

# CHAPTER 26

## 'LIZZY'

The sky was an amazing shade of blue above Henry Minnelton, who stood inside a secular field of trees- within a secluded forest. There wasn't another soul around- so he was totally alone. He reflectively gazed down upon his dearly departed wife's tombstone, which read;

**Elizabeth Minnelton-1857 to 1932-**

***'The loveliest woman in the world- she was'***

**"OH LIZZY! .....Life just ain't the same without you- it ain't! .....I really wish that you were around so that you could have helped me raise Alexis .....She really needs a mother figure to teach her how to conduct herself like a responsible woman .....I've done my best- but I'm afraid that I can't do it on my own .....What a special jewel she is Lizzy .....She's got a real fire within her eyes- she does ....You two would have gotten along swell .....One day Lizzy, she'll shine as bright as the golden sun- she will! .....I can sense the power within her- I can .....She'll be the greatest Gatekeeper to ever live! .....Just needs to learn how to control that temper of hers and do away with those silly childish games she finds the need to Indulge in- she does.....",** spoke Henry.

Henry '*SIGH*'ed- deeply.

**"I'm just so tired Lizzy .....I'm afraid that I'll take a nap soon enough, and never wake up again- I will .....But I can't leave Alexis on her own just yet .....She's not ready to be on her own- she ain't ....And- once I'm gone, she'll be in the battle of her life and she doesn't even know it!"**.

[*Suddenly*] Gray rain clouds quickly slid in overhead turning the blue skies dark- and gloomy, while the trees of the forest withered away until they were black and lifeless .....*All within a matter of seconds!* The winds began to '*SWA*' '*SWA*' '*SWOOSH*' through the trees, causing the hair on Henry's head to dance from side to side like a blow dryer stuck on high!

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

**"Still crying to the dead- are we!"**, piped a deep and eerie voice- which descended from the dark skies above.

Instantly feeling the presence of pure evil, Henry spun around to the ominous presence of the Nightmare Overlord himself. **"MALTOV!"**, exclaimed Henry- with a face full of shock.

Maltov- The Nightmare Overlord- stood towering before Henry in all his evil glory, draped in a black cloak and cape that '*FA*' '*FA*' '*FLAPPED*' turbulently within the wind! Beneath the hood of the cloak was nothing more than darkness and two blood-shot red eyes that pierced down upon Henry like a hungry wolf!

Henry quickly took two steps back, while taking in a hard '*GULP*'! **"What's this! .....Not so brave without our boots- are we!"**, sang out Lord Maltov.

**"I-I-I- I'm not afraid of you demon! .....You think much too highly of yourself- you do! .....Your that same ole backstabbing loser to me- and that's all you'll ever be in my eyes!"**, replied Henry- while quickly shielding his fear.

**"Well- well- well .....I guess we'll just have to do something about that- now won't we!"**.

**"What do you want demon .....I never agreed to allow you to pester me in my dreams- I didn't!", wailed out Henry.**

**"I'm just here to give you a friendly warning that your time draws near my old friend .....Soon it shall be time to fulfill your end of our bargain- per our little golden heart agreement .....My-my-my- how time does fly- don't you agree".**

**"Well It's not my time- YET! .....So leave me be demon!", snapped Henry.**

**"Before I leave you to your pathetic existence- just answer me one small question my old friend .....Why? .....Knowing that your mortal body would eventually perish, you make your soul suffer to save the life of a child that did not even come from your own bloodline .....Such powers to give up..... Why?", questioned Lord Maltov.**

**"WHY! .....WHY YOU ASK! .....LOVE! .....LOVE- IT'S A THING THAT A HEARTLESS DEMON LIKE YOU COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND! .....NOW GO- AND LEAVE ME BE!".**

**"Maybe- my old friend .....But- if this love that you speak of is anything close to the pleasure I will get from torturing your soul beyond the limits of pain- then It was possibly well worth it I'd say .....Soon you will regret the moment that we ever crossed paths- you will! .....I hope your little protege was well worth the price!", stressed Lord Maltov- before he raised his two pale and stitch covered hands to the sky. A quick flash of lightning struck Maltov from the dark clouds above, vanishing along with him in the blink of an eye!**

Alone again- Henry turned back around to face Lizzy's grave with shaky and 'RA' 'RA' 'RATTLED' nerves!

**"POOR MINNELTON- WHAT GOOD IS A TEACHER, WHEN THEIR OWN STUDENT DOESN'T EVEN MIND THEIR INSTRUCTIONS .....SOME CHILDREN- THEY JUST NEVER QUITE LEARN HOW TO GROW UP- DO THEY!", boomed Lord Maltov's thunderous voice from the dark skies above. He then proceeded to 'LA' 'LA' 'LAUGH' a rumbling and sinister laugh that shot chills up Henry's spine- he did!**

[Suddenly] The dark clouds above began to 'RA' 'RA' 'RAIN' down thousands of 'FLA' 'FLA' 'FLAMING' marshmallows!

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*Inside of the cabin on the hill.....*

Henry's eyes 'BA' 'BA' 'BLINKED' open as he swiftly leaned up within his smoker's chair! His wrinkled fat nose instantly began to 'SNA' 'SNA' 'SNIFF' in the smoky aroma of burnt marshmallows within the air! He quickly looked toward the back of Alexis, who sat upon her stool and continued to roast marshmallows in the furnace .....*it was as if she didn't even smell the heavy burnt marshmallow odor that clouded the cabin!*

Henry stood to the floor upon his giant socked feet and 'STA' 'STA' 'STEPPED' over toward the stool. The closer he got- the closer a pile of blackened marshmallows came into view. He stopped to the close left of her and watched as she pulled the branch from the fire, removed a burnt marshmallow and tossed it onto the growing pile that had accumulated next to her. She removed another marshmallow from a nearly empty bag that rested upon the floor, stuck it onto the tip of the branch- and placed it back into the

furnace flames. He passed his right hand through her head like a cloud of smoke- he did! He then frowned twice as hard when he spotted a white envelope upon the floor with her name upon it .....*Alexus was- BUSTED- she was!*