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Origin

A "The Listed" Backstory

Once upon a time in a medieval land of gods and magic, there lived a poor man named Cyril. Because he was the only scientifically minded man in his village, he was shunned and cast aside. After all, it was witchcraft, magic and divine forces that dictated the rules of their society and *not* logic and statistics. Armed only with his books and his brain, Cyril set out into the world, anger festering in his heart; anger forged from the hate of the small minded people who rejected him and his ways.

Toiling outdoors through storms, snow, and heat, Cyril eventually made his way to the shrine of the gods, a place built for prayer and contemplation. There, he prayed that he could have the power to make everyone else see that science and math was important. Sadly, after leaving the grand shrine, Cyril found that his prayers went on unanswered... Or so he thought.

Unbeknownst to him at the time, one of the gods *had* been listening: Kausda, the malicious god of chaos, evil and destruction. From the shadows, this dark god who, like Cyril, had been exiled from his kin, called out and made Cyril a proposition. This deal was that in return for Cyril's soul, Kausda would give him unfathomable powers. Still carrying a heavy heart full of bitterness, Cyril was all too quick to accept the dark god's deal. Proceeding directly from there, Kausda infused Cyril with his demonic influence and power, relieving him of his soul in the process.

Now all powerful but soulless, Cyril gave in to the darkness of Kausda's power and his very own heart. Cyril slowly began to lose touch with his logical roots, favoring vengeful ones instead. Using one of his powers-- teleportation --Cyril arrived in his old village. Combining the flaming pyrokinesis, the arctic cryokinesis and the fast growing plants of botanokinesis, the tainted man slaughtered everyone. *Nothing* was left standing afterwards.

For the next few years, Cyril ran around the world, fulfilling the darkest desires of his tainted mind and heart. If he wanted something, he would use his powers to get it, terrorising the countryside.

Eventually, Cyril grew lonely in his wickedness. His human side peaking through the veil of his mind, he wanted companions to join him in his evil reign. Seeking out individuals who, like him, had nothing left to lose, he began dishing out fragments of his power to his new acquaintances. Elizabeth the Nightmare, Reuben the Undertow, Jacob the Beacon, Elias the Revenant, Olivia the Evergreen, Talia the Inferno, and Skylar the North Wind were those individuals. Together with Cyril the Origin, they were known as the Order of the Umbra.

With her katana, Elizabeth would transform into horrors beyond the evils of hell, or simply into someone you'd know, sparking many hours of mixed emotions.

Impaling fools with his spear, Reuben had the seas in his command with hydrokinesis.

Enslaving the minds of those in low spirits, Jacob would use his lantern to guide them to their dooms.

Brought back from the brink of death by Cyril's hand and then given the ability of teleportation, Elias used his broadsword in guileful ways.

Chopping with her trusty battle-axe, Olivia slayed all; not just with her blade, but also with her flowering botanokinesis.

Reaping the lives of people with her Scythe and then setting their remains ablaze with her pyrokinesis, Talia was only beginning to come into her power.

On the other hand, freezing her adversaries with her cryokinesis and shattering what was left with a flick of her longsword, Skylar was one of the deadliest Umbra knights.

Finally, the darkened Cyril gained not a weapon, but a new enthusiasm for destroying the realm. Still retaining his powers of telekinesis, Cyril proudly led his deplorable companions all the while wearing a flowing black cloak and a wicked smirk on his face.

As Kausda's dark influence spread with the Order of the Umbra, the other gods and goddesses of the world began to work to stop it. The most pure and divine god: Junatai sent an angel named Astrea down to the world to begin to enlighten folks about peace, justice and light.

Selecting four heroes with the help of some of the other divine beings, a force was established to end the Umbra's once and for all. After giving them divine powers forged from light, Astrea flew back into the heavens with hope. Now set on their path, the Elementals, consisting of Dylan the Crashing Tide, Blaise the Burning Flame, Garrick the Tree Ent, and Era the Holy Breeze, they began to bring order back to the chaotic world.

While the Elementals continued to shed light on the Umbra's corruption, the Umbras were up to other antics. Elizabeth and Elias had fallen for each other, Elizabeth losing herself just for him. Then, Jacob and Elias had become good friends and Talia and Elizabeth had separately done the same. Meanwhile, the powerful

Skylar and the weaker Talia became bitter rivals. Reuben became a team player as Olivia began to grow distant from her dark companions. Through it all, Cyril led them, favoring no Umbra knight above the rest, for he knew that deep down their powers all came from *him*.

Against the evil of the Order of the Umbra, the Elementals knew they had to work very hard to stop them. Meeting the Umbra knights for the first time, the Elemental force was overwhelmed by their sheer demonic magical ability. Dylan, Blaise, Garrick, and Era found that their powers of goodness could not subdue the Umbra's powers of wickedness.

Even though the Elementals had lost the first round, like a phoenix, they would rise again.

While the heroes worked on their next plan of attack, the Umbras began plotting a new course of action: world domination. For Cyril's avarice, it was no longer satisfying enough to be the feared leader of just a large portion of the realm; Cyril wanted it *all*.

Venturing afresh to the shrine of the gods-- this time with the company of the Umbra knights --Cyril knew that if he could corrupt a holy site, then he could take over everything. Standing together in a ritualistic circle, the Order of the Umbra began to cast a spell summoning pure darkness; darkness that would be the source of nightmares if it was released.

However, before they could finish the incantation, the Elementals appeared in the shrine. Because they had been enchanted *by* the many gods, they found it easy to track the Umbras... With the help of divine intervention, of course.

Outraged by their interruption, Cyril ordered the Umbras to attack the heroes. They did just that, this time being met with strong resistance. Garrick's alliance with nature made it easy for him to thwart Olivia's vines. Dylan's connection with water made taking down Skylar and Reuben's water-based magic seem like child's play. Next, Blaise's bond with fire ensured that Talia's flame spells would not work. Finally, Era's divine heritage gave her control of the skies and of the weather, thereby rendering Elizabeth unable to concentrate during a hurricane and Elas unable to accurately teleport when he was trying to avoid lightning. Throughout the course of this epically monumental battle of good and evil, Jacob tried his best to contort the minds of the Elementals, but their purity and bonds with each other blocked his magic.

In the end, Cyril found that his companions could not help him. In one last effort to vanquish his foes, he called upon Kausada to offer him his *own* divine intervention. As Cyril was the last hope for his dark influence to spread, Kausda forced himself to appear within the holy shrine.

Fusing with Cyril's soulless body, Kausda unleashed all of his powers upon the Elementals in one terrifying go. The powers of death, evil, darkness, and chaos were then summoned into the divine shrine of the gods.

Banding together, Blaise, Era, Dylan, and Garrick combined their powers of light, life, fire, air, water, earth, and virtue into one solid beam to combat Kausda's

darkness. The resulting clash was as powerful as a supernova. Everyone in all the land heard this ultimate explosion of good and evil.

As the dust settled over the ruins of the shrine of the gods, the only people left standing at the end of the day were the Elementals. They instantly became renowned heroes who were praised and glorified for the rest of their lives. History of this magical land soon forgot all about the vile Order of the Umbra. It was as if Cyril the Origin and his Umbra knights never existed.

Of course, that was far from the truth...

In reality, the magical force of the Elemental's beam far outweighed the force of Kausda's magical energy. When the possessed Cyril was struck by the magic, Kausda was immediately returned to his place underground in hell. The Umbras on the other hand were amalgamated into an incorporeal orb of magic. Within this orb, one divine ability became more important than the rest: teleportation.

Using every ounce of his willpower, Elias transported the orb of the Umbras across the dimensional fabrics between dimensions, causing them to land in a new realm. They soon discovered two things: one, that interdimensional travel was not an exact science, meaning people would end up scattered to the winds, and two, that in this other world, technology, reason, science, and math reigned supreme above all else. To the people of this 'other world', magic was nothing but utter fancy.

The Umbras were in for the culture shock of a lifetime. Over the course of the next few years, the Umbras eventually began to settle down and into their new lives, all of them still lightly ensnared by Kausda's dark influence.

Finding themselves in a large high-tech city on a planet called Terran, Talia, Elizabeth, Skylar, and Reuben made themselves at home, secretly starting to take control of its government.

Also on the planet Terran, Olivia found her old allies, but soon decided to desert them and to establish a 'greenhouse' of sorts where she would reside alone for some time, slowly driving herself mad.

In the case of Elias and Jacob, they found themselves on another planet called Scabras, candidly establishing a monarchy where Elias was king and Jacob was his second-in-command.

As for Cyril, he despised the other Umbras. Still feeling betrayed from their inability to stop the Elementals, he vowed to himself to eventually strengthen them all. He wanted nothing more than to control everything or else to see it destroyed. Hijacking a large spacecraft designed by the people of the other world-- who thankfully spoke the same language as him --Cyril rode off into the galaxy. Alone yet again, he had time to scheme.

Choosing to refocus his magical energy slightly away from evil and mostly towards the mathematics and sciences of this world, Cyril found his telekinesis to be quite an asset. While the other Umbra's continued to move on with their lives, Cyril kept working in his spacecraft, knowing that eventually he would one day rekindle the pure wickedness buried deep within his old companions.

Until that day though, Cyril kept honing his powers and studying the technology of the futuristic world.

Indeed, Cyril the Origin would one day return to face the Umbra Knights again. Elias, Jacob, Olivia, Elizabeth, Reuben, Skylar, and Talia would never be able to hide from him. After all, he hadn't forgotten that their magic was linked.

All Cyril truly knew was that the holder of this power within the Umbras was their souls, and Cyril had gotten quite *proficient* in reaving them. As the other Umbras were to discover, their Origin wanted them back, and he wanted them *soon*.

In the end, no one can resist the call to go back to where they came from. Furthermore, the Umbras would not be able to resist their very own *Origin* for long...