

# Inside Destined Reality

## Chapter 1 ~

Just across the street from the semi-detached house where we lived is a patch of grass with some raggedy trees and some old bushes. When I was little, I declared it as my own garden. I planted orange seeds in hope that some trees would grow, but thinking about it now, I know that it wasn't my little garden, it was just a plot where someone was yet to build a house.

And that's where I come in, little me, wearing my faded Beyonce fan shirt, strutting around the streets, my curious eyes just waiting for my beloved orange tree to grow. I sat there for days on end, but it never did. Probably because of all of the litterers that chucked plastic bottles and empty juice cartons on it when there was a bin at the shop just down the street.

I remember faintly yelling at a little black-haired girl in a sunhat (who is now one of my greatest friends, Merielle, also known as Joy,) about kicking an empty can of soda onto the grass. I know it must have gotten me pretty mad because I remember throwing the can, but I felt bad when she started crying so I hugged her, and our friendship developed after that. We must have been pretty close because I let her hold Henry, my little fluffy toy bear with his red and green scarf, and small H on his leg. I always took him to the dentist because he calmed me down, once I refused to let go of him when I had to have a tooth removed.

I and the rest of the group met at a summer camp I attended with Joy, a little place just north of Hemsby, by the coast. I met Katie first, she was being picked on by an older girl for having red hair; I called the bully pathetic and stuck my tongue out at her, which now I think of it wasn't a good way of dealing with it, but it worked at least. In my opinion, it's beautiful. Her brown eyes suit it for definite, and she is honestly down to earth one of the best people I have ever met. And then, everyone came rushing over, and that's when I met the others.

Frigid with her short brown hair, her mellow green eyes, also known as Anon, And then there was Miyu, her memorable neck-lock pink hair and it's frilled, spikey ends, her glasses and how you can see her long eyelashes from the rim of them, but you have to look down at her to see her; Seb, with his dull blue-green hair, his brown eyes that you can see just above his glasses, the constant bags under his eyes and the stupid black snapback he always wears backwards. Then Saki, with her straight, beautiful brown hair and her hazel eyes, which were protected by a layer of cute and round glasses, matching her look. And last but not least, Evie with her long

ombre hair, ocean blue eyes and the bandana she always wears to secure her hairstyle, french braids. And now we're here, today.

Just by the swings in the park. It's a Friday evening in early autumn. The air's cold and the wind is strong. The group and I sit beside the swings, gulping down our drinks we bought from the little shop just down the street. I can feel the cold breeze brush against my skin, making my hair rise, so I decide to pull on my denim jacket. I pull out my phone and huff, "No signal in this damned place, is there? I'll be back in a second- I need to text my parents to make sure they know I'm okay." I leap off of the swing, putting my can on the soft tarmac before pushing the stiff yellow gate and wandering off onto the football court.

"Dammit!" I yelled, before stomping my foot down to the ground but slipping on an old, rusted book and stubbing my toe on the football net post before letting out a scream of pain.

I saw the silhouettes of my friends rushing over, "Jamie? Jamie? Are you alright?" asked Joy, first to reach me. I gave a stiff nod, before picking up the queer book.

"Wow. Stupid thing." I'd hiss at it through gritted teeth.

"Look! What it says! On the top of it!" Evie grabbed it and examined it thoroughly before reading, "Wishing is a different thing to wanting. Knowing your destiny will be your last fantasy. I will help you achieve it, on one condition. Yes or no?" I raised my head, pushing myself up to my feet. "What? That sounds stupid. Just some fairytale set some kid put here as a joke." I stated.

"Just because you're too scared to say yes to it!" Anon smirked.

"Wh- I am not afraid of a stupid toy!" I snapped.

"Go on then, say 'yes' to it then!" Anon raised an eyebrow.

"Fine!" I slit my gaze at him before turning to the book, being cheered on by my friend's confused facial expressions. "Yes." I'd mutter, before turning, "See? It didn't do anyt-"

and with that... we all collapsed.

## Chapter 2 ~

I opened a door to my vision and gently started feeling my body. Taking the first move, I put coercion into my right hand to push myself off what seemed like... soil? ...Grass! A beautiful, never-ending field of pure neon green shades of colour was built before my very eyes. Groups of petals of white and gorgeous yellow and pretty pink slowly lay over the ground; which made my surroundings create admiration and a colourful twist on the world.

Confused to my presence, everyone else who was with me back then is here with me: Joy, Seb, Miyu, Kare, Saki, Anony & Evie! So many questions inside my mind... but where do the answers lie?

"Yare yare..." a pitiful voice echoed through the atmosphere, and perfectly knew who that was... "--Is this THE DISASTROUS LIFE OF SAIKI K'S FANTASY WORLD?" Miyu screeched, standing up first, though tiredly scanning nearby.

Evie facepalmed, muttering some unherdable words until she finally took her hand off her face and spoke, "No you walnut. We are in-" She paused her sentence out of the blue and swiftly observed around her, before she pivoted to face me, Jamie.

"Look, let's just get this over with. Find out why we're here. You're the smartest, just help us out?" I'd mutter, before fixing her bandana and walking off.

Not knowing what to do, I let my body weight rest on my feet's heels (still sitting down), it was a bad habit, but I just sat there, thoughts popping here and there, running through my dizzy mind. I continuously pinched myself, thinking it was all a dream, but all the conclusions came down to an "ow" passing my lips. I grasped onto courage right after and pushed myself up off the grass and now standing on my feet. Slightly annoyed, I brushed my ripped jeans trying to get the dust to stop sticking on them.

Even though everyone was awake, and I was the last to stand up, we didn't really communicate on what was going on. I silently stayed by Joy's side as she was trying to code this out while Miyu and Sebastian had a "quiet" conversation between them.

"Don't dare act racing in this situation!"

"Why would I need to?"

"You always go ahead of everyone during times like this!"

"We have never experienced COLLAPSING AND THEN WAKING UP IN A STRANGE LOCATION!" and that was the end. Seb finally puts an end to the conversation and Miyu stayed as silent as the swaying grass in the quiet breeze.

Anon, on the other hand, she was studying dirt. Not sure why, but I said nothing about it. Until she came rushing over, "Yo, Jams, do you know why we are here?" Anon got straight to the point, I imagined she would give me information still nope, she's always curious. I blankly shrugged at her.

"I have no clue, honestly. I mean, there has to be an explanation? It's not normal that we find a book and it teleports us to a stupid dimension! This must be a dream, I mean, who even does that? This is some dark, wizarding, medieval stuff! It's the 21st Century! Not the 12th! It's 2018!" I'd mutter.

"I have to agree with you Jams, maybe this has something to do with our destinies? I mean it makes sense--"

"Honestly, Anon. You're ridiculous. I mean. Look at the book. Does it look like it can predict our 'destinies' and 'fates'?" I'd hiss, "It's. A. Book. Just some storybook that a kid left behind that happened to-- I don't know-- Shock me or something. This is all a darned dream and it'll be over soon. So just-- don't... Alright?"

Anon stood speechless for a moment, before muttering, "Yeah, yeah. Fine. Whatever you say, princess." She teased.

"Call me that again and I'll cut your ears off and wear them on a necklace." I snapped in the moment, before putting my head in my hands, "Look. Sorry Anon, this is just too much to take in right now..."

"It's fine-- Wait-- Wait! Get me the book!" Anon yelled, "Right. Now. I think I've got it."

I ran to the other side of the clearing as fast as I could, my shoelaces were untied, and I nearly tripped in a huge hole, but I didn't care. I grabbed the book, and sprinted back, panting, I muttered, "Here.."

Anon grabbed the book with her fingers, and licked her finger, swiping some pages before rubbing her hand over the page. When nothing happened, she huffed, and grabbed my hand, rubbing it over the paper. "What are you doi--?" I stopped, and to my surprise, words started appearing on the paper.

"Every morning, each one of you will be picked for a quest. Be up bright and early, and I will tell you what you will be doing for that day." Anon read from the page, before frowning. "What do we do until tomorrow then?"

...That was the last thing I remember that happened that afternoon. I faintly recall waking up in the middle of the night with a campfire, Joy sleeping on my shoulder snug as a bug. The other girls; Evie, Miyu, Anon, Saki and Katie were all curled up on their jackets that they laid about on the ground and I could smell a foul odour coming from the left, probably fox poo or something. I shook my head, blinking my eyes open and seeing Seb, all alone. He was sat on his grey jacket, rubbing his eyes which were filled with salty tears. I carefully put Joy's head on my jacket and walked over.

"Hey, don't cry. I'm here for you..." I muttered, "What's up?" ".. I miss them, Jamie. I know it's been a night, but I miss my family.." He responded, sniffing and rubbing his runny nose with his sleeve.

"Oh, Seb..." I put my arm around his shoulder, pulling him into a hug, "I miss my family too, Seb.." I pulled away from him. "It gets better, buddy.." I took his glasses and slid them back onto his head, putting his cap on as well.

"See? You're Seb again.." I chuckled weakly, sniffing. "Just get some sleep. We'll need it.."

Seb replied with a grunt, and rolled onto the soft grass, using his cap as a pillow and his coat as a blanket. I turned back to the girls, to my surprise, but saw Anon awake. I shook my head, turning back to Joy and flopping down beside her.

Finally, Anon spoke. "Jamie-- Look!-- Jamie-- I think I know why we were picked to do this... Maybe-- Maybe someone saw we were suffering... That some of our group were suffering. Like-- You know. Maybe this is our destiny, Jamie. I know you don't believe in destiny and fate, but I do. This is what it looks like, Jamie. This. Is. Destiny."

### Chapter 3 ~

I woke up with a jolt, my hair soaked by the water the man chucked on me. "Wake up, you rats! This is a theatre, not a homeless shelter!" He yelled.

Once I had woken, I pushed myself up, "That's p a t h e t i c. Really? Kicking us out like that? We don't know why we're here, okay? Just drop it, all we know is that we were in a field and when we went to bed-" I pointed to the others who were still sound asleep, "We ended up here. We don't want to be here but we are. It smells musty and ancient like this place hasn't been cleaned in years, and believe me, so do you. So off you chop with your fancy tie and your fancy suit. We'll be leaving." I huffed, wiping my trousers down with my hands, and the man glared at me, before inhaling sharply and striding off.

I observed my surroundings, noticing I was in a theatre. The carpeted floor that was stained with fizzy pop was a huge giveaway, and all of the squished sweet wrappers were too. "Hey, guys. Wake up." I grabbed Joy's shoulders and shook them, "C'mon bud. Wake up. We have to go.."

"Wh-- Why?" She replied groggily, before sliding her eyes open, "W- Where are we?"

"I don't know. Let's just go, okay? Wake everyone else up.." I replied, pouting, before continuing to wake the group up. After everyone had collected their stuff, I realised the book was glowing. I snatched it from the table and wiped my hand over a page, before reading, "Two of you will have to perform in front of a crowd. Live. Don't make the mistake of sending out someone who isn't worthy. This is someone's destiny you're fiddling with, anyway! The show starts at 7 pm. Sharp."

I craned my head to the others, "I'm out."

"Well, I'm not doing it!" Evie yapped, before stating, "There is no way I am risking my life for one of these nit's destiny!"

"I agree with Evie," Joy muttered, "I'm out."

Everyone else started stating the reasons why they were incapable of doing it before Saki stood in her baggy parka jacket. "If all of you are too scared, I'll do it. I'll lay in the box while someone stabs a sharp object into me and chops me in half. I'm chill with that. As long as I'm alright. And I think I know who should do this..."

I blinked at Saki, before yelling, "Who? Get on with it!"

"... I think... I think Anon should do it."

Anon stepped up, challenging Saki with her firm gaze. "You want me to cut my best friend in half? Not happening!" She yelled, before running a hand through her brown hair. "Not a chance. I'm not going to watch one of my closest friends be ripped away from me!"

"Anon! Just do it!" Saki barked, "Or someone else will have to! Look, we have four hours to do this. Four. Just do it, for god's sake! We need to practise."

Anon sighed before rubbing her forehead, slightly smirking, "Fine. I'll do it. Just don't blame me if I accidentally cut you in half and then you die."

Anon and Saki strode off to the rehearsal rooms and then the others and I sat. Seb kept making awkward eye contact with me, but I figured I'd push last night's conversation away. He had the right to miss his parents. He wouldn't see them for another week. I shook my head, pushing the thought away and gathering the courage to talk to him. "You alright now, bud?" I asked Seb, and he raised his head.

"Fine." He responded in his deep Canadian drawl. I rested my head on his shoulder. "I miss my family too, Seb.." I exhaled, before rubbing my eyes. "I'm really tired..."

Seb took off my pirate hat and shoved it onto the table in the middle of them. "Get some rest..." He'd mutter, before taking off his coat and folding it up like a pillow for me.

"Thanks..." I mumbled, before letting out a huge yawn and resting my head on it. Seb took off his jacket and covered me over with it, "Go to sleep. We'll all still be here when you wake up..."

I awoke to Seb prodding my shoulder, "Wake up. The show's about to start."

I inhaled the sweet smell of salted popcorn and let a soft 'mmmm' escape my lips. I rolled over, opening my eyes to face Seb. "I'm up, I'm up. No need to pour water over me." I kicked Seb's grey jacket off me, before stumbling over to the crowd and taking a big red leather chair at the front. The white curtain swept back, and I saw Saki and Anon approach. I gave them a reassuring smile and a thumbs up. Things would go alright. They would *have to*.

"Ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys. Welcome to tonight's show, where I will be trying *not to* cut my dear friend; Saki's; body apart!" Anon emitted, and I sniffed.

"Come on, come on!" I heard Seb mutter through gritted teeth beside me. Anon took a deep breath, before clinging onto the rope and yanking it, letting the sharp object clash with Saki's body. Saki made no sound, and I thought for a moment that she might be dead because of it,

but was in shock when her head raised and she waved an arm, her legs being separated from her corpse by the trolley.

The crowd burst into an applause, and Anon gasped, before laughing. They shoved Saki's legs back to her body and she got up, and the rabble continued to cheer and clap in amazement. I saw Saki and Anon exchange a long hug before holding hands and bowing together.

After the audience left, I pushed through the staff and tightly hugged Anon: nearly unbalancing her off her feet and onto the floor!

Miyu and Katie remained behind while everyone was questioning how Anon did it.

"I wish there was some better action... eh."

"Yeah. Maybe next time."

"Frigid should've used a chainsaw like Grell does."

"Yeah- wait wot."

I stayed silent at that, I can't believe I actually heard that.

A reporter came forth, standing before my eyes, his eyes were like a snake, I don't even think he blinked. A shiver was sent down my spine because of that thought. I don't like this guy... he's hiding something.

*...And you will meet him again...*

## Chapter 4 ~

I woke up with a jolt, trembling in the cold temperature flooding the small room, feeling the cool air brush up against my bare arms and scanning the room, which seemed to be a cabin. My nose immediately wrinkled in disgust... Over the years the crusty cabin that smelt of alcohol and vomit, boiled cabbage and burnt meat, unwashed clothes and mouse droppings had intermingled into a singular stench that brought tears to my eyes. I would through a litter of discarded wrappings, broken glass and bones to where I discovered a door.

"The door is open, dammit!" I hissed through gritted teeth, and with that, everyone awoke. Now feeling safer, I shuffled from the dusty wooden planks on the floor and rushed to shut the door.

*Wait... what are we doing in this place anyway? Did we finish the quest correctly? And then..? I cannot recall after. Joy blinked at me while I was in front of the closed door one arm holding onto my other arm's elbow, shivering. My best friend sped over to put her jacket over my back and made me feel lukewarm. And that's why she's my best friend, she looks out for me: anywhere anytime. That's why I-*

"Oh. my. god. This place is so nasty-" Saki screeched, jumping up and running around, knees up like a fish out of water squealing. Miyu quickly pulled her phone out, smirking, then recording Saki spinning around, though, once she did, Saki stopped. She never really liked being on camera.

"DO THAT AGAIN!!!" Miyu chased Saki around the room, holding her phone and waiting for her to continue with the screaming.

"NO NO NO NO!" Saki yelled back.

I sighed, planting my hand on my forehead slowly. Joy just pat my back - feeling the same. Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves, apart from Anon who was staring at the book intensely. To be honest, the book wants to say something, but it is scared because of Frigid's deadly glares...and I was right.

Without warning, the book started glowing once Anon turned away! Everyone crowded the object and eagerly waited for what it had to say.

"Gah! Tell that woman to stop torturing me with those eyes. Anyways, you are probably wondering why you were teleported here. Well - surprise surprise: It's Sunday!"

"So..?" I murmured, padding over, my legs feeling heavy after the restless night on the hard planks.

"There is no quest! You may enjoy yourselves here for today."

During, the book went back to its rusty personality. Miyu was already overreacting with her making an over-dramatic 'I'm Starving!' scene on the floor.

"What- will... we eat-?" She seized for the pillar that stood in the middle of the cabin. No one answered her, though.

Overall, the building looked pretty small, yet it was spacious inside... and vile - as I mentioned. By the look on Seb's face, he didn't actually care, mind or even want to listen to what the others had to say.

I created a whole scenario for what was happening in Seb's mind, and it was something like this, I reckon: "Where did Miyu even get a phone from? It just randomly appeared and no one has said anything about it. It's creeping me out."

I saw a sofa in the corner, and sat on the decades-old green couch, not ever noticing the faded patches. It enveloped me like a blanket and I inhaled the thick air, heavy with the husk the summer breeze carried. I couldn't help but feel alone. My still scrawny legs dangled over the edge just like they had when I was small, but now my toes tapped the dusty boards as I sat back against the soft cushions and listened to the chatter of my friends. With my eyes closed, I let their conversations flood me like an early summer wind. The conversations, of course, had different topics, but they soothed me just the same. If my friends felt just like me maybe I wasn't alone after all. With all thoughts of worry forgotten, I planted my feet on the floor and raised, grabbing my black hype jacket and strolling out of the door.

"Coming anyone?" I asked, holding the door open to every one of my friends who rushed over to join me, everyone except from Saki.

"Nah. I'm gonna stay here, do...- Stuff.." She mumbled, "I'll be fine."

I shrugged a shoulder and shut the heavy door behind me, before flopping down onto the hot sand. The cold onshore breeze blew right through my top and I rested my head on Joy's shoulder, who sat beside me, her closing lashes weighed down with mascara. The dampness of the sand was making its way through my skinny jeans and I hugged my knees close. My dark brown hair fell loose about my face, tousled, tangled; I hadn't had a chance to brush it in the last two days. Under the fading sun it appeared a dark blonde, the brown highlights lost to the night. I could hear the waves lapping like the ticking of a grandfather clock, I saw them crawl up

to the sand, their edges lacy with foam, before they retreated. When more light came from the moon than the sun I stood and walked over the rock pool, letting it kiss my toes through my socks. I sat on a boulder just by the rock pool, and saw a glimmering penny in the sand just under the water, bending over to pick it up. A two-pound coin. I held it tight in my hands and shoved it in my back pocket. I was hungry, so I decided I would use it to get some chips from a chippy, which I figured would be located somewhere along the coast.

I checked my watch, *six-o'-clock*.

"Hey, guys. I'm gonna go get some chips. I found two pounds in the water, anybody coming?" I asked.

"Mm. I'll come." Joy chirped, and we interlinked arms, skipping off to find a chip shop. It wasn't long before we found one, and we ordered a portion of large chips, and a small gravy, which was cheap for its price. We got a free bottle of coke with it as well and had the meal wrapped up so that it didn't get cold on the way back, then left and headed back to the cabin.

"Jamie! Joy! Hurry!" Evie shouted, "Saki's refurbished the inside of the cabin!"

I stared at her in confusion, her blonde hair blowing back in the breeze, before following her into the room.

The room was like a perfect magazine cover. I was afraid to go inside in case I treaded dirt on the floor or stain it with something I don't even know is on the bottom of my shoe. The walls are creamy-white, but not like the stuff I pour in my coffee, there is a hue of beach sand there. The newer couch is cream, but inlaid with a fine green silk; leaves embroidered so delicately that they might have landed there in spring and just sunk in, but I know they took at least two straight hours to sew. The white curtains were linen, the kind of white that had been untouched by hands and devoid of dust. A look to the right showed me the almost invisible clear cords that are used to open and close them. There was a small television which looked like it was from the mid 19th century, a white bookshelf, a small dining table, and a couple of chairs arranged around the bespoke fireplace which leapt with a spark once it had been activated by the spark of some wood. The floor, once clean, looked like a highly polished wood, dark and free of either dust or clutter.

I took a deep breath, before stammering, "It's-- It's-- It's--"

"Jamazing?" Miyu cut in, grinning.

"Yes-- Jamazing? How did you-- Where did you get the stuff from?" I managed, still taking in what I saw.

"Oh. I found it in the basement, there's a little trap door there!" Saki said, pulling up the hidden latch and pointing down, "You haven't seen all of it yet."

Not knowing what to expect, I followed my friend down the stone steps.

I'd never seen a room with so little and so many colours I'd never choose, nor a room I loved so much. The old owners must have purchased to clean furniture and stored it nicely so that the colour didn't drain away with age. Simple and mostly white, but these walls were all burnt orange and reds. The furniture was rustic and dark, sprinkled liberally with vibrant cushions. There was a table in easy reach of every one of the three beds and the walls were a mint green. I rubbed my fingers along the silken mattress. I pressed my cheek to the cool, velvet pillows. The comforter was thick and irresistibly soft, like a billowing cloud. I toppled into it, relieved to rest my weary feet. Warmth and darkness enveloped me. I wanted to sink into the bed and never move. This wasn't just a cabin, it could be a home; Saki's made it that way. A home.

"This is-- Amazing!" I blinked around the room, Saki's skill never failed to impress me. I grinned.

"Don't you mean...-- Jamazing?" Miyu corrected me, before giggling.

I grinned at Saki, "How?"

"I don't know- I was just... Bored. I guess." She replied, shrugging a shoulder.

"Hey, guys!" I heard Evie call, and I ran up the stone steps to her, "The book!"

I took the book from the table, dragging my hand across it and reading. "You completed a quest without even knowing it, way to decorate, Saki. Now you can get back to your families quicker. The next quest will be chosen tomorrow."

I high-fived Saki, then yawned, "I'm tired. I'm gonna go to sleep."

I trudged down the steps and I fell back onto the bed, the mattress sunk under my weight and I snuggled deeper into the silken duvet. My dark hair spread out around my head like a halo, as I pulled the duvet over me and closed my eyes, falling asleep.

## Chapter 5 ~

I inhaled the luscious scent from the lustrous duvet, which smelt oddly like my grandma's apple bake she used to make when I was younger. I grunted, the sunlight falling on my straight jet-black hair. I shook my head, pushing the covers away from my sweaty neck, and rubbing my face. I inhaled sharply, before pushing myself off the side of the bed and standing in a nightdress Saki made from an old silk blanket. I caught a glimpse of myself in the rustic mirror hanging on the west side of the room, I looked a mess. My hair was greasy and my face was spotty. I grabbed some concealer from my backpack (because what girl doesn't leave home without concealer?!) and applied it with my beauty blender, (obviously from Superdrug, because the Primark ones are like rocks.)

I swiped some mascara across my long lashes and peered into the mirror again. I looked good as new, like a Barbie doll that has been battered and bruised after 5 years of playing with, then changed and had its hair brushed. I grinned, before padding over to Joy, who was still asleep on the bed and shook her slightly. "Joy, wake up. It's...--"

I realized I had no clue what the time was so I ran up the stairs, then yelled down, "IT'S NINE 'O CLOCK!!!"

Joy groggily pulled herself up the stairs and mumbled to herself before heading back down. All of a sudden, I hear a loud crash, and me and the gang are teleported to a.. hospital? I observed my surroundings, seeing doctors of all sizes and races stood around us in a circle.

"I-- Who are you?" I managed, but looking back, I'm surprised I didn't know what was coming.

"We're doctors, I presume you're the group who are helping us today?" A man stepped forward, with his ginger hair and ginger stubble. His sky blue eyes were clouded with seriousness, he was obviously devoted to his job.

"Yes, yes, that's us!" Katie pushed herself up and put her hand out for the man to shake, "I'm Katie."

The man shook her hand but obviously wasn't too sure about it, "Mhm. Enough with the chit-chat. The paramedics need your help, we're short staffed." He replied with a grunt, before strolling back into the hospital.

I gave Katie a long glare, before dressing and following the gang into 2 ambulances, because we obviously couldn't fit into a single ambulance between us. Miyu, Seb and I were in one caravan,

and Anon, Joy and Saki were in the other one. It was about half an hour before we actually received a case.

We arrived in an old set of council flats, and had to go to the top floor. When we got to the room, the lady was on the floor, unconscious, so the leading paramedic kicked the door open with his wedged boot, and we found a teenager, probably about 14 with ginger hair and a green headband on the floor, her head bleeding from the fall and some glass shards scattered around her from a shattered window at the other side of a room.

"A robbery." Katie stated, "Or an attempted murder."

A paramedic with blue eyes and blonde hair nodded her head, "Yes, good thinking. I'll go check CCTV. We need to catch the person who did this."

I knelt down beside the patient, who was unconscious, but Katie shuffled in beside her, "Jamie, just go. I know you hate blood." She whispered, before pulling a torch out from her paramedic costume and pulling the girl's eyelids apart and flashing the light in her eyes to determine... something. I don't exactly know what was going on, but Katie obviously did. That is when it hit me, that was Katie's destiny.

I shrugged it off, figuring she already knew this, so I grabbed the stretcher after Katie checked her blood flow, and rolled her onto it. I glared at Katie, who gave me a reassuring nod, her short red hair falling onto her face. I took a breath, before following them onto the ambulance. It was about then that I realized that Evie hasn't been with us in the flats, or on the ambulance on the way. I pulled out my phone from my pocket and dialled Evie's number.

"Yes? Evie? Where are you?" I spoke into the phone.

"Um. At the hospital? I figured I'd stay here since you'd come back anyway." She replied.

"Oh, fine. Sure. Whatever, leave us to deal with it. Like we always do." I hissed back.

"Oh, stop being such a two-faced cow, will you?" She replied, "Honestly pick a side, the paramedics which you've known for less than an hour or me, who you've known since you were seven. Don't have to be my friend if you don't want to, it's not like my parents are paying your parents to be my friend or anything."

I grabbed the phone in anger and ended the call, huffing. I didn't want to deal with her, not today, not with an injured woman laying down with me.

It was a short journey back to the hospital. There were a few potholes, but the patient was still alright. I noticed Evie was fiddling with her ring like she does when she's nervous, but our eyes

met for a couple of seconds, before Evie looked away, her gaze clouded with fury. I saw her walk over and get the patient off of the ambulance, then walk inside of the hospital with her.

I curiously followed, and saw them in resus, two doctors were discussing something, then I saw Evie pipe in with a suggestion. I rolled my eyes, but to my surprise, the doctors nodded. Before long, Evie was on the way to the theatre with the teenager. Why were the doctors trusting her to perform a surgery on a teenager? Isn't it illegal to work unless you have a job?

## Chapter 6 ~

I shrugged, Evie was still being an insensitive dog. I huffed, before walking back outside to the other girls, who were sat having some coffee on a bench under the canopy. "Hey, guys.." I muttered, and they stared at me for a moment, before telling me to join their conversation.

"Alright, so, do you guys fancy going shopping tomorrow, surely we get paid for doing this? Maybe?" Joy started.

"Eh. I guess." I shrugged, "I think Katie should earn more than us, we hardly did anything."

"Wow, I'll have you know I-- I stood and uh- observed the patient in case she went into shock or a seizure." Anon muttered.

"Firstly, the patient was unconscious, she can't go into shock. She can't move." Katie started, "And secondly, seizures aren't on the patient's records. It's highly unlikely she would have had a seizure."

"It's unlikely, but not impossible." Anon said, "We thought it was impossible to be teleported away to some random place, but it's not impossible. It's just highly unlikely, now isn't it?"

"Well, it's impossible that you have an IQ over 5." Katie snapped, before folding her arms and turning the other way.

"Ugh, stop arguing, both of you!" Joy yelled.

"Stop being such a mom. Save that for when you actually have kids." Katie growled at her.

"Don't call Joy a mom! You look more like a mom with those wrinkles on your forehead!" I yelled, grabbing Katie by the collar of her coat and lifting her. "She's only looking out for us so that *this* doesn't happen!"

"What are you gonna do about it?" Katie smirked, tilting her head at me and putting on an evil smirk. I clenched my fist and couldn't resist. I let my knuckles hit her face like an arrow hits a bullseye. Her nose started bleeding quickly, staining her skin as it fell down her chin and onto her black leggings. I released her collar from my grasp, and let her fall to the ground. I turned harshly, and sat back down, rubbing my bloody hand on my jeans.

"Jamie?! What the hell?!" Joy yelled, rushing over to Katie and grabbing some tissues out of her pocket, stuffing them in Katie's face. Evie rushed outside, seeing what happened and quickly

rushing back in. She got some fresh tissues before running back over and tilting Katie's head backwards, before putting tissues just below her nose for the blood. I inhaled, before muttering under my breath, "Know it all."

Evie turned to me, before giving me a swift slap around my face. I let out a hiss, restraining my own arms and keeping them at my sides, before taking another breath and releasing it.

Remember. Like a balloon inflating and deflating. Inhale. Exhale. I felt a wave of panic over me. What have I done? What have I done? I won't be able to fix this. I won't be able to fix this. What have I done? I won't be able to fix this. I'm stupid. I'm an idiot. I'm stupid. I'm an idiot.

My vision went blurry, everything hazy. I blinked at the ground, taking small breaths but accidentally releasing larger ones; increasing my panic further. It felt like the walls of the car park were closing in on me and I felt the sudden need to puke. I ran to the nearest bin, throwing up. I rested my head on the flaky blue can, before feeling Seb's arm wrap around my neck. "Let it out buddy, let it out."

I immediately felt calmer, inhaling the scent of his thick, minty cologne, exhaling the stress. I leaned into him, "Thanks, Seb." I mumbled, before staring at the trash can and exploding into laughter when I saw that my concealer had managed to get all across it. I wiped it with the inside of my coat and threw my arm around Seb, returning to the group.

Evie threw her hands around our shoulders, "Anyway. Guess what? I performed a cranial surgery. It means I performed a proper surgery on a brain." She squealed.

"Wow. Good for you." I huffed, turning away from her. I was still salty about the whole Katie thing, and I was just... salty in general. I felt Seb and Joy's arms envelop me and felt better instantly, then the rest of the group joined in.

I grinned, before seeing another flash and flopping back onto the wooden planks of the cabin. I rubbed my eyes, "I'm done." I muttered, stomping down the steps and flopping down on my bed, "G'night, guys."

## Chapter 7 ~

Sounds of hard stomping were within everyone's earshot, with it came the feeling of my back stiffing before hitting a cold, unyielding floor. A grunt escaped my dry lips, which left a pinch of pain in my neck. I can't believe we have more times we all have to wake up forced! ...It's getting annoying.

I felt a warm hand interact with my forehead as I sat up quickly, rubbing my eyes slightly surprised, "Strangers don't get to touch me! Get away!"

My eyes quickly adjusted to the brightness and saw Joy who was sat up next to where I was laying down looking at me in awe as I made eye-contact.

"...Oh... Oh wow, Sorry." I muttered, starting to blush because of the horrible mix-up.

Miyu suddenly screamed not-that-loud and shocked everyone. "Look outside! There's a hole! Look! Look! It's shiny! Look!"

Seb ran outside quickly, rubbing his sweaty forehead with his jacket. I followed behind Anon in a hurry. Kneeling down and crouching over, Seb took a peek into the shining hole.

"I saw some kind of a museum? I don't know, a guy is waiting for someone in front of this portal."

"Maybe it's a quest for someone? Who's going first?" Evie asked, fiddling with her fingers. Everyone went silent, "Fine, I'm going first,"

She always was the fearless one.

I hesitantly dangled my feet into the purple portal. My hairs immediately rose, my ankles tingling. With courage, I took a deep breath and pushed myself off of the edge. A man in a tuxedo stood in front of us, a pile of teenagers on the floor. He coughed, fixing his tie and averting his gaze to us. He spoke in his mundane voice, "Sebastian, is there a Sebastian here?"

Joy excitedly pointed her finger at Seb, grinning. "Here he is!"

The guy extended his hand for Seb to shake. "I am Mr Henrick, owner of this Art Museum. Our priceless artwork made by one of the most famous artists in the world is gone. The grand opening is tomorrow, and we stumbled across your artwork on the internet. We really need an artist, and you, young sir, are the perfect man for the job. Sebastian. Take this offer to really kickstart your career as an artist."

Seb stood, speechless for a moment. "Oh- Call me Seb. And I'd love to."

Mr Henrick nodded and stepped to the side. "This is my son, Sean." He stated, pushing his son forward. "He will give you a tour around."

We all nodded in unison and I offered an awkward smile to Sean.

Sean showed us the main hall where all the art hung. I caught sight of a painting hanging by a nail on the east side of the room. I squinted. The painting was too small. I wondered why the artist did that for a few seconds. Were they short on canvas and oils or was there a point? The scene was a small rowboat on the sand, abandoned to rot in the abrasive and damp air of the beachfront. I wanted to see what is around it. Was it truly alone or did it simply appear to be that way? Perhaps just off the canvas was a man with sanding paper and a fresh pot of poppy coloured paint, a man with skin more craggy than the rocks and hair whiter than the seafoam spray. I shrugged the thought away.

Sean turned to us, his hair, dark and lustrous, had a sheen like fine hardwood. But that comparison isn't entirely fair, I suppose. Hardwood didn't swish gently like his hair did, swaying with the words he spoke. A shiny varnish caught merely light around it, but the depths of that deep chestnut brown reflected all the radiance of his smile.

"Oh. Hey, guys! The canteen's over there. Just take the next left. There are a little lounge and a pantry. I'll show Seb the painting rooms. Feel free to take as many snacks as you want!"

He gave us a small grin.

I nodded at him, tucking a strand of hair that was partly blinding me behind my ear, and headed off to the lounge.

"Oh, it's marvelous!" Echoed Sean's voice through the corridor as he came around the doorway with Sean.

Kare, Joy and I sat on the couch for a while, and I closed my eyes, letting myself drift off into my own land. My head was all snugly on Kare's shoulder.. before she pushed me off.

Kare exploded into a fit of giggles, her face flushing pink. I got to my feet, and before I could do anything, I see Evie step in front of me and slap her around the face. She gave her a polite smile before strutting back off to the beanbag near the fire. I started to chase Kare around for a moment, until, "Stop!! I finished the artwork and I don't want you guys to ruin it by running into it!" Seb piped in.

"Wow, is that literally all you care about-" I heard Miyu echo through the halls, "sEIfiSH RaT." She repeated, slightly louder, just so Sebastian could hear her. And to be honest, I could feel a small pinch of rage light up brightly in him. Oh god, that wouldn't end well.

I stopped immediately. I walked over to Sean, "Let's see it then."

The tone of the painting was muted, the style reminiscent of Monet. Each stroke had a smudging quality that rendered the image watery, like a reflection in a rippled puddle. The scene was a street, London I'll bet, the umbrella bearing pedestrians battle against rain and the red double-deckers and black cabs rumble by. It reminded me of Oxford Street, looking out of a rain-splattered window at the rivers of people that moved in each direction. Like in the painting they moved so randomly, pushing against one another, flowing, like water. Perhaps to Seb that was what we were, small drops in a sky full of rain, each one looking out for each other before they hit the ground, like a life cycle. You are born when the water evaporates, and you die when you hit the ground.

"Wow, that sure is a lot of rain.." I heard Evie mumble.

Everyone burst into laughter.

"It's amazing!" I exclaimed.

Seb grinned, "Thanks." He took Sean's hand and shook it vigorously. "Thank you. Thank you so much."

Sean nodded and went in for a "bro-hug" as Seb described it. I chuckled, going in for a so-called "bro-hug" but collapsing back on the cabin floor. I shook my head. Pathetic.

## Chapter 8 ~

I woke up groggily, drawing my hand over my face as to remove the black hair from my mouth. I gagged, catching a glimpse of myself in the mirror. I ran my brush through the tangles and got changed into my grey hoodie and Adidas leggings. I shook my head, putting on my pirate hat and stomping up the stairs where everyone else was preparing breakfast. "Hey, G'morning Jamie."

Evie smiled, "I found a £5 note on the floor and we found an Aldi nearby, so we brought some eggs, toast and sausages to eat!"

"Oh. Great! Cheers to Evie!" I cheered.

"Cheers to Evie!" Everyone else cheered. Evie's face flushed pink, her light hair fell in front of her face, dappled with spots. I grinned. It wasn't long after that when we left the cabin to go on a walk, only to get teleported again. I grunted, landing with a thud on the floor of what looked like a... laboratory? I pushed myself up to my feet, my palms pressed up against the thick steel walls. I scanned the area, only seeing different shades of black across the corridor. It was like a blanket engulfed us, leaving no way of light to seep through.

In this dimly lit laboratory, nothing but the machines in the rooms met my first gaze. There was no movement and no suspicious smell of any kind. There were dim lights, but like the stars, in a night sky, they did little to lift the blackness, showing only the activity of the hardware - screens of gigantic proportions with text that was too far away to make sense of through the heavy metal doorways. Though I was inside, the feeling was more of being in a high tech cave the size of a stadium, black metal roof above, the black metallic floor below. Every footfall echoed around, not loudly, but enough to give away my position to anyone who happened to be stuck in there. For a moment I considered moving around the edges, then I stopped - stopped moving, stopped breathing, while my heart sped up to Olympic sprinter rate. I looked over the girls, counting them and noticing Joy wasn't here. *Dammit Joy!*

Fear choked me with its murderous hands, forcing my breaths into short, shallow breaths. It tortured my gut; churned my stomach intense cramps, my own screams that I refuse to emit that is vibrating in my ears. Sweat drenched my skin, the thumping of my heart against my chest louder than thunder. My eyes began to throb, swimming with tears.

She just went to the toilet. In that suspended moment, a fraction of a second, my brain offered an explanation and yet rejected it simultaneously. It was stupid that I thought that it was a

possibility that Joy was just on the way to the toilet. She wouldn't know where to go! I looked around for her.

This was the stuff of science fiction, of movies, of horror. I sucked in a sharp breath of the dustless air, suddenly seeming so thick and step forward for a better look. The laboratory was as quiet and cold as a morgue. Even the great machines lay silent. A thin film of dust lay on everything. On inspection, I found that even the test tubes laid, dry and crusty, and the filing cabinets were empty. But curiously some of the personal effects of the scientists had been left carelessly lying around like they'd left in a hurry and somehow not thought to take their cellphones and bags. It was eerie. What had happened to them? What happened to Joy? I shrugged off a chill down my spine. I was being stupid.

I noticed Joy sitting in the corner of the room at a desk, typing away at a keyboard and occasionally pausing, to continue slashing her fingers across the keyboard faster than a cheetah ever could run. "Joy? What are you doing? I was terrified!" I exhaled, stepping over.

"Oh! Jamie!" She spun around on her chair to face me, "I thought I'd just try to do the coding on here to turn the lights on. It's really dark in here, and I know Evie's afraid of the dark so I figured I'd do it before she woke up."

I pulled my arms around Joy.

"God. I thought you were taken away or something! Maybe even left us!" She wrapped her arms around me tightly and whispered.

"Leave you? Never." I smiled, before pulling away and pulling up a stool and sitting beside her. I could see a bunch of letters on the screen, and I could only make out two, initialize and count, but to my surprise, the lights flashed on, and I glanced out of the corridor to see life pour in like water. It wasn't *light* as such, it was natural light! The sun! I looked up to notice small holes in the ceiling, about the normal light size, which opened up and let sunlight spill in. I gasped, running up to Joy. "You're a genius!"

She winked, "Tell me something I don't know." I burst into laughter, one of those laughs you can't keep back despite what anybody says. One of those laughs a Year 2 would have if someone said a "funny" word in class.

I put my arm over Joy's shoulder, "Come. Let's wake the girls." Joy nodded and we skipped out of the room, to the corridor, to find Evie missing.

We looked around, and she jumped out behind us, "Hello, Jackie. Something smells nice." She joked, scaring the hell out of me and Joy.

"Evie?! What the hell?!" I screamed but found Joy laughing at my reaction. Of course, Evie found it funny. She was holding her tummy because she was laughing so much. I huffed, before seeing the other girls wake up.

"Oh. Sorry for waking you guys up. Evie made me scream." I muttered, glaring at her through my brown orbs.

"It's not my fault you're such a scaredy-cat!" She grunted.

"It's not my fault you're such an obnoxious rat!"

"Nono. You're not putting the blame on me. It was a joke! Can you not take jokes seriously? Can you not take yourself seriously?" Evie growled.

"Oh, you're calling me a joke now?" I hissed back like a cat.

"Stop being so pathetic you two!" Joy shrieked, silencing us.

She grabbed the book. "Jamie, if you'd do the honours. Why are we here?" I rubbed my hand across the book, huffing.

Joy read: "Looks like, once again, you have completed a quest without knowing about it! Well done, Joy!"

I patted Joy, and turned back to the book, noticing it was glowing. With a thud, we were all deposited onto the rustic planks of the cabin floor, "Seriously?" I rubbed my leg, huffing and laying on the floor.

## Chapter 9 ~

Some keys you need to remember for this chapter.

This font is a scarred dialogue from Miyu's memory and/or Miyu's thoughts.

This font is Miyu's system in her head.

~~~

Trembling, I hesitated to open my eyes in the dim light. I blinked, then repeated so maybe a couple of hundred times, "Seriously, still in this awful situation?" I sighed.

"Guess so." A voice echoed through my ears... Miyu. Miyu wasn't one of my best of friends, but she's so and so. Evie is the reason we met: you see, Evie and Miyu were childhood friends and when Evie met me her friend tagged along - I didn't really like her at the start. But this was a long time ago, so it's all fine now.

I admitted defeat with another sigh to my reply, "I rest my case."

As usual, I sat up, letting my eyes scan my new surroundings: a school? What dumb quest would take place in a school? Darn, the author has to stop with these random plots - I hate it when she makes up ideas on the spot - but this is more lazy *than* lazy!

"No, she probably just didn't have enough time to think of a better storyline-" mumbled the girl in front of me under our breaths, her hand on her hips. It was even hard for me to understand what she said.

Do not reveal anything that happened in the past, this could result in others noticing you are someone they knew a while back. **Rule broken: danger of reveals.**

I tilted my head with a confused look that stared right into the pinknette's soul. There wasn't much to know about Miyu apart from her appearance and her main topics for her conversations. She never really talked about herself which makes her the kinda odd one out of the crew. Literally, the only thing she talks about is *anime*, "...what did you say?" I slowly questioned her, paying full attention to her answer.

"Uhm- I said...th-that she- I mean you didn't ha-have-" she nervously stuttered, her eyes avoiding eye contact, "You didn't get enough sleep last night, did you? Yes, that was it. I deeply apologise if I accidentally made you feel confused." she bowed, showing a sign of apology and did I mention she talked informally? Usually, Miyu talks formally in any situation - apart from when she is really bored or excited. Even in very dangerous positions, she would keep a straight face and a very directed outcome. However, today was different.

*Always have an expressionless face in any situation - good or bad. Your emotion habit will change if you want your old self to disappear. Rule broken: chances of getting exposed: 51%.*

I narrowed my eyes and moved my head closer to her face with a very suspicious look. She just looked up at me and stayed with her casual face.

"You don't happen to know a girl called... Yumi, do you?" I whispered cautiously.

The shorty gulped and kept her guard up, "No, Jamie. Does my notice remind you of someone?"

"Hm. Well, this person likes anime and manga... just like you. She was really short and had the same hairstyle as you but a brown-ombre and she was my first school friend but she went missing and I've not seen her since." I placed my finger next to my lip and blinked my eyes up at the ceiling without lifting my head.

Miyu took a step away from me, I could tell she knew that I was onto her. Kinda. I didn't really know what I was talking about I just wanted to see how she reacted if I asked her something which she couldn't answer. Trust me, it was worth seeing what happened next.

"Are you sure this mysterious woman wasn't in your dreams or something? Like...you once told me dreamed about-"

In a heartbeat, Joy entered the library then spotted us, she noticed Miyu and I over here were having a serious confrontation moment, therefore hid behind the wooden desk and listened.

"...you liking this other called-"

Knowing what Miyu would say next I tackled her onto the floor. Joy jumped up from her hiding spot and tried to pull me away from Miyu as I kept trying to reach to punch her. The pinknette was pulled back by Evie who was also eavesdropping on the conversation. Surprisingly, Miyu didn't do anything to her bruises on her face and arms. She sat down on the wall looking helplessly at me. It's like she didn't even feel pain!

*Never show you're hurt to anyone, it will make people believe you are weak and fearful. Grow up. Success.*

"Jamie you need to calm down with all these fights. What's going on with you?" Joy pointed at me, her eyebrows scrunched up.

"I-"

"I don't want to hear it! Explain yourself to the walls - can we just get this over with?" my best friend interrupted me helping me up. As Joy said that, a very loud sound echoed through everyone's head like a fire alarm.

Anon showed sign language to head to class - she didn't even bother to show us where.

This won't end well.

*You're correct, it won't.*

Right, after that confusion about where to go for our classes. We got on time and it seemed like I and Evie were in the same class. The classes were boring, it was like being in a dark room, with no one to talk to, no one to depend on when you need help. It was like... hell. Evie didn't even mouth a word at me - did I do something wrong that I don't know about? If so, I need to know. I placed my chin on my palms in class: daydreaming about everything that happened this morning. I wonder why Miyu stuttered...

"You all get to write a story for homework - the new transfers can turn in their story tomorrow and the rest next Monday."

What? Tomorrow? I'm only here for today right- There's no point, I won't be able to ask her. I took my Homework Planning Sheet and read it while walking out of the classroom. Flipping the paper round, I saw a note "Meet me at the library."

Ugh, it's probably that Mysterious Monster or something. I'll go anyway.

Arriving at my destination, I saw the others crowd into the small narrow door, looking for the same person as me.

"Hey, guys, what are you all doing here?" I asked first, leading with some regular answers.

"I got a note to meet here with someone anonymous. Did you too?" Sebastian replied, kinda confused on this situation. After a few minutes of waiting, we all decided to take a seat at a table together, maybe this person was late?

"So... don't you guys think Miyu has been acting a little weird?" I started a small conversation awkwardly. Everyone nodded slightly, just enough to clearly show they agree; except Evie.

Evie looked down, getting her bag from under the table and putting the same sheet of paper I got from my English class - including the note I also received, "Miyu has always been terribly shy with anyone, even me. She never knew how to act around others, or how to show how she feels. So don't accuse her please." She lifted up her head at me and smiled, "I've told you before."

Yep, you have.

"No...that's not right. Miyu used to smile and laugh like the time she was chasing Saki in the hut!" I stood up from my chair, smacking down my planning paper on top of Evie's, "You guys remember right?" my speech level lowered.

Everyone shook their heads, nervously looking at each other like I just murdered somebody.

**Scanning Evie's thoughts: you're not wrong, Jamie. But just let go of the situation it's risky for both you and... Miyu.**

Before the rest of the crew (including myself) left, E told us all to leave our homework planners on the table. Not sure what was going on, we shrugged and did as she told us to, then we fled the building, somehow knowing the way back to our temporary cabin. What long day.

~x~x~x~x~x~

"*Seriously Jamie, let go.*" a small voice whispered in the room while no one was present. And with that, the anonymous person swished up the papers.

~x~x~x~x~x~

The next day, the group showed up at the library first thing in the morning. Evie and Miyu were standing up in front of the table we sat at yesterday.

Miyu bowed. clearly stating what she had to say, "I'm sorry for yesterday, everyone. I was not meant to start any issues between us, Jamie. Please accept this gift from me as forgiveness." she sat back up and gave a scarce smiled ear-to-ear. Miyu handed out the stapled pieces of paper to everyone who was around her: first Joy, then Seb, Saki, Anon, Katie and last but not least... me.

"What's this?" I hesitated to take the sheet she hand-wrote all by herself. Evie butted into my question with somewhat a smile crawling onto her face, "Y- I mean Miyu wanted to do something for you all t show a sign of 'let's be friends again' type of thing." the girl that stood in

front of me paused to inhale, "She can't say it out loud because she's shy and all that. So please accept her ways."

"I don't understand-"

"You don't have to comprehend friendship-" Joy added in, looking down at the what seemed like the story homework our English teacher all gave us.

"We know that this is getting frustrating; every day trying to unfold a secret, but if we lose each other in this destined maze it'll be over - for ALL of us." Katie interrupted Joy's "big speech" moment with a better one.

I chuckled to Katie's saying, "Pathetic. Look who wants to make peace now." I gave a laugh again, cautiously walking backwards - yet accidentally falling onto a chair and doing a whole backflip - hitting my head on the carpet, my legs vertical up to the seat and my back glued to the floor. Papers hovering everywhere, trying to find their way down to gravity. What a disastrous life I live. I deeply sighed to my clumsiness as everyone started laughing. And I mean everyone.

"Haha, very funny guys. Hilarious." I expressed the last word with a small smile slithering onto my face.

"Did you place that chair there, Yumi?" Evie blurted out shrieking like a madwoman with tears running down her cheeks - she had to hold her stomach because of giggling too much!

My eyes widened in a moment I got up awkwardly, my mouth slightly opened just enough to mumble something, "Y-Yumi? A-as in Jamimon? Jam?"

Everyone went quiet staring down at the floor, "Yeah... uhm. About that-" Evie called out.

**Rule 1 broken twice. Chances of revealing increase to 79%.**

**Fine, I'll deal with it. I'm the author for this chapter anyway. Anything I choose can happen in this story - pigs could fly and Jamie could be smart if I wanted her to.**

"Guys the book is glowing again!" Anon called, getting out the book from her bag, quickly opening it. Also, inside was a book and a pen, guessing for Miyu and a notebook with the Youtube logo on it. It was red and a small "play" white button in the middle. Hm. Two things this time: meaning it's important?

Words started getting written onto the old gleaming papers responding, "Your last adventure is on time now... what is there to do next? That's your last quest." and with that, we all were

twirled around like we were on a carousel. Luminous particles surrounded all of us as we all held hands, now trusting the moment.

I opened my eyes, feeling my knees on a different type of feel for the ground. Raw wood? Are we in a chamber? We'll have to see.

## **Chapter 10 ~**

The room was a spiral shape, a never-ending turn to the top made of a beautiful colour for oak wood. A sniff of lavender filled my nostrils as I tried to stand up from the swift heavy gravity that triggered my legs. The wooden floor was like walking on lego without shoes; probably because I've never stepped on such a hard general resource before in bare feet. Coded designs built up in my vision gradually -secrets waiting to be unleashed by anyone who crosses this path. One of the main drawings stood proudly in front of myself and everyone else, it reminded us of what we had to pull through this week. The crew watched in awe - witnessing a new picture being carved into the logs. The outline was rough but accurate, it gave the sketch a vanilla-brown colour and as soon as the brushing was finished unexpected luminous articles ran out from every side like it was giving a new last touch to the bark. Did this mean we completed the quests?

I blinked to my disbelief: those sparkles was enough to change a whole room. The extension was the now 8 new rocks that stood haughtily around us on the edge of the place. Weird pink bubbles appeared on top of the rocks with small items inside - the wand, hammer, 1st aid kit, nurse badge, paintbrush, ram stick, book & pen - all the objects we collected in our hunts were here: in those fluttering capsules! What is this place?

Even I don't know, I can't choose whether it's an error or part of Inside Destined Reality.

"Reminds me of Tinkerbell" joked Evie, dragging herself to reach for one of the gadgets (the 1st aid kit), though she immediately got rejected by the system as she got flung to the other side of the room in just a heartbeat.

"Evie!" Saki screamed, running towards her, "What happened?" she kneeled down, head level with the brunette beside her. Evie's only response was a 'tsk' sound, trying to look at her elbow without feeling the pain. E's hand was scraped badly and both her knees too by the sudden incident. Why did this 'system' fling her? Evie didn't do anything wrong!

Or so I thought.

Are we not allowed to touch these items?

"Katie- aid...kit," Evie muttered like she didn't have much time left in the world. This was totally exaggerated.

"Roger. But what if-" Kare got interrupted by myself with a 'just do it!'

The girl's eye twitched at my unexpected distribution, but it couldn't be helped; Evie needed treatment. The rednette groaned out of her worried mood and went to the aid kit. She closed her eyes in fear, prepared for the worst as she put her hand in front of her reaching for the item. After a time of awkwardness, she felt the kit's material: a nice soft plastic. Katie opened one eye and saw her hand on the object. She opened the other hand to get hold of the items better. Katie took it out of the seal and started doing her victory dance.

I smacked Katie across the face once I reached her, which made her land back down to reality. She gave me a few death stares during her way to Evie, but I just smirked back which made her feel angrier. Oh well. Katie kneeled down next to Saki and next to the hurt Evie.

Katie used a wet tissue to clean the tiny pieces of dirt off Evie's injury then cautiously opened a plaster and carefully stuck it onto Evie's elbow, then repeated this method for the knees.

"What a... *Sticky situation.*" Anon chuckled in the background, observing the scene, but her mind was concentrated on something else...that's right: the wand. I could help but hear the girl whispering to herself like she was some sort of witch, but her ritual was literally describing how beautiful that black stick with a white tip was. I was on the path to slap her but Joy stopped me from doing so. I guess violence isn't the best way to deal with it...

I could tell Frigid was thinking about how Katie was able to take the first aid kit and Evie couldn't. That gave her an idea, and to be specific, it was correct. Anon inhaled a whole lot of

courage while her spine was now straight but her shoulders slightly leaned down. She independently put out her hand trying to reach for the wand.

"Anon, no!" Sebastian called out, running to Frigid as fast as he could so he could stop her. It was too late since the girl's hand was already inside the bubble while she turned to face Seb.

Seb froze in place and watched as Anon was deliberately shook at what happened. She didn't get rejected. The, now mage, grasped the wand in her right hand and took it out. You'd think that someone like her would actually ask questions about Anon wasn't like the others: she put her hands together and prayed to God just in case anything happens while she has the wand. This made my neck dry due to the laughter bubbling up inside me. I managed to stay on my feet and deal with it though. This girl was way too humorous for my own good, I swear.

"H-How?" Evie managed to get up, her voice kinda dehydrated like mine.

"Don't you see? This is destiny!" Anon cheered up, turning around, her cheeks a hot red colour and her eyes slightly teared up, "It's destiny. This was a test. A test to see if we can solve our destinies and if we can stay together after everything!" the girl sniffled, trying to keep it unitedly.

"She's right." Miyu came in from behind now completing the big circle that we accidentally built out of ourselves, "Each quest gave us an item, every item went here, neh? So whichever quest we were the best at or knew the most at is the test to see if that was the right decision."

Everyone went quiet for a moment, as I started thinking back to everything that happened. All the drama, all the pointless fights and all the risky choices. That was all up to us to decide and we weren't even able to pick up one puzzle piece. What are we, idiots?

Sebastian was the first to make a move, he walked down to the rock which held captive the paintbrush. He took a deep breath and grasped for it. Sebastian felt a tingle run up and down his spine from the feeling of entering the small bubble. He soon was able to take the paintbrush as we all watched in awe - my chin slightly opened. I felt Joy rest her head on my shoulder as she put her hand under my chin, pushing it up, giving me a sign to close my mouth, "Just watch." she whispered.

"Me next, please!" Evie started jumping up and down, smiling.

"Be careful you'll fall again!" Katie worried as she tried to make Evie stop hopping around the room.

Because E was so stubborn, she tripped over and fell face-first on the oak wood. She didn't cry or scream or anything even like that. Her only move was sitting up on her knees as she started smiling ear-to-ear giving out a chuckle and she used one hand to take out a small fringe of hair that was trapped in her mouth. Everyone laughed at her clumsiness: even me. It did remind me of what happened yesterday though.

Right...yesterday.

Miyu was up next, she walked up to the rock with the book and pen; she did not hesitate to get a good look of it and place her hand inside. She tried to levitate on her toes to reach for her destined item. Evie came in to help her by putting her hands on Miyu's waist and lifting her up slightly so the short girl could reach it. In the end, Miyu jumped out of E's grip and flew for a second by pushing herself with her feet on Evie's stomach. She stretched out her hand and successfully grabbed her particular book.

"OW! Seriously... Miyu how dare you betray your best friend like that?" Evie brushed her shirt from the dirty footprints that the pinknette transferred. Miyu just gave out a small chuckle at what she did, she covered her mouth ever so slightly and giggled once more.

"Ugh." E sighed, "You're such a lame friend."

Next up was Saki, she led herself to her righted place and took the hammer from the seal as fast as lightning, you couldn't even see her act, "Good. Didn't get flung." she gave a relieved rustle. She didn't make as much fuss as everyone - no idea why. Maybe she just wanted to get it over with I guess.

Second to last was Evie. Miyu went up to her and poked her hand, "Hey, you didn't do a great job as a nurse though." she played with E's sanity as the taller girl nudged Miyu to shut up. The pinknette put her hands up as a show of 'calm down' as she walked back next to me and everyone else.

Evie gave a sigh, "Don't fling me again please system." She closed her eyes and slowly placed her hand inside the capsule. With her eyes closed tight, she tried to concentrate on grasping the right thing. Thankfully, she did. As fast as she could, she pulled back her arm to her chest also using her other hand for support. E opened an eye, grateful to the system for once more not ACCIDENTALLY DYING.

"I'm alive!" my friend pointed out.

"Right. You looked dead to us so thanks for that new information." Joy blinked and a smile appeared on her face. She was last of everyone else.

Anon jumped up behind Joy and pushed her into her bubble, "HEY!!!" Joy shouted, trying to calm herself.

She quickly noticed it was Anon which made her chortle, "Seriously Anon?" Joy gave in and responded with a rhetorical question - she groaned and took the ram stick then exited her arm from the sphere.

"Right. I believe that's it?" Saki questioned, looking around if everyone had their item, "Wait, Jamie doesn't have one." she denoted out.

"Seriously guys? I'm okay, I'm fine, seriously don't worry." I gave a fake smile, trying to make them stop worrying about someone like me.

Anon stomped up at me and slapped me with her wand, "Stop acting like you're an exception and go take your item!!!" she ordered.

"Y-Yes ma'am!" I played with her, putting on an artificial stutter. I stepped to the last rock, and the item was kinda odd. It was that Youtube book. But why this? This isn't my destiny. I'm not meant to be a youtuber! This is messed up.

Without warning, I felt many pairs of hands interact with my back, giving me a small clutch of courage.

"No." I shook my head, backing away, "I am not meant for recording!" I cried out, wiping my tears. Wow, even I don't cry. But why now?

"Yes, yes you are. You led us all through this in your own special way. And it does take gut to put yourself on the internet. And we all believe you have that power to become an extraordinary being." my friends said in unison. Did they practice this or something beforehand?

I admitted defeat and walked back into the small, squished semi-circle. I used one of my hands to hold onto Joy's hand for more bravery. I trimmed to use my left arm to take the notebook. I really don't believe I could become someone known for gaming, but if it is my destiny... so be it.

## Chapter 11 ~

### **Time Skip: 3 years later.**

Ah, yes. The summer holidays have ended and it's the 3rd year after the "Inside Destined Reality" incident. You might ask how everyone is doing now...well- Oh shoot, I forgot to text everyone where to meet up at.

"Hey." I heard a voice call from behind the swings, crossing her arms, smirking, "I figured you'd be here, huh."

"Joy? Where are the others?" I raised my head to meet her rich brown eyes.

"Hmm. No idea. they are probably spamming you where to attend with you because you didn't mention it." my best friend giggled.

I scoffed at her diversion, "You're so selfish."

Merielle, also identified as Joy, as I considered before is my best friend. She has assisted me since the very start and I did so too. Though she does still look the same, her personality has changed slightly in the past years. She's now a programmer for a popular game company along with her own game that she is coding by herself. Joy has learnt how to open up more easily and she now has an adorable dog called Penny we ALL love.

I heard a crust of leaves in my earshot, "Rawr." one of the girls acted out in a cute way.

"Evie! Miyu! Hii." I got excited since people started showing up yet I didn't tell them where. I'm so easy to read through, neh. I gestured out to show them to hurry up to me and Joy.

Evie and Miyu are now roommates at an abroad school near my house - which I think is quite lucky. E is doing a nurse cram school to become more knowledgeable in her future hobby. Miyu, on the other hand, she's studying creative writing, astrology, going to and hosting manga workshops every Saturday. And apparently doing an extracurricular activity for GCSE: drama. I never imagined that *she* would like doing performing arts! Miyu has now changed her hair colour back to a beautiful brown ombre and revealed herself to be one of my oldest friends, Yumi. But that's a whole different story for another time. Wink wink.

"Guys! You left us behind" Katie moaned and groaned, trying to grasp for air in the least. She made her way to everyone else with a bag of chips in her hand. I guess that's what held her up.

After a whole lot of arguing and anxiety, Katie has managed to work as a volunteered paramedic at a local hospital. I don't see her as much now, but I know she's been doing well since The Incident. I think the dilemma we stumbled upon when we were still not secure about what we want to do for the future helped us a lot!

"Seriously Jamie?" another familiar voice complained away into the dusk. I just shrugged it off yet Anon kept blabbering about how rude I am.

Frigid, or Anon, has been (and still is) a very supportive friend towards me in her own, special way. She presently hosts magic trick shows in the U.S.A but came here this week to see us all together once again. Anon also has a friend who tagged along on this special day too: Saki.

Saki (or Sak) was one of Joy's friends a while back before any of this happened. Saki is now a very picky person when it comes to going somewhere. One wrong wall design or decoration and she goes mad. You don't want to deal with her trust me.

Seb followed behind Saki and gave a statement based on his thoughts, "Brings back old memories, neh, Jamie?" he nudged me, leaning on the bar that holds up the swings.

I gave a little nod, not knowing what to say to that.

Sebastian has become a digital artist - drawing when he has any free time and inspiration. Seb has always been forgetful, so he did kinda forget about us, which is not his fault.

"I wonder where that book is now that you mention it." Saki introduced, kinda suspicious on the topic.

"We'll never know," Anon replied, she took out her wand and stared at it for a while, probably thinking about what Saki said.

A shiver of thought battled my brains as I tried to shrug it off casually - nothing worked. It was kinda awkward seeing everyone together after so many 365 days. We all stayed silent for a minute or two before Joy made the first move. She sat on the swing beside me and watched the birds over our heads flap their wings, learning how to fly, "So... Jamie. What do you do now?"

I mentally panicked at the sudden question I was smacked with. Wow, she really did get straight to the point.

"W-Well-"

"Oh come on, you never told us! Have you been doing nothing all these years?" Joy interrupted, this made me more nervous to tell them.

Miyu mocked as she put down her foot of the fence and letting her arms lose, now both falling down to her side like two knights, "Pffft. You want to know what she does?"

Joy's attention ganged up on the ombre-brunette as now she leaned towards Joy's ear and whispered something I couldn't even hear.

"PFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFT." Joy screeched out, "Tell me more!" She giggled.

I gave my friend a very threatening death stare as she stepped away from me, putting her hands in her hoodie pockets replying with a relaxed shrug. What did Miyu tell her?

"Is she really a tuna shop worker?" Anon called out, raising an eyebrow towards Miyu and Joy's interesting gossip about me.

I stopped in time and started blushing. How could Miyu be THIS mean?

"I'm not a tuna worker!" I jumped into the crowd that gathered round Yumi to hear her tales but I just playfully tackled her to shut up. Everyone laughed, watching the scene as they were now more cheerful and social. I gave in and let out a giggle too as my comrade followed my actions. From then on, the crew got on perfectly, starting to form conversations between each other. Some just listened in and then told other groups like a "pass-the-note" game, some joked about anything really, some accompanied each other on the swings back like when we were all kids. Oh... what good times.

*I guess you've all been wondering. What do I actually do now? Remember the Inside Destined Reality incident? Well, right after we got out of that dimension, I clung hard onto the courage I received and decided to start making music videos. Surprisingly, about a week later I got gifted the magical power of feedback. I got a lot of messages from my fans who inspired me to do more. And that kept me going.*

*It's about 2015 when I started doing this as my hobby. And I have reached an extraordinary level on Youtube. I cannot thank everyone who stood by my side every day. I love my jam fans. And I'll continue to love them forever.*

"So, who's up to keep this park party going?" I shouted like some crazy psycho that just escaped an asylum.

"Us!!!!" Everyone roared in unison, as we stormed on while the night was still young.

**"It's not over yet though...just you wait."**

- Inside Destined Reality.