

## Through the window

I remember as it would happen yesterday. Just as every year, we did not miss a regular stay in our cottage located deeply in the woods. Surrounded by magical nature and the secret mystery of dense trees. When we arrived, the whiff of childhood memories struck me and the time limiting our lives, suddenly disappeared.

I come back here all over again with both my siblings, maybe because of nostalgia, maybe because of the escape from our everyday routine, but mainly because we live on the other side of the world and this is the only place that remained our common. In the cottage, where it looked like the time was stopped and things stayed at their changeless places.

In the early morning we went for a walk to the forest which I knew by heart. In the nature I always found understanding and the simplicity of being. The silence that spoke to the depth of the soul and answered all hidden questions of our unconscious.

After the exploring day I decided to cuddle to the warmth of my rest place at the window. I held a book and a cup of coffee in my hands. I was drawn to the story immediately so I did not realize that it was getting dark outside. Afterwards I looked through the window into the scary darkness, surrounding area was lit just by light of nearby cottages. Then the view of dense rows of trees occurred to me, they were slowly dangled in the rhythm of summer evening breeze. Our cottage was separated from woods just by simple wooden fence.

Suddenly I noticed an extraordinary movement in the background. I narrowed my eyes and tried to realize what was happening outside. It didn't take a long time when some figures with bowing heads in hoodies appeared among the trees. At first I thought it seemed to me, but reflection of their steps was noticeable for a certain time. The fact that outside there were some strange people could be alarming for somebody. However, I just raised my eyes to an antique clock and decided to finish my day with well-deserved sleep. At that time I did not even think that there might be more mysteries on the trip.

Next evening we were spending together and we decided to grill some meat and vegetables with our neighbours. The weather was really nice, the sun was shining and it was really hot outside in spite of the forest around us. We were having a good time so I forgot about the occurrence from yesterday. We were drinking wine and enjoying the magic of the moment.

Slowly, the air started to cool down, so I went back to my room to take a warm sweater. I snapped it and looked out of the window at the group of laughing people below. I was putting on my sweater when I saw something strange again. Bowed dark figures were swaying among the trees. I did not hesitate. I opened the window immediately starting to shout at the strangers:

„Hey, stop! Who are you!“ But no answer.

„Hey, strangers, can you hear me?“ No answer again.

The figures suddenly disappeared without a trace. The only response to my shout were surprised eyes of the people below.

„Are you okay?“ Asked my sister coming up to my room.

„Of course, I just saw something weird outside,“ I stammered.

„Are you sure? We did not see anything. Maybe, it was the semblance.“

I decided not let it be, I wanted to find out who are the strange people. My siblings noticed that something went wrong with me because I was tense, but they did not know anything. I was confident to trace the strangers and investigate what was hidden in the forest I knew like the palm of my hand.

I was hidden midst the trees waiting for the strangers. It made my blood run cold and I caught up myself holding my breath. Despite of a warm sweater my body was shivering with fear. I was getting more and more eager expecting following moments.

Then I saw them coming one by one. Soft, barely visible light was shining down from their long coats to show them way. I stood a dozen feet away. I overcame my fear and stepped out with slow and silent steps pleased they did not notice me.

As I followed them, the air seemed to be much colder and my heart was in my mouth. The feeling of uncertainty and fear were floating around me. I was sure that I could not find the way back. I wanted to scream and pretend nothing had happened, it was just a bad joke! However, I abandoned the idea when I noticed something wide and bright. We were there. We reached the destination.

I hid myself behind the widest tree and I watched that glory lit by moonlight. In front of me there was a lake, which reflected all the deepness of night. On the opposite shore there was a high abandoned cabin. The strangers' shadows disappeared in the dark of the cabin and I felt much more confused. I knew the woods inside out, but I had never seen or even heard about a lake right there. I got out of my hide totally dazed and moistened my face and hands with the lake water. I was looking around not believing my eyes and afterward - I did not remember anything.

Suddenly, I opened my eyes. There was not a living soul. Lying on the grass I felt like somebody erased my mind. The only one clear memory was about the view of lake and cabin. I could not remember the faces of foreigners. I did not know why, but I wanted to find the way back and reached the lake again. Deep inside I hoped I could do it.

I never found that place again, but inside of our cottage I found something completely unexpected. Puzzle. I had never seen that box before, but after I opened it, the pieces of jigsaw puzzle spilled to the ground. It took a really long time until all the pieces fit one another and I put together the picture of the same lake with cabin I had already seen.

I was shocked, I could not believe my eyes. It's true that we will never answer all questions of our lives. I found out that there is something between heaven and earth, the things unreachable by our perception. There are undetectable secrets, never solved mysteries, but we can learn patience and the eye of the observer.

The end. :-)