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Sins of our Past

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Story Premise

The world has been reset, taken back by the anguished Revenant. Wayward spirits who once lived in harmony with mankind, now travel the world seeking vengeance for mans callous destruction of nature. One by one cities fell in quick succession, until only scattered pockets of humanity remained.

Javier Ramez, a former American soldier trapped on the Korean peninsula, desperate to get home, rescues Rae, a mysterious survivor from the nearby city of Wonju. Time is running out. Together they must solve the mystery of the Revenant threat, to save the people they love and find their way home.

Historical Background Information or Timeline

Prior to the collapse, it was an age of decadence. Humanity which had such promise fell into constant wars, famine, and greed. But still the mother loved her children. At the dawn of time, Earth's spirits roamed the waters, mountains, and forest freely, shepherds to mothers' varied creatures, vast regions, and seas. Until one morning mother brought forth the first men. Into humanity she poured strong will, ingenuity, and kindness. Her spirits nurtured and taught early man to be kind to one another and to be shepherds to the mother. As man spread across the globe, the spirits they encountered became known as the various deities, worshiped through out modern history.

Temples rose and fell as humanity desperately tried to gain favor from the spirits while giving nothing to the world in return. As their cities began to grow, the number of spirits in the world began to recede back into the mother. Resources, that man was once taught to Shepard, slowly became spoiled, weakening the spirits energy. Humans spread like locust from continent to continent fighting over stories of old spirits and the mother's bounty. They took, and took, slowly suffocating her. But still she loved her children. Soon, the mother was forgotten and renamed the Earth, and the spirits that once shepherded her beautiful forest, waters, and mountains dissipated from the pages of history.

At first, they watched and believed mothers kindness would bring humanity to its senses. Hope remained where it seemed there was none. Some spirits would muster all their strength to visit and bestow favor to extraordinarily kind people. Some spirits however, became resentful and angry with the passing of time. They watched in disgust as the lands began to dry, forest were cut down for the sake of progress, and the seas were tainted with waste. Mothers creatures were vanishing or dying. Man hunted many for sport and not necessity until none remained. Strengthened by anger, other spirits would break free temporarily visiting humans as monsters leading to myths of werewolves, demons, and ghost in several cultures. Mothers spirits splintered into factions.

One called themselves the Revenant, who wanted retribution for thousands of years of torture and pain inflicted upon the mother. The Sentinels vowed to protect the just and worthy from their Revenant kin. The spirits fought amongst themselves. But mother kept them close to her bosom to keep it from spilling out onto her world. Mother loved all her children, but the

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fighting inside and struggles on her surface has left her strength fleeting. Humanity is on the brink of a new global war ignorant to the dangers ahead. The veil between the spirit world and humanity is about to break, mother is crying out for help.

Main Character

Javier Ramez is single, clean cut former soldier stationed at Camp Eagle in Wonju South Korea. Standing at 5'8, tan with a rather athletic in build, he appeared short compared to others he served with. He took comfort in knowing that was not the case back home. In Miami he was relatively tall for most Latin males from his hometown. His most notable trait is his eyes. He is the only one in his family that has the unusually light shade of green. It's believed to be passed down from a great grandmother Josepha on his father's side of the family. Javier loved his parents but shared a closer connection with his eccentric grandmother. She instilled a love of life, family, duty, and purpose in him at a young age.

Prior to joining the military, he enjoyed life much like any other young man would, by hanging out with his friends and attending a party of two. Over time he felt he wasn't going anywhere, he sensed he was in a rut and could not figure a way out of it. After dinner one day he spoke with his grandmother. She listened as she always had and offered the only advice she felt he really needed.

In her loving, yet thick Hispanic accent, she said, "Mijo, don't let life pass you by. The world is bigger than you know. Life is too short, and you are too young to feel this way. You need to listen to your heart and follow where it takes you. There is a lot of good in life you need to see before you get vieja like me." A few months later she passed, leaving an even deeper void in Javier's heart. Days and nights blended together, but he could still hear her words echo in his mind throughout the days or when he slept. One morning he woke up, turned on the TV, then raised a hand to his mouth in shock on every channel was the image of smoke billowing from an attack on a government building along the route of the Thanksgiving day parade in Boston. Several people were dead or injured. His nation had just been attacked by a rogue nation bent on bringing down democracy.

The very next day he drove down to the local Army recruiter's office. To the disapproval of his parents, he joined and shipped out a week later to become an Apache helicopter mechanic. He spent the next five years criss crossing the country training for the next conflict on the horizon and rotating in and out of war zones. But in all that time, when he lay his head down at night, his grandmother's words never left him. As often as he could, he would travel to neighboring countries, and meet people over a beer from different walks of life.

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Military life had its share of victories and heartbreaks, but it opened his mind shaping him into something different. His time in service showed him there is beauty to go along with the chaos in the world. It taught him you can't turn a blind eye to the suffering of others. Winding down his contract as a soldier. Javier was excited to begin a new life back home with his family. He was sent to Camp Eagle in Wonju South Korea during his final year of service to his country. He thought it would be a fitting end to his military career. Until everything changed the day of the collapse, leaving him far from home and trapped in a strange new world.

Supporting Characters

Rae Seo-yeon is a single college student and gamer who goes by the nickname Cypher in the city of Wonju in South Korea. She is relatively pale, 5'4 and thin living in a small apartment walking distance from Gangneung, Wonju's National University. Her dyed blue Pixie cut hair tends to hide her unusual brown and green eyes. She is an orphan who lost both parents at a relatively young age and has been raised with her eccentric aunt Lin Seo-yeon. Rae comes from a long line of shamans but has very little knowledge of the practice. However, growing up she saw and experienced spiritual auras and figures that she could not explain. She kept it a secret in an attempt to fit in with other children her age. Lin taught Rae to be outspoken and to want more out of her life than to "just marry well" which is a way of thinking considered taboo for women in Korean culture. Rae sees herself as an outcast as outspoken, intelligent, and unmarried women are looked down upon. Due to bad past experiences with relationships she does not trust men very easily and can come off as combative. Circumstances bring Rae and Javier together to solve the mystery of the Revenant threat. Her hidden ancestry could be the key to bringing balance back to the world.

Lin Seo-yeon is Rae Seo-yeon's aunt. She is a widowed 55 year old vibrant woman living in out skirts of Wonju. After the passing of Lin's sister Rena, she became the guardian of Rae and raised her as her own. When not taking care of Rae, she spent her time fighting for women's rights to live their own life free to pursue their own happiness. This meant that they lived relatively poor lives growing up rather impoverished. Lin taught Rae from an early age to be independent. Lin also proved to be an excellent tutor teaching her niece about mathematics, science, and agriculture. They would often tend to their own cabbage farm together making homemade Kimchi. Lin was proud of Rae for getting into Gangneung University as any parent would be. Little did they know their worlds would be altered forever. Lin may be the key for Rae to understand her gifts.

Imoogi is a mystical serpent in the Korean Culture. It is close to 1000 years old. Imoogi appears before Rae and Javier along the banks of the Seom river. It has payed close attention to the lives of both Rae and Javier and witnessed the good both have done for their fellow man. When Rae and Javier are at a low point on their journey it appears before them to show them that

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not all spirits are Revenant and that the history between the spirit world and the real world are much different that they think. The Imoogi bestows upon them both the gift of knowledge in understanding the connection that they both share. Rae has always believed in the spirits and is most affected by the Imoogi's appearance. Like Mother, the Imoogi loves her children, and with Rae and Javiers help she may evolve to become the last Hanguk to guard over Korea.

Locations

Camp Eagle Army Installation is a small Army base situated in the outskirts of the city of Wonju. Camp Eagle is home to a single battalion, the 1-2 Aviation Regiment. The base houses everything needed to take care of the 24 AH-64 helicopters stationed there along with the support needed to accommodate the battalion's soldiers. Camp Eagle has one small shoppette and a Bar called the Gunfighter Lounge within walking distance of the camps only two large barracks. The soldiers affectionately refer to it simply as the Gunfighter. Due to cultural differences, many soldiers have gotten into trouble with the local population due to public intoxication leaving a somewhat negative view of American soldiers. The Gunfighter provides a bit of respite for soldiers after a hard day's work with less chance of causing issues for others. Camp Eagle is home to about 150 soldiers and Korean Katusa personnel.

Seom River runs along Wonju. It has become a major tourist location due to the addition of a suspension bridge which is considered the tallest suspension bridge in the country. Water from the river is used for farms and irrigation by locals along the banks. Seom river winds its way around the mountains which are covered in trees and green for as far as the eye can see. The water itself is dark, and leave the illusion that the river is much deeper than it actually is. Getting to its banks or the bridge could be a challenge for most as it would require a walk down a nature trail or man made stairway in the case of the suspension bridge.

Jiri-san also known as the "Exquisite Wisdom Mountain," is considered very sacred Temple by the Korean people. It can be located in the Aptly named Jiri-san National Park. The park is so large is encompasses five counties and three provinces. The park is home to three sacred summits Cheonhwang-bong, Banya-bong and Nogo-dan. Jiri-san temple contains numerous shamanistic and Buddhist shrines. Each year it draws thousands on a pilgrimage to the scared site, as well as numerous tourists. Jiri-san is a popular world destination and is highly regarded by the Korean people for it's spiritual connection with the earth.

Additional World Information

Korea is predominantly a mix of two religions, Christian and Buddhist. However, the practice of shamanism is still prevalent throughout the country. Korea shares a number of mythical and legendary stories from their Chinese ancestors. Dragons, the way their homes are built, and the customs and culture are all very similar. However, Korea has always had their own flavor to their mythology. One such story is of the legend of Princess Pari. In this story a Princess from the was placed in a jade box and thrown in a river by her father because he was cursed with 7 daughters. The young girl was rescued by and raised by an old couple by instruction from Buddha.

When the girl turned 15 her father became ill and dreamed that she could save her by bringing the water of life from the land of the gods. Dutifully she agrees and ventured forth on a journey for the sake of her father. The princess manages to retrieve the water and in turn became the first shaman and eventually transforms into a goddess. This story ties how the people not only viewed women for generations as tools for the betterment of their fathers, but the reverence they have for nature and those that they love. Princess Pari had to sacrifice herself for the betterment of her father. This story says a lot about the Korean people viewed through the eyes of their mythology.

Today when you visit Korea, young people will often move from a bus seat for an older person. When speaking to an older person the young will often not look them directly in the eye as a sign of respect. Women still marry for family status above all. The culture is shifting, but at an incredibly slow pace.

Story Synopsis

Javier is on his final year of service to the United States military. After being sent to Camp Eagle in Wonju South Korea strange things begin to occur. Javier becomes the sole survivor from his unit. Desperate to find a way home he begins his journey to Seoul in hopes of finding a way back at Yongsan Military base. While traveling on foot, he rescues a girl named Rae with a mysterious past.

Rae is searching for her aunt and Javier agrees to help her as long as she guides him to Seoul. Together they set forth to the outskirts of the city of Wonju to find her aunt Lin. They find her but it is short lived. Rae will struggle to openly share her gifts. To Javier and Lin the green spirits look like nothing but mist. But Rae see's them for what they are, and they can see her. Her aunt will be taken by the Revenant. Javier realizes that there is a chance that this could be happening to his family and leaves Rae to Seoul.

Rae runs into muggers and Javier realizes that he made a mistake. They argue about why he left, when they are visited by an Imoogi. It shows them both glimpses of their past and explains that the two of them coming together is no coincidence. Only they could see the truth of the world and by working together they travel to sacred Jiri-san to close the rift and mend the old wounds on behalf of humanity.

Story Excerpt

“No!” Rae said, tossing a rock at Javier. She then turns and storms off swatting aside a tree branch stomping her way towards the sound of the flowing water.

“Rae...please wait,” Javier pleaded, giving chase. “When I left, I was panicking, I knew—”

“That you were being a jerk!” she said breaking through to the riverbank.

“That it was the wrong.” Javier exhaled deeply and lunged forward and gently grabs Rae by her shoulder.

She turned and recoiled from his touch. “I don’t need you! I took care of those people all by myself,” she said, taking a step back, arms crossed with tears welling in her eyes.

“You’re right,” he said solemnly. “You don’t need me. Maybe it’s me that needs you, but either way I should have been here by your side.” The moon shone though the green flames blanketing the rocky bank in an emerald hue.

Rae wiped a tear from her cheek avoiding his gaze. “Why did you leave?”

He took a cautious step forward. “When...when I saw what happened to your aunt, I thought about my mother and father. I was afraid... it would happen to them too.”

She sniffed, eyes filled with sadness. “What made you come back?”

“Because of something my abuela told me.”

“What is it?”

“That I should listen to my heart. It was screaming, that I needed to come back and find you.” Javier leans forward wrapping his arms around her. “I’ll never leave you alone again.”

Javier held her tightly as she sobbed in his chest. He remorsefully gazed out over the river. The wind blew through the trees and brush melodically with the flowing of the river, then he saw it. A shimmer of blue light fade in and out. “What is that?”

Rae turned to see what Javier was mystified by. The blue faint light became brighter and longer under the water. They both took a step back just as a long blue snake like head emerged

from the water curiously leaning towards them. Rae steps forward wiping the tears from her eyes.

“Wait. Rae, stop—” Javier said reaching for her.

“It’s O.K. she said extending her narrow hand out to it.” The blue serpent radiates warmth that felt welcoming, loving and energizing. “It’s an Imoogi!”

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