

Superstition has weaved its way through many things in the world. Some people see it as lucky or the 'correct' way to do things like knocking on wood or touching something. These little things are usually seen as harmless things that just help put people's minds to ease. Well not always. There always seems to be 'that house' or 'that building' in every community, a black sheep that stands out from the rest. Sometimes it's the older, dilapidated one. It could be one that is more secluded from the surrounded area giving it more of a shroud of mystery. Sometimes something unspeakable happened there that everyone else just wants to forget. Every community had one and theirs was Blackwood Manor.

The old manor checked almost everything off of the book. Large secluded manor, check. Abandoned for sometime, check. Something that locals avoided like the plague and never wanted to discuss, check and check. Even the more rebellious groups had stayed away from the manor, leaving it an empty and foreboding place. The manor itself was a few miles outside of town and was a bit inside the northern forest. There wasn't even a paved road nor signs to show the way, almost like it someone was trying to hide the place. But even with layers of traditions and superstitions that surrounded the Blackwood Manor, someone would be bound to break the mold eventually.

Through the dark forest, a lone car made its way on a dirt road. The car bounced around with each duvet and bump causing the car to wobble and shake. The headlights cut through the dirt cloud and darkness of the forest. The car slowly came to a spot in front of an old rusted fence that blocked the road with the manor looming in the distance. The lights of the car flicked off as the driver opened the car door.

Jun flicked the dark brown hair out of his face and pushed up his glasses as he looked at the manor in the distance. He had a knack for mysteries and the Blackwood Manor offered that in droves. It always bugged him that little to nothing ever came up about it. No articles, no reports, no rumors, nothing. But tonight would be the night that he would investigate himself. Luckily he wouldn't be going in alone.

The other car doors opened as two more figures got out of the car "So this is Spooksville, right?" The taller of the two figures said as she leaned on his car, taking a look ahead. She fixed her leather coat as her blonde hair jostled behind her. "Well it does fit the bill, I would say that."

"Yep Marsh, this is the place. Blackwood Manor. A place that doesn't exist." Jun said, not breaking eye contact with the building almost in a staring contest.

"Well if it doesn't exist, we shouldn't go right?" The other, much shorter woman said as she shivered weather from the cold wind or from her spooked nerves. Her hands were clenched inside of her arcade style hoodie, showing a few bright shapes against the dark purple hoodie. Obviously the most scared out of the group, she stayed behind Marsh who didn't seem to mind the girl using her as a proverbial meat shield.

“ Well we already got all the way out here, Miss. Besides, you said sure before we left.” Jun said as he broke the staring contest turning to his companions. “We won’t be in there for super long. We’re going to stay together as a group to make sure nothing bad happens. I’m going to run some quick tests and then we can be done and go back. Pizza will be on me, ok?”

The two nodded as Jun made his way to the trunk of the car and pulled out a backpack. Quickly stuffing his hand into the pack, he pulled out three flashlights and walkie-talkies and handed them over to Miss and Marsh. “Now the plan is not to get split up but if we do, use the radio’s for communication. Follow behind me and we’ll be done in no time!” Jun said as he turned around and made his way over to the gate. Marsh followed with an uninterested frown with Miss clinging close behind.

The metal gate was quickly scaled as the trio made their way to the front of the mansion. The cold exterior gave off an ominous vibe as they made their way to the front door. The peeling paint and splintered wood showed that nobody had been there for a long time. As Jun made his way to the front door, Marsh spoke up, “How do you expect to get in? The door is probably locked and rusted shut.”

Jun focusing on the door placed his hand on the aged brass and twisted down. The door cracked as it slowly opened to reveal a large dark and dusty foyer. He turned around to look at the scared face of Miss and the skeptical face of Marsh. “Looks like I didn’t need to pick my way in.”

The foyer had a huge vaulted ceiling with two sets of stairs both leading up to the second floor. Dust lined every piece of old furniture and the once huge painting torn and faded. Jun took a large look around as he took in his surroundings. “Whoa” he said in wonder.

“Wait, did you plan on just breaking in?” Miss said as she poked her head from behind Marsh. “I thought you had a plan or did some stakeout or something”

“Nope.” Jun said examining a worn painting, which had most of its details faded away. “Hell, I learned the location of this place only a few days ago.”

“Well whatever you do, hurry up” Marsh said as she scanned the banister for anything of interest. Miss stayed close alongside her as her curiosity slowly began to win over her fear.

Jun rolled his eyes as he pulled out a small device “Yea, yea, let me scan with my EMF reader.” He flicked on the device which came on with a beep. He slowly began to scan the foyer passing over everything. Scanning slowly over each item he came across, he picked up nothing. frowning, Jun continued his search.

“Have you found anything yet?” Marsh called out as Jun turned around. Miss had begun to actually look around and had picked up some piece of paper scrap and was trying to read it. “No, nothing yet. Mayb-”

Jun was cut off as his EMF reader spiked hard causing the device to beep and light up causing everyone to jump, Miss quickly running back to Marsh's side. Jun quickly began to follow the reading before it disappeared down the main hallway. Jun quickly bolted after it causing Marsh and Miss to try and keep up. Jun continued to run following the now fading signature of whatever came by him. He quickly rounded a corner losing the signature.

Catching his breath, he turned around only to spot that the way he came was not there anymore. A wall like the other ones around him had seemingly cut him off from the main hallway. Thinking quickly, Jun pulled out his walkie talkie. "Guys, something's wrong"

"JUN WHERE THE HELL DID YOU GO!" responded Miss from over the radio and Jun flinched. "YOU WERE THERE AND NOW YOUR GONE!" Other background sounds came over the radio which meant Marsh was angry and stomping around.

"I was running and when I finally turned around, I was cut off by a wall. Something's happening and I have no clue how to get back. Are you two together?" Jun said looking around making sure nothing changed or moved.

"Yea we're together. We're gonna try and find you, is there anything that's noticeable or a unique thing to know if we're in your area?" Miss said in a worried tone.

Jun took a look around. There were a few paintings on the wall, some broken wood, an old rug torn up many places and a glass wall? At the end of the hallway there looked to be a huge greenhouse, large enough to fit trees and other stuff. The mixed greens being the freshest looking color since he arrived here. "Yea I see a greenhouse or arboretum thing at the end of the hallway, I'm gonna go over there"

"Alright, stay safe Jun" She said as the radio crackled off. Jun sighed as he raised his reader and slowly made his way down the hallway towards the fogged glass windows.

Miss sighed as she ended the radio call with Jun. He was apparently in a whole different area even though they both just saw him round a corner into nothing. This had been setting off her danger sense a hundred fold. Nobody couldn't just walk through a wall. What in the hell was happening. She wanted just to straight up leave but she couldn't just leave Jun. He would have never left her behind. Excluding the previous thing. He also had the car keys sooo.

Miss turned around to an empty hallway. An empty hallway. Miss's eyes shot open. "MARSH!" She yelled out. No answer came as she tried again with desperation growing with each call. She pulled up her radio "Jun, I lost Marsh...Jun?...Marsh?" She said but all she received back was empty static. Miss slowly began to shake as she realized nobody was there. Her friends were

gone, seemingly out of nowhere and she is now alone in a super haunted mansion with no way out.

Oh No...

Miss slowly stepped back until her back was against the wall. She didn't know what was happening and at least the wall had some protection. Maybe. It could swallow her wh- Nope, needed to stop thinking about that, she didn't need to freak out her one little safety net now. Shuffle after shuffle lead her down the corridor. Occasional looks behind her showed an altered path than what she had gone before. Corners popping up when she was still going straight, openings appearing where she walked past a solid wall.

She continued to walk for minutes but felt like hours before she snapped out of her daze. How far had she gone? Was she still even in the same building? Looking around revealed the same hallways as before but one large thing, something she hadn't even seen so far in this entire mansion, a room. It looked to be some type of library or study with a musty scent coming from the old books. It wasn't a good idea to go in but it was that or a possibly never ending changing hallway. With a gulp, Miss took a few shuffle steps across the hallway and entered the library.

Marsh kicked a small pebble that was looking at her funny. Why did she sign up with her friend so that he would ignore his own rules and get lost in a dumb old spooky manor. Dammit, now Miss was talking to Jun over the radio cause he got freaking lost and now they probably had to go find him. This whole idea was a mess and she shouldn't have agreed to it just cause he said free pizza.

Grumbling she still kicked around aimlessly before spotting something of a free feet away. As She got closer, she saw what it was. It looked to be an old fork, probably sterling silver if you asked her. She turned around to tell Miss only to find no one was there.

"Miss? Where did you go?" The lack of response caused her spine to shiver. So now everyone was lost and it hadn't even been ten minutes. Shit. She continued to walk to where she last saw Miss and continued to walk.

"Maybe she got too scared and jumped somewhere. Yea she probably did." She didn't want to think about if it wasn't and that she possibly got jumped by ghosts, meaning Jun had also suffered the same fate, and wasn't the best of outlooks. She continued walking down the hallway before finding another piece of silverware. It looked out of place considering how everything else looked in the manor. Looking up, she found another piece. Then another. Then a third.

Maybe one of the others made a trail to show where they went. Whatever way, Marsh continued to follow the trail of silverware before coming to a big double door. The door had a different

modeling style compared to the rest of the doors with some designs that gave definition to the door. Giving a sharp tug to the door, it slowly opened to some sort of kitchen. Stepping in, most of the stuff in the kitchen was very old and no food was lucky present. Most of the room was covered in a thin layer of dust as she walked through the room. The door behind her slowly began to move and closed behind her with a large thump.

Marsh turned around only to see she was trapped and she felt like someone else was here with her. She gulped as she looked around, keeping her wit's up. She had a bad feeling about this.

Jun slowly opened the glass door into the green house and was blasted by a wave of humidity way different then the cold crisp air outside. The greenhouse or more of an abourium was filled with trees, plants and vines all over the place. Taking a closer look, there were a few remains of pots and broken grated metal. "Must have been overgrown for some time." he muttered as his trusty EMF reader led the way.

Vines and roots littered the walkway as Jun carefully made his way through a path. The room was massive with him being unable to see anything past the thickets and tree cover. How did something so big even be In the manor? They would have had to see it from the outside. It was like a forest here. Jun continued forward before he found some exposed brickwork on the ground.

Taking a hunch, he followed the brickwork. He moved his way through some roots and below a collection of vines before he came into some sort of clearing. A small fountain remained untouched by the surrounding roots, only filling the crevices between the bricks. The fountain's water was stagnant and stood as a forgotten monument in the forgotten forest

Jun looked in slight awe at just how cool the place was, how peaceful it seemed. But he knew something was happening, something he didn't like. A beeping from the EMF reader brought him back to his senses as he quickly scanned the area. The reader had picked up a small bit of some sort of electro-magnetic field and it was starting to grow.

Jun looked up, quickly looking around. Nothing stood out amidst the vines and plants before a flicker of light caught his attention. Then another one, this time brighter or closer. Then a third. All three began to flicker before all of them stopped, glowing ominously a few feet away from him. The three orbs slowly began to change colors from a ghostly white to a dark green color and slowly began to encircle Jun.

Jun's reader buzzed heavily as the three orbs approached. Jun tried to run away, move anything but it felt like he was paralyzed. The three orbs encircled him and began to spin around him. His EMF reader let out a large whine as the device let off smoke and popped, destroying the device. Something of that high of a magnitude of electro-magnetic fields wasn't good he

thought as it felt like all of his hairs were standing up. Jun's hands began to shake as he felt waves of energy crash into him. Jun let out a muffled groan of pain as he collapsed onto one knee.

He shakily looked up only to see the orbs quickening their pace before shooting into him. Jun let out a yelp as he was smacked by the orbs which were absorbed into his body. He fell onto his back and dragged himself over to the fountain, laying against the old structure. Jun's breath quickened as he gripped his stomach in discomfort. "What in the hell were those things.." He muttered as he let out another groan.

Jun felt discomfort in his right hand. Raising it up it seemed like his skin tone was darker, almost like wood. Then he noticed that his skin seemed dry and he couldn't see any of the hairs on his arm. Suddenly his arm spasms causing Jun to grab the hand with his others. His fingers began to cramp together before seemingly fusing together forming dark brown claws.

Jun looked at his change hand with shock and terror. Those orb things must have done something to him and by the looks of it, didn't plan on stopping with his hand. The brown continued going up his arm, hardening the skin to an almost wood like texture. Leaves began to sprout out from around where his wrist formed a small bushel of leaves. After the wood passed his elbow, something happened.

A large crack sounded out as Jun let out a quick scream. It felt like something had just twisted his arm hard. Looking down to his elbow, he saw that the wood had separated between his forearm and wrist and right where his elbow would be was a dark black glowing energy. Jun starred in sick awe as he moved his 'hand' around almost like it hadn't even changed. He was freaking out looking at his slowly changing body. Was this the reason why people left this building to rot?

His pondering was cut off as he felt the similar twisting and snap of the wood this time on his shoulder. Looking down, the sleeve of his shirt had fallen limp. Picking the sleeve up revealed a similar gap like his elbow. Jun realized that his clothes wouldn't last long seeing that his other hand was starting to change too, growing claws. Jun tried to remove his shirt but his claws had other plans, mainly tearing his shirt into shreds. "Man, I liked that shirt."

Through the tatters of his former shirt, Jun could see that his chest had turned a similar woody color like his arms. Also it seemed like his chest and belly were widening out, forming more of a rounded shape. The snaps on the other arm and elbow distracted him for a moment before they numbed back down. Standing up, Jun felt pressure building up around his legs and stomach. It felt like someone was stretching him out, causing his barrel of a body to grow even taller. Cracks began to pop alongside his belly as what felt like a grabbing force pulled his upper torso up as a section of his torso was cracked open and exposed like his shoulders and elbows. Looking down, his jeans had swollen up almost to the point where the jeans were more than a few too small for him. Jun let out a grunt as it felt like the waist and pants were digging into him.

With a huge burst, his jeans gave way to two huge thick legs. Before he could catch his breath, more pressure built up inside of his legs.

With a loud crack, both of his legs formed thick, root like bodies as his shoes fell off his feet. His feet had disappeared into the meristems that were now his feet. Pressure on his sides caught his attention as four more other similar root feet sprouted out from him giving him now six root legs for him to walk on. Getting balanced wasn't super tricky but Jun didn't have time to test out the walking yet, the changes hadn't finished him yet.

The wood began crawling up the sides of his face, causing all of his hair to fall out right in front of him. "Cmon, really" he said dejectedly as the wood crawled up his jaw, his face clenching in discomfort and his eyes shut closed as his facial structure was changing. Two thick horns sprouted out of the top of his head with a third shooter one sprouting from his forehead. His nose and mouth disappeared into the brown skin forming a larger singular eye hole to be formed. Leaves began sprouting around his horns on the top of his head replacing the hair that once sat there. A final larger pressure began to build up. With one huge roar, the final segment that separated his head from his body was created as Jun opened his eye, panting, trying to catch his breath. If he could even do that anymore.

Looking down at his hands and legs, Jun wondered what in the world just happened. Was this a nightmare? What was happening? With more questions than answers, Jun looked towards the fountain and it's stagnant water to look at what happened to him. In short, he had transformed into something along the lines of an ent? Dryad? He didn't know.

Looking up, he could see through the entire forest. Every tree, every plant, everything. He lowered himself and picked up his ruined EMF reader. With the broken reader he realized a grave danger. His friends might meet a similar fate, or worse if they ran into those orbs. Looking around, he found his walkie talkie and spoke into it.

"Hello, hello, this is Jun, anyone read me?" He said before stopping to even hear his new voice. It was a lot deeper than it was before giving it more of a baritone ring than he expected. When no response came, Jun sighed as his hand dropped. Maybe if he had already changed, he could try to find the other two quicker. Grabbing his bag, Jun tried to put on his bag but just fell through his ghostly shoulders. Sighing, He carefully hooked his bag on the back of the crack which formed his mouth.

As Jun began walking forward, the vines and roots slowly dispersed from the stone path revealing a much easier path to traverse. Testing a theory, Jun raised his hand causing a vine to race forward like it was under his command. Jun looked at his hands. That might be useful. But for now he needed to get out and find his friends. Hopefully they won't have a bad time like he was.

Miss was not having a good time. Usually the library was a nice quiet place where she would sometimes visit and have a good experience all around. This library was...quiet. Maybe it was more of a foreboding quiet or a tense quiet than a peaceful quiet. Either way, the hair on the back of her neck was standing up. There had to be something here.

There hadn't been anything following her, she hoped. She hadn't seen a glimpse of something or heard a strange spooky sound. There had been silence only broken by her shuffling and she hated it. The tension was thick enough to cut with a knife. Still there was nothing. Moving through the aisles of books and shelves, she didn't find anything of use or interest. All of the books were either in an unreadable condition or whose words had begun to fade from the old texts. Walking past another useless isle, Miss came across something different.

Some of the library had been sectioned off into some sort of personal study. It had a desk, which had been broken in half, an old chair and a huge painting depicting...something. It was hard to tell due to the painting having a huge tear through it. It looked to depict some sort of beast? It wasn't any animal she could recognize even if she had seen the original piece. The head was sort of triangle shaped and whatever it was had a large tail. Surrounding it seemed to be a smaller version or children of it possibly. Maybe it was a rendition of a fossil or something.

Whatever it was, it seemed almost out of place considering the library behind her. She turned her attention away from the painting but something felt wrong. Whipping her head back, Miss froze in fear as she saw three orbs come from the painting. The orbs lazily exited the painting before vibrating, changing their color from a ghostly white to a tealish blue, before charging right at her.

That was when Miss remembered she had legs and her fear overtook her paralysis. Quickly hopping over the destroyed desk, she turned her head back seeing that the orbs were catching up. However she failed to notice a pile of books that had fallen causing her to trip into the pile of books. The orbs quickly caught up and entered Miss.

Miss groaned as she pulled herself from the pile of books and collapsed down the side, coming to rest on the side of an aisle. Pulling herself up, she noticed that the three orbs were gone. "Where did they go?" Miss said as she tried to stand up, looking around the room. However, her legs couldn't continue holding her weight causing her to collapse back into the pile of books. Something felt wrong about this situation as she tried to push herself up. Looking down to her legs to check if everything was alright, she noticed shoes were not moving when she moved her feet.

"Oh no" Miss said as she bent over to see how damaged her leg was. But, as she got a closer look, she realized that her foot was no longer in her shoe but in her pant leg? Miss began tugging at her jeans and once she pulled them up far enough, she was able to get a better look at her leg. The thing that stood out was that it did not look remotely human at all.

Her leg had turned a tealish blue color and had drunk significantly. Huge claws pointed out from where her toes used to be and flailed around as she tried in vain to get away from her own leg, only to tear up her jeans. Sliding back down the pile of books, Miss quickly checked her other leg which had just started to change as well. Her toes had already sharpened into claws, teasing out of her sock as the teal color began to fade into her skin.

'If my legs were being affected by something, then it wouldn't stop there.' Miss thought as she pulled her shirt up a little bit. Discoloration had already gone into motion as the light blue from her legs began to darken the more it climbed. However, her chest and a bit of her stomach began to form a more yellowish cream color. Miss frowned as the colors began to climb around her body. She may not have been a science person but she had no clue what in the world she was becoming. Then, something in her mind clicked as she realized where she saw it before. Rolling off the pile of books she began to slowly crawl to where she saw it. The study.

With what little arm strength she had, she began to drag herself to the study. Her new feet did little to help her get to her destination as they slowly were dragged along. Her spine felt stiff and awkward as she continued through an aisle. Her hands slowly began to darken in color and slowly began to shorten up. Claws began to dig into the floorboards as her pants grew louder with each groan of movement.

She had slowly managed to round the corner coming just a few more feet to the entrance. Her shirt was covered in dust and tears from dragging herself along. With a struggling motion, Miss was able to use her feet in pushing herself along. With a loud tear and pained scream, a large tail burst through her ruined jeans. The tail was large and thick with the end almost looking like a wispy specter looming behind her form. With one last push she had made it into the study. Where the eyes of the beast she was becoming loomed before her.

Looking up to the faded painting, Miss tore off her remains of her clothes revealing a yellow belly with red inverted chevrons marking her chest. Panting, she locked eyes with the painting. They offered no help, no solace and only quietly stared back at her, unblinkingly. Miss's tail thumped the ground in absent thought as she continued to stare at the painting. Then her neck felt like it was cramping up and a headache began to form. Even with the pain building, she still kept eye contact with the painting hoping for some relief.

Miss's Jaw clenched hard as it felt like her head was exploding. Finally clenching her eyes, she let out a pained groan as her head began to widen and flatten down. Her eyes felt like they were trying to be ripped out of her sockets. Climbing up her neck, dark blue color began to cover her face. Her hair began to fall out being replaced by the dark blue skin. Her temples felt like they were on fire as they began to point out, slowly becoming the pointed tips at the end of her triangle shaped head. The edges along her head began to flatten to an almost razors edge giving her head a speaker red edge. Four triangle shaped horns began to form on the top of her head as Miss let out some tiny grunts of discomfort. As the final changes of her eyes sharpened down, Miss let loose a reptilian shriek as the pain and discomfort reached its peak before falling drastically down to nothing.

A small few pants were let out by Miss as she began to recollect herself. Looking down at her body, her arms and legs looked short and stubby wiggled in front of her as she moved them. She then turned around to get a better look at her tail. The color coming from where her upper body was began to fade all the way down her body until reaching the clearish ghostly color she saw before in the orbs.

Miss looked back at the painting and around the study. The orbs had to have done this to her. But, were they gone? Would they fix her if she learnt her lesson? Why would those ghost things transform her? Looking around she thought for a moment before looking at the painting. Looking at the painting, the thing she was transformed into looked like it lived in water and she was transformed by those orbs. Testing a theory, she began to try to swim in the air. Flailing her arms and legs, she didn't even get off of the ground. Stubbornly, she continued again but getting nowhere. In anger, she slammed her tail back causing her to become airborne and float above the study.

Floating around she tried moving her tail again propelling her forward. Moving her tail again caused her to turn as Miss slowly got the hang of flight. She began to ramp up her tests before colliding with the study's wall. Instead of crashing hard, Miss passed through the wall to her own amazement. "Wow" she said in a slightly deeper feminine voice than she expected, "Didn't expect that..."

Looking down, the maze of the library seemed less daunting than when she first arrived. Maybe with her new found abilities, she would be able to find Marsh or Jun. Flying down to pick up her bag, she began to fly through the aisles. She hoped she wouldn't freak them out too much. Hopefully they could find out whatever was happening and the first thing to do was find the others. She stopped at the exit of the library deciding which way to go before heading left. Hopefully she wouldn't be too late.

Usually Marsh kept a firm grasp about understanding things that happen around her. It's how she kept up with school and could fit herself in any situation. Right now however, nothing was making sense. She had been led somewhere that was now an obvious trap and locked in a kitchen with something. Even though the room was filled with darkness she still knew something was in here, watching her. It was her gut instinct and her gut was never wrong. Her main problem was what should she do?

She could try and make a run for it? She didn't have the exact area of the door anymore but she knew the direction. She could also try to stand and fight but what good is something you might not be able to touch? She had no clue what to do and that was when she spotted the orbs. Three orbs appeared from the opposite side of the kitchen and slowly lined up with each other. Then the orbs began to shake.

Marsh had already taken a few steps back when the newly changed purple orbs stopped their shaking and began to fly at her. Marsh quickly bolted through the kitchen, jumping over the island in the middle of the kitchen, knocking over a myriad of things resting on the table. The orbs were close behind her as she made it to the door. With an outstretched hand, Marsh yanked on the door trying to tear it off of its hinges. However, the door didn't budge to Marsh's desperate pulling. Whipping her head around, the three orbs had already behind her as they punched into Marsh.

It felt like someone lightly punched her three times as her back hit the door behind her. Staggering off of the wall, she fixed her hair as she tried to piece together what had happened. "What the hell?! Was that a ghost?" She yelled as she began to freak out. Where did they go? Did they go through her? Were they still in her body? Suddenly feeling discomfort in her stomach, Marsh wobbled a bit before catching herself on the island.

Marsh sloped down causing her backpack to rattle with noise. Her eyes widened as she quickly tore off her bag and jabbed her hand inside of it. Quickly moving her hand around, she pulled out exactly what she was looking for. With a flick of a switch her flashlight turned on giving the room its only true light source. The small cone of light felt like a safe haven as Marsh laughed nervously. After checking that no other ghost thing was around, she turned her attention to her stomach.

Her stomach had some small purple welts where the orbs hit her. Whatever those things were, they hit pretty hard but, not hard enough to already bruise up that bad. With closer inspection she noticed something that shook her to her core. It was spreading. The purple was slowly starting to call through the area between each hit and slowly began to expand. The swelling also began as the affected area began to expand outward. Marsh's mind tried to come up with some way of how to stop whatever it was happening to her.

She tried exposing the purple to light, heat, pressure, everything yet it still continued to spread. Pulling up her shirt, it seemed like she was expanding as her purple stomach looked very much out of place on her human body. The purple began to make its way up her chest and down her legs. Her legs slowly began to lose mass as they sunk into her now huge belly. "What the hell" Marsh muttered as she struggled to kick off her jeans. Once the jeans were discarded, her legs looked stubby in comparison to what they used to be with tiny feet on the end of them.

Her chest had begun to swell up to match her stomach as her arms began to shrink down. Shades of purple began to swirl around her arm as it shrank and small sharp fingers began to form from her now stumpy arms. Marsh looked down to her transformed hands in shock. What in the hell was happening to her? She couldn't even imagine what as the changes began to crawl up her neck.

Slowly the purple came to her neckline and stopped. Trying to look down Marsh questioned why it had stopped. A slight pull on her neck gave her the terrifying answer as tendrils of purple

began to latch on and pull her head down. It felt like she was slipping into the purple as it felt like a strong force was pulling her down by her shoulders. Slowly she began to be dragged into her body. Slowly her neck and then her chin was dragged in. She gasped as her mouth and nose were dragged under as her watery eyes clenched down in fear. Her head was completely covered soon after as her hair was discarded on the floor.

Two large spikes with many more smaller spikes in between began to sprout out as Marsh opened her eyes. Looking around, she quickly gasped not realizing she had been holding her breath for a while. Looking down at her body, she tried to piece together what just had happened. She sat down trying to figure it out before looking up to the myriad of knocked over items. Grabbing a pan, she flipped it over to try to get a better look at herself. Sorta.

Though the pan wasn't the best reflective service, she was able to get a better look at her body. She had basically shrunk a foot down with her body having her face on it. Also looking at herself in a pan wasn't at all flattering. Sighing, she walked over to the oven where a small glass window provided a better view. She was round. "Great" She said as she rubbed her eyes "I'm some sort of freaking gremlin."

She began to walk to her bag as she tried to gather up all of her stuff. Reaching down to pick up the flashlight, her hand passed through the flashlight. Confused, she tried again and was able to pick it up. "Huh" She said as she tried to pick up something but passed through it. Marsh came to the realization that she could pass through objects. With a hunch she stuck her hand out into the kitchen island and was able to pass through it. Neat.

Picking up her bag and loosening the straps all the way, she strode through the kitchen and out the door leading to the hallway. Now all she had to do was find her friends and with a strong push, began to jog down the hallway.

Jun had been walking for a while with some interest. The manor itself was a weirdly constructed place that somebody could get lost in very quickly. It also didn't help his little theory revolving around those ghostly orbs. It was entirely possible that they could have also affected them by creating illusions or fake walls. His theory brought chills down a spine he no longer had. "C'mon Jun, think. Admittedly you haven't been this deep in trouble but you can work yourself out of it."

Jun's self pep talk was interrupted as he turned the corner ending up right in the foyer where they started. "Small victory but, I'll take it." Looking back towards the foreboding hallway, he sighed. "No trace of the others. I hope they are doing alright."

From down the hallway reptilian screech and crash cause Jun's head to whip around. From the hallway, A huge beast flew through a doorway before crashing into a wall. It shakes its head before turning to Jun before giving off a very human shriek. Jun replies with a manly screech as both of them back away from each other. Both of them stop yelling in fear as they get far

enough away, both unmoving. "How are you?!" Jun yells causing the beast to whip it's head around "Jun?! Is that you?"

"Miss?! What the hell? You're a huge ass lizard!" Jun said gesturing to her obvious lizard body.

"Well you're a huge ass tree thing." She said floating over to Jun with her tail lazily whipping behind her "Sorry that I didn't plan on running into some ghost things and being transformed into...this" She said as she moved her arms gesturing to her body.

"Wait, were they like orb things which turned color?" Jun questioned as his roots tapped the ground in thought. "Cause that happened to me."

"Yea they were orbs" Miss said floating a few feet away from Jun "Have you seen Marsh? We were separated right after you disappeared."

Jun shook his head, "I haven't seen her. Do you think she also got transformed?"

Before Miss could respond, loud footsteps came from above where they were standing. Suddenly, a large purple form fell through the floors face planting in front of the two. Miss looked up to Jun deadpan and said "Probably."

Marsh began to collect herself as she looked up to see where she fell. Looking up, she came face to face with two different monsters. Letting off a yelp, She flipped herself over and began to backpedaling away. "Marsh? Don't worry, it's me, Miss and Jun."

Marsh's eyes widened as she stopped and slowly approached the two. "Wait, you guys also were changed?"

"Seems like that way." Jun nodded as his body slightly slumped down. "Sorry for dragging you guys into this, I have no clue how to reverse this."

Sighing, Miss put her tiny claws arm on Jun's shoulder "It's alright, maybe we could find some clues around the manor."

Marsh nodded "Yea, there has to be something, otherwise there would have had to have been something about a beast or something around town."

Jun nodded "So, it looks like this may have been the reason no one comes here. Possessive ghosts definitely don't seem like a good house feature." Jun pondered as the Miss and marsh threw out ideas for a plan. "I've got it." Jun leaned forward, his leaves slightly rustling. "So here is the plan."

Epilogue: 2 months later...

Local superstition is always something you can find in small towns. News also spreads through rather quickly as well. Three missing kids doesn't go unnoticed. Theories and investigation were thrown around with people trying to figure it out. Rumors of rituals gone bad, serial killers, suicides and homicide were quickly spread around. Even rumors that they went to Blackwood Manor were tossed around but nothing stuck. Two weeks into the investigation, police received a letter about how the three went on an impromptu road trip and that they were totally fine. Some people didn't believe it but the police cancelled their investigation. People wrote it off as dumb teenagers and the flames around the conspiracy died out.

However the trio were working hard in the manor. Nobody had even come close to the manor but they wanted to play it safe and make sure that nobody else encountered the orbs. Jun was leading the investigation in a scratch built lab trying to learn about the orbs and make a 'cure' or something along those lines. Miss was going through the old library and straps in order to find any information about the manor. Marsh was the resident lookout and performed some of the other jobs that needed to be done. It was a tough task for the three but they were on to something. At least that's what Jun hoped. All he needed was a bit more time.

Until then, the trio would be the ghostly protectors of the Blackwood Manor. Keeping people out of the haunted manor. A thankless task and whose length came with uncertainty. But they would continue to do it until they could leave for good. They would get out of it together. After all, Jun promised pizza.