

Aurora lights up the sky

"Rory!"

I turn around at the call of sister Evie.

"Yes? What is it?"

I said it as a reflex, but... Why does her voice seem so warm and friendly? And Rory... It's been so long since she's called me by my nickname. It was always "Aurora" rather than "Rory".

"Don't you remember? We're going to get lunch today! The manager promised he'd pay, so get ready quickly!"

Manager... What? I don't know what happened... I still feel so dazed...

"Oh, my. Our cute youngest, are you still half asleep? That's why I told you not to sleep too late yesterday."

"Sister Chloe..."

Huh...? Why is sister Chloe's hair so short? She started growing it after our second comeback- Wait. This situation seems way too familiar... Polaris. A girl group from the entertainment agency Star project. Starpro for short. Made up out of 3 very talented members. The main dancer, Evie Claire, 17. The main rapper, Chloe Valentine, 18. Lastly, Aurora Esté, the main vocal and visual. In case you didn't already notice... I'm the youngest at 15 years old. Well... At this point in time anyway. I think I've somehow traveled back in time to 3 years ago. The sole reason I'm considered the visual is because of my hair and eyes. If we're talking figure or actual conventional beauty, it's sister Evie or Chloe. I just happen to draw attention because my features are unique, especially since I was born with them.

"Rory? Here, let sister do your hair."

Sister Evie sits me down in front of a mirror and starts combing through my long wavy locks of hair.

"Ah, our youngest's hair color is so pretty!"

I look at myself in the mirror. Wow. I look so young and innocent at this stage.

Aurora Esté ↓



Light pink to baby blue gradient hair

Lilac eyes

Mystical and dreamy feeling

Long light pink hair that faded to a cerulean blue at the ends and mysterious eyes that seemed to be a mix of both my hair colors. I say my eye color is lilac or lavender, but I can't really tell what color they are as they look like they have multiple colors swirling around. But geez... My hair is a mess today. Thankfully, it's starting to look way better since sister Evie and Chloe are styling it for me.

"All done, Rory!"

"Wow~! Thank you!"

I get up, trip, and fall on my face. Well... I guess that part of me hasn't changed. For some reason... I'm super clumsy, except when I dance. What's even more incredible is that I dance with the gracefulness of a ballerina. When I dance, everyone says I look like a fairy dancing on a lake or something, but the second I stop, I start tripping and falling every 5 minutes. I've never been seriously hurt, but it's really strange. I guess god put all my grace into my dancing while making me and forgot I needed some in my daily life to not trip and fall over my own feet every so often. Still, I want to be an idol, so I guess it's better than tripping whenever I dance and walking perfectly fine... I swear I'm being careful, but the second I get even a little excited and stand up quickly or start to walk a little faster than normal, I trip and fall. What's worse is that I fall flat on my face like... 90% of the time. I've lost count how many times I've accidentally planted my face in the asphalt because I tripped. I've never gotten so much as a scratch though, so no worries. My face is fine. Thankfully, sister Evie and Chloe are used to it and don't overreact or make too much fun of me. They used to get really worried at first, then start laughing at me, and eventually got used to it and expected it. Sister Evie and Chloe giggles and each reaches out a hand for me to grab.

"Here, let us help you up."

I'm smiling and acting all natural on the outside, but it's like my body's on auto pilot. I still don't understand what's going on and why I'm 15 years old again. I grasp both their hands and let them pull me up. That's when a blue status window flashes in front of my eyes.

Welcome to the past! Due to your deep regret, I have decided to send you to the past to give you another chance!

Wait... What's going on? I definitely made it back to my house after packing up... I was unpacking and got nostalgic because I remembered how nice sister Evie and Chloe used to be. Sure, I regretted the fact our close relationship didn't last, but ...

To keep things short, you suddenly died due to the stress of your good and bad memories entangling. I felt bad for letting you die at 18 and decided to rewind your time to 3 years back.

I... Died?! And wait, why today? Couldn't you rewind it a few more years?

I am sorry! $\pi\pi$ I thought it would be too difficult if your skill level went down too much, so I rewinded you 3 years back!

Skill... Level...?

Yes! Here are your stats! They will all be leveled down by 3 because you were sent back in time 3 years ago!

Vocal: A-(S)

Dance: C-(B)

Rap: D(C)

Variety show: C-(B-)

The ones in brackets are your original skills! You can raise them by gaining points, so do not despair!

Huh? What's this? I click the special skills button and some extra info unfolds.

Special skill

Lucidae: Can shine the brightest and capture everyone's attention while onstage: B (Potential highest level: S)

Lucidae... That means the brightest star in a constellation, doesn't it...

"Rory...? What's wrong?"

"N- Nothing! Sorry, I guess I just was out of it for a moment."

"Rory? Are you sure you're okay? You've been out of it since this morning."

"Yeah, I'm okay!"

I can see both their status windows as they look at me, eyes full of concern.

Evie Claire

Vocal: C-

Dance: A

Rap: C

Variety show: C+

Special skill

Training specialist: Has a talent for training people up and giving advice, especially when it comes to dance: A(highest potential level: S)

Chloe Valentine

Vocal: D

Dance: B+

Rap: A

Variety show: C

Special skill

Elocution expert: Speaks very clearly and precisely, making others understand what you're saying instantly. They can pick your voice out from a crowd: B+(highest potential level: A+)

"Rory!"

"Sorry, sorry. Let's go now."

Note to self: Only do this when alone or when no one is paying attention to you. While I'm walking, I think back to what happened. I'm back to 3 years ago. In the original timeline... This meal was for telling us that our group would have to disband. I, desperate not to, ended up participating in a survival program and succeeded in garnering a fanbase, saving our group from disbanding in the process. Our group was called Polaris and a girl group of originally 5 members. However, one hurt

her throat and dropped out, while another had a dating scandal and was kicked out from the group. As such, the group was made out of me and the only other 2 remaining members now. We were never very popular, and with only 3 members, it made sense. Due to my survival show participation, we were able to not disband, but there was one problem. Only I participated. Only I was somewhat famous. Before, our group was very close. However, after the survival show, I started getting more and more jobs like modelling or appearances on TV shows. Even if you were close before... Jealousy and envy would be a normal response. Sister Evie and Chloe, who used to spoil and baby me to no end, started acting very cold towards me. Fans of mine insulting them and saying they were holding me back didn't help matters. They just exacerbated the already bad situation. I eventually packed up my things and left the group and agency, unable to handle the suffocating atmosphere any longer. I started unpacking all my things and found some mementos from my members like the necklace I wanted from sister Evie, or the floral perfume I got from sister Chloe. And then I apparently... Died and was rewinded 3 years back. Now, here's the deal. Nothing really changed. And even if I came back, I'm still participating in that cruel as heck survival show. Why? Despite knowing it'll cost my relationship, I still prefer continuing to be an idol rather than disbanding. There's no other way to prevent being disbanded other than that show. But this being a second chance and all that, I somehow need to get sister Evie and Chloe to participate too, resulting in the same recognition and preventing the envy issue. Anyway... That show is kind of... Unique? It's creating 2 groups and 1 group at the same time. It's a mix of boys and girls. 50 contestants of each gender. 5 boys and 5 girls will be picked, resulting in 1 boy group, 1 girl group, and one 10 member co-ed group with both boys and girls. So... They essentially made 3 groups through 1 program. Smart marketing on their end. 3 groups through one show.

"So, girls... The reason I called you 3 here is to... Tell you we'll have to disband your group."

Yep. Nothing at all changed. I can tell Sister Evie and Chloe are upset, but they struggle to keep up a bright front and smile for me even so. They've been gifting me nice things and cooking my favorite meals or buying me sweets all week. I turn on the TV and an ad comes on. Wait, isn't this the idol survival show ad?!

"Sis! Look! If we participate, we can prevent Polaris from disbanding!"

"Well... That's true, but..."

In my past life, I participated without them because I was probably too gentle. This is time... Let's use something called force.

"Sis... Remember my 10th birthday?"

I met my members when I was 10. Well, 9, but nearly 10. Our debut kept getting pushed back, but whatever. Anyway, for the gift, they said they'd grant a wish of mine. I didn't use it in my past life, but... Wishes are there so I can use them, right?

"My wish is for you to participate with me to the end!"

"... Dang. We really can't say no, can we, Eve?"

"You know it. As promised, we'll grant your wish, Rory."

"Yay! Thank you!"

After that, things went super smoothly. Now, we have to make us look interesting. Reality shows like these want a story. We need to have an intriguing story. Thankfully, we have one set already. Idols who are facing disbandment who are participating as a last resort. It doesn't really matter what our skill is like. Whether we're good or bad, they can use us as they like. If we're good, unfair destiny led us to face ruin. We're bad? Shameless idols who believed in their visuals. Eitherway, we'll be good material to make content out of. Because I made sure to emphasize our disbandment and that we're failed idols, we are easily accepted. I'm worried though. This survival show is notorious for being harsh. I'm used to it- Scratch that, I'm not used to it, but I know what's going on, so I can better prepare for it. However, sister Evie and Chloe are both so gentle. I'm not sure if their mentality will be able to handle it. I look around the room and a few familiar faces come into my view. There's also a throne. I wonder who's sitting on it- Of course. As expected. Rian. 16. The youngest member apart from me, who's 15. I think I was the youngest participant? Anyway, he truly was amazing. He was a fantastic all rounder. We were never particularly close until one incident. I graduated- Well, more like I took the GED and graduated rather than actually going to school and graduating, but whatever. Point was, I didn't go to school, but he went to school. Anyway, he was just... Pacing back and forth in front of the school gates. I happened to be passing by because I was planning to buy something from the convenience store and saw him hesitating. I started staring. Not in a bad way or anything. I just never imagined Rian being like that. He was always so bold, sincere, and honest. Never unsure or whatever. Sure, he was a bit introverted off camera, but he was still pretty confident and honest and all that. Anyway... The conversation went something like this... He noticed my gaze and stared right back.

"You were... Aurora?"

"Umm... I... Sorry, I didn't mean to stare. But... Mr. Rian, aren't you going to be late?"

This wasn't me trying to chide him, it was more advice. I turn to leave and he grabs on to my sleeve. I turn around and trip as I do so, but manage not to fall for the first time in my life due to Rian holding onto my sleeve and helping me regain balance.

"Sorry."

"Oh, no! It's not your fault! I trip 3 to 4 times a day, so I'm used to falling down. Anyway... It's a bit lonely going on a walk by myself, so... Could you keep me company? I know I'm the one who said you'd be late for school, but it'll only take about 10 minutes or so. Please?"

I knew he didn't want to go. I was just asking him to keep me company as an excuse so he could push the blame onto me for him being late. He agrees and I walk to the convenience store and buy some chocolate.

"Here."

If I'm to be totally honest... I'd rather not do this again. It took so long just... Convincing him I was doing this just because. It's like the concept of being nice was foreign. He thought I was going to tell him to do something for me later on because I bought him this. I didn't, by the way, and we eventually were among the chosen that were given the opportunity to debut. I went straight back to my original group though. But believe it or not, we met multiple times. And every single time, he was so nice to me. He would always follow me around or give me gifts or whatever every time we were on the same program or whatever. I don't know what happened. Apparently... He believed me because I didn't ask for anything the entirety of the show. And I was... Supposedly the first person to show him pure kindness without asking something in return. I don't really know. But I have to admit his talent was second to none. I would like to get close to him again because I feel curious what happened in his past to make him believe the give and take policy is always in place, but it was so awkward in my past life. Let's just see how things go. My main goal is to debut on this program with sister Evie and Chloe or gain enough fans so we don't have to disband after all. Anyways... Our trainers come on stage. Sarah and Justin, our dance instructors. Hannah and Derek, our singing instructors. Last but not least, our rap instructors, Leah and Aaron. Our instructors and judges at the same time. They brought both girls and boys. Ah... Now that I think of it... Wasn't Miss Hannah from our company? I don't remember much as I was only around 5 back then, but she used to find me cute and spoil me a lot like buying me toys and candy and the like. She was around 17 then. She should now be 27, since it's b

een 10 years, right? And now she's a dance instructor who will be judging us. Gosh . Y'know, I'm usually way better, but uhh... Because I went back in time 3 years and my stats leveled down as the price for turning back time, I'm not that good. My vocals are fine, but... Still. I could be better, if not for this stupid penalty. By the way... Hey, system!

Yes?

You said I can raise my stats, right? How do I raise my stats?

You can earn points by practice or completing missions! You need 50 points for A, 30 points for B, 20 points for C, and 10 points for D.

Okay... What missions are there?

No current missions available. Would you like me to alert you whenever a new mission appears?

Yes please! How many points can I get through practice?

You can get 1 point by practicing 10 times. For example, if you dance a specific routine 100 times, you get 10 points.

Wow... So I need to dance 200 times to level up my dance by 1?

Yes, that is correct! Good luck~! ^^

What is up with this dumb system?! It's so fricking difficult! 200 times just to get to C+ is so cruel! I used to be B, you know! If I want to get to my original stats, I need... 1 sec... Nevermind. Over a 100 points, that's for sure. Anyways, we're each called up and given a rank. No one knows what these ranks are for, at least not yet. Remember, this show is brutal. We get graded on our appearance immediately. These ranks are given based on appearance. Last time, I believe I got A. I don't think I deserve it though. My hair and eye color, along with my fair skin, make me stand out a lot... Which probably contributed... As expected, I get A again. Sister Evie and Chloe both get B. This isn't important though. This is just a ploy to lower our motivation. Rian got S. Of course. Rian has S or A for all his stats, not to mention he has awesome super special skills. They read as follows: high purity diamond, firework, and star among stars. High purity diamond means he exudes a elegant and noble like air doing nothing. Firework means he completely dominates the stage and gets the audience fired up. Star among stars is self explanatory. He's a star all the other stars aspire to be. He's a global, no, a universal star. Ri

an was always the picture perfect idol of idols. He got the entire world to be his fan, haha.

"Wow~! Our Rory got A? Well, her eyes and hair color are extremely pretty."

"Haha, it's really nothing. I'm not that pretty. Sister Evie and Chloe also got B, only one rank below."

The next part is where we'll be judged on our performances. It doesn't really matter which rank we get, but I need to be in the same rank as sister Evie and Chloe. Now, I would originally be able to get at least a B, but because of my stats leveling down, I'm a C. And that's because of my vocals. Therefore, sister Evie and Chloe need to get C as well. Which is why we selected quite a unique performance. Plus, we need screentime. Attention. And the only way to do that is with a unique show. I look at all the others. It's basically the same show. Just slightly different concepts. None that actually stand out. We're... Right after Rian. We go stand backstage waiting for our turn, along with Rian. Brother Rian... He probably won't remember me, so it's probably best not to interact with him. He distrusts others anyway, so it's likely he'll be suspicious.