

Memoire de Rayloria: Raylorian Dawn

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Raylorian Dawn

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CHAPTER 13

The tunnel seemed to continue on for miles. Kayla didn't like the roller coaster ride one bit as she repeatedly tried to grab hold of the ledges she came across. They appeared to sink into the wall at her grappling. Continuing down the path, the girl rolled over every bump she came across like a Skeleton rider. She endured going over another bump that suddenly flipped the girl on her back. Kayla yelped at being flipped over but now, she couldn't see the path in front of her.

Kayla felt path turn to right and into a huge fork in the road that lead into a sharply declining path. At the fork Kayla turned around to the front, traveling down the passage like a luger. The path continued to sharpen. In an instant, Kayla found herself free falling into the darkness. She thought about trying to stop herself on the sides.

Unfortunately, the tube widened out every inch of the way, making the move nearly impossible.

That's when Kayla saw a hook in the middle of the passage heading into the void and grabbed onto it. She looked down, watching dust fall into an endless abyss. Her grip started to loosen. Kayla looked up to see more hooks and grabbed onto another next to the one she hanged from. Hook by hook, Kayla pulled herself up to the fork in the road. Suddenly, heavy pieces of trash fell from above, trying to knock her off balance. Kayla swerved in and out of the bombardment before finally reaching the top.

"That's what I get for following that path." she mulled over in her mind cynically while resting there on the ground.

Kayla then got up and dusted herself off. She started to study each tunnel. Four of them surrounded her (Two going down, two going up). Kayla looked at the path she took from Joan's room, tracing it with her head to the left tunnel going into the abyss.

Kayla trusted not one bit of this place. She was reluctant to try the other tunnel, believing that it would lead to the same place.

"How do I know that tunnel won't lead to another pit?" Kayla asked herself while looking down the tunnel on the right side. She leaned over it more and started to back up. Kayla started to lose her balance.

"Not again!" Kayla screamed. She tried reaching for one of the hooks on the side. Sadly, they were out of her reach.

Kayla was sliding backwards down the tunnel for a few feet. Suddenly, the path opened up and Kayla landed on a haystack.

"That's a relief." Kayla sighed. She rose from the tall haystack while pulling the pieces of straw off her, and went outside.

The place looked deserted. Tumbleweeds and paper were floating in the wind around the abandoned barn. The sky was gray like a storm was approaching. Lightning flashed in

the distance, passing by the farm house.

Suddenly, a flier hit Kayla in the face. She quickly pulled it off to read its contents: ***“Cecil Kunzelman for mayor... or not!”***

“Ha!” Kayla laughed, reading the flier aloud. “I agree!”

Something behind her ruffled inside a large cornfield behind Kayla after she spoke. The sound gradually got louder. Kayla saw two red eyes staring back at her from inside the stalks. She started backing up, startled by the being staring evil at her, and suddenly took off running. Kayla quickly glanced back at seeing a large, feminine robot crash through the fence surrounding the field with its massive crab-like legs.

Kayla ran faster, trying to get away from the robot now slicing at her with a giant energy scythe. The girl sped up each time the robot swung down and at her. There were punctures in the road at each missed strike the robot made with its weapon.

The case continued for a half a mile. Kayla started to slow down; flailing her arms tiresomely—there was nowhere to hide. She looked around again for a hiding spot and suddenly saw a junkyard in the distance. Kayla took another quick look back at the robot edging closer and closer. That’s when she tripped over a rock and started to tumble down the road. The roll saved her just as the robot brought down its scythe, striking pavement again. Kayla continued to roll but stopping at hitting the junkyard’s gates. The robot stayed at the top of the hill, beaming and with the scythe lugged over on its shoulder. The blade part reached behind its head. Before long, it stomped back into the cornfield, disappearing from Kayla’s sight.

Kayla sighed in relief after getting up. She started toward the inside. The first thing the girl wanted to do was find her suit. In a big place like this, Kayla believed Tassie could be anywhere. So, the girl followed a path down a jagged alley outlined by crushed cars and robots hoping to find some kind of door. Kayla came back to that same place hours later. After seeing this familiar place for the hundred or so time, she sighed depressively at her going around in circles.

Every corner led Kayla around the large, all of which were identical. Some of them had slash marks through the armor while others were piles of burned metal. Yet those slash marks were only in some areas. Kayla looked more at the slash marks after coming to one area with a large number of them. She wondered who or what was responsible for their deaths.

“Axennine...” Kayla thought, almost shivering at the name.

Suddenly, something growled in the distance. Kayla quickly hid herself in the alcove of a melted mecha conglomeration and watched the roof tops of other molded collections for something—the sound came from the air. Those melted robotic displays were like mini sky scrapers.

The wind started picking up as something big whizzed past Kayla. The girl looked up and saw a three headed monster glide toward one of the tall monuments. It flapped its wings once, gaining more speed and reached the top. The beast’s huge talons grappled

the small floor beneath it, shaking pieces of machinery loose from the tower in its landing. The beast stayed perched there, wagging not one but nine tails behind two massive falcon-like wings. All three heads were chewing on a giant piece of meat left over from what looked like a cow. The middle head howled victoriously. Kayla couldn't see that head clearly as the other two heads obscured her vision. The larger of the two heads was the one on the far right—the mythological dragon. Kayla shook her head in disbelief to what she saw but then remembered—this beast was created in a digital realm. The far left head soon showed itself, tugging at one end of their meal with its ferocious teeth like a lion's. When the body turned, the lion head came into Kayla's view. The dragon pulled the meat further toward itself. This maneuver made the lion angry as the morsel was ripped from its jaws and over more to the other two heads. The lion roared angrily at the dragon head and began swiping at it with its bear-like claws. The dragon pushed the hand away from itself with the other claw. The middle head started laughing like a hyena at the scene. The dragon began to laugh but with a snort. It continued laughing while the food was between its teeth.

Kayla tried moving in for a closer look at the middle head, tippy toeing her way into another alcove across from the beast. The cow prevented her from seeing the middle head. She moved in closer and stumbled over a piece of metal sticking out of the ground. The dragon stopped chomping at hearing something ruffle below. The head then saw Kayla. It then did a head motion downward at Kayla to the other two heads. The other two heads stopped eating after the dragon got their attention. Kayla backed up as the lion started staring at her. She scooted backward on the ground.

The lion dropped the cow on the ground, splattering it on the ground before her. That's when Kayla saw the middle head—a hybrid wolf mixed with a fox.

Axennine leaned toward her with all three heads with hungry looks on their faces. Kayla took off running again. The beast jumped off its perch and soared toward her, gaining speed the more it flapped its wings. Kayla ran away as fast as she could but Axennine was much faster. The faster it flew, the more debris followed behind the monster, cutting the skyscrapers in half with its falcon wings fully expanded.

Axennine stretched out to grab Kayla with its bear-like claws as it was inches from reaching her. The girl suddenly fell through the floor and into a dark, dimly lit room. Axennine grunted, roared, and laughed at missing the bite. Kayla got up, aching from the sudden drop. She looked up at Axennine circling the hole in the ground from the air. Then the debris passed by the hole. Kayla turned her head away as a cloud of dust fell upon her face. The lion and dragon roared at Kayla. Those sounds became muffled as the heavier pieces from skyscrapers that were crumbling behind Axennine clogged the hole. Eventually, the roaring became distant. Axennine had left the area.

“Phew,” Kayla said relieved. “That was a relief!”

A voice behind Kayla mimicked her words from inside the dark room.

“Hello?” Kayla called, turning toward the voice. “Is there anybody there?”
There was no answer this time.

Suddenly, the lights flickered on. Kayla found herself in a dungeon room with a wall

outlined with weapons and armor. She then turned around and saw something gray sitting in a case.

“Tassie!” Kayla exclaimed, running up to her suit. The girl quickly glanced at something else that was different on the suit. “He oughta know how!” Kayla felt more relieved that Cecil had taken the liberty in repairing her suit. She grinned though, knowing it was to his detriment. Kayla prepared to remove the case but stopped at remembering something—the alarm. She then stepped away from the case.

Something then growled in the distance. Yet this growl was much different from Axennine’s. This growling was higher in pitch. Kayla rethought her strategy and took a chance at removing her suit from the case anyway. Fortunately, the alarm didn’t sound. The growling stopped momentarily. Kayla started toward the exit after suiting up. The growling picked up again, this time a little louder. She walked toward the exit. Something tapped her on the shoulder. Kayla shoved her hand backward at something, knocked whatever it was away with her reflector. A monster screeched at being knocked back. Kayla turned around immediately to see—herself? No, that wasn’t right. She blinked at seeing the doppelganger.

“You’re kidding me!” Kayla yelled in disbelief, eyeing her double. The clone stared back with its jet black eyes and copied her words.

“You know what?” Kayla waved her hands at the thing and turned back towards the exit.

“I don’t have time for this!”

“Oh, but you will!” the monster added in a creepy, hissing voice as Kayla reached the stairs.

Kayla then heard a sword unsheathing at the same time. Then the gate in front of her slammed shut in her face, sealing off the exit. The girl turned around immediately to see the doppelganger launch itself at her with two blades. Kayla ducked, rolling away to behind the monster. The monster adapted, slashing backward only to have its blade knocked out of its hand by Kayla’s reflector. The weapon clanked up against the wall. Kayla laid there on the ground for a moment before the monster slashed frantically down at her with the one blade. Kayla pushed upward with her reflector, forcing the blade from the monster and into the wall above and behind them.

Kayla rose defiantly up at the monster with a “don’t mess with me” look on her face.

The monster leaned forward, not fazed by her fearlessness, and countered the girl’s boldness with dimmed eyes and hissing. Kayla grabbed the monster by the neck and threw it backward, sending the thing through the air like a basketball. She then ran to pick up a sword on the ground. As soon as she did, the monster charged at her with one it picked up also. The two met with swords clanking.

Kayla kicked the monster backward but it recovered by doing a front flip into a slash at her with both hands on its blade. Kayla sidestepped the monster and kicked it sideways onto the ground. The doppelganger got up and spun around with its blade in a twirling motion. Kayla parried with the blade, holding it diagonally downward. As their blades met, Kayla twirled her blade around and upward, attempting to disarm her opponent. As the blade was dislodged from the monster’s grasp, Kayla pointed her blade up at its neck

victoriously and with a grin her lips.

The monster hissed, slowly showing its horizontally arranged teeth, gurgling. Saliva dripped from its mandibles like a dog with rabies. Suddenly, the monster raised its arms at Kayla. She raised an eyebrow at the monster's arms starting to morph. The monster took advantage of Kayla's daze and slashed sideways at her like a pair of scissors. Kayla anticipated the swipe and ducked. The doppelganger adapted, slashing down at her like an axe. She rolled away and behind it again. Kayla swiped at the monster's leg, seeing that its last maneuver had left it vulnerable. The doppelganger shrilled in pain.

Growing angrier at Kayla, it charged at the girl frantically and with more growling.

Kayla retaliated by activating her reflector at an angle, pushing the monster away toward the wall. As she got up, the scenery quickly changed to outer space. Everything, including the glass case containing Kayla's suit, vanished. Kayla froze, baffled by the change in surroundings—the monster saw its opponent caught off guard again by the change in scenery and slashed at her. Kayla quickly blocked with her sword, recovering quickly from her confusion after seeing the thing charge at her. She then followed up with her reflector, knocking the monster backward.

The monster tried something new this time as it dashed toward Kayla. It started spinning around at her like a helicopter. Kayla smirked at seeing the blade spin and slashed vertically at the monster, activating her reflector in front of it. Upon collision the blade snapped in half. The monster shrieked after feeling weapon break off.

The monster stood there for a moment, gurgling madly at its opponent. Kayla stared back at the thing, bouncing on her feet tauntingly with her blade swinging at her right side. Kayla knew she had won. That's when something hit her from behind.

Kayla turned around and saw a half dozen white glowing lights randomly spinning toward her. She activated her reflector again and right before they attacked her all at once. The six bounced backward and faded. The monster took this opportunity to strike at Kayla who was caught off guard by the helpers—so it thought.

Kayla sidestepped the monster with its other blade poised to slash at her. She pushed the beast into the star clusters that continued to come at her. The stars hit the doppelganger at full force. The monster shook chaotically, hollering in agony to each strike. The stars stopped falling as the monster's figure dimmed into a dark goopy substance.

“Ew!” Kayla said disgusted, backing away from the dead carcass. The scenery around her returned to the armory.

The gate to the exit now opened. Before Kayla left the place, she picked up a sword sheath from the armory, strapped it around her waist and sheathed her blade. Kayla then ran up the spiral staircase leading outside.

Kayla stopped to hide in an alcove next to the armory's entrance, remembering Axennine was still hunting her. She strafed around the corner. Axennine's triple animal call was heard in the distance—the dragon's loud grunting followed by the lion's roar and ending with the wolf's howling. Axennine swept the rooftops, landing heavily on each pillar and stopped at perching above the one Kayla stood under. Kayla closed her mouth at almost gasping loudly in fear to Axennine's presence. She immediately ducked into the alcove, dodging debris falling off the tower above. The beast didn't see her.

“What a relief.” Kayla thought to herself. Yet she was still edgy, remembering how she almost became lunch before falling through that hole in the ground.

Even with her suit, Kayla knew she had limits. A beast that massive would rip through her reflector like a sledge hammer could through dry wall. She had to find a way out of this place, remembering what Joan had told her earlier.

Kayla couldn't quite understand it after all—Cecil and his two wives, Danielle and Joan. Cecil treated Joan like a slave—Kayla pitied her. Whatever Joan had in mind, Kayla had to thank her for helping the girl escape. Kayla believed she may never get that chance. Kayla quickly glanced back toward the barn, seeing its rooftop in the distance. She thought more about going back for Joan. She decided against it—going back would be fatal. Then she thought of Axennine—a live holographic simulation of a mythological beast. The girl then remembered Cecil calling it a chimera—whatever that thing was.

“Not yet.” Kayla thought, looking above her at the giant digital monstrosity perched on the tower like a Pterodactyl in its nest. She ducked back in the alcove after hearing the beast snort.

The lion head roared tiresomely before the wolf head began to howl. The dragon head grunted after stretching its falcon wings and took flight. The tower shook violently as the chimera flapped its wings once more. Kayla quickly grabbed hold of something sturdy behind her as Axennine's wings began creating an updraft, almost pulling Kayla out of her hiding spot. She stood her ground just as Axennine went airborne and out the area. Kayla sighed in relief and continued on. She exited the junkyard and into a giant cornfield near a forest. A mountain range oversaw both landscapes.

Kayla believed it was the way out. The forest looked out of place in the southern farmland with birds and sounds of animals native only to a tropical rain forest. Then she remembered—this world wasn't real. It was a hacker's twisted digital playhouse. Kayla pushed into the cornfield faster with that in mind. Her movements were slowed down by the heavy mass of stalk in her path.

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