

The background of the entire page is a dense, vertical arrangement of numerous beaded necklaces. The beads are in various colors including red, yellow, orange, green, blue, and black, and are strung on thin, light-colored cords. The necklaces are layered, creating a rich, textured effect.

TWIST TELLERS

Chifley College Shoalvey Campus

StoryFACTORY

TWIST TELLERS

by students at Chifley College Shalvey Campus

A collection of short stories all set in
the same town, using the same settings
and characters, created together as a class.

StoryFACTORY

Twist Tellers 2018

In 2018, the self-styled 'Twist Tellers' at Chifley College Shalvey Campus, a group of young writers attending weekly workshops with the Story Factory, wrote this book.

This one, that you're holding in your hands!

They began with the task of writing a collection of short stories all set in the same town, using the same settings and characters, that they had created together as a class. As such, you'll see many familiar faces and locations pop up between the stories. This active collaboration contributed to a rich world populated with really interesting people, and the students designed it all themselves, as a group.

They started as a team, but from that first seed of an idea, the students' stories sprouted in all different directions; some magical, some terrifying, and some downright sinister, but always entertaining.

Bilal

Presenting stories from:

Avery	Tessa
Tyler D	Philomina
Charlize	Hayley
Deon	Mickala
Tayla	Eh Mu
Kiara-Lee	Aaron
Ellizah	Brody
Kyan	Elaiza
Tyler S	

And a huge thank you to all the teachers and volunteers that helped bring this collection of short stories into the world:

Story Factory acknowledges the Indigenous people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work

Avery

You're next

"Hey Rav, it's your turn to tell a story now."

"OK, OK, I'm going."

Now this happened a while back in the town called Tombstone, 2011. Everyone called her Kelpy, but her real name is Chelsea.

I was scouring the internet for some kind of paid gig, then eventually I found one. It was a 19-year-old dude, who was soon gonna leave town for a few weeks and wanted someone to come feed and change these dogs' water bowls every day while he's gone. He said those two dogs, he cared for very dearly. He claimed his parents lived there but he didn't trust them. Like I would trust a stranger more than my own parents, but who cares, that's none of my business. I clicked the job. I sent my email and left my number. Just minutes later, he responded. He asked for my name, address and then even did a background check on me. This took around 20 minutes, but when it was all over, he told me a few details and instructions. He then told me sharply, to be there at 11:00 am every morning never after that.

"And if you can't make it, just contact me. When you walk in the house, my parents will most likely be in the living room watching TV. Don't disturb them, walk straight then take the first left. That's where the kitchen will be. And their bowls will be on the floor next to the dining table". Then he told me not to go upstairs or in the basement for privacy reasons. To be honest, he talked too much and used too many instructions. I'm sure I would have been fine finding it on my own, but whatever. Then after explaining the rest to me, he then repeated, "be there at 11:00 am, never after that, OK?"

"Yeah," I replied, wondering to myself, why 11:00 am and never after that? But I didn't look too far into it.

The next day came and I was getting ready to meet him in front of his house but... he wasn't there. He was supposed to give me the keys. It's now 10:40 am, he still isn't there. I emailed, no reply. 15 minutes later just staring at the door.

"Uh – was I scammed or something?" then the door opened, a tall and pretty slender man with dark brown hair wearing a very nice and expensive looking suit stood outside...

"I think he's waiting for me... 10 years later."

I got out of the car, introduced myself. He told me his name is Jamie. He then told me that he trusts me and hopes this all goes well.

"You will receive your first payment by the end of the week. \$20 each day then by Sunday you should get it. If not, contact me." Jamie then puts his hand out giving me the keys. Then said again, "Always be here before 11:00 am, OK. Never be late."

Trust me, hearing that three times in a row is kinda scary, but I still did it. Jamie waved and took off. I walked into the house, his parents were watching TV... it was a pretty old program judging by the style and colour. Then I took my first left, I saw his two dogs... they were shaking, so I assumed they were cold. Their eyes weren't so pleasant. It's like they just saw a ghost or something. I patted them both, filled their bowls and then walked out the door. While walking to the car, I felt a quick chill go down my spine, I turned and looked at the door. When I turned... Jamie's mum was standing there, just looking at me. She began to smile, I waved, then left.

"You're next." Jamie's mum mumbled.

Three days passed and I was on my way to Jamie's house again, but I got stuck in traffic. It was 10:56 am... I was gonna be late! Nuuu! I can't be late, he said 11:00 am, no further.

"Maybe it won't hurt if I'm a bit late." I said to myself.

As soon as the traffic started to go down, I bolted my way to his house.

It's now 11:07 am. I rushed into the house but... Jamie's parents who are usually sitting in the lounge room weren't there? I filled the bowls with food, I looked around for the dogs but I couldn't find them. I remember Jamie told me not to go upstairs or in the basement. But where is everybody? I walked to the living room quietly. The TV had no signal and was making a very unsettling sound, the screen was flashing black and white.

"Help! Please help!"

I turned quickly, it's coming from the basement. I hurried, I think it's his mum. I must hurry. Whoosh! The door swung open without me even touching the door. I couldn't focus properly, then fell over myself, trembling, shocked...

"Should I call the police? I'll quickly try to help first." I stared blankly down the long staircase.

"Help! Help me!"

I ran down the stairs slouching over. My eyes focused on the ground, terrified and nervous.

"Who is down there?" I whispered, "are you OK?" fidgeting with my fingers.

Whoosh!...

Something just went past me... I turned slowly, Jamie's mother was standing at the top of the staircase... smiling again at me.

"H-hello, I heard screaming – is... uhh something wrong?"

She didn't answer.

"Uhh." I looked down, my whole body was shaking.

"What's that over there?" Jamie's mother questioned.

My eyes slowly looked to the right... it's –

RING!

"Urgh! Ray we have to finish the story later, class is starting."

"Aw, c'mon! it was just getting good." Ray replied.

"Whatever."

Ray walks into her English classroom with three of her friends. Ray noticed that her teacher, Miss Metal, was giving a very unpleasant death stare. After Ray noticed, she and her friends awkwardly walked to their tables.

Miss Metal stood in front of the class without hesitation, she looked around angrily, eyeing the students. Miss Metal with her loud and rough voice, she said, "You four girls in the corner, separate, NOW!"

The girls got up and separated into different tables, away from each other. A little later, Miss Metal began to teach the class grammar.

After class, it was second recess, the four friends gathered and continued to tell Ray's story from where they left off.

Chelsea wondered around to search for some kind of light source. I ran into a thin string and I grabbed it, frightened. I cautiously pulled the string.

-Click- the light switched on...

I looked in front of me and with a shocked face, I find a male dead body in a fresh pool of blood. My body starts to tremble, I try to speak but I keep stuttering. The mother goes down the stairs slowly. The planks start creaking every step that his mother took. I feel like my legs were about to collapse under me. My eyes widened, my face and my palms of my hands were shaking uncontrollably. the mother started walking towards me in a terrifying way. The mother is about two meters in front of me. As freaked and frightened as I was, I closed my eyes for a brief moment.

When I opened them...

She was gone.

Tyler D

We Put Her To Rest

- Prologue -

It was a cold, rainy day; the day they said goodbye to Octavia. She wanted it to be a happy day so they all wore colours to the funeral. Nikkita got Braxton, Logan and Darci ready. Braxton has blonde hair just like his mother. He wears glasses and has freckles just like his father. He is wearing a red suit because his mother's favourite colour is red. Logan has blonde hair just like Braxton. He has one ear pierced and is wearing a yellow suit, because he can. Darci has brown hair, she looks just like Omar. She has freckles and she is wearing a rainbow dress 'cause one of her favourite memories with her mum is sitting outside, looking at the storm and seeing a rainbow after.

One hour later they got to the funeral to put Octavia to rest. When they walked in it looked like a rainbow. Darci saw a photo of her and ran out, Omar went to go after her but Nikkita went. "Darci honey, are you okay?" said Nikkita.

Darci couldn't say anything but cry.

Lilly saw her Mum one night walking in the door. She ran up to her and hugged her. Lilly said "don't leave me again." Omar heard Lilly talking to someone. He ran out to her. "Lilly?"

"Yes daddy, look Mummy is home." Omar looked at Lilly with a tear going his face.

"Lilly honey Mum isn't coming home" said Omar "look she is right here." said Lilly.

"Go get ready for bed" said Omar. "Okay Daddy, good night Daddy goodnight Mummy".

Lilly ran upstairs to her brothers, Braxton and Logan. They were already playing. They were playing cops and robbers. Omar heard "Pew. Pew Pew Pew. Pew. Pew Pew." He ran upstairs and pretended he was the robber.

"I'm going to rob you, give me your money!"

They got their nerf guns and started shooting at him.

They were in the triplets' room. Their wallpaper is Duck Tales. Every Wednesday night they wear their onesies. Lilly wears her Moana onesie. Braxton wears Goofy and Logan wears an Olaf onesie.

Omar put the kids to bed, fed the fish and went to sleep.

The next day, Omar heard a weird scream just outside his property. He thought a child was injured, so he went to investigate what it was.

He saw a goat injured with two other goats, trying to help the injured goat. When Omar saw them, he thought of when Lillianna got hurt and Braxton and Logan went to help her. He picks the goat up and takes it into his property.

As they walked, there was a lot of blood behind them. Omar started running with the injured goat and the other two followed. When Omar got back to the property, the triplets ran out.

They started freaking out, Lillianna said, "Call 911!"

Braxton said, "We don't live in America!"

Logan got his play phone and called 911.

Braxton says, "It won't work on a play phone!"

Omar gets bandages to wrap around the goats' legs, just above the hooves, because that is where it is hurt. The goat is calm and lets Omar do it. Omar gave the goat milk and food and put it to sleep, while the other goats went to the shed.

- A couple of weeks later -

Omar was feeding the goats pineapple when he noticed the pretty girl in the truck with the wood on it. The truck is reversing into the worksite for the cottages. The girl in the passenger seat was eating KFC, Omar gathered that she was getting food for everyone.

"Oi Bella, that man's looking at you." Her boss said.

Bella looked at him and walked over to him and said, "How you doin'?"

"Not bad, yourself?" Omar was still feeding the goats, but at this point, he wasn't paying attention so the goat was chewing his hand.

Bella says to the goat, "Are you enjoying eating his hand?"

The goat looked up like he could understand her, then ran off to the other goats. Omar and Bella started laughing.

- Epilogue -

- One year later -

"Mum, are you reading for your big day?" Braxton said excitedly.

"I can't find my shoes!" Bella said, freaking out.

Logan came running in and said "Mum, I found your shoes!" Then Lillianna came and gave Bella a hug and Nikkita came in and they went into the stretched white limo with red number plates.

They started playing music, Level Up came on, the triplets started dancing and they get to the beach.

"Bella Ann Rosemary, will you take Omar Clomer Homer--"

When everyone heard that, they started laughing.

Again, Omar's Uncle Bobby said, "Bella Ann Rosemary, will you take Omar Clomer Homer to be your husband?"

"I do." Said Bella confidently.

"Omar Clomer Homer, will you take Bella Ann Rosemary to be your wife?"

"I'm sorry, I can't do this."

Everyone in the audience gasped. Omar laughed and said, "I'm only joking, I do!"

My Heart Will Go On by Celine Dion – played as they walked off. The sun was just setting and dolphins were jumping in the distance.

In the car, Bella told Omar, "I have exciting news."

Omar asked what it was and Bella said she was pregnant. They were very excited. Omar asked what it was and Bella said, "Twins!"

Omar said, "Oh no! Double trouble!"

Charlize

He stood on the edge of the rusty pier, splintered wood prickling his bare feet and his pale skin was almost the same colour as the torn white t-shirt he wore. A shiver ran down his spine, the wind hauling his dark brown hair in all different directions as he moved forward an inch. With thoughts spiraling through his mind and crystal blue eyes glazed over, he took another small step forward, staring down at the black water colliding with the wood in small strong waves.

The sound of a commotion in the bushes behind him caused him to turn around, ears perking at the sound of small twigs snapping under the weight of something unknown. Goosebumps crawled up his arms, the hairs on the back of his neck sticking up as he waited for the unknown creature to appear. With the rustles edging closer every second he took a deep breath, expecting the worst to happen.

"What if it's a wild animal creeping over to eat me up? It could be the crazy man that lives off the edge of the woods coming to attack me for trespassing on his property. What if it's the same person that took my sister? Taking one sibling and coming to finish the other off, going through every family member until they're all gone?"

With all these wild thoughts running through his head, he squeezed his eyes shut, expecting someone, anyone, to come and hurt him, to take him away like they did his sister. But what he least expected was for the quiet boy that sat at the back of the classroom to come sprinting out of the trees, heavy pants escaping his hips and a coat of sweat layering his forehead.

Deon

- Part 1 – Soldiers passed away in zombie war -

The town had old vibes as the soldiers (running madly) to get away from a crowd of toxic zombies.

Some of the soldiers did not make it as zombies ripped off the soldiers' legs.

As soldiers screaming and yelling in the background and blood splatters on the chopper.

The chopper lifted off as zombies started jumping on the bars of the chopper. As soldiers get pulled off the chopper, some soldiers kicked the zombies in the face. Blood comes from the face of the zombie and teeth fall out of the zombie. As soldiers yell out and gunshots hit the zombies' faces as the chopper goes up in the air and flies off.

- Part 2 – Remembrance day R.I.P. -

As soldiers walk down the pathway, paying their respects to the ones who passed away in Zombie War.

Gunshots go off as they remember them (Bang Bang Bang). The soldiers march down in groups to remember the ones who passed.

Day 3, my best friend who passed as well: well, I lost my best friend who died from a zombie bite. Now he will be in heaven with the other soldiers. R.I.P. I will remember them.

- Part 3 – March 2025. Date: 1/3/25 -

As I went to find a cure for this, I walked out of my house. Walking down the path, I heard a plane crashing into the city bank. As explosions happen, a horde of zombies came running at me. I ran back inside, grabbed my gun, shot one in the face. The bullet went through and hit the mailboxes and penetrated off the mailbox - cut me open. I dropped my gun and ran inside. I locked my front door, I grabbed my med-kit, I healed myself and I was never seen or found from 2025...

- Part 4 – 2027, 2/11/27 -

I was not found for 2 years of my life. I was living in the woods with a stranger who has a house out there. I said I need to find something to stop this.

This stranger said she is a lab tech who already found it out. She said, "I'll show you the nuclear bomb, so you're going to launch this to stop it."

Hell yeah I am!

- Part 5 – 2029 -

Lab tech disappeared and had never been seen again... (no one knows where she is???) she could be eaten by a zombie.

I am left here with the nuke that could cure everyone... but I don't know how to use it! The lab tech was supposed to make the syringe with the cure for me. I'm worried about me turning and going to kill the lab-tech. Now what do I do?

I walk outside, leaving the door open. I was out there for a minute then walked back inside. A zombie was sitting on the floor, blood dripping from its mouth. I run, screaming, into the lab. Stupidly, I trip over the mop and hit my elbow on a control.

A rumbling starts and the nuclear cure is launched! I looked up and said, "Oh no..." not realising what had happened. No time to worry now, I had to grab the nearest object and kill a zombie.

The nuclear bomb went in the direction of the city, where there were still some survivors. When it exploded, the cure began to work and the zombies started to go back to being humans.

My phone rang and I was surprised that it was the lab tech! She asked, "Did you send off that nuke?"

I replied, "Yyyyyeah... but it was an accident."

She says, "Well... the people in the city are turning."

"You mean the zombies? That's the point of the cure..."

"Yes, that's happening, but the nuke is also turning the PEOPLE into ZOMBIES!"

"OK, here's what I need you to do. Find a zombie and make it bite you."

"What are you, crazy?"

"Trust me, it's the only way you'll survive."

Part 6

The lab tech called back.

"It worked, have you done it yet?"

I replied in a deep villain's voice, "No. I'm half-human and half-zombie."

Tayla

The Voices

A long time ago in a happy house, the perfect family in a perfect neighbourhood, in a perfect lane, lived a boy named Kyan. He was a lonely child, but his parents loved him dearly. The day he lost his parents was like no other, except it was his birthday. Every year they would go to the shops and he would get anything he wanted. It was the perfect day. Then they decided to go for the drive. All I have to say is: don't distract the driver. I did that, and it ended with taking my voice.

I woke up in a bed. I couldn't see, it was so light: wha- how why, where am I there are needles in my arm, he thought to himself.

"Ah excuse me what is your name?"

"Nurse" "yes doctor" "he can't talk" "oh how stupid of me I'll go get you a pen and some food if you're hungry"

I nod. The nurse comes back with food, the food looked like a baby chewed and spat it out onto my plate. I had to eat it, I was starving.

"How long have I been asleep for?"

"60 days write down, what's your name?"

Tokyo Docks here's your parents' lawyer: "Oh Kyan are you ok?"

"How do you feel about the loss of your parents?"

Kyan starts to write, "Yes I'm fine, I just lost my voice that's all"

"Oh no, how?"

"Well it hit a nerve in my neck"

"Oh no Kyan I'm sorry but don't worry I got a new family for you."

"Wait what the hell, who is the family? he wrote.

"They're the roses."

"I've heard of them, apparently they killed a guy to get his fortune, apparently they are very dangerous."

"Why did you pick the roses," wrote the boy.

"Because your mother and father were very very good friends with them" The lawyer, Leilani, said.

"I'll have to get in contact with the Roses to ask if they still want you even though you can't talk."

The lawyer calls Audrina Rose, "That's perfect" said Mrs Rose. Thank you Leilani."

"Did you plan for this to happen?" asked Audrina.

"Yes I did" replied the lawyer.

She hangs up the phone and turns back to Kyan,

"You'll be out in three days, I'll pick you up and take you to the Roses."

- A couple days later -

"Kyan grab your stuff we're going to the Roses right now"

Kyan nods so she knows she understands.

"Follow me."

As Kyan walks through the hospital he sees Tokyo and gives her a big hug. "Awww Kyan are you leaving already?"

Kyan nods.

"Oh, I'm gonna miss you" he nods and waves.

"Hurry up Kyan, you're wasting my time!" Kyan gives her an angry look, "Don't give that look Kyan" Leilani grabs his arm.

Kyan starts grabbing at her arm and tries to save himself free. In his head he's screaming "let me go, let me go you evil witch" but he can't scream out loud.

Leilani says "stop scratching me you little bastard!"

Kyan manages to get himself free and starts running for his life, she starts chasing after him.

He trips over a trash can and knocks himself out, unconscious.

Kiara-Lee

The Restaurant

I woke up and I saw this flickering light, and then I heard my boyfriend talking to someone. I still didn't know where I was, so I started freaking out and I realised I was in hospital. I was lying down in a hospital bed, and then my boyfriend ran over to me and hugged me. I asked: "Why am I in here?" and he said "you passed out so I called the hospital, are you ok?" he asked.

"Yeah I think. Can I go home please?"

He said "no not yet 'cause you were drugged and we don't know what it was, when you find out what drug it was can you let me know straight away please?"

"Yes of course," the nurse said.

"So get some sleep, ok", then the other nurse said, "why? it isn't night time".

"Yes it is" said the nurse.

"Oh" she said, so she laid there and tried to fall asleep.

The next day when she woke up she forgot where she was, so the nurse told her again she was in the hospital. "Oh, still?" she said.

The nurse started to ask questions about them, the nurse asked what their names were. Angla and Angus are their names. "Ok" the nurse said, "what are your jobs?"

"I work in a pharmacy" Angus said, "and I own a restaurant" said Angla.

"Ok" said the nurse, "get some rest."

"Oh" said Angla". The nurse walks in and says "We knew what drug it is, it is a drug that makes you lose your mind".

"Ok" she says.

"Now you can go home."

"Yeah" said Angla

"Ok, bye"

Angla goes outside to call her boyfriend, she grabs her phone. She calls him.

"Heyyyy. Can you come and get me?"

"Sure, I'll be there soon, I'm just at my restaurant now" he says.

"Wait, you have a restaurant?"

"Oh," he laughs evilly, "I mean your restaurant."

She says "Don't worry, I'll just call Julie."

He says, "Ok then."

She hangs up the phone. She was starting to put two and two together. She started thinking about all the times he'd asked to put his name into the restaurant's lease. After the last time they argued she started feeling dizzy and then ended up in hospital. It was after they ate together. It has happened before.

I've ended up in hospital after a fight.

After she thought for a while sitting down on a bench at maccas where she got something to eat, she called Julie.

"Can you please come and pick me up, I don't want to go home. I ended up in hospital; after having a fight with my boyfriend."

"Okay, wait I'm coming now, just wait there," says Julie.

"If you want you can come and stay at my house" she adds.

"Yes please, see you soon!"

When Julie gets there, she gets out and hugs her. "Let's go" says Anga.

So they got in the car and start driving. Angla asks "can you please drop in to my restaurant, please?" so they pulled up to the restaurant and walked inside.

She goes up to her boyfriend and says "This is my restaurant not yours, it's never going to be yours."

"Ok", says Angla, "give me the keys" and then he says, "No."

"Give me the keys now, Angus!" Then he said "No" again.

"I'm calling the cops, Angus!"

She took her phone out, and called them, so Angus ran out before the cops got there so she changed the locks to the doors and windows.

The next day she called him, but he didn't answer so she left a voicemail. This is what she said: "Ok we are done and by the way, if you come near me or my family and my restaurant you will rot in prison."

Then all of a sudden she gets a message of him which said "hey I will be back to get u and your restaurant so be were if I come back."

So she freaked out and called her big brother and told him what happened. Her brother came straight to hers. When he rocked up he had a gun and she started to laugh.

"Why do you have a gun?" she said.

"Don't worry he won't bother you soon ok" said her brother.

So they hung out until late, and then they went to bed. Then at about 2am they heard "bang!" like a window opened loudly, so her brother snuck to her room and hid in a shadow in the corner near the door. Then, all of a sudden Angus walks in towards Angla so her brother throws Angus to the floor. He pointed the gun to his head and Angla was screaming out of fear. Then, outta nowhere blue cops rockup and came in and arrested the brother and Angus. The brother got in a little bit of trouble but not much, because the gun was his. Angus on the other hand got chucked in jail. But, it was all over in seconds like a flash of a light.

She was happy but scared for the rest of her life.

10 years later she is a Mum to 3 kids, married to the best guy ever and still has the restaurant.

Ellizah

A local woman called Betty Bisten went to the Town Shopping Mall at 5pm on Tuesday. She wants to find a shop that has the right size and fit as she is looking for a special dress for her sister's wedding in a month's time. Betty was shocked to find that most chic clothing shops are closing or closed. She started to walk away shocked and slowly shuffling her feet with a disappointed look on her face. As she shuffled along the floor, she breathed in her nose to smell the fresh air and can hear roller doors getting slammed against the floor, cars starting and less talking. Betty sat down near the Centre Willow Tree and wondered what to do, then a waft of coffee aroma came her way.

"I wonder if Starbucks is still open?" thought Betty. She jumped up and headed toward Starbucks.

Betty was pleased to find Starbucks still open, she found a table and sat down. The waiter came and Betty ordered a medium latte and a piece of chocolate cake. A mysterious lady dressed in a black business suit asked Betty if she could share her table. The mystery lady was actually the Mayor of the town, Oceania Blue.

Oceania had a very busy day and needed a coffee break before going home to cook dinner for her new husband, Brad who would be waiting for her. Betty said "Yes you can sit down." Oceania answered, "Thanks, I have had a really busy day." Betty replied "Not to be rude but how was your day busy?"

"Personal stuff." Said Oceania

Betty answered "OK I get it. Don't worry."

"How come you're here? I guess for a break too." Oceania asked Betty.

Betty replied "Oh, I have had a rough day all of the shops I like are closed and I need a dress for a wedding in a month's time."

All of a sudden "ding ding!" a bell rings and someone calls to Betty and says "Betty your order is ready!" So Betty quickly scurried over to the counter and grabbed her caramel latte and her double choc chip cake covered in melted caramel koalas and marshmallows, with strawberry and brownie flavoured ice cream on the side. Betty quickly walked like a lion was behind her, all the way to where her original seat was.

"Holy Jesus, how can you eat so much sugar?" said Oceania.

Betty replied "Jesus can't help you here hun and what did you order?"

"I ordered tossed salad with a side of fruit" said Oceania

The waitress also called out to Oceania that her order was ready. Oceania apologises to Betty and goes to get her order. Betty watches Oceania get her order and wonders if that's what she looked like getting her order. Oceania returns to her original seat. Betty thinks "Wow, I must have looked crazier than her because I'm wearing PJs."

Oceania asks "Why are you wearing PJs?" Betty replies with "I had a nap in the afternoon and woke up to my alarm screaming at me saying 'beep beep the shops are going to close!'"

Oceania replies with "That's not that bad, because I own a shop and I can kindly open it for you." Betty screams out with joy "yes yes yes!"

After they finished they started to head out to the shop. When they arrive at the shop, Betty is pleased.

"This is my favourite shop."

Oceania thanks Betty for being so nice.

She opens up the store door and Betty rushes in to find a dress that she saw a couple of weeks ago, and surprisingly it was still there. The colour of the dress was silver with side straps on the shoulders and silver beads on the straps and on the torso. The material of the dress at the front was short, just below her knees and the back of the dress just touching the floor.

Because Oceania forgot to lock the door on her way in, sirens started to screech and suddenly a burglar burst in and demanded the money in the cash register. Oceania grabbed the money and put it in his bag and he left.

Betty asked why Oceania gave him the money, and Oceania replied with "It's not the real money" whilst she was saying that, she lifted up a slip in the cash register to show that there was real money.

Betty goes to pay for the dress and Oceania softly slaps her hand and says "No, I'll pay for it!"

Betty asks "How come?" and Oceania replies with "We're friends now!"

Oceania locked the shop while Betty stood watch and then they both left parting as friends. When she arrived home Betty was very excited and still shocked that she was able to get the dress. It fit Betty perfectly, so well as if it was made for her, she loved the colour, especially the silver shimmered in the light like a moonbeam.

Stacey's wedding was suddenly five days away. Betty was feeling excited. She sees in the local newspaper that there is a new bookshop opening in the Mall. When the opening starts Betty sees that the shop owner is her older brother Jake and then she decides to buy a book and then go home.

Betty was very surprised to see that Jake had come back to their hometown, Greendale. He had been away for the last five years. Betty felt angry that Jake didn't tell her he was back and planning to have a book shop and stay in town. When Betty gets home Betty called Stacey and told her about Jake being home, and Stacey gets confused because Jake told her that he was across the world. Stacey was mad, he lied to her. Still feeling angry, Stacey told Betty she was not going to invite Jake to her wedding when Betty suggested she should.

The wedding day was getting closer, Betty arrived home from work, tired after a busy day. She was surprised to find Jake sitting on her desk waiting. She asked "how did you find me?" Jake told her it was easy in a little town like Greendale. Betty invited Jake in for a coffee, they sat down in the lounge room. Jake asks Betty if he has heard right about their sister Stacey marrying Shane. He told Betty he didn't feel Stacey was marrying a good person in Shane. Jake alarmed Betty when he said Shane had been in jail for theft before he moved to Greendale. Betty was suddenly worried for Stacy. She tells Jake "We can't let this happen to Stacey, she'll be marrying a THIEF!" They decide Stacy must know, her marriage couldn't start with a lie!

Betty calls Stacey and they agree to have breakfast together at Starbucks cafe the next day. In the morning Betty was feeling tired, anxious and nervous about telling Stacey the bad news.

Stacey arrived for breakfast feeling excited, but she became worried when she saw Betty's face. "What's wrong Betty?" said Stacy.

When Betty tells Stacey about Shane, Stacey's world falls apart, she cries and cries and then she feels angry. Stacy decides to sleep on it before confronting Shane.

Feeling calmer the next day, Stacey decides to confront Shane at the wedding and show him up as a liar.

When Stacey tells her this, Betty feels relieved but wonders whether it was Shane who robbed Oceania's shop.

On the day of the wedding Stacey arrived at the Marquee Tent prepared at the private beach. She looked wonderful with flowers in her long, blonde hair, carrying a white rose bouquet. Betty followed, looking beautiful in her special silver dress, feeling happy that Stacey has made the right decision but slightly worried she might still marry Shane.

Stacey walks up to Shane, and the pastor begins the marriage ceremony. When the pastor asks "Does anyone object to the marriage? Please speak now or forever hold your peace," Stacey says in a stern, loud voice "I object to marrying a liar and a thief!"

Shane stands there in shock, the wedding guests are stunned. The pastor asks Stacey "Are you sure you don't want to marry Shane?"

Stacey responds by turning away and leaving, with Betty following close behind her.

They went back to Betty's house, got changed and had a good cry together.

Betty made tea and Stacey realised the honeymoon was booked and paid for in her name! They could have a holiday together instead. Betty checks her passport, luckily it is current for another month so they can go to Paris the next day.

Their brother, Jake offered to drive them to the airport, he was pleased Stacey was free of Shane.

The unexpected change in plans became a happy one when the sisters decided to go on the honeymoon trip together.

This would be the first of many exciting amazing journeys to different countries.

Every time the sisters returned from a holiday they would go back to work and start planning for their next trip.

Big brother Jake continued to drive them to and from the airport.

Kyan

One day, another kill

Tsuesuki Kakuro is an 18 year-old high-school boy that wants to be a writer. He is living on his own because his mother died and his dad is studying abroad. One day he woke up very tired, he was getting ready for school when there was a knock on his apartment door "Really, now out of all times?" Kakuro went to open the door and a girl with strange clothing asked "Are you... Tsuesuki Kakuro?" looking at a burnt piece of paper. "Yes" replied Kakuro.

"Well thank satan, I've been looking for you all night. Excuse me, I'm Riko lesaka, nice to meet you."

"Well, what are you here for? Questioned Kakuro.

"I'm here because I want you to kill people for me."

Chapter 1 - Kazukumi Koriku

The smell of freshly cut grass and morning dew was in the air, I was getting ready to go to the airport when the phone rang.

"Hello?"

I answer, and my aunt said "Are you taking a piss? Come on we need to go, I'm at the front."

I looked at the front and my aunt was waving at me yelling "HURRY!!"

I ran out the front door with my luggage, hoping to make it to the airport in time. On the way to the airport my aunt said "Are you sure you want to move overseas, I mean you can always live with me and your uncle?"

"I'm sure of it, I need to experience new things and besides, I can relax with knowing that Aka brethren is not around, trying to kill me all the time, I've got too much of their blood on my hands" I said.

"Well, be safe Kazukami and visit on holidays please."

We finally arrived.

At the airport, I jumped on the plane and I was off.

Chapter 2 - Riko lesaka

Waking up is a very hard thing for me. First of all, I'm tired of doing all-nighters because of midterm exams coming up.

Secondly, I have my little sister that I need to help get ready in the morning.

And third, school.

Well, the day started off nicely today, the town was as always beautiful, one of the teachers was in the local cafe arguing with her boyfriend's twin.

It's shiznick though, I don't have any friends, let alone a boyfriend, BUT that won't stop me from learning and being successful in life.

Chapter 3 - Two great paths meet

I was finally in the new country, I was so excited. There was a nice cafe and what seemed to be a couple arguing.

I got to the apartment block hoping for good neighbours, but it seemed that everyone had either gone out to work or school.

At the end of the day Kazukami had spotted his next door neighbours, there was a highschool girl and

what seemed to be her little sister.

When Riko was walking by Kazukami's apartment she remembered; "Isn't there supposed to be someone new moving into number 6?"

"Yuri" said Riko, "Can you please go into the apartment, I wanna greet the new neighbour."

"OK, sis." replied Yuri.

Riko knocked on the door of room 6. The door opened slowly and 2 piercing eyes shot straight through her. "Yes?" Kazukami said in a deep voice.

Riko froze in fear, "Um.. H-hi uh I live next door I'm Riko Iesaka" Riko whimpered "Kazukami, nice to meet you."

Riko and Kazukami went to shake hands and as their fingers touch, a huge burst of white spirit energy exploded between the two.

"What's happening?!" Kazukami shouted, "I don't know?!" Replied Riko.

The light stopped and everything calmed down, "What's this energy I feel?" Kazukami said "I feel it too."

Riko explained. Kazukami looked at his hand and there was a strange symbol that appeared.

Chapter 4 - Red blood

The next day Kazukami heard a knock at his door followed by "Kazukami, come quick please."

He got up, got dressed and answered the door. It was Riko, "I think that thing that happened yesterday afternoon gave me some sort of power," explained Riko.

"Like I care," murmured Kazukami.

"AHHH just come on!" continued Riko. Riko took Kazukami to the field near the apartment block. Kazukami asked "What did you need me for?" "To show you this" said Riko.

Riko held out her hand and evoked "Come forth to me, Wind Spirit" and a great gust of wind rose up from the ground. "Woah" said Kazukami surprised, "I'm pretty sure you can do that too" stated Riko

"I'll try" said Kazukami. He held out his hand and evoked "Come forth to me, Wind Spirit".

A light lit up under him then an even greater gust of wind rose up too. The light grew bigger, rising into the sky, then within a second everything stopped. "WOAH" said Kazukami. Riko yelled "That was INCREDIBLE!!", "Yeah, well if it is spirit magic, it could be very convenient for me to snap my fingers and speak with spirits" continued Kazukami, "Try it" suggested Riko. "Ok."

Kazukami snapped his fingers and time stopped, everything went gloomy, all of a sudden a light just like the wind light appeared, the light came closer to Kazukami and said:

"Kazukami, I've been waiting for you to unlock this power."

"Who are you?" stated Kazukami.

"I am your grandmother, it seemed that I was wrong about how you unlock this precious power." said Kazukami's grandmother,

"How did I unlock it?" asked Kazukami,

"Riko Iesaka had this power as well, when you shook hands with her you two engaged..." "ENGAGED, what do you mean!?" blushed Kazukami.

"It's like some sort of duo" said Kazukami's grandmother.

"Oh, so like a spirit duo" Kazukami referenced.

"Yes" said Kazukami's grandma. "Well, my time to talk is coming to an end." said Kazukami's grandma. "Goodbye."

The blackness faded away and time continued.

"Kazukami, so anything?" asked Riko,

"N-no, nothing" stuttered Kazukami, "Wait, don't you think we should become... partners?" continued Kazukami.

"Wait, what?", "I mean like, crime fighters, just... not that"

"Kazukami, aren't we already partn-" said Riko. Riko stopped talking suddenly, then red trickled down her head. Kazukami rushed to her aid "Riko?"

Kazukami looked at her head, a purple metallic throwing knife was lodged in her forehead, 1 single tear rolled down her cheek, Kazukami also shed a tear. I... held her closely.

Chapter 5 - Detective Kokoro

A minute after Riko died a soft, cute, kind of voice whispered into my ear "Kazukami", it said, "Riko?" I said. "Yes" whispered Riko.

"How are you talking to me?"

"You are a spirit median" whispered Riko.

I looked to my left and saw the cute figure that is Riko, "Who killed you?" I asked, she pointed and a black silhouette with hood apparel ran into the city sunset with a belt of glistening kurukens...

I wonder who that was I thought, kicking a rock.

As I was walking to my apartment, there were more people hanging around the apartment block. Puzzled, I went to my apartment and as I was walking in, I remember I left Riko's body behind. I went to the scene and her body was gone, all that prevailed was her necklace.

"Put it on" said Riko.

When I put it on I felt my power strengthen as I put on the crucifix (Christian cross).

Tyler S

It was three am and I'm sitting in my office at the hospital. I can hear the squeaking fans, the rolling of the trolley beds, elderly people moaning and the closing of doors.

A man knocks on my office door. I said for him to come in. He comes in and he is wearing all black. I can't see his face.

And he says, "I will give you four million dollars if you kill the person who came to you yesterday. He is tall, not too big, he has brown hair. He is white and he wore a suit."

The Doctor says, "Oh, Patrick! Why would you want to kill Patrick?"

The man in black did not answer this.

All he said was, "Do you want the offer or not?"

"Why Patrick? He's such a nice person?"

I grabbed a paper from my notebook and wrote: "Come back on Friday at 3 o'clock and I'll tell you my answer."

The writing was running, like I was in a rush.

I grabbed the paper and put my hand out to him and said, "Here you go." And my hand was shaking a little bit.

The man in black grabbed the paper and walked out and didn't say a word. I was thinking in my mind. Why Patrick? What has Patrick done? But I've got to think about my son. I got up to walk past the door to go home. I locked the door and went back to sit at my desk. I sat in my office thinking about my answer.

I am sitting in my office looking at some papers and the man in black comes in the door.

The papers I was looking at tell me how much it will cost to save my son. Mark is eleven years old and he has cancer. It is a rare form of cancer that he has had since he was born.

The treatment has been going on for years and is becoming more and more expensive. The costs just keep going up and up.

I decide I will take the man in black's offer because without it Mark will die.

I feel nervous. I am worried that I will get caught.

But I say, "I will take your offer."

"Okay, can he be killed by next Friday?"

"Okay. He comes in for an appointment tomorrow at twelve."

"Okay. Do it then. Your money will be on your desk by three o'clock tomorrow."

"How will you pay me?"

"In cash."

The man in black then walked out.

It's Tuesday and Patrick comes into the office as usual. He has no idea I plan to kill him.

I feel scared.

"I have run out of my prescription and I need a new one," Patrick says.

"You're in luck, Patrick. I can give you a free sample. That will save you some money."

I swap his medication for a stronger type. His body won't be able to cope with it. Patrick will take it like a normal tablet and then he will feel dizzy and pass out.

He will be dead within ten seconds.

Patrick says thank you.

"I will see you next week for my next appointment."

Under my breath I say to myself, "You won't be alive next week."

The next day I am sitting in my office at the hospital and my telephone rings. The person on the phone is Patrick's mother.

She tells me that she walked in and found Patrick lying on the floor in his kitchen. He was dead.

"It's not your fault, Doctor. I can't blame you. You always took such good care of him."

I feel sad and disappointed in myself. But also happy because I know that my son is going to live.

At 3:00 pm the man in black arrives at my office. He is wheeling a large travel suitcase. I know that it is full of my money. When he opens it there are shirts and clothing on the top as a layer to hide the money from view. There is money underneath. There is four million dollars. I check to see if the money is all there. My son is in the same hospital as where I work. I will now be able to pay the hospital for all his years of medical bills. I open a bank account in a fake name and use it to pay all our bills. I feel happy.

A month goes by and the treatment is going really well. My son Mark no longer has cancer. This is what I have dreamed of. My son is okay and I realise that now I have nothing else to lose. I am now going to kill other people. Killing people seems to be a good way to solve my problems.

The first person I decide to kill is one of my patients who always tells me that he knows more than me. I am sick of this. It makes me feel sad and angry. I want to feel happy all the time like when I killed and could save Patrick. Michael is having an operation because he cannot breathe properly. After the operation he needs to have an oxygen mask. I remove the mask. I wait until Michael is dead. Then I return the mask and leave. Of course my fingerprints are on his mask. I am his doctor. I have been his doctor for years.

The third person I kill is Christopher. He bullied me at school. I have always wanted to get my revenge. Christopher wears a medic alert bracelet. While he is under the anaesthetic I steal the bracelet. The next day the nurses give him medicine he is allergic to. He dies. Obviously.

Christopher is Chris's brother. They have the same name. He also bullied me. They have the same allergy

so I killed him the same way. It's getting harder to kill people. I'm running out of ideas of how to do it.
But I'm not running out of people to kill.

Now that my son is better he wants to spend all his time with his friend Jake. They play games on the PS4 all the time. I am not included.

Jake is now my rival. He is allergic to peanuts so I decided to mix them in his food. I grind up some peanuts and put them in a smoothie. We are in the cafeteria at the hospital. They will blame the cafeteria staff and not me. I feel happy now because I will have Mark's attention.

Karl is Mark's Pop. He is my wife's father. Karl always used to make fun of me and tell me that I was not right for his daughter.

"She deserves someone better."

"You're not welcome here."

Karl is allergic to watermelon. If he eats or drinks it he starts to get dots, gets itchy and passes out.

One day Karl comes to visit Jake in the hospital when my son is there for a check up.

I buy Karl a drink that is full of strawberries and mangoes. I top it up with watermelon juice. He will never taste it. Karl says goodbye to Mark and explains he has to go because he is not feeling so good. Not long after he gets out of the door Karl fell down to the floor. He was dead.

I think I am getting away with it all. I feel terrific.

The next day I am sitting in my office waiting for my next appointment. But in comes the police. And the man in black is with them.

The police say, "You are under arrest for killing Patrick Patt."

The police take me into the police station. I am charged and at the trial, I am sentenced to twenty years in gaol with no parole.

The man in black wanted Dr Fred in gaol because he was having an affair with his wife. The man in black knows where Dr Fred has hidden the rest of the money. He has only spent about two million dollars. Mark will have to live with his mother now that his father is in gaol. The man in black moves in with Emma, Mark's mother.

Doctor Fred is in gaol. His wife has divorced him. He can never get his job back as a doctor again. He has to cook and garden in the gaol now. He does not mind so much. Being a doctor was getting boring. Fred feels very sad because his son Mark will have nothing to do with him now that he knows that his father is a murderer. He will not see his son for the next twenty years. But even worse is the fear that people will work out he has killed five more people. If they find out what he has done he will never get out of gaol again. He would never see Mark again.

Tessa

My name is Tessa and this is my story.

My favourite dinner is mash potato, vegetables and pork with crackle. I love crackle, I love the salty and crunchy taste in my mouth. Mum always made enough for me to have fifths but on the 22nd of July, she died. I spent most of my time crying and clenching on her pillow. Dad tried to comfort me but I was still down, but then Dad made my favourite dinner. I finished my first, second and third plate then dad said we ran out of mash potato. I got so angry I ran up the stairs and kicked in my door and it broke in half. All little pieces of the door scattered all over the floor. I walk carefully around the pieces of the door. Then I angrily bellyflopped on my bed. I stayed in my room for like five hours then at three o'clock in the morning, I crept out of my room once again avoiding the little pieces of wood. I tiptoed downstairs and went to the fridge and to the rest of the meat and tippytoed back upstairs and again avoiding the pieces of wood. I ate all the meat and I was still hungry, I got so annoyed at avoiding the little pieces that I jumped quietly over them. I stepped softly down the stairs back into the fridge I go for more food. I didn't want to keep going up and down the stairs so I stayed in the kitchen. After I was full I grabbed my shoes and opened the front door and then the alarm went off. I dropped my shoes and bolted back upstairs and a piece of the door went into my foot. It was really big so I took it out and my foot started rushing out with blood then I limped to my bed and laid in it. My foot was bleeding so bad. I could hear my dad running downstairs then unlocking his safe after he yelled, "Come out I have a gun and I'm not afraid to use it".

Tammika my little sister came out of her room to see what all yelling was about. My dad thought she was the robber so he shot her not knowing it was her. He walked over aiming his gun at her and then just realising that he shot the wrong person he sat down and put her on his lap then he yelled my name and told me to call triple zero and ask for an ambulance. I said to the operator "Hello can you help, please? My dad shot Tammika, my sister. She's bleeding bad."

The operator sent the ambulance and child services to my house.

Two minutes later they arrived, the ambulance took my dad and I to the hospital. The child services came too. A couple minutes after we reached the hospital, they pronounced Tammika dead. I blamed it on my dad even though it was all my fault. I got put into foster care and my dad went to jail for second degree manslaughter. my foster home had four boys and eight girls, not including me. There were four girls that were older than me, Aria (13), Brodie (14), Lillianna (15) and Jayden (16) and there were four girls who were younger than me, Kat, but we call her Kit Kat (2), Tilly and Lilly twins (1) and Darci (8). There were two boys that were older than me, Isaac (15) and Kayden (16). There were two boys that were younger than me, Logan and Kyler also twins (5), so I was the middle child.

It had been three weeks now I'm all settled in then three of the younger children went through my room and opened all my bags then they came running out with a photo. I get a glimpse of it and see it's my sister. They ran to me holding up the picture and ask who's this. The other foster children didn't know that I had a sister. After they asked me who my sister was I passed out. I woke up and I was surrounded by everyone. Lillianna said I passed out for like two hours. After all that, we told everyone how we got here. Jayden said that she is in foster care because her parents passed away. She was like three at the time, 13 years ago. She had been in foster care for 13 years.

"It must have been lonely," I said.

Then she said, "Not really, I always had Jennifer."

"Jennifer," I said in my mind, "Jennifer."

She drew a very detailed picture of her. She looked like Bloody Mary. Once she drew the picture the lights turned off then started flickering. Then out of the darkness, a little girl appeared. She walked slouched but over-confident to Jayden. Then Jayden said, "This is Jennifer, the girl I told you about."

Three of the older children passed out because of the presence of Jennifer. She has long black hair that went up to her knees and a worn out white night gown. I stared at her for a while then the room went dark, then light, then dark again. So I laid down. When the lights came on, Jennifer was standing over me and no one else was in the room with me apart from Jennifer. I laid there frozen on the floor internally screaming inside.

- Jennifer's Flashback -

I'm talking to Mum and Dad and they're telling me to play with the other kids. I do what they ask. I play with Annie and Anne, they're twins. We play with dolls. I'm not that girly but I do it to make them happy. Most of the boys went out to play football. I wanted to play too, so I leave the twins and run to the stairs and take a step down.

Then I feel two little hands pushing on my back, then a voice saying, "This is all your fault!"

As I'm falling down the stairs, I see Keith. I'm still tumbling down the stairs. As I hit my head on one of the toy blocks the twins left out, my vision goes blurry, then everything went black.

I woke up and I can't pick up anything. Everything goes through me. I can't see my reflection.

"What happened to me?" I think.

- Epilogue -

- One year later, back to reality -

I had recovered from the Jennifer incident. She doesn't like me, I don't know why.

Phia

- 26th of August year 2015 -

This is so unfair, I'm grounded forever and it's not even my fault. I feel like dying. It's all stupid Leanne's fault and my sister helped her. I don't know why my own sister would turn on me like this. I can't take it anymore. If you wanna know why I'm so angry, just keep reading.

It all started when I was going to the mall, and I was shopping for some new clothes and accessories when I dropped a pair of earrings and bumped heads with this super cute guy.

- 1st of December year 2014 -

I'm getting ready to go to the mall because I need to get some things for Christmas and for myself. I was wearing a nice black crop top and denim high-waisted jeans. They make me look super curvy. I was wearing plain white Adidas shoes and a black small bag that I bought from Target, and I ask my mum to drop me off at the mall.

"Are you ready?" Mum said. She always says I take ages getting dressed but all I need is an hour.

"I'm almost ready! Just five more minutes."

~ fifteen minutes later ~

"Natasha I've been waiting fifteen minutes! You're the one that's going somewhere you're wasting your own time!"

Just as she said that I was already at the front door ready to leave.

As we pulled up to the mall I told Mum I would be back at 5pm.

As I walked inside the mall I see the beautiful and lush willow tree and the smell of fresh coffee lingered as she made her way to Michael Hill to buy jewellery for her winter dance.

I went to grab some silver hooped earrings but accidentally dropped them and as I went to kneel down to pick up the earrings I hit my head onto something. I looked up. I saw two deep hazel eyes staring back at me. He smiled and countless fireworks went off my head. I started stuttering.

"Uhm sorry,"

"...Um... I'm... s-sorry... I should be apologising but I don't have the words,"

"It's ok. Hi I'm Keith by the way what's your name?" he said with a gentle voice. He had tan skin. His bright hazel eyes were staring at me. I couldn't explain the feeling when my eyes met with him.

Ring ring ring!!

I took my phone out of my bag and I looked at the screen and it was Elisha.

"I'm sorry I have to take this"

He smiled at me and signalled it's okay.

"Why are you calling me?" I said annoyed did my mom tell her again?

"I just wanted to check on you, where are you?" she said not minding my annoyed voice.

"I'm at the mall, there's only one big mall in town so don't ask me where" why is she asking? Is she going to come here and ruin my alone time with myself?

"Oh, okay. See you bye." I didn't bother to say goodbye, what's the point? You're gonna see each other anyway.

"Is everything okay? You looked annoyed"

I started when I heard a voice I turned around and I saw him. My heart was beating so fast it's like my heart wants to go outside of my body. What is wrong with me?

"Oh it was nothing. Look I'm really sorry about earlier. I would love to stay but I really need to go," It took all my courage to say that.

"But can I at least have your number?" he said. What is he doing to me?

I took my phone and gave it to him.

"Just put your number there," he typed his number. While he was doing that I looked at his ebony hair and his shapely, thick eyebrows. His hazel eyes and long eyelashes. Down to his plump red lips.

Hayley

"Mommy?... Daddy? Everyone?... NO!" Eren yells frightened. He quickly scans his room before sitting up on his bed.

"Why do I keep having that nightmare!?" Eren says with a sigh. As he lays back down to sleep he starts thinking about his family, wondering if he'd ever meet them again.

In the morning, Eren wakes up to a familiar voice forcing him to wake up. "Oh hey Luna" Eren said very drowsy. "Can you stop doing this to me every morning, it's very creepy." "Too bad you're awake now," says Luna with a grin, "come on get up, we have to go soon." Luna leaves the room with sass, leaving Eren alone. Eren quickly puts his shoes on and goes to join Luna outside.

Eren starts running to Luna until is beside her "I'm not slow" said Eren, "I'm just very tired". Guess the orphanage was loud again last night?" said Luna, concerned. "Yeah..." said Eren looking down as they walked. Eren lived in an orphanage where he barely had friends and everyone was not too friendly to him. Until he met Luna, a slim 14-year-old girl with really long black hair. As Eren and Luna walked, they stood quiet on their way to school. When they got to school, they decided to sit down next to a tree.

Eren suddenly sees a pretty girl with freckles walking up to them. "Hi, Mikasa," says Luna getting up to greet her. "Hi Luna," Mikasa said in a soft tone. Eren looks at Mikasa. She turns to look at him with a smile, "H-hello" shuddered Mikasa. "Hi.," Eren said trying not to be awkward. Eren has had a crush on Mikasa for a long time, but he never had the chance to tell her. The bell rings to start their day and they say their goodbyes and head to the classes.

Eren has math first with Mikasa. Eren noticed something different about Mikasa lately, she sometimes shudders when talking to him. "So..." Eren said nervously, "How was your weekend.." "I-It was great," Mikasa said smiling. Eren and Mikasa talked until they got to math class. Time flew by and before Eren knew it, he was at lunch with his friends.

Eren sat next to Luna, as his other friend, Lucky, Kiki and Mikasa were talking to each other. "Soo, when are you going to tell Mikasa?" said Luna in a sassy voice.

"I-I don't know," said Eren while blushing.

"Well?" Luna said, "you could ask her to the school dance next week".

"THERE'S A DANCE?" says Eren shocked.

His friend Lucky, Kiki, and Mikasa quickly turn to look at him, Eren starts getting embarrassed. "Nothing wrong guys" forcing a smile.

Lucky, Kiki and Mikasa then continued their conversation "you owe me one..." whispers Luna. "OK," Eren said, "but how do I tell Mikasa at the dance?"

Luna looks down and thinks for a while. "just be yourself Eren" says Luna lifting her head back up.

"But how?!" Eren said worried, "what if she doesn't like me for who and how I am!".

"I know she will," said Luna, trying to make him feel better, later on,

Eren went to his last class and went home to the orphanage, thinking of his family and how he would ask Mikasa to be his true love.

The day went by and Eren couldn't keep Mikasa off his mind. He asked his friends for some advice but they all gave him the same answer "just be yourself", but Eren didn't want to be himself.

He thought if Mikasa knew about his actual life she wouldn't like him at all. But, as time flew by it was already time for the dance. "Come one you sloth, you're so slow!" Luna said waiting for Eren on the other side of his bathroom door. "Hold on! You're not the only one getting dressed for someone" Eren said. Eren then came out looking more attractive than usual.

"Eren, she's gonna like, LOVE it!" said Luna in a sassy tone. They went back to school and saw a large number of students trying to get into the doors like animals. They spotted Kiki and Lucky near the front decided to go with them.

"Have you guys seen Mikasa yet?" said Eren concerned... "No" said Lucky, we only saw her this morning, and during our classes together"

"She might come later on" says Kiki.

They finally walk into through the doors and into a very large room where the dance was at.

Luna, Kiki, Lucky starts to gossip as Eren scans the large room. From the corner of his eye, he sees a beautiful, freckled, long black-haired girl with a pretty dress on, Eren knew who it was and got tense. Mikasa started walking towards him but all Eren could see was her walking slow, and the music playing smoothly in the background, melting his friends' conversation, his mouth dropped. "Hi Eren" Mikasa said, blushing and looking down. Eren was speechless, she looked so beautiful in that dress he couldn't help but stare. "Look... Eren's in love" Lucky said from behind Eren.

"HEY, SHUT UP!" Eren says by quickly turning around and blushing.

"We'll leave you lovebirds alone then," Kiki said smirking.

They all walked away, leaving Eren and Mikasa in the middle of the room. "Soo..." Mikasa said, looking at Eren happily, Eren looked at her and starts daydreaming until a couple of delinquent boys come up and shoved Mikasa and Eren apart.

"Well, well, well Jax, what do we have here!?" said Max, a blonde-haired kid who looked very puny.

"What do you want Max?!" said Eren, looking up to his ugly face, "leave us alone",

"That won't be necessary Eren," Max said with a grin. Max started to get closer to Eren and Eren knew what was going on.

"Com'on little weasel, show me what you got," taunted Max.

Eren was just about to take the first swing until he saw Mikasa being taken away by Jax.

Eren felt very furious and started to panic as everything started to happen so quickly.

He suddenly felt his hands point towards Jax and felt something burning his hands, a blast of some kind of fire came out, making Jax let go of Mikasa and running away like a baby.

The music stopped and everyone quickly looked in Max and Eren's direction, scared and confused.

Eren quickly ran outside before the principal Mr.Jackson came onto the scene.

Eren ran to the tree where he and Luna sat last week, he sat there crying not just because the fire reminded him of his family.

On Eren's 4th birthday there was a tragic fire. Eren saw his parents getting surrounded by the fire and saw other family members either running or collapsed on the floor. All he remembers is his parents saying "Run... Don't look back, remember us Eren!", that flashback plays vividly in Eren's mind as he wipes his tears.

"Hey..." said a familiar voice. Eren looked up, it was Mikasa.

Eren quickly got up and hugged Mikasa as she tried to make him feel better, he told her everything about him, before popping the question he wanted to ask Mikasa for so long. "...M-Mikasa?" shuddered Eren, "t-there is something I've been wanting to ask you..."

"...What is it?" Mikasa looked at him, concerned.

Eren shudders again, saying "I-I LIKE YOU!..." They both blushed,

"...I like you too Eren.." Eren smiles as he holds Mikasa's hands.

"What a happy ending!" says Lucky and Kiki looking at them far away.

"Whatever" said Luna, rolling her eyes and walking sassy. As Luna is walking sassy she suddenly bumps into Jax on accident but he quickly catches her. "Are you ok?!" said Jax worried.

"Y-yes..." shudders Luna getting up and continue to walk away very sassy again. As she walks away, she starts having that feeling... a love feeling... for Jax...

Chapter 2 – Jax rejection

After the school dance, Luna walked home without Eren because he was probably hanging out with his new "girlfriend" Mikasa (sigh). "Eren sure loves to go out with girls he just met!" Luna said looking down in frustration.

Later on Luna is still walking, the cold breeze flew by giving Luna goosebumps, Luna hears footsteps but not just normal footsteps, it's more like soft... ghostly steps.

Luna looks behind her but no one was there. "Huh? Who's there!?" said Luna, trying to sound tough & sassy.

"Hmph fine then, don't speak!" "speak?" chuckles a voice in the shadows, Luna quickly turns back around, she tries to look.

"Hello Luna" said a familiar voice walking towards her. Luna kinda gets scared because some stranger knows her name! The voice gets closer to her, "Oh dear Luna... gosh you're so damn cute when you sound like that – wait what?!"

Luna was just realising what they just said "S-sorry I meant like... (sigh) never mind I'm just going to embarrass myself even more... hehe..." nervously laughing to themselves walking out of the shadows. "Jax?!" Luna said being shocked.

"Hi..." smiling, Jax walks closer to Luna.

Luna got nervous "u-m... Jax?..." said Luna trying not to be awkward. Jax stopped looking at her, and she looks up at him with a face. He quickly backs up covering his face trying not to blush. "I-I'm s-..." he stopped noticing that she looks like she's about to cry...

The leaves fall as the winds start blowing softly. Luna has her eyes shut and she feels someone, something hugging her. She slowly opens her eyes. Luna realised that Jax is hugging her. She pushes him away. Feeling awkward, Luna stopped thinking what to do she didn't know what she was doing. Luna started walking away. Jax turned around confused, "Did I do something wrong?" Thinking...

The next morning, the front door creaked.. the door shut slowly behind them... they slowly walked up the stairs.

"Upstairs is pretty dark in the morning..." one of them spoke. As they continue walking, a shadow appears out from the corner door. "well, well, well took you long enough to get home... Eren!" said the voice coming closer.

"I-I'm sorry I didn't mean to come home late! Jeez you're such a worrywart" Eren said. As Eren spoke off, the shadow didn't respond and just walked passed him.

"You've changed Eren..." Her head wooshed by as she stormed downstairs. Eren spoke under his breath "What's up with Luna..." As Luna is downstairs she starts packing her school bag. Usually she packs Eren's bag but this time was different, as Luna left the dark house without Eren.

As Luna starts putting her earphones on she turns her music full blast so she couldn't hear anything.

Luna keeps walking, later on Mikasa sees her. She runs up to her waving but Luna didn't see her. Mikasa tries talking to her but didn't work so she tapped her shoulder. Luna looked up seeing her, "Hey where's Eren?..." said Mikasa but her voice was a blur.

Luna gives her a face like (What did you just say?).

Mikasa gets mad and walks past Luna, Luna turns her music up as Mikasa spoke: "Pathetic trash why is Eren even friends with you?!" Luna freezes thinking that it was just a nightmare but really it wasn't... a tear drops down Luna's face.

"M-Mikasa... why?" As Luna said, trying not to cry.

Luna continues walking to school (minutes later). Kiki & Lucky saw Luna, but Luna walks straight past them. Kiki & Lucky looked at each other, both confused. As Luna keeps walking she sees Jax. "Crap! What is he doing at this time?" thinking. When Jax moved out of the way Luna saw a girl with white long hair with blue bright eyes.

Luna sees Jax smiling and laughing... she felt heart broken...

(Whoosh) the cold breeze rushed by, and Luna's hair waved in the wind. A tear dropped down her pale face... she sees the white hair girl kissing Jax's cheek, the wind stopped as her hair fluttered back down.

(Class time) Luna decided to sit at the back of the class, Kiki and Lucky were worried about Luna so they decided to talk to her after class. (After class) Kiki ran up to Luna just before she left the room.

"LUNA! We need to talk..." said Kiki, upset...

"What is there to talk about?" Luna spoke as they saw the dullness in her eyes, they were shocked...

"If there's nothing to talk about then I'm going!" Luna said without any hesitation.

As Luna walked out of the room... (swoosh) Jax walked by her.

"J-Ja-Jax!" Luna shouted Jax turned around looking to see who it was but he saw no one... So he continued to walk.

"Don't say another word Luna..." said a deep voice...

(The next day) The room was pitch black and all they saw was glowing stars...

(Yesterday) "Luna... do me a favour and stay away from Jax... he's a dangerous person!" said the deep voice. lifting her head up reaching for the glowing stars thinking on what that person meant by "Jax is a dangerous person."

"Nah I don't know that person anyway." Luna spoke under her breath.

(At school) Luna tried to stay happy and pretended like yesterday never happened. Luna walked past Jax, Jax realised that Luna had grabbed his hand as he watched Luna's hair flow by. "L-Luna where are we going?!" stuttered Jax.

Mikaela

It was a cold, autumn day and Jack Frost was out on a quick and quiet jog. He jogged past the café and then smells the coffee getting freshly brewed along with a scent of fresh, hot pastries. The sun irritated his eyes and felt the sweat going down his spine. He could hear the other people talking about things at home or what is going on around the town. His phone began to vibrate, he began to wonder who would ring this early in the morning. He picked up the phone and looked at who was ringing. It was work so he answered. "Officer Jack Frost we have a new crime for you to look at"

"What is the crime about?"

The officer was confused but it clicked in. "Oh! It was a murder that happened late last night!" "Who was the person that got killed last night."

"Umm, oh the person that got killed from last night was Alexander Miller."

Jack froze, he was shocked that his best friend got murdered last night. Jack hung up the phone and started to run to his apartment. He got changed to some clean clothes and ran to the crime scene as fast as he could. He arrived at the crime scene and he was barely breathing. Without any breath, he yelled out saying "WHERE IS THE BODY." One of the officers heard him and came out, shocked and sees him.

"Oh! It's you Officer Jack Frost. Follow me and I will show you."

The officer was very calm but Jack followed him to the scene without hesitation. They get to where the body was and Jack froze again staring at the body with shock, with a depressed look on his face. A different officer gave him a cup of coffee, Jack snapped back and takes the coffee and says "Thank you."

After a little bit, he asked if everyone can leave the scene so he can think by himself. All of the officers left the scene and left him alone looking at the body. He was feeling sad, depressed and a bit angry. He felt like he was going to have a breakdown but he kept it together and worked at the crime scene. He started looking at the body and found a card on his chest it was in the place where his heart once was. He picked up the card and looked at it. It was a king of hearts, he started to think why there would be a card there of all places. He put the card in a plastic bag and slid it in so it does not go out. After looking at the body for a long time he said to himself "I need a break." So that he did. He walked past really loud music in a building, hearing glass bottles breaking on the ground. He had smelt something very bad but he continued to walk past. He finally got to the main town street but there still very little people in town at the time. He got to the café and got the same order that he always gets. He sat outside at a table and waited for it patiently. When it came he was very hungry and very thirsty. He ordered a black coffee with sugar and no milk with a vanilla slice on the side on the plate. He takes very little sips of the coffee and little munches of the slice. He can hear a lot of birds chirping and a nice, gentle breeze with a scent of pine trees. The coffee was a bit bitter but he did not mind it and the slice was sweet so it helped with the bitter coffee. Just the smell of everything and taste was not another to take off the stress that he had seen his best friends body and just murdered last night it was so overwhelming. He really wanted to relax but he cannot relax at all. All of a sudden, some girls came up to him and very shyly said "c-can we j-join you p-please?" Her friend looked like they were at the party the night of the murder so he said: "Yes you can join me." Jack put a fake smile on his face to show how much pain he was in. The girl went and ordered, then sat at the table. They start to have a nice talk for a bit but Jack asked the question. "Were you at a party last night?" When they heard the girls heard Jack say it so calmly, they were shaken. They were in silence for a bit until the person came with their food and drinks. The girls were very happy to see the food and drinks, they ate the food so fast it was like watching a lion hunt a zebra and ate them, all things at once. When the girls ate and take a sip of their drinks they say "Yes, we were at the party but we left early." Jack looked at them, he had guessed that they are teenagers so they had school today. "So why did you leave early."

"We left because we have school the next morning."

Jack started to drift off into space in his own thoughts. Jack thought to himself how would kids at their age would be at the party. He asked a lot of questions about it, why or how it happens.

16 years ago at Jack's house, Alexander went over to Jack's place to play and hang out at the end of the day. "Hey Jack what are you doing?" Jack was looking for his police toys but can't find them. "I'm trying to find my police toys so we can play with them," Alexander giggles softly, "Do you need my help?"

"Um Jack are you ok?"

Jack snapped back to reality and replied: "I'm fine, I was just thinking that's all." Jack again fake smiled at them. After a bit it was time for the girls to leave and go to school.

"Bye Jack see you later."

"Bye, have fun." Jack got up and walked to the police station and the girls went to the school. When Jack got to the very old and very small police station, he entered the building. He can hear a lot of people talking and computers typing. He can see more people that have done some very small crimes like graffiti, robbing people and more. He walked to his desk and sat there, he typed up what he saw and he had gotten out of his friend's chest. He was typing so fast it was like he was running as fast as he can. After a bit, an officer came up to him.

"Officer Jack Frost there is a person to see you."

The officer was very calm but Jack was shocked that a person was there to see him.

"Thanks for telling me." Jack got up and went to the front desk. He saw his mum was there. His mum ran up to him and hugged him to death. "Oh my god are you ok? What happened?"

Jack was trying to breathe as his mum was hugging him. "I'm fine, and please let me go. I can't breathe."

His mum was shocked and let him go. "Sorry... I was just worried that you may have a break down."

"I will be fine mum and don't worry about it ok."

His mum nods yes and grabbed his hand. "If you need anything just tell me?"

"Oh, Mum." His mum lets Jack go and walks away.

Jack got back and worked on the case. It was late in the night and Jack was still working. One of the officers told him to leave and take a break. Jack agreed and left the station. When he stepped out of the building, he felt a really cold breeze and felt it making goosebumps. He shivered a bit but he went and walked to an Asian restaurant to get some dinner. He ordered a large ramen bowl, steam buns and some rolls of chicken sushi. When he got his food he put it in a plastic bag and walked to his apartment. He walked past his very loud neighbour, he can hear drums and a bass guitar in their apartment. He got his keys out of his pocket and unlocked the door. He walked in the apartment and took off his black sneakers. He placed the plastic bag on the dining table. He sat at the table and took out the food. The smell was very nice and a bit overwhelming with spices and chicken. He started to eat his ramen bowl. The taste was very hot so he went to get a cup of coffee. The coffee was helping the heat a bit. After eating all his food, he went and had a shower.

He sighed and laid down on the bed, he tried to fall asleep but can't. He still feels like it was his fault that Alex died, he sat up and took out his laptop. He went through his files and looked at photos from when Alex was young and still alive. A tear rolled down his face and he began to cry. He continued to look through the photos and remembers when they were young, two hours have passed and he put the laptop away and hugged his pillow very tight. He was still crying, he mumbles "It's all my fault." He repeats in saying it.

It's the next morning and Jack stayed up all night. He gets out of bed and gets changed and went on his daily jog.

He ended up jogging for half an hour and went back to his apartment. When he just got home, his phone started to vibrate again. He answered his phone with question asked.

"Officer Jack Frost you are needed at a new crime scene. We think the same person attacked again."

"Oh I will be right there." Jack hung up the phone and got changed. He felt dead, like there was nothing to keep him going. But he slowly walked to the new crime scene. When he got there he was greeted with the officer that called him. "Good morning Officer Jack Frost." The officer was very cheerful when he said that.

"Morning. Can you show me the body?"

"Sure thing, sir."

The officer leads Jack to the body. When he saw the body he was shocked again because one of his other friends died.

"The person's name was Sam Willman."

"Oh... can you leave me alone to work please."

The officer nodded and yelled: "Clear the scene!"

Every officer ran out like there was someone chasing them. Jack looked at the body again, he nearly threw up looking at it again, he held it in and looked at his head. It was another card but it was ace of spears. Jack looked at the head that was wide open made him think that a very sick person had to do these, or a mad

person. But after looking at the head, he took out a pair of tweezers and took out the card. He placed the card in a plastic zip lock bag and placed it in his bag.

An hour later he went to the police station, he went to the same old desk and the same old write up. An officer went up to him and asked: "Are you ok?"

The officer was very worried by his body language but Jack focused a smile and said "I'm fine just tired."
"Oh! Ok."

The officer walked away and went on doing his daily routine. Jack continued to write up what he thought that happened at the crime scene but his boss came up to him.

"Jack, how have you been? I have not seen you in my office for a long time."

His boss was very happy to see him but Jack was not. Jack was worried that he may be pulled out of the investigation or even fired for a lack of everything. Jack had to reply but he did not know how. Should he say "I've been going well and you?" or even "Life's been great and how have you been?" but he chose something simple. "I'm fine. How are you." The boss was happy that he replied to what he said.

"So how is work of yours lately."

Jack froze for a bit but replied. "It's been great and a bit stressful but still great."

His boss nodded slowly but he went away without a reply. It was about lunchtime and he had nothing to eat all day. An officer went up to him and handed a plate of two sandwiches. "I thought you must be hungry." Jack was shocked and froze for a second but he did not feel like eating for what he had. "No, thanks. I will be fine."

The officer was shocked and picked up the plate. "Oh, ok. If you want something, tell me ok."

"OK."

The officer left with the plate. Jack's stomach growled, he got up and walked to the break room. The break room was very small and very bright. The smell of the coffee was overwhelming, and there are biscuits that you can smell, a very little hint of it. He went over to the old coffee machine and made a cup of black coffee. He added no milk but adds a teaspoon of sugar to help the bitter coffee. He drinks the coffee and just when he was about to leave the break room, another officer walked in and spilled the coffee all over his shirt. "Damn it! Why today." Jack sighed and stares at the officer. The officer was still shocked from what happened five seconds before.

"I'm so so so sorry that I did that. Please forgive me." The officer said it so fast he couldn't understand what he said.

"Umm... it's fine. Don't worry about it." Jack walked past him and goes to the bathroom.

The bathroom was very smelly, it smelled like someone died in there. He changed into a clean black shirt and quickly walked out of the bathroom. He sighed but he remembered the person that asked if he wanted to eat the sandwiches that he had. He walked there calmly and asks. "Hey... umm is it fine if you can give me some food if you have some?"

The officer turned around. "Sure! I have a spare cup of coffee and I think a biscuit as well. Would that be ok?"

"Yeah, it will be fine. Thank you so much."

The officer smiled. "It's no problem."

Jack took the coffee and the biscuit and walks away drinking his new coffee. It was now two thirty in the afternoon and Jack just got a phone call. It was another murder that happened again.

"Hello, it's me again. There was a murder that happened. Please come quick as you can."

Jack got up and ran to the scene. When he arrived there was a lot of townspeople in front of the house. Jack had to squeeze through the crowd. He was able to there, and walked inside the house. When just opening the door there was the body covered over top with a black sheet of cloth. Jack walked past the body without interfering with the body on the doorstep. An officer saw Jack and yelled. "Everyone leave the scene NOW!!!" All the officers left the house as fast as they can. Jack looked at the bloody ground and sighed. "I guess I'm by myself again." Jack moved the black cloth and smelled the blood that got dried up over five minutes. Jack looked at the body all of his limbs were gone. They were nowhere to be found. There was another card there, it was covered in blood but you can still see the corner of the card. It was Jack of Diamonds without the head. It was hard to tell who was the person.

He looked at the paperwork that the officers left after they ran back to the station. It said "Name: Steve Gon. Age: 21." Jack stopped and thought: "Steve Gon reminds him of his friend that he had. Jack looked at the body again and started crying. "Why does it have to be my friend that died and how does the person know them?"

He sniffed a bit, wipes away his tears and took a deep calming breath. He walked out of the crime scene with red eyes but he held the card in a plastic bag and walked to the police station. He got there and typed up a report about what happened and what he saw there. It was pretty late when he walked out of the doors of the police station. There was a person just standing. It was a girl with black hair, very pale skin and bright red eyes.

"Umm... do you need help."

The girl turned around with a small grin on her face she said. "Hi I was looking for you."

Jack froze and thought. "How do they know me and what do they want."

"Do I know you?"

The girl was shocked and tilted her head a bit. "I'm your old childhood friend don't you remember me?"

Jack nodded his head very slowly saying no. The girl sighed and looked at the ground sadly. "Well I guess you forgot. It was a long time since we met the last time." The girl looked up and looked at Jack when saying that.

A tear rolled down her face and she started to cry. "I'm sorry I bothered you."

Jack looked at her and held out his hand.

"I think I may know you but can I get your name?"

The girl smiled again. "It's Amber Nightmare."

Jack paused and tried to remember when he had seen her before or how does he know the name.

It was 16 years ago and Jack was hanging out with his friend Alexander and his other friends. They were playing a small game of hide and seek. Jack always won every game they played. It was 10 minutes into the game and Jack was trying to find everyone. Then a girl ran into him and pushed him over like he weighed nothing.

"Oh my god!! I'm so sorry are you ok?" The girl held his hand to him to help him up.

Jack grabbed his hand and got up on his feet. "It's fine. I should be the one saying sorry."

The girl smiled. "No it was my fault and what is your name if you don't mind."

Jack nodded and replied. "My name is Jack Frost and what's your name." Jack said in a low tone of voice almost like a cello.

"It's Amber Nightmare and it's very nice to meet you Jack."

Both of them smiled at each other but one of the boys jumped out to Jack tackling him to the dirty ground. The Boy was the same age as Jack and Amber with sandy brown hair, a dark green and a light brown granite and wearing a dark brown short and a sickly green shirt. Jack was still on the dirty ground and half of his body is covered in dirt. Amber is surprised what one of his friends did to him.

Her mouth dropped and shockingly she said. "What are you doing to him?"

The boy notices, looked up at Amber just standing there with her mouth wide open.

"Ok I'm just playing around with him."

Amber slowly closed her mouth when the boy was talking to her.

"Oh... oh but can you get off him, he nearly covered in dirt."

The boy stopped and protested what she said. Jack was trying to breathe when his back was getting crushed and his face on the dirt. The boy finally got off Jack's back and moved a meter away from him. Jack got up on all fours and took a deep breath of clear air. "Are you ok Jack?" Amber gives a hand to Jack so he can stand up. Jack grabbed her hand and stands up.

"I'm fine, thanks." Jack starts to brush off the dirt.

"Jack. Jack. JACK!!"

Amber slaps Jack across his face. Jack rubs his cheek and sighs for a long breath.

"Sorry I was thinking."

Amber looks at him and stares at his face.

"I'm sorry I slapped you across the face."

"NO. no it was my fault that I daydreamed." Jack picks up his phone to look at the time. It was nearly midnight. Jack was shocked and looks at Amber. "I have to go bye."

Amber nodded. "Ok. Bye old friend."

Jack jogged his way home. Jack was about to unlock his door to his apartment but a the boy from the flashback started sprinting up to him. Jack was frantically trying to unlock the door before he runs up to him but it was too late. The boy has crashed into Jack making him bang his head against the window sill near his apartment.

The boy looked at him in shock and asked "OMG are you ok? I did not see you."

Jack in a hazy voice he replied. "I'm... fine. Just hit my head."

Jack gets up and leans on the wall.

"Are you really sure you are ok?"

Jack nodded very little and unlocks the door to his apartment. Jack was struggling in to walk in to his own apartment. The man that ran into him grabs Jack's arm and puts it over his neck, he helps him walk into the apartment. The man placed him on the couch and went to get a pillow for the back of his head. The man finds a pillow and gently lifts Jack's head. Jack closed his eyes because he was throbbing with pain.

"Do you want me to take care of you? It is my fault that this happened." Jack opens an eye and his very hazy voice he replied "It's your choice" Jack closed his eyes and clenched on the pillow. "Ok I will stay... but if you want my name it is Max, Max Zan."

Elaiza

The cafe smells like wooden timber painter over with lacquer. There is obviously a smell of coffee beans, mixtures of perfume & baked goods. You could hear the sound of people speaking, and the sound of coffee machines clanking.

Emma has chestnut brown coloured hair, she has a light hazelnut eyes and a green tip.

The same two men appeared in the cafe today. They sat down staring at Emma curiously for a few minutes then they tried to talk to her about the necklace and tried to encourage her to give it to them. She refuses this and asked them why?

They threatened her if she doesn't give what they ask for. They left and said they would be back, giving an evil look. She noticed her necklace started to glow, which was strange and unusual and she felt a weird presence around her...

Ehmu

Beyond the...

It was a fine day, a fine day it was. In the middle of nowhere, while the sun was up and hot, the trees dead around, silence covers the place, the smell of dust and hot weather. There was a small town named after a man who once made this boring old town into something, way out of this town. You see Eston the town, it was once a beautiful lively emerald town with amazing trees around it and the smell of a cool fresh breeze. Every morning you can hear the water running down the creek. It was a happy town until a guy named Lewis Dudley came, he wanted a new life, a new beginning. Why? Because his big, dull, miserable town treated him like an abandoned dog. Louie (Louie is another name for Lewis) murdered the man named Parry Eston. Parry has special abilities, but we kept it a secret. And it's all because of jealousy. It was when Louie first started his job of being an assistant for Parry Eston, Eston treated him like his own brother.

The reason why Louie was jealous of Mr Eston was because Mr Eston got all the praise and he was the one that did all the work. So late at night, while Mr Eston was fast asleep, Louie made his first move and murdered him. After he murdered Eston he vanished into the darkness, full of hatred and sadness and went deep down underground and was never seen again.

10 years later, a young 12-year-old girl named Andrea Lynx had a normal, not-so-great life in Eston. Every morning she gets ready for school, but before she goes to school she would always draw the beautiful trees that once were around this boring, plain town and would also draw the water running down the creek just like her mother saw and heard every morning when she was little before Parry Eston died. Nothing exciting happened in her life, ever. Andrea took her lunch, put on her shoes and went to school. The school she goes to was a little one, I mean did you really think a small town would have a big school? She goes to her class which was literally her whole school because there's not that many children. Andrea had a crush on a boy named Loki Year, who's like the most popular boy in the school. Her best friend is Alice Sandels and she had a bad friend (Her name is Bella Eevey). Her day at school was normal just like the other days. But that afternoon on her way back home she saw something she's never seen before. A butterfly that changes colour into a blueish and greenish colour, it was a medium size and has lots of patterns on its wings, it flew right past her, it was beautiful, colourful and caught her attention. She decided to follow the mysterious butterfly. At that same time somehow Alice, Bella and Loki saw that same butterfly as if it was magic and can go to different places at once. Wow, that was a real coincidence. They followed it too. Well because nothing new ever happens in the town and that butterfly caught their attention. All four of them followed the butterfly. They didn't realise that they were far away from the town. They went over huge, crowded rocks, under dirty, old bridges and through golden meadows, focusing only on the butterfly. Somehow none of them couldn't take their eyes away from the butterfly. When the butterfly stopped they all stopped at the same place looking at each other realising that this place that they're at doesn't look familiar and that they're far away from Eston.

All of them were amazed at the beautiful nature. There were all sorts of different trees, water running down the creeks and lovely green luscious grass. Andrea really loved it. All of a sudden the large boulder at a nearby blocked cave rolled over and the cave glowed, changing into lots of incredible colours. When Andrea looked back all she saw was trees and animals staring at them. Alice saw a shadow from the cave, it was creeping closer and closer to them. When the shadow went to the light it turned out to be a pretty young girl with green hair and red eyes.

The girl whispered "Who are you? Have you come to steal the Blue Amulet from me?"

Andrea, Alice, Loki and Bella looked at each other confused.

Alice said, "You must've mistaken us with another person."

"No," the young girl exclaimed, "you're lying aren't you?"

"Nope" yelled Bella. "We're here because of that butterfly".

"This butterfly?" the young girl said, and she started talking to the butterfly and the four thought that she was strange.

When the girl stopped talking to the butterfly she looked at the four of them and said "My name is Evergreen and I live out here. I can talk to animals and can feel them. That's my ability, What's your name?".

"I'm pretty sure that we've got no abilities." replied Loki.

"What!" yelled Evergreen. She turned back to the butterfly and started talking.

When she stopped again the butterfly flew to Bella and landed on her forehead. Bella has nice long brown hair and beautiful blue eyes, she's really pretty and every boy likes her. The colourful butterfly then went back to Loki on the same place. He has blonde, nearly orange hair, with green eyes and his eyes sometimes turns to a bluish colour, he has spikey hair that can never be brushed down. Then it went to Alice. Alice has short black and brown hair with dark blue eyes, she sometimes ties her hair in a ponytail or leaves it down. Finally to Andrea who has a medium black hair, light brown eyes and always ties her hair in a bun. After that Evergreen waited until they felt a little tingle at the tip of their body.

Evergreen then said "My mother is Ellen Eston".

"What? As in the last name of the guy who built the town Eston?" asked Andrea.

"Yes." said Evergreen, and she continued. "She hid me here so that Louie doesn't find me. You need to help save the world from Lewis Dudley. You need to find four snow white, heart-shaped gems that are the four elements; Earth, Air, Fire and Water. Find the gems, destroy the Blue Amulet, defeat Louie and save the world. Easy" Evergreen then gave Andrea the Blue Amulet. "Well the way you explained it sounds easy, but when we actually do it, it'll be pretty hard." Loki said.

"And plus, how will we find the four gems!" exclaimed Bella.

"You need to find these people and they'll give you some clues. The butterfly will lead you to the right start." replied Evergreen gently.

But before Bella, Alice, Loki and Andrea start their mysterious journey, they first snuck back at their homes and packed up everything they need, then met at the same place where they met Evergreen and began the journey. They followed the beautiful butterfly through sunny meadows and crossed the river with a boat they found. They were getting tired and the burning hot sun was now going to sleep and the bright shining stars are making the deep, dark sky bright and the full moon was just awakening from her beauty sleep. While the four of them were following the butterfly climbing up mountains, back at Eston their parents were getting worried of the kids not being back home before dinner. Well, parents are supposed to worry about their kids, if they are not back before dinner right? Unless of course, they don't care.

When Bella, Alice and Loki were complaining about how they were tired and hungry, and that it was getting dark, Andrea shouted far in the lead excited and having fun. "Hey! Where's your smell of adventure!?"

"Easy for you to say, you're just having fun! And plus, you've always wanted to do this ever since you were little!" Bella and Alice replied, still whinging.

While they were chattering, whinging at each other the butterfly stopped and Loki stopped too. When all of them stopped they looked at the huge, dark, deep mountain cave. Suddenly the butterfly disappeared in thin air and the four of them didn't know what to do after that.

Andrea said "Well Evergreen did say that the butterfly would lead us to the right start. So we go in, I guess?"

Too tired to complain they all went inside the cave. At first, it was dark but then the cave started glowing, like stars at night, it was the same glow worms from the cave Evergreen was. They made the cave beautiful and bright, and they can see where they were going.

After a few hours of walking Andrea finally said "Okay guys it's time for us rest"

"Yay, yeepee, whoohoo!" Alice, Bella and Loki yelled happily.

They got out their blanket and pillows, ate the food they snuck for dinner and went to sleep. While they were sleeping their parents were getting seriously worried and had a meeting about where their kids had gone.

"Maybe the kids were just playing and got lost outside the town?" Mrs Lynx said worriedly.

"But my Belle would never do such a thing and go outside the town. Only at Christmas when we visit my mum" Mrs Eevey replied with horror.

"Loki is a good boy, he'd dare go anywhere else but this town." Loki's parents exclaimed. "Should we ask the elders for help? They've got to know something about why all this is happening, Mrs Lynx said.

"Let's give it a try," Mr Sandels said.

Alice's parents' names are David Sandels and Lisa Sandels, her older brother left the town. Mr Sandels wore his dark blue business clothes with a blue tie with red spots, He has dark blue hair combed nicely. Mrs Sandels wore a blue dress with laces on the tip of each side of the arms, it has sky blue flowers on it and she wore blue, leather flats. Her hair was a bright blonde, long hair. Loki's parents' names are Scott Year

and Annie Year. Loki has two younger twin sisters. Mr Year wore a casual green polo shirt and dark yellow trees pattern on it. He wore yellow swimming shorts and his hair is a reddish, orangish colour. Mrs Year had nice, blonde, short, curly hair and wore a beautiful yellow sunny suit, her skirt had a rose on the side of the left. She had red heels. Bella's mom is Olivia Eevee, and her dad is Aiden Caslan, he is on a business trip. Mrs Eevee wore a white summer dress and tied her shiny, brown hair in a ponytail. She likes her blue flowery pattern slippers. Lastly, Andrea's mom's name is Kayley Lynx, she wore a plain black top with her red and black sleeves around her waists, and black jeans, her shoes are black and white. Her dark, dark brown hair is tied into a messy bun. Andrea never knew her father, her father left her at her first birthday and every time she asks about her dad, her mom would always have this angry yet miserable look on her face, as if something had happened to their relationships like something is blocking in between them.

- Chapter 2 - Topple -

Now that the sun is up and rising and yawning, at the glowing cave Andrea woke up half asleep. She then realised that there was a shining, colourful light too bright to see what it was. She then woke the others up and told them that somehow this place is different. They got up, packed their things up and started approaching to the colourful light. When they got closer they were amazed at the place they saw. There were thousands of different, colourful gems and diamonds on and inside the rocky walls. Limestones on the ceiling and an underground sparkling waterfall rushing down on the rocks filled with gems. You can feel the cold, freezing, breeze made by the waterfall. You can hear the water splashing loudly on the rocks as if they were having a fight. It was shining, inspiring and... and... and words that I can't even find to describe this place. It was a huge underground cave or gold mine or something.

"Wow! What a great place!" shouted Alice and her voice echoed through the hollow place. "There's so much jewels. (Gasps) Can we take some?" exclaimed Bella with sparkle in her eyes.

"No" yelled Loki. "We don't know what will happen."

"Yes, just don't touch anything." Agreed Alice.

"Wait. So if there's gems and diamonds here then maybe one of the gems that Evergreen said will be here?" Andrea butted in.

"I agree, but how will we find the white gem through all these gems?" whinged Alice.

"Well..." Andrea stopped when she felt a sudden tug at her right arm. She looked down and saw a troll, or that's what she THINKS she saw. She rubbed her eyes and looked down again and the troll was STILL there.

"Am.. I dreaming?" Andrea asked the troll.

"No you're not" the troll answered back in a gentle, friendly way. Although Andrea thought that trolls would be mean, ugly, and wrinkly like the ones in those fairy tale books, this troll was different, he was kinda cute, his hair all messed up, his skin was smooth and green, he looked like a real boy but had pointy ears, sharp teeth and claws, he wears this old, long, ragged cloth and has beast-looking eyes.

"My name is Topple and don't worry. I am a nice troll. I won't hurt you" Topple says. "I just got told that you're the ones who are chosen to save the world. Now I know that you're looking for the four gems but don't worry, I'll show you where it is but you have to figure out how to get it by yourself. But quick before Lewis's spies hear us" They follow Topple through the jewelry cave, then when they stopped at the waterfall Topple spoke in another language that they had never heard before.

Out of nowhere, a rusty, old, wooden door appeared in the sparkling waterfall. Topple went inside the waterfall and slowly opened the door. The door creaked as he opened it and on the other side of the door was another light, it wasn't as bright as the shining diamonds. You can hear faint chattering, birds calling and strange sounds. When Alice, Bella, Loki, Andrea and Topple all went through the door and.... Wooaah man have you never ever seen a place like this. It was a village on the hills near beautiful mountains, the faint chatterings were made not by people but fairies, elves, trolls, enchantresses and lots more. The houses and shops were different, there were all sorts of different houses some were made of flowers, trees, candies, woods and vines, and some are under hills, there are big and small houses and shops. The mythical creatures in this magical place wore unusual clothes, there was this fairy girl who was wearing a rose dress and had this adorable red leafy boots with flowers on each side, her bright red hair was braided up in a bun with roses around her hair. This old wizard wore a long, dark ocean-like blue colour nightgown with bright, white stars on it. His pointy hat was crooked it was the same colour as his nightgown. Most of his hair is almost grey or white, only the tip of his hair is black. Alice, Loki, Andrea and Bella couldn't believe their eyes, it was as if they were having the best dream in forever! It was like they're in a fantasy world. As Topple kept walking the four of them look around at the place. Topple then walked in a house

that looked like a tree. They stopped and looked at it.

"Well come on in kids, make yourself at home. There's someone you need to meet." Whispered Topple.

When they stepped inside they were surprised the living room has a cosy looking couch made of leaves. There were more than 12 windows with vines around them and lots of stairs. The chairs were comfortable and looked like trees without leaves and vines and pictures above the fireplace. There was not much in the living room but in the kitchen there were lots and lots of food they hadn't seen or eaten before, there were drawers and an old oven (I wonder if it still works), a stove pot, pans and knives hanging about a large, rectangular, wooden table with the same chairs they saw before in the living room. There was a bathroom and upstairs, there were four-rooms three has a balcony, one has its own private toilet. They all looked the same. There was another bathroom and a medium size, messy library. There were also two study rooms, both with a desk, books on them, a lamp, a feather pen, ink and papers. One of the study rooms was clean and tidy and the papers were stacked neatly on the desk. But the other one was a complete opposite, it was dusty and messy and the papers were scattered everywhere.

"Woah this house is cool." whistled Loki.

"Eh don't think so" said Topple "Anyway I want youse to meet a friend of mine. He's one of the four Lords who hid one of the gems"

They walked to the fireplace, and Topple pulled on the batty-like statue on each side of the fireplace. There was a sudden rumble and the fireplace changed into, if I'm not mistaken, a secret passageway with broken, crumbly stairs going down. They kept walking and walking until they reached the bottom. The place was dark and it feels like it was about to fall down. When they saw a door they opened it and went inside a large ruin place.

Topple yelled out, "Blakely sir! Blakely sir! There's somebody you need to meet!"

Woosh! The wind howled, everything stopped even Topple stopped. Woosh. Swoosh. The wind howled from here to there, then out jumped a deep, dark, huge Shadow.

"Who dares wakes me up from my beastly sleep!" A booming cold, deep voice echoed through the empty quiet place.

Alice startled, Loki was worried, Bella was scared and tried not to scream out loud and Andrea's heart was pounding fast. They all didn't like the sound of the voice it was like a wolf preying on a scared, helpless, little deer.

"It is I sir" Topple replied.

Topple?!" boomed the voice. "What is it?"

"Sir, four young people who are chosen to save the world are here"

The huge shadow approached the light and it turns out to be a handsome young dude. "Mmmhm are you sure?"

"Yes."

"Did Lewis find out?"

"No."

A straight answer came from Andrea "I don't recall seeing anybody suspicious."

"She is right, sir,"

"You better be right."

But she was wrong, you see Lewis had a very talented assistant. She didn't know they were in disguises, the wizard was one of them. When the wizard realises it he went to this unpleasant place, the trees were dead and rotten, no birds would hang on to it except for nasty birds like crows, and vultures, bats too. The grass all dried up, lava around the place, lost souls wander around, the sun, stars and moon never get in touch only dull, miserable, grey clouds roam around the place, nothing bright enters the place otherwise it'll sink in the darkness. The name of the place is Braegdon. There was a scary looking castle but it looked more like a haunted house. Inside the castle was a dark, huge, not-so-comfortable throne where Lewis sits. The wizard changed into dark clothes and changed the way he looks and turns out to be a young assassin kneeling down at Lewis sitting down on the throne.

"Sire!" yelled the assassin. "I have found out that it seems the four kids are the chosen ones to find all the gems and defeat you."

"Heh, what mere kids do they really think they can defeat me? I'm gonna rule over the whole land and everyone will praise me. Henchmen, prepare for battle!"

"Yes sire"

"Charlie! Heather! Go and get the gems before those kids can even place their hand on it right away!"

Charlie replied "Andrew"

"Yes sire?"

"I have an important job for you, and ONLY for you." Lewis commanded with an evil smirk on his creepy face as he sat down at his so like throne.

"It is time for me to rule the world! HAHAAAAHA!"

While Lewis was getting ready for battle, Alice, Andrea, Bella and Loki got their first clue.

"So it's here?" Bella asked.

"Well, that's what Blakely said" Alice replied.

"He even gave us a map,"

"You sure?" Loki looked at the place, it was a huge, cave maze and they didn't know what to do next.

"I knew it. Why did we even come here? It's all your fault" Bella complained.

"Me? I just told you guys if you're coming and because I was going and you guys said yes!" shouted Andrea.

"If you're too much of a wuss puss then why don't you just sit back and relax scaredy cats!"

"Hey now I'm a boy and I'm not gonna let a girl do a boy's job!" Loki yelled.

Bella laughs "You call me a wuss puss! Uh-uh, no way!"

Alice sighs "how is it that you're my BFF and not Katie."

Katie is another friend of Alice and Andrea, she's kind-loving and pretty hot which makes Alice and Andrea look like potatoes. With that, all four of them went into the cave maze. They didn't know what was in it or what's going to happen, they were too distracted about what Andrea said. Andrea, in her mind, laughed at how they reacted about it. When they went in they followed the instructions Blakely gave them. Now that was lucky otherwise they'll be lost through the whole story trying to find their way out. When they turn left around the corner they saw a pool. It was filled with CROCODILES! No one told them about this! How are they going to cross it! They're not gonna turn back or turn to another corner or something it'll just take too long. They had no choice but to go to the path that's left in front of them. While they figured how to cross the pool Charlie and Heather, Lewis' best, talented assistants were following them and trying to find the first gem. Charlie (he was a crazy one) was dumb enough and let them see him when he had to stay in the shadows.

He introduced himself to them and Heather swooshed down after him and whacked him at the back of his bright, brown wavy head. She flicked her dark, smooth violet hair at the back and yelled angrily at Charlie "What's wrong with you, we're supposed to be unseen!"

"Well you don't need to follow me I can do whatever I want!" Charlie shouted back.

Bella interrupted "I'm sorry but who the heck are you?"

"I'm Charlie and this is my younger sister Heather. I see that you need help, don't worry I'll give you some help."

He and his younger sister were on the other side of the pool. "I have the ability of wood, that's Earth, Heather has the ability of leaf, also Earth, I'm gonna help you until you find all four gems" Heather was shocked she pulled him backed and whispered, "We need talk in private."

They disappeared and Alice asked, "Who were they?"

"Heh beats me." Replied Loki.

Charlie and Heather reappeared at the entrance of the maze and Heather said: "What did you just say back then?"

Charlie replied, "It was my dear sister, it is going to be my best master plan ever."

"Why am I always risking my butt for you? Tell me the plan" sighs Heather.

"Ok so we help them find the gems then when they dropped their guard we simply steal them. Isn't it great?" Charlie explained.

They teleported back to Alice, Bella, Loki and Andrea.

"My sister agreed to help you guys." Charlie said.

Aaron

Dusty and gloomy in every corner cold moist breeze loud crunching and squeaking noises echo radiantly off of the high curved roof. There is nothing to be heard all around other than the repetitively pumping pistons.

Name: James

Age: 42

Height: 1.78m

Hair colour: gray and brown

Nationality: caucasian

He is wearing a white lab coat over a light grey suit with a red rose poking out of his top left suit pocket. He is venturing to a terminal on the south side of the facility to check the radiation levels in the reactor basement below.

In the reactor below fused together atom after atom is slowly generated a gaping hole in the floor of the water purifier and also slowly secretes radiation to the final source of water in the godforsaken wasteland.

Brody

Part 2

Read Jacob's for the backstory

Read part 1. Norman has been thrown in gaol and the cure, with his wife, are gone.

Freegan Mormon is walking down the street on a nice late summer day with the hustle and bustle of busy people. The shops frantically working to satisfy their consumers.

The day itself is what some would consider a perfect day, big fluffy white clouds blowing through the clear dry air. The sun perched high overlooking the world, the scattered trees are rustling and the gravel road is so hot it stings to walk on. Freegan Mormon lives in the town of Charmswick.

The town of Charmswick itself has been around since the Salem Witch trials. Where there were surrounding towns hearing of a witch so the dirty peasants grabbed their pitchforks and torches and embarked on a cleansing crusade.

After about 1 day of walking and 1 night of rest with a lot of eaten flat-bread in-between they came upon the cottage in time to see the rising sun. After getting through the grimy cabin breaking through the wooden door they captured an old woman claiming to be an herbalist.

The old woman seemed to be in her sixties with nothing but grey hay-like hair and light green eyes (a convincing sign of the devil). She is wearing dirty cloth garments, sandals, and she also has light pale skin.

After some time the question of how to get back is raised and they realise that they are lost. Without being able to sentence her in a real court they all agreed that she's guilty and tie rocks to her back and throw her in a pond. She sinks.

Because they are lost they build a town, seeing as conveniently there is an abundance of resources. Thus the town of our town had begun.

Every year since then the whole town has celebrations where they have food and celebrate the history, though it is grim.

Freegan Mormon loves the celebrations but while walking on this summer day that is not what is going on in his mind. He is going to do work on his garden seeing as he is a gardener.

He does work for the different park owners who need workers to tend to the park. Luckily his latest job is for a park only a few streets away.

As he is walking (he is not the fastest due to being nearly seventy) he is approached by a raggedy homeless man asking for money: to which he replies "Yes, as long as you spend it on food. I don't have much but here." Freegan Mormon is a nice man and helps where he can.

"Oh thanks so much, man," then proceeds to walk away.

As he arrives at his garden. He takes a look at the waist high symmetrical brick wall with the towering healthy green rectangular trimmed hedge overhead it is blocking view to the inside.

The one way in is from where the brick wall ascends into a leading curved arch, with an open black gate. If you take a step onto the cement pathway you will see the path split in two when it hits the hearts shaped bunch of energetic vibrant hydrangeas of all sorts of colour.

As he is working his 6 year-old niece Cathy arrives with her mum Janice (his sister) to drop Cathy off to spend time like they frequently did. They spent a lot of time together and had a strong relationship.

But as she was helping him, he notices in his well-kept garden with healthy plants there was a patch of dead plants he hadn't noticed, "What a shame," he thought, "took a while to grow them."

So he starts digging up the plants to clear them but she is pulling out a plant by the roots and when it's pulled out she falls backwards. Straight. Into. The. Muddy. Soil. Which was weird seeing as he hadn't watered there.

They pick her up making sure as to not get muddy themselves so they didn't have to clean themselves off, and then Janice takes her home to get washed.

Freegan Mormon continues the day and fixes up his garden but takes note that the animals drinking from

the water seemed to be sickly and sluggish and very coincidental.

Freegan Mormon arrives back at his house and tries to rest in his comforting bed. Whilst he is falling into his own mind and drifting away from us there is the clack of metal hitting the wall like something has tapped it hard. He jolts awake, visibly disturbed.

It is natural for everyone to feel this way when there is a bump in the night. It represents our fear of the unknown, the very things we cannot predict or expect and that in turn brings out the fear of danger that the unknown can inflict harm upon us.

That ties our need for survival to kick in. Our very need to stay alive... but with life will inevitably end in death. Death is inescapable, that is not a question.

The fear of death is also partially because of the fear of the unknown which creates a circle of fear almost. But, for me to describe death would be a failed endeavor. For death is incomprehensible and cannot be described by words.

Even for me to describe the weight it holds wouldn't be right because it is something you must feel. After life or not it is scary.

I intended to write this with a description of death but as I stated everyone must think for themselves.

I did not describe it because there is no way to say someone you loved is passing away as you feel their warmth leaving and are left with them saying their last words, to see the fear in their eyes as they realise they'll never see the world again. Just as like you will never see them again and this is the end. Left to just watch and not be able to do anything but cry.

Like that there is also certainly any way I could ever describe the feeling of your heartbeat slowing, your body failing and feeling weaker. Just to scramble to think of the last words you'll ever say, see the lost faces.

Just to be hit by the sudden realization that this is the end. No one will remember you. Watching with no control as everything goes and slips away, everything you have ever known slipping away, everything you have ever known slipping away. Everything matters but also nothing matters as you fade away and go towards the bright light which is the only sensation in this cold dark place.

But you are still feeling something even if it is confusion and disorientation. Nevertheless you go towards the light, full of intensity you step through it you feel a sudden change and....

We don't know beyond this point and we will never will, but this may seem to be the worst, I offer something worse.

I will not answer it by telling you but by asking you. Is there a life worse than death?

You could answer with a simple yes or no but you could look deeper, ask yourself and see the true horrors of life and human nature.

Freegan Mormon hears it a few more times and has enough of it so he gets up. It is coming from outside at the side of his house. He goes to his door, sluggishly at first but is woken up by the late night frost.

He opens up and enters outside, wondering who would be at his house at this time (It must have been around eleven or twelve). He gets just off his porch, about to find out what it is when...

"Hi," he is startled at first but then happy. "Hi Janice, what are you doing here?" He replies inquisitively. "I'm so sorry to be here so late but, b-b-but.." her voice seems rocky and her eyes seem saddened.

Freegan Mormon feels the cold breeze tear through him almost like her words:

"But Cathy has gotten really sick. She has a fever, sick stomach, etc."

He is quite shocked but needs to know more.

"Where is she?" the one question seeming to rise to the top.

"She should be alright, I just took her to the hospital but they don't know what she has."

"Ok, let's go." He says without hesitation.

The two of them then both proceed to go to visit her. They get there and get to her bed, (the other three people in her room include a kid with a broken leg and arm, that must be a story. It is unclear what is wrong with one of them, and the last one seems to have breathing problems of some form.)

When they arrived there though, Cathy was asleep but he couldn't wake her. (If you have ever seen a

sleeping kid you know it's hard to want to wake them up especially a sick one.)

He is there for three hours but as he decides to leave, she wakes up and says:

"Uncle, what are you doing here?"

To which "I've come to see you," is what he replied.

"Before you go," she must have noticed him leaving, "Am I going to be alright?"

He honestly didn't know, but in that mostly white room covered in tiles and annoying machines everywhere, he said "Yeah you'll feel great real soon." He couldn't simply say he didn't know he just didn't have the heart for it, with that he left well in the early morning.

He had woken up and got to the park by 8:15. That is of significance because someone had tried to rob the store nearby at 18:15 but police were only 2 streets away and, the same time there had been a massive flock of cockatoos land nearby and 8:15. I say massive, I mean it was the most he had ever seen in his life.

He does his usual job as per usual, but throughout the day constantly seeing a man he hadn't seen before. So frequently that he was very suspicious.

After a while Freegan Mormon introduced himself, "Hey I'm the gardener what do you think of it?" He is black-haired, brown eyes and is wearing a business suit. He seemed young.

"Yeah it's really beautiful strange about all the dead animals." It struck very strange, but not too strange, so he continued on.

"I've got to go, maybe I'll see you later?" and the businessman replied, "I bet we will."

A sort of strange encounter, but Freegan Mormon goes on his way. As he gets home he hears a familiar "Hey," and I think we know who he is.

The strange businessman was there but Freegan Mormon was confused.

"Hey, what are you doing here?"

"Turns out I live close and noticed you," he said.

Before Freegan Mormon could say much, the man jumps into asking "Could I come in?" Freegan Mormon is getting annoyed and worried by this request. The businessman realizes this and says: "Listen I know about your niece." This slightly scared Freegan Mormon but did get his attention. "Come in then quick" in hurry.

The man then continues to explain himself that his niece is sick with a new disease that "someone influential", "the mayor" Freegan thinks.

The man continues to say the mayor is doing it to release the cure and stay in power. The man whose name he said was Jonathon was purposefully sent there to his house to spy, because he had learnt about a person that they didn't mean to get sick because up until then, they had been controlling the disease so Jonathon was sent there to collect information.

He goes on to say: "When I heard the whole thing about it being a six-year-old, I can't handle it so I'm telling you." Freegan Mormon is having a hard time trying to fathom it but sincerely replies "Thank you so much, she means so much." The man walks off as mysteriously as he had come.

He was confused, was this a dream? So he slowed things down and sat down in the front of his house at night to watch as the trees rustled, listened to the sound of nature, mainly birds calling to each other through trees, but also the occasional barking dog.

Everything is peaceful at night and there is a nice comfort and beauty in the stars. But before he lost too much sleep he retrieved his pillow and dreamed about what he would do next for his poor niece.

The dream just turned into a nightmare, leaving him awake and needing just as much comfort from her as she needed from him. In just a few days his whole perspective of the town had changed, but he knew what to do.

Jonathon the "spy" had left a recording of the mayor and incriminating documents so Freegan Mormon took photos and recordings of them and left the original evidence with his trusted Janice. Soon after, he departed to see the mayor.

He goes to the mayor's office and asks "Can I see the mayor? I need to talk to him about a disease." That seemed to give him clearance and they let him through. The building is a plain office building but has fifty floors. On the fiftieth floor is the mayor.

The elevator stops, the doors open and Freegan Mormon is ready to confront him. He walks in to see a room filled with big oak wood cabinets to the side displaying town history on it.

There is a huge window along the back wall, there is a black carpet and the mayor's desk at the middle but a little back, with some extra chairs.

Freegan Mormon sits down and then:

"So, I've been uncovered have I?" The mayor says in an angry but questioning tone.

"I guess you have."

Freegan Mormon explains why he's there, and that he has proof and is going to expose the mayor. But upon hearing this the mayor just asks, "What about your niece?"

"What about her?" Freegan Mormon says, wondering about what he is alluding to.

The mayor simply without emotion: "She will die and I have a cure."

Freegan Mormon's heart is starting to beat faster and faster.

"What are you proposing?"

"Get rid of the evidence and don't tell a soul, and then she will be all fine and dandy."

There is no way that would ever happen. Just imagine all the death. He would never let that happen, he's too good for it. Not selfish but nice, so obviously he thinks and easily answers,

"Deal."

"Oh, by the way," the mayor says, feeling in control as Freegan Mormon lifts his foot just about to leave the room.

"Would you like to know the disease's history? I think you would like to hear it,"

"Fine, if it makes things clearer." Freegan Mormon had never thought about it.

"There was a mayor of this town a long while ago, this town was hit by a form of it and they started a cure."

Freegan Mormon has piqued interest.

"Then how did it turn out?" he says.

"The mayor's brother gets away with the cure but gets caught and thrown in gaol. The cure wasn't found but neither was the brother's wife. She was pregnant but no one knew yet then she lived her life passing it down."

"Until?"

"Until what? Until we found it buried in a box in a new house being built."

"If that was a cure how is this a disease?"

"The original disease died out so we re-engineered it to be a new disease."

"That's horrible."

"What's worse is you'll be surprised to find the previous mayor's name was Freegan Mormon."

Freegan Mormon is shocked and confused. He gets up and leaves, but the mayor is grinning an evil grin. He knows he has won and will be mayor for years to come.

Freegan Mormon has to live with the blood on his hands no knowing whether or not he has made the right choice.

His family seems to have a running history on this at least knowing his niece will live will lift off some of his regrets.

But just like that Charmswick isn't so Charming.

Special thanks to Jacob. we thought of and wrote this story together.

In 2018, the self-styled 'Twist Tellers' at Chifley College Shalvey Campus, a group of young writers attending weekly workshops with the Story Factory, wrote this book.

This one, that you're holding in your hands!

They began with the task of writing a collection of short stories all set in the same town, using the same settings and characters, that they had created together as a class. As such, you'll see many familiar faces and locations pop up between the stories. This active collaboration contributed to a rich world populated with really interesting people, and the students designed it all themselves, as a group.

They started as a team, but from that first seed of an idea, the students' stories sprouted in all different directions; some magical, some terrifying, and some downright sinister, but always entertaining.



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