Chapter 1

I wake up. Its dark in my room. I take a glance at my alarm clock and see its almost time to get dressed. School is starting soon. I turn around one more time. What feels like seconds later my alarm goes off. I purposefully put the alarm clock at the other side of the room. So I have to wake up. I look to my window and open the curtains. Light pours into my room. Now my problems begin. what shall I wear today. Well that’s a hard choice because I can choose between school uniform one and two. So, it is no choice at all. I put my books in my bag. Clean my room of the cloths I wore yesterday. And I go down stairs where my so called parents are waiting. They are sitting at the dinner table as usual. “good morning.” I mumble. “good morning dear, how was your sleep?” my mother Catherine is always worried about me. because of course she heard about my past and she hears the screams when I’m having nightmares. But she doesn’t know the truth behind them. “great, no nightmares today. Is there some coffee left?” she looks relieved. “yes of course dear, it’s in your to go cup. And next to it, you will find your breakfast.” She knows how I want my breakfast. I walk to the kitchen and I smile. All those little things making my life lighter. “thanks. See you two after school, love you.” I yell from the kitchen. I was already walking away when I heard a soft love you in return. I jump on my bike. It was a gift for my 16th birthday. School is starting soon and I was already a bit on the late side. And of course it starts to rain. Luck is never on my side. So I drive faster to school hoping to be on time. But when I look to my left to watch if there is traffic. I see one. A shadow as I call it. It’s been almost a month since the last time I saw one. I thought they forgot about me and left me alone. But apparently they didn’t. this one is different I can almost see the features of her face. Almost if she was more real than the others. I jumped of my bike. I walked slowly towards it. It looked strong. Like she had no fear. “hello, who are you?” I whispered silently. She didn’t answer, but she turned around. Walking away from me. “wait, don’t walk away.” She didn’t look at me. At that moment I decided to follow the shadow. She walked towards the woods. After some time she went around a corner. I have no idea how long I have been walking for. But when I rounded the corner she was gone. No shadow. No movements. So this was all for nothing. I’m probably too late for class. So I would be in trouble again because of the damn shadow. My thoughts dropped dead. I heard some leaves move. I stood frozen in place. A few seconds later I heard it again. I looked around still standing frozen in place. I saw something move but it wasn’t a shadow. It was a small girl with hear like that of an angel. She was dressed in a beautiful white dress that was smeared with mud and green of grass. But the color that most stood out on her dress was the red. Red like blood. I run to her to help her. She looks at me with pain but also with a small smile. Normally I wouldn’t have seen the smirk but she looked like she wanted to hurt something. I shook my head. I looked at her again. How could such a beautiful child want to hurt someone. “help.” She said painfully. At that moment I took my phone wanting to call an ambulance. But at that moment it struck me we were in the woods I couldn’t call anyone. As fast as I wanted to make the phone call, I picked up the girl. And started running. The girl was moaning in my arms with pain. I started to run even faster but there came no end to the never ending sight of trees. For how long have I actually been following the shadow? I was becoming tired but the girl was still bleeding, so I couldn’t stop to take a break. the life of this girl was literally in my hands. After what felt like hours of running. I finally saw the road I came from. I saw my bike beside the road. I placed the girl carefully on the grass. And got my cellphone out of my pocket. And called for an ambulance immediately. And as I heard the sirens getting closer I blacked out of exhaustion. When I wake up again I’m in the hospital. Catherine is sitting beside my bed. Looking worried as always. I started to sit up straight and she stands up and runs to me “please, lay down sweetheart. The police already told me they found you near the woods, when they called me I was so scared, they couldn’t tell me what happened. And, and they looked like they didn’t know it either.” At that moment the police came in. there were 2 of them. “may I ask you some questions?” said one of the officers. I nodded in agreement. “we found you near the woods. you called the ambulance saying a girl was bleeding and she needed help. But when we arrived at the scene we only found you. How can this be?” “I, I don’t know she was there when I blacked out. I found her in the woods she had white hair and she was wearing a white dress.” I replied. They looked at me and then at each other. Then the other officer spoke. “but why were you in woods while you should have been in school? when you called, school already ended and your mother says you left on time to get to school.” I looked at them figuring out what to say I couldn’t say anything about the shadow. “I , I don’t know. I didn’t know I’ve been out there for so long. And I say to you there is a girl somewhere that needs urgent help. So instead of talking to me please search for her.” Catherine spoke up for me “that’s enough for now, my daughter needs to rest thank you.” She looked at me with a concerned look when the officers left. But I went to sleep once again.

I walked forward towards the giant building in front of me. it looked like a castle made out of black and white stones. It was beautiful. Shapes were forming in front of it. They are coming towards me. some of them are glowing white and others glowing black. Once they close in on me, they all start pointing at me. my head explodes with pain and I scream loud.

I wake up screaming. My room is dark. After a few seconds I recognize the hospital room. The past day rushes before my eyes with what happened. A nurse comes running into my room and asks “are you alright? You were screaming pretty loud.” I look at her “just a terrible nightmare. is Catherine somewhere close?” “no she went home a few hours ago you were sleeping for a long time and she needed to rest as well. Can I get something else for you?” I sign “can you get me a glass of water, please. that would be perfect.” I smile at her. Then somehow I recognize her. I’ve never seen her in the hospital but I know her from something else. But it doesn’t come to mind. A moment later she comes back with some water. “thank you.” She looks at me “if you need anyone to talk to you can come to me.” she smiles a soft smile “I’ve been through things like this myself. No one believing you, people saying you’re crazy while you know the truth. A truth they don’t understand.” I look at her shocked. Does she really know what is happening to me? Does she know about the shadows? “what are you talking about?” I ask her. “I know it seems difficult to lie to everyone around you. You’ve told people in the past. They didn’t believe you why should they now, right? But you only know part of the truth. A part that they don’t know, yes. But it is not the complete truth. But you will learn soon enough.” She smiles at me one more time and turns around. When she’s almost out of the door, I ask “what was your name again?” “Shatish, my name is Shatish.” And she walks away. Is it true that she knows more about these shadows, and why does she know what happened in my life? For what seems like hour I finally fell asleep.

The next morning I woke up to see my mother asleep in a chair close to my bed. Was she back already? I sit up straight, and look around. It is still dark outside, I look at my phone and see it is 5 o’clock in the morning. Why would my mother already be back if she went home yesterday? I get out of my bed and go to the toilet. It looks like a normal hospital bathroom. But on the edge of the sink is what look like a gem of sorts. But there is liquid swirling within it. I walk towards it. I can feel it pulling me towards it. I try to leave to room but it is just not possible. I stretch my arm forward to touch the stone. And when I do, my head explodes in pain. With both hands I grab my head and sink down on the floor. I scream and I look up. but when I do I’m not alone. There are people in here with me. all dressed in white. With gold hair. They all look at me. I notice how it looks like they radiate light. But I cannot think, I’m still in pain. I push the people away, and I run out of the bathroom. My mom is standing right in front of the door. Looking shocked and asks “why did you scream! What is happening!” I look at her “can’t you see these people all around us! They are everywhere just like the girl I told you about!” she looks at me even more concerned and even a bit scared “no darling, I don’t. if you just sit down for a second and talk with me, everything will be fine.” I look at her in disbelieve “No, it will not be fine if I sit down! They are here and I can touch them and hear them!” at that moment I decide there is only 1 person that can help me. I run through the crowd of people to the nearest desk. A kind looking lady sits behind it and I ask “Can I speak with Shatish?” She looks at me kindly. And picks up her phone and says to the person on the other side “I need your over here.” She looks at me “And I have the feeling it’s urgent.” Then she lays down the phone, looks at me one more time before I collapse.