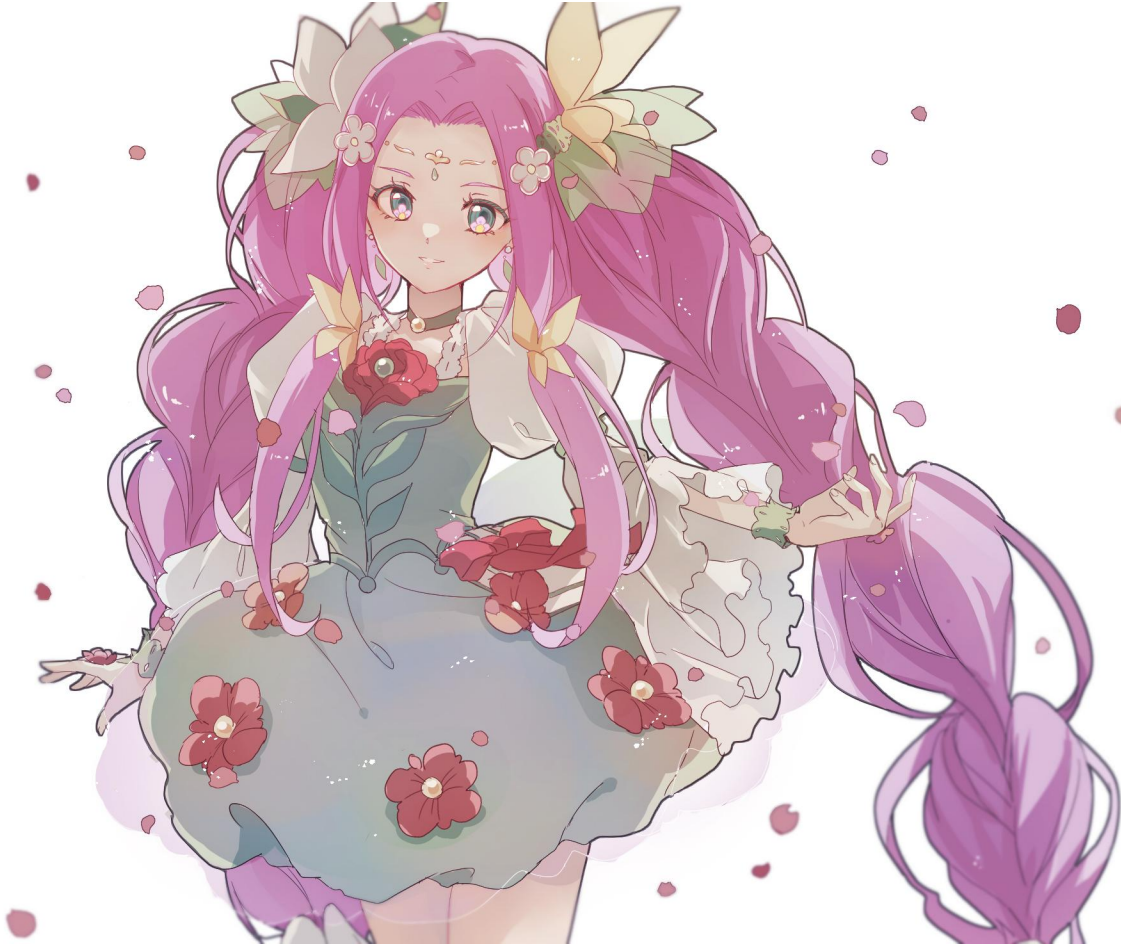


## FUELING THE CYCLE



**“Let this be proof that for as long as I, *Flora Pura*, remain standing. No evil shall ever prevail under my eye!”**

Scoffing at the sight of the pink haired maiden of light standing in the middle of a broken battlefield receiving the praise and cheer of a growing crowd as people crept out of cover to applaud their savior, the mysterious figure keeping watch from a vantage point up high between towering skyscrapers turns to take their leave after witnessing yet another climactic battle between the pink haired girl and a colossal beast, one whose humanoid core could only remain standing for just a few seconds after it's defeat before fading in the wind as resentful ashes, echoing the unheard voices of the masses that had come before Flora Pura...a young lady hiding a secret that was just as big as the one she herself was kept in the dark about by the very same entity that had changed her life forever upon their chance meeting on an empty street a few weeks ago.

Hailing from an extragalactic civilization whose existences had reached a new pinnacle no other form of life could fathom. The shapeless being's people were also encumbered by newfound weaknesses stemming from such power. In this case; sustenance from the defeat of beings twisted by an energy found only in places where sapient species congregated, known to humans as 'Negativity'. Thanks to their hive mind

## FUELING THE CYCLE

nature, conflict and disagreement had long since become a faded concept to them. And thus, their eyes turned elsewhere...one set in particular discovering the existence of Earth and the humans that populated it.

Coincidentally, the people of Earth were also facing their own crisis involving the very same energy the alien so desperately sought. One he would discover could be nurtured and 'harvested' through the channeling of it into a vessel, one who could fight back against those already twisted by raw exposure, people drowned in despair, champions of chaos who were no better than animals in their current states. And Flora Pura, or as she was known by her other persona as *Mikael*, was simply the latest candidate chosen by the alien to be his 'light' against the darkness...never to know the truth until it was too late.

By day, Mikael was just an average university student. But whenever the forces of evil reared their heads, Flora Pura would be there to save the day, an innocent beacon of hope for the world and its people. Leading a double life that would gradually begin to meld with increased monster attacks, fending off each one without fail..all while her body would continue to suffer unbeknownst to her as the line between Mikael and Flora chips away with each use of her power, bleeding her frail, womanly appearance over to her depowered self once as curves and shapely crests begin to replace hardened flesh and a toned physique. But with so much time spent as Flora, Mikael's strained mind was beginning to grow accustomed to her female form, unable to notice the fading differences between the two as the days passed and she fell deeper and deeper into her invented role as a 'magical girl', an eerie flame burning deep within effervescent eyes concealing a disturbing development.

This was all in acceptable parameters for the alien of course. Because he had already seen this cycle repeat itself for the umpteenth time now. Mikael was not the first Flora Pura...and the monsters she faced would never stop coming, for they couldn't, not after millenia had already passed in reality despite his upfront claims of arriving on Earth less than a year ago to save it's people...when his exploitative methods had all but doomed them.

By encapsulating the little blue sphere in a timelock, the apathetic being had ensured an unending supply of 'pure' Negativity to leech off of by perpetuating an endless loop where a candidate would do battle with the 'forces of evil', and with each victory, draw ever closer towards the other side herself, eventually reaching a point where the degrading 'magic' given to her by the true mastermind would leave her susceptible to corruption after eating away at her mental faculties and ability to distinguish between her 'former self', assimilating into the growing collective in a final battle that would reset the cycle, giving way for another Flora Pura to take her place..before giving in yet again, a fate Mikael was already a foot into after the defeat of yet another manifestation that looked eerily like an aged up version of herself, oblivious to the implications.

## FUELING THE CYCLE

But each cycle was growing shorter and shorter. With every Flora Pura devoured, the seething mass of corruption only grew stronger with every magical girl-ified soul adding to it. If left unchecked, the resulting beast might soon break free of its restraints, free to spread and ravage the stars with the consolidated wrath of the manipulated...all to feed one singular alien's hunger; ruination sealed by a foolish race that had bottled themselves up to a desperate point worse off than if they were simple flesh and blood beings akin to the humans that would soon become their bane...

## SOURCE GLOSSARY

### *Image Sources*

Image 1 by LazyOrange : <https://www.pixiv.net/en/users/2117676>

Image 2 by Miyashiro Ryuutaro : <https://www.pixiv.net/en/users/1673026>