Chapter 24
Coffee Break

On our way back to Saturn Valley, I explained the events that took place while my companions were knocked out to the two in question. Although they were both still a tad dizzy from the whole ordeal, they seemed to understand what I said perfectly fine. By the time I had finished recounting my tale, we had already arrived back at Saturn Valley, where an eager Mr. Saturn awaited us at the entrance to Milky Well.

“Welcome back to Valley of Saturn friends! Were you successful at Ridding Milky well of all bad monsters? Zoom!” the Saturn said.

“Well, as a matter of fact, we were able to destroy all of the monsters that were plaguing the Milky Well! It wasn’t exactly easy, but justice prevailed in the end! You don’t need to pay us anything for our services (we had to defeat those things anyways),” I whispered.

“Oh, that is good news! I mean good news! Now that bad belch man and all stinky, monsters are gone, Valley of Saturn should return back to normal soon! Ding! All thankings to yous! On behalf of all Mr. Saturns, I says to yous, thanks! Feel free to stay for long as yous pleasing and come back anytime! Mr. Saturns will be happy, happy, happy, to see yous! Boing! Okie dokie, I am going now! bye bye bye!” the Mr. Saturn babbled as it walked off and somehow climbed back down the ladder near the edge of the cliff.

“...Alright then. I guess our work here is done now. We can leave anytime we please... But, it looks like it’s getting kind of dark now. If we head back to Threed now, it’ll be night time by the time we get
there. So, I suggest that we just bide our time here at Saturn Valley and then start back to Threed tomorrow. What do you guys think?” I asked my weary friends.

“...Sounds good to me. I have to wash my clothes off anyways, so this plan doesn’t impede with anything I have going on. And, since I have a while before we have to hit the hay, I’ll go ahead and your guys’ clothes too! Don’t try to stop me, I’m doing it out of the kindness of my heart,” Paula said as she sassily flipped her hair.

“...I have no objections chap. I need some time to stretch out, for I’ve been feeling greatly stiff after being morphed into a diamond statue. Staying here for the night will provide me with ample time to do some loosening up,” Jeff mumbled as he rubbed his lower back.

“Then it’s settled! We’ll loaf around this Valley for a while, and when the sun sets, we’ll meet up at one of the houses down on the ground so that we can go to bed. And then, when day breaks, we’ll get equipped and then trek back to Threed! A simple, yet effective course of action. Okay, that’s all I have to say. You guys can attend to your own devices now,” I stated. Without saying a word, Paula and Jeff turned and split off to do as they pleased; Jeff walked over to the cliff wall and began doing various exercises while Paula strolled into the changing tent and grabbed our dirty clothes in order to wash them in the hot spring.

Now that my friends were doing their own things, the only one without anything to occupy their time was myself. After a few minutes of watching Jeff miserably attempt to execute basic stretches, I got bored and peered around the area for anything to sink my time into. My eyes eventually landed on a small wooden table with a bow tied to it, which had several steaming coffee mugs sitting on it and a Mr. Saturn bobbing beside it. Feeling thirsty, I stepped over to table and asked the Saturn if I could have a drink of whatever was in the mugs.
“hUH? yOU s WANT s TO TRy Mr. saTuRN’S sPeCIAL saTuRN COFFeE? SURE! DinG! gO AheAds! i MAdE it wITh LOVe aND sOmE WeIRd sTuFF thAt cAME ouT of noSE! boINg!” the Saturn spouted.

Although I was now hesitant to drink the Mr. Saturn’s “coffee” after being told what it was made out of, my thirst eventually got the better of me. I slowly reached over and grabbed the mug’s handle before lifting the container up to my face. The liquid inside of the mug was a strange purple color, and it smelled like a fruit and honey cocktail. Deciding to stop delaying the inevitable, I hesitantly brought the mug up to my mouth and took a swig of the liquid. Much to my surprise, the drink didn’t taste half-bad, and it did not seem to have any negative side-effects; that was, until I suddenly started to feel dizzy and could barely hold the mug in my hand. Mere moments later, I felt myself drop the mug as my vision faded into blackness.

When I regained consciousness, I calmly opened my eyes and realized that I was lying on the cold ground. I quickly sat up and looked about my surroundings; I was no longer in Saturn Valley, but was instead sitting in an endless plain of purple grass. The other thing that I could spot other than the odd grass was the sky, which was a bizarre blue color that occasionally flashed bright yellow before changing back to blue. Weak and confused, I clumsily got up off of the ground and started walking in one direction to see if I could find anything or anyone to tell me where I was. After strolling for a decent amount of time, I stopped in my tracks as I heard a familiar deep voice call out from somewhere.

“Ness... Ness... Can you hear my voice? Do not be afraid my friend, you are not in danger... You’re consciousness has merely been taken away from you for a short moment, so that I may communicate with you... Don’t worry, there was nothing wrong with that coffee... Do you recognize the sound of my words? I am a friend who you met a good while ago... On that fateful night, where a brilliant cosmic object
crashed down beside your home... Yes, the night that changed your life... The night that sent you on this great adventure you are on right now... My, how far you have come from when you awoke on that twilight... Back when you arrived at Onett, all you had was dinky cracked bat, a few leftover cookies, and a determined will... Now look at yourself... You have learned many new skills and have met fantastic new friends... Jeff, the boy genius that came all the way from the distant Winters to assist and travel with you... Paula, the steadfast and headstrong damsel that you rescued with your own hands... And, between you and me, I think she has a particular affection for you, Ness... Hm hm, I see you blushing...”

“Anyways, the point I am trying to make is, you’ve come a long way Ness... You’ve gone many places and have fought many battles... You have known both relaxation and tribulation, and have felt both happiness and sadness... But, I am sorry to say, all that you done up to this point has simply been a warm-up... Starting from this point onward, you will be tested, and tested, and tested as Giygas attempts to destroy your hopes and dreams... However, there is one thing that you have that Giygas does not... The ability to love... The love for your family... The love for your friends... The desire to see them alive and well... These are things that Giygas wishes he could have, but because of his eternal hatred of the world, he is unable to obtain these feelings... It might surprise you to hear this, but Giygas used to love someone as much as you love your own mother... Yet, tragedy after tragedy eventually reduced him to an animosity-driven monster that is unable to feel compassion... It is truly tragic if you think about it, but there is nothing we can do about that now...”

“The only thing you must concern yourself with now is collecting the Eight Melodies and putting an end to Giygas’s schemes before his wrath consumes the world... Your next objective is to cross the desolate Dusty Dunes Desert and reach the grand metropolis of Fourside, where the next leg of your journey will begin... By the way, do you remember who truly started your adventure? It is not the
person you are listening to now... No, it was Pokey, the most
deplorable person in Onett... It was his irritating knocking on that
night that set you on this quest... I was merely a guide, someone to
point you in the right direction... You haven’t seen Pokey in some time
now, have you?
I wonder where he is... He is surely up to his usual, no-good tricks...
Yet, I can’t shake the feeling that behind that irksome grim lies
something far more sinister... I know you think that I am being
ridiculous, but you can never tell with people like Pokey...”
“Either way, I think that you have heard enough of my rambling for
one day... In just a moment, you will return to the real world, and I will
return to the realm beyond... Do not mourn for me, for I will always live
on in your heart, Ness. I will watch over you as you continue on your
way... Whenever you feel down and out, remember that I am cheering
you on from the sidelines... Now, I must be going... I have a spiritual
meeting to attend to... Remember, your next destination is Fourside...
Your journey will only get more grueling from here on out, but you
must never lose your way, Ness... This is goodbye for now, but do not
fret, for we will meet once more before your adventure ends...
Now, for real this time, I am leaving... Farewell...” As the voice faded
away, I suddenly felt myself become light-headed and dazed. After a
few seconds, I lost complete control of my body before my vision
turned black once more.

As I slowly returned to reality, I heard several different voices
sounding off from up above me. After a moment, I was able to
distinguish the voices of Jeff, Paula, and several Mr. Saturns; I also
detected traces of panic and fear in all of their words. When my
strength finally came back to me, I weakly opened my eyes and saw
the faces of my friends looking down at.

“Eureka! He is alive once more! My heart can barely contain the joy I
am feeling!” Jeff blurted as he clapped jovially.
“Ness! You’re okay! I’m so glad you’re okay! Here I am, minding my own business, when I suddenly see you pass right out after drinking some trippy purple coffee! We tried shaking you awake, but that didn’t work, and then I tried hitting you with my pan, but that didn’t work either!” Paula explained. My head abruptly began to throb in one area. “Looking back at the whole situation, I realize that smacking you wasn’t the best idea, but I can’t do anything about that now. It’s just, I’m so glad you’re alright. I was so scared. We brought you down here to Dr. Saturn’s hut, but even he wasn’t able to tell what was wrong with you. I was extremely worried, and I thought that you might have had a heart attack. Ugg, I’m still really tense from the whole experience. Uh, do you mind if I relieve some of my stress on you? I know that’s a bit vague, but... Well, I’ll just do it anyways,” Paula said. Before I could say a word, Paula suddenly sucked me into an incredibly tight hug. My face turned a bright shade of red and then quickly changed to blue as I struggled to breathe. After 10 seconds of passionate hugging, Paula finally released me, allowing me to breathe once more. “Ah, much better. Oops, I think I might have squeezed a bit too hard. Heh heh, sorry about that. Anyways, I think we’ve talked enough. Why don’t you tell us about what happened to you, if you can remember what happened,” Paula said. Now having an opportunity to speak, I told everyone about how I got knocked out by the Mr. Saturn’s coffee and about the dream that I had while I was out.

“Hmmm, most intriguing. From what I have gathered, it seems like you have received a message from a deceased acquaintance of yours. I am no expert on the paranormal, but this level of connection between the normal and spirit worlds seems like a smidgen much for a simple spirit to achieve. Whoever was contacting you must have had an extraordinary will to be able to forge a link between realities for such a long period. This type of strong link between the worlds of the live and dead may also have been used by the menace Giygas to
resurrect and command spirits and undead creatures to attack Threed. However, what I am saying now is purely speculation. This field of science is still largely unexplored. I must remember to research it in my future studies,” Jeff mumbled as he pulled out a notebook and started scribbling in it with a black pen.

“...So, the next place that our journey is taking us is Fourside? Awesome! I’ve always wanted to go to Fourside to see the tall skyscrapers and flashy lights! Oh, and there is also a magnificent theater there too! We can see some of Eagleland’s greatest performers live on stage! Ooo, I’m really excited now! We’ve gotta get up first thing in the morning so that we can head back to Threed and catch a bus to Fourside!... Wait, I just remembered! I stopped washing our clothes when I saw you black out! I gotta go finish cleaning them, or we’ll be heading to Fourside with puke covered apparel! Sorry, but I gotta jet! See ya!” Paula said as she bolted out of the hut.

“...And there she goes once more. There truly is no way to keep her in one place for a good amount of time, is there?”

“Well, you can always lock her in a cage,” I said sarcastically.

“Heh, good one chap. Don’t make jokes like that around her though, I think they might be offensive to her. But, in other news, it is still a good while before night fall. I forgot to mention that you were only unconscious for around 30 minutes, Ness. I suppose we can just mind our own interests until the night comes. I’ll be over here, tinkering with my trinkets if you need me,” Jeff said as he sat down in a chair in the corner of the room and started to fiddle with some weird junk that he pulled out of his pockets.

Not having anything else to do after having been knocked out by strange purple coffee, I pulled my Game Boy out of my pack and became immersed in the game that I had been playing for a few days. It was a game about a plumber on a quest to save a princess from an alien. Yeah, I know, who would ever like a game like that. Well, I did.
By the time that I had become uninterested in my handheld device, the sky had already changed from a pleasant orange-red color to a soothing dark blue color. As I hopped off of the bed I had been put in while I was unconscious and walked towards the exit, Paula came in and nearly smashed my face in with the door. She appeared to be covered with sweat and was huffing considerably.

“H-h-h-hey guys... I finished washing our clothes... I also did a bit of jogging, if you can't tell... It's night time now... That means it's bed time... Come on, let's ask one of the Saturn's if we can stay the night,” Paula said before taking in a deep breath.

Tired and ready to hit the sack, we all exited Dr. Saturn’s hut and started going around to the huts of other Satsums, asking if they had room for three to stay for the night. Eventually, we found a hut that had many sleeping bags lined up around the edge of the interior and were admitted in for the night. As fast as our exhausted bodies would allow us, we all changed into our freshly cleaned nightwear and climbed into a few sleeping bags as the Saturn in charge of the hut turned out the lights. Even with the comforting sounds of the night all around me, I found myself unable to sleep, as I was busy thinking about all of the things that I had heard in the dream that had occurred when I drank the Saturn’s coffee. In my restless state, I looked over to my friends to see what they were up to; Jeff was busy leafing through his notebook, carefully studying what he had written on each page, while Paula lied in her bag fast asleep. She appeared very tranquil as she snored away, which was a great contrast from how lively and energetic she was when she was awake.

“You should have seen her when you passed out earlier,” Jeff abruptly said, startling me. “She flew into a frenzy when she found you on the ground. She started yelling and moving around erratically. She thought that you had died from drinking that coffee and began assaulting the Mr. Saturn that gave you the beverage. It took the
maximum efforts of myself and the other Saturns to pacify her and cause her to think rationally again. She truly cares about you Ness. It is evident in the way she behaves when she is near you. Always alert and ready to protect you if need be. I have noticed that she seems more upbeat when she is around you, almost as if you are a beacon of hope that she clings to each and everyday. I cannot yet say if she holds... certain, other feelings for you, but time will tell.”

“Heh heh, there is no need to be shy my friend. She is quite the exceptional lass. I am positive that you would enjoy her company if you, as they say in this country, ‘tie the knot’... Dear me chap, your entire face looks like a tomato. I know that you hormonally-charged teenagers react intensely when faced with talk of a potential relationship, but this is a little absurd. Come now old boy, you know I am simply pulling your leg. Do you what you please, when you please, if you please.”

“Now, get some rest Ness. You have worked like an absolute horse today and your body needs to recharge. Remember that you need strength in order to use your PSI. Just a friendly tip from your friendly... friend. Heh,” Jeff chuckled as he returned his attention to his notes. Taking Jeff’s advice, I cleared my mind of all of my troubles and closed my eyes, ready to enter the world of slumber once again.