

WRITE  ON!
Short Story Contest

Story 9
Betrayal as Thick as
Blood

I have to admit, this is one of the most idiotic things I have ever seen. And I've seen some pretty idiotic things. And done some pretty idiotic things. If you would count breaking and entering, stealing, then getting caught, idiotic. So yeah, I know idiotic.

My brother was pointing at a "good" plan on the board. I mean, I knew he was stupid, but really.

We were all around 14, by all I mean all 9 of us. By us I mean, well, a small resistance with "powers" that are "a disgrace to mankind." I mean that's just rude. The true definition of us are naturals. HUMANS born with supernatural powers that could save or destroy the entire world. Blah blah blah, I didn't pay much attention to the presentation.

Anyway, the "team" consists of 8 boys and me. Oliver is a telepath (very annoying), Lucas can teleport (more annoying), Elijah can control time (SO DANG ANNOYING), then there's Liam (flight), Ben (hearing), James (mind reading), Noah (plant control), and Mason, my brother who's power is, you guessed it, being an idiot. No I'm just kidding it's talking to animals. Then there's me, Ava, the "unique one". Actually people are just jealous cause my power is the best. I can summon the dead. Creepy? Yes. Weird? Absolutely. Not supposed to happen? No doubt about it. But do I care? Nope. Nada. 0%.

Back to the stupid presentation. My brother was showing me why we should attack a base on the north side of the mountains. I pushed my curly, dark brown hair out of the way to look at the board

"No, stupid," I say.

"Whyyyyyyyyy," He whined.

"Well I think I just said it," I began, "because it's stupid. Honestly does this *sound* appealing. Walking into a base loaded with guns with people who want to find us, experiment on us, then kill us. I don't think that is what I would call a fun mission. So the answer is NO!!!"

After that fun episode I just walked out with him gaping like he's just seen a monster. In truth, it was hilarious. I walked out into the hall. My room is on the far side of the base which makes it an annoyingly far walk. It felt like forever by the time I got there (it was three minutes).

My room, where do I start. Well first off it is the coolest ever. I have lights weaved in with vines so it looks like a forest full of fireflies. My clothes are tucked away into a chest in the front of my bed and my equipment is hanging on a wall. There is a case of books on the far side of the wall next to my desk which is littered with, well, everything you can find.

I open the chest and pull out brown cargo pants, a black t-shirt, a grey sweater, and dark brown combat boots. This is typically what I wear when I go on a scout or just want to hang around the forest surrounding the base.

I live a great life, can't you tell? (I don't care what you think, that was not sarcasm.)

As I walked out I back into the hallway I ran into someone else, Mason.

"Why did you reject my idea?" He pouted.

I rolled my eyes. "How many times do I have to tell you? It was stupid, idiotic, and not the funnest thing I could be doing in my free time."

"It doesn't matter!"

"Doesn't matter?" I put a hand to my chest in mock disbelief. "Mason I am OFFENDED. Of *course* it matters. Why *wouldn't* it matter?"

Mason lifted his chin. "Because it's for the good of us all."

I smirked at that. "It's in our best interests to die? No thanks."

"You know I can go ask someone else!"

"Have fun with that." I called over my shoulder.

I thought that would get rid of Mason but nooooooooo. Instead, he ran up to me and asked, "Where are you going?"

"To the training grounds."

"Why?"

"Why do you care?" I shot back.

"Why wouldn't I care?"

"Because you never do."

Mason sighed. "Ava, I care. Okay? I just want to help you."

Many people think Mason and I are twins, with our tan skin, curly dark brown hair, and our blue eyes. Judging by his behavior I would say he was two, but we're not judging by behavior so that's that. Truthfully he's actually two years older than me. Most of the time he's silly and carefree but sometimes his sentimental side shows, like now.

I raised an eyebrow. "So you want to help now." I shrugged. "Well then, go find Noah. I need to talk to him."

"Right." Mason started to leave, but then he turned around. "Where is he?"

"In the garden, dummy."

"Right."

I watched him go. *Sucker*. Noah wasn't in the forest and I didn't really want to see him. I just wanted to go into the forest alone.

Mason always annoys me and I just want some alone time. The forest was always my top pick of places I go when people get on my nerves. It's was quiet and peaceful in the forest, not like the base. The scent of pines filled the air and the forest glowed a vibrant green in the light.

I sat down by the small lake. It was just like what you'd see in movies. The still lake, the peaceful scenery, and a moose in the near distance. Little did I know what was going to happen.

A few hours later there was a small ripple in the lake. Then another. Suddenly a massive creature rose up from the water. Towering at around three stories, it looked like it was made of water. I just stood there gaping at the thing in front of me. Idiotic. Again.

I'd seen the water creature, I had not seen the figures stepping out from behind the trees. I panicked. Even outnumbered 1 : a really big number to count, I knew I could take them. I still hated what I was about to do.

My eyes glowed and I felt dizzy. I nearly fell but managed to keep a hold on the power. I looked up with what I hoped was fierce determination and commanded,

"Rise."

Corpses burst from the ground, staggering as they walked. They looked at me for their command. I gave them the only one that could help me,

"Kill."

They turned back to the beast and shrieked, piercing the air. I was surprised the water blob didn't collapse right then and there. Then ambushers burst out in a high speed run. It was like an animal killing its prey. Except here, I didn't know which was which.

Three people quickly surrounded me. I ducked under one of them and kicked from behind, using him as a shield from my other attackers. I caught a glimpse at the logo on their shirt. It read RFN. Research Facility of Naturals. It all made sense right then.

Capture one and you get the others.

I flipped the one over and shoved him into the others. Then I bolted from that man pile and went on to find a secure location. Rule number 1: never run into a battle when you're the one they want. Except that's exactly what I did.

Someone shoved me down and pinned my wrist to my shoulder blades. I cried out and squirmed in pain, twisting my wrist and allowing me to break free.

The exhaustion from keeping the corpses alive was overwhelming. This time I did fall. My fingernails gripped the dirt as beads of sweat piled on my forehead. *If I can make it to the water beast maybe I can take it down. Maybe.*

I limped over to the beast as quickly as possible. I leaped toward what I hope would stop this madness. But I was wrong. I sunk right through it. I grabbed at it but my fingers just slipped through it. I stared at my hand until the cold water hit me like a slap in the face. *Huh?* I turned around to face where the beast was originally. I scanned the area and located a drone. *An illusion? That means....*

"Well, well, well," A voice said, "what a nice surprise"

I froze. I knew that voice. I dreaded what I'd face when I turned around. When I did, my brother had a sly grin on his face.

"M-mason," I stuttered, "Why?" I kept on staring at the only brother I had, truly feeling like the little sister.

"Why not?" He started bitterly, "Isn't that what you always told me: why not? So why not do this?"

I was still confused.

"What are you talking about?"

“Jealousy, Ava, jealousy. You’ve always had it all. Friends, respect, and power. But me...Ava you left me in the dark. So now, I’m going to leave you in the dark.”

There was a pained expression on his face but it was quickly replaced by that awful smile. I stood shakily. Somehow I managed to keep the corpses alive.

“Is that what this is about? Your pride, your ego?!” I screamed, “This is childish!”

“Maybe, but it makes me feel better.”

Snakes wrapped around my legs, pulling me down. I screamed for the person who had protected me, made me feel better when I was down.

But that person was gone, torn in two because of jealousy and pride. He didn’t remember me as the young, carefree little sister.

No, now he saw me as competition.

Whispered commands filled the air around me. I was neck deep in the dirt, still clawing for my freedom. Tears pricked in my eyes as the forest, mountains, and lake disappeared. The last glimpse I ever saw of Mason was a face full of regret.