





But in the end, not all was warm and welcoming in Jacob's bed that night.

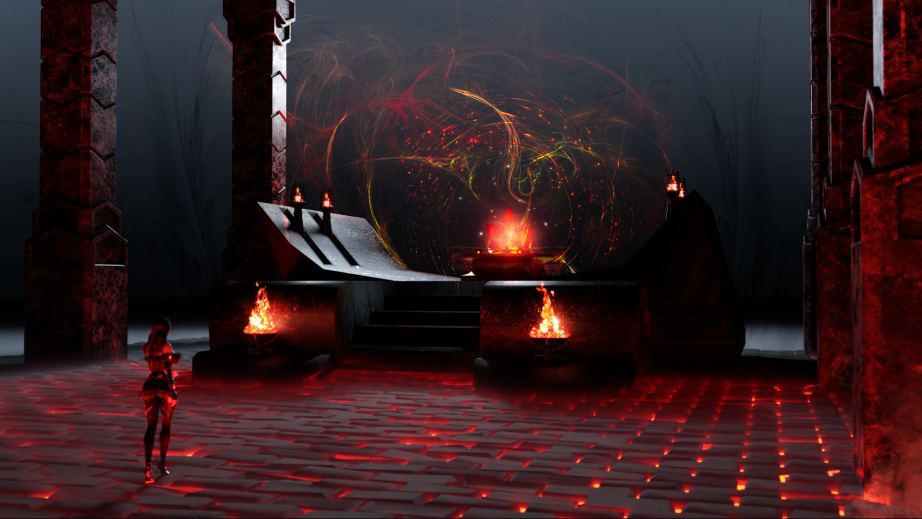
Despite the sensual touch of Candice's hand and the soft, welcoming texture of their covers, he couldn't shake the feeling of an internal conflict brewing within him.

His brow furrowed as he grasped at Candice's hand, trying to ground himself in the present moment. But even as he did, vivid images of a far-off world flooded his mind, leaving him disoriented and afraid.

A bead of sweat ran down his forehead as he found himself transported to a strange and otherworldly realm. The sights and sounds were unlike anything he had ever experienced before, and he couldn't shake the feeling that he was actually there, in the flesh.

It was a world full of darkness and despair. Distant sounds of mourning, crying, and hollering echoed all around him, but there was no apparent source. The world seemed empty, devoid of love, hope, and prosperity. As a nameless spirit, Jacob drifted further into the abyss, drawn by the distant flicker of pyres.

As he approached the pyres, the sense of grief and despair grew even stronger. Jacob felt a deep sense of foreboding, as though he was being pulled towards something ominous and terrible. But he couldn't turn back now. The pyres led him deeper and deeper into the darkness, towards a fate that he couldn't yet comprehend.



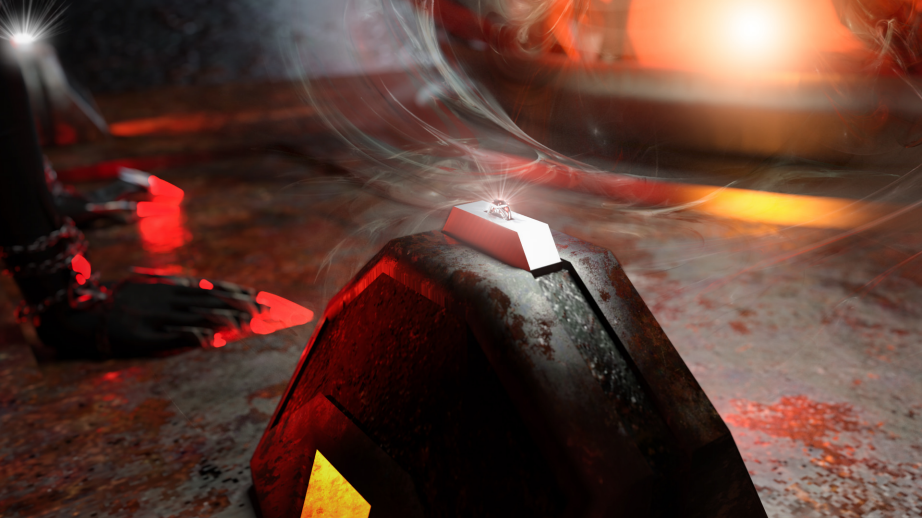
A familiar voice began to chant, "The Blessed and the Sinned will reunite once more," as the sound of heels clicking against molten brick stone echoed in the air. "Under the banner of man's willing sacrifice, a **NEW RULER** will be forged!"

Jacob felt his body being pulled towards the very object that the woman was approaching: a menacing giant red crystal. Black tendrils flung from it and soared through the air, flailing with the very same anger that seemed to have forged this place. Its power rippled and vibrated the air that surrounded it, threatening to overwhelm any who dared enter it's proximity.



"At long last... the primordial core!" Mordana announced in a voice nearly as ecstatic as it was shrill. Her body appeared unfazed by the power emanating from the crystal. "You can feel it, can't you? Darling. Hmmm?" Mordana purred as her long red claws clung to the imperfections upon the altar's stone. Her cheeks flushed red with pleasure, clearly getting off from her own thoughts. "That's right. Finally, I have all the requirements to fulfill the prophecy within my possession. At last, all of that pent up energy can be released, and we can become one. Isn't that wonderful?!" Her hand stroked the cold hard surface of the crystal, and Jacob felt a shiver run down his spine. All he could do was watch from afar as the horror unfolded before him.





"All these millennia, coming here and bearing witness to the immense power contained within you, dreaming of a time when I could make you mine. I never thought the day would come!" Her long tongue rolled out from her mouth, rich with saliva, as it slid across the red artifact. Mordana moaned in pleasure. "Y-You're SO powerful! Ever since The Goddess died, you've been stuck, fidgeting in the void, FIGHTING for release, haven't you?! So much potential left to rot for all of eternity. Well, no more."

Mordana stood upright, composing herself. "Today is the day I become the new ruler of ALL of existence! None will stand above me. Not even Lucifer and those pesky white-winged gnats!" She reached into her cleavage, revealing an angel ring, decorated in intricately woven silver and ornate red gems. It was Destiny's Ring, and she placed it carefully into a small stone obelisk as she began to chant the prophecy.

"The Blessed," she continued, retrieving another ring from her bosom - the Hellfire Ring, a fiery band that radiated heat and smoke. It too was placed into a nearby obelisk. "and the Sinned will reunite once more..."



As Mordana recited the prophecy, the primordial core responded to the power of the rings. Its blood-red glow grew deeper and more threatening by the second. Jacob, the helpless spirit, felt himself being drawn towards the crystal, its pull growing stronger and stronger with each passing moment. He drifted closer and closer to the core, like a piece of iron being drawn inexorably towards a magnet.

"Under the banner of man's willing sacrifice, a new ruler will be forged!" Mordana chanted, her voice growing louder and more powerful as she continued to recite the words of the prophecy. Jacob felt a sense of dread wash over him as he drew closer to the crystal, his spectral form beginning to flicker and fade as it was consumed by the intense energy emanating from the core. He knew that once he reached it, a piece of him would be lost forever.

As Jacob drifted closer and closer to the crystal, he remembered the agreement he had made with Mordana. He had given up half of his remaining life to the wicked dark figure in exchange for saving Candice from her terminal illness. At the time, he had thought it was a fair trade, but now he realized the true cost of his bargain. He was witnessing half of his very soul being consumed and used by Mordana's will and whims, and he was powerless to stop it. With each passing moment, the pull of the crystal grew stronger, and Jacob knew that his fate was sealed. All he could do was watch in horror as he was inexorably drawn towards his own destruction.

What kind of chaos and destruction would be unleashed upon the world once she had become the ruler of all existence? At what cost had he traded his soul for the chance to save Candice? His heart sank as he realized the true price of his own selfishness. The fate of mankind was now in the balance, and he was helpless to stop it. All he could do was watch in horror as his spectral body was consumed by the intense energy of the core, knowing that he had set in motion a series of events that would have dire consequences for the entire world.





Mordana's head snapped back as a burst of energy erupted from the primordial core, sending her tumbling backward. She landed on the floor, dazed and disoriented, her hair wild and disheveled.

As she regained her composure, Mordana could feel an energy beginning to build within her. She cried out, holding the sides of her head as if in pain, overwhelmed by the incoming power. "What is this?!" she shouted, her voice echoing throughout the chamber. "It's too much... I can't control it!"

Her muscles bulged and strained as her body began to grow larger, curvier, and more powerful. She let out a primal scream as she felt the weight of the energy overwhelming her, holding the sides of her head as if to contain the power that threatened to consume her.



As the power surged into her, Mordana felt as though gravity was pressing down on her from all sides, threatening to crush her under its weight. She held on tight to the stone floor beneath her, feeling the rough texture dig into her palms as she gritted her teeth in pain. Just when she thought she couldn't handle it any longer, something shifted inside her. She felt a sudden rush of euphoria as she realized that she was gaining control over the power that was threatening to overwhelm her.

She lifted her head, a wicked grin spreading across her face as she reveled in the feeling of her own immense power. She could feel the energy coursing through her veins, her muscles bulging with strength as she grew larger and more curvaceous by the second. With a flick of her wrist, she sent a wave of energy rippling outwards, tearing through the very fabric of reality itself.

"I...I am a Goddess," she breathed, her voice thick with power. "Capable of anything. No one can stand in my way now!" She threw her head back, letting out a wild laugh as the primordial core continued to feed her more and more energy. She knew that she was now unstoppable, an all-powerful force that would soon rule over all existence.



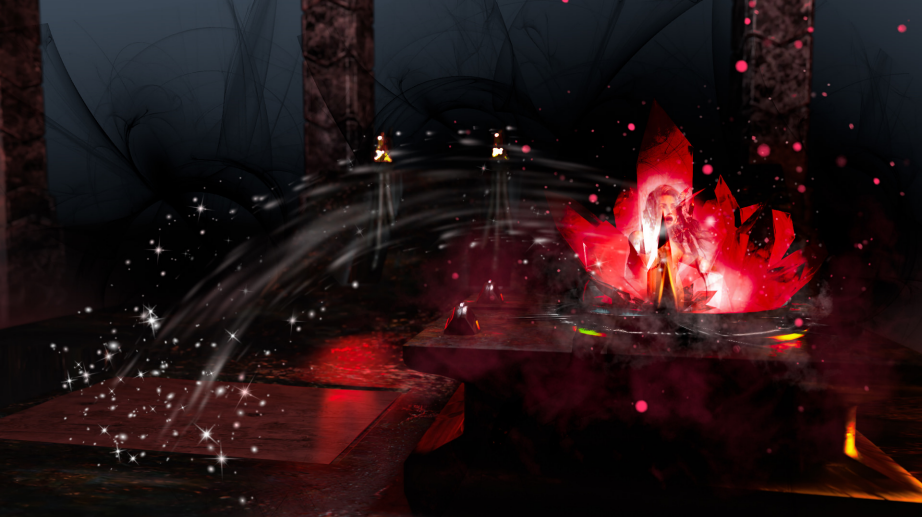




"Yes! Yes! More! Give me more!" she screamed, her voice echoing through the chamber. "I am becoming a goddess, capable of anything and everything!" She raised her hands up high, basking in the red glow of the primordial core. "All will kneel before me, and all will obey!" She cackled again, her eyes glinting with greed and power-lust.

Mordana couldn't contain her excitement as the power flowing into her continued to increase. She screamed out, "More! Give me more!" She commanded the crystal to release its energy even faster, to empower her beyond anything she had ever imagined. Her body pulsed and throbbed with energy as she became even larger and curvier. She felt invincible, like a true goddess capable of anything. And yet, she knew deep down that she still craved more. Her greed consumed her, driving her to demand even greater power from the primordial core. She reached out to the crystal, her claws sinking deep into its surface as she cried out, "I command you to give me all that you have! Now!"





A deep, bestial cry echoed through the void, emanating from the crystal itself. "Where is the other half?!" it demanded, its coarse voice sending shivers down Mordana's spine. "W-What are you talking about?" Mordana shouted back, feeling deceived. "I gave you everything you asked for!" "LIES!!!" The crystal roared like a pride of lions, causing Mordana's hair to dance behind her. Then, it hit her. The crystal was talking about the other half of the soul, Jacob's soul. "But that wasn't mentioned in the prophecy! How could I have known?!" The crystal's voice grew even angrier, its words cutting through Mordana like a knife. "You will pay for this deception, demon. You have angered powers that lie beyond this reality." The ground began to shake violently, with pieces of nearby pillars breaking off and crashing against the floor.

"The Primordial Amalgam has awoken, and you have not given her nearly enough to satisfy her rebirth." The crystal's words echoed through the chamber as the ground shook even more violently. Mordana's voice quivered in terror, "H-Her?? R-Rebirth?! Y-You can't possibly mean..." "Raven, the Primordial Amalgam," the voice from the crystal growled. Its words carrying more weight than ever before. Mordana gasped, realizing the full weight of the situation. "You... you mean to use me to feed her?!" "Her hunger," the voice declared with ominous finality, "must be quenched." "What do you mean?! No! Nooooo!!!" Mordana screamed as she felt herself being drawn into the crystal. Black tendrils snaked out of the primordial core, wrapped around Mordana's limbs and pulled her towards the crystal. Her screams echoed through the chamber as she was consumed by the very same power she had so desperately sought. The red glow of the crystal intensified, growing brighter and brighter until it was blinding. The ground shook with such ferocity that the pillars crumbled to dust, and the molten brick stone melted and boiled.

As the chaos subsided, a naked figure emerged from the blinding light. Though small in stature, she exuded an aura of immense power. Her eyes, fiery like the sun, pierced through the darkness, and seemed to hold the entire universe within them. Even the smoke and shadows seemed to shy away from her gaze. However, as the figure stood tall, she realized that she was not yet at full power. A hunger stirred within her, and she closed her eyes, reaching out with her mind to sense the remnants of Jacob's soul that still lingered in this world, knowing what she must do to quench it. "He's not fully consumed," she muttered to herself, her voice filled with a mixture of annoyance and anticipation. "I must find the rest of his soul and take what is rightfully mine." The figure opened her eyes, her gaze seeing beyond the void. She began to walk with purpose, her every step exuding confidence and power. The world trembled beneath her feet, as if recognizing the immense force that had just been unleashed upon it. Her eyes were set on the horizon, and she clenched her fists with unfettered determination.

"Jacob Jones," she said, her voice low and menacing. "You belong to me now."