



HOME

Preface

It has been years now, since I started living here. I can't even imagine a normal life anymore. It is like I've never existed. The only creatures I know are the animals around my house and the ants on the inside. No cell phone, no computer, no way of contacting the outside cruel world. Just me and nature. Both of us have our difficulties, both of us have their abilities, both of us have their own form of beauty. Since I left the world and started living in the forest, I felt a strong connection to this place. It was strange because I never thought something like this would happen to me. I mean, I was a pretty lively person in the world. I had a lot of friends and I always liked to see people, but since I have been off the grid, I finally found my inner self. And strange, because, living without people would probably feel lonely, right? At least, that is what you would think, but for some weird reason, it doesn't. It always feels like I am not alone.

One time there was something at my house. I am still not really sure what it was. I was asleep and I heard someone or something knocking on the front door. I went downstairs to try to see what it was, but once I was there, it already walked away a bit back into the forest. It turned around, just when I opened the door. It was a strange creature that kind of looked like an animal, but it wasn't an ordinary creature. Their eyes were purple, their teeth were white. Never had I ever seen such an extra-terrestrial, terrifying creature like that in my entire life. This has just happened one week ago or so. Since that moment I felt less safe in my house. It's like someone or something is watching me, constantly, 24/7, every time of the day. I feel like I should leave this house, but how can I? If this thing that is watching me finds out that I am leaving the house, maybe it will haunt me forever. Maybe it will kill me. Maybe it will eat me alive... No, I shouldn't think like that, I am going to try to leave the house, back to the world, back to real sunlight and people again! I have to make sure that I will *always stay away* from this house, my so-called "home".

It might seem strange to you, as a reader, that I said I liked it at first, but now for some weird creature that I don't know, I don't like it anymore. I know it's confusing, I'm confusing and most of the time, I don't even make sense. Forgive me dear reader, when you are stuck inside the forest for multiple years, you start to overthink everything and confuse yourself easily. You start to hear things that aren't even there! You start to become insane. Loneliness is good for a person, it sure is, but not for many years! And I can speak from experience! Whatever you do, don't ever step a foot inside this damn cursed house, or you'll regret it. I already tried to leave, multiple times, but they all failed! I wish I could leave, return to the normal world, but I think I just simply can't. There is something wrong with me, but I don't know what... Something, maybe myself, seems to haunt me. My eyesight gets blurry, I fall from my chair and before I know it I lay down on the ground. Silently, in peace, with no one around me.

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Chapter 1: Escaping succeeded (I guess).

"I- I made it!" I say silently to myself, "I- I am out of the house! I finally managed to get out! I can see the world!" I start to run through the forest, not knowing where to go, not knowing what will happen, not knowing if I will get out of the forest at all. I run and run until I finally see some sunlight coming through the trees! When I get there, I get to a parking area. "Woohoo, I made it!!!" I shout in the air. It's strange though, I never thought I would be able to make it out of the woods. And what else is strange is that there are no cars in the parking area while it's the middle of the day. I walk to some sort of cabin on the other side of the area, but when I start to walk I hear whispers all around me. I'm starting to get a bit scared and instead of walking I start to run to the cabin. Once I get in, the whispers seem to get less loud. There is no one in the small cabin, which looks like it has been an information centre or a restaurant. I look at the calendar: 11 march 2120 (apocalypse day) I look at my watch and it says: 01.54 PM, 18 October 2123. "So there's been an apocalypse?" I say out loud. "How will I ever be able to find someone then!?"

For a while I'm sitting in the cabin/restaurant/information centre thing and I'm wondering what I should do now. There are probably only a few people left in this world, if there even are any! "I should go look for them!" I decide after a while. I walk out of the cabin and I start to hear the whispering again. Louder this time, I cover my ears and fall to the ground. It's already dark and there is not much light. Only one small lamppost in the full parking area was still working. Well, working, it was flashing, and right underneath it, there was a car. "That's weird," I thought to myself, "I didn't see that car when I came here." Luckily I have my drivers licence, so I start the car and I start driving. The nearest city is at least an one hour drive from the forest.

I'm not even driving ten minutes or the whispers start again, forming a mess in my head. I still wonder where it comes from, until I hear a soft voice with it: "**Come back home, Isaac.**" I turn around, but just to find out that there is nothing there. "But I clearly heard a voice!" I think out loud. "Oh, good! So you can hear me." The voice says. "Who are you? What do you want from me!?" I shout in my car, "Oh, there's no need for an introduction." The voice says. "Just look in your mirror and you will find out who I am!" I look in my mirror and I see that same creature again! The purple eyes, the white teeth and the dark, black skin. I turn around to get a better look at him, but... He's gone again. I look flustered at the back seat of the car. "Oh, don't worry Isaac, I won't hurt you. The only thing you have to do is come home, in the forest, where you belong!" I slowly turn back and just when I'm about to turn my head back to the road I feel his hand on the back of my shoulder. It feels more like a human hand than an animal's paw. "I don't want to go back to the forest anymore! I want to find people and never get back to that house, ever again!" "You know Isaac," the voice says, "you're lucky you have me as your guardian. I never liked my kind of people anyways, so I'll try to help you to get to your other humans, if they aren't killed already..." "What do you mean, weird creature?" I ask while I look at him with a distrustful look. "Ah, I'm sorry, I guess I should introduce myself if I will help you. My name is Tommy and I am one of the guardians of the remote places." "Wait wait wait, this is really much information already!" I say confused. "So you're saying that you are a guardian? Of the Forest Mansion? Where I lived for five fucking years, and I only met you a few weeks ago!?" "Well, yeah," Tommy says, "The apocalypse also had it's effect on me, you know?" "Well, that makes sense," I say, "but what are you exactly and what is your purpose?" "Well look," Tommy says with a sweet smile. "I don't think I should tell you, but here I go! I am created by some sort of magician, he lives in the Tower of Eternity, he created all the remote places for the people who wanted to be alone and he let a guardian stay around it, to protect the place and to let the people live their nice solo life. I am some sort of horror robot who is supposed to make your life horrible, but I guess there's a mistake in my program, because I've never been able to dislike the people who started to live in the Forest Mansion. I always liked a new guest, and I've actually become friends with all of them, well, before they died, that is.

But don't worry, that was because of age or starvation, not because I killed them!" "Wow, that's pretty impressive Tommy." I say with a big smile. "So you're really going to help me find other people?"