

**Alexandra: Bigger flames**  
**Tales of the Stormthrower**

They were early. Finding the small barren island, hidden in the nearby forest, much faster than intended. Checked for the one hundreds time if she was wearing her bathing suit, than hurried after her friend, who had found a secluded place reachable from the rocky shore on the far side of the lake. Judged the distance, bridging the gap easily, leaving Julia to negotiate the path comprised of tiny islands and slippery rocks, in the end making it too. She had met her in the water magic class. Both above average in their ability, they aced both beginner and advanced classes in record time.

With their feet in the water they stretched out on the grass, and watched the birds dance in the morning breeze. Obviously they would be welcomed, coming late in the group. The whispers might have been overlooked, but they did not have their feet in the water just for cooling down. Every ripple in the lake they felt. Mostly not worth wasting any thought over, but the big wave pushing through the water was hardly stealth in their terms. She started a cross current, and felt Julia building on her lead. Rolling the water. Creating an undertow. Dragging the two boys in a current, delivering them back where they entered the water.

Both she and Julia never opened their eyes or moved noticeably. Seemingly unaware of what happened. She tapped on the hand of Julia. Warning for incoming fun, slipping on the wet rock, but still managing to create a scalable splash in the water. Splitting the wave into a fine warm mist, to slowly wake them for the lessons starting shortly on the bigger island. She stretched and rolled gracefully into the lake, letting the current take her over, not to selfish to give the diving boy a lift on the turbulent edge of it.

Dry blowing her hair she was introduced in the group. The teacher did not forget to mention her abilities in air and water magic. Praising both hers as Julia's progress into the subtle forms of the latter. Straight away he showed them a fire spirit, as reminder of what they were aiming for. Letting all of them do the exercises of the day before. She looked at the small fireball, and didn't understand some part of it, looked at Julia next to her, forming a plain fire ball, extinguishing it immediately as inferior. She looked again at one of the students showing her progress, and remembered the ultimate goal. replicating her lead. Changing it a bit to suite her hands, and got a perfect fireball on a string. Letting it go, to fall into sparks on the rocks beneath her feet.

This time it was Julia turning to her. Together they practiced, until they had the fireball with just the hook in it. Looked up and found there was still time, so instead of forming fire they started to figure out novel ways of disintegrating or blowing up their assignment.

A spark in dying fire made them startle. The teachers way of telling them to stop messing about, again some smiles about their clumsiness. The girls two rows over where already teasing them to go back and learn their first spark. Still at the time new material was to be learned. Two of the older kids came over, whispering to please weave slow. A long line of fire appeared out of the fingers of their teacher, controlling it like it was just string. Then let it disintegrate and started again, now slowly, letting the threads drop as soon as the string of fire started to react with itself.

The second time she and Julia joint in, getting a small string, dropping the threads as soon as they saw they could replicate their teacher. Watching the class. Warned the two friendly students of the sparks jumping between different parts of their string. Sparks somewhere else in the group getting ever more frequent, resulting in a cool explosion, when the student dropped it just before burning himself.

Able to divert the shockwave with some air, they had front row seats to the display of fireworks in front of them, partly managed by their teacher. The rest harmless enough to dissipate as result of the aging of the threads. Soon the inferno started beating to the pulse of the teacher, enabling him to fast slash whole fabrics of magic fire. Extinguishing it faster than she could blink.

One of the girls picked up a metal rod and on the nod of their teacher let it drop on a metal plate partially in the water. Everywhere heads popped up, to swim back for the island. A long and dreadful lecture on the dangers of magic was next, before again they had to perform the string, now with added safety, making it able to stretch out forever if you had the magic.

It did not help to be taken as example, so most now looked through the clumsy act, and the nasty girls clearly felt threatened messing up their magic, accidentally letting it blow up close to Julia and her. They simply side stepped it, and went on with their practice, always keeping one of their eyes on their fellow students.

Suddenly she lashed out. A fireball on a long string, slashing through the string from one of the mean girls, gobbling it up as it jumped wildly. Immediately she reeled in the string, waiting for a reaction, as the fireball cooled down in the lake.

Nobody said a word, remaining fire extinguished almost instantly. Then after a long wait the girl bowed thanking her for freeing her of the runaway string.