

## The whisper of the Trees

The sun blinded Scarlet as she walked home from school. Unlike the other seventh graders at her school, she did not walk with her head in her phone. She however, walked with her head in her book. She could finish four normal size chapter books in a week. She was called a dork because of her Converse old lady glasses and her reddish brownish hair, but that was okay because she took it as a compliment. As Scarlet walked inside her unique house she greeted her brother. Noah was too busy watching his show to notice that Scarlet then walked outside, book in her hand, and left into the woods in their backyard.

Scarlet did this every day as it was very peaceful back there. She walked past the tree that her dad had put a face on it. The face blended into the tree like it was a part of it. However it was only held there by nails. The tree had a large nose a lampshade mustache and bulging eyes that seemed to follow Scarlet. However that wasn't possible, so she thought nothing of it and went on. She continued deeper into the woods where her tree was, at the edge of the overgrown path. It was where you had to choose left, right or the steep decline that led to the clear creek filled with rushing water, mossy rocks and sinking, squishy mud that smelled like manure. Scarlet broke right and continued to where her tree was. It was not very pretty and stood leaning over the path and over the creek if you went high enough. She tucked her book under her arm and began to walk up it until she got to her little nook. She sat down leaning on a small branch and began to read her book "Catching Fire". The seventeenth Hunger Games has just begun and Finnick, Mag, Peeta, and Katniss are running through the woods looking for shelter. The Hunger Games made Scarlet love to adventure in the woods and sometimes even pretend to be Katniss. Just then her Katniss senses were alerted by a faint whisper closer to her house. She couldn't quite make out what somebody was saying. Then she heard it again clear this time.

"Come to me little girl." The raspy voice trailed off so Scarlet couldn't hear the rest.

"Who is there?" she questioned as she began to climb out of her tree book in hand.

"Tis I, the old oak," said the raspy voice again.

Scarlet wasn't fooled. She made her way back to read inside it was her annoying neighbor and friend of her brother's. She continued back the way she came with her head in her book as usual. She got to the old oak with the odd mustache, huge nose, and bulging eyes when all of a sudden it's branches began to grow and wrap around Scarlet. She was so scared she began to turn pale

and gave a blood-curdling scream as it's branches wrapped tighter. Scarlet became desperate as the branches of the tree began to close her off from the outside world. She dropped her book in the mud and began to pound against the branches with all her might. The branches didn't budge. She tried prying them off as she was now encased in a ball of branches that closed her from the outside world, but that didn't work either

"Let me go!" she hollered, but the tree's branches only encased her tighter. Then she heard the tree's raspy voice only this time it was not only raspy but sounded cold and evil.

"I will never let you go, puny girl as I am very lonely so you will accompany me as a tree," The tree paused then went on in the same evil cold raspy voice, I can see you're wondering how huh? well I am going to squeeze the human life out of you and squeeze you into a seed where you will be planted next to me and your soul will be stuck in the tree you grow into until it dies." With that, the branches began to squeeze there tightest.

Scarlet gave a last blood curdling scream and then the small forest went silent. No birds sang, no scampering of squirrels was heard, not even the rushing water of the mucky creek only the sounds of the branches going back to their former way and the plop of a scarlet oak tree seed falling into the damp soil next to the old oak. Suddenly, from where the seed had laid popped up a scarlet oak tree sapling that had reddish brown bark and a mark that looked like old lady glasses on the front.

The police later searched for Scarlet, yet there was no trace of her. Only her book was ever found. As the years passed, a couple of cops went missing during the search. Soon after, a couple trees then surrounded the old oak with a face making the forest thicker.

Slowly, over time, the people of Scarlet's town began to disappear from their homes. They were drawn to their forest, because all their loved ones were there. The tree would lure innocent people into the woods and make the people call for their family however once they came the voices had stopped the people wouldn't go back. They would go into the woods with only one thing on their mind to get to the old oak. It was as if they had been brain washed. Eventually the small town was nothing but a thick and dark forest filled with trapped souls and in the center the old oak tree with a face stood tall.