

## **“In the Shadows”**

It was a chilly summer night. The Colorado desert was known for brisk temperatures at this late hour. Hannah, a 15 year old girl with pale looking features, tossed and turned in her sleep. The bedroom was completely pitch black, but she could hear her sister Rachel snoring loudly beside her and was growing irritated. Rachel was pale like her, but had dark inquisitive eyes. Sometimes Hannah didn't believe they were sisters. Hannah sighed and stared at the ceiling. The room was painted with dark tones, but their grandmother had painted white and gold stars on the ceiling to mimic the night sky. It was a nice thing of her to do, but Hannah secretly wished she could see the real stars someday for herself.

“Thump!” A loud noise startled her. Her sister Rachel gasped at the sound and sat up in her bed. The girls heard another thump. It was coming from downstairs, and almost immediately, they were able to recognize the source.

“Maya...” They both whispered with worry. Maya, while only 6 years old, was a heavy sleep walker by night, and an anxious frazzled girl by day. Maya would get all of them in trouble.

When they first arrived to the home, grandmother had told them that they were all special. Grandmother had said that they each came to her from a strange world, where sunlight didn't exist and they all lived in darkness. The girls weren't allowed to venture into the light. They weren't even allowed outdoors. Grandmother had said that bad things would happen to others if they went outdoors and were exposed. And Maya, the sleepwalker, was very close to opening the front door to the outside world...

“We have to go get her before grandmother wakes up!” Rachel exclaimed.  
“Okay, but let's be quiet about it. Maybe we can lure her back with her favourite snack?” Hannah responded thoughtfully.

The girls quietly crept to the kitchen and got some gold fish crackers. They found Maya a few moments later. She was near the coat closet in the front hall.

She had an umbrella in her hand and was mumbling something about keeping the sunlight away.

The girls managed to lead Maya back upstairs to her bedroom with the goldfish crackers. A few crackers had fallen to the floor. "CRUNCH". Rachel and Hannah stopped in their tracks and listened... "Phew" They both exhaled. Grandmother didn't hear a thing. They quietly chuckled and turned back to head toward their room.

Suddenly, a large figure appeared at the end of the hallway. "You know you're not supposed to be walking through the halls at this hour. Get back to bed and we will discuss this in the morning. I need to speak to you about your privileges. Do you need to be reminded of the dangers you girls could cause?"

"No." The girls whispered, ashamed of letting their grandmother down. Grandmother nodded and turned to go back into her room. "Good. Now get some rest. Tomorrow I will tell you about your biology".

**THE END!**