

CHAPTER 36

‘LAUGH TIME’

Alexus and Mya exited the stargate into a vibrant green forest space, with odd and colorful flower growing up from the white fog- all over the place. A loud waterfall- *'SHHHH'*ed- throughout the vicinity, giving the forest a calm and peaceful serenity. Dream Bubbles *'GIG' 'GIG' 'GIGGLED'*- as they passed to and fro- here and there*everywhere!*

“WOW- ALEXUS!Where are we?”, questioned Mya- as she scanned the scenery in awe.

“Welcome to the Dream World Beady!”, sang out Alexis- as she fixed her arm gloves and the stargate vanished.

Little Baby Squeaky Face walked over to them *'SQEE' 'SQEE' 'SQUEEKING'he was happy that Alexis had come back for him- because she had left him, just like she said she would- after he had slacked back a bit exploring!*

“So am I still dreaming?”, asked Mya.

“Nope!This is the real deal Beady- it is!”, replied Alexis.

“COOL'LLL!This is so- UNBELIEVABLE! Are those really mountains over there Alexis?Because they don't look real!I've never seen a pink mountain before!”, exclaimed Mya- as she gazed into the far far distance at three towering mountains with giant cherries on top of them. One white- one dark brown- and the other pink*they were Awesome!*

“They're real enough BeadyThose are the Neapolitan Mountains- they are!Made of the sweetest ice creams imaginable!”, informed Alexis.

“Can we go on top of the pink one, strawberry is my favorite!PLEASE- OH PLEASE- OH PLEASE!”, begged Mya- as Alexis flipped open her heart watch and checked the time*for both worlds!*

“NO!Because I wasn't even suppose to bring you here in the first place- I wasn't! If papa knew that I brought you to work he'd have a spazzy- he would!I only brought you here because your special birthday dream got messed up- and I figured I at least owed you a special gift for ruining your party and beating up that ferret!Besides- I got a bigger surprise for you- I do”.

“But you didn't ruin my party!You made it super fun!Even though, I did get in trouble!”, replied Mya.

“Well we got one hour to finish up here BeadyThat's four hours here in the Dreamworld- it is!”, informed Alexis.

“But Alexis!How can one hourEqual four?”, questioned a confused Mya*It just didn't add up!*

“It's simple BeadyTime here is much slower than the real world because this world is magical- it is!Now do you get it?”, explained Alexis- the best way she could.

“I-I- I think so”, replied Mya.

“Let's get going- we should”, instructed Alexis- before she *'STA' 'STA' 'STEPPED'* off. Mya and Little Baby Squeaky Face followed behind her- they did!

“ALEXUS!”, called out Mya- with a hint of fear within her voice, as they ‘STA’ ‘STA’ ‘STEPPED’ across the hovering white fog.

“Yeah Beady?”, replied Alexis.

“Why do all these trees have big yellow eyes- and big mouths?I think they're staring at us!”, questioned Mya- as she sped up and got closer to Alexis, trying to keep up with her long long footed strides- as the trees watched their every move.

“This is the Laughing Forest BeadyThere's nothing to be afraid of on the Light Side- there ain't”, replied Alexis.

“Why is it called the Laughing Forest Alexis- HUH?”, asked Mya.

“If you know any good jokes, go ahead and tell one- and see what happens”, instructed Alexis.

Mya silently thought of one of her best jokes for a few seconds- before she told it. **“KNOCK- KNOCK”**, tooted out Mya.

“WHO'S THERE- WHO'S THERE- WHO'S THERE?”, called out every single tree that she passed.

“YOU!”, tooted Mya.

“YOU WHO- YOU WHO- YOU WHO?”, questioned the trees.

“SORRY- BUT I'M ALREADY IN A RELATIONSHIP!”, sang out Mya.

The trees all around began to ‘LA’ ‘LA’ ‘LAUGH’ and shout, with their giant yellow eyes tearing up and their branches ‘SHA’ ‘SHA’ ‘SHAKING’ about! Feeling good- Mya instantly smiled with confidence- she did! *.....but I'm telling you- those trees would have laughed at ANYTHING!*

“TELL ANOTHER ONE- TELL ANOTHER ONE- TELL ANOTHER ONE”, begged every tree that she passed.

“A DUCK WALKS INTO A DENTIST OFFICE AND ASKS FOR BRACES...”, tooted out Mya.

“Please don't Beady, cause once you get them going- they'll never stop hounding yaIt's like tossing a fish to a seal- it is”, stressed Alexis.

“TELL IT- PRETTY- PRETTY- PLEASE’EEE!”, begged a tree nearest to Mya- before all the others began to beg along in a chorus.

“SO THE DENTIST ASKS THE DUCKHOW ARE YOU GONNA PAY FOR THEM- YOUR A DUCK!”, chimed Mya- as she stopped her feet.

“BEADY!”, barked out Alexis- as she stopped her ginormous feet in order to gaze back sourly in Mya’s direction.

“GOTTA GO!”, sang Mya- before she quickly caught back up to Alexis *.....leaving the poor trees in suspense!*

Meanwhile- back at the house.....

The basement door opened to the silhouette of Hoagie, who quickly 'CLICK' 'CLICKED' up and down-up and down- upon the light switch*but it didn't work!* He looked down the basement stairs and into the dark depths below- with apprehension, as the darkness made the junk below appear like creatures from another dimension! The little light that did shine into the basement from a small rectangular window, didn't make things any better- it didn't ...*especially with the sounds of the 'SWOOSHING' night winds!* He inhaled a bit of courage and took a slow step down the first 'CREEKY' board. 'CRA' 'CRA' 'CREEK' squeaked the wooden staircase, as he slowly made his way down- growing more frightened with each footing.

Once at the bottom- he trembled with fear as he laid his eyes upon what appeared to be a blood thirsty vampire!

[*Suddenly*] A flash of lightning struck- and rain began to fall, exposing the vampire as no more than an old trench coat hanging from a coat rack. Hoagie gulped in hard- before he 'HA' 'HA' 'HIKED' through bags- and bags- and bags of junk, past old toys- furniture- outdated clothes- and a really really big trunk. He headed straight for his dad's workbench- he did!

Once at the workbench- he opened a large drawer and removed a power drill with a long black cord, while the outside winds continuously 'BA' 'BA' 'BANGED' against the window and the rain steadily poured.

[*Suddenly*] The bags to Hoagie's rear began to 'SWA' 'SWA' 'SWISH'- as if someone or something was closing the distance between them! As he waited

for the attack from behind- his heart dropped down to his feet, terrified- while his heart rapidly began to 'BA' 'BA' 'BEAT'! He shut his eyes and slowly turned to face his attacker- just as the beast began to 'PA' 'PA' 'PANT' its salivating tongue*READY FOR BLOOD!*

Lightning *strikes!* Thunder- 'ROAR's!

P.J.- 'BARKED'!

Hoagie opened his eyes to P.J.- and let out a deep sigh of relief! Relieved that he had not ended up a snack stuck in between some scary beast's teeth! "**BAD BOY!You scared me P.J.!I thought you were a werewolf or something!**", scolded Hoagie.

Power drill in hand- Hoagie swiftly made his way back through the bags and other stuff, followed closely by P.J..

Outside within the light stormy weather- an ice cream wrapper 'FLA' 'FLA' 'FLEW' around within the wind, 'SMACKING' into the basement window seconds later- casting a giant scary-looking shadow upon the basement wall near to Hoagie!

Lightning *strikes!* Thunder 'ROAR's!

Hoagie glanced at the scary shadow upon the wall and jumped right up out of his skin with fright! "**BU-BU-BU- BOOGER MONSTER'RRR!**", screamed out Hoagie- before he 'RA' 'RA' 'RACED' off and flew up the staircase.

Meanwhile- inside of a dark prison chamber

Maltov, The Nightmare Overlord, stood before a large cage, taunting one of his latest prisoners!

“I hope you find your new accommodations fitting for such a person of your high prestige- I do!It brings me great pleasure in knowing that I received the only real benefit to our deal- it doesOne little golden heart- in exchange for the soul of a gatekeeperIt was flat out highway robbery if you ask meYet- I am a fair soul- I amSo I'll allow you one chance to call the deal off at- I willNo strings attached- I swear Just say the word- and I'll send you on your merry wayBut- as you very well knowThe poor girl will drop dead in a matter of seconds- she will, leaving the Dream World without it's Gate-keeper!You see my little big footed friend- either wayI WIN!No mere child can stop me!The Dream World shall be my crown- and the Earth below my footstool!Once I extract the location of the other four Dream Crystals from your pathetic memory- NOTHING CAN STOP ME!I WILL BE A GOD OF MEN- AND DREAM BEINGS ALIKE!MU-HA-HA- HA!MU-HA-HA-HA'AAA!.....”, piped Maltov- with an arrogant attitude. **“.....And taking those boots from the child- will be like taking candy from a baby!”**.

Maltov turned his back to his prisoner's cage and reached his pale and stitched left hand up towards a flaming torch- which hung from the dark chamber wall. His hand **'RIPPED'** free from his stitched left wrist- and **'HA' 'HA' 'HOVERED'** forward!

“And for your assurance, the golden heart works just fine- it doesThe girl just doesn't wish to grow- so she doesn't!I'll just take this light here so that you can get use to your permanent new home- I willThe beautiful and gloriousDARKNESS!”, he said- as his floating hand wrapped around the torch and lifted it from the wall.

Maltov's bare pale and heavily stitched feet, rose a foot above the chamber floor- before he hovered toward an open door- with the hand and torch following along to the rear!

“Have fun- you do!”, he taunted- as he and the hand floated out of the door. The door quickly **'SLAMMED'** shut and locked- cutting off every last inch of light.

“WHAT HAVE I DONE!”, wailed the prisoner- as the whites of his eyes shined bright within the darkness.