



Chapter 5

The bus drops the three girls off at a bus stop in front of a shopping plaza, and they walk through a nice neighborhood of green lawns and large yards. Clover looks over all the houses noticing every detail, perfectly mowed lawns and fences with potted plants around them.

A massive bird lands

Clover waits for the other 2 to step over the threshold of the welcome mat. Taylor and Chris both walk in with their shoes on. The side door opens into a really nice looking kitchen. Clover hangs by the door for a second longer, waiting for one of them to say something.

“This is a nice place” The ghost floats by effortlessly, looking over the nice painted walls with framed pictures and... fake potted plants.

“Should I take my shoes off?” Clover asks.

“You can if you want to” Chris says walking to the counter.

Taylor's already walking up the stairs that are on the right of the room that split the very clean kitchen from a very clean living room. Clover decides to keep her shoes on like the other two had, and places her plastic bag on the dark marble island as well.

The ghost floats into the house, over to an array of family photos right before the stairs. Looking closely at them. The girls and their parents are happily on vacation at a beach, a gap-toothed Taylor is holding a large fish in one, and Chris celebrating her 5th birthday in another with frosting all over her face.

“Just make yourself at home” Chris calls out, and walks down a hall off of the kitchen, and Clover hears a door shut.

Clover stands still looking intently at the counter trying to pretend there’s no one else in the room. She focuses on the bowl of fruit next to their bags of convenience store snacks.

The ghost flies across the kitchen popping her head into their cabinets “Holy crap! they have a really nice place!” the ghost turns and looks at her, Clover keeps her eyes straight forward, the ghost floats up by her “this is your first time here too isn’t it, you look so awkward.”

Clover tenses up.

Taylor comes back down already switched into a pair of sweats and T-shirt, her cropped black hair pulled back in a ponytail and headband.

“Did Chris just leave you here?” She looks down the hall where Chris had gone and sighs “well the bathroom is down that way” she motions down the hall Chris disappeared down “and if you want water the glasses are here next to the sink, and use the fridge not the faucet.”

Taylor grabs a glass for herself.

Clover relaxes, and nods.

Taylor leans against the counter “So you and Chris are in calculus together?”

“Yes we are,” Clover responds.

Taylor nods “does she actually do the work?”

“Huh?”

“She can’t stand numbers and hates math, she wouldn’t be taking it if she didn’t need to. Does she actually pay attention?”

Clover tries to think back to their classes “I think so?”

The back door they’d walked in opens, Clover turns and accidentally locks eyes with a woman, she has a greasy paper bag in her hand munching on fries in her other. She freezes, looking between the two girls in her kitchen.

“MOM!” Taylor yells.

The woman just stares at her mid bite of a fry.

“I thought you were on a diet.” The daughter crosses her arms.

“I just really wanted some great food!” she groans.

“Did you get us any?” Taylor asks hopefully.

The woman chews her fries “I’ll be back” and she closes the door.

“If I knew she was going to break her diet tonight, we wouldn’t have needed to stop and get snacks,” the other girl laughs.

The door opens again “what would your friend like?” their mom asks.

“Oh! Ummm...” Clover thinks quickly.

Both of them looked at her.

“BURGERS!” the ghost cheers.

“BURGERS!” Clover says a little too loudly. She clears her throat “um... a burgers good... thank you”

Their mom nods and heads back out.

“I can pay you guys back,” Clover insists.

“No, it’s fine,” Taylor waves her off “don’t worry about that.”

“But-”

“Why does it smell like mcdonalds in here?” Chris walks back also wearing sweats and a matching hoodie.

“Mom came home with Mcdonalds.”

“WHAT?! Did she bring us any?” Chris asks excitedly.

“She said she’ll be back,” Taylor tells her.

“YES!” Chris cheers!

“Even after a kraken attack you can trust Mcdonalds to be open the next day” Taylor jokes as they all walk upstairs.

The three of them... and the ghost, all head upstairs Chris is more than happy to get out her switch and teach Clover how to play Mario Kart. They all sit down on Chris' extremely plush daybed overstuffed with pink and white pillows.

Clover does her best to control her princess peach, the large twelfth place on her side of the screen and Chris with her golden number one.

"You have to boost when you turn," Chris says.

"I... have no idea what that means!!!" Clover shakes the controller in her hand.

Taylor sits up putting her phone down. She puts her hands around Clovers and shows her how to boost "use these buttons when you turn and you'll go faster when you let go."

Clover does the thing! "AHHH I'M DOING THE THING!"

"YEAH!" Chris cheers, intensifying her eyes on the screen, not ready to give up first place!

Taylor continues to scroll through her Sparkleapp "hey look, they're talking about that new magical girl."

Clover freezes, Princess Peach drives right over a ledge on screen. The ghost who's sitting on the floor bored perks up, turning her head. She rests her chin on the side of the bed and smiles, looking at the girl in question.

“LET ME SEE!” while still holding first place and crossing the finishing line Chris reaches across Clover for her sister's phone.

Clover's eyes glance to the ghost.

“They're talking about us” the ghost sings, and she smoothly floats off the ground and over Chris's shoulder. Her smile disappears “woah... These pictures are awful.”

“What are they saying about her?” Clover tries to keep her voice as firm as possible.

Clover resists looking at her “what's team star??”

“The local magical girl team” The two girls and ghost all say at the same time.

“Didn't you have a magic team back home?” Chris asks, shoving a handful of popcorn in her mouth.

“No we didn't, I've heard of places that had them, but I never thought I'd actually see them in action” Clover tells them, “my town was really small and we never really needed much protection from anything, much less massive kaijus.”

“I can't picture living in a place with no magical girls” Chris looks at her with big eyes “they've always been around.”

“Yeah, and before team Star it was another team” Taylor ads.

“What happened to them?” Clover asks.

Taylor shrugs “the new team said they retired, which makes sense. Being a magical girl probably isn’t easy once you start getting older.”

Clover tried picturing in her head having white hair and was forced to arm wrestle a kraken.

Chris puts Taylor’s phone in her face “That’s them!”

There’s a group of women all decked in magical girl glitter and big hair. Red, purple, and white smiling, hands on hips with a dead creature behind them.

Taylor attempts to snatch her phone back but Claire pulls away quickly.

“This is your first monster season here right?” Claire says intently scrolling through something on the phone.

“Yeah,” Clover says.

Taylor reaches over Clover and takes her phone back from her sister.

Taylor tosses her phone on the other side of herself “How’ve you been holding up?”

Clover shrugs “well... the kraken was terrifying...” the images of that night go through her head, and she swears she can still smell the salt water “and that flock of migrating birds were scary, I thought one of them was going to eat me.”

“Sometimes they grab smaller people and children” Chris puts a hand on her shoulders “you should really stay inside next time.”

“And the racoons are... loud.”

“Yeaah” Taylor sighs “they won’t go away... no matter what you do.”

Chris butts in “and they don’t know why they keep getting bigger!” Chris jumps up, holding her arms wide. Even the ghost jumps.

“Here we go,” Taylor sighs.

“What?” Clover looks up at the blonde girl.

“The kaijus, they’re getting bigger!” Chris looks her in the eyes.

“BIGGER?!” Clover asks.

“No they’re not,” Taylor mutters to herself.

Clover looks at her. Then back at Chris.

“Years ago!” she starts “animals apparently used to be smaller like you could pick up a raccoon, or a bird could land on your shoulder.”

“Liiies” Taylor whispers in Clover’s ear loudly “don’t listen to her, she’s crazy.”

“NO I’M NOT!” she shouts.

“Yes you are, stop staying up all night watching conspiracy videos.”

Chris reaches down grabbing her own phone scrolling intently again “I have so many videos on this!”

“They’re not real,” Taylor says, picking up her phone again and leisurely scrolling through her sparkleapp.

“Someones trying to cover it up” Chris defends “and YOU’RE falling for it.”

Taylor looks at Clover “you don’t believe this do you?”

Clover looks between the two sisters “um well...” her eyes even catch on the ghost, who shakes her head no. Better not to get involved in this “I think I need to go to the bathroom...”

Clover gets up from the bed leaving the two bickering.

“Maybe you should take something other than kaiju studies, Chris, and focus on getting a real job,” Taylor says.

“Kaiju studies is a real career path!”

Clover picks up her pace heading downstairs. Clover quickly gets up and retreats out of the room and quickly down the stairs.

“How’s everything up there?”

Clover jumps and sees Taylor and Chris’ mom looking over the back of the couch.

“It’s good, everything’s good,” she says.

“Do you guys need anything?”

“No we’re good, I just needed to use the bathroom” Clover pulls on the sleeves of her shirt.

“Right down the hall sweetie!”

“Thank you” Clover quickly makes it out of there.

In the bathroom she flops against the door and takes a deep breath. Trying to steady her shaking hands.

“They’re loving this new magical girl!”

“AH!” Clover opens her eyes, in the mirror across the room is the ghost!

“Are you alright in there?!” Clover hears the girl's mom ask.

“Yes, just a spider!” she calls back.

“Seeing a lot of spiders aren’t you?” the glowing blue apparition smirks.

“Leave me alone” Clover hisses under her breath.

The ghost rolls her eyes and floats out the mirror, gracefully sitting herself down on the counter “why’d you leave the whip back at your dorm?”

“I was hoping it would leave YOU there with it” she points her finger.

“”Nope, I’ll go where you go” she says.

“Why?!”

The ghost shrugs “well... you’re the only one that can see me, soooo... here I am.”

“Go find someone else to see you” Clover grits her teeth.

“Nope, you’re it” she smiles brightly “but don’t worry I’m a great roommate! I love gossiping, talking, and watching movies! We’ll have a great time! I’m like a friend that never leaves your side.”

Clover looks around the bathroom.

“Okay... maybe right now I do leave your side, just wanted to catch up with my bestie! I’ll be upstairs with the girls!” She waves and floats through the ceiling.

Clover stares at the ceiling.

The ghost pops her head back out “by the way, just call me Ghost I think that’s simple enough right?” she laughs and peaces out.



Chapter 6

Clover pries her tired eyes open, and there's two dark blue ones staring back at her.

"Good Morning" the ghost smiles brightly, Clover feels her icy breath on her face "how did you sleep?"

Without responding Clover sits up looking around the room, next to her Chris is curled up. Very awkwardly Clover crawls over her friend to get out of the day bed, and then heads downstairs. The house smells like freshly brewed coffee and bacon. The girl's mom looks away from the stove and smiles.

"Good Morning" she says brightly.

Clover responds shyly "good morning."

"There's coffee in the pot if you'd like some, and I'm making eggs!" She sings.

Clover takes her coffee and sits in the living room with a very tired looking Taylor.

"Did you sleep well?" Clover asks.

"Eh," Taylor shrugs, and they leave it at that.

After a not so eventful morning with a ghost complaining about how she misses the taste of coffee and listing through her favorite flavors of creamers, while Clover does her best to pretend she's not there She leaves before the sisters. Chris was still asleep and Taylor had offered her a ride to

the school but Clover decided to take the bus, and told her friend she'd meet up with them later.

No one's ideal day starts off with physics...or dead people.

The ghost stares ahead at the droning teacher and the girl she was now haunting. "Do you have any idea what he's talking about?" The brunette makes a point to not look at her, but she sees her hand tick. The ghost gets up closer to her, and shouts into the girl's ear "This is so boring!"

Clover bites the inside of her cheek to keep from yelling back, because of course she knows it's boring! She doesn't need someone shouting in her ear about it! She looks down at her notebook and writes down what the teacher had written on the board.

"You know you can't ignore me forever..." The ghost leans her elbows on her desk... sort of. She can't actually lean on anything but she can float effortlessly "sooner or later you'll have to accept that, you might as well do it now."

Nothing, no response from the girl.

"I saw your collection of spicy books in your closet, you wanna talk about those?"

That has Clover turning to look at her with furrowed brows looking more confused.

Ghost smirks "tell me about them! I think I read a bunch of those when I was alive but I can't name any of them."

"CLOVER!"

Clover looks at the teacher, a few others in the room glanced her way.

“Sorry what?” she asks.

“I haven’t received your assignment yet,” he says.

“...Assignment...”

“The essay” the teacher clarifies.

“The essay” she repeats and thinks about how she had planned to do it the other night “I...”

“If you need an extension see me later, my office will be open for a few hours today” and he looks back down at his laptop.

The ghost chuckles “Ooohhh you’re in trouble.”

Clover grips the paper in her hands, and takes a deep breath. ‘Don’t answer her, do not even look at her’ every time she talks to that damn ghost something bad or embarrassing happens. She wasn’t going to look at her again, if she pretended she wasn’t there long enough she’ll just go away, she’ll have to get bored eventually right?

The ghost ranted on and on about the text messages she was reading on a girls phone... across the room “holy shit this is getting intense, apparently Julian is cheating on Gabrielle with someone named Jenny!”

‘Just zone her out’ she repeats over and over in her head. She bawled her rage into a fist.

“OH MY GOD! JENNYS PREGNANT!”

It was like having a soap opera playing in her own head while no one else could hear it. She could barely listen to the teacher at all! Finally after the annoying 2 hours Clover stomps out of class.

The ghost floats with her through the hall “That was a wild ride, when’s the next time you have Physics class?! I need to catch up on her texts.”

“If you like her texts so much go follow her around!” she grits out.

“Follow her?!” The ghost gasps, putting a hand on her heart. “I’m not some weirdo stalker, people need privacy, that’d just be rude.”

Clover stops dead in her tracks, and glares up at Ghost.

A guy from her class walks past lookin... concerned. Clover’s reminded once again no one can see this really annoying girl that’s right next to her, and she’s standing in the hall looking at nothing but air! She starts walking again, putting her ear buds in and looking at the ground.

The ear buds don’t fully block her out, but they help some “Why you walkin so fast?”

Clover doesn’t know why she’d care, when she could so effortlessly float after her.

“You know that’s not how to make new friends,” Ghost starts “In fact it’s kind of coming off as mean.”

Clover purses her lips. Shooting Ghost a dark look from the corner of her eye. She walks in the library.

She finds her normal table where she has been meeting up with Taylor and Chris. She throws her bag in one of the wooden chairs when someone puts a hand on her shoulder, she jumps.

The hand is warm, and not the ghosts. She looks up at a tall guy with ruffled hair and weirdly nice cheekbones. Oh... he said something.

“What?” Clover asks again, even taking out one of the earbuds.

“You’re being really loud, your loud stomping, the librarian asked me to tell you to be a bit more respectful of the others here.”

Her face heats up “right, sorry” she squeaks out.

He smiles and walks away. Clover takes a deep breath and debates leaving, then she gets a text. She reads it.

Chris - ‘I FOUND SOMETHING COOL!’

And absolutely nothing elaborating what it could be.

Clover - ‘what?’

While she waits for her friends she sits down and takes her laptop out. Keeping herself from looking around. She wouldn’t be surprised if people were staring at her after all that. She needed to get that essay done and email it to her teacher!

“You should have done that sooner, it’s never good to leave things till last second” Ghost says. Sitting in the chair next to her like a living person.

Clover clenches her fists and bites her tongue before she starts yelling in the library “Please go away,” she says through gritted teeth, bashing at the keys on her laptop.

Ghost frowns “nope” crosses her arms and leans back in the chair next to Clover.

One of the two finds themselves rubbing their eyes and face, holding back screams of frustration.

Suddenly the chair Ghost is pretending to sit in is pulled back and Chris sits inside the ghost.

“Hey Clover.”

Clover stares at her friend with the also surprised Ghost girl sticking out of her shoulder.

Chris shivers “why’s it so cold in here?”

A sweatshirt gets dropped on her head as Taylor walks past and to the chair on the other side of Clover.

“Stop leaving that in my car, it smells” Taylor says.

Chris smells the sweater, squinting at it, shrugging and proceeding to put it on.

Ghost sniffs as well, having a much different reaction to the sweatshirt in question. She floats out of Chris taking her spot in the fourth chair across from Clover.

“Clover look!” Chris takes a crumpled up yellow paper out of her pocket.

“What?” Chris shoves the paper in her face, Clover reads over the wrinkled paper “a Talent contest?”

“A talent contest! We should enter!”

Clover laughs “nooo”

“Aww why not?” Ghost and Chris both say.

“I don’t... do crowds.”

“But we could go up there together and sing!” Chris says.

Clover shakes her head no “NOPE!”

“But-”

“I told you,” Taylor starts, “she wouldn’t want to do it.”

“It’ll be fun,” Chris defends.

“It’s going to be so embarrassing,” Taylor says.

Clover nods “so freaking embarrassing.”

Chris looks between them, then abruptly stands up throwing her messenger bag back around her shoulders “why are you two like this?”

“Like what?” Clover asks.

“You two” She points making Clover flinch “are always ganging up on me, telling me nooo that’s silly, or that doesn’t make sense, I swear I’m the

only one here that knows how to have fun, you're both such sticks in the mud"

"No, we're just thinking realistically," Taylor says.

Chris scowls, then grabs her bag and walks out.

Taylor and her look at each other, confused.

"Um..." Taylor doesn't know what to say, she's never really seen Chris upset like that "I should go make sure she's okay ...I'll see you later Clover" and she goes after her sister.

"What the hell clover" the ghost starts.

She looks at the ghost with disbelief.

"Why would you upset Chris like that?"

"What?"

"You just laughed at her like that, why would you do that?"

"I didn't mean anything by it" She defends herself "I just didn't want to enter."

The ghost once again crosses her arms "You didn't need to make her feel shitty about wanting to enter."

"Why the hell are you even talking to me?" Clover spats.

"Becauuuuse you're the only one who can see me? The whip chose yooooou? So here I am?" Ghosts sarcastic tone has Clover's eye twitching.

Clover quickly packs away her laptop and practically runs back to the dorms.

Outside the humidity is still heavy with the end of summer heat. Clover doesn't bother taking her sweatshirt off.

"Back to the dorm already? I thought you needed to finish your essay and go see your teacher" Ghost says.

Clover doesn't look at her.

"Oh my god! Ignore me or talk to me! PICK ONE!" she groans "you're so annoooooying."

"I picked that one! I'll be annoying."

"Annoyings a shitty personality" Ghost mutters "I thought you were going to be cool, you literally fought a kraken but you're so" she balls her fists "UGH!"

Clover stomps across the grass, anything to push her faster to the dorm. She needed to do this right now!! She couldn't stand another second of this Ghost! She needed her gone!

"What are you so mad about?" The ghost crosses her arms and they go into the elevator together.

Clover thinks for a second that it's a bad idea to go into the small confined space with a ghost, but also... she didn't think she'd do anything. She trusted it that much. But nonetheless, she watched the ghost floating there the entire time. She looked more annoyed than anything.

Finally the elevator dings on the second floor and she moves past the people getting on, the ghost floats through them, leaving shivers and goosebumps wherever she goes. Her dorm is... cleaner than the morning she left it. Not a single sign of glitter.... But it did smell like sewers and seaweed. She slams the door shut, she didn't think too hard about the other people in the building that might have heard it. She goes right for the drawer that she shoved that whip into.

"What are you doing with that?" The ghost asks, not liking the sinister smile on Clover's face.

Clover pulls it out, the mess of shirts coming out with it "You and it, are going to the big racoon that lives behind the school"

"Noooo we're not!"

"Yup!"

"Don't you dare!"

"And what are you going to do about it?" Clover smirks, and then walks through the freezing cold spirit.

"STOP!" The ghost yells, reaching out to Clover right as she touches the door knob.

There's a flash of light and Clovers once again in the blue and white spandex suit with glitter falling all around her.

The ghost blinks, looking from her hand to the wide eyed look on Clover's face "... I'm going to do that incase you were wondering!"

Clover looks down at her clothes and the floors, and back up at Ghost. She has a massive white tooth grin on her face, looking down at the now red head girl.

“I Still think your outfit looks great.”

“WHAT DID YOU DO?!”