The Amulet

By zukate08

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A high school girl lost her amulet necklace when she and her two friends took a short visit at the forest. It was then an admirer found it and went on to give it back to her, but what really happened before that? [Oneshot]

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One single thought of it haunts me every time I breathe. Forgive me, dear brother…

Everything was peaceful in the Kelkha forest. Orange leaves fell from the trees like feathers as the soft breeze signaled for them to let go of the branches. The tall trees provided patches of sunlight with their leaves for the small butterflies to enjoy. On one of the trees was a teenager not older than seventeen, sitting on top of a branch well hidden by leaves. The boy just sat there while leaning on the trunk behind him. His right arm rested on his knee as he bent his leg, balancing himself on the branch as well as to find him a more comfortable position. Since classes ended early because of a special school event, he reserved the whole afternoon to relax himself. He did not even bother to figure out what this school event was and why it was considered special. For him, nothing could relieve his stress from school than sitting on tree branches, observing the trees and being one with nature. Vega smiled to himself. He yawned. This 'being one with nature' thing sure is making him sleepy. He was about to close his eyes but then stopped. Vega looked around.

Am I not alone? He thought to himself while brushing off the dust from his white shirt and blue jeans. He gave his black choker a small tug almost instinctively.

Sounds of footsteps and crushing leaves rattled in the midday air as three girls entered the forest. The two were twins with reddish eyes, silver locks, and pale skin almost as light as their hair. The third one seemed to look more mature than the two. Clad in a formal, white blouse and dark brown slacks covering half of her leather boots, one would accidentally mistaken her for a college student. Her long, brown hair dangled in a high ponytail as she walked with her best friends: Melanie and Sally Orinn. The older twin grinned happily. "Hey Kyrie... What did you bring for show and tell?" She asked. Kyrie looked at the albino twins and smiled. "I have this amulet necklace that came from our clan. It's very old and it seems to be the only one left of its kind." She took out a worn-out necklace from her pocket. A small, silver amulet dangled in the air as she held the necklace in front of her face, examining it. The twins stared at it with awe. Sally tightened her pigtails before reaching out for the amulet necklace. She ran a delicate finger on the silver amulet before looking back at Kyrie.

"Why does that silver thingy look like a monster? Can't they just carve a strawberry amulet instead?" She blinked twice before passing it to her twin. Melanie nodded. "Yeah… Why not a strawberry?" She gave it back to Kyrie. The girl laughed. She knew all along that they will end up talking about strawberries again, even though it's far from the first topic. In this world, strawberries make the Orinn twins' life go round. Kyrie placed the amulet back to her pocket. "Well… It was because that monster represents our clan's village. It's an 'Elemental'." She said.

In a nearby tree not far away from the brunette, Vega leaned closer to look at them. Did he just hear that right?

Elementals…

Kyrie continued. "Elementals are creatures that are said to be capable of shape shifting. It is believed that these creatures are the closest to being ghosts." She tilted her head to the side a bit. "I thought you said you liked old books." The twins shook their heads. Kyrie grinned happily before grabbing her friend's hands. "Well, what are we waiting for? Let's go to the library! There are a lot of interesting stuff in there that talks about Elementals! And you know what the best part is?" She asked the two as they ran towards the school building. The twins shook their heads.

"What?" The two chorused.

Kyrie giggled. "They all exist!

"You're making up stories again, Kyrie.." Sally commented.

"No, I'm not!"

"Jeez.. We just got here and now we're leaving…" Melanie groaned.

Vega leaned back and smiled at Kyrie. He watched the three as they jumped over the fence that separated the forest from the campus. He sighed before jumping off the tree. Vega landed on the forest floor with a thud.

"I thought there were only the two people who ever believed in them." He said to himself as he stepped on the same spot where Kyrie used to be. Vega kicked a rock and watched it land inside a bush. He blinked in confusion after hearing a light gasp coming from behind it. Suddenly, a boy not older than him popped out from the leaves while holding a silver object. Vega stepped back as the other boy stomped in front of him.

"Vega!" He called out to the black-haired boy. Vega grinned sheepishly while rubbing the back of his head.

"Alvin! How's my lil' bro? And uh. .if you do not mind me asking.." He pointed at the other boy's hair. "Why did you dye your hair green?" He laughed. Alvin scoffed.

"So that you wouldn't see me in the bushes." He then looked at the silver object in his hand. "I cannot believe you let this thing hit my head! It hurts…" Alvin shoved the silver piece on Vega's palm while rubbing his aching head. Vega's eyes widened at the sight of a very familiar object. He looked at Alvin as his eyes narrowed.

"What?" Alvin asked. Vega looked at the direction where the three girls went.

"This isn't mine…"

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"What are you looking at, Vega?"

Vega turned to look at Kyrie. He chuckled. "Just a bunch of boulders, that's all."

"Yes, I can see that" She giggled. Kyrie walked towards a group of large rocks that formed a small cave. She crossed her arms while looking at Vega. "Well, you have been staring at it ever since I met you." She smiled at the sixteen-year-old boy before her. It has been a month ever since they first met, and every time she went to the beach to visit him, she would always find him staring at this small cave near the water. She finds it rather.. Tiring.

"Why do you stare at the cave like that, Vega?" She asked. The boy shook his head and smiled. "Well... I cannot tell you that." Vega raised an eyebrow.

"Why do you keep on watching me then?" He laughed all of a sudden.

Kyrie pouted, her cheeks now flushing in bright red. "Sigh.. You always say that." She looked at her watch. Vega crossed his arms. "Heh... Shouldn't you be at home by now, missy?" The brunette gave him a smug look as if to say 'I know'. Lifting her arms high above her head and letting out a loud groan, Kyrie stretched as far as her muscles would allow. "If you do not want me here, then just say so!" She then walked towards the wooden stairs which lead to the main street. Vega followed suit.

"Hey! Wait up!" He called out.

Kyrie looked back. "What is it?"

"I have something for you."

Vega raised his hands and placed them behind his head. Kyrie watched him as he untied something that was currently hanging around his neck. Her eyes widened as he gave it to her. "T-that's.." She started. Vega chuckled. "Yeap. You're amulet." Kyrie's eyes were filled with tears as she wore the necklace. She smiled. "Thank you… I thought I would lose this forever. It's the only thing I have left which came from my real family. And look.." She examined the necklace carefully. "You even replaced the chord with a new one… I owe you big." The brunette then gave the boy a tight hug. Vega smiled. "Well, I'm glad to be of help, but I have something to tell you." He smiled but then broke away after seeing a girl with long, silver hair on the other side if the street. He stared at her before looking back at Kyrie.

"What is it?" She asked.

Vega forced out a smile. "I'm going to be away for a very long time. I'd like to make this day memorable to you by first of all, giving this amulet back to you. I just want you to be happy while I'm gone."

Kyrie let out a small laugh. "I will never forget this day. But for how long will you be away?"

Vega smiled. He shook his head before looking away. "It doesn't matter. We'll see each other eventually. "

"Is that good?" Kyrie looked down.

"Yes, it is. Now I must take my leave. Take care." He said while glancing behind Kyrie. The brunette looked behind her. She smiled after seeing her friend, Melanie.

"Melanie! What brings you here?" She said happily. The other girl frowned though.

"I have been looking for you."

"Hold on, I'm just going to say goodbye to.." Kyrie looked behind her, only to see that Vega wasn't there anymore. She frowned. "He was here a second ago…"

Melanie tapped her foot impatiently. "Well stop dilly-dallying. Let's go home already. Sally made us some dinner."

Kyrie smiled.

"Okay…"

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Kyrie had a wonderful morning the next day. She woke up happily without a reason for the first time. And because of that, she did well in school for that day. It was not until she found out that Vega was nowhere to be found on the beach, just as he said. That proved it. He was no longer there. Not in our house, not in school, not in the country… I should know.

Some philosophers believe that everything in this world can be sorted out according to their composition. Basing it from the amount of matter and spirit, they have put non-living things, plants, animals, humans and entities without material in this order. They have concluded that humans contain 50% matter and 50% spirit, non-living things with 100% matter and 0% spirit, and the entities with 0% matter and 100% spirit.

More than a hundred years after that, a researcher discovered the two creatures that filled the gaps between humans and entities. The creatures that are closest to humans died out immediately after being mistaken for monsters when they're actually not. The ones closest to being spirits, were very versatile and capable to adapting to their environment, although they were mistaken to only have appeared in fairy tales. They were ignored, until the present day.

One day, a scientist captured this creature from the water and took care of it in an aquarium. He named it 'water elemental', due to its capability to shape shift into almost anything that are found in the sea. But unfortunately, this creature stayed aggressive since it was separated from its home. He built a laboratory near the water just in case the creature gets away, just so it could get back to the water almost instantly, without killing it.

It did not take that long before his laboratory got demolished. It was mainly because of the death of his first son who was said to be eaten alive by the Elemental. He gave up his career and took greater care

of his last son after the incident. What was left of his laboratory were a pile of rocks and shattered glass, all useless to him and his research. Elementals are protective over their territories, which was the main reason why it attacked the boy when he went to the water to find something very important.

But then again, who would be stupid enough to accidentally drop something *THAT* important in the water with this creature in the first place?

That would be me.

Secondly, who would be brave enough to risk his life just so he could make his first love happy, no matter how stupid it seems?

Vega would.

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