

Magic is a very powerful tool in this universe. It can be used to do unimaginable things. Magic can grant people extraordinary powers. It has the potential to cure nearly all diseases and illnesses, it can be used as the greatest convenience in everyday life, and it can also grant a single person the firepower to take on nations. Magic can also be used by pretty much anybody. The tools needed can be crafted at home, and if you're willing to dedicate the time and effort, there are books upon books containing spells, potion recipes, and the like. The use of magic is not without its dangers, however. Failure to take the proper precautions or incorrectly casting certain spells can lead to instances of spells backfiring or going out of control. Becoming a magician is a high-risk, high-reward scenario.

With so much power being freely accessible by anybody who desired, there needed to be some form of order and regulation. A Magician's Council was instated in the late 12th Century, as well as a ranking system on all magic practitioners. At the top of the command chain were seven officials known as the "Elder Caps". These men were entrusted with making the final decisions with all issues concerning the world of magic. Elections are held once every twenty-five years. The Elder Caps were also the representatives of magic to the rest of the world, and would participate in national and international government meetings.

The system worked without a hitch until the beginning of the 14th Century, when a sorcerer by the name of Fendrel Tybalt made himself known. A master of Blood Magic and Mentalism, he waged a war of conquest that lasted a supposed 30 years. It was a long, harsh, and bloody campaign that led to over 30 million deaths on both sides, including civilian casualties. The event came to be known as the "Tybaltian Tyranny". He was finally defeated at the hands of a magician whose name was never recorded. A conflict this large and this deadly would not be seen again until World War II.

Afterwards, it was declared that magic was too powerful of a weapon to be allowed as something anybody could pick up and use. Precautions had been put in place already for people to prove their worthiness as a magic practitioner, but they weren't enforced as harshly as they should have been. Officials ruled that, had this not been the case, the Tybaltian Tyranny may have never come to light. The Elder Caps composed a revised set of regulations and restrictions for the use and study of magic and submitted it to the various nations to review. However, it was dismissed. Instead, the nation's leaders imposed an International Ban on the practice of magic, saying that such power was never meant to be accessed by mortals. The Elder Caps did not want to start another conflict between magic users and the rest of the world, and silently cooperated. Even so, they could not let centuries of studies and discoveries go to waste. They instated their revised regulation system in secret. The Magician's Council became an underground organization, as well as the practice of magic itself. The idea was to make becoming a magic practitioner much more difficult, while at the same time allowing the powers-that-be to widen their surveillance scope. Any sign of a "second Tybalt", and a preemptive strike could be launched before things got out of hand. The educational spell books were kept in designated libraries whose location only the Council knew. A new rank, known as "Preceptor," was established. Magicians who had earned the trust of the Elder Caps were offered acceptance into this rank. Preceptors were skilled, veteran practitioners who would be assigned to novice magicians, and tutor them in their early steps. Essentials such as mana management, proper setup, and deciding on an area of magic to focus on are all guided by the Preceptor. When the student feels they are ready, the Preceptor initiates a test. This test is specific for each area of magic, and is used not only to determine if the student is ready to be left on their own, but also to gauge if they aren't going to become a threat in the future. If the student

passes, they are granted a license which allows them to practice magic unsupervised. However, the Preceptor may still check in from time to time just to make sure they're doing alright (and aren't trying anything funny).

After the international ban on magic, the Nations went to their respective corners and did what any self-respecting government would do – try to reap the benefits of a global situation for themselves. Many people believed that magical abilities could be replicated, and even exceeded, with enough scientific research. The nations of the world were all secretly trying to cast a spell without casting a spell. This was a difficult task that depended mostly on the advances of technology and science elsewhere before breakthroughs could be made, and even then, progress ranged from painfully slow to unsuccessful. Plugs were pulled, organizations disbanded and revived, all under a government cloak. These practices went on for centuries, and still do to this day. The success of a nation in this venture depended on the resources available, the size and intelligence of the teams assigned, and the overall ambition of their goals. These experiments were not without accident, but nobody ever grew suspicious. The two nations that have shown the most success are the U.S. and the United Kingdom. Both countries have entered a silent race to be the first to successfully use science to replicate magic, and then implant their results into their armed forces. The U.K. focused on retrofitting and even designing entirely new weapons and vehicles for their military forces that carried immense firepower normal science could not reach. Fighter jets that could maneuver like hummingbirds and bullets that could target individual soldiers were amongst Parliament's ambitions. Stateside, scientists were looking into applying the magical effects into the soldiers themselves. Their goal was to essentially build a super hero not unlike the ones many people read about in comic books. Genetic alteration and chemical augmentation were the stars of the show. The agency REGENESIS had a 135-acre facility hidden in the West Texas desert solely for this kind of research. They found their test subjects by approaching street thugs, hobos, and basically anybody who was at a point where they had nothing to lose in life (and they wouldn't be missed if they were to suddenly disappear).

In 1941, a REGENESIS test subject made history as being able to sustain himself in midair without any outside assistance. With practice, he was able to maneuver around with ease as if he had a giant pair of wings on his back. REGENESIS had granted a person the ability to fly without any use of magic. The victory was short-lived, however, as the subject died from internal complications after 3 weeks. Further experiments over the next several decades proved two things. The best survival rates were seen in female subjects rather than males. The chemical augmentations also yielded higher success if they are spaced out over several years, rather than within a short timeframe. For these reasons, REGENESIS set about a very controversial practice in finding their new test subjects: Orphaned children, mostly female, were taken in behind closed doors, and drafted for use in REGENESIS' experiments.

In 1984, REGENESIS' research hit a plateau, and the following 6 years saw the agency rapidly burn through funds as they became more frantic for results. It seemed like the facility would have to close down. At the height of the panic, they were contacted by an independent organization in Japan. The facility was known for doing research on a variety of subjects, and then selling their results to the highest bidder. They had gotten wind of REGENESIS' research and looked into it themselves. REGENESIS, running out of options, decided to put all their cards on the table, and purchased the data from the organization for a final price of 67.3 million US dollars. It was worth the price.

The lead scientist, Dr. Satoru Nakashima, laid out a theory that, in layman's terms, the more irregularities and variations in a species' DNA, the higher the chance of survival when it came to chemical augmentation. Upon further review of their own data, hybrid subjects survived much longer than subjects who only displayed traits of a single parent. Dr. Nakashima also suggested taking this theory a step further and using on a chimera. Chimeras are an extremely rare birth defect, where a child will be born with physical features of several species, not limited to their parents' heritage. It is unknown what causes a chimera birth. They are extremely difficult to study, as a chimera isn't identifiable until around the 7th month of development. On top of that, chimeras considered an extremely endangered species, as there have never been more than eight known chimeras living on the planet at any given time throughout history. For these reasons, experimenting on a chimera is considered taboo.

But REGENESIS was a company that had already stepped well over the border of morality, and did not let such things stop them. This was their last resort in getting results from their research. Unbelievably, there were two registered chimeras at a small orphanage in suburban Philadelphia. As if that wasn't enough, they also happened to be sisters. Advisors claimed there would be no way to bring in the chimeras without triggering a mass PR disaster. Despite this, REGENESIS went ahead with the plan, and Stacy and Maya St. Clare were enlisted into the facility's forces under an extremely elaborate cover-up.

Everything Dr. Nakashima predicted proved to be true. The two chimeras took the augmentations better than any prior subject, and the scientists were continuously impressed with what they saw. For the first time, a subject was not only able to survive more than a month after ability integration was complete, but they were able to hold multiple abilities at a time.

In 2009, REGENESIS' luck ran out. With the success of the two chimeras, there was no need for the other test subjects. Normally, they would die three to four weeks after ability integration, But those in power wanted to tie up loose ends as soon as possible, and arrangements were made to have the other subjects "decommissioned" (read: executed). There were a small handful of incidents where the subject refused to go out peacefully. The agency was already strapped for cash, and until favorable results could be demonstrated, they could not gain the funds to make most of the necessary repairs. Despite the apparent success of the chimeras, REGENESIS' facility was shut down in 2012. With little hope of a new facility opening, the members of the agency were either relocated to other areas of research, or disbanded and lived out the rest of their lives under a Nondisclosure Agreement. Several members are believed to still be working on the project in secret, though no solid proof has turned up yet.

Because the chimeras could not be killed, they were sent through a societal reintegration program via a volunteer system (Again, behind closed doors and under a veil of secrecy). A Chicago resident by the name of Michelle Lewis offered to be a hostess, and the St. Clare sisters were sent to live with her. It is at this point that the story begins...