushing aside the question as quickly as possible.

They reached the main gate of the castle, there were no guards; however, they could not enter the castle. “Link, stand back...” Once again the markings on the girl’s cloak began to emanate, and the massive door opened to them. The castle was huge and they walked onward, along the red carpet toward the throne: where a figure sat.

“What have you done with Zelda?” The girl demanded. Link thought he should have been the one to say that... who was this girl? “Who might you be?” the figure in the shadows replied. “That does not matter! Where is Zelda!” The girl stormed up to the figure, which stood straight and bellowed, “DO NOT DEMAND THINGS FROM ME!” Link unsheathed his sword. “Bah,” it said, “you are still petty, boy. I told you to return to me when you hold the sword you were, destined...to.” Link looked at the girl. She looked back at him, one eye only as not to reveal her identity, “destiny Link...you cannot change it; no matter how hard you try, I have found that too late.”

“Link,” the figure stepped forward into the light.

“Ganon,” the girl said.

“Leave now, you have had your chance to fight me, and you have failed...you have caused the princess’s demise, and with hers, so does Hyrule fall!” Link fell to his knees, he began to weep...there must be something he could do. He wiped the single tear from his cheek and stood; a hero’s stance. He was just about to speak when the girl uttered to him, “the Master Sword, Link; get it now! Take this,” the girl through him the blue ocarina. Even having been told not to by the Great Deku Tree, no matter what the circumstance, the Deku Tree would not have foreseen this. Link ran, ran as fast as he could; for the Temple of Time.

Chapter Eighteen: The Fight of the Destined

The rain was coming down hard as Link sprinted to the Temple of Time. Turning corners, and running into the town market where the temple stood. Link ran into the Temple of Time, drenched, water dripping off his face. He hurried to the podium and leaned on it. He had no choice; he opened his pockets and took out the three spiritual stones. They moved themselves, over their places and Link took out the girl’s ocarina. He tried to play, but he had no breath, he was so tired from running. Ganon appeared at the entrance. Link began playing as best he could.

The Door of Time opened, to reveal the Master Sword in its platform. Link moved round the podium and through to where the Master Sword stood. Ganon materialized next to him, and they raced to the sword. Simultaneously, they grasped the Master Sword.

A great aura surrounded them both, and within an instant they found themselves in the Golden Land. They were in a circular opening, of short grass, trees enclosed around them. The sun then faded, clouds moved in to take its place, all was dark except for the frequent bolts of lightning.

In his hand Link held the Master Sword, in Ganon's hand he held a replica, except, its hilt was red and an ominous black aura surrounded it; whereas a bright white aura engulfed Link's version of the Master Sword. "It seems our inevitable fight is upon us...I will be victorious though!" Ganon swung his sword around, "Hmmm, this truly is a brilliant sword, and will be the cause of your demise...boy!"

Chapter Nineteen: The Fate of the World

Link pointed his sword at Ganon, staring down the blade, its tip at Ganon's head. "A demise is certain Ganon: yours. I realise now of the fight we once had, and I know you lost. If we are to truly follow our destiny, you, will be the one to fall." Link said.

"However," Ganon replied, "you tried to cheat destiny, you got sent back, so that you could live a normal person's life. But Link, we both are not normal; we are blessed with the power of the triforce." Ganon held his hand out, staring at the triforce mark on the back of his hand. "I have power boy, you have mere courage!" The thunder was louder now, and droplets lay upon Link's blade. "Enough Ganon!" Failure awaits you." Link ran at Ganon, his shield ready, his sword in front and adrenaline coursing through him. Ganon blocked, Link spun, slashing at his back, Ganon turned with him blocking once more. Link was taking the offensive, swiping whenever and wherever possible. Link used his surroundings to his advantage.

He stepped back from Ganon and ran into the forest, he was camouflaged. The sword's aura died down slightly, and watching from afar; he noticed Ganon's sword flaring wildly. "A hero does not run!" Ganon beckoned. Link climbed a nearby tree, waiting for Ganon to pass. He did, Link dropped down, his sword about to plunge deep into Ganon's skull. Ganon laughed and slashed at Link's sword, knocking him into a tree. Link sat slumped and picked himself up using his sword as an aid. "That was pathetic," Ganon sent an energy blast at Link, which was smacked away, hitting another of the many trees. "Now fight me!"

It was Ganon's turn to be on the offensive, he swiped at Link, trying his best to take off his head. Link was agile though and dodged all but one of Ganon's attacks. Link fell back, his leg taking a blow, cutting a large gash in the side of his left leg. Link tried to take his mind off the pain. Meanwhile, the energy blast that hit the tree had sparked a fire. The forest was going up in flames, and the rain was subsiding. Ganon laughed as Link slowly picked himself up. As Ganon mocked him, Link took his chance to retreat to the opening. The fire was chasing him, making him run faster; he could still hear the laughter coming from Ganon. When he reached the enclosure, the fire was in one place. Ganon materialised at the edge of the clearing and raised his arms, the evil version of the Master Sword pointing at the ominous sky. Ganon was manipulating the fire, all of a sudden the whole forest was alight, the smoke of which choking any animals that once inhabited it. However, the grass in the enclosure did not burn, "we shall fight here," Ganon said, "in the intense heat, where there is no place for you to run."

They both ran at each other, their swords colliding. The battle of the world was waging on yet no-one other than the girl knew, why didn't she help him more, Link thought as he blocked one of Ganon's blows. Where was Zelda in all this, where had Ganon taken her and abandoned her? All these questions were keeping Link from fighting at his potential. "Ganon, you will not succeed!" Link went all out, Ganon was furious, he was being beat down. Then; link knocked his sword into the air and kicked Ganon to the floor. Link spun and caught the other Master Sword in his left hand. The original Master Sword was now on one side of Ganon's neck, the evil one on the right side. "Ganon, it was always going to come to this; yet you still tried to stop it..." The girl said...

Chapter Twenty: The Sacrifice

Link looked round at the girl, his grip on the swords tightening so that Ganon could not break free. "How did you get here?" Link said.

"I am not what I seem," the girl replied, "this cannot end here however..." She pulled up the sleeve of her right arm to reveal her hand. There was a triangle on the back, and it began to shimmer slightly. She raised it into the air and made a fist. The girl started uttering an incantation to herself, and the triangle emanated even more. Link heard a moan from Ganon and Link looked at him. Ganon was wincing; Link now felt it. There was a searing pain on the back of his hand, he looked at it, the triangle was emanating. An aura swept ferociously up around Link and Ganon, the blue-ish white light engulfing the two as it whipped about uncontrollably.

Everything died down, yet the pain Link felt remained. Ganon's moans ceased before Link felt no pain; he opened one of his eyes and watched as Ganon slowly took his sword back from Link. Ganon staggered back as the pain Link had endured diminished. He too staggered backward, until there was a fair distance between Link and Ganon. "Why?" Link shouted at the girl, "I could have ended it there and then!"

"It would not have mattered," she replied.

"What?" Link was furious, Ganon smirked. "I was about to finish him, there wouldn't have been any way for him to return."

"No?" She replied, curiously calm, "then why has he done so this time?" Link did not reply, but stared this time at Ganon. "I will take matters into my own hands Link; this is why I came back, this is why I followed Ganon; the hero can save Hyrule only once...Hyrule must be saved by another this time, to ask a boy to be its saviour is too much, the Goddesses would not allow it..." The girl took out her Ocarina and began to play. Link was encased in a shield, and couldn't move. She played once more, a portal opened from a tiny black hole, until it was twice her size.

"This portal takes whoever steps into it where they belong. But it can only be opened twice. I used it because I was curious I wanted to see where it would take me, and only when you found me...did I realise why it had brought me here. If I were to pass through it again it would return me to my time, if Ganon," she looked over at him, "were to, he would be transported to a place where he would be tortured for an eternity and where escape would be impossible...a twilight realm." She played the ocarina before Ganon, had even begun to retaliate. A shield now encased her and she played the ocarina once more. The room in which they stood shook violently, and an unnatural wind blew Ganon toward the portal.

Ganon yelled and bellowed, cursing Link and even more so (unusually) the girl. He fell onto his back and was now hurtling towards the portal, in a last ditch attempt to save himself he drove the sword into the stone floor. He stopped, hanging onto the sword. The girl fumbled with the ocarina, the portal would not stay open long. She played and the sword withdrew from the ground, and floated to fuse with its counterpart in Link's hand. Ganon plunged into the portal and it closed, his screams echoing in the now ransacked room.

The shields that encased Link and the girl disappeared and Link ran up to her. "Link," she said, "I can no longer return to my time." Link looked at her solemnly. "Do not fear Link, there is always the possibility of Ganon returning as you said...there is no denying that. Therefore, I shall remain here in this tower of Hyrule castle, I will seal it off to the outside world, make it invisible to everyone." She looked down for a moment, then looked up again and met Link's eyes. "Link, I don't want to shroud your mind again, I don't want to have to remove your memory of this. This means you must speak of this to no-one, if you do so, I cannot help you..." Link agreed and left her alone...in the darkness of the tower...

The End

Epilogue:

A few years passed; after Link had left the girl, he traversed across the world in search of Zelda. Maybe she had fled when she had the chance and gone into hiding, he thought.

He returned to Hyrule, no-one acknowledged him, they felt it was his fault that Zelda was missing, that she was probably dead. When he entered the castle, the guards and maids gave him scornful looks, and was afraid he'd be cast out. He climbed the stairs of the tower until he came to a long hallway. At the end of the hallway was a wall, a wall which he had before passed through. He placed his hands upon it, and slowly he pushed his hands through the wall, and then his body. In front of him stood a narrow staircase, he made his way up them.

He entered the room...it had not changed since he left it; the girl was standing at the window, still with her hooded cloak on. He noticed something else, there was something lying on the bed...he moved closer toward it, the girl all the time staring out the window. He stood there shocked and knelt before the bed. Zelda was laid across it, no colour in her skin or clothes; she was but shades of grey. "Why didn't you tell me," Link said as he wept. "I told you before Link," still gazing out the window, "I am compelled to remain here," Link was furious, who was this girl, she came and nothing she did helped him against Ganon. "Why did you come?" Link snapped.

"In my time," the girl began, "Ganon returned. Yet you were not there to save us. I had sent you back, believing he would never come back. How wrong I was...I disguised myself as a follower of Ganon's and convinced him to go back in time. I informed him you would be weak, and that he would have the perfect opportunity to kill you. By doing this I had saved Hyrule from his evil. What happened next I couldn't comprehend..."

A Tormented Prelude

