**Darkwell: The Disappearance of Elizabeth Smoak**

The aroma inside of the two-story house was one that you would expect from a teenage party. Alcohol, sweat, drugs, sex, and the occasional putrid smell of vomit; but like any other stereotypical teenage party, there was blaring music loud enough to burst your eardrums though no one outside of the house could hear the ear deafening music. But that is to be expected considering how strange the town is.

-You see the town is one that was built upon magical grounds meaning that the townspeople experience strange things once in a while, though there are some who have learned to use this magic.-

As the teens mingled, one lone soul walked away from the party to get a breath of fresh air. This teen’s name is Alia Brunswick, she is a junior at Darkwell Academy; she has shoulder-length wavy brown hair, forest green eyes, and a fair complexion. Letting out a sigh, she sat down near the forest line and pulled out her phone checking the time to see that it was 11:47 pm. Alia took out her jumbled up earbuds, untangled them, and plugged them in. Swiping her phone, she put in the passcode and began to play Breathe by Pink Floyd. For the next four minutes, she let herself get lost in the music as someone sat beside her. When the song finished, she looked up to see that it was only her girlfriend, Elizabeth Smoak, grinning at her. Elizabeth had curly hair that she usually wore with a flower crown, beautiful caramel skin, honey-colored eyes; they would always light up at the simplest things, but what Alia liked most about her girlfriend was her caring personality and cute button nose.

“Hey, you okay?” Elizabeth asked. Running a hand through her hair, Alia let out a sigh. “Yeah, it's just tha-why do we go to these parties? Why does it matter if we even show up?” Alia asked, throwing her hands around. Elizabeth furrowed her eyebrows in thought. *Why did they come to these parties? Was it to keep their hierarchy in school? Was it to make sure no one was in harm's way? Was it to get away from life at home?* Elizabeth shook the thoughts out of her head, sighed, and looked at Alia. Elizabeth then took Alia’s hands in hers. “Look, Alia, I know that you don’t like these types of parties but it's how we keep our social standing. Besides, anywhere is bearable as long as we have each other,” Elizabeth said while stroking her thumb over her lover's hand.

Alia laid her head on Elizabeth's shoulder as they enjoyed the comfort that they each provided. They looked up at the stars and would occasionally look at each other as they sat together. A fog rolled in while Alia and Elizabeth were looking at the stars. Alia felt a chill and looked down finally noticing the fog, fear was an ice block in the pit of her stomach. It was then that she felt her warning mark burn, looking at her wrist where it lay she saw that it was a bright blue signifying that *they* were here. “Elizabeth,” Alia whimpered. Elizabeth looked down with a smile on her face until her eyes came in contact with the mark. “No,” Elizabeth whispered, with no trace of happiness left in her features.

Standing up swiftly, Elizabeth looked deep into the forest; her eyes becoming golden like a cat. Alia let out a hiss of pain as she stood beside her beloved. Elizabeth looked at Alia, cat eyes filled with worry, and took hold of her hand. No sound could be heard, the animals were quiet, the air stilled. A ginormous and dark figure approached with the crinkling of fall leaves. The beast was a monster, Somnum Exterreri; that's what Elizabeth called them, it meant *Nightmare* in Latin. Somnum Exterreri was seven feet tall, (taller when standing); it was a beast of unspeakable horror. When one was in its presence, it could only mean one thing--death.

Somnum Exterreri took four steps, leaving half of its body visible in the moonlight and in turn leaving it fifteen feet away from them. The beast let out a low rumble, turning all of its eyes to seemingly stare straight into Alia’s soul. Alia took a slow step back to hide behind Elizabeth, her hand still latched onto Elizabeth’s. Somnum Exterreri bent its head down, level with Elizabeth's face, and let out a deep growl; challenging her. Somnum Exterreri took a threatening step forward moving its tusks side to side in an attempt to give Elizabeth a chance to back away. Glaring at Somnum Exterreri, Elizabeth pushed Alia further behind her, silently giving her answer to the beast. Stumbling backward, Alia took note of how concentrated Elizabeth was. She had a small circle of blue fire, her magic color, summoning a weapon that she would use to fight the beast. Soon a magnificent blade appeared from the flames.

Grabbing the sword, Elizabeth held it parallel to her body in a fighting stance. Her shoulders were squared, eyes narrowed, breathing slowly as she charged forward at the beast. She leaped through the air, as one of the beast's tusks came within inches of her body, and landed on the beast. Taking the blade, she raised it, preparing to strike when the beast jerked forward causing her to be flung from the from the top of the beast. Tears sprang from Alia’s eyes when Elizabeth made contact with the hard ground. Alia having enough of this maddening scene, rushed forward, grabbing Elizabeth's sword and charged at the beast herself.

She swung the sword in anger, the blade coming in contact with one of Somnum Exterreri’s sharp tusks. It did nothing but make a shallow cut in the beast's tusks, furthermore making the beast grow impatient at this useless battle. A dark aura surrounded Somnum Exterreri as plum-colored tendrils protruded from its back. Backing away in terror, Alia dropped the sword which in turn disappeared. The plum-colored tendrils of the beast swirled around the air, one of them hitting Elizabeth in the abdomen as she stood, throwing her a good twenty feet. Alia’s breathing quickened, her body started to tremble, and her mind felt like it was shutting down.

The beast began to turn away, though one of its tendrils was coming directly towards her. At the last second, just before the tendril grabbed her in its grasp, Elizabeth came running and pushed Alia out of the way. Thus, Elizabeth was taken by Somnum Exterreri instead of Alia. Letting out a heartbreaking scream, Alia watched as the love of her life was ripped from her reality. No one could hear the saddening event that took place just fifty feet away from the party, all that was left of Elizabeth was her flower crown.