THE TRAVELLING CITY by Adrienne Miller EXCERPT

"Why would you say that to me?"

Phillippe's voice was still shrill, but it assumed a layer of calm that Reihan found unusual. His eyes fixated on her, almost as if he was intrigued by the callousness lurking behind her words.

"Because I didn't cause this, Phillippe. Because I was created to solve a problem that you humans could so easily avoid if not for your petulant greed and insistence on breaking every rule, no matter how well-meaning."

"We had no choice", Phillippe replied, still with that eerily resigned tone of his.

"I don't believe that. All you people can manifest at least to a degree. You'll never truly go hungry, and you'll never truly go cold. Hells, if you get sick, you can make yourselves healthy, and when you get old, you can make yourselves young, at least for a little while. Everything else is a choice."

"You don't know – you wouldn't understand."