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Category: Novel Writing

Gabriel

Brief summary:

After the sudden death of Gabriel Sullivan's mother he blames himself. Follow along his journey as he grieves his mother and discovers he has been lied to his entire life. One day when out riding his bike in the woods he discovered a Siren only to find out he is one as well. She teaches him how to deal with his new life but little does he know she is hiding something from him. Will Gabriel find out what is hidden? Is what she is hiding forgivable or will he forever feel betrayed?

Excerpt:

It was an autumn day, still dark because the sun was not quite up yet. He had a flashlight on his bike which helped him see. In his haste, he had forgotten about his helmet flashlight so his helmet mount sat empty. Once he knew he was away from his neighborhood he moved to the road for a little while. He rode through town before riding past fields of grass.

Gabe looked around, trying to figure out what exactly he was going to do. He had nowhere to go. Then there it was a trailhead marker. He felt he had nothing to lose. So with that, he biked past the trailhead sign engraved with Ghost Pass Trail lettering and lots of safety and path rules which he ignored while hearing birds chirp all around him. He didn't know exactly where he was going but it had to be a lot better than off with his father. His bike tires crushed deceased, brown, crippled leaves.

They left tread prints in the dusty gravel in places for miles. Gabe lost track of time and didn't know how deep in the forest he had gotten. He could've sworn he had heard something off, maybe he was just being paranoid. The brunette teen continued to ride swiftly through the forest like a bullet, going fast along the switchbacks and berms. For a moment he forgot what all had happened in his life these past four days and just had downright fun. He pumped his bike along the rolling hills and the scattered leaves that had fallen onto the now thin dirt path. That was until of course, he heard rustling in the trees. A lot bigger than a squirrel. He read too many horror novels, that was all or so he thought. It just made him more cautious and more likely to predict the worst. He grew even more paranoid and it reflected in his riding because he grew reckless.

Gabe being reckless didn't usually end well. Then again, did it end well for anyone? He just sprinted deeper and deeper into the colorful woods, not thinking at all. He had no idea that he was now miles away from the nearest road. Out of the corner of his eye, he saw something big in the shadows, he couldn't help but look to see what it was. Dumb move because he

slammed right into a tree, falling off on his back with a thud. His glasses fell off of his nose and he saw a blur of something a few feet away. It was tall and ended up just being a girl. She bent down and grabbed something black, his glasses, before handing it to him hesitantly. He grabbed them, "t-thanks.."

He put his glasses back on and she was nowhere to be seen. Gabe looked around, very puzzled, blood trickling down his right knee from his crash. Did I hit my head he thought? He reminded himself that he needed to always look where he needed to go so he wouldn't end up in a tree. The words his biking coach had said to all the beginners echoed "Look at the lake, you go into the lake, look behind you well don't."

Gabe forgot that lesson the hard way. Suddenly he looked up. There she was. With his glasses on he could see she was a beautiful girl, who appeared to be his age. She had long reddish ginger hair that somehow looked like feathers, maybe it was just how far she was away from him. Her eyes appeared to be an odd yellow like a hawk and she was wearing a leaf-like dress. No, he was wrong, it was actually a leaf. One of those large ones, that didn't seem at all native to Missouri.

"How'd you get up there?" Gabe asked, very confused. The tree was very tall and had very few branches; she couldn't have climbed that. No one could. Then suddenly two ginger wings sprouted from behind her. Gabe backed up, his eyes wide. He was very startled. He grabbed his bike and biked out of there as fast as he could go. He heard the flapping of the wind behind him before she appeared in front of him. He slammed on his brakes. "W-what do you want?" He yelled anxiously as he gulped.

"Shhh! Gabriel..." The bird-like girl whispered quite loudly. His panic may be heard by someone and she didn't want to be noticed by the humans.

That was it, this would be the end of his life thought Gabriel. He was stuck in the middle of the woods with the creature that seemed to have been stalking him for a while now.

"H-how do you know my n-name?" The boy stammered out of fear as he looked into her hawk-like eyes. Then before she had the chance to speak, "I-I'm hallucinating....I've officially gone insane."

The girl started to chuckle, "Okay perhaps I should've not led with your name without you knowing mine first. My name's Olifaye."

"Are you an angel? Is that why you know my name?... Are you my Guardian angel? I thought that was supposed to be someone you once knew. Or did I die in the accident when I hit that tree?" He went on rambling trying to figure everything out.

The girl laughed, it lasted about thirty seconds before it faded into chuckles which soon lead to a smile. Gabriel was just looking at her bewildered.

"I'm a Siren." She simply said, maybe she should've gone into a bit more detail because Gabriel looked terrified.

"So you're here to kill me. Singing to me before leading me to my almighty death?"

The girl with wings that sprouted out of her thin frame snorted, her face growing red as she laughed out loud again. Gabe gave her the weirdest look. His helmet was still on his head however slightly slanted due to his wreck just a few minutes before. Blood still seeping out of his strawberry-colored knee lead him to conclude he had indeed wrecked and survived and that he may be dreaming.

"Absolutely not. At least not the winged ones. There are the scaled ones, now those are the ones you must watch out for." She said as she kept giggling, her face glowing like sunrays. The sun turned her golden eyes into a paler yellow, Gabe had never seen eyes like this before. They were quite strange but stunning at the same time. He was used to amber-colored eyes but not gold like a hawk's. It was very surreal.

He just looked more puzzled than all his puzzled looks combined. "Scaled? Also, I thought you guys had a bird body. You look like an angel of some sort but not," he rambled out of nervousness.

"Wow, I see how it is Gabriel," Olifaye remarked in a mocking manner.

He didn't understand she wasn't being serious and began, "Oh no, I didn't mean it like that. I just meant I don't know. I'm--"

The bird-like girl interrupted him before he went any farther, "Relax. I know you're not used to sirens, um...people that look like me and that's how it's supposed to be. The Greeks got snippets of us but we are too elusive typically to be classified, at least classified correctly. You only see our full appearance when we allow it. Also scaled people, you know they're like mermaids but evil. Just stay away from the water and you should be fine."

"I've lived here my whole life and I never came across one," Gabe said, even more confused.

"Well like we are fast in the sky, they are fast in the water. The only time you'll see them is when you are alone and that's when they'll sing you to your death." Olifaye explained to him not realizing the last part might have been a little too blunt for him. However, she came to realize it when he started trembling.

"Yeah I'm out of here," he said as he adjusted his green helmet before taking off. Olifaye waited a few moments with a playful eye roll and a sigh before flapping her wings and following him. Now Gabriel was a very fast biker but nothing compared to Olifaye's flight. This went on for about five minutes. Gabriel thought he lost her when she was high above the trees. She was satisfied as she watched him do some jumps off of what looked to her like man-made dirt trails. Humans built everything, so interesting they found riding on metal so satisfying. After a few minutes, she decided to dive down through the trees with her large vibrant wings. She swooped over the boy and grabbed him by his helmet, a good thing he had adjusted it because she yanked him rather hard.

She found it odd that the bike came with him, little did she know he was wearing clipless pedals that were engaged. Even if she did know, she would have no idea what on Earth that was. Gabriel, a usually quiet young man, wasn't quiet now as he screamed which echoed through the deep dark forest.

Olifaye's heart was beating fast, she wasn't used to humans. She underestimated how loud they could be. So with that, the petite young woman dropped him for a second before diving down so she could get a better grip of him. She went back into the deep autumn forest with its deceased and decaying leaves and chilled air. She then set him down gently and steadied him before he fell over.