

ELISE, MILLIE & MARISA

# TIME FLIES



## Chapter 1

Cassie

For some strange reason, sleep would not bless me. You'd think that the continuous and rhythmic sound of a clock ticking would eventually make me fall asleep, but it doesn't. As soon as my heavy eyes close, I hear a scream. Beside me, B wakes up in a cold sweat, shaking from her nightmare. Adrian is already by her side and comforting her, whispering in her ear, telling her she is alright.

"B, it's not real. You're alright," I say.

"But it seemed so vivid. It was like I was there again," she says, tears falling softly down her face. On B's fifteenth birthday, her parents took her out to dinner. They were driving home when a drunk driver came speeding around the corner. To avoid it, they swerved crashing into a tree and rolling into a ditch. B got out lucky, a simple scratch on her forehead and a twisted ankle. Her parents, not so lucky.

When she stopped crying, she gazes out of the glass face of the clock tower, showing us the expansive streets of London. This was nothing new to us. B and I lived in the clock tower. B had no parents to go home to and I ran from mine when I was just ten years old. We survive on the leftover bread that the kind baker leaves us every morning with the occasional slice of cake that didn't sell. I used to live in the tower alone until B stumbled upon it. She was skinny, tall and odd girl that wore a ragged purple jumper, black jeans and black converses that looked like had been dragged through the mud. She used to try and steal the food the baker left for me but instead of yelling at her and telling her to go away, I invited her in, sharing my food and home. As we've talked, I've noticed smaller, more unique aspects of her. She had one green eye and one blue eye and ink-black hair. We shared many good times in the clock tower, especially when Adrian joined us. Adrian lives with his Uncle but visits us almost every day. He is like B in many ways, wears all black to go along with his dark hair, skin, and eyes. They are not just similar in regard to looks but also similar when it comes to personality. They're both sweet and sensitive whilst being headstrong and adventurous. We all click, each bringing different traits to the group.

We talk for a while before we all fall back to sleep, only to be woken up five minutes later by a strange buzzing noise. We look around and see a faint glow coming from the side of the room. All of us being immensely curious, we venture towards the light and discover something that you only see in the movies. A spinning circle of light is the cause of the sound and light. A portal? We've all experienced our fair share of weirdness, but this tops my daily dose of strange.

"Is it- is it a portal?" I stutter, looking through. It shows something that I can't comprehend. A strange, colourful world, it almost looks magical.

"I don't know, it looks like it," Adrian says, "let's check it out."

## Chapter 2

Cassie

"No way! We're not going through it," I say, taking a step back and planting my feet on the ground.

"Why not! It'll be fun!" B says, siding with Adrian.

"Yeah, but it could be dangerous!"

"We don't know that!" Adrian argues.

I sigh, "That's exactly my point! We don't know if it's fun either." We argue about it, but after a while, they win me over.

"We will never know if we never go!" B argues, a convincing point. So, soon enough, we are all stepping through the mysterious portal. It's a strange feeling, stepping through a portal. It feels like you are being pulled down and are floating away at the same time, like you can run a marathon but your body aches. We emerge in a strange world. The only way I can describe it is that it's the complete opposite to Earth. The grass is blue, the horizon is green, the sky is yellow, and the water is pink. Everything that should be solid is soft and light and it feels like there is zero gravity, but my feet manage to stay on the ground. The air is warm, and it is quiet but not eerie. As we get further into the strange land, my crystal pendant starts to grow warm and heavy on my chest. It emits a soft glow that is visible from the outside of my shirt. I look over at Adrian and B and their pendants are also glowing. We found the pendants at the bottom of my backpack one day. We decided that they were a blessing and a sign of our friendship and that we would wear them forever, never taking them off. Mine was a golden crystal, B's was clear crystal while Adrian's glowed bright red.

"Um, guys? What's happening?" I ask.

"I don't know. It seems weird but I don't think that they are dangerous. They seem almost powerful." Adrian says, holding his pendant up to his face.

"I say that we explore for a bit, we should try and find something that will help us figure out what's going on." We all agree and venture on, finding a small settlement soon enough. The town is full of normal-looking people just going about their day, apparently unaware of our presence. We walk up to a friendly-looking mother, her child at her side, following her around a fountain.

"Hi!" We say.

"Hey, can I help you?" she says, moving to the side of the path.

"Um, yes. This'll sound weird but, um, where are we?" I ask.

"Oh, a portal must have accidentally opened up again. Sorry," she says as if this was a regular occurrence. "This is Vitreus, the land of crystals. We are the dimension opposing Earth. The complete opposite!" she says happily as if she were a tour guide.

"Well, that makes sense! It explains why our crystals were glowing," B says.

"Wait! Did you say crystals? Can I please see them?" she asks. We find that as an odd request but comply anyway. I tug at the chain and show her my pendant. The others follow my lead. "Oh wow, they are element crystals! Where did you guys find them?"

"They just appeared in my backpack one day. We've been wearing them ever since. Why? What's wrong with them?"

"Oh, there's nothing wrong with them, it's just that there are only five elemental crystals in the universe. Time, air, water, fire, and nature. They are the foundation of Vitreus, everything living is made from them. Do you see the islands surrounding the fountain? They are all named after each of the elemental crystals."

"Why is the top one so large?" I ask.

"It's the Island of Time. The most important of them all, the one you are wearing right now," she says. I look more closely at it and notice ticking hands of a clock. They are faint, but they are there. "The boy wears fire and the girl wears air. I must take you to the King, he will be delighted!"

### Chapter 3

Cassie

We follow her to the Time island. She leads us up on the pink waterfall, and strangely enough, we didn't get wet from it. I see five different thrones, the King taking up the one on the far left. He's a young man clothed in layers of robes. I feel particularly underdressed in my old band t-shirt, black jeans, and scruffy boots. It makes me feel better that B and Adrian are dressed similarly. The king doesn't seem to care though. He grins widely as we approach him, but his smile only grows when he notices the crystals around our necks.

"Earthlings! Welcome! You've found my crystals!" he says happily. I am unsure as to whether I should bow or curtsy or whatever but nobody else seems to, so I just stay upright.

"Um, thank you," I say awkwardly. I don't really know what to say so I just stay silent.

"Wow, you guys are quiet. Anyways, as a reward for your achievements, you get to keep them! Their powers are for you to use, however, if you use them against Vitreus, you will um, they will be taken from you!"

"Cool, thanks!" Adrian says. The King dismisses us, and we walk to just beyond the town.

"Well, now that they are officially ours, I guess that we should figure out how to use them."

We experiment for a while with no luck. "We've been practising for hours," B groans. "I don't know if it is powered by command, hand movement or my mind." She does all three things at once and hurls a gust of wind as strong as a tornado towards us. She laughs evilly and flicks her braid behind her. "Oh, my goodness! That was so fun!" she laughs as she throws another tornado at us. To block it, Adrian somehow lights his hands-on fire and throws it at the wind, breaking the impact.

"Still fun?" He asks.

"Ah, yeah!" I say, twisting my hands anti-clockwise and watching the world go back in time. I skip back to right before B threw a tornado at us and stop.

"Woah, Cassie! That was amazing!" I blush and turn my head away before starting again, turning the time back to when they were babies. In two minutes, Baby Adrian and Baby B are staring back at me. I laugh for a while before turning the time forward and bringing them back to the present day. They yell at me in a series of swear words that I can't repeat and end up laughing. We go back to town and look for a place to crash for the night. The kind woman from earlier, we learn her name as Caroline, invites us into her house and we stay in her spare room. We stay with her for a couple of days while we practise using our powers and explore Vitreus. We have no thought of what we are going to do here and how we will get back home. The weird thing was, we didn't think about Earth as our home anymore, Vitreus is where we belong.

During our stay at Caroline's, she teaches us about our powers with the crystals. She tells us that with practice, we can do extraordinary things, such as producing golems in the form of our element. She didn't explain much further into the topic; however, I know is that it's important.

We were wandering around Vitreus when we see something that we shouldn't. We see a portal opened up in front of the fountain and watch as hundreds of Vitreus soldiers marching into it. We've only been gone for a few days, what's happened?

## Chapter 4

Adrian

This whole world's becoming an enigma of unsolved mysteries and I hated it. While the soldiers hurry through the periwinkle-coloured portal, my mind rushes with different options. We can go through the portal with them to discover what's going on, and don't get me wrong, I'm all in for an adventure but I'd doubt Cassie would even consider that option after she was reluctant in the first place.

"What are they doing?" Cassie whispers, careful to keep her voice low so the soldiers won't hear.

"Something," B responded, to which Cassie rolled her eyes at.

As options and possibilities continue through my head, I settle on one that seems the safest, and the most reasonable. Something we won't get in trouble for.

"How about we just ask the king?" I question, maybe a little too loud as one of the soldiers turned their head to make the most awkward eye contact with me, but kept walking anyways.

"Shhh! Keep your voice down!" B cries, even though she's being louder than me.

"That's actually a good idea. We should ask the king, he'd know what's going on." Cassie stepped up.

So, like that, we head off from the fountain and into the king's village, which is diagonally above us. Stepping into the pink waterfall we float up to the top of the island where the king lives, and again, didn't get wet. In between the two fountains spurting pastel-pink water, was the king's hut. The king's hut's way bigger than the other huts in Vitreus and differentiated in colour. Like the other huts, the king's hut has a colour to match its element – water. The king's hut itself is a deep blue, and in general, is boring and unappealing.

"Is this really his place? I thought he would decorate it more, considering his personality." B muttered, mostly to herself.

"It's definitely the king's place," Cassie confirms, pointing to the sign on the right, a little water symbol with a crown on top – something the other islands don't have.

Stepping on the cobblestone-like pathway - even though it's probably made from a completely different material - we walk up to the door of the hut and I inhale as I opened the door. Immediately, the sight that greeted me startled me so much I could feel the blood rushing to my cheeks, and I exhale quickly slamming the door in lightning-fast motion.

"What's wrong Adrian?". B questions from behind me, slight concern in her voice

"A WARNING WOULD'VE BEEN NICE!" A shout came from behind the door.

"Oh," B mumbles, stifling her laughter and a smile forming on her face.

After a moment of silence, the door opens, and a red-faced king glares into my eyes.

"You can come in now." He quietly says, probably still flustered.

Now walking into the marble-decorated floor - even though again, it probably isn't marble – I look around. The walls are pure blue, nothing else decorating them. I look towards the king, my lips part to question him about the marching soldiers, but B beats me to it.

"We saw soldiers before marching into a portal, there were thousands of them, and we're wondering if you know anything about it?" the king's facial expression drops at B's words.

My heart rate increases, and I start to feel fear for the first time in so long at the king's next words.

"They're warriors, participating in the war against earth." Sorrow seeping into the king's voice as he answers.

"A war against Earth?" Cassie uncharacteristically shouts.

"Seven years ago - when the new king of Earth was declared – His people created a portal that opened up on our land." He sighs, clearly not liking the memory. "Ever since the portal opened, he has sent multiple soldiers to our land in hopes of killing our people and conquering our magic." The king's voice starts to get shaky, almost like he's on the verge of tears. "We have lost multiple warriors to it, but we will not give up. If he ever conquers our magic not only will he kill all our people, but he will never use it for good."

His words brought actual guilt to me. My people tried to take over this beautiful land and have murdered warriors that were meant to live such meaningful lives. But somehow, all of this doesn't make sense.

## Chapter 5

Adrian

Cassie speaks up, the first one to realise something was wrong.

"I'm confused? When we were on earth, there was no war. Well, not one anyone was talking about." The king's eyes widens at her words and we can all tell he was confused as well.

Before the king could say anything, I spoke up.

"We need to go back to earth and figure out what's going on." B nods and the king smiles, but I could tell Cassie isn't exactly sure with that option.

"If we go back to earth while they're in a war, don't you think we'd somehow get involved and forced to fight?" She has a good point, but I'm not standing here while both my homes are at war.

B speaks up. "We have our crystals, if they force us to do anything, they'll definitely regret it."

A sadistic smile forms on her face and her eyes turn dark.

Cassie furrows her brows in frustration and defeat, but eventually agrees to go back to earth.

"Okay, fine."

And just like that, the king walks us back down the pink waterfall and guides us to the portal where soldiers were still entering. A wide smile straining both his cheeks but at least it was better than before when he was crying.

"Bye-bye you three! I'll be waiting for you all when you get back!" He shouts.

I'm in front of the periwinkle-portal again. My heart rate increases, and I can feel the adrenaline running through my veins with the excitement. Just before I stepped through the portal, B rushes up to it and pushes me onto the ground.

"Ladies first!" And I roll my eyes.

Cassie followed suit and smirks down at me while I was still on the ground. I hear the king's laughing in the background but eventually, I get back on my own two feet and step through. Instantly, I'm on the ground again while B's above me stifling a snicker and Cassie is on her two feet to roll her eyes again. Standing up and looking around, I realise that we're still at the clock tower where B lives.

"I wonder what time it is now." B jokes and walks up to retrieve her phone on one of the benches on the right.

"That's actually a good idea, what time is it B?" I ask.

As B presses the side of her phone with her finger, and the screen lights up, her jaw drops and she suddenly covers her mouth with her hand in shock.

"Guys..." she stutters.

"What?" Cassie sounds concerned, it's leaking into her voice.

"We're in the year 3046." She states, bluntly. "While we've been in Vitreus for a couple of days, earth has aged ten years."

## Chapter 6

Adrian

I feel my heart stop. Or well, my heart actually started to speed up and was beating louder than a bass drop.

“What?” Cassie shrieks. “We’re ten years in the future!”

“Well, at least that explains the war the king was talking about.” B reasons.

That reminds me, now that we’re here on earth, we must find the new king of earth and find out what’s going on.

“Come on guys, we have to find the other king!” I yell suddenly out of realisation.

B rolls her eyes and Cassie nods. The only problem is...

“We don’t know where he is, idiot.” B curses, probably annoyed I yelled at her.

Before I could yell back at her saying it’s easier than just sitting around, Cassie speaks up yet again.

“Then we’ll just find him.”

We all nod and walk outside, immediately seeing the changes from the last decade. There are now flying cars, hover boards, and a huge amber-coloured portal in the middle of it all, exactly like the one in Vitreum, soldiers were entering it too. As the soldiers walked, my crystal necklace started to glow a burning scarlet.

“Vitrians!” A robotic voice calls out. “Initiating attack sequence.” It speaks up again. Wait, initiating what now-

Missiles are launched at us in lightning-fast speed. I close my eyes, waiting for it to hit me, but they never did. In the background, I could hear B’s maniacal laughing, the missiles stopping in mid-air.

“Foolish Earthlings,” She howled. “You are no match for my power! Missiles will never stop me!”

She flicked her hair sassily, a maniacal smile still on her lips, but then realises her mistake as she turns her head and widens her eyes.

“Oh shi-“

I hear an explosion behind, I shook my head, annoyed. It’s B, back at it again with destroying things and hurting herself in the process.

## Chapter 7

**B**

I stand, my head spinning horribly, a thumping pain clouding over my train of thought, an eerie ring flooding my ears. I turn to look to the Vitrian soldier. My jaw drops open as my eyes grow wide with horror. I hear my name being called out as Adrian, slides pulling me into a hug of gratefulness.

"Thank god you're alive!" his voice is barely audible, through the ringing. Something warm trickles down my cheek. Blood? Tears? A mixture of the two probably, I'm not sure.

"I'm fine." Is all I managed to stutter. Adrian nods and helps me stand.

"Good because we need to get back, you seem to have taken care of the army on this side, now back to the front lines we go." Adrian picked up a run, his speed increasing as his hands spark with flames. I follow, coming out of my daze. People die, such is life. There is no time to mourn now. I head through the streets of London I know so well, passing the street of horrors as I call it after that night...so long ago...

*No! Stay focused.* I think furiously. I won't cry for my parents today. I won't. I find the front lines, a couple streets over, jumping into battle, adrenaline kicking in. I see Cassie a little way back, her hands gold, one of them holding the other still. She refuses to fight until necessary, so she stays and heals people in the background. I shake my head refocusing; my eyes land on a sniper lining his barrel up on an unsuspecting Vitrian soldier who was fighting off two attackers. My hands gain a cloud, white rune symbols around them and I lock onto the sniper. I raise my hands lifting him up and throwing him off the building, only satisfied when I hear a splat. I hear mechanical complaint and turn to see a tank, again setting its sight on me. Typical. I pull both my hands back and push with great force. The tank went flying, and I mean *flying*. It sails through the air and lands on a group of the London army. Oh, I do so love explosions.

"Honestly B, I think you send more Vitrian soldiers to the medical bay than the LA do," I hear Adrian say to me. I smile cryptically, giving him a sideways glance.

"Well I just couldn't leave Cassie out. I want her to enjoy this too," I reply sweetly. Adrian throws a smile of agreeance at me.

"On your left." I call.

"On your right." he replies. We both round housed, the adults coming at us their weapons bared. Adrian touches his opponent, disintegrating him in a second, I steal the air from mine. This is probably the most fun I've had in ages. Call me insane all you want. I don't care, at least I admit I'm crazy. I run off jumping back into the heat of battle; kicking, punching, and using my magic. Oh, this was epic, something out of all those old *Marvel* movies I'd seen with dad, when I was little. I pause for a few moments to catch my breath. Breathing in ash and dust, the adrenaline slowly fading as I was calming. I could feel burning pain spreading like fire through my left arm, looking over I saw a gash running the length of my arm, gushing with scarlet. Huh, wonder how I got that. Suddenly I felt something collide with my stomach. Uh oh...

Gently I put a shaking hand to my belly.

That was a horrible mistake.

## Chapter 8

### B

My hand was slick and warm, coated in red. I heard footsteps and a familiar voice behind me,

"We have the enemy on the run. The General asked if you and I will keep pushing them back as they regroup-" Adrian cut off as I turned to look at him slowly. I saw his features constrict with concern, his tan skin paled. Was that possible?

"A-Adrian." I struggled to say, a horrible copper taste dancing fiercely on my tongue. I was suddenly less aware of my surroundings as I watched the world spin and crash. A strong pair of arms guiding me down. Adrian was staring at me with his charcoal black eyes, he was calling Cassie's name but I doubt she was coming.

"Come on B, stay with me. Cassie's coming. Please hold on." he said urgently. My eyes were heavy, and gaining lead every second. I winced with the surging pain that spread through my torso. White. Hot. Agonising. Pain. I bit my lower lip preventing a cry of hurt as the pain worsened. I saw horror contort across Cassie's face she held her golden hands up and started that motion I saw her do before, but this time her hands were violently shaking as she did so, tears pooling in her eyes, and streaming over her cheeks. "Don't...cry..." I managed to gurgle, warm liquid running from the corner of my mouth, leaving a trail of red in its wake. My eyes focused on Adrian; he was his tan self, but paler, his cheek was bruised, his lip split, a cut just above his eyebrow, with a trickle of dark dried blood down the side of his left temple, the entirety of his face was dusty. Whereas Cassie's face was merely dirtied in several places. And then...everything just seemed to freeze. How odd? At least the pain had stopped.

*-“Did you enjoy your night honey?” Mum asked me, looking in the rear-view mirror catching my eyes. I beamed widely, “Of course Mum! Thank you, so much for bringing me out!” I said happily. My parents smiled at me, both thrilled at my enjoyed time with them. My dad placed a hand on my knee, “I’m glad you enjoyed your birthday dinner.” Mum cursed unexpectedly, and dad whipped around, all signs of happiness wiped from his face. Headlights sped towards us quickly-*

The world woke up in a rush. I sat up gasping and spluttering, two tight embraces followed. One of belonging to Cassie and the other Adrian.

"Never do that again-" Cassie started,

"Or we will kill you," Adrian teased without humour. I couldn't help but laugh breathlessly.

"Overprotective. The both of you." I muttered hugging them. Something felt off...I could feel it in the air something was heading towards us and fast. In an instant I stood up, pushing Cassie and Adrian behind me, the rune symbols returned and I held up my hands. The air thickened and condensed around us, I wasn't sure about the others but I could see the clear air turning a pure white as it formed a curved shield. Not even ten seconds later my air shield caught a missile shell from a tank. *Stupid tanks.* I thought again. I reversed the missile and pushed it back using air as the extra force at the tank. Ah yes, satisfaction.

## Chapter 9

### B

Cassie, Adrian and I continued to push the London Army back, forcing them to retreat, but I still had that weird feeling. That feeling I get when something bad happens. Generally, I'm right. And oh boy, look who was right again. As our trio rounded a corner following the disappearing army, the ground shook. No. It thundered. All of us lost our footing and fell to the ground and looked around.

"The heck?!" Cassie called, her tone annoyed. The ground stopped shuddering. We jumped to our feet ready for anything; my cloud coloured rune symbols wrapping around my arms, Adrian's fire licking up his arms, and Cassie's hands glowed golden, her own sun coloured rune symbols ready. We took defensive positions. But there was nothing there to attack us—except two pillars of rock wide going to thin. In all honesty, they looked like feet. But feet to what?

"Oh...damn..." Adrian came his mouth open in shock, his head tilted back looking to the sky, Cassie and I were quick to follow his gaze and his reaction.

"Is that a mother fridgin GOLEM?!" Cassie shouted. I knew what it was; The Earth wielder was here and looks like they were fighting for London.

"UTTERLY USELESS UGH!" Adrian shrieked with frustration. We were having our butts handed to us. The Earth golem swiped at me once more; I threw myself at the pavement, rolling into a somersault and halting myself in a low crouch. Adrian was right, we were doing absolutely nothing to the golem. How the heck was a fifteen and two fourteen-year-olds supposed to beat a creature of this size and power of magnitude. I huffed agitated. If this Earth wielder could produce a golem, why couldn't we? I ran to an alley behind me that separated two building. I sat myself down and breathed. Slow calming breaths. I ignored the battle around me and focused on pushing my spirit out of my body. Slowly the air changed around me dropping to freezing, I could hear more, feel more.

"WOAH!" I heard Cassie say, her voice was stupid loud and bounced in my ears relentlessly. I looked down at her. She was as tiny, as an ant. I took a fighting stance straightening myself back up. The Earth golem seemed enraged when he saw mine; I must have been a golem myself! Sweet! The Earth Golem swung a punch at me, I grabbed its hand and judo flipped it over my hip. I hoped and prayed that Adrian and Cassie had moved out of the way because the Earth golem slammed down into the ground creating a crater. Oh, I could get used to this. *Thank you, dad, for signing me up for Jiu-Jitsu.* The fight dragged on, Earth punched me, I punched back. It kicked, I kicked. Our stamina was slowly draining as our fast fighting, bit by bit depleted. Earth had a sudden flair of strength and attacked kicking me into a building. I groaned as stars swirled in my vision. The Earth golem pinned me, slowly pulling my arms, trying to tear them from my body. I cried out in agony as the Earth golem seemed to...grin?

## Chapter 10

### B

Red fire crossed my vision, as I watched Adrian punch the Earth golem in the jaw. The Earth golem stumbled back, faltering.

“Switch out B, my turn now.” I heard Adrian say with a boyish tone. He was excited as I was about finally being able to do damage. We didn’t particularly care that we were destroying the streets, or buildings. I mean, why would we? Adrian kicked and I threw a powerful punch both collided with the Earth golem causing him to stumble more. But it wasn’t done yet. Oh no, it threw Adrian over his shoulder into the ground, and of course me back into yet another building. *What’s with me being thrown into buildings suddenly?* I thought to myself, glaring daggers at the Earth golem. The Earth golem slowly weakened, as both Adrian and I dished out twice as much as we had gotten. It’s like that old saying I guess, ‘Mess with the wolf you get the pack’. Finally, after what seemed like hours, I grabbed the Earth golem by the neck and held him steady. Adrian sprinted full speed and tore Earth golems arm off. It shrieked in pain before retreating back to its human body. In the distance Cassie, Adrian and I heard an unbearable screech of pain. Adrian and I returned to our bodies; battered, bruised, bleeding, and sore. We stood and made our way towards the shouting. We came across a writhing boy no more than a couple years older than me at most.

“YOU?!” Adrian, Cassie and I yelled with astonishment when we recognised the boy.

“That’s no way to speak to your king!” he hissed between his teeth.

It all seemed fine to the three best of friends. Until one exciting sleepover in London clock tower, a mysterious portal opens. Join Adrian, Blair, and Cassie – the ABC friends on their adventure as they explore the portal to another dimension where their friendship crystals light up in power and meet a clumsy, but powerful King. Little do they know of the dark secret Earth and Vitreus contain, and of the war that has only just begun.