

## Chapter 1

# The Star Runner

### *Navigating the Unknown*

The edge of the galaxy did not look like a boundary.

There were no warning signs. No walls or lines drawn on a map. Instead, the edge shimmered with a vast curtain of drifting dust and glowing color stretched across the darkness, soft and beautiful from a distance.

The people of the Inner Worlds called it the Great Silence—a place where the known universe simply... ended.

For generations, families lived safely within the mapped stars. They followed established routes, trusted familiar systems, and rarely questioned the limits drawn long ago. The maps had always been enough.

Until now.

Because every map ended the same way—in shadow. In uncertainty. In a quiet, unfinished edge labeled: UNKNOWN.