

Chapter 4

I screamed the entire short journey. I stopped as I landed hard on a carpeted floor. I rolled a few times before stopping myself and propping myself up.

"Ow!" I whipped my head around looking for Jack, I was going to kick him for pulling me, unwillingly, through that portal. A few feet away, a hole opened up, and the Easter Rabbit appeared. He came and helped me up.

"Ya alright, sheila?" I mumbled something under my breath and brushed o my dress, pulling my shoulder away. He held his hands up defensively and went around me.

"Ah! Catori! So good of you to join us!" Another heavily accented voice boomed from behind me. I turned to look up to see a very tall bearded man approach me.

North.

Next to him, a woman-hummingbird hybrid fluttered, with mini versions of herself hovering over her shoulders.

Tooth.

And I saw Sandy holding a cup a few feet away. He smiled and waved a little hand at me. I gave a small smile and waved back at him.

"This was... not how I planned my day to go." I started, feeling pretty annoyed. There was a snicker behind me, glancing over, Jack was leaning against some control board. He caught my look and straightened up before joining the other Guardians.

"Would one of you explain to me why I was rudely tossed through a portal?" North grinned, holding a large book in his hands.

"Because... You are Guardian!" He proclaimed loudly, earning some stares from his Yeti workers. At his feet, several of his elves stood, holding instruments. There was silence. I was a what now?

"You're a Guardian!" Tooth exclaimed, repeating North.

"And why am I a Guardian?" I demanded, putting my hands on my hips.

"It means that you've been chosen by Man In Moon to guard-"

"Wait wait wait, Man In Moon? He spoke to you?" Jack shook his head, he had a look on his face. Perhaps he's been in my position before?

"Don't get too excited. Been there, done that." I rolled my eyes.

"Oh so now you decide to make an appearance! Where were you 144 years ago huh? I still need questions answered!" No response, as always. Now I was far more agitated than I had been before.

"Man In Moon chose you to be Guardian because he sees something inside of you that makes you worthy to protect the children of the world." North gestured to the globe in the center of the Pole.

"Each light is a child that believes in us, the Guardians of Childhood. Each of us represents something vital to how a child grows." Tooth said gently.

"North is the Guardian of Wonder, Tooth is the Guardian of Memory, Bunny is the Guardian of Hope, Sandy is the Guardian of Dreams, and I'm the Guardian of Fun. Each element helps a child to grow and believe, but it is our duty to protect them and what they believe in."

"You were once one of those children, Catori," North said with a gentle smile behind his beard. This caught my attention.

I blinked again. "I- I was?" Tooth and North nodded.

"You were. You were the light of your tribe." I nodded slowly.

It was an interesting prospect, I still didn't appreciate the route, but... if it meant getting closer to figuring out what my path was, then I guess it couldn't hurt.

"Alright, I'll take the Guardian title- But only if you guys agree to help me." Jack nodded a bit too eagerly.

"Whatever you need." His expression was genuine, and he did seem to care... I didn't intend to focus too much on what he was thinking, even if he knew what this whole process is like. I'd heard stories about what he went through to become a Guardian.

"Excellent!"

[Continue reading next part](#)