

## LOST FOREST

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"Honey, can you grab the dragon eggs from the dragon's nest? It has been a few days since she laid eggs."

Maria would roll her eyes as she rubbed her tired eyes with one hand, pouring the milk into her cup, taking a long sip from it. "Sure, just give me a moment." Maria would finish her milk getting up wrapping a sweater around her waist as she opened her wood door going out into the forest with the brightly colored trees and animals, but since she lived there the noises, and the loud colors did not matter or come as a surprise to her.



Maria would open the purple and green wood gate, the big creek that came from the gate was normal, it was always normally sunny and happy. Maria would walk through the gate swinging shut behind her, she jumped at the noise, shed whip around staring at it for a few seconds but turned back around going over to the dragon.

"Hey girly, I'm going to need you to get up for me." She walked over the dragon, but she refused to get up.

The dragon and Maria would go back and forth on trying to get up when finally, a baby dragon crawled from under the mama dragon prancing away, Maria would try and go after it but the dragon shoved her out of the way and the dragons tail went knocking one of the dragon statues over, a big ball of lightning and purple fire spat out of the statues mouth forming some kind

of portal, Maria would gag and gasp at the trash and sewer smell coming from the other side of the portal.

She squinted her eyes at what looked like bright city lights coming from the other side of the portal, she scurries to get up, shed stare in shock at the portal in front of her.

out of curiosity shed walk closer to it, the smell to her was awful, "MARIA, MARIA BACK UP!" Maria parents would yell for her to back up and get away as they saw the dragon walking back the dragons tail heading right for her, shed panic freezing in place as she had no time to react she got knocked right into the portal by the dragons tail, her head hit the hard ground, but she quickly got up rushing back to get on the other side but it was too late... the portal quickly closed her parents her home disappearing, she was not stuck in what looked like LA but of course she had no idea what this smelly place was.

There were few stars in the big black night sky, the honks of cars and the yells of people on the streets made her uneasy, she would look around terrified of what had just happened trying to process it. The people around her would scream and jump, some little ones would even start to cry, she did not spins stand this but could not even process that as cameras quickly started to flash blind her, she spin getting dizzy the clicks and flashes made her nauseous. She shoves through trying to find a place to hide.

She finally found an alleyway; she slipped through the alley, her heart beating, her anxiety was through the roof. "No, no, no, no what just happened where am I." tears would start to form around her cheeks, she was shaking in fear her deer legs and ears and horns would feel heavy like she was about to pass out. After a while of trying to calm herself down she felt her body go numb, collapsing the hard concrete floor, everything going silent, for a moment everything was black, to her it was

calming, silent, almost like all her worries were gone just herself, one moment she was there, and then, she wasn't...

She woke up feeling dizzy and very lightheaded "please tell me I'm home..." she opened her eyes blinking a few times as it was very bright, "my goodness." She fully opened her eyes looking around, she was in a dorm room with a huge window the window looked fancy the glass was perfect, there was a desk in front of her, she got up, she was still in her clothes from home, but she knew she was NOT at home, "what's this?" She walked up to the desk and slid her hand across a suitcase on the desk, she struggled trying to get it open as she had never come across a suitcase.

After a while she picked it up, still trying to get it open, she accidentally dropped it making it fall to the ground. It popped open sliding under the dorm bed a little. She walks over to it with two steps because of her long legs, she picks it up and puts it onto her bed, she sat down beside it, "what are these? I am not wearing these?!" before she could even gag at the look of the clothes, a tiny little girl burst through the door

"HELLO!" she had a loud British accent that was high pitched "uhm... hi, can you tell me where I am? I have no clue what happened and I so confused!" "Oh this? You will be fine if you do not get in a big fight with the humans." The little, tiny girl would march inside the dorm going to sit on maria's bed she had pointy ears like an elf, was she an elf? Maria thought so. "Humans? What are those? And why are you sitting next to me..."



Ginger

the tiny elf girl would shake her head giggling "first, I am your roommate. Second, humans are like us on this planet, they just don't look like us... they have strong opinions and strong words sometimes they can be hurtful too, just don't say anything and leave it alone and nothing will happen"

maria nodded telling herself she would listen since all she wanted to do was go home "what's your name? and how do I get home.. I must feed my pet dragon!"

"WOAH- that is cool, wish I had a pet dragon. But also, my name is ginger and, you can't really get home, your kind of just, stuck here, I don't really know what to say... BUT anyways let's get you in the school uniform and out before classes start, it's going to look so cute on you!"

Ginger got up yanking Maria arm shed whip open the suitcase shoving the school uniform into Marias hands, "you can change in there, I'll be waiting for you out here!" Maria had a confused look on her face as she had no clue what this room was, she went inside closing the door behind her "what is this... Sham? Poo? Interesting, wonder what it tastes like."

Maria would take the shampoo drizzling it into her mouth she soon later gagged and coughed "nope, nope gross." "You ok in there? What happened did you choke? Are you breathing ARE YOU DYING?!?" the elf girl jumped rushing to the door but before she could barge in maria said "no I'm fine but this thing you guys call Sham... Poo doesn't taste very good."

"Oh yea, don't eat or taste anything in there they all taste like that I've already tried it before, they look good though, found that out the hard way." While Ginger was talking maria was getting dressed and she came out in a shirt with the collar coming out of it and long black pants that covered the curve on her legs.

"You look GRE- "ginger cut herself off when she saw maria was wearing the men's pants "why are you wearing those?"

"The skirt did not fit... and I like these better anyways, I think they suit me."

"Ghee- I mean ok, whatever you want, but classes are about to start we should get going we can talk more during lunch break."

"Ok but where do I find you! - "before Maria could finish, she got yanked into the hallways of loud people and a bunch of lockers being slammed or opened.

"We can walk to class together, just ignore everyone, like I said STRONG opinions." "Uhm... ok..." maria followed behind her new friend, people glared and gave gross looks, they made her feel like she was some kind of freak, it did not sit well in her stomach or brain, nothing did anymore.

After a bunch of their classes had been finished, maria was walking down the hall and as she passed the bathroom, she quickly got yanked in, it was ginger of course who did it "GOODNESS- could you have not just called my name? geese."

"Sorry! But hey! We can talk more now."

"Woah what's this!" maria gasped in surprise she walked over to the paper towel machine, she pulled the lever about seven hundred super-fast before Ginger finally stopped her, "I think that enough, anyways, I need to talk to you about dos and don'ts in this school."

"Woah- "maria kept getting distracted by all the things in the bathroom since they were new for her, she loved new things

"maria are you even listening to me? Hellooo?" maria did not answer as she was looking in stalls and going through everything they had.

"What are you even trying to do?" "Trying to make a portal back home...?" maria had emptied all the paper towel roles and she

had made a big circle on the counter with the empty paper towel roles.

"Yea no, we can just talk in the dorms." Ginger would grab Marias wrist, they would back to the dorms with the same glares and grunts, "why do people have to judge so much, and why is it just their eyes, how can they judge with their eyes so clearly."



"I don't know, but don't be so loud, they can hear you, ya-know." Ginger held her head down looking scared at the glares like they were going to hurt her or something, this concerned maria and made her worried a little.

One they got back to the dorm ginger seemed a little broken from the looks and the glares and the who's and ha's "where back, go ahead and explore, try and find a way back I don't care, I'm going to bed."

Maria would look at the sunset, she thought it was so beautiful since hers was a bunch of clouds mixing with the night sky.

"Did I hurt Ur feelings? I am sorry, I will listen to you now, I really am sor! - "maria got quickly cut off

"Its fine! I am fine! I just need a little space..."

"Oh. Uhm... ok." Maria went over to her bed sitting under the little couch she had under it, shed grab her blanket and turn to see the sunset, gosh how much she loved the sunset here, she might as well make the best of it since she's stuck here, shed take a deep breath and close her eyes, everything went black, she fell asleep.

"\*HONK (air horn) \* GOODMORNING SUNSHNE!"

maria jumped as she swung her head up "what the heck was that!" "Airhorn-duh!" "Why does it have to be so loud, goodness..." "

uhm the point, anyways, get up, and get ready, why didn't you change into your pajamas?" What are pajamas?" maria knew she should know this and felt silly asking, "there like clothes you were when you go to sleep, you know, like go to bed?"

"OH, that makes more sense."

"You know what we should do, we should go shopping!"

"Uhm..." maria tried to think as she felt silly asking another question "its fine I was confused my first time to, its where you buy things with these little rectangle pieces of paper that is green, it is called money. You can buy clothes, food, accessories, and all kinds of other things."

"Wont we get in some kind of trouble or something? You seemed serious about getting to class on time." "No, no, no its ok, today we don't have all of those silly classes and we should get you used to the world, since you're going to be here for the rest of your life now."

Marias stomach sunk at the feeling of being in this place for the rest of her life, it was like her home no longer existed anymore, like th

e place she had grown up in meant nothing.

"You, ok?" "What, yea no I'm fine let's go!" maria and ginger got ready and headed out, it made maria uncomfortable since it was like the whole academy was staring at her x10.

"here we are!" maria would stare at the big sign in front of the shop "woah-" she spoke quietly under her breathe "c'mon lets go in!" ginger dragged her in, when the door opened a little tiny bell rang, maria took a big whiff of a bleachy smell when she stepped in the clothes store

"wow! So many clothes and styles and just- oh my goodness!" maria got overwhelmed but in an exited way, she ran off picking out clothes, and so much more, "now what? How do I know if they fit me?"

"Follow me, they have this thing called the fitting room its where you try on things to see if you like them or not and if they don't fit you, you can grab another size!" "Cool! I will not be long." After maria was done trying on all her outfits they headed to the checkout and started to walk back, she listened to the honks and yells and smelled the trash and sewage, but after a while of walking and talking she got used to it, once she got back to her dorm with ginger she set her clothes down and went over to her mini fridge to have a snack

"can I please have Maria to the offer please, Maria to the office please." The principal came onto the speakers calling for

"ME?! Did I do something wrong am I getting kicked out will I be ok?"

"you'll be fine, you're just not going to walk through the halls with me, but you're ok."

"I guess, see you in a second..." maria walked out over the dorm down the hallways her head did nonce she did not think there was anything wrong with it, but her hear crushed at the



whispers about her and the laughs and giggles "look at her horns of my gosh!"

"She thinks she so cool just because she looks like a deer" "Hehe she is so weird!" when maria got to the end of the hallway, something snapped in her, she got fed up with all of this, she thought it was wrong to hide in the shadows.

"I can hear you know!" she shouted at everyone, they all looked in shock. "Just because look different does not mean I do not have feelings; you people know I got here by a portal I did not even want to be open; you think I want to be here? No! I miss my family. I miss my life and I am trying to fit in, but you are just making it harder! So, you can whisper and talk all you want about me but just know I am done, I am done with it!" maria walked away not saying anything else, she opened the headmistress's doors

"you needed to see me?"

"Hello maria! Yes, I see you got brought here by... ginger hallow? That is her, yes! It is." Maria gave a confused look as she had no clue who brought her there "guess so, but what do you need me for?"

"I brought you down here to tell you that your failing in all of your classes, It brings me concern, didn't you do this back home?" maria got a concerned look wondering how this woman knew so much about her life

"uhm, no I did not my mother and father told me that life is more important than education and that I shouldn't worry about those kinds of things.." "Hm, alright then you can head back to your dorm..." maria would exit the room so confused at what had just happened why did she call her down on the speakers just to answer a question that was not important? But maria just brushed it off and headed back to her dorm,

when she entered the main hall, everyone put their heads down and went quiet, maria looks confused but she was mostly shocked as all she did was yell at them, they became like obedient dogs, maria felt bad but kind of liked it since she had never gained that kind of respect before, once she got back to her dorm she slammed the door with happiness on her face

"GUESS WHAT!"

"I HEARD! YOUR SO BRAVE FOR DOING THAT!" "THANKS! It is getting late though, we should head to bed now, the sun is already coming down, but you should wear some of your new clothes tomorrow you would look great!"

"But what about the dress code? Wont they get mad?" "Oh, please nobody pays attention anymore, have you looked around? Some people never wear their school uniforms." "Oh, I mean if you say so!" maria and ginger got ready for bed and as they drifted off, they listened to ticking sound of a tree branch on their dorm window, it was nice.

The next morning maria and ginger got up and got ready "ready to go?" "yep" maria sprayed herself with perfume quickly and they headed out the door when they started to walk down the main hall everyone starts to complement maria and her outfit "you have such good style"

"can you lend me some of those?" "I need you to take me shopping!" ginger and maria laughed happy that everyone finally saw them for more than silly little creatures. Before maria could even say anything, a big portal opened behind them going back to the creature world!

"OH MY GOSH- ""MY HOME!" everyone ran out of the school not knowing what it was, after a few second police cars surrounded the area "GINGER LETS GO!"

Ginger had a sad look on her face as the portal slowly got smaller "I cannot... I have a family here, they adopted me when I was super young, I mean I cannot just leave them..."

"Ginger please, I need to see my family again!"

"Go, I'll be here don't wor"

"GO GINGER WE'LL BE FINE GO!" ginger saw her parents and then looked back to maria shed grab her hand as they quickly jumped into the portal, it shut, maria and ginger where home at last, safe.

THE END