

THE UNKNOWN FOREST

As the multiple moons exchanged places with the sun in the now azure sky, a misty haze began to form under the canopy of swaying, rugged trees. What was this place? Why was it so eye catching and yet so unnerving? Curling around thick spiralling branches were constricting vines, which braced and creaked - taking choking holds of the helpless trunks within. Dangling down from the layers of moss, vast, bold leaves flickered like flames in the growing bluster of wind. Dust, grit and grime drifted through the archways created by the curving branches which overshadowed the dimming forest, leaving areas of unknown and bewilderment.

However, the most puzzling of all the sights was the strange, exotic, unfamiliar plants which throbbed with glowing rage. Sapphire, ruby and emerald pierced the sometimes dull surroundings - filling it with an eeriness and raised even more questions about this frightful place. In addition, these supernatural forms danced and twisted in an odd attempt to hypnotize and entice any vulnerable being.

Vulnerable was exactly how Suzie felt as she stood lost and engulfed in this strange and threatening setting. This place was truly special, but for the wrong reasons. Because, in the chaos of the natural surroundings, (where vines choked vines and branches beat down branches) she could feel the eyes of the forest fixed upon her! It was hypnotizing! On top of this, there was a sense that perhaps this was all a mask for an even darker presence... or even a being..

Through a small gap in the flickering leaves, two dull, piercing eyes emerged followed by a gaping mouth full of teeth that jutted out like yellow pegs of evil! Before Suzie had time to spin and flee, the furious beast came charging through foliage like a steam train. Smashing and bursting the tress, splintered due to the strength of this



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vile being which took its first lunge towards the helpless, scrambling girl. Like a clamp, its jaws came chomping down around Suzie's bag and lifted her high up into the air. Fortunately, as quick as a flash, the young explorer, grasped hold of the fastening and sprang it open causing her to escape from the monster's raging mouth. As she landed onto the damp, saturated ground, she took a forward roll which removed her from the immediate danger of being stamped on. However, the disorientated beast was only temporarily distracted.

Within seconds, it had caught sight of the now fleeing young girl and made another dart towards her. Leaping over fallen branches, and stumbling around sharp rocks, Suzie's heart was now pounding like an exploding drum. Suddenly, she caught sight of a cliff! If she could make it over the cliff, perhaps there would be a small chance she would escape

Faster and faster her legs carried her. Closer and closer the creature came! Reaching the edge of the land, Suzie took a desperate leap out over the surging, frothing water below - she closed her eyes. Behind her, the horrid beast took one final snap towards her, its feet clinging on to the edge of the cliff. Suzie felt its warm putrid breath on the back of her neck but slipped out of its grasp, plunging down towards the deep river below... With a frustrated growl, the beast retreated back into the depths of the forest in which it belonged... Suzie, meanwhile, was nowhere to be seen...

