

The Girl With The Wrench

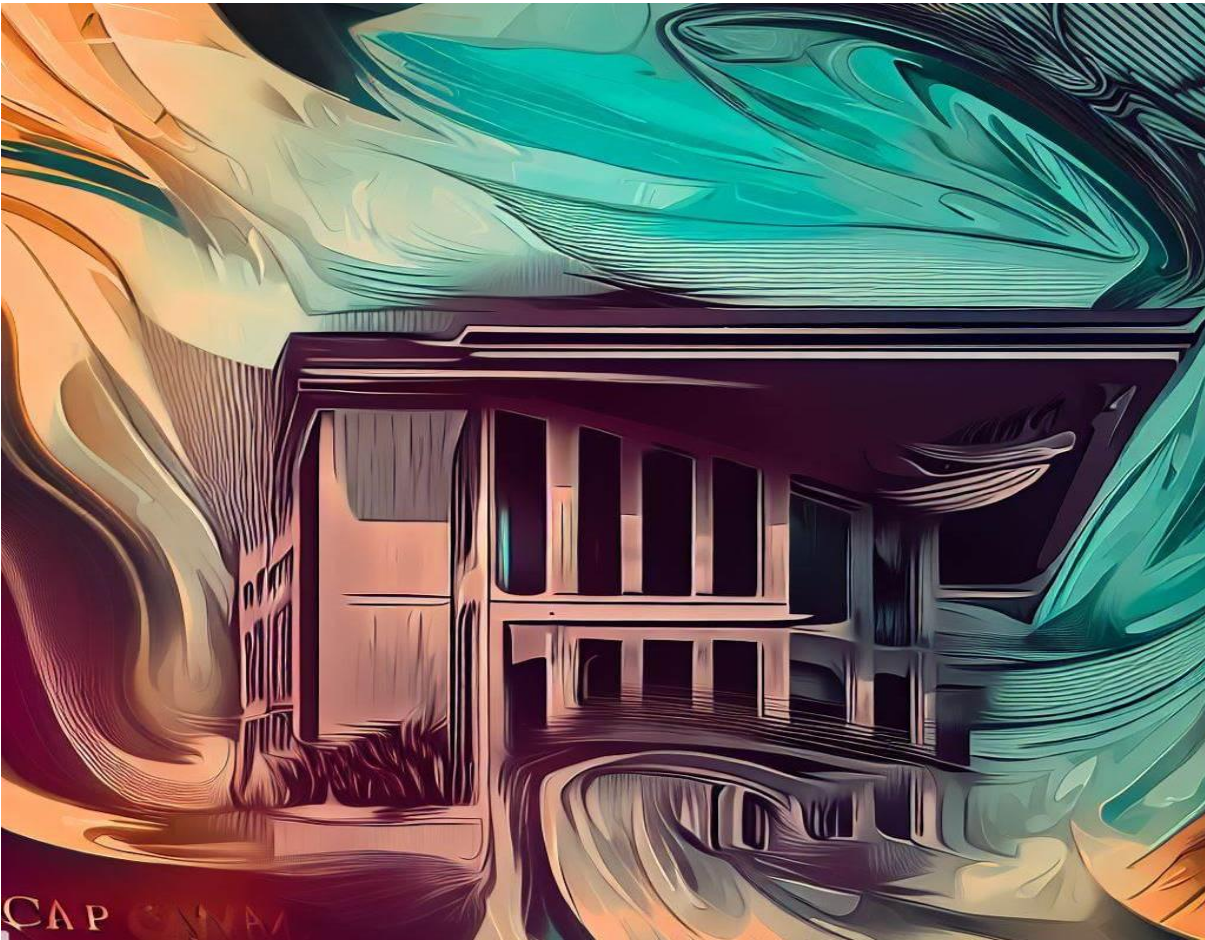
A Strange Short Story

By:

2L



Chapter 1



Sara was a 15 years old girl from Milan who loved mechanics. She always dreamed of studying car mechanics at high school and becoming an engineer.

Sara applied to a high school in Quarto Oggiaro, a neighborhood in the northwest of Milan. It was one of the few schools that offered a mechanics program. She was very excited when she received the acceptance letter. She was ready to start her new life.

On the first day of school, Sara met her classmates and teachers. They were mostly boys, and some of them looked at her with curiosity. They wondered why a girl would want to study mechanics. Sara ignored their looks and focused on her lessons. She loved learning about engines and machines. She liked to know how things worked and how to make them better.

Sara soon showed that she was one of the smartest students in her class and impressed her teachers with her knowledge, skills and how she was dedicated to learn new things.

One of Sara's teachers was Mr. Ferri, who taught car mechanics. He was a young and handsome man, with dark hair who wore glasses. He was very friendly and enthusiastic

about his subject. He saw that Sara did very well and became interested in her potential. He decided to give her some extra challenges and see how she would respond, which she did with responsibility.

One day, he asked Sara to stay after class. He wanted to talk to her about something.

"Hello, Sara," he said with a smile. "I have a question for you."

"Hello, Mr. Ferri," Sara said politely. "What can I do for you?"

"I have been watching your work and I am very impressed by your ability," he said. "You've studied hard and now you are not only good at car mechanics, but also at physics."

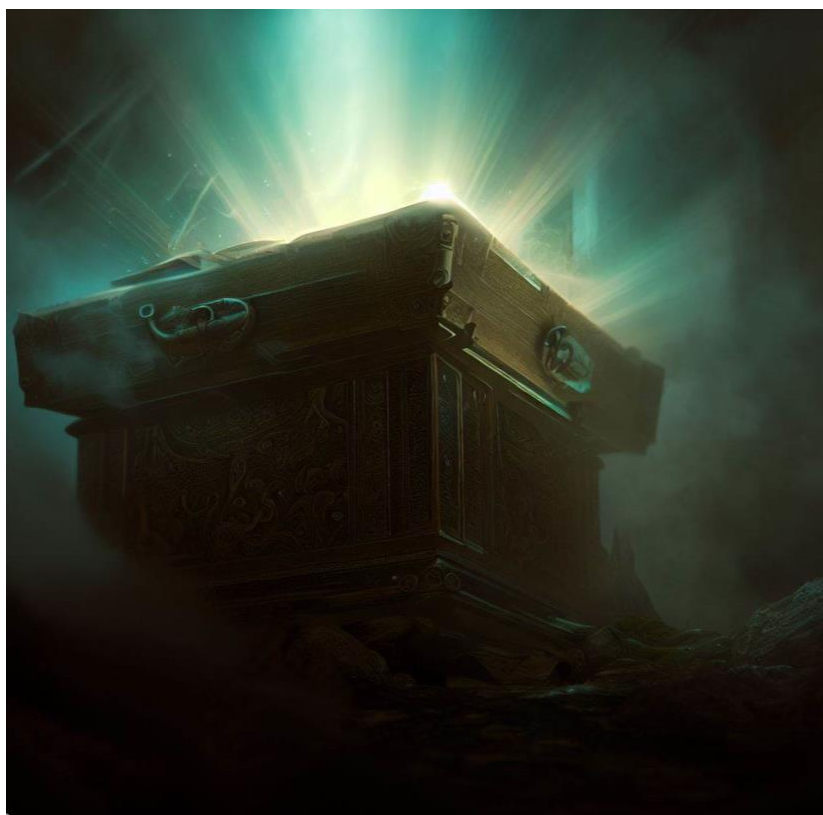
"Thank you, Mr. Ferri," Sara said modestly. "I just like to learn new things."

"Well, I have something that might interest you," he said. "It's a puzzle that I have been working on for a long time, but I haven't been able to solve it yet."

He took out a small metal box and gave it to Sara. "This is a device that I found in an old junkyard. It looks like a simple box, but it has some strange properties."

Sara looked at the box carefully. It was about the size of a book, with no holes or buttons.

"What does it do?" she asked curiously.



Chapter 2



"That's the mystery," Mr. Ferri said. "I don't know what it does or how it works. It seems to be powered by some unknown source of energy, but I can't see any radiation or electricity coming from it."

He took out a voltmeter from his pocket and showed it to Sara.

"Look," he said. "If I touch the metal parts to the box, nothing happens."

He did what he said and touched the metal parts of the tool to the box.

"See? The arrow doesn't move at all," he said. "But if I touch the metal parts to your hand..."

He gently touched Sara's hand with the tool. The arrow moved to the right, showing a lot of electricity. Sara was surprised and moved her hand away.

"What was that?" she asked, feeling a funny feeling in her fingers.

"That's what I want to know," he said with excitement. "You are the only person who can make the box do that."

He looked at Sara with a mix of happiness and curiosity. "Sara, you have some special powers that I don't understand," he said. "And I want to help you find out more about them."

He reached out his hand and gave the box to Sara again. "Will you let me study you?". He asked seriously. Sara hesitated for a moment. She felt a strange attraction to the box, but also a fear of the unknown. She looked at Mr. Ferri's face and saw his sincere expression. She wondered what he wanted to find out about her and the box.

She decided to trust him. He was her teacher, after all, and he seemed to care about her. Maybe he could help her understand herself better. Maybe he could help her unlock the potential of the box.

She took a big breath and nodded. "OK, Mr. Ferri," she said. "I'll let you study me."

Mr. Ferri smiled and clapped his hands. "Come with me," he said. "We'll go to my lab and start our experiments."

She didn't know what would happen in his lab, but she was ready to find out. She was ready to begin her adventures with Mr. Ferri.



Chapter 3



Mr. Ferri drove out of the parking lot and onto the busy streets of Milan. Sara looked out of the window and saw the city. She saw skyscrapers, shops, cafes, and people.

She turned to Mr. Ferri and asked him a question that was bothering her for a while.

"Mr. Ferri, why did you choose me for this?" she asked. "Why do you think I have these powers? And what do you hope to find out?" Mr. Ferri smiled and looked at her.

"I chose you for this because you showed me how dedicated you are and this gives you a power that no one else has. You can make the box react to your touch, and that means you have some kind of connection to it. Maybe you can even control it. Maybe you can even make it do what you want." He stopped and looked at the road.

"I think you have these powers because you like fixing things so much. I don't know for sure, but I want to find out." He turned to Sara again and smiled kindly.

"And what do I want to find out? Well, I want to find out what the box is, where it came from, and what it can do. I want to find out how your powers work, and how you can use them for good."

Sara and Mr. Ferri arrived at his lab, which was in a secret basement under Metropoli shopping Mall. They entered a room full of machines and wires, where Mr. Ferri set up the equipment for the tests. He connected the box to a computer and a monitor, and asked Sara to touch it. As soon as she did, the box turned on and showed a message on the screen. It said: "Hello, Sara. I have been waiting for you."



Chapter 4



Sara was surprised and looked at the screen with no belief. She felt a funny feeling in her hand, as if the box was talking to her.

"Mr. Ferri, what is this?" she asked with fear.

Mr. Ferri looked at the screen with shock.

"I don't know, Sara," he said. "But it seems that the box knows you. And it wants to talk to you."

He moved closer to the screen and typed a question. "Who are you?" he asked.

The box said: "I am a friend."

Sara and Mr. Ferri were both shocked by the box's answer.

"A friend?" Mr. Ferri said again. "What do you mean by that?"

The box said more: "I mean that I am here to help you, Sara. You and I share a bond that no one else can understand. You are the only one who can activate me and use my power."

Sara felt a lot of emotion in her chest. She wondered if it was saying the truth, or if it had some plan. "What power?" she asked.

The box said: "The power to make and break things. The power to make any machine work. The power to make your future."

Sara was surprised and felt a cold feeling in her back. She didn't know if she wanted such a power, or if she could do it.

"Mr. Ferri, what is this?" she asked again, turning to her teacher.

Mr. Ferri moved his head and lifted his shoulders.

"I don't know, Sara," he said. "But I think we should find out more. Maybe this box is not just a thing, but a living thing. Maybe it has a mind of its own. Maybe it knows something that we don't."

He typed another question on the keyboard.

"Where did you come from?" he asked.

The box said:



Chapter 5
(Cullhaj, Pop, Tofanelli)



"I'm actually you!" Said the box.

Sara with a shocked and frightened face replied "What do you mean I'm you?" and turned around to seek answers from Mr. Ferri who, as confused as she was, slowly shook his head.

After a few seconds the box replied "Yes, I am you, but in the past, I am here to bring you a message..." The box stopped talking until Sara touched it, immediately a code phrase came out:

୧୦୩୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫
 ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫
 ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫ ୧୩୫୫୫

The box finally added: "goodbye ୧୩୫୫୫. I will give you time to figure it out!" Mr. Ferri was surprised like Sara by the last word of the message. Sara felt a tremor coming from her heart that made her immediately think that the last word was her name, so she began to connect the letters to the signs.

She spent many nights without sleep. One evening, after a hot tea, she finally managed to close her eyes and go sleep. During the night she had sleep paralysis and began to see signs and letters moving very quickly around the room and then she matched the signs to the letters and discovered some parts of the letters.

The next morning, without having closed her eyes, she ran to the laboratory, but found it locked. Frightened by forgetting the signs, she broke the lock and went inside. She laboriously deciphered part of the message:

"Do*'* ***** *our ***** dr*** d***** of *** *** *ro ***** ***** *n *our***f. *
 re *r***d **!"

More confused than before, she sat down, soothed herself in the rocking chair and tried to go to sleep. Until Mr Ferri woke her up and asked an explanation for the broken lock. After apologizing, she explained the dream she had that night.

Later on Mr. Ferri told her about "୩" and the letter "e" that he had seen over the past weeks in his dreams; "Let's try it, if it's wrong nothing will happen. For many days I have seen a letter and a sign always close together, maybe they are connected together." he said after a moment of silence.

"Do*** *e**e *our **e** Dre** de****e of ****ro**e**, *****n*n *our*e*f. *re*re*ed**"

"We can only trust ourselves and our instincts, what we think could be true. let's do it!" exclaimed Sara.

Day by day the signs became clearer. Even Mr. Ferri began to see connections in the message. After a month, the message was finally clear.

**"Don't leave your biggest dream despite the problems. Always believe in
 yourself. I regretted it!"**

After the message, out of fear and pride, Sara helped by Mr. Ferri enrolled in an advanced course in mechanics and logistics to follow her dreams in a better way, to put herself on the line and to not disappoint her past self.



Chapter 5

(Awad, Herbawi, Mascolo, Rihan)



"I'm from a planet unknown to you called Cyber. This is just the brain, my body was destroyed because of a civil war that blew up the whole planet. My brain survived and I wanted to be found by Mr. Ferri."

Sara replied "but what do you need us for?"

"Sara you are the only key to bring back Cyber to the way it was before its devastation."

Sara asked "what do you need me for? "

The Box replied, "your powers have a connection with electricity that could make all the machines in Cyber work and could bring back life."

In that moment, Mr. Ferri asked, "but this overload of energy won't risk killing Sara?" The box replied, "there is a small chance of that happening but according to my calculations that chance is just 4.68%."

Mr. Ferri, concerned, immediately disconnected the box from the computer. "but why did you turn it off?" Sara asked.

"Sara forget everything that happened."

Sara replied, "what are you talking about? but why?". While Mr. Ferri was coming out of the lab Sara muttered "all right prof!".

But she wasn't convinced at all. In her mind she decided to come back later, turn on the computer and talk to the Box. The next day Sara returned to the lab and turned on the computer to communicate with the Box. She asked a question that left the Box amazed, "why did Mr. Ferri behave like that yesterday?" The box answered "maybe because Mr. Ferri cares about you and doesn't want to lose you, you are like his daughter." Sara answered "what do you mean? does Mr. Ferri have a daughter? Because when I was in his room I saw the pictures of a little girl hugging him." After a moment of silence, Sara asked another question "what happened to the daughter of Mr. Ferri?" The box answered "I don't know."

Sara heard footsteps approaching the lab. She immediately turned off the computer and hid herself behind the bookshelves. It was Mr. Ferri with a hammer. He clearly had the idea of destroying the box. He tried several times with the hammer, but the Box didn't even have a single scratch on it. Mr. Ferri turned on the computer and asked, "why aren't you even scratched?" The box replied "you are a poor deluded man. You cannot destroy me. I was built with the most advanced technologies compared to yours." The box continued "I forgot to introduce myself. My name is Lionel-2.0." And right after that asked a question "where is your daughter now?"

"But how do you know that I have a daughter?" replied MR. Ferri. Soon after he turned off the computer again and left in anger.

Sara that heard all the discussion between the box and Mr. Ferri, decided to start investigating his life and his daughter.

Sara first began by asking the box what knew about Mr. Ferri. Box told Sara that his daughter disappeared on May 21st 2018, and since that day he has been looking for her.

Sara was shocked. It was the day before which Sara's mom found her. Then the Box added "you look a lot like her daughter." Sara was shocked again. That couldn't be possible! She began to think that maybe her father was, in fact, MR. Ferri. She felt the urge to know more. She had to find out the truth.

She decided to break into his house to investigate more, and among his countless photos she noticed some photos of Mr. Ferri and her daughter. In some of those photos she found strangely Mr. Ferri and herself and in some other photos different man and a different little girl. It didn't add up! Who was he? Why he has changed his face? What about her? Who was she?

Faced with all those unanswered questions Sara found only one solution.

The next day she decided to accept her fate and go to cyber and sacrifice herself, but before leaving she left a letter to Mr. Ferri:

"Hi Mr. Ferri or should I say dad? I finally decided to accept my responsibilities and to sacrifice myself to bring back life to Cyber. That's not that bad in exchange for just one life. Just kidding! Goodbye dad even though I'm not sure that you're my dad. Sara"



Chapter 5

(Cattaneo, Celorio, Haqur, Shaaban)



"From another universe" replied the box. Immediately afterwards a question appeared: "Do you want to come with me?" Sara and Mr. Ferri, after a moment of hesitation, decided to accept invitation and find out what the box was and where it came from.

The box took them to an abandoned laboratory in Quarto Oggiaro. Sara and Mr. Ferri were teleported from there to another universe near a city that looked a lot like Milan from Sara's universe.

They arrived in the north-west of Milan of that universe and found a neighborhood similar to Quarto Oggiaro and a professional school equally similar to CAPAC. It was even called CAPAC!

In front of CAPAC they noticed a student who was behaving in a strange way and who seemed to be typing a message with a cellphone . As soon as he sent the message the box projected it onto the screen.

At that point Sara and Mr. Ferri finally understood the true mission of the mysterious box. It was actually built by a second year mechanical student, section L of CAPAC from the other universe who had tried to contact them to warn them about what was about to happen.

Sara and Mr. Ferri were shocked, and asked the boy what was happening. He replied that it wasn't the place to talk about it, so he took them to a secret laboratory that only he knew about it and was very similar to Mr. Ferri's laboratory in their universe.

The boy began to explain to Sara and Mr. Ferri that something strange was happening at Sara's CAPAC. The students who had finished all five years of the program were still in school. As if they were condemned to attend school forever. So, according to him, there was something strange and hidden from everyone and that the students including Sara had the right to know the reason.

Sara tried to say that there was nothing strange going on, but the boy immediately interrupted her and told them he had a Student as an infiltrator at their CAPAC for one week but he had been discovered and disappeared soon after. Sara and Mr. Ferri then, had to believe the boy.

They decided to return to Sara's universe to see what was really going on. They were teleported to Sara's universe and immediately headed towards Quarto Oggiaro. Mr. Ferri and Sara decided to infiltrate the boy to investigate more.

Less than a month passed and the boy discovered their plan. All three were shocked and appalled. They wanted to invade the other universe and destroy the CAPAC where the boy was studying.

After a moment of doubt, they decided to return to the boy's universe to save it from the invasion. As soon as they arrived they noticed that the invasion had already begun. They decided to defend it together.

In the end, with many sacrifices, they managed to defeat the enemies who arrived from Sara's universe. After the victory Sara and Mr. Ferri decided to return to their universe saying goodbye to the Boy. As soon as they arrived in their universe, the box transformed and became the boy they had met in the other universe.



Chapter 5

(Abdelgawwad, Ba, Gonzales)



"I come from the future especially for you Sara, to save the world from the humans who are destroying it little by little. I need your help."

Sara decided to help the box knowing she had the power to create and modify any machine. Sara said "I would like you to grant my wishes" and the box replied "of course Sara. What could I do for you?".

"I would like you to create the robots with skills and capabilities of a Robot but with soul and heart of a real human being!" and the box replied "so be it."

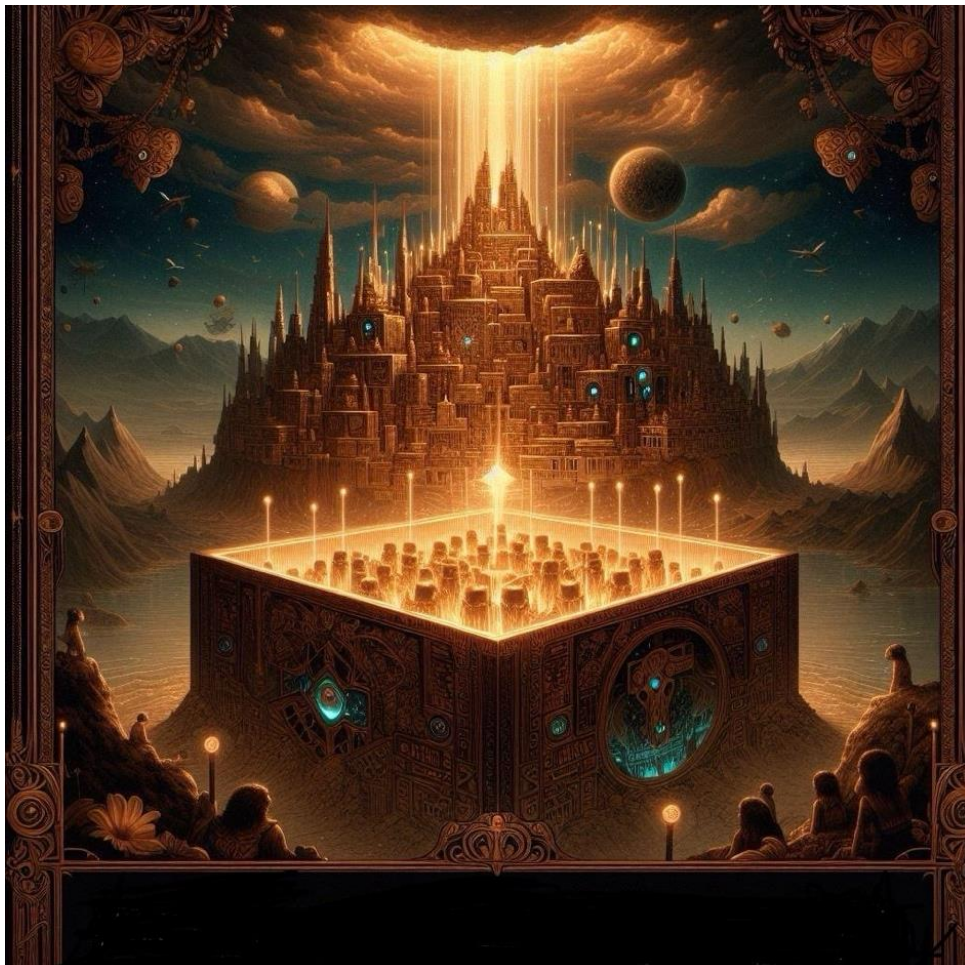
Sara with the help of the box and Mr. Ferri began to build a new underground civilization called "Abyss". The box began to generate robots and Sara gave those cold and soulless robots the heart of an empathetic and sympathetic human being.

They started to live in that peaceful place and year after year they enlarged the place and lived in harmony and peace. They increased the protection by fortifying the layer of earth that separated their civilization from that of "AboveGround".

But one day, unfortunately, humans of "AboveGround" finally discovered the pacifist civilization of the "Abyss" by digging in from above and overcoming their protections.

Sara asked the box if she could change the mentality of humans and make them less aggressive and less greedy. But for the first time the box denied her desire by telling her "Forgive me Sara! I cannot fulfill your wish this time, for the simple reason that human beings were born like this, they were raised like this and they will all die like this. Garbage in, Garbage out!"

Sara became depressed and with great difficulty accepted to live with humans even though the idea of living with them continued to haunt her.



Chapter 5

(Arias, Biyanwila, Elsayed, Uquillas)



"I fell from another universe into ancient Egypt. To them I represented a deity because they thought I was a gift from their gods. As time passed I was passed down from generation to generation entrusted to a possessor who over time discovered my powers.

Over the years I have travelled the world. After a long time, however, a professor found me in a junkyard. And the rest is history."

After a moment of silence the box asked Sara to touch it. As soon as Sara touched the box it emitted a very strong light and gave Sara a flashback to the truth on the origins of the box.

It showed Sara that it was actually an infinite power created by the power of the stars to keep the whole universe in balance, but to do so a possessor was needed to help the box and she or he was the only one who could communicate with it.



Chapter 5

(Nabil, Basilico)



"I come from an old workshop called "Tazuma", which is 20 minutes from here. If you want to find out more about me and yourself you have to go to tazuma."

Sara:" Mr. Ferri let's go!"

Ferri: "Ok. It's all right. I'll take you there."

They reached the workshop and found the front door wide open, so they decided to enter. They found only one room with a monitor in the middle of it.

Sara: "Mr. Ferri, what should I do?"

Mr. Ferri connected the box to the monitor and 3 tests appeared on it.

"Once all the tests are done Sara would receive all the answers she needs."

On the first day, she had to work on a malfunction of the engine of a Porsche cayenne GTS. The car did not start despite no indicator light was on. Sara thought of engine malfunction, but in truth it was simpler than it seemed. In fact after she disassembled and reassembled the engine and did not encounter any problems, she decided to stop and think more calmly about the possible causes. The first that came to her mind was the fuel shortage. She checked it out and in fact the fuel tank was completely empty. She put the fuel in the tank and the engine began to run at that exact moment".

Right after, on the monitor, these words were appeared: "CONGRATULATIONS! YOU PASSED THE FIRST TEST, tomorrow you will have to completely restore a Porsche 997".

The next day Sara returned to the workshop a little excited and a little scared. She did not want to waste time so she immediately got to work. First of all she started by fixing the mechanical and electronic problems of the car, but her favorite part was repainting the car because she loved painting the car with the most bizarre and extravagant colors. After three hours she finished the second test. "CONGRATULATIONS! YOU PASSED THE SECOND TEST TOO, now there is only last test for which you will have to come back tomorrow and I will explain all the details"

"The last test is one of the most difficult, you have to assemble a car just with the pieces that you see in front of you,; I give you just a hint, the car is a Ferrari. Good luck!"

She soon discovered the model of the car: a F430 Modena. After hours and hours of hard work she finally managed to finish the task. At that moment the box said: "Sara you passed the three tests, now you have to start this car and go to this destination"

■

It was 3:45 on February 12, 2012, Sara for the first time was not on drugs after 6 months. Doctors had to stop her medication for legal reasons every six months. They had to stop the treatment to allow her family members to talk to Sara.

In fact she was living a dual life. The medication was giving her a psychotic effect caused by Escitalopram, amitriptyline, venlafaxine, paroxetine and Vortioxetine, all drugs used to cure severe depression.

Sara was a young girl who really had a passion for the mechanic but because of her gender and its weak character she was victim of bullying. Sara's psychologists after hearing the story she told them came to conclusion that the mystery box was only the projection of his subconscious, which involuntarily manifested itself because of her strong passion for mechanics, and Mr. Ferri was just her old professor of mechanics at CAPAC.

