The Ghost

by Kieyn Parks

Kent and lilum Beckett lived on a quiet block. The sidewalks of the block are lined with dogwood trees. In the spring the dogwood trees bloomed with brilliant pink flowers from one end of the street all the way to the next. The road and sidewalk would be covers in layers of pink flower petals that looked like pink snow. The air throughout the neighborhood smelled like sweet perfume due to the dogwood blossoms.

Every day, Kent and Lilum would go outside to play in the sea of fallen petals with the other kids from the block. They would pile up the petals into a great big heap and run through it. When one heap was sufficiently destroyed, they would build another heap. For the neighborhood children it was great fun to play in the heaps of flowers for hours unending.

There were 14 houses on the street that Kent and Lilum lived on. Seven houses on either side. The name of the street is Mulberry Street. Mulberry had the biggest dogwood trees in the neighborhood because it was the first block to be built when the neighborhood was developed many decades ago when the tree was planted. Many of the families on Mulberry never moved, passing the property down through the generations.

The house that Kent and Lilum lived in was recently bought by their parents William and Sheryl Beckett. It was an entirely new environment for the Beckett’s, but they liked the neighborhoods quiet traditional appeal and the ancient looking trees that lined the street gave the block it’s unique character. Mulberry Street was known as the spooky street among the kids in the neighborhood.

Mulberry has one entrance on the east side of the block. At the other end of Mulberry is a dead end and beyond that is undeveloped lands filled with big trees and undergrowth. There is a footpath to enter the forested area just beyond the curb at the dead end. About 20 meters in from the beginning of the foot path is the start of trapper’s hiking trails. Trapper’s trail is very popular with local hikers.

Once you enter the trail head it’s almost like a different world beneath the forest canopy. In the daytime the tall canopy is penetrated by streams of light like laser beams from the sky, this creates a 3 dimensional checker board effect of light and shadow protruding from the ground and reaching up through the canopy. Pillars of light and shadow that seemingly forms the foundation of the world above.

The forest floor had some undergrowth but it was mostly sparse and flat. Even though you could easily walk in any direction with little hinderance there was a distinct and well-worn path for perspective travelers. It was obvious that most hikers did no stray from the well grooved out way. At night the forest became the blackest place on earth devoid of all-natural light; like a loveless place full of sorrow.

During the day the trails are full of hikers and the children are free to go in and out of the forest as they please. At night it was a different story for the children; none of whom are brave enough to even venture close to the tree line. The children would dare each other to enter the trails at night but none would take up the challenge; Stories of ghosts in the woods keep them at bay.

The Beckett’s lived in house #35 which was the last house on the block just before the foot path. The property line of the Beckett’s land butts right up against the forest boundary. The house on the property was a comfortable distance away from the trees and was surrounded by a wooden fence right-way-round. On the forest side of the fence there was a clearing about 4 meters wide that ran the full length of the fence along the forest boundary. The only break in the fence came at the front of the property facing the street; The entire length of the front is opened to the street and features a paved driveway and walkway up to the front door. A white mail box marked the beginning of the walkway from at the edge of the sidewalk.