

## Man Meets Woman

The man fell to his knees. That was the strangest sensation he had ever felt. He felt nauseated and disoriented; he felt like he traveled the world in a single step. He looked around and the world seemed wrong. He had just been walking along a cliffside; he was now in a meadow of tall grass. Something else felt wrong. Then he realized that he was alone. He frantically looked around. Mias had just been there on the cliff with him. That comforting presence he had for as long as he could remember, was gone. This scared the man more than anything in his entire life; more than stepping into this unknown meadow, more than the countless battles he fought, and more than the 7 Sons. He had not truly been alone since he was very young, and then, he did not fully understand what it meant to be alone. It now truly hit him that something was deeply wrong.

The man got up and tried to make sense of his surroundings. There was only grass and field around him, as if he had been plucked up and moved halfway around the world. He knew wherever he was, he had traveled extremely far. He had been far apart from Mias before, but he had always felt him to be close. Now there was nothing. He looked up to the sky. It looked the same, but also different. Was that his sky? Was that his sun? He did not know. He heard a noise. A low hum that was gradually getting louder. He tried to locate it. He then saw a strange creature come out from behind some trees at the edge of the meadow and quickly move past and then the sound died away with the creature. Or was it a creature? It had wheels like a carriage but was not drawn by a mule. It did not look to be alive, and it was moving faster than any creature he knew. The man decided to see where this *thing* went.

The man came up to a wide path made of what he assumed was stone. He began to walk down the path in the direction of the carriage-creature, when he heard the noise again from behind him. This new creature was slightly smaller than the last but was approaching him very quickly with huge eyes of light. He felt blinded and tried to duck out of the creature's path, but the creature also tried to jump out of the way. They both chose the same way and the pain moved up the man's leg. He flipped in the air and tried his best to fall into a roll but ended up hitting his head on the stone path.

The strange carriage stopped with a loud screech and a woman got out. The man's head was pounding, and his vision was blurred. At first, he thought this was why he couldn't understand the woman and why the woman looked so strange. His whole body seemed to hurt as he tried to sit up to get a better look at this woman. She looked strange, not because of his blurred vision, but because she wore very unusual clothing. She wore cloth of blue like the sky. How did she get them to be that color? She also had a coat with a hood, but it could not be for warmth; it was too light. The woman kept talking and approaching and the man, again, realized it was not his hurt head that prevented him from understanding; he just did not recognize the language of the unusually dressed woman.

The woman knelt down next to the man. She was still speaking very loud and very fast. She reached out a hand to his head, but he pulled away from her touch. He did not like being so confused. The woman noticed the man's hesitation, so she stopped talking, leaned back and placed her hand over her heart and repeated a single word, "Rose".

The pain in the man's head wasn't as great anymore and he realized that this must be the woman's name. So, he put his hand over his heart and said, "Francis".