

THE NIGHT TWINS

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DAY ONE

Lunar and Midnight skipped gracefully through the meadow by the forest they lived in. They've lived there since the day they were born, and nobody knows why. At least they're well enough to take care of Rose, she's been ill for almost a week now. Rose is only four years old, but she already has a deadly sickness that's getting worse each day.

"The berries... they're gone!" Lunar exclaimed. "Where did they go?" The twins have never been so worried in their lives about losing a single berry bush. But this is no ordinary berry bush. This is the only berry bush in all of Canada that can heal the deadliest diseases on Earth...or so they thought. "I just don't get it. It was in perfect condition but now it's as dead as can be!"

Midnight began searching for any remaining berries while Lunar stayed behind and took care of the little one. "Any sign?" Lunar asked.

"Nope. Not even a pinch."

"Did you look everywhere?"

"Yes, Lunar. I looked everywhere I possibly could."

Hour by hour, day by day, they remained clueless of where the berries were. The dark grey clouds surrounded the forest as it began to pour. "C'mon, Midnight. We need to get to shelter before the rain gets any worse."

The three went back to the small, comforting treehouse they built last year. Gusts of wind blew their hair in all directions but could never have even near the strength to blow away their hope. Lunar and Midnight put Rose to sleep then went out to the balcony and watched the rain. "Midnight?"

"Yes?"

"What are we going to do now that we don't have any source of medicine that can properly treat Rose?"

"We can always try forest hopping"

"Are you insane?! We won't know any of the land in those areas! We'll never find our way there or back!" Lunar protested.

"It's our only choice, Lunar. Do you want Rose to heal or not?"

"Yes, but--"

"No buts. We're going to save Rose no matter what it takes."

"Fine, but we'll need a plan."

DAY TWO

The next morning, the rain finally stopped. The soil was wet, but that didn't prevent the sisters from making their journey. The trip was long, but eventually they reached the edge of the forest. All the area was empty. The grass was green. The sky was blue. The flowers were beautiful. But there were no berry bushes in sight.

The three of them began to make their way through the plains as quickly as possible not to waste any time. The next forest was in sight, but they knew they didn't have much time. Rose's eyes began to tear up rapidly.

"Lunar?" Rose tried to speak.

"Yes?"

"My tummy hurts."

"Don't worry, Rose. We'll find your berries soon."

A few hours later, the girls arrived at the new forest.

The trees were oddly arranged in rows and columns, and every tree had the same exact red apples. The grass was a freshly cut vivid green masterpiece. The air smelled sweet and welcoming. Lunar quickly began to search for a berry bush with blue leaves and ripe, small greyish pink berries. Midnight stayed behind and picked apples from the trees with Rose to take along their trip. The apple forest was massive, except for one part; there was a fence. Beyond the fence was a small group of about 6 cows, 8 horses, 3 pigs and an old looking man. The girls have never seen a man before, so it was startling. Rose sneezed suddenly. Her unusually pale skin had a wave of pink wash through her skin. Caught.

The man, startled at the noise, stood up off the ground from feeding a calf and looked directly at Rose. Midnight held her tightly in her arms and stood there, paralyzed from shock. The man slowly walked towards the two of them confusedly. He held no weapons, he said no words, the man just walked. The moment he got to her he asked, "Who are you...why are you here?" The man looked very perplexed. Midnight was scared, but she brought up the courage to speak.

"I'm Midnight. This is my little sister Rose. She's sick and our forest lost its healing bush that helps treat her illness. Do you think maybe you could help us find another one?"

Lunar cuts in. Nobody noticed she was there for a while.

"It has blue leaves and pinkish grey berries. Have you ever seen any?"

The man thinks for a moment.

"I'll help you. And since it's harvesting season and you will need food for the journey, I'll let you keep the apples."

"Thank you so much!" Lunar stated.

DAY THREE

Lunar, Rose, and Midnight followed the man as he led them through another forest. The trees looked just like the berry bush, but with fruits instead of berries. The man led them into a small shack that had herbs and medicines that looked just like the forest.

“May I observe her?” The man asked.

“Yes.” Lunar confirmed.

The man observed Rose carefully. Her skin was a pale grey with sick, tired eyes and messy boy-short hair. Her voice stuttered, and her body was weak. She basically looked dead.

“The little girl isn’t at her worst, but she isn’t at her best either. She looks like she needs this.”

The man handed Lunar a jar with a greyish pink thick liquid. The berries! Rose began to smile.

“Thank you, Mr.” Rose mumbled

“You’re very welcome!”

Rose drank the drink happily and her skin faded to a normal tone and her strength quickly returned within a few weeks. The berry smoothie seemed to heal Rose faster than the berries alone. Maybe there were some special healing plants in there too. About a month later, she was fully healed, and the girls were adopted by the man happily. No more troubles in their life.