A princess finding happiness
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Once upon a time, there lived a princess named Reyli. She lived by herself in her castle far away, in a magical country named Tsukuyomi. The day that Reyli was born, something magical happened. Namely, the moon disappeared, as well as any darkness during nighttime. Since that fateful day, the land of Tsukuyomi has only known daytime, as the sun has refused to move since then. But, as humans do, they adapted quickly, using the increased daylight as means to prosper more. They would capture the light to generate power, which fueled their magic enough to stop the earth from tilting without the missing moon. However, slowly but surely, without the moon's gravity to hold the earth in place, the tilt of the earth was still increasing. All of this, however, was unknown to Reyli, and no one would've expected her birth to have anything to do with the disappearance of the moon.

Reyli herself had a sheltered childhood, raised during the Solar era, she grew up together with her brother. Her parents had different views on life than other parents, but they still provided for her enough to live well. In this environment, princess Reyli would look for ways to entertain herself. Just like any other person, Reyli's goal in life was simple, she simply looked for happiness. One of the main ways she tried to entertain herself, was by sneaking out of the house and spend her time at different magical grounds. These were big arenas in the middle of the city where they lived. An arena allowed anyone with magical powers to pick an avatar, and team up with other ranked persons, often referred to as RPers. Different arenas would have different types of avatars that could be chosen, as well as different ways of growing them by fighting monsters with them.

Someone's natural talent dictated their amount of starting magical power, which would determine how quickly they would improve at controlling their avatar, while over time, just by participating, their magical power would grow along with their avatars. Reyli was one of the blessed people who not only had a high amount of natural magic power, but also suitable natural traits, such as a high amount of intelligence, competitiveness, and self-reflection, which meant that she started to quickly excel as an RPer at any arena she would lay her hands on. Even though she was quite small and fragile herself, as she would easily bruise, she was always the type to pick avatars that would face the heat of battle by themselves, swinging their melee weapons when joining the fray.

By joining multiple arenas and quickly becoming good at them, Reyli quickly joined the top groups, which is where she met most of her acquaintances. Regular girls her age would spend most of their time with their parents, or with friends of similar age, but Reyli was different, she would spend almost all her time at the arenas, meeting new people and RPing with them. As the arenas were extremely popular and allowed people from different cities to play together, she met a huge amount of people. Some would be kind, some would be mean, some would be role models, while others would be teachers and some of them would be love interests even. But as with most things, especially during one's youth, things don't tend to last. Not only did Reyli's romantic relationships end, so did most of her friendships. As arenas started to close, and people started to move on from RPing, Reyli was left wanting. The few arenas that were still in demand, didn't quite have the same charm compared to the previous ones. Just like this, before she knew it, she started looking for different ways to entertain herself.

Unfortunately, it is not as easy as it sounds to find something that is truly enticing enough to want to spend all your time on. She tried multiple things, knowledge competitions, for one, which she won with her sophisticated bright mind, or dancing, but even these activities never filled that void that the best arenas left behind. Even going out to look at jellyfish or taking walks trying to find some flowers to pick, never quite scratched that itch.

Eventually she turned to raising magical pets, and if they were cute, princess Reyli would be invested into raising them. She especially started liking two of them, both born of extremely rare circumstances. The first creature she started to love was a pink, cute reincarnation of when a magician tried to capture the void. For one zeptosecond, emptiness ceased to exist and when the world reset to its natural order, all that remained from the magical experiment was a pink creature with a bottomless stomach, a true manifestation of the void in all its cuteness. Reyli named him burby.

An Arena

The second creature was the result of another strange experiment. As magicians grew more capable, they started to experiment more with the capabilities of magic. One of the more adventurous magicians started to take his magical expertise to cooking with the desire to bring to life the ultimate flavor. However, he did not actually expect that he would create life from food. And even though Reyli had always been a picky eater, mainly enjoying herself with different variations of chicken meals, she wouldn't say no to eggs either. When she visited the experimental magical cooking restaurant, she came across a delicious surprise. One of the cooking magicians added too much of his life potions to the breakfast, resulting in a seemingly alive egg yolk. The creature came across as lazy and sad sporadically, and these traits somewhat resonated with the dear princess, making her keep it as a mascot named 'cutetama', instead of eating it for breakfast.

As time began to pass, Reyli started to grow up into a beautiful woman. The more beautiful and mature she became, the bigger the darkness captured inside of her began to grow. Even though her various life experiences forced her to grow up into a sweet, mature lady, so did the darkness continue to grow inside of her. Over the years her self-image had started to grow more negative in correlation with the darkness inside of her. And so, as Reyli matured, so did the days start to get hotter, and the magic required to keep the earth stable started to increase, but this would stay unknown to her. She would be in a continuous search for a passion, but as the magical arenas died out, she slowly grew to live in a state of apathy. As with everyone, the passing of time marked the princess in different ways as well. Among other things, she started to become extremely honest, lost her capabilities for multitasking, started communicating less with strangers and friends, and for some reason, whenever she looked into the mirror, her judgement would be clouded by some darkness, making her believe she was not the beauty that she grew up to be. Over the years, princess Reyli ended up in a small castle by herself, situated in the capital. Some would consider the castle to be big, while others would find it small. It was, however, perfectly sized for our princess. She would spend all her time in her castle, making use of the entertainment options remotely through magic, and keeping it extremely clean, as dirt was seen as an enemy that must be exterminated, just like any insect that could be found in sight.

Even when living in an isolated castle, due to the advancements of magic, it was quite possible to communicate over extreme distances, just like the arenas allowed people all over the world to play together. Due to meeting a lot of people, there were quite a few people that Reyli grew interested in, however, none of them could make up for the apathy, nor did they give any sense of permanent fulfilment, resulting in none of the relationships lasting over the years. Even when the dear princess wanted to try, none of her partners would be able to appreciate her for who she was and what she was able to offer.

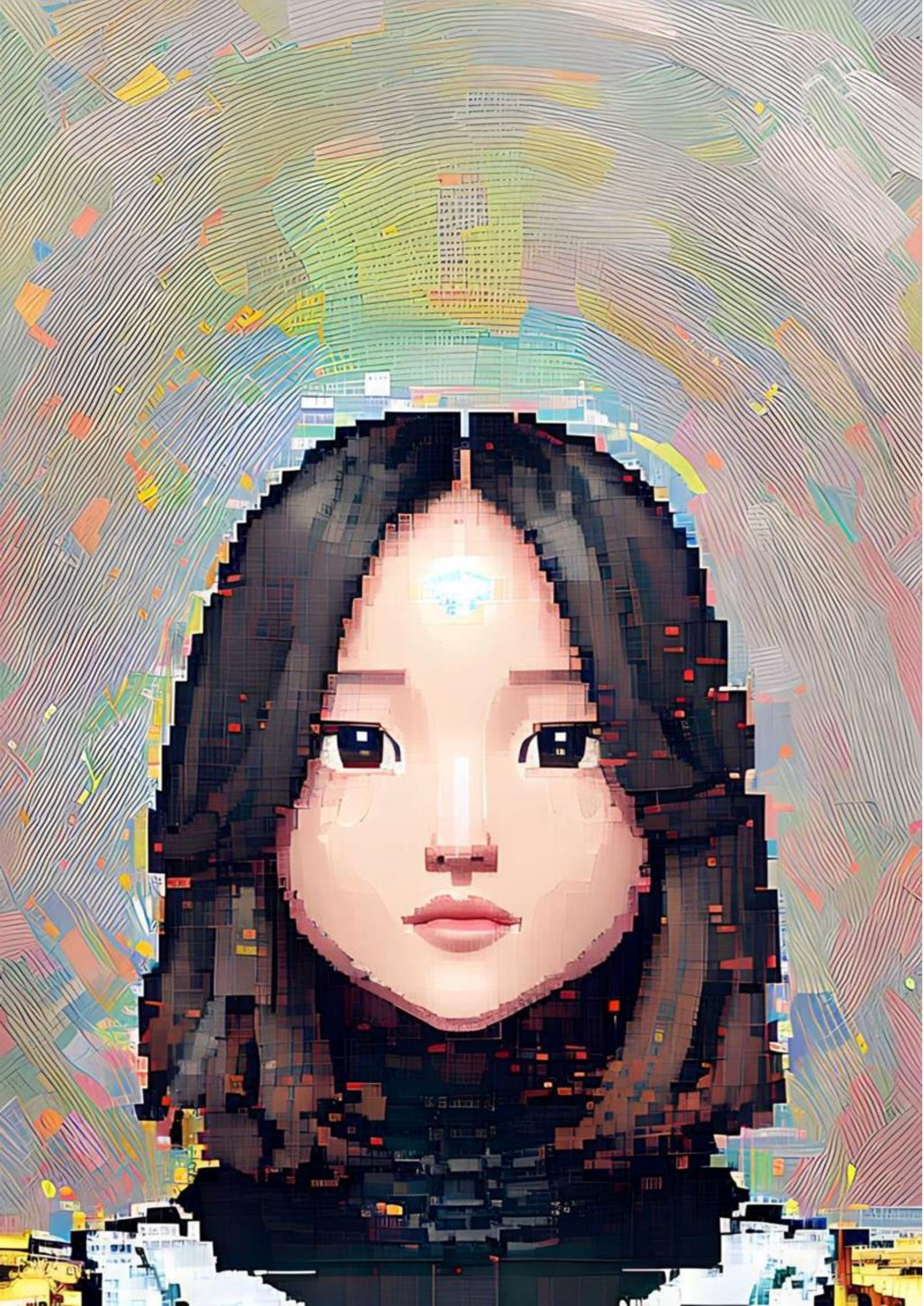
The quest for true happiness continued and one of the new entertainment options seemed slightly interesting to our cute princess. This new means of amusement had you pick an avatar in a magical environment and would pit groups of 5 against each other in a do or die battle of magic. Reyli's aptitude for improvement made her quickly excel at the sport called manarant. Not only was it fun, but it also would match any of the participants who did not decide to group up together in advance, with other random players they did not know. This resulted in princess Reyli meeting new people all over the world again. Unfortunately, just as before, none of the people Reyli grew interested in could provide her with the unconditional love that she was looking for. Just like this, she continued to fill her time taking care of her pets cutetama, and burby, as well as watching the shows broadcasted through magic in the various clouds in the sky or reading any of the romantic stories that would be published here and there.

The world started to change, and as more people interacted with Reyli, she started to hear more and more about how the world seemingly started to grow less and less table without its moon. On days that Reyli would feel bad about herself, coincidentally the sun would shine brighter and hotter, while on especially apathic days, you would find no one wandering outside, as the heat would be unbearable. Unfortunately, time passed without Reyli noticing her own impact on the world, she was busy taking care of her pets and participating in different manarant matches.

Then, one day, completely by chance, or fate, if you will, she met a swordsmith and an arrogant prince from another country. The swordsmith was interesting, but he seemed more focused on the match than any human interaction. The prince, however, was someone that Reyli bonded with slightly. Not only was he quite talkative, but he also even shared many interests with the princess. His behavior compensated for some of the less likeable things, such as an apparent desire to show off. Due to shared interests, the princess and prince started to bond, even with an extreme amount of distance that separated them. The saying often goes that compatible people are destined to find each other and such was the case for Reyli and Enza, they both were interested in many different topics, while one liked to listen and the other liked to share. As they slowly grew closer, but before they managed to truly start to know each other, fate struck, and the prince got sick. Instead of being able to participate in manarant together, they would keep in touch through magical messages that would transcend space without any issue. These were just a few of the perks that advanced magic brought to existence. Unfortunately, even with all the magical prowess that healers had, the prince got so sick that he couldn't be cured with a simple spell. This state, however, did not prevent him from trying to reach out to princess Reyli, as he had never met someone before that seemed so compatible with him. But unfortunately, humans are prone to miscommunication and Enza slowly started to notice Reyli grow more distant with him. Even though the prince wanted to change this, he was too awkward to attempt anything else than to bombard her with messages on random topics, as well as update her on his situation.

Enza started to grow sicker over time and when he was on the verge of death, he reflected on his life and made peace with the situation and decisions he had made. When he went out to take a final walk to say his goodbyes to the world, he came across a white copper mirror lying in a patch of hydrangeas. Picking up the mirror and taking a good look at his reflection, he could see himself for what he truly was. All his qualities and faults were laid bare to him, burning his eyes with the pain of facing reality. Into his retinas, traits such as being rational, understanding, jealous, possessive, manipulative, kind, competitive, empathic, curious, compassionate, indifferent, lazy, self-confident, studious, proud, logical, and more, were burned. After opening his eyes again, even though they kept hurting, the copper mirror was gone from his hand. After this strange event, things started to slowly get better for the prince. He was growing healthier over time and there even seemed some hope for him to completely recover. Even though his body grew healthier, his eyes kept burning at random intervals and whenever he would look into the mirror, he would sometimes see a white glow that would quickly disappear. Any person that would start to look him in his eyes started to magically gain an intuition of what kind of person the prince really was, some would be indifferent, while others would be scared away.

As the prince grew healthier and finally found a way home again, his first thoughts were to start getting closer with Reyli again. Even though he was afraid he might push her away if he never recovered, he initiated contact and hoped that he was wrong about the princess trying to become more distant from him. Eventually, they started to talk more and more by transferring their voices over distance through magic, talking about different topics and growing much closer together. The prince quickly started to fall for the charming princess, due to all her amazing qualities that he had never seen in other girls before. Not only did their interests match, but much more importantly, he felt like he was compatible with her in a way that he never experienced before. She would be straightforward in a cute manner, openly expressing herself with her interesting views. Sometimes Enza would have troubles understanding what the princess was talking about, especially when it came to the usage of the word cute, or some of the magical lemon creatures she would send to express herself through magical letters. This, however, only made him like her more. It was the first time he started to feel so happy and he even started to manage to throw away his ego, simply accepting all of Reyli's amazing traits, such as her having a higher intelligence, as well as better situational awareness, and analyzing capabilities.



As the prince started falling down the rabbit hole called love. He expressed it first and in due time, after facing some insecurities together, princess Reyli reciprocated the feeling. This, however, did not come easy. Reyli had been through a lot of relationships, even though they didn't always mean as much, her upbringing combined with her experiences only had her search for a form of irrational, undying, and unconditional love. The prince however, rational as he was, had a completely different form of upbringing that was difficult to change in the root of his character. As Enza was unable to provide what Reyli wanted, he started to grow scared of losing what he finally found for the first time in life; being completely at peace with someone. This fear of loss, however, started to also make him experience insecurities for the first time. For the prince, it was a time of many firsts, not only had he never been this happy before, but he had also never been this scared before, not even when he was at death's doorstep in the hospital. He had never craved someone as much before, nor had he felt so calm and peaceful around someone, being able to spend whole days with someone who started to accept him for who he was.

Love is blinding they often say, but the prince felt different, he had never seen so clear as then. The more he got to see of princess Reyli, the more he started to fall in love. Any of the qualities that started to pop up, just made him appreciate her more. Unfortunately, however, an enormous physical distance separated them. The prince and princess couple did not let this stop them from meeting, however. Enza lived in a far place, where the impact of the darkness, as well as the moon, disappearing hit harder than where princess Reyli lived. That made it the perfect opportunity for Enza to visit her. After spending an excruciating two weeks of painful, but exciting anticipation, he finally got the clearance to use the teleporter to visit Reyli's castle.

When he finally met the princess at the teleportation gate, she was too shy to even look him into the eyes, which he didn't mind too much. After Enza had touched the copper mirror, everyone that would look at his eyes would see him for who he truly was and Enza didn't mind this, except when it came to Reyli. He would always find it difficult to accept that he could be the only one for her, when he knew so many great people out there that could make her happy. He understood that once she fully looked him in the eyes, she would understand that she might be happier without him, which is why Enza was extremely anxious and afraid that she would lock eyes with him. Luckily, or maybe unluckily, Reyli was too shy to even attempt to look him in the eyes.

Just like this, the couple traveled to Reyli's castle, anticipating the great time they would get to spend together. At first, everything was great, even Reyli's two cute (albeit slightly strange according to Enza) pets liked the prince. They both had to slowly get used to each other and this took a little bit of time but being able to be around each other physically magnified all the emotions the two had for each other. Unfortunately, not only were the positive emotions magnified, but so were the negative emotions. The prince had always been able to talk easily, and even though he would often say things he meant, he had a tendency of going with the flow and doing whatever felt best at a particular moment, not necessarily understanding what kind of an impact this would have on people who value actions over words the most. The princess, patiently waiting for the prince to start acting on all of sweetness he had whispered in the days and weeks before, started to slowly grow impatient. Not only was the prince not keeping his promises, but he had also had a different upbringing and views on certain things, making her feel uncomfortable in her own castle as it started to grow more and more dirty. When everything started to pile up, she finally snapped at him and Enza had the scare of his life. He started feeling extremely bad when he considered things from her viewpoint and felt like he was unworthy of even being with her. The prince however, loved her so much that he also felt selfish enough not to want to let her go. Even though he was insecure about whether he was the only person that could make her happy, he still had the confidence that he at least could try being the best person he could be for her. Then, and only then, if that didn't work out, he would have to accept the results.

Reyli's castle

Little did he know that he was able to change in an acceptable manner, making the cute princess extremely happy. Not only was he able to start living in a way that was clean enough for Reyli, or at least acceptable, he was able to start showing that he cared about her, which the princess had started to lose hope about. Unfortunately, before they managed to properly live together for a long time, the magical portal started to call for the prince again –it was time for him to head home. Feeling as though he had messed up a majority of his trip there, he still felt like Reyli would be the only one for him. Even when feeling bad about everything that happened, whether she would be disappointed, annoyed, frustrated, or anything else with him, he still felt like she was the love of his life, and his only aim would be to make her happy. Luckily, he started to slowly accept that he might have changed enough to give her some happiness. Especially the final days were spent in extreme bliss. It would only be a small taste of how it would be to live together, of which the idea charmed both. Strangely enough, however, Reyli was too shy to look Enza in his eyes during the whole period. Even though Enza would catch her sneaking glances sometimes, anytime he tried to lock eyes to be accepted, she would shyly look away, making the prince slightly anxious as well. He, however, still felt insecure about her accepting himself, so he made peace with not knowing whether she would accept him, as he was too scared of accepting reality. Not only did he run away from confronting reality, but he also had to physically leave, taking their toll on both their mentalities.

One of the few good things of goodbyes, however, is that there will be the anticipation of meeting again. This is the saving grace that kept their mentalities strong, as the desire and anticipation of meeting was much stronger than the sadness of having to part. Even without having looked each other in the eyes, they both felt like the other was their fated partner, even though they were both insecure about it. As Enza left the castle for his overly hot country, the world around them started to slowly worsen. The sadder Reyli became that they were apart, the hotter the sun would grow and with the missing darkness and moon, the magical energy required for the wizards to keep the earth stable started to climb to unbearable levels.

Once prince Enza settled back home, having faced issues that made their relationship grow stronger, the couple craved each other incomparably. This made them want to live together as soon as possible, but with the world becoming hotter daily, immigration started to become accepted less, as governments had enough issues dealing with any natural citizens already. True love, however, always prevails. Instead of going through the regular motions and immigrating to one of the countries of the two lovers, they decided to elope somewhere that would accept them. Reyli, using her prowess in the arena, started boosting avatars in a short amount of time to rack up massive amounts of money, while Enza used his expertise to sell autonomous magical equipment. When they saved up enough money to ensure their citizenship and residency permit, they acted immediately.

Both bearing the insane heat, they navigated by means of portals until they finally arrived at their new, albeit smaller than they were used to, castle. Having not seen each other for a long time and accidently arriving at the castle at the same time through different means of transport, the lovers locked eyes. Enza, not expecting to gaze at Reyli's beautiful eyes the first moment they would meet again, started to fear for her reaction. He knew that his eyes became cursed when he got sick, allowing people to see his true self the moment they would meet his eyes. This scared him, because even if they promised to live together forever, he was still afraid she would be forced to live with someone who would not be able to do her justice. Even though Enza wanted to run away from reality, he kept staring into her eyes, until he finally saw tears appear on Reyli's cute face. Walking up to wipe away her tears, he slowly started to understand what happened and why she was crying. It wasn't disappointment, but because Reyli gazed into the copper mirror that was absorbed into Enza's eyes as well. When the mirror had merged with Enza's eyes, every time people would look into his eyes, they wouldn't only see his true self, they would also see themselves as if they were looking through Enza's eyes, showing how Enza truly thought about them.

Teleportation gate

Reyli, however, was crying because she could finally see how Enza truly viewed her. Not only did she accept all of Enza's faults that she could see through his white glowing eyes, but she also needed a moment to accept how Enza viewed her. Every time Enza would look or think of Reyli, he would see the most beautiful girl alive; extremely gentle eyes, flowing black hair, small, cute lips to kiss, cheeks to nibble on, a body to die for, and even more, a personality that transcended any attraction that could be limited to the physical realm. She saw the way he viewed her, an honest princess looking for unconditional love, that would look for cute things in life and even while being unlucky, she would struggle to find the best solutions, living in a responsible, carefree manner with an attitude of trying to be happy. Every time Enza would look at Reyli, he would feel how precious Reyli was to him. Over time, her traits and habits started to become more and more solid in his mind. He started to understand how smart she truly was, as well as how powerful her analytical skills were. Not only that, but slowly but surely her taste in cute animals, creatures, clothes, food, entertainment, shows, books, started to become clearer to him. The longer he locked eyes with her, the stronger his feelings to protect her for the rest of his life became. Just by gazing into her eyes, he truly lost himself in the moment, forgetting about all his surroundings and just realizing how lucky he was to have met her during this life, with the prospect of spending the rest of his life with her.

As for Reyli, when she truly stared into Enza's eyes, or the white copper mirror so to say, she started to finally accept how beautiful Enza thought she was, on the inside, as well as the outside. By feeling the emotions that Enza would experience anytime he would think of or look at Reyli, she started to get overwhelmed from the amount of love that he had for her. Realizing this, not only did tears leave her body, but so did the darkness that had been hidden for all those years as well. As the tears kept flowing, so did the locked-up darkness, slowly slipping back into the world like the slow approach of dusk. As the darkness slowly left Reyli's body and spread back into the world, the unbearable heat started to lessen. Not only that, but the excruciating light from the sun was slowly starting to dim, like a bright candle starting to fade. As the darkness all around them started to increase, nighttime was finally coming back, bringing balance to the world.

The magical world they lived in functioned because any concept in the world would exist due to feeding on the magical prowess, emotions, and experiences of compatible people. Anytime a concept would start to run out of energy and magic, for example because the belief of the people would start to lessen, it would find a suitable match when a baby is born and would merge with that person until enough magical powers had been assimilated. As Reyli cultivated herself by living, so did the moon assimilate with her experiences. As she grew older, without noticing, she started to adapt to the darkness inside of her, while the moon started to assimilate with her. This was a necessary process for the world to function for eternity, the same had happened for other concepts of the world such as the sun, the wind, the sea, and many more. Every time one of the concepts would disappear, the world would be in disarray until the concept had been cultivated by one of the potential gods that would be compatible with them. Over time, due to the natural laws of the world, everyone would start to forget about these unnatural events, but the people that would have assimilated with the concepts would be reborn as transcended beings that are connected to that concept. It is fair to say, that at this moment, Reyli was reborn as the Moon goddess.

When the two lovers finally managed to stop gazing into each other's eyes, they noticed that another light source apart from the sun had shown up. They looked at their castle where a magnificent moon had manifested, the one that disappeared all those years ago. The white reflection of light bathed their small castle, in which they would spend the rest of their lives happily ever after. The peaceful environment not only reflected their feelings, but also their future together. As they gazed on their future home, Enza grabbed Reyli's hand and squeezed it. Without being aware of space, time, or matter, he whispered, "I will love you forever, Neli".

The end