Arkin Book 1

GUARDIANS OF THE LIGHT

*The Secret*

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English Sample Translation by Olivia Lasky

*They say those who cast the smallest shadows are the weakest…*

*But that isn’t always the case…*

*I’m going to tell you a story… It hasn’t happened yet…*

*It’s actually happening right now, as I’m telling it…*

*Because time is a concept that you humans have invented… Time doesn’t exist…*

*Everything that happens is happening here… Now… In this moment…*

*But that doesn’t mean you can’t affect what happens! Quite the opposite, young human… You can influence it to the utmost degree… And down to every tiny detail of your life. Because there aren’t any limits… No fantasy is unattainable… No dreams are too big, and no goal is too high…*

*After you’ve heard this story, you’ll understand… But listen closely now… Because here comes the most crucial part… You have to choose to believe in magic! And when you do, there’s one more important thing… You have to be willing to let go of who you were to become who you know you can be…*

*They say those who cast the smallest shadows are the weakest…*

*But sometimes they’re the ones who shine the most…*

**PROLOGUE**

Everyone experiences some shadows in their lives…

*Beep beep beep …*

…but some shadows are so long and dark that it seems like you’ll never be able to find your way out of them…

*Beeeeeep*

“I can’t believe it! First his father, now his mother…

Poor boy. She was all he had.”

“Marking down time of death…”

“Where will he live? Who’s going to take care of him now?”

“He’ll live with his grandmother on his father’s side up in Elvenfall.

They haven’t had much contact, but it’s either her or an orphanage…”

*Sometimes it feels like the dark shadows are trying to swallow you whole…*

*Click*

*Creak*

*…or follow you for the rest of your life…*

*…no matter how fast you run from them…*

*…but there’s hope for our hero Arkin…*

*…he just doesn’t know it yet. But soon… Soon…*

**PART 1**

*8:15 am*

*Eight months later…*

**Welcome to ELVENFALL**

*4 Half-Moon Way, Elvenfall, at the edge of Trollskogen*

**A**

**DO NOT DISTURB**

***BEEP BEEP! BEEP BEEP!***

“Hmph!”

*Went into town. Home late*

***SNAP***

***CRUNCH***

“Yeah, it’s tragic, but why on earth does he have to stay with me?

I mean, I don’t have time to be a therapist for that fragile little boy. He’s afraid of absolutely *everything*! And he doesn’t have any friends, either. No, I’m counting on him moving out as soon as he’s of age… It’ll be five long years, yes. But time flies, as they say…”

***KNOCK KNOCK***

“Oh, hi, Arkin! Hannah will be right out… It’s so nice of you to walk her to preschool every day! You’re a sweetheart.”

“Of course, Mrs. Ami! It’s on the way, so it’s no problem at all…”

“Arkin!!!”

“Hannah!!!”

“Ready for school?”

“Yep!”

“Look at the pretty sky, Arkin!

I love the sky!

…and the clouds

…and the trees

…and chocolate!

I think I love the whole world!”

ELVENFALL HIGH SCHOOL

*Every day for the past eight months, Arkin has stopped in front of his school to breathe…*

*…To focus on his breath…*

*…Just his breath…*

*…In and out…*

*…In and out…*

“Hahaha!”

“What’s wrong with him?”

“He’s always sooo weird!”

“Freak…”

*“Magic is everywhere,” she used to say… “Just close your eyes and look!”*

*But Arkin couldn’t see it… Not without her.*

“Now you can start working with your study partners!”

“Yes, Arkin?

“Uhh… Gerbil’s absent again, so I don’t have anyone to work with…”

“That’s right! He fell and hurt himself on the way to school again…

He’ll come when he’s done at the school nurse.”

“He fell and hurt himself **again**?”

“Don’t you think it’s kind of weird he gets hurt on the way to school every single week?”

“No… not really. Some people are just clumsier than others. He’ll show up soon, don’t you worry.”

*Magic is everywhere, Arkin thinks… But he doesn’t understand… Because every time he gets a glimpse of the beautiful…*

*…The unique in each thing… The trees moving in the wind, a bird’s beating wings, the sound of the rain…*

*…He always ends up seeing her! Just her…*

“Come on, Moondust! I’m going to show you something magical.”

“It’s getting really steep, Mom!”

“Almost at the top, honey! Come on!

“Isn’t it beautiful, Moondust?”

“Yeah, really beautiful!”

“Should we go take a closer look?”

“I’m too scared… What if I fall?”

“Arkin, honey…

It’s perfectly okay to be scared sometimes, but not all the time…

If you do one thing every day that you’re scared of, someday you won’t have anything to be afraid of…

So if you’re scared of something, you should do it.”

“Remember that!”

*But the magic is gone for Arkin… It disappeared with her…*

***SMACK!***

**LOSER**

**RIP**

**YOUR MOM**