

# Our Short Stories 2019

Written by R5 Students

Gathered by their teacher, Mrs. Nesbit

Two class periods at R-5 High School in fall 2019 wrote stories that hook the reader, are inspirational, mysterious, and full of romance and adventure. Every story has a character who wants something, and something gets in their way. Some students shared more than one story. Some did not share any.

Here are our stories.

*Background info: R-5 is an alternative High School in Grand Junction, Colorado. The facilitating teachers were Mrs. Nesbit and Ms. Reid, who gave students feedback on their stories.*

# Table of Contents

<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Myths</b>	<b>4</b>
The Stars by Sidney Peet	4
The Creation of The Raiders by Julia Dores-Quihuis	5
<b>Legends</b>	<b>7</b>
Flower Bull by Sidney Peet	7
The Legend Of Victor by Julia Dores-Quihuis	9
<b>Fables</b>	<b>11</b>
The Cat and The Bird by Sidney Peet	11
The Queen's Curse by Julia Dores-Quihuis	12
<b>Final stories</b>	<b>14</b>
The Joe Rogan Chronicles by Ashton Marquette	14
Trap House by Sonora Clark	18
Gilbert the Outlaw by Trevor Gordon	29
Five Graves Full by Julia Dores-Quihuis	31
Lost by Eddie Leon	35
The Fisherman and My Son by Tristan Mestas	36
Am I Not the One? (The First Sequence) by Ronin Hernandez	39
Julia and The Forbidden Pixie Forest - By Sidney Peet	45
Truck driving idea by anonymous	52

# Myths

Our class spent a week reading and writing myths. A myth is a made up story that explains a natural phenomenon.

## The Stars by Sidney Peet

A myth about the stars in the sky, and how they came to be.

There is a myth about the stars and how they ended up in the night sky. The myth begins a long time ago when there was more plants than animals and more animals than people. There was a boy, not that old, I'd say he was in his teens still. This boy lost his family when he was really young, and he's been living by himself for years.

One day as the sun was going down, the boy saw something he hadn't seen in years, people. He ran to them as if they were his family he had lost years ago, when he got to them he got scared because these were people unlike anything he's ever seen before, but after a while they started to warm up to him and he did the same as well. He showed them fire and what it does, because they tried to take his fire from him, so he cried because he was afraid of the dark. He told them a story about the sun and how there was a place with more suns in the sky than you can count, a place called Tomorrow. "That's where I'm going," the boy said, a place with no darkness, no fears, where we can all be happy. He continued to tell the story about Tomorrow, and he said something in the story that caught his new families attention. He told them, everytime the sun goes down it goes to Tomorrow, and joins its family in the stars. Then he asked, "Will you come, come with me to Tomorrow!"

As his new family, they happily decided to go to Tomorrow with their new son.

## The Creation of The Raiders by Julia Dores-Quihuis

A long time ago... There was this group of men traveling across the ocean on a huge pirate ship. There was this story once told about an island inhabited by nothing but donkeys, but on that island there was sacred treasure. Once the group of men had washed up on the beach they could just feel it... That treasure was theirs.

The men wandered around the luscious island and came upon a large area of grass. Out of nowhere rocks started flying towards them, it was the donkeys! So the men threw rocks back at them. The leader of the donkeys walked up to the group of men on his back legs just like a human, and he said to them “You need to leave this island now or you’ll be cursed.” The men had agreed to leave or at least that’s what the donkeys thought..

At nightfall the men wandered around the island, walked around the grass field where all of the donkeys were asleep, and they headed towards the heart of the island. Just before reaching this huge oval shaped rock it started to glow a very bright gold light. The men knew they found the treasure. Once they had walked around the rock they came to find a stairway that lead somewhere into the earth. They followed it and came to a huge underground cave full of golden treasure. The men started to grab as much as they could and would walk back and forth from the cave to their ship. By the time the sun started to rise the men had all of the treasure in their ship and they were getting ready to set sail. The donkeys were starting to wake and the donkey leader had noticed that the huge rock was no longer glowing... He ran to the beach and he could hear

the men laughing. He knew what had just happened so he screamed, “You shall forever be cursed as the Raiders!!!!!!”

# Legends

Our class spent a week reading and writing legends. A legend is a true story that has been stretched beyond fact into the impossible.

## Flower Bull by Sidney Peet

A long time ago there was a bull, this bull's name was Flower Bull and was the biggest out of all the bulls in the ranch, even as a baby. "He was bigger than a usual bull calf!" one of the ranchers had said. But there was something different about this bull; he wasn't like the others who really seemed to only care about fighting. Now these bulls were bred for bullfighting, so that's why they fought so much. Flower Bull seemed to only care about flowers, hence the name that was given to this huge bull, even though he was the biggest bull, he coward around the bull when they wanted to fight, because he didn't like to fight, he really just seemed to like to smell flowers.

Flower Bull somehow ran away from the bullfighting ranch when he was still a bull calf and found a little farm with a field full of flowers, he ended up staying there and grew to be bigger than the one story house that was on the farm. One day someone saw him in the field of flowers and called the bullfighting ranch because they thought he would be great for bullfighting for his size. When the ranchers came to buy him from the farmers, they didn't care that they had to buy the bull, because all they saw in that bull was money. When they took Flower Bull back to the exact bullfighting ranch he was born at, he knew and tried to escape with all of his force, but the ranchers liked it because they thought he was a real fighter and would win them big bucks in the arena.

It was the day for a bullfighter to pick his bull, the biggest, the baddest, and the best bull was to be chosen. All of the bulls where hipped up and trying to show off their strength to be chosen, they thought this was their way to fame, but what they didn't know is if they didn't get

chosen or showed any sign of weakness the bulls were sent to a slaughterhouse for meat, and if they lost in the arena they were killed and their horns taken as trophies. The bulls were going to Flower bull because they knew he didn't like to fight and they thought it was a weakness, they were charging for him and finally he got mad and charged back causing a huge scene, Flower Bull was chosen.....

The next day was the fight and Flower Bull was scared for his life, he knew his fate if he didn't win, but he didn't want to fight. As they were headed to the bullfighting arena Flower Bull was imagining he was home on the farm, smelling his field of flowers, but was interrupted from the trailer door screeching open, rancher whipping him out of the trailer into the holding sell. The time has come,..... The fight was about to begin, he could hear the crowd roaring with cheer as the bullfighter entered the arena. Then the gate opened, and everyone was expecting a fierce bull to enter the arena but out came Flower bull slow, scared and calm footed, since he wasn't doing anything they provoked him and scared him even more with sharp colorful daggers, so he started charging and charging, until the sword came out, he knew it was time and he didn't want to fight anymore, the bullfighter pointed the sword at Flower Bull and started to charge for him.

Something happened though that made the bullfighter stop in his tracks, then the bullfighter yelled, "Get up! Get up and fight me!", the crowd was amazed at the sight they saw, the bull had just sat down like he wasn't going to take any of this anymore. The bullfighter pointed the sword in his direction once more, but before he started to charge the bull, the crowd intervened, they started whistling and yelling for his life to be spared. Flower Bull was the first bull to win a bullfight without fighting and that's what he wanted to other bulls to know, you can have a life without the fear of losing your life if your not good enough, that you can choose your own destiny. Flower bull was put down a while later because he was too big for his bones to handle, but Flower Bull will forever be remembered as the bull to change bullfighting forever.

## The Legend Of Victor by Julia Dores-Quihuis

About 10 years ago there was this man named Victor, he was just another employee at OMNI, or that's what he thought.

When he was hired the boss had explained to him that he would be working mainly on Air, Iron, and Soil Sort. Months into being hired Victor had noticed that the leads and the big bosses would stand near him and kind of whisper. He learned to just blow it off even though it truly bothered him, he really wanted to know what they were talking about and why they pointed up at the tv when they were talking.

One day he had asked the big boss if he could try out a different position and he flat out said no. Victor took it as an insult as if he wasn't capable to do anything besides Air. Well he was far from right. Months turned into a year and Victor had realized that out of that entire year he has worked at OMNI he had only moved around a couple of times, but the amount of employees he had seen moving from station to station made him think.

He was finally going to ask the big boss why he wasn't working on anything else. Walking into the office he was feeling very anxious to find out why he wasn't able to work on any other machines..... After walking out of that office Victor had a brand new outlook on his work, and also had a brand new name... Victor the Air God. He was given a raise and was made a supervisor of the plant.

Of all the employees that were tried out on Air Victor was the fastest one, he kept his numbers so high that he was in the stars every time he spindled in. Over the years all the new employees have had to race Victor to figure out if Air would be the right spot for them. But no one would ever win against him. Whenever Victor would walk around behind him would be a trail of worshippers. Here and there another employee would try to challenge Victor at Air but Victor was so fast that his hands were a blur and the person challenging him would drop to the floor of major exhaustion. Nobody could ever take his title.

All around the floor there was constantly people glorifying Victor, praising him, but what they didn't know was that Victor was secretly training his little prodigy because he was getting restless of the fame. He just wanted to be able to relax and not have all of that pressure on him, but he knew of one person that could handle all of that stress. Julia, his junior if you will, was willing and up for the challenge.

One day this young girl walked onto the plant floor and ever so gracefully walked straight up to Air and just started throwing in towels and bath blankets and hospital gowns. At first nobody paid her any attention but one lady yelled out, "Look! She's in the stars, and she just started!"

# Fables

Our class spent a week reading and writing fables like those by Aesop. A fable tends to use animals to teach a moral lesson about human behavior.

## The Cat and The Bird by Sidney Peet

One day there was a Bird in a birdbath, getting a drink and cooling off from the heat, the Cat hiding in some bushes allegedly watching the Bird cool itself. The Cat knew the Bird could see him watching, the Bird watching just as much as the Cat was watching the Bird. The Bird started to mock and tease the Cat as he watched. The Cat was getting frustrated that the Bird was mocking and teasing him and in a moment the Cat took his leap, in a poof of feathers the Bird was gone. The Cat then said, "I was just watching till you had to mock and tease me, now look where that ended you."

Common sense is always worth more than cunning

## The Queen's Curse by Julia Dores-Quihuis

Once upon a time there was this young princess who was living ever so happily when out of nowhere the queen approached her and said, "Princessa, why is it that all of the other women in this kingdom are already married off and having children of their own and you're still at home with us?"

The princess stared at her with pain in her eyes and simply said, "Because, Mother, I'm not like other women in this land and you of all people should know that. I don't have an open heart or mind to the idea of love."

The queen left her alone for a couple of days and decided to readdress her daughter. "Princessa, wouldn't a fall wedding be absolutely gorgeous? Think about how beautiful the leaves are going to be looking as they change, and just imagine the way a long beautiful white dress would look."

This time when the princess responded to her mom there was a very noticeable change in her tone of voice, "Mom, like I told you before, I don't have an open heart or mind for love right now, I need you to listen to me and leave it alone." Again the queen walked away disappointed in her daughter's words.

The relentless queen walked into her daughter's room again a few days later and said, "Princessa, you just look so beautiful with your hair up that way, Just imagine wearing a veil with your hair like that. Any man would be lucky to marry you."

Exhausted with the queen's actions, the princess turned to her mom and said, "You know what, fine. Let the prince know that I am ready to marry him."

So much excitement filled the queen's eyes. "Yay!! Daughter, you've made me so happy." Little did the queen know her daughter had other plans in mind.

About a week later it was time for the wedding, everything was set up ever so elegantly the prince was extremely happy. The prince was flowing with eagerness, so he went to check on his beautiful bride to be. She was so beautiful in such a morbid way. There was the lovely princess in her wedding dress hung by her veil. Next to her laid a letter that was addressed to her mother, it had said:

Never pressure somebody into doing something they don't want to

## Final stories

Our class spent three weeks planning their final stories. We discussed and practiced literary devices, hooks, transitions, foreshadowing, and conflict. There was no length requirement, just that the story had to have a character who wanted something, and something got in their way.

### The Joe Rogan Chronicles by Ashton Marquette

It was a normal day for Joe Rogan, he had already finished his MMA training and he was getting ready to wind down by doing a podcast. The guest for his podcast that night was Elon Musk, so as you can imagine Joe was quite excited. Before the podcast even started, Elon wanted to show something to Joe. It was a strange piece of technology that looked like it could have been from the future. Elon then picked it up to show Joe up close, but in doing so Elon dropped the device. The instant the device hit the ground, it sent Joe to an alternate dimension.

Joe was extremely confused because everyone had disappeared and he was all alone. The only thing that came with him was the machine Elon had used. He picked it up and pressed every button and tried everything he could, but he couldn't manage to get anything to work. He tried to use his phone but it wouldn't even turn on. He panicked and ran outside, when he got outside he saw the sky was a grim blue and he knew something was wrong. As he was walking around, he saw huge sign with Elon Musk, and in the signs it said how Elon was dictator and he had power

over the entirety of California. Joe then got in his car and started to drive around. He had seen a tower that was bigger than any other structure in sight so he decided to head that way. While he was driving, he had gotten caught up in traffic. Because he was panicked up until this point, he didn't notice how every car around were teslas.

Joe Rogan then continued on his journey to find Elon in this dimension. He went around town asking everyone he could find, where he could find Elon, but every person he had asked had no answer. He finally found a shady person in the corner, Joe hesitated to ask him at first but then quickly did so. The shady person then turned around and Joe found that it was a friend from his original universe named Izenberg, but he was from the other dimension, so he didn't know who Joe was. Behind Izenberg was a midget that Joe hadn't seen at first. It took Joe a minute to realise but it was also a friend from his original dimension. It was a dwarf version of his friend Afroman. Joe then asked them if they knew where he could find Elon Musk at.

At first the two didn't respond, but they did just before Joe had almost left. They said, "Yessssuuuuurrrrrr!"

Joe then realised that the two were high on drugs. Joe replied, "Will you both come help me find Elon? if you do I will help you both become famous!"

The two then decided to come along and they knew exactly where to find Elon. Afroman then for the first time spoke, "Elon and I grew up together, we were childhood bestfriends; but he became a \*\*\*\* since he became rich." Afroman then took control of Joe's tesla and began guiding its self driving route to an unknown destination.

The car ride then went on for two hours, mostly they have been driving across an open desert area. The tesla then suddenly completely stopped, the AI of the tesla then uttered, “You have reached your destination.”

Joe and his friends got out and Afroman took the lead. Afroman just began walking towards what looked like nothing at first. Joe soon however realised that there was a giant structure bigger than anything he had ever seen before. Once they got up close they saw elevator buttons but no elevator. So Afroman pressed the button and waited. The elevator took 20 minutes to come down and so Joe and his friends entered the elevator. Afroman then got in the elevator and pressed the button to the highest floor. The elevator then began shooting up at an insanely high speed. It reached the very top of the building within 30 seconds. The door then opened, and there was Elon sitting behind a desk in the biggest office chair joe had ever seen.

Joe then went up to Elon, showing him the device. Elon looked shocked when he saw the device, then he uttered, “I’ve been trying to build a device like this for ages, tell me how did you get this?” Joe told him the whole story, and Elon listened. He understood what happened and he said he knew what needs to be done to fix it. He then ordered his top scientists to try and fix the machine.

After two hours the machine finally was fixed. Elon then took ahold of the machine. Joe asked for it but he wouldn’t give it back. Joe then forcefully tries to grab the machine but then Elon hit him with a Muay Thai head kick. Joe stuttered and realized things were serious. He then gets in an all out mma fight with Elon Musk. The fight went on until Joe hit Elon in the head with a straight kick. This knocked him out leaving Joe alone with the machine. Joe picked up the

machine and pressed the button to turn it on, when suddenly he disappeared from those around him. Joe had just put himself in a realm where it displayed all realities. He then realized that he has the power of god and he can do literally everything. He then returned to his original reality and secretly lived as a god for the rest of his life.

## Trap House by Sonora Clark

On the night of June 3rd there was a full moon, on this night six invitations would be sent out. These invitations would change the lives of the receivers forever.

Sidney walked in with her mail after picking up her boyfriend Kc, from work. As she is going through the mail she comes across an odd looking envelope. She opens up the envelope and it said, "Sidney and Kc you are invited on June 6th for a get together at 702 N. Broadway. The event starts at 10pm. Hope to see you there." Sidney glanced at Kc and they both decided to attend.

Diane got back from walking her dog Gracie when she sees an invitation taped to her door. She grabbed it and opened it. "Dear Diane, you are invited to speak at a church event on June 6th at 702 N. Broadway. This event starts at 10pm. Looking forward to seeing you!" Diane read this and got excited about sharing her faith. She marked the date on her calendar then went to rest.

Grandma Joy, Papa John, and Jillian got back from drag racing when they see an invitation. Jillian opens it and read, "You all have been invited to 702 N. Broadway on June 6th to celebrate your victories at drag racing. This event starts at 10pm. Hope to see you there." Jillian and Grandma Joy got excited then convinced Papa John to attend.

Destiny was lying on her bed when her new boyfriend walked in and tossed her an envelope. She looks down and sees that it is an invitation. Destiny opened it and read, "You are invited to a pool party on June 6th at 702 N. Broadway at 10pm. There will be food and games. Hope to see you." Destiny jumped up and smiled, loving the idea of going to a party.

Zackary's mom walked into his bedroom and handed him an invitation to a birthday party. He read, "Zackary, you have been invited to my son's birthday party on June 6th at 702 N.

Broadway. The party starts at 10pm. My son and I hope that you come.” Zackary goes to his mom asked if he can go. She says yes and he skipped off to get a birthday present ready.

Christian and Davy were sitting on a couch when Christina saw an invitation to a party. She opened it and read, “You are invited to a neon glow party on June 6th at 702 N. Broadway. The party starts at 10pm. Hope you can make it.” They smiled then Christina went to find a babysitter for her daughter Kiearah.

\*\*\*

June 6th arrives, and everyone starts to get ready to go. As everyone shows up at the same house they all enter from different doors not knowing that once they entered the house their lives would never be the same. As they walked in they saw a simple note that told them to go through a door in front of them. So everyone in their own rooms headed to where they are told. Once they walked in they were taken back by what they see.

Sidney is the first one to recover from the shock and then she asks, “What are you all doing here?”

Everyone replies with “A celebration” “A party” “birthday party” “Church event” “Neon glow party.”

After hearing this everyone panicked and ran to the doors but when the doors wouldn't budge they started to freak out more.

Kc went up to Sidney and said, “Sidney we need to calm everyone down and then come up with a plan.”

So Sidney cleared her throat and yelled for everyone to stop. When no one heeded her, Kc yelled and everyone froze. After Sidney shook her head, she said, “Ok everyone, just calm down. We'll be fine. We just need to come up with a plan.”

As she says this Zackary spots a note and goes to grab it. Once he opened it, he paled then went to Sidney and hands her the note. Sidney took the note with curiosity.

When she opened it she read aloud, “You are the chosen few. You must complete all the dares given to you. If you are unable to complete all the dares given to you when it is your turn you die. This will go on until 2am. Two people will have to do a dare every hour. Only the survivors will be able to leave. I wish you luck for you will need it and have fun playing!”

After reading this everyone went wide eyed.

Again, everyone started to panic. Then Destiny yelled, “What is that!”

Everyone one turned and scratched into the wall were words saying, “It had began and the first darer is Zackary.”

Everyone looked at him and then back at the wall. As more word appeared they read, “He has to name all his siblings’ names and his bio mothers.”

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief on how easy it was. Zackary started to cry.

Everyone was confused as to why he was crying, and that was when everyone heard him say, “I-I can’t. I-I don’t rem-remember.”

Then Diane said “Well it's easy we will tell you their names and you just have to repeat it.”

As Diane went to say Sidney’s name, Diane screamed as she had words being carved into her arm. They said, “You aren’t allowed to help each other during the dare”

As Zackary started to cry more everyone was silent. Sidney went and started to comfort him.

He stood up and started to name his siblings and mom. “S-S-Sidney, D-Destiny, Ji-Jillian, and um...um...C-Christina.”

Everyone signed with more relief. More words appeared. “Congrats you passed.”

\*\*\*

Half an hour later everyone was waiting to see who would be the next dare. Then a grinder and 25 small cubes of cheese appeared. Everyone went to look at them. A note was with it.

Christsina picked the note up and read, "Kc, you are to grind 50 cubes of cheese without help in 20 mins."

Kc looked at the cheese then the grinder.

He picked them up when Grandma Joy said, "Why the hell are we doing the dares. Shouldn't we be trying to find a way out?"

Sidney spoke up, "Listen, Grandma, if we don't do the dares then the person dies. We have to do them"

Grandma Joy went to say something when Kc raised his voice and said, "Stop! I am choosing to do this dare. It is not your choice but mine and I chose to do it."

After he said that he grabbed a cube of cheese and started to grind as fast as he could. 5 mins had passed and Kc had grinded 5 cubes of cheese and his hands were very tired.

As he continued has asked, "How much time do I have left."

Davy said, "5 mins left."

As Kc picked up his speed everyone started to get nervous. Kc finished grinding all the cheese with 5 seconds to spare. When he saw that he breathed a sigh of relief.

The another note appeared and said, "Congrats you completed the dare but that was a close call."

Everyone glared at the note while Sidney massaged Kc's hands.

Sidney then said, "Well that was our first hour and no one died." Everyone looked at her some with relief looks and others with scowls.

“Ding-Ding” that's the sound of the clock striking 11pm showing another hour had started. As they looked at each other they heard a thump in the next room. So they rushed to the next room where they saw a dunk tank and what surprised them the most was who was in it.

“NO!!!!” Christina yelled as she saw her youngest daughter Kiearah tied up on a chair that was about to get lowered into the tank.

Written on the tanks glass was “Christina save your child before she drowns. You have 10 minutes.”

Christiana freaked out and rushed to the tank walls pounding on it and screaming as Kiearah was slowly inch by inch lowered.

Sidney grabbed her mom and shook her yelling at her, “Do the dare, Mom! Do the dare!”

After Christina gained her sense she rushed around the house looking for things to get the glass to break. As she rushed down with a bat she started to hit the glass with 2 mins left. When Kiearah was fully in the water Christina started to cry as she kept hitting the glass. Finally the glass broke and the water came rushing out, Christina rush and grabbed her daughter. Sidney grabbed her and started to perform CPR on her. Finally Kiearah started to breathe again. Christina screamed with happiness and hugged her daughter close.

Sidney grabbed the chair Kiearah was tied on, written on the chair said, “You passed, wasn't that fun.” Everyone stared in shock and then Christina started to cry hard while hugging her daughter.

\*\*\*

When half an hour had passed everyone was wondering who would have to do the next dare. Then Jillian head the sound of an engine while everyone was talking.

Jillian walked out the room into another and there she saw her drag racing car with a simple note saying, “Jillian you must get your car to the speed of 250 mph and keep it there for 5 minutes.”

Jillian looked around and noticed know one was there so she climbed into the car and started her dare. Sidney was arguing with Grandma Joy and Papa John about what they should do when she noticed they were down one person. She looked around and noticed it was Jillian that was missing. Everyone took off running around the house trying to find her. 10 minutes later Sidney heard a loud scream from a room near her. Sidney rushed into the room and saw Grandma Joy pulling Jillian's lifeless body from her dragster car. Sideny scream at the sight of Jillian’s eyes still holding the look of fear as she was covered in her own blood. Sidney’s scream caused everyone to come running into that room. When everyone one saw this they went silent as Grandma Joy cried and held Jillian’s body.

Written on the walls in Jillian's blood was “Dare incomplete. Oh how she screamed when she was killed”

Sidney enraged grabbed a bat and started to hit the walls in anger. Kc grabbed Sidney as she turned and started to cry into his shirt. Everyone was bewildered by the view in front of them but they all knew the second hour had passed.

\*\*\*

Sidney was sitting in the kitchen helping Grandma Joy clean Jillian’s blood off of her when Destiny walked in started to go through the kitchen. Grandma Joy looked up at Destiny then looked back down.

Destiny turned to Sidney and said, “Why? Why did she have to die. Why couldn’t it be anyone else? Hell why couldn’t it be you?”

Sidney was shocked by Destiny's outburst as Grandma Joy started to cry again.

Right when Sidney and Destiny were about to get into it Davy rushed in with a worried look and he said, “Guys, another person has been chosen for a new dare.”

Everyone rushed to the room Davy came in from and looked at who it was. Sidney’s face paled at who the person was.

Written in more blood on the wall was “Sidney, you have to eat all the cheese that was grinded in 20 minutes. Let's pray you don't die from the dairy.”

Sidney watched everyone look at her then she rushed to the table where the cheese was at.

She started to stuff the cheese in her mouth when Christina yelled at her, “Sidney, what are you doing?! That will kill you?”

But Sidney didn’t listen she just kept stuffing the cheese into her mouth. 15 minutes later Sidney had an upset stomach but she was so close to being done. Sidney had finally finished her cheese with 5 minutes left. Her stomach was killing her and Kc gave her a glass of water and held her while she threw up everywhere.

More blood appeared on the wall saying, “Congrats you have passed!” everyone glared at the wall while Kc held Sidney and Zackary rubbed her back. 10 minutes later Destiny came from the kitchen crying saying the next person's dare has appeared and it was her.

They all looked at the note she held, “Destiny, you are to sit in a chair and you are not to look at any of the guys for 20 minutes if you do you die.”

Sidney knew that was going to be very challenging for her but, Destiny sat in a chair and tied her hands down. When she had finished doing that 10 hot guys appeared out of nowhere and took everyone by surprise. Destiny looked down and kept looking down as the guys surrounded her and talked to her trying to get her attention. Destiny had 5 minutes left and everyone was thinking she was gonna pass but Destiny made a mistake at looking at one of the guys abs cause she then looked up into the guys surprised but how he looked. Then Destiny started to scream as the blood in her eyes burst and cuts that were 7 inches deep appeared on her body everywhere.

Sidney rushed forward to help Destiny but the guys that appeared kept her back. After 2 minutes the men let Sidney go and disappeared. Sidney looked at the sight before her seeing Destiny had died from blood loss. The clock chimed showing that it was midnight. Everyone looked at Destiny and grabbed her placing her body next to Jillian and covered her body with a sheet like they had done to Jillian.

\*\*\*

As the fourth hour hit everyone was sitting on the couches not talking all off in there own world scared to hell on what was going to happen.

Sidney then said, "I understand how it works now." Everyone looked at her wanting her to finish. "It is going through all of us just once. That means there are four dares left for four people."

Everyone's eyes widened know who the last four people where. Right when Papa John was about to say something they heard glass shattering in the kitchen.

Everyone walked to the kitchen as saw written in broken glass the next dare, "Diane, you must save your dog Gracie before she dies in 20 minutes. BEGIN"

Diane looked around then went back into the next room and almost fainted. There stuck in a cage was her dog Gracie suspended over a pool of acid. When they looked in the pool the only key to open the cage was at the bottom of the pool. Diane without thinking jumped into the pool everyone screamed and rushed to the pool. They saw Diane slowly getting her skin eaten away as she swam to the key she grabbed it and started to swim up to the surface. But everyone could tell she was slowing down with each stroke. When she broke the surface she dropped the key and when she went to find it she fell back in the pool of acid. She swallowed a lot of acid and in an instant she died. Her body floated to the surface of the pool.

Grandma Joy went to grab her body but Sindy stopped her. "NO Grandma, her body is covered in acid it will kill you"

Grandma Joy hung her head then looked back at Diane.

Sidney looked back and was surprised to see Diane's clothing forming words. "What a shame she died and couldn't save her dog. Dare failed."

Sidney's hands formed a fist then she looked at everyone else. Everyone one was just staring at Diane with no emotion on their face too shocked to do anything.

After a little another dare appeared saying, "Joy, you are to solve all these puzzles in 10 minutes or you die."

Puzzles appeared before Joy. She started to work on the puzzles. As the time hit 5 minutes she had 3 puzzles solved and she had 3 more to go. She started to work faster but then got held up on one. She started to cry because she couldn't figure the puzzle out and when the time was up she looked at everyone one scared. Then Joy looked down at the puzzles. Her eyes widened and went to move but she was too late. Spikes covered in poison shot out from all six puzzles piercing her skin and killing her. Joy dropped to the ground and Papa John screamed and rushed to his wife crying and shaking her telling her to get up. As Joy didn't move Sidney grabbed her and laid her with the others.

Then she heard Davy whisper, "Two, two people died that round not one but two people."

Then Sidney heard Papa John say, "Davy you know we are the last to dares. And the hour is up. "

Sidney started to cry and shudder at the thought of the last two dares.

\*\*\*

Sidney was sitting with Kc as she was upset and just wanted to get out. Davy walked in and held up a bottle of beer to his lips and drank it. Davy started to choke and then he spit up a piece of paper.

He grabbed a piece of paper and read it. “Davy, you are to not touch a bottle of any alcohol for the rest of this time.”

Davy looks at this and shudders but nods. As time went on Davy was really needing a drink and everywhere he turned there seemed to be alcohol everywhere. As everyone walked around Davy fell and grabbed a bottle to drink it.

Sidney saw and yelled, “No Davy, don’t!”

But it was too late Davy drank the bottle down and wiped his mouth. “Sorry I couldn’t help it. I needed it.” Davy said.

And right when he said that he fell to the ground and his body started to shake violently as white foam came out his mouth. Sidney went up to him as he stopped shaking. She checked his pulse and confirmed he was dead. Papa John had a look of fear on his eyes as he knew he was the last dare to happen. As the rest of the survivors were waiting for the last dare Sidney was counting down the minutes until 2. Just as they all started to relax a clanging sound was heard from another room. Everyone got up and went to see what it was.

As they entered the room they saw Jillian’s dragster still there but also saw Papa John’s broken dragster with a sign that said, “John, you have 30 minutes to fix your car.”

Papa John looked to the note then sat down, Sidney said, “What are you doing get up and get to work.”

“There’s no point, I have been working on the car for a month.” Papa John said.

As time kept passin Sidney convinced Papa John to at least take a look. John was under the car when time and ran out. The things holding the car up started to break and when Sidney went to run to get john the car fell on top of him crushing him and killing him. There was now Johns and Jillians blood in that room.

\*\*\*

Sidney was crying when another note appeared.

Kc grabbed it and read, "Congrats you are the winners. Now leave!"

Kc looked at the clock and saw it was 2 am. When Sidney went to grab the bodies from another room the door was locked.

As Sidney banged on it another note appeared, "The bodies must stay." Sidney screamed no but Kc grabbed her and pulled her out of the house. And just as everyone got out the house collapsed and fell into a sinkhole. They all stared in shock as the house disappeared. Everyone went to the police and reported what happened but nobody believed them. As the years passed, Christina, Zackary, Kc, and Sidney continued their lives but would always remember that night. The night they were in the Trap House.

## Gilbert the Outlaw by Trevor Gordon

On a hot summer day the sheriff and the law chased Gilbert the outlaw. Gilbert had just robbed the bank and shot the sheriff in the town he was in. On the way out of town, he also robbed the bar because he is an alcoholic and he causes another big shootout and killed multiple men. He escaped through a window and got onto his horse. Nobody saw him escape and nobody saw him get on his horse and ride away. He wears a mask so nobody knows who he is, they just know his name, and all he wants is money and alcohol. Whenever he escaped, he has a hideout deep in the mountains and in a really deep cave. His cave is right next to a stream of water so that's how he gets clean water. He hunts and is also a cannibal as well. That's how he gets food, whenever he hears someone or something outside, he kills it then he eats it. But usually he doesn't eat people because he's so deep in the mountains.

After robbing that town, he decides to go rob another nearby town. He planned to move his hideout after he robs this town because he didn't want the law catching on to him and finding his hideout. He rides his horse into the nearby town and scouts everything. He also goes and buys a lot of ammo and alcohol. He also goes to see the doctor because he wasn't really feeling well. He told the doctor all of his symptoms and he said he has rapid weight loss, and he has extreme and unexplained tiredness. The doctor does some tests on his blood and the doctor figured out he has Aids.

He leaves the doctors and he is really angry because he got diagnosed with Aids. He goes back to his cave and moves everything and takes it across all of Utah to a new hideout. On his way there he finds other outlaws in a gang. They ask him if he wants to join and he joins. The leader of the gang is Eddie, and his best friend is Eugene. The gang takes Gilbert to their hideout and they let him stay there. At the hideout there were lots of other gang members and lots of women. He didn't get a chance to meet everyone he just made a little tent with all of his stuff.

He decided to go into the town he had planned to rob before and he was really angry since he has Aids. Once he got there he shot the sheriff of the town and then went to the bank. He shot multiple people and then got all the money and gold from the bank. He climbed onto the roof and had a shootout with the law, but Eddie and Eugene and everyone else turn out to be working with the sheriff and so did everyone else in the gang. They climbed up through the back and onto the roof and then shot Gilbert in the back of the head. They let Gilbert shoot the sheriff and everyone he did because they knew it was going to happen either way, so they didn't want to risk it and try and stop him before he killed all those people. The people that killed him were seen as heroes, and now that Gilbert was dead, all of Utah was happy.

## Five Graves Full by Julia Dores-Quihuis

There is such an uncomfortable feeling besides the bitter cold of sitting here in the basement of a mortuary. That feeling was guilt for all of the times I could have helped her, guilt for all of the times I should have just held onto her and let her know that I loved her. Instead, here I am staring at this wall afraid to turn around to realize that this is really it, this is the moment I have to really let her go.

“Are you ready Mrs. Go ahead and turn around.” The forensics doctor’s voice startled me.

As I turned around, I could see what was once a beautiful, youthful face now ghostly. Looking down at her arms I instantly knew this was her choice. “Yes doctor, that is my daughter.”

The date is January 31, 2020 which is exactly a month since my daughter has been dead. Her gravestone reflects on how beautiful she was to me... I tend to catch myself staring at the picture that we had engraved on her gravestone wondering if she can see or hear me. I hope so. I feel like she does because I get lost in my thoughts and memories of her just flood in from my first ultrasound to her 20th birthday, pain comes with those memories.

There was some very beautiful memories such as when she was going to her first day of kindergarten and she was looking back at me smiling, waving filled with such excitement. I remember her running up to me with her Dora The Explorer backpack saying.

“ Mommy look, I’m at school!”

“Yes mija, you are. You’re such a big girl.”

Then I could catch glimpses of her outside playing with the hot wheels in the backyard on the dirt track she made for them. Yelling and laughing getting herself so dirty, but her smile was so big.

“Vroooooom! Julia just won first place! Yeeeeeeeah!”

There were many more good memories that flooded into my head but just as soon as they came they left. Replaced by some memories that were not nearly as pleasant. The first time I found out she was smoking bud, such disappointment filled my body and there she stood laughing as if it wasn’t a problem. I immediately started to yell at her because it enraged me.

“How could you be so stupid, Julia? Bringing this into my house.”

“You act like this is so bad compared to everything else that I've been doing.!”

Smaaaack.

“I hate you!!”

Everything that she did somehow came back on me, after all she was only a child. I should have let her live her younger years as such, but instead I forced her to grow up and her actions were a major result of it. Instead of the sweet innocent baby girl I thought I had she was actually a very pain filled stranger. There was something going on with her that I had no clue, she was being hurt and I wasn't there to help her. In that instant memories of hearing her voice through the jail phone started to appear.

“Mom, I don't think I'm ever going to change. I'm going to be stuck doing the things that I have been. I've been stuck for 8 years and you guys have only known about it for a year. Why couldn't you see my cry for help before”

Click.

I hung up, I didn't know what else to do. The hurt in her voice made my heart hurt so much worse than anything else I have ever felt. Having her in another town wasn't so bad but having her in jail in a different town was difficult. I couldn't talk to her, I couldn't see her, I couldn't reassure her that everything was going to be okay.

Knowing that I lost my daughter to the evils in this world I was still so cold to her. Everything that I said to her was so horrible, everything that I didn't do was even worse. Here I am wishing I could just apologize. But nothing helps because I can't apologize.

She's dead. She took her own life because she couldn't handle all of the stress and misery her life was bringing to her. Now if only I can keep her siblings on the right track...

I failed her, and I failed the kids. Never would I have imagined sitting in a graveyard in front of all five of my children's grave.

## Lost by Eddie Leon

Bob and Joe were on their way to Jamaica when the plane crashed and they landed on a random haunted island. The haunted island had a huge mansion, they stayed in the huge mansion thinking it was normal. They looked for food and they found a bunch of crabs they took the crabs back to the mansion they ate their crab soup and went to bed.

When they were sleeping they heard doors closing and opening, it was so loud it woke them up. They got up and went to look for what was making all that noise when they went down stairs, they saw a giant demon. Joe went up to the ghost to see if he was real. When he did the ghost grabbed him and disappeared. Bob was so scared he fainted.

When Bob woke up he found a boat and decided to go look for a village. After 6 hours of searching he found a village he went to it, and after like 30 minutes he realized it was abandoned. So he explored it a little bit, and then he saw the ghost that killed Joe. So he tried fighting the ghost and also died because the ghost had an axe and chopped his head off.

## The Fisherman and My Son by Tristan Mestas

It was a stormy Sunday of my son's 10th birthday. I just got back from the war in Vietnam. I decided to take my son on a big fishing trip, we got the little boat ready for the choppy sea. I came back with one arm so as you can imagine it was hard for me to do a lot of things now. I had my son start the boat and steer us around until we got to a good spot in the middle somewhere, we set up our poles and waited.

My son caught a fish about 5 minutes into the trip. An hour later he had six fish in total. We started up the boat again and went further and further into the briny ocean and suddenly a storm started to happen. Big gusts of wind and loud claps of thunder began and I froze, I had flashbacks and they were really bad. I dove into the ocean not knowing what I was doing, my son yelled at me but I didn't hear him. As I snapped back into reality I was shivering and I could taste the briny water. I jumped back into the boat and lightning struck the grey sea. It scared my son so bad he jumped into my arm, and he was relieved. He asked what happened to me and I didn't seem to have an answer at the time, but I do recall blurting out something, but I don't remember what I said.

My son started the boat back up, I figured out that we were 10 miles out and there was nothing around except the rain and the brine. We turned back around and we had 8 more miles to go, we ran out of gas. We were like sitting ducks, and the storm got terribly worse, it was so dark and stormy that we couldn't see anything. I checked the time and it was only two o'clock in the afternoon I pinched myself to see if I was dreaming but I wasn't. My son started to get worried

and I didn't really know what to do, I just met him today. We just kept floating and floating until we hit a rock and our old dinghy slowly started to accept it's fate, and soak into the briny water. As we slowly started to sink, the storm cleared and I could see an island; it was our only hope.

Me and my son swam and swam until we finally reached the island. As we got closer we saw a dock and three fishing boats. When the sand touched our feet we could see four houses. We knocked on all the doors and all the houses were abandoned except one, it was the house of an old fisherman from alaska, he was an eskimo. He offered us many treats and drinks we sat down and told us stories of his life and how he got here. We asked of all the other houses and didn't speak of it. We stayed the night, in the morning we woke up and he was gone it turns out that he got up at three every morning and caught exactly six fish in ten minutes, but he walked to the other side of the small fishing town. When he got back he cooked the same breakfast he cooked everyday, a half of a fish with one sunny side up egg and a quarter cup of rice.

This became my son's favorite meal and after that day he became really great friends with him. Me and my son came to find out that the fisherman's name was Keenai, we stayed for a whole month. After that month ended he took us back, it was a crazy trip but we made it home. Keenai stayed with us for a whole year and decided to stay with us. He stays in the guest bedroom and still gets up at three every morning, but instead of catching exactly six fish he now watches tv for an hour. And still makes breakfast for us every morning. We still go fishing every once in a while and each time he teaches us how to do different things that he learned when he was five. Keenai and my son are still good friends and they still go fishing every once in a while. He still lives with me and he just turned eighty. We took him back to his old house as a surprise but all you could see in his face was sadness. He never told us the story of why he was the last

one to live there. But you could see in his face how much it affected him. So we left and continued to fish. Fishing always made this old man happy.

Later that week Keenai passed away from old age, we had him cremated and spread his ashes in the ocean near the abandoned island he used to live on. My son was very sad, and so was I but you can never be hung up on one part of life. It was very hard for him, he wouldn't talk to anyone for weeks and even though he feels better now. He never truly got over it. Me and my son still go fishing sometimes but it's never the same. The friendship me and my son had with this man was truly the best present we could have got for my son's tenth birthday, even though that was so long ago that old man taught him stuff I never knew. And today I am so grateful for that terrible fishing trip.

## Am I Not the One? (The First Sequence) by Ronin Hernandez

You should never be afraid to fall in love. Love is such a joyful thing, even if it has a hurtful meaning to you now. The only reason why you hate it now, is because it has done you wrong. Sometimes love takes a long time to find, and when you find it, it is unbreakable.

*“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud, it is not rude, it is not self seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but Rejoices with the truth” -Corinthians 13:1*

\*\*\*

### **October 2018**

Asher was broken. He was stripped clean. He was nothing but a shell. 15, still in highschool. He had broken up with his girlfriend because of controlling issues, mental abuse. He wanted to be alone, until he met her, Rose, was her name. She was 17, a senior in highschool. She was about 5'4, her hair was brown and her eyes were a dark, muddy blue, like brown smoke being swallowed by the sky. Her body was curvy, but her chest was flat. She was all kinds of perfect. In October of 2018, at a football game. While playing in the marching band, in the stands, surrounded by people. She was crying while he stood behind her.

“What’s wrong my dude?” Asher said to her, curious for more information.

“Nothing, my dad didn’t make it to this game, and it’s my last game, he promised me he would take the night off to make it to this game, I just wanted him to see this performance, I feel like he is not proud of me in color guard because he doesn’t see all of my successes.” Rose said, rambling, not realizing what she had said.

“Oh hon, I’m really sorry, I don’t really know how to help, let’s just say, I really know how it feels, my dad doesn’t even want to be in my life anymore. And my stepdad doesn’t support me in any situation whatsoever. I know how that feels. If he found out that I was transgender, he would be extremely disappointed.” He said as he sat down with the rest of his section in the marching band. “Lately, and not to overshare, I feel like I have nobody, I just broke up with my girlfriend, it was rough, but it was needed, plus I’m too ugly to really have anyone.”

There was a pause, Rose, mouthed to a guy sitting next to Asher, while Asher looked away.

*“He’s not ugly, he’s just blind and stupid.”*

Rose and Asher kept talking to each other, at the end of the night, they gave each other their snapchat. Little did they know, they would impact each other’s lives greatly.

\*\*\*

*November, Thanksgiving break, 2018.*

Asher went over to Rose's house, located in a suburban neighborhood, she was found lying on her couch. she was sick and her parents left her alone on Thanksgiving. He brought her food and movies. They lay on her couch.

"Are you ticklish?" Asher asked Rose, with a smirk.

"No...." Rose said, obvious lying, and hesitant with her answer.

"Oh don't lie to me!" He went to tickle her, they wrestled and there was a pause. Asher looked at Rose, admiring her beauty, they got closer and closer, and then they finally kissed. Rose turned away quickly, but still holding Asher close, she was conflicted. "What's wrong?" Asher said softly as he leaned in for another kiss.

Rose gently pushed him away. "I have a boyfriend, that's what's wrong, I should have turned you away at the door. I am a bad person. But what really makes me a bad person is, is that I find you really attractive and I know it is wrong, but it feels right, and it's just hard because he is in New Mexico." Rose said, her voice choking up

"This will be our little dirty secret, okay? Nobody has to know so you can be spared the judgment of your friends, and to be honest, it's a little fun being a little mischievous, don't you agree?" Asher responded, with reassurance and comfort in his voice.

"Yeah," Rose responded, sensing the comfort in his voice, feeling a sense of relief.

A little bit of time went by, and then they continued to wrestle, but this time, Asher didn't kiss her, she kissed him. There was a pause and then they kissed again. They talked very little that day, they cuddled and watched movies. Until it was time to go.

Asher got up and said his goodbye, hoping that he could see her again, a little later, Rose invited him to come over everyday till the end of break. They did the same thing they did that day, for a week and a half.

\*\*\*

### ***December, 2019***

Asher was lying in his bed surrounded by his own thoughts, *'why him? Am I not good enough for her? She makes me happy, but can I make her happy, like the way he does?'*

*Vzzzzzt Vzzzzt.* The phone buzzed louder and louder, *Vzzzzt Vzzzt* . Asher looked at the caller ID "*Rose.*" *What the hell? Is she okay?* He thought. He answered the phone to Rose blurting,

"I told him, I told Tucker everything, everything going on between us." Rose called crying. "I'm so, so sorry, I'm so sorry."

"Hey, hey, it's o-" Asher said, groggy, even though wide awake, trying to convince her that he's been asleep, he looked at his clock. *11:05.*

"No! It isn't! He wants your snap..." Rose said, trying to collect herself.

“Okay, give it to him, it’s okay, everything is gonna be okay, okay?” Asher told her trying to comfort her.

“I gave it to him, I’ll talk to you later, I’m so sorry Asher”. Rose said.

“Okay.” Asher said as he hung up the phone.

Later that night, Tucker snapped him.

(these are actual messages)

Tucker: hey

Asher: I heard you wanted to talk to me. So spit it out.

Tucker: What do you want to be when you grow up?

Asher: why does it matter?

Tucker: Just answer the damn question.

Asher: A music engineer and composer.

Tucker: Okay, you see, you need all your senses for that, now imagine Rose being that, all of my senses, she’s my everything, and I’m not gonna let a child ruin that, you understand bud, I’m here, in New Mexico FOR HER. FOR OUR FUTURE. 662 miles for her. Not my ol’

man, not my buddies, for her, and our future, but you probably don't understand because you are just a child and you don't know any better.

Asher: Look, first of all don't call me 'bud' bud. I don't care. She wants me around, I'm gonna stay around. I don't care what "you sacrificed for her" I'm around to be her friend. You don't understand the struggles I go through on a daily basis. So stop acting like you know everything about me, when you don't even know a day in my shoes.

Tucker:....I just don't understand...If Rose would cheat on me, why couldn't she do it with a real man?

Asher: I'm 10 times the man you are. I don't need to prove myself to you.

Tucker left Asher on open. As if he was put in his place. Rose messaged him a little while later.

\*\*\*

Rose: Asher, we can't do this anymore, I hurt him so badly and I need to earn his trust back, I shouldn't have done those things with you, I'm sorry.

Asher: It's whatever.

Rose left his life that night. He was hurt and broken, and alone. He didn't know what to do. They went their different ways for the time being at least.

## Julia and The Forbidden Pixie Forest - By Sidney Peet

Yelling, screaming, is all anyone could hear as they walked past the clutter, moss covered shack. Julia and her mother were fighting again, this time worse than ever. Town members walking passed the shack with haste, to avoid the echoing scream of violence in the air.

They could hear glass being thrown and for a moment they would almost turn around to assist Julia or the mother, just who ever needed the help. But they knew it was a bad idea and they didn't want anything to be thrown at them either. So they would just look, then proceed to walk down the hand carved stone road.

The fight continued, screaming at each other. The mother was making Julia feel lower than ever. The mother screamed at Julia, "I NEVER WANTED YOU, GET OUT OF HERE GET OUT!!" Julia ran out of the shack with tear filled eyes of hate and anguish. She first ran to the corner of the shack, placing her fisted hand on the leaky old barrel, to hold herself from collapsing to her knees with pain. She wanted to leave, but she didn't think she could go, she needed her mother, and deep down she knew her mother needed her.

She was so tired, and broken, but Julia whipped her tear- filled face, turned her head towards the door as if she was going back in, but then she looked at the forest. It looked so beautiful and calm. When she looked to the forest she felt a sense of peace, a sense of enlightenment. She looked back at the door one last time, put her hand on her head, not knowing what to decide, then she decided. Julia started to run as fast as she could towards the Pixie Forest, hearing her mother yelling for her, but she didn't look back; she didn't stop.

Once she got to the edge of the forest line, she stopped, hesitant to enter the forest only hunters would enter. But she shrugged onward into the forest, scared for her life but she knew her mother wouldn't go in after her. Branches crackles and snapped, Julia jumped at every noise,

she didn't know what to expect. She heard a loud ear shrieking noise that scared the wits out of her, she started to run deeper into the forest.

After a little bit of running she stumbled upon a tree. This tree wasn't like any other tree she had ever seen, for it looked like it was in a case twinkling? "No way," she thought to herself as she crept closer to the tree, it looked like it was the oldest tree in the forest. There was moss covering the tree, and it's leaves hung like vines. "This is a weeping willow tree!" Julia said.

She grew tired after looking around the tree for a minute, then decided to rest underneath the willow tree, curling up into a ball to stay warm. Julia fell asleep. She woke from a faint sound, it sounded like it was right next to her. Julia looked around her, then looked at the ground. There was food and water all around her, and a hand woven blanket on top of her. Julia called out to anyone around, "Hello? is there anyone there?", but no one answered. She slowly went for the food and water, still watching her surroundings, then started to munch down on her food.

After she filled herself with the plentiful food around her, she got up from her spot and started to call out for anyone around, but she was in the forest. Julia knew she was alone, but at the same time she knew someone had to bring her all this food. It was late, and the forest was dark. Julia was scared and kept screaming out for someone. A glow started to appear and was getting closer. Julia didn't know what it was and was stuck with curiosity.

Then a tiny voice came from the glow. "Shhh.. You'll wake the forest." Julia was now stuck with shock that a glowing light had just told her to be quiet.

As the floating light started to leave, Julia quietly yelled, "What are you!? Please don't leave, it's dark.."

The floating light then turned its course back to Julia, and said, "I am a Pixie, I keep peace among the forest and forest creatures." Then the pixie asked, "Why are you here?"

Julia hesitant to answer, "I ran away ..., My mother is cruel to me and I couldn't take it anymore."

The pixie floated in silence, then told Julia she could stay with the pixies at The Pixie Tree, but under one condition: Julia was to never leave the forest, for now she has become a part of the forest. The pixie then said to Julia, “Now get some rest, we have work to do tomorrow.”

The next morning Julia woke up, looking around her as if she had forgotten she ran off into the forest. Julia then looked at the ground where more food was out for her, Julia then started to call out for the pixie she had met that night. But nothing happened. She continued to call out for the pixie when a swarm of what looked like bugs came from the willow tree and surrounded her. Then Julia heard a voice, a familiar voice she had heard before, it was the pixie she had met last night, but why was there a swarm of them?

The swarm then broke apart as Julia’s pixie friend spoke, now that Julia could actually see her new friend without feeling like she was being attacked by bugs. The rest of the pixies formed somewhat of a circle around Julia and the queen pixie, they welcomed her to the forest and to their willow tree. The pixies queen then ordered the rest of the pixies, “Build Julia a home inside the tree trunk. The home will go in to the earth where the roots will be your structure.” Explained the pixie queen. Julia’s home took most of the day to create, but it was a cute, and cozy. The inside was dark, but the pixies made a little round window for light.

Julia had made her little underground house a home, and had been living in the forest now for a couple of months. One day as Julia was wandering the woods, gathering supplies for herself, when she heard branches snap in the background behind her. Julia was apart of the forest and the animals knew it. Julia turned calmly towards what she thought was just one of the forest animals, but when she turned there wasn’t any animals, but a hunter.

Julia stood in shock, then ran as fast as she could to the pixie tree, so she could hide in her underground home.

Once Julia started running away from the hunter, he started to chase after her, calling out to her because he had never seen another human in the forest unless they were hunting. Julia was fast but the hunter was still on her trail, following her footprints that dug into the earth’s soil.

He had followed Julia's footprints to the willow tree, the hunter started to call out for Julia., "Hello? Are you there? It's Okay, I won't hurt you. Please won't you come out?"

As the hunter walked around the tree, Julia hesitant to come out, slowly crawled from her home beneath the tree, then quietly said, "My name is Julia."

The hunter quickly turned to see where Julia was, then slowly started to walk her way, he noticed that she wasn't very clean and that her dress had been torn up and looked years old.

As the hunter slowly passed himself towards Julia, he spoke in a calm voice, introducing himself, "My name is Curtis, are you alone out here?"

Julia then told Curtis, "No, my friends are all around us, watching," Julia paused for a moment, looking around her, then asked, "What do you want?."

Curtis looking around him with a curiosity, and suspense, he spoke in his calming voice and said, "I've never seen anyone in this forest before, I was just wondering what you were doing here, are you lost?"

Julia looked irritated from this question, and told the hunter, "No, I'm not lost, I live here." in an irritated tone of voice.

Curtis looked at Julia with shock, curious to why she was living in the Forbidden Forest, but Curtis didn't want to push his boundaries by asking too many questions.

So Curtis asked, "Where do you live?," all Julia did was point at the tree. Curtis asked if they could sit down by the tree and talk for a little. As they were walking to the tree to sit down, two stumps appeared from beneath the earth, Julia and Curtis spent the rest of the evening talking. Julia had explained why she had been out in the forest and why she lived here.

The hunter was shocked with grief, he felt bad for Julia and wanted to make things better for her.

Curtis then told Julia that he had to go back to the village because it was getting late. While he was walking away, he reassured Julia that he was coming back tomorrow with some

supplies and gifts. Julia and Curtis said their goodbyes for the night, then started home. As Julia was heading into her home underneath the willow tree, she couldn't help but feel excited, with butterflies. It had been a while since she had interacted with anyone, and the fact that it was a man, Julia knew it was love at first sight.

The next morning Julia woke up early, excited for Curtis to come back to her. She waited for a while and was starting to wonder if Curtis was really coming. A little bit more time went by and Julia was getting tired of waiting, as she was heading back into her home under the willow tree, she heard branched and old leaves snapping and breaking. Julia turned back with excitement, hoping it was Curtis, the handsome hunter who found her, but when she turned to see if it was him, her excitement went away because it was just a deer passing by, eating the little bits of grass growing along the forest floor.

Julia stood in her doorway and watched the deer, but something spooked the deer, and it ran away. After she watched the deer run off, she looked back at where the deer had first been and she saw Curtis walking in slow motion all knight-like, as the sun shone on him from the back ground. Julia then looked around the top of the tree line and saw that the pixies where the reason Curtis was looking so heroic as he walked towards her. Julia couldn't help but stare, once Curtis got to her, she noticed a huge bag slumped over his shoulder,

Julia then asked Curtis, "What's in the bag?,"

Curtis replied with humor, "Nothing. It's a surprise."

After a moment of silence Julia asked Curtis if he would like to come into her home under the willow tree. When they entered Julia's home in the willow tree, Curtis asked if she had a place to change because he had gotten her a new dress and shoes from the village. The dress was tan and purple, with little white and pink flowers all over it. Julia was so excited to put it on for it was the prettiest dress she had ever owned. Once Julia was done putting on her new dress she went to the little creek next to the willow tree and cleaned up her face. After she was done cleaning up, a few of the pixies came from the willow tree with a flower crown, and placed it on top of her head.

Curtis at the time was going through his bag of things for Julia, when the queen pixie fluttered to him, she explained to him why Julia was here and why she was never able to leave. She then explained how Curtis had seen the pixies and the pixie tree, and now he wasn't able to leave the forest either. Curtis didn't know what to think at first, but then he looked at Julia and her beauty, and agreed to stay with her.

After a few days of getting to know each other, Julia and Curtis decided that they wanted something bigger to live in than Julia's little home under the willow tree. So with the permission of the pixie queen, they began to build a small house next to the pixie tree. It took awhile to get the little house how they wanted it, but after a lot of patience and work, Julia and Curtis finished their home. After they finished their home the pixie's put an invisibility spell over Julia's and Curtis' home so no other outsider could find them. Their little house was made out of logs and mud, for the roof they used sticks and patches of grass. It was a cozy little home and worked perfect for Julia and Curtis, they settled in their home once they got everything figured out and fixed.

One night Julia seemed to be hiding something from Curtis and Julia was not bugging on what she was hiding, so Curtis went to the pixie queen to ask for advice, when she told him to bring Julia. Curtis went to get Julia, when they got to the pixie queen, she was quiet, and was staring at Julia's stomach, she knew. The pixie queen then insisted that Julia told Curtis what she was hiding, and after a lot of hesitation, Julia finally decided to tell Curtis that she was pregnant.

The whole tree cheered with joy, and so was Curtis, he was so happy he fell to his knees with tears in his eyes of excitement and asked Julia to marry him.

It was the day of the wedding and all of the forest was at the willow tree to witness this special moment. Julia in her beautiful dress Curtis had given her when they met, but the only difference this time was Julia's baby bump. After the wedding was over, Curtis and Julia went to their little home to celebrate their relationship and their baby. A few days passed from their wedding day, and Julia was in labour, a few hours later Julia and Curtis had their little boy who was named Willow and raised him in the forest world.

No one knows for sure if Julia, Curtis and Willow are still out there in the Forbidden Forest, people say the story isn't true or that Julia did run off into the forest but she died.

Let's just say they lived happily ever after in the Forbidden Pixie Forest.

The end.

## Truck driving idea by anonymous

I want to be a truck driver just like my dad, hard working good paying job that keeps me on my feet. He taught me all I know he has been in a semi since he was 8. I've been in one since I was 2. My dad smashed fingers and got hurt more than he should have but still pushed through it and never stopped working. He lifts 250 pound tarps every day and jumps all around to strap and tarp the load down. He takes me with him when he can.

When I was 2 my dad told me that I was in the car seat and opened the door when he was driving. He stopped and had my sister put me in the back. My dad has so many stories about what he has seen and what he has been through. Like one time we were going through Wyoming in a storm, and lightning hit between the truck and trailer. It sounded like all the tires blew up! We went up the road and pulled over to check things then got going. I love hearing the CB and him talk to other truck drivers. My dad's CB handle is Trapper, and a lot of truckers know that name.

"Hey there's a cop up the road," said Trapper.

"10-4."

Next year, I will be a 3-generation truck driver. To drive a semi you have to be 18 and have a CDL. When you get your CDL you have to do local driving for 2 years. I will probably work for my dad's company for a few years. I already know how to drive and tarp and strap down loads. I also know how to keep the truck good and every month do an oil change. The truck I want is a Peterbilt 379 because that was the first truck I have ever been in, and that's the truck I learned to drive.