

Lake of Dreams

Fire. Lots of it, engulfing the trees in an abominable frenzy, swallowing them whole around me, spreading like an out of control disease across the threshold. The feeling of my breath against my rib cage was like a pocket knife trying to create a hole in my lungs. The sound of screaming blocked out every other living sound other than the crackle of flames on bark.

Then silence. Not a bird song or the sweet music of a grasshopper. Not a chirrup of a monkey or the screech of a parrot. Suddenly the disturbance of a bush caught my eye. A scream pierced the night air causing me to start. Then, before I knew it I was covered in a recognisable smell.

"Eva?" I asked, my voice muffled by the knee length coat that she always wore. Finally she released me, allowing me to breathe, before saying in a blur of speed.

"Where were you? I was so worried I thought you hadn't survived the plane crash!" There was a second of bewildered silence before we both erupted in relieved laughter. Suddenly a worried look came over Eva.

"What?" I asked, knowing the answer

Seaweed and kelp. I found myself crouching in the exact same spot that I had been before I fell into the lake.

For a few moments I crouched there feeling utterly bewildered before a shimmering orb zoomed past me, switching my brain into focus mode. Slowly I stood up and turned around with my breath caught in my throat. The scene in front of me was unbelievable. I was in the world that I had surveyed a few minutes before. Again I turned around and gazed into the lake, my heart hammering in my chest and stared fixedly into the lake. A movement in the reflection caught my eye. Eva! Eva, in the water staring straight at me, her face an exact replica of mine. Slowly I raised my hand and beckoned for her to come into the lake. Slowly she pointed to the surface of the water gazing at me for permission. Getting my wits together I nodded as she prepared to jump. The last thing I saw of her in the human world was her fingertips breaking the surface of the water. Then she was right beside me looking straight into my eyes. Strangely, this vision coated me into the memory of when we first met.

Dad shouting. Police sirens. Eva's blue eyes. The truth shining through like a diamond in space. Mum was gone. Mum lost in the middle of the amazon rainforest, never to be found again. Eva's blue eyes. Mum. Back to mum again.

"IVY!" "IVY WAKE UP!" I opened my eyes, The vigorous shaking of my shoulders hurting my back. I was on the leafy floor of the river bank, my legs sprawled exactly as if I had fallen over, onto my back. "There is someone to meet you!" Glancing around, I spotted someone looming out of the shadows of the orb tree.

"Mum?"