

## **The Door**

### **PROLOGUE**

They had to go, they had no choice, that was the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2016 in Woodland but, in Woodland, it happened the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2018.

### **CHAPTER I**

- You're fired! Said the boss.

On March 21<sup>st</sup> 2016, Owen was fired and everybody forgot about his 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday and his dog, Winter, who had died yesterday. Owen was very sad but nobody wanted to ask him why he was feeling like that, since, for them, Owen seemed to be as a very strange person, always dressed in black, with a blue haircut and some tattoos on his neck. He lived in a little village called Woodland, his house was located next to the woods, which were reputed for the large number of suicides committed there.

But all of this is not very interesting, let's enter into the heart of the matter by following Owen right after his dismissal.

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, in despair about everything that was happening, Owen went in the woods for a walk to forget about his pain. As he was playing creating sparks with his lighter while walking, his head banged against something. Looking up he saw a door, right there, in the middle of the woods, a black door. He turned around and saw nothing behind the door, so, for the fun, he opened the door and passed through. Nothing happened, except perhaps he felt a small chill, but so small that he could have dreamt, therefore he continued his walk and came back to his house.

He was so tired that he didn't notice that his dog was there, lying next to the fireplace. The night passed and when he woke up in the morning, Owen discovered his dog on the bed. Owen thought that it was a bad joke, that somebody had dug out his dog and put it on his bed but Winter seemed to be alive. Owen touched his pet as if it was something disgusting, but quickly he convinced himself that the dog was alive. After five minutes of pettings and hugging, the dog woke up and jumped in the arms of his master. Owen didn't understand what was happening but considering that, after all those bad days, this new day was starting well, he took his dog in his arms and he cried.

However as it happened, the day didn't turn out as well as he had hoped.

But this day will not be as good as he thought...

### **CHAPTER II**

As Owen was now unemployed, he decided to walk downtown with his dog. That was very exciting to walk again with his dog, as if he hadn't die 2 days ago! While walking, he met an old person, who looked vaguely like Max, one of Owen's friends who had disappeared 2 months ago. Owen asked the old-person:

- What's your name, grandpa?
- Others call me Max; therefore I guess my name shall be Max. You know, I'm elderly so my memory is failing.

- What are you doing here?
- I'm not sure but I remember having passed through a door somewhere in the woods, some days or some months ago, perhaps some years ago, who knows?
- What do you mean?
- It's neither my world here, nor yours. One day here is like one year there. A couple of months ago I was 22, now I am as if I were 83 years old! You mustn't stay here; it's not our world, all the time you spend in the Unreal world is the time you waste in the Real world.
- So, if one day here is like one year on the other side of the door, I surely have to run away out of this Unreal world, said Owen, confused.

To be sure that this old man wasn't suffering from senile dementia, he decided to continue walking with his dog to the main square. A voice called him:

- Hey you! Come here.

The person calling Owen had a large coat with a lifted collar hiding his face. Owen decided to approach to see more about this alien, while remaining far enough for safety reasons because his dog was barking. In fact, the alien was a beautiful girl, with blue eyes, dark hair, as tall as him, with a nice voice.

- I never saw you before, said the girl, where are you from?
- I live in a little house next to the woods... Sorry but who are you? What's your name?

As Winter didn't stop barking at the girl, she gave at him a dark look and the dog lowered his head.

- My name is Kate, said the girl without stopping focusing on Winter, do you know where you are?
- I'm... We're in Woodland, right?
- Yes, but can you distinguish the Real world from the Unreal world?
- Hum, uh... What?
- You're not supposed to be here, go back to the door before somebody sees you.
- No! Since I passed through this door, my dog is alive and I have never felt happier than this.
- For how many days are you here?
- One day, this one is my second.
- Come with me I'll show you something.

Kate took Owen by the hand and brought him to the main square. There, Owen was confused, as the square didn't look like the Woodland main square that he knew. The ground was destroyed as if there had been an earthquake, the houses were black as if they had been covered by ashes and, in the smog, one could distinguish the ghostly shapes of the passersby.

- Do you see, said Kate, this world is not yours.

A voice rang:

- Hey you! Stop!

The police was there.

- Stop moving! Hands up!

Kate ran away, taking Owen by the arm. Owen didn't know why the police were looking for him but he knew that he mustn't be caught so he ran, as if death was chasing him. When they stopped, they were in front of a creepy house. Owen didn't want to come in but Kate passed front and opened the door.

- That's my house, she said, we will sleep here tonight. By the way, tomorrow you'll be 24 years old, ahah, that's funny no?
- No it isn't.
- Okay tomorrow we will look for the door in the woods and you'll go back to your world, now, sleep, our journey will be hard.

### CHAPTER III

At 9.30 a.m. Kate and Owen were awake. They had breakfast and, after having taken a knife and some food, were ready to start their trip.

- Let's go, said the girl, we have to escape quickly before the policemen come here.

Kate held the door handle, but before she opened the door, Owen held her back.

- Kate... Thank you for your help; if you weren't here I would surely be in jail.
- You know, people in this world are always nasty with me, this is why I'm helping you: enemies of my enemies are my friends...

Owen wanted to kiss the girl, Kate wanted to kiss Owen too but while their heads got closer somebody knocked at the door. After Owen had gone into hiding for his own protection with Winter, Kate opened.

- Kate, Woodle Kate? You're under arrest for treason. Is there somebody with you?
- N..no. What do you mean? I spent all the night here and saw nobody.

As Winter barked, the policeman didn't hesitate and knocked down the door, pushing Kate who fell. Kate couldn't see the policeman very well, he was very large and tall, he caught Owen by the shoulders and raised him 10 centimeters from the ground. Kate stood up; she took the first thing on her left, a coat rack.

- Hey, fat boy!

The « fat boy » turned around and Kate hit him in the face using the coat rack as if it was a baseball bat.

- Come on Owen we have to go back to the woods, to look for the door.

Owen called his dog:

- Winter! Come on, we will go back home!

As they left the house, a guard who was waiting for his uncuncious boss shouted.

- Hey that's the girl with the wanted-person! Catch them!

Owen and Kate had to go, they had no choice, that was on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2016 in Woodland but, in Woodland, it happened on the 23<sup>th</sup> of March 2018. They managed to escape and ran as fast as they could to the door in the woods, guided by Winter who remembered more or less how to get there. The trail was dangerous, some roots were above ground, on the left of the trail there was a river and on the right a deep cliff, probably where suicides were committed.

- Aaaaah!
- What? What happened to you Kate?!
- I sprained my ankle. Continue without me I will slow you down.
- What are you saying?! Are you crazy? You are coming with me.
- The policemen aren't too far away, in 5 minutes they will catch up with us and that will be the end...

Owen took Kate on his back and continued to run away, following Winter who was barking like hell.

### CHAPTER IV

- Hey! That's the door, shouted Kate!
- Hell yeah! We will return home!

Owen placed Kate on the ground and passed through the door, he noticed that he didn't feel the chill as on the first time ("Is it the habit ? Did I cross the door in the right direction ?") and reached out to Kate, to help her cross into the Real world.

- Come on Kate, what are you doing, the guards are getting closer, they are at less than 100 meters now!
- I can't come; the Unreal can't come in the Real. Your dog can't come either, he is Unreal and you know it. Burn the door so that nobody else can enter into this world, it will protect your world and mine. I love you Owen, bye.

Owen, powerless, saw Kate and Winter being caught by the guards. Then he quickly closed the door, took his lighter and set fire to it. As he was doing this, Owen was sad because he had left behind him his dog and a future girlfriend, but he was also relieved to have saved his world.

## **EPILOGUE**

The night passed, and for the first time since 2 days, the elapsed time was 10 hours and not 1 year! In the morning, still unemployed, Owen went for his walk, without Winter. Arriving at the main square, the ground was destroyed as if there had been an earthquake, the houses were black as if they were covered by cinder and, in the smog, he could distinguish the ghostly shape of a girl with a big coat, speaking to a boy with a barking dog.

**--- THE END ---**