

Finding the Silver Lining

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As the sun rises, Storm is training on the jetty on the lake at the forest's edge beside her Grandpa's house, training to become an assassin. Soon she will have a trial test with her dad. The forest is as green as a pristine emerald and stretches out as far as the eye can see. The wind is gently blowing, picking up smells from the trees and the flowers.

Storm finishes her training and returns to her Grandpa's home where she has lived since her mother died. She saw Grandpa and signed, "Hey, Grandpa how are you?" Grandpa's home is a beautiful wooden luxury cabin with amazing views of the forest and lake. Storm loves living here and ponders how lucky she is to be in this magical place that keeps the memories of her mother alive. Grandpa is slowly forgetting how to sign; mixing up his Auslan and Storm is finding it hard to communicate with him.

Storm doesn't really have a lot of friends at her hearing school. People make fun of the white stripe in Storm's long fringe caused by Deaf Waardenburg syndrome. She sometimes has rough days and the girls pick on her. She can't stop thinking about her mother and it gives her massive headaches. On one particularly bad day she escapes from school and on the way back home has a muddled vision of a woman in her head signing, "Go the lake, find out the th__rth I nee__ your help and y_u with re_eive grea_test mag_c." Storm opens her eyes thinking the woman looked like her mother.

Storm went to the lake and found Grandpa at the jetty admiring the sunset. Storm signed, "Grandpa what happened to my mum? Tell me the truth!" Grandpa said, "It is time for you to know the truth, your mother will explain." Storm gasped, "How?! My mother is dead, how am I supposed to talk to her?" Grandpa pointed to the lake and said, "Go in the water for as long as you can and you will find out..."

Storm is confused. She takes her shoes and jacket off, dives into the lake, swims down into the icy cold water. She remembers her training, thinks of other things, and forgets the cold. After many minutes she sees red, blue, and purple glowing in front of her eyes. Kana, her mother appears in a red dress and signs to Storm saying, "I have been waiting for you to come." She explains she was trapped in the lake, murdered, and cursed by an assassin. Storm answered, "I miss you so much, please come back home. What do you mean, murdered?"

Kana signs back "Storm, find my murderer! I don't have lot of time, sweetheart. I have been watching on the other side. Water is how I will reach you." Storm replies sadly, "the other side....? I am not strong." Kana responds, "that is the reason you are here; you can protect yourself and it's time for you to receive powers." A white spark passes from Kana to Storm, becoming the red and blue glowing powers of psychokinesis into Storm.

Then a BIG boom, and all went dark... Storm slowly opens her eyes and sees Grandpa and gasps "I saw my mother! I know what do to free her out the other side world! I recognise the suit of

her assassin. It's familiar." Soaking wet, standing and looking at the lake, she said, "I am bringing you back home, Mum"

Storm felt different, powerful, and started fidgeting with her hands. Power shoots out of her hands like dark magic. Storm is immediately feeling fortunate as she now has the power she has been waiting so long for. She went to bed feeling contented and complete.

In her dreams, Storm's mother is watching and is walking through the city at dusk. She is wearing her battle clothes, red leather jacket with corset top and high boots. She is being attacked by the assassin and her stomach is bleeding. He tries to shoot her and Kana fights back shooting out her powerful chaotic magic. Before she can protect herself with a shield, the assassin shoots her in the heart. Storm screams mutely trying to say "Nooooo...!" She wakes up thinking it is a vision. Thinking "I know that assassin." Running downstairs to the training basement, she looks through boxes of photos and finds him in an old photo with her when she was young. She has discovered who murdered her mother. She is crying so much because the murderer....is ...her... dad. Hunter.

Somehow, Hunter is back home and she goes to hug Grandpa. Hunter says, "It's been too long, I think I might need a break from work." Storm comes out and shoots her dad. Then storm uses her powers to lift her dad and flies to the lake. Storm bursts into tears saying, "I am so sorry Daddy, but I must bring my Mum back..." Storm shapes her powers into a red and blue flaming sword and stabs him.... and then something appears. It is glowing and bursting out of the water. It is her mother alive and glowing. Her eyes are closed, she gasps and floats gently toward the jetty and walks towards Storm. Kana tears up and says, "thank you Storm, I am so sorry you lost your father. I have missed you so much!", they both hug. Grandpa is standing outside and sees Storm with someone he can't recognise. Thinking, "Who was that other person?" He realises, runs down to Kana, and hugs her so relieved to see her again. He says, "I missed you so much. Are you are REALLY HERE?" Kana and Grandpa hug and bursts into tears.

"That was the story of my life. It has been one year now, and my Mum has returned. May my dad rest in peace but things are going well... I have to continue training to be like mum and control my strong powers."