

Behind the Willow

Chapter 1: The beginning of what has already started

"Leave me alone!" I shouted, but then I realized it was another nightmare. I have these all the time! I guess I should be called Nightmare not Dream..." Dream wake up!" shouted mom. Oh no! I'll be late! Mrs Sillian will eat me alive! I quickly got up, changed and came downstairs to eat breakfast. August and Daphne were already there. Oh sorry for not telling you, they're my siblings. When I ate my breakfast I took my bike out of the garage, said goodbye to my parents and drove to school as fast as I could. Oof I was not late. Mrs Sillian was my physics teacher. After six kinda boring hours of school I finally went home. I put my bag on the side and went to the park. Ember and Cynthia, my best friends, actually they're my only friends but nevermind. They were already there. They aren't the sweetest but at least I have some friends. I sometimes have a feeling they don't like me tho... We were at the park for like one hour, and then I went home. Only August was home. Actually August is kinda like my best friend too! He's the best! He plays the cello and I play the clarinet so we practise together. Dad is always somewhere away from home and mom was probably still at work. Later in the evening I did my maths homework, took a quick shower, practised the clarinet, changed and went to bed. I had the same dream like every night again! There is a weird creature chasing me in the park. But this time, it was different. Suddenly the creature and the park disappeared. After that I saw some weird tunnel made by plants, so I went there. When I came out of the tunnel there were three small ponds. The place looked like from some fantasy movie. There were many people, but they looked different. They had ears and tails!. I kinda liked that dream! Suddenly some girl with a little tail and little ears came to me. "Hi! Are you new here? Wait where are you from and why don't you have ears or a tail! Are you human?!" she said surprisedly. "That's too much questions but yes I am a human. And what is this place?" I answered. She took me to some weird house and told me to hide my head. The girl told me about they're world... That there are Elemental people and Earth people have ears or tails and can manipulate the Earth and Nature and the main thing, that no humans are there!" But this is not real. It's just a dream." I told her. "What?! This is real! You got here through the willow but I don't know how is that possible." said the girl. Her name was Calypso. Caly, that's how I called her took me to the Head Witch. Even the witch didn't know how I got here. It probably really wasn't a dream!

Chapter 2: Onion?!

Caly introduced me to her family and her best friend Tigidor, she calls him Tig. Everyone there was so sweet, except Odessa. She always made fun of Caly and Tig. And now she made fun of me too, for being a human. She called humans half-living boring dumbos. She was so annoying but everyone was scared of her. Later that day when I was on a walk through the park they had there. I saw crack in some old wall. I went through the crack and I didn't see anything, only darkness. Suddenly I saw my only friends Ember and Cynthia talking together about how much they hate me. I wasn't really surprised because I knew they kinda hated me, but I was too shy to ask them. Then I saw many people from my school, even my mom saying that they don't like me. After that I woke up in Caly's room and Tig was also there. She told me that I accidentally entered the World of reality. So everything there was real. It was night so we went to bed. Caly's parents were okay with that I'm staying there so we had a sleepover with Tig at Caly's house. Wait what if I wake up home? I don't want to leave this place. When I was slowly falling asleep I heard a noise in Caly's kitchen. I came downstairs to see what it was. It was Caly's mom, Idalena. She was cutting onions, Elemental people can't eat onions, they're allergic to them. Calypso told me. Plus she was not crying she was laughing. I just stood there shocked. She turned at me with a creepy smile. She slowly walked closer to me. "Idalena? It's me, Dream." I said, scared on my life. I was trying to run away but I couldn't, I was paralyzed. It was something like sleep paralysis. I have these all the time. When she got next to me, she whispered to my ear: The Willow is dying, because of you. Your dad left, because of you. Your mom likes Daphne, more than you. Leave this world, or they'll kill you." said Idalena kind of angrily. I woke up. Oof it was really a dream. When we came down for breakfast Idalena looked kinda weird. It was weird, I had a dream in a dream. Is this really a dream? After breakfast we got ready and left to the forest. She asked us to go pick up some gushmooms—that's how they call mushrooms. I still didn't understand how and why did I get here. I always have a feeling something is watching me but here it was even stronger, but I didn't really think anything about it. We met Caly's other friend Raya with her sister Leon. When we were on our way back to Caly's house I saw some weird shadow behind a big tree. I got scared but I didn't want to tell Caly and Tig. Since I came here some weird things are happening to me. But I still think this is a dream. But I don't want to wake up. I finally have friends and I'm much happier here. I'll figure that out later.

Chapter 3: Rabbit on a field

When we came back home Caly's mom was not there. There was just a note, for me. In the note there was a warning: Leave, or he'll find you Dream. We were all so disappointed. I told Calypso and Tig about my dream. We all had the same question: "Who is he?". We were trying to figure that out for like two hours. The other day Caly and Tig left to school, but I couldn't go because you know, I'm not from here. I stayed at Caly's house, alone because her mom left early in the morning. Sitting on the couch and just watching TV was boring so I went to their garden. They lived next to an old abandoned house. It was creepy but I wanted to look inside. I jumped over their fence and went inside. There were many things left like food, toys, clothes and dead plants. On the wall there was a family photo. "Wait, is that Calypso's dad?!" I thought. It really looked like him. On the photo he was standing next to a woman, and they were holding a baby girl. It wasn't Caly. I went upstairs. There was a broken baby bed. In the next room there was a picture of the woman, it was broken and the face of the woman was scratched. That was kinda creepy. In the bathroom were some moldy shampoos and a broken mirror. There were baby toys everywhere. Downstairs in the kitchen there was left so many food. It looked like the family just immediately left. Outside of the house was a baby swing. After exploring the whole place I left. I cleaned their house a bit and then read a book. Then Caly and Tig came from school. I told about the house and the family photo. Caly said that her dad didn't have any wife or a child before Idalena. Plus that photo looked very old. It was six pm and Idalena wasn't coming. Maybe she is at work longer today. We invited Raya and Leon over and we all played hide and seek and truth or dare. They left at eight but Idalena still wasn't coming. We tried to call her but she didn't respond. We were scared for her so we went to the shop where she works. She works in a small flower shop on the town square. It was dark and we were really scared. The door of her shop was open and it was dark there. I felt like in some horror movie. Scared as a rabbit on a field, we went inside. The light wasn't working and the flowers were destroyed. She wasn't there. We quickly ran home and tried calling Raya's parents but the phone wasn't working. We didn't know what to do. This felt like a nightmare not a dream! "Maybe she'll come at night." - we thought. After brushing our teeth we went to bed. Oh I didn't tell, Tig's parents are on some vacation so he's staying with us.

Chapter 4: He, he

I woke up first and went to check Idalena's room. She wasn't there. Her face on their family photo was scratched. It looked the same like in that old house. I quickly ran into the old house. The faces of the child and the woman on the family photo were scratched. Wait does that mean... Does that mean they died?!

would like to know they're backstory.Oh no!Idalena!I need to warn Calypso.I ran to her house as fast as I could.I tried waking them up but it didn't work.After that I heard someone walking downstairs.I immediately grabbed a baseball bat.You know,safety first.I hid under Caly's bed.It was getting closer.It looked like some demon from a fantasy film."Lily I'm home." it said in a creepy voice.Lily?Who's Lily?"Come out sweetie,I will not hurt you."-said the "demon".What if that thing in Caly's house is the person Idalena warned me from.Suddenly Caly and Tig woke up."I'm here." I whispered."Come on hide,quick".

"Dream are you okay?What's happening?" whispered Calypso."He's here."-I answered.

"Do you mean he,he?!" asked Tig."Yes I mean he,he." I answered.We were hiding for a while but then I got a little to brave.I stood up from under the bed and shouted to the monsters face:"There's no Lily here so you better leave,right now!".Caly and Tig come out of the closet shocked.Suddenly the monster came to Calypso and said:"Lily!Here you are.Why did you leave me? And where's your mommy?".We stood there shocked. As we weren't aswering,the monster disappeared.This was definitely the thing Idalena warned us from.Actually,where is she?!We haven't seen her for like two days I think? Math isn't really my thing heh.Then someone opened the door.It was her!We told her everything.After she heard what happened to us with the monster she made some protection out of plants around their house.She didn't respond on the phone because she was on a special meeting with the towns order.I asked her about the note."What note dream?" she asked.Um,that was pretty surprising.She didn't write the note.Someone other did.But who?Later Caly and Tig went to school and Idalena went to work.I was alone,again.I was really bored so I went near the forest on a meadow with lots of flowers.It was beautiful there.I just sat on the ground and watched the sky.I enjoyed it until something moved in the forest.I came closer.It was a little girl."Follow me." she said.I did.She took me to the middle of the forest.There was Idalena!But,the monster was there too!What did it do to Idalena?!They were doing some weird spell."Idalena,are you okay?" I shouted.She turned at me with terror.Her eyes were black and she covered in some black coat.At this point I thought the monster would eat me,or Idalena would kill me but that didn't happen.What did happen really shocked me.The little girl told the monster:"Daddy,why are you doing this to mommy?"Daddy?!Why did she call it daddy?Actually,the little girl looked like the one from the picture.What if,the girl is the Lily it was looking for? Wait,does that mean...Does that mean the monster is Calypso's dad?!Oh no Idalena, he probably possessed her or something.But why would he posses his wife?But how can I help her?Suddenly Idalena came to my ear,again and whispered some weird encantation.After that I felt weird and fell asleep.

Chapter 5: Son of Souls

45 years ago, in 1978:

"We can't do this to her! We must tell her the truth, Azareth," said Seyrin desperately. Azareth just nervously nodded his head and left the room. On the next day, Seyrin and Lily were ready to leave to the daycare. "Mommy, so what did you want to talk about?" asked Lily. "I think you're ready to finally know the truth about your daddy, Lily," said Seyrin. While Seyrin was telling Lily the truth, she didn't notice they were on the edge of the road where there were no barriers. Sadly, they were too high and didn't survive. Azareth couldn't accept that his only family was gone. This was the start of Azareth's change. After the accident happened, he almost never left his house again. But one day, he saw a group of human people on the street. There were two women and three men. "Uh, some scouts again," he thought and closed his curtains. One of the women—Kyrin later came to Azareth's door and rang the doorbell. Azareth snappily came downstairs and opened the door. Kyrin was never seen again. People in the town gossiped about Azareth a lot. They thought he was weird. They said they even heard screaming and shouting from Azareth's house. You're probably asking about the "truth" Seyrin wanted to tell Lily. Well, the truth is... that Azareth's past is kinda different from other people. He's not even an Earth human, he's from the Soul part of the Fire world. Actually, he's not even a Fire human, he's an ancient demon called Son of Souls. That's what he didn't want to tell Lily about because he was worried for her. Because he is her father, she is a demon too. Not a full one, she's a half-demon, but still. Demons are very dangerous so that's why Azareth almost never talked to her and kept distance. Because he loved her and wanted to protect her. Azareth and Seyrin even put fake ears and a tail on Lily, to protect her. So Lily basically didn't know who her dad was. Actually, she didn't even know who she was! But this was for Lily's best. Azareth was not sad only because they passed away but he considered their death his fault. Let me tell you why. When Azareth was born his spirits were born with him, and the spirits will always protect the secret of "Tuklerende" no matter what. So when someone like Seyrin tries to say his secret to anyone the spirits will come and curse and torture their soul. That exact thing happened to Seyrin and Lily. "What is even Tuklerende?" you're probably asking right now. It's the plan of demons to take over the whole Elemental World and then destroy it. But for the Ritual of Tuklerende you need many people. When Azareth was having his worst time, his true self took over him. When he saw the young explorers in the forest, he waited for one of them to be alone. Then he took and bewitched him. He did the same with all of them except Myriam. When she was finally running away from their horrible world, she was already in the Willow and almost ran away, Azareth suddenly showed up and took her. He needed all of them for the group ritual. Later they were his slaves and helpers. Now, let's talk about the curse of Seyrin's and Lily's soul. They didn't actually die. Their soul was just put into condition, something

like a coma. Their souls were like this until Idalena was born. The curse was that whenever a new person from their family is born Seyrin and Lily's soul shifts into their body. They basically control them. That means that Calypso is controlled by Lily and Idalena is controlled by Seyrin. So when Calypso will have a child Seyrin's soul will possess her and her child will be possessed by Lily. Because of the Curse of Souls, Seyrin and Lily are trapped, forever. The only person that can stop Azareth's plans is a.....human! Yes, you read it correctly, a human. But not a random one, it must be a chosen one. As you may know, the chosen family is the Sealphe family-Dream's family. So that means only Dream can save their world. But Azareth needs human magic for the ritual. Yes, the chosen humans have magic. So that's why Dream was getting the notes and warnings. The only question is-who wrote the note? Dream already figured out that it was not Idalena, but then who was it? It was the soul of Seyrin, she warned her from her own husband because she knew how dangerous he is. So the only chance the Elemental World has, is Dream.

Chapter 6: Back to how it was

Back in present day:

I suddenly felt the cold wind on my hand. I was confused, behind the Willow is really hot and almost no cold winds are there. "Oh no!"-I shouted, "I woke up!"...