

TWILIGHT VILLE.

It was a normal scavenger hunt, I and my friend Marc were scavenging for parts of a mechanical dragon which recently malfunctioned and fell out of the sky. We found some remains of the cooling system, so we thought the dragon must be nearby. We paced through the woods but we did not find anything. After about an hour of running, we found a big patch of uprooted grass. I thought this was where the head fell but the head was nowhere to be seen, so I ran ahead and there I saw a trail of uprooted grass leading somewhere. I called Marc. He said that something dragged it.

We followed the trail for hours, soon it was dark and we were hopelessly lost. We made a makeshift shelter and collected some wood to make a campfire to keep us warm during the night. In the middle of the night I woke up, our campfire was out, Marc's bionic arm was in his backpack charging. That is when an ethereal light appeared, it was a trail of lights.

I started to follow the trail. After some minutes I reached a town.

I immediately froze, my skin had turned white. It was Twilight Ville, the town of eternal twilight. There were rumours of creatures inhabiting this area which treat you well and then let you sleep and after you are asleep they chop you up and eat you. The town was just like I saw in some pictures. Eerie smoke, purple streetlamps, blue leaves scattered on the deserted road, it was creepy. My heart pounded against my chest. The silence made the blood roar in my ears. I walked through the deserted street calling, 'Hello anybody in here'. But I got no reply, so I decided to knock on someone's door. I knocked on a big door, the door was large and had intricate carvings which made it look like a house of an elf. The house had a rustic vibe to it. Suddenly a muffled voice answered from inside, 'Wait up, I am coming.' The door opened there was a man who was about 7 feet tall with a large fur coat. He had heterochromia so one of his eye was green, while the other was blue. He had a kind smile across his face. He seemed to be kind and helping.

He broke the ice with a kind, deep voice, 'Hello child what brings you here.'

I told him I had been searching for the dragon. He said, 'Do come in, you must be freezing outside.' I was sceptical to accept hospitality from a resident of Twilight Ville but nevertheless I agreed. As I stepped into the house, there was a blazing fireplace, a stew bubbling on the stove, a writing desk and of course a really comfy couch with a TV showing the weather. The house had an odd Christmas vibe. The stranger said, 'My name is Lucas and this is my humble abode.' He went to the stove brought out a bowl and served me some delicious meat stew. The stew was creamy and warm. The meat in the stew was juicy and had the flavour of the stew. The meat was cooked perfectly.

'So tell me a bit about yourself.' said Lucas. I told him about me and Marc were assigned the task of finding the mechanical dragon then I told him about the trail of lights.

Finally he spoke, 'Those lights are for luring people to restore their faith in Twilight Ville.' 'Why would you do that?' I questioned. 'As I get lonely back here with no neighbours.' 'What happened to your neighbours?' 'Oh they all moved away, as they got tired of the twilight, they wanted to see day but I stayed here because I am proud of my town.' said Lucas

'Is there an extra bedroom because I did not sleep well last night, I asked He said, 'Yeah, upstairs and left.' I found the bedroom with no difficulty. I opened the door and entered. The room was covered in intricate carvings. The room also had a television and a blazing fireplace. I jumped into the big bed. It was soft and bouncy. I lay in the bed, unable to sleep, different thoughts rushing through my head. It was terrible. I wondered if I was going to be Lucas's breakfast for tomorrow. The idea enough gave me shivers. Soon I drifted off to sleep.

I woke up shivering, the sky was still blue but I sensed it was morning and I was surprised to see myself in one piece and not in heaven. I breathed a sigh of relief. I quickly put on my jacket and climbed down

the creaky wooden staircase. Lucas was there cooking some eggs for breakfast.

‘Good morning’, I said. ‘Morning’, he replied. ‘So how did you sleep’, he said placing some scrambled eggs on the table. ‘Good’, I replied. He told me that we were going to search for the dragon. He said he had magnetic sensors which could pick up the magnetism emitted from the dragon’s fuel tank. After a hearty meal of scrambled eggs we set off to find the dragon. After about an hour of dodging predators and pacing through the woods we found it. We disposed it off by pushing it into a scrapyard on the outskirts of the city. I said, ‘Lucas I will spread the word about Twilight Ville.’ Lucas nodded. With this I headed off to the city. By a few days I had had convinced everyone in the city that those rumours about Twilight Ville were false. Lucas was overjoyed by the people coming to style in Twilight Ville. With that Lucas finally escaped his problem of loneliness.

By- ARNAV KULKARNI

AGE- 12 YEARS