

Fox Cub

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Art of the Book Award Prize winner for Most Engaging Story – Key Stage 5



Fox cub
Chapter one
The hospital walls.

BEEP... BEEP...BEEP "what is that noise" I tried to say but I noticed how sore and waspy my throat is "where am I" opened my eyes only to have the bright light hit them, As my eyes adjusted to the room I noticed the sound of talking and a beeping noise coming from beside me that's when I took note. My left eye I couldn't see out of it. It was pitch black. I turned my head to look at my left to take note of the white walls, floors and door also the fact that I was hooked up to probably hundreds of wires, I moved my hand to touch my face when I took note of the bandages "what happened to me" I said in a dull and lifeless voice still raspy and sore. I looked around the room hoping to find someone to answer, when the door opened for me to see a doctor and two officers come into the room,

"Looks like you're finally up" said the doctor,

"Where am I what's going on" my throat hurting as a spoke giving me instant regret as I finished my sentence.

"You probably have no recall on where you are or why your here so I understand your distress," the doctor said checking the beeping machine the officers walking over to the end of the bed. "Any pain?"

"No"

"Are you sure" he asked

"Everything is just... numb" the doctor looked at the officers and tilted his head towards the door,

the officers then left through the white hospital doors.

"Who were they why am I here?" I asked

"Why you're here isn't important neither is who they are you don't have to worry about that" the doctor answered,

"I why shouldn't I know it's my life I should know why I'm here and who I am and who they are!" I yelled

"You don't remember who you are?" the doctor stopped looking at the machines and left the room closing the door behind him.

The halls were just as white as the room I have been staying in, the noise of a pen tip tapping on a clipboard rang through my ears contently during the walk through the hospital.

we finally stopped walking when we arrived at a double door unlike everything else the doors were a calm colure of brown a nice change from all the white I have been dealing with in my room,

“Stay here until I come get you do not leave this room” the doctor said as he stopped at the brown doors.

I nodded my head as the doctor opened the door for me walking into the library, the door slamming shut as I heard the doctor’s footsteps leaving.

I walk though one of the isles until I heard a thud from behind me I turned around to see where it came from only to see.. noting it was empty I was the only one there, I walked a bit closer to where I thought I heard the sound that’s when I looked down a brown dirty book lay there as if someone had picked it up from the shelf and dropped I went on my knee and picked it up I turned my head so my right eye could look to my left letting out a sigh as I can’t see anything on that side. I looked down to the book and read the page that seemed to have a small dent in the paper which made the book seem a little open. I opened the book to the page and baingan to read out laud.

“The demon of the woods a creature with a large unending hunger, it seeks others, offers deals for exchange for “small” jobs keep this in mind don’t go to see it. **TRUST IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KEEP TO YOURSELF IN ITS PRESENTS.**” My eyes went wide. “This sounds like just what I need” I thought giving of a wide smirk. Tucking the book under my top I walked out of the library and back to my room.

I closed the door of my room and sat on the white bed sheets opening the book and looking through the other pages creatures of different shapes and sizes that’s when I heard laud thuds coming from outside I’m assuming footsteps from the doctors and nurses finely realising I’m gone.

I got of my bed and took from underneath out a bag my supposedly mother has gifted me full of fresh cloths and other necessities, stuffing the book inside and pulling out a clean pair of cloths I ran to the door of the bathroom and went inside closing the door behind me before my room door opened

“Is she in there” I heard my doctor say from outside my room to someone else as I quickly got dressed

“No she isn’t” another voice says closing the door.

I put on a long brown jacket with a large hood and quickly left the room and ran out of the white doors.

I ran through the hospitals halls hood over my bandaged face and covering my memorable red hair, dodging doctors until I made it to the exit and ran past the counter snatching some money that was laying there unguarded and then ran outside.

My bare feet touching the cold path since I had no shoes in my bag to put on.

Cold wind blows against my bare legs now realising it was not a good idea to wear green shorts, I heard a loud yell from inside so I ran towards the bus stop and climbing onto the bus and slapped the cash I stole from inside on the counter, took my ticket and quietly sat down on a seat near the window as I watched doctors and nurses run outside fumbling around looking for me.

Chapter 2

The Forest of Dean.

The bus stopped in front of a large dark forest as the sky was now turning from day to night, I got off the bus and headed into the forest clutching my bag close to my chest and I kept my guard up, passing a large green sign letters in bold **“FOREST OF DEAN.”**

Walking deeper into the forest as far away from civilization as possible reaching into my bag and getting out the tattered book and opening it wide I breathed out a gust of air as I read out loud “I wish to make a deal! I wish to remember all I have forgotten my gift to you will be my assistance with any job you want please answer my call PLEASE!” I yelled, I yelled so loud birds flew from trees I yelled like my life depended on it, it hurt but at this point I will do anything for the answers I seek.

Nothing... nothing happened I waited but nothing, tears pricked my eyes the realisation this was all a fantasy crushed down onto me like an anvil laying on my stomach but as I got up book in hand ready leave a bright red beam shot out of the book in my hand a burning pain came from my hand that was holding the book it burned it stung it hurt it felt like one hundred needles jabbing into my hand I wanted it to stop but it only got worse until everything went dark.

My eyes opened to the starry sky expecting my head to be laying against the cold prickly grass, but instead it lay on something warm **“you’re up child!”**

I quickly got up moving away from the thing that talked to me “who are you” I said in a hurry,

“You asked for my help and yet you can’t even recognised who I am, your memory is worse than I thought” it said with its booming voice that could scare even those who could not feel fear **“child what is your name?”** it said

"I don't remember... what is yours?" I asked,

"You may call me red... and I shall call you cub" it said

"Cub why cub?"

"Your hair is the colour of a sly fox" it answered **"hence the name fox cub or for short cub"** it finished

"Now fox cub shall we start" it said a grin forming on its face which to others would seem very creepy but to me it felt comforting and warm.

"The jobs I will be giving you will be dirty and difficult if you turn away for even a second ill consider it as you backing down and revoke our deal,"

"I promise I will finish every task you give me without quieten" I answered,

"Good, I will give you a list of things I want, you must get them all no substitutes" a piece of paper appeared out of thin air and they handed it to me

I nodded and left to get the first item, a heart of a wonderer.

"A wonderer what that is" I thought as I walked around the forest path, that's when I stumbled into a hiker "perfect that should be close enough" I thought.

"The finger of a doctor" fox cub returned to the hospital and when she left she came out with screams and a single finger,

"The liver of one that can sing" she found man signing a melody in an alley covered in the smell of booze,

"A rat that lives in the cleanest hole" she found a rat cleaning itself in a storage room of a lovely smelling bakery and took it,

"A stem of the golden coloured rose"

Cub walked into a flower shop and asked for one of their yellow rose stem since they have no use for such a thing they handed her one free of charge,

"And finally the dream of a young girl"

"A what?" fox cub asked

"You heard me my fox cub the dream of a young girl you must extract it with a needle when one is asleep"

"I understand but why all these things? They seem so random and odd" she questioned eye brow raising towards the sky,

"all will be answered soon but for a way to heal your curiosity I will say that to heal ones dream is to break another" it finished before it left in a cloud of red.

“To heal one dream is to break another well that just gives me more questions” she said with a sigh as she returned to the path.

“She walked and walked but every time she thought she found what she was looking for she felt a tint of guilt and despair, she wanted no needed to do it but she couldn’t bring herself to do so, it hurt but she didn’t know why, she felt like crying but she didn’t know why, she felt guilty and she didn’t know why,

“I need this” she thought “I want this” she reminded but still she could understand why she couldn’t, she killed stole and seriously maimed and yet this is where she drew the line why is that, but she wouldn’t stop now she **couldn’t** stop now so with a loud breath and a tear stricken face she went into the room raised the needle she took from the hospital and... stopped she looked at the young brunet girl laying in her fluffy bed and felt like she needed to go back to something but she couldn’t remember what, that was why she was doing this and yet it hurt to do this.

In a fir a rage she closed her eyes and jammed the needled into the girl and mumbled the incantation red told her to say, and when her eyes opened and the guilt piled up she looked at the needle to find and odd cloud like substance swirling inside.

She took a breath wiped her tears and tucked the young girl in her bed then left out the window towards the forest.

“I’m back!” I yelled needle in hand.

“Good, I thought I felt doubt for a second but I must have been wrong,”

Fox cub new they was right but didn’t bring it up as she handed it the needle

“Good~” he said in an odd voice, but before fox cub could think anything of it they smiled wide showing its pointy sharp teeth **“let us begin”** it said

Chapter 3

Memories or something else?

I stood in the forest and watched as red made a cercal out of chalk placing the rose stem in the middle, the doctor's finger on the left, the liver of a singer on the right the heart of a wanderer at the bottom and finally the young girl's dreams laying at the top.

"Before we start we need one last thing" it said to me its eyes glowing with infusionism.

"And what is that" I asked,

"The eye of the one who will get what they have lost" they answered gesturing me to finally take of the bandage that has been laying on my face.

I nodded a sigh leaving my throat as I slowly unravelled the bandage. The bandage fell to the floor and I turned my head to look at the lake beside us, my eye was dull and lifeless and covered in dry blood normally a person would see such a thing and shriek but I just looked back up and nodded towards the demon before me.

They smiled a kind comforting smile, I then raised my hand to my face dug it into my eye and ripped it out of its socket and through out onto the cercal.

"Let us begin" it said raising its claw to its wrist and cut it small drops of blood landed on the cercal that then began to glow a bright red and white light

"I WISH YOU LUCK MY FOX CUB BECAUSE I'LL NEVER BE SEEING YOU AGAIN!" it yelled his voice still having a small bit of kindness as a wave of pain filled my body

"What about our deal you promised me, what you have done!" I yelled back tears running from my one eye.

"I'M SORRY MY DEAR FOX CUB BUT I BELIEVE YOUR MISTAKEN YOUR STILL GETTING YOUR MEMORY'S JUST YOU WON'T BE HUMAN WHEN YOU HAVE THEM! YOU WILL BE COMING TO MY HOME AND FOREVER LIVING THERE, I WASN'T LAYING THOUGH YOU WON'T SEE ME AGAIN AS I WILL FINALLY GET A HUMAN BODY SO THANK YOU!" they smiled back at me still with kind eyes raising the rat that I retrieved to their mouth and biting into it as my body slowly diapered, a tear left my eye hitting the floor as my body finally diapered the last thing left being my one eye still laying on the floor which slowly turned to stone.

THE END