

She Never Left

Me and my friends, Zen, Jayline and Kiyomi are working on our project in the Ferguson Library. It's getting a bit late but then Zen comes up with a horrible idea. "Guys, I feel like doing something dangerous," Zen says with energy. My eyes widen, "uhh how about no? I'm not trying to put anyone's life at risk" What is Zen talking about? It's so dark out and we shouldn't be doing anything dangerous, but obviously Jayline is on Zen's side and starts defending him. Jayline starts talking about how 'we only live once' and we should 'live it while it lasts', but I don't think they understand that if we do something dangerous our life could end right there.. Kiyomi also starts defending Zen, but to be honest I'm not shocked. She loves danger and putting her life at risk, but hey, she's the best. "Well it's 3v1 so we should do something!" Jayline sounds like he's half asleep. "How about we camp out in the library?" Jayline says as he looks up the library times on his phone. "Are you for real? That's really dumb you know, let's just scrap this idea and go hom-" He cuts me off and says we can try 'hiding'. These people cannot be serious. I mean how are we gonna hide in a library with security? I can't argue anymore; all I know is that even if I try to defend myself nothing will work. I can't even recognize my own friends anymore (sarcasm). As everyone leaves the library we are still here pretending to do our work. We all text our parents saying we are 'staying over at someone's house' even though that's a white lie. This is so stupid, we could get into serious trouble, but obviously they think this is completely fine. As we hide in the bathroom we wait for a while. I'm worried, I'm getting anxious and scared. What if we get busted? Time goes by and it starts feeling like we have been waiting for hours. I'm getting tired and sleepy; I wish I was sleeping on my bed, all curled up, but I got dragged into this mess. "You think it's safe to go out yet?" Zen asks while checking his hair. "No, maybe we should wait longer?-" Jayline gets interrupted by Kiyomi and she slams the door open. "Guys come on! I'm tired of waiting." We all scatter out of the bathroom and make our way to the bottom level. It seems so..weird? I guess it feels weird since it's completely empty. As I run my finger through the manga, I hear this echo in my ear. I spin around and start calling for my friends. "Guys! Seriously! That isn't funny, don't scare me like that." I say as I look all three of them up and down. "Huh? I wasn't near you, I was near the computers." Zen sounds like he's being for real. "I was with Jayline the entire time since I was trying to scare HIM," Kiyomi says as she looks at Jayline. No way, no way, no way. I told them about how I was hearing echoes and some really weird noise. They told me that I might be anxious since I didn't want to be a part of this, but to be honest, it seemed so realistic. I tell them about how I genuinely think that it wasn't fake and that I actually heard it, so Kiyomi decided to stick by my side. I check if they ever have Attack On Titan book one available, but I guess it isn't,

but then I hear something again. "Oh my god! Kiyomi, did you hear that?" Kiyomi wasn't looking at me, so I tried tapping her shoulder. "Kiyomi! I'm talking to you!" As she turns her head she starts explaining to me that she didn't hear anything and she said I'm hallucinating. "No! I'm not hallucinating!" I shout in her face. How could she have not heard that? Wait, something seems so off about her; Her eyes look so empty and there is a necklace on her neck that I didn't see before. I asked her where she got it from and then all of a sudden the lights flicker. I can't see anything, all I hear are my friends screaming my name, but then I hear this familiar voice. It sounded like a girl, but it can't be Kiyomi. Her voice is in a higher pitch and Kiyomi's voice is lower. I pull my phone out and turn the flashlight on and the first thing I see is Kiyomi but her eyes are white. Her hair is messy with ripped clothes and white eyes. I'm on the floor panicking and trying to kick this doppelgänger and then all of a sudden it's on the floor. As I screamed for my friends I heard Kiyomi shouting "hey! What the heck was that?!" I ran into her arms and told her everything that just happened. Hold on, is this the real Kiyomi? I asked her a question she would only know "what was the first thing I said to you when we met?" I ask as I check her to see if this is the real Kiyomi. "You said I looked like your aunt but younger with longer hair" Yup, that's the girl I know. I explain to her about what just happened and grab my stuff to head out. Jayline and Zen witnessed the entire thing unfold. "Wait! You're leaving?" Zen asks as he grabs my arm. Well obviously, I almost got eaten alive by my friend's doppelgänger! But Zen tries calming me down and explains how we have to figure out what that was. "Listen, I won't let anything happen to you Jasmine. I bet we were the only ones to witness this! If anything happens to you, then I'll pull up to your funeral." Haha, so funny Zen, a great way to make me feel better. Well I can't argue with Zen since he is right. Maybe we should figure out what that was. We decided to stick together and look around. We headed up to the Children's area and looked around, but it was cleared. We went upstairs and still nothing until I stumbled into a boy. How could someone still be in here? I asked what his name was and he said his name is Liam. Liam explained that his mother works here and he doesn't know where she went, so he stayed in a corner and waited until his mother came back. Poor kid, he seems so frightened. As I try comforting him, I search around for the other three. I grabbed the kid's arm and showed Liam to my friends. "Be careful, what if that isn't an actual person?" Jayline questions as he backs up, but I already checked him and seems like an 'actual person' to me. "We need to find this kid's mother immediately! I feel so horrible for him, what if he encountered one of those clone things?" I keep him close to me, he seems around the age 7, but I can't tell for sure. The three of them finally agree to help Liam, but they said I have to take care of him. Honestly, I'm fine with that, as long as I can find his parents. We keep walking around to see if we see anyone and I ask Liam if he saw anyone with that necklace and white eyes; he said that he knows what I'm talking about and tells me those are

'Shadowfiend' and they lurk in the dark, ready to turn someone into one of them. Liam also explains that if you ever encounter one, you shouldn't move or interact with them. I catch up with the others since I'm walking behind them and tell the three about what Liam told me. "Really? Hey little dude, have you seen this symbol anywhere?" Zen bent down to ask Liam and he inspected the necklace. "Yes, I think I saw it over here." Liam drags us to a specific place in the library. "Oh my god.." Everyone stares at the wall with the symbol drawn large in red. "Look! There's an initial on the pendent!" Zen and Jayline point out backing up. Hang on, we know this initial. But it can't be! She passed away years ago. "Guys! This is HER initials!" I shriek as I back up into Kiyomi. We sprint behind some couches and start freaking out. It can't be her.. No way. The little boy is still in front of the symbol. This symbol looks like an angel wing with the initials 'D.K.' with weird faces drawn around. "Hey, Liam! Are you doing ok over there?" I shout for him to get away from the symbol, but he doesn't listen. Is it too late? Did he turn into a Shadowfiend as well? Kiyomi gets up and pulls his shoulder back to see white eyes and that necklace. It was too late to save him. Kiyomi yells for us to keep our guards up and to make a run for it. "Grab something to defend yourself!" Jayline shouts as he picks up a book. "You seriously think you can defend yourself with a book?" I say as I look around for something. "It's hard covered!" Jayline replies back as he throws me a hardcover book as well. They finally start realizing that we should have just went home instead. "Dahlia? Is that you?" I can see her faint face right in front of me. Dahlia passed away a few years ago in a tragic accident. She always held our friend group together and made sure everything was in place. "Dahlia! Is this seriously you?" The other three run behind me and are in shock. It really is her, the sweet girl I knew ever since I was a kid. She was standing right in front of me. "I will always be by your side." Dahlia echoed as she slowly drifted away. She was gone again, forever. She loved reading books and loved writing stories. She never left us, she was always here. But what was attacking us? "Theres a note next to the symbol." Kiyomi points out. She read aloud "I will never go away. I will always be here next to you, even if you don't realise it. But I'm out here to get you, leave as soon as possible before you get injured." Well thats our sign to leave immediately. We ran out the doors of the library and didn't look back. We stayed over at Jayline's house since he only lives with his brother and his brother wouldn't care. Today was definitely an adventure, but I wonder what happened to Liam. Is he apart of the Shadowfiends? Will he ever find his mother? I guess we'll never know. But for now, I should reflect back on what happened. She really never left us.