

White flakes touched my face melting in seconds. My feet begging to get a rest. My arm lifted turning the door handle ignoring the burning from the cold. A white dog with his mouth open as if smiling, stood in front of me looking through his light blue eyes. Grinning I shut the door behind me and held out a round object slightly shaking it.

“Look Snowball” I watched as my dog stared at it. Proud that my dog liked it I put it down and watched what he would do. Snowball glanced up at me then down at the snowglobe. As if already made a decision he grabbed the snow globe with his mouth and bolted through the back door. Not thinking where I was going, only that I wanted it back. I raced outside following my dog yelling. Snow started falling, blinding me not being able to see the tree root that got caught with my foot.

“A dog?” I glanced at the sign then back at my cousin. Noticing her smile she wore when trying to cheer me up. “Why?”

“You need more company, someone to live with. So why not a dog.” Jake grabbed my arm and headed towards the store, dragging me. Inside the sound of barking was heard throughout the store disturbing my thoughts.

“Jake I don’t need a dog. I am perfectly fine with the company I have.” shaking him off I glanced around the store. Hearing a whine from Jake.

“But why, you live by yourself after moving out.” sighing, my eye caught on a white dog with eyes blue as the sky. One name came to mind Snowball “That one. You’re getting that one.”

Stepping towards the cage I found dark spots covering the fur. Disappointed I turned and left hearing Jake yelling for me to come back.

Blinding snow made me losing my way towards my house. Waiting until, the snow stopped, I noticed wood blocking my line of vision. Turning my head a line of trees looking like soldiers, stared at me. I remembered the day when I found this place by tripping, the day I had a snow globe. I never went through the forest, it gave me too many memories. Too many memories of my dog that always stayed with me. Too many memories of the old snow globe my mom gave before she left. Too many memories of how things changed. Not wanting to stand and remember my past all those years ago. I turned heading towards my house remembering that I forgot my coat.

Steam flowed through the window getting blown away from the wind. Chocolate dripping from the cup falling down the floor. Knocking woke me up from my daze and saw the mess of the chocolate. Grabbing a cloth to clean the mess, I sighed. Staggering to the door, I noticed it was Mary from the side window. Opening the door, a girl with a large smile that I always thought looked forced.

“Hello! Did you know? The town is making another store.” She held out a map that showed the town, pointing towards a empty lot at the side of the paper. “The stores name is McMond.”

I grabbed the map, never seeing a map of the town before. I noticed trees all around the town like a shield. “What’s with the trees?” Mary grabbed the map to see what I was talking about.

“Those trees has always been there for centuries. Actually your mother went in there but...” She trailed off as if noticing what she was saying. I paused, staring at her trying to figure out if what she said was my imagination or the truth. I’ve never heard anyone talk or even whisper about my mom. When she disappeared, everyone acted as if she never existed.

“My mom. Why? What happened? Is it true?” Mary’s face consumed by nervousness. Her eyes grew wide, as she bit her lip. In seconds her face changed from nervousness to happiness.

“Your mom? What do you mean? Your mother disappeared the day you ran into the forest.” My eyes stared at her face, her smile was too forced and her eyes almost closed. I knew she was lying despite not a single stutter was heard in her voice. However, why would she lie about my mom.

“Oh ok then I have to do some cleaning. So bye.” Closing the door with a click. I waited until she left. Looking through the window to make sure she was nowhere to be seen. I glanced around the house debating weather or not I sure get a coat. I opened the door, snow hitting me going into the house. Shaking my head, telling myself it wasn’t that cold I headed out.

Each step I knew I was getting closer towards the forest. Viewing the town go about their time. One person selling newspapers about the forest. Another telling about how amazing this town was. Turning my attention to the other side I found everyone was talking about the town. Was it always like this, always talking about the town and not another place. Did I even know anything about another place?

“Would you like to know about the forest history?” a man that looked in his thirties shoved a flyer in my hand, not letting me have a chance to speak. “Well the forest is cursed. Cursed I tell you. Cursed.”

Not wanting to hear about the forest or anything about the town. Having already heard a lot with news around the town. I apologized and headed towards the forest, ignoring his yells. Glancing at the sky, I knew a blizzard was coming in seconds. Picking my paced, I saw the trees ahead the same way they always were. As predicted a blizzard started, blinding my way. Touching a tree to help me find my way though. Taking a deep breath I went in.

Trees swayed, making the leaves sing. Birds playing together in a duet as they soar through the sky. It was useless looking back, seeing just trees. Not knowing whether I was going straight or sideways or even back. If I was going back then so be it let the woods take me back. Closing my eyes I felt the wind blowing through hair making it sway along with the leaves, dancing. Suddenly, my face stung, opening my eyes I saw glass. Inspecting the glass I found it

was surrounding me not letting me though the other side. Were we trapped in this glass container? Glancing up I found it was all over, at the corner of my eye I found a hole just aligned with the trees, it had cracks in the edges that looked as if something bit into it. Excitement went over me like a wave. Finding a trees that was close enough to climb through the hole, sprinting towards it not wanting to know what was at the other side. Glad that I knew how to climb trees from when I was younger. My hands stinging from carrying me to the top but, I refused to quit. The hole getting larger as I went up. Grateful I didn't have to jump much to get into the hole. I went to side of the tree making it sway to the side, and jumped.

Darkness is all I saw. It felt like hours, days even. How long was I here? When did I leave? How much farther? My stomach stopped growling as if knowing it's not getting any food. My step echoed through the cave like a song. Again I was light but is it real? There was so many times that my imagination tricked me. Not caring if it was real or not I kept walking. However, I saw the light grow larger by each step. The other's didn't to that, so that must mean it's real. Not believing myself I took quicker steps eventually running. Just when I was about to get through the light. Coldness consumed me looking around I was surrounded by snow globes? Looking back I found myself staring at a snow globe, the same one I just got out of. I was in a snow globe. Wanting to get away from this place, I sprinted away from the snow globes.

Glancing up I found a house small, shivering from the wind. I knew I needed to get somewhere warm. Already at the door I knocked. As the door opened, my mouth dropped. How, how is she here?

"M-mom" the woman eyes were watery, about to cry. Slightly nodding her head, she pulled me into a hug. Barking was heard into the house, turning my head I saw a dog like wolf with white fur. "Snowball?"

Snowball barked again jumping on me. Glancing at my mom, I noticed a snow globe with teeth marks dug into it. The same one I had that day. My mom noticing what I was looking at grabbed the snow globe.

"I couldn't tell you" she pet snowball "so I trained snowball to try and tell you but, I guess it never happened. I'm sorry."

I grabbed the snow globe and through it at a pole outside, smashing it into pieces. Turning my head I saw my mom giving a warm smile. Pulling them into another hug, I knew I was finally home.