

The Trash Forest

I had always wondered what was behind the door at the end of the hallway. My mum had forbidden me to go into that room since I was young. I had always tried to do different things just to open that door, but always failed with my mum catching me.

One quiet afternoon, Mum and I were watching news on TV on our sofa.

“The amount of trash in Hong Kong is increasing every day. Scientists are saying that the whole world will be covered in trash one day,” a reporter said. Mum sighed.

“Will there ever be a world without trash?” she murmured.

After a while, she fell asleep on the sofa, and I took my chance to tiptoe away until I reached the door to the secret room. On the door was a sign that said: DO NOT ENTER. I tried to twist the doorknob. It didn’t budge.

“Hm... it’s locked. What should I do?” Suddenly, a thought flashed into my mind. I pulled my hair clip out and stuffed it into the keyhole. I twisted and twisted, until CLICK! The door opened! I gasped in excitement.

I immediately opened the door, slipped inside, and bolted the door shut. I blinked as darkness engulfed me. The room echoed with every step I took, and my heart pounded loudly in my chest. Suddenly, my foot kicked something. I jumped up in shock and looked down. It was a golden, shimmering chest.

“What’s inside?” I thought. Suddenly, I heard a low growl from above. I shrieked, and flinched as light suddenly filled my eyes. I looked up and screamed as I saw a huge dragon flying above me, its whole body shining. On its neck was a golden key. The dragon spat a ball of fire towards me. I yelled at the top of my lungs and dodged the ball. It exploded as it touched the floor, and some of the fire touched my skin, burning me.

“Ouch!” I tried to jump up to snatch his key, but he snarled and kicked me away. I took a deep breath, then jumped up again and finally took hold of the key. I quickly put the key in the lock and twisted it.

Click! The chest opened, and I squealed in excitement. However, nothing was inside. Just when I was about to complain, the dragon pushed me, and I was sucked into the chest! I shrieked as I fell deep, deep down into darkness.

“Ew! Where am I? Why is there so much junk in this forest? Ahhhh!! Cockroaches!! Get them away from me!” I cried. The mountains of trash threatened to swallow me whole. I struggled to stand up, but it was useless in the heaps of garbage, and I just sank back down. Some insects crawled over me, making me give a shrill scream. I writhed around, trying to find solid ground, but there was none, and I sank even deeper.

To my surprise, I felt strong arms lift me up, and I looked up to see a man...with wings?

“Where am I? Why do you have wings? Why is there trash all around us?” I asked.

“I am Lester, the chief executive of Hong Kong. It is the year 3200 now, and everyone has wings here. The trash is normal here, no one cares about it. There’s an underground tunnel that leads the rubbish to the sea and sweeps it away, so we are fine with it,” the man said.

“THE SEA DOESN'T SOLVE THE PROBLEM! I have to think of a plan.” I pondered about it as Lester put me gently on the ground.

All of a sudden, a strong smell of rotten eggs and stinky socks came floating into my nose. I wrinkled my nose in disgust. Plastic bags, broken chairs, and moth-eaten clothes were scattered all over the ground, looking at me with sorrow. The brown grass sobbed, and the flowers’ heads drooped down. The leaves were hanging limply on the trees, begging for help, and buzzing noises from different insects were everywhere. I shuddered. Suddenly, I heard a voice. “Please save me! I don’t want to live in a trash forest!”

I rushed into the forest, wanting to find out who had talked to me. Lester followed me, confused.

Unexpectedly, a rabbit hopped out of a bag of trash.

“I can lead you to a factory which can turn rubbish into reusable items! However, no one ever uses it because they’re too lazy. Let’s go!” the rabbit explained. I followed it, and my mouth fell open in astonishment at the sight of the old, rusty building that stood before me. The building looked like it would fall any second, and I grimaced.

The rabbit used his paw to wrench open the door and hopped in. I followed, and the rabbit went up flights of stairs until we reached a room. Inside was a gigantic machine with a hole, with a “collect” button and a “reusable” button.

I pressed the “collect” button, and the machine gave a loud screech. There were bangs and clangs, and the machine started becoming puffier

and puffier, until it looked like a ginormous gray ball, and squished me, Lester and the bunny to the wall. Then, I squeezed forward and pressed the “reusable” button, and items came popping out of the hole from the machine. Toys, cups, utensils, clothes, everything! Soon, the whole room was filled with reusable items.

“Wow! This is amazing! The world is saved!” Lester exclaimed.

“Can I please go back to my own world now?” I asked, picking up the bunny. Lester nodded and waved his hand. Suddenly, I felt sleepy and collapsed on the floor.

When I woke up, the bunny was still in my arms. Mum was looking at me, a concerned look on her face.

“Mum!” I hugged her. She hugged me back.

“I’m so glad you’re safe!” Mum said, tears of relief in her eyes.

The End