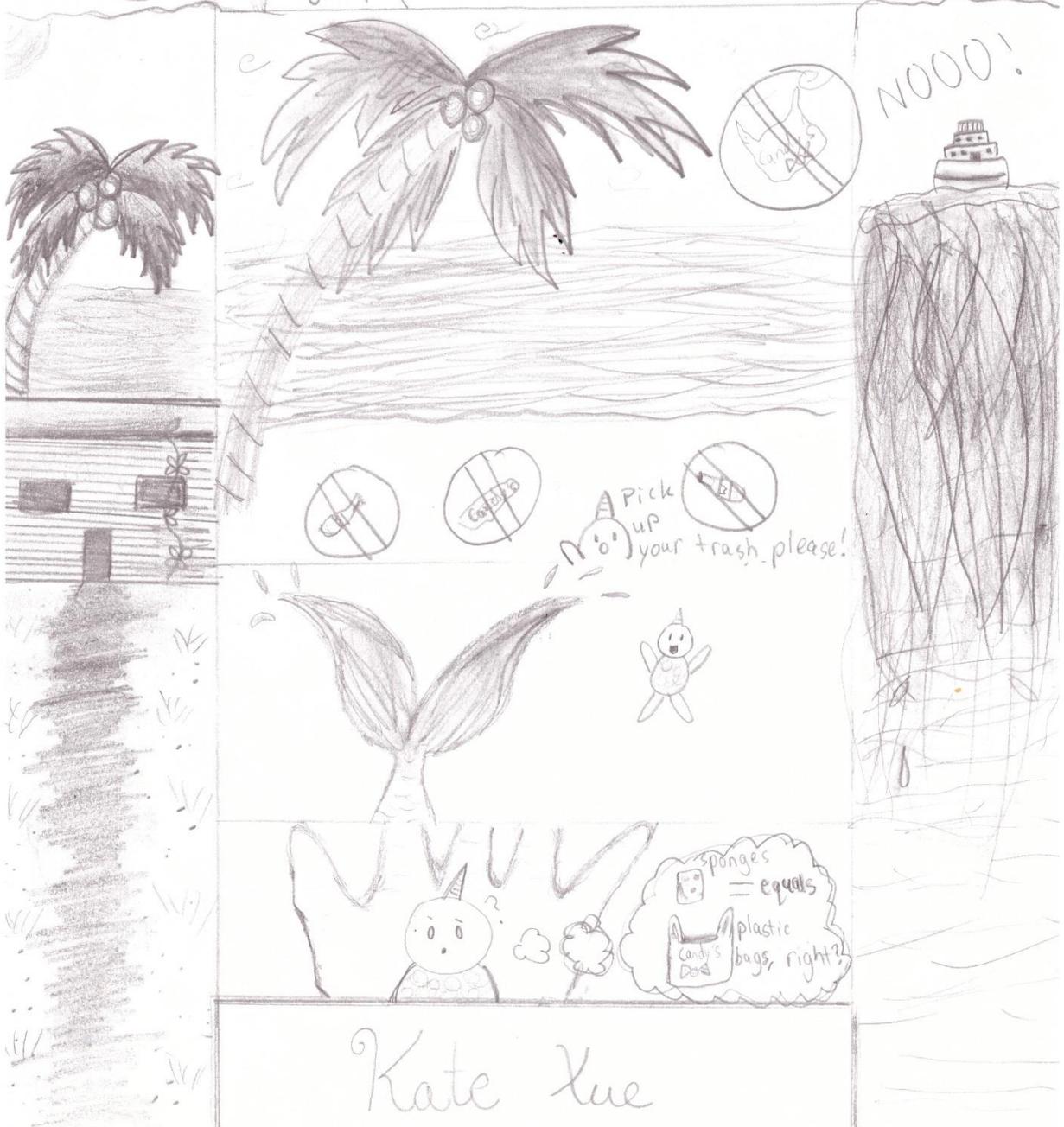


UNISHHELLS

Always remember to pick up your trash! - Sa-Sea



Unishells

By: Kate Xue

“Dad, can we please visit aunt Sylvanna, please?” Asked 13-year-old Amanda.

“Yeah, please? She bakes the best cookies!” begged 13-year-old Alec.

The twins put on their best puppy faces and did begging motions.

Their Dad sighed.

“Okay...but it’s not fair that you guys did those faces! You know I can’t resist those puppy eyes!” he exclaimed.

Alec smirked.

We owe it all to Amanda wining.

Amanda Punched him on the arm mockingly.

“You showed me how to do puppy faces though!” She challenged.

Their Dad quickly broke them apart.

“Stop! Do you want to go to Sylvanna’s or not?” he asked.

“We do!” the twins said, perfectly in sync.

Amanda gazed out of the car window to see the glistening, breathtaking ocean. The ocean looked as if it outshone the sun. It glistened so much that Amanda had to cover her eyes.

Amanda is a lovely young girl with long black hair, and large blue eyes, just like the glistening sea.

Alec is Amanda’s twin brother. He has large twinkling green eyes, and dark black hair.

When they were infants, people usually tell them apart from their eyes.

People use to say, “Ah Alec, you have the same eye color as your father! Oh, Amanda! You have the eye color of your mother!”

The twins were pretty much used to it though.

When they reached their destination, a pretty little cottage awaits them.

The cottage was a little brown house, with many rock steps. There were beautiful flowers with the colors of the rainbow. There was a little neat birdbath, with a little blue Jay. The little cottage looked welcoming.

“Oh, hi there little Amanda and Alec! I missed you guys!” Aunt Sylvanna gushed as she ran to hug the twins.

“Stop... Can't BREATHE!” panted Alec.

“Hi, Aunt Silvee” Amanda managed to say.

“Oh dear, I must've nearly hugged the breath out of you two!” She said apologetically.

“Hey, sis! You almost murdered my children right in front of me!” Dad teased.

“Now, now,” said Aunt Sylvanna wagging a disapproving finger, “You perfectly know your kids are very ADORABLE!” She squealed.

Amanda and Alex shared a look. Aunt Sylvanna always talked about how cute they were and gave them delicious cookies every visit.

“So, let's get down to business. Are there any cookies?” asked Alec hopefully.

“Oh Alec, you always have room for your Aunt's desserts,” Joked Dad.

“Oh yeah? One time, you literally ate all of the cookies in the school bake sale!” teased Alec.

“But those cookies were as cheap!” complained Dad.

When they went inside of Aunt Silvee's house, they noticed that the beach was full of plastic bags, and bottles.

Aunt Silvee looked out of her cottage's window and made a disgusted face as she handed them cookies.

The beach looked sad. There were so many plastic bags that the beach looked like a dump.

“Ugh, the beach was like that ever since that new candy shop opened,” she complained.

“I feel bad for the sea creatures that live on the beach,” said Amanda.

“The new environment must cause great damage to them,” said Dad.

“That's why I always go outside to collect the bags from the beach but, the bags just magically reappear the next day.” said Sylvanna, clearly annoyed.

“Amanda and I would like to offer cleaning the beach with you.” Said Alec enthusiastically.

“Really? IT’s a tough job.” teased Silvee.

“Sure! We don’t really mind at all, right Amanda?” Alec asked.

“Yeah, I’m down with it,” replied Amanda.

Aunt Sylvanna beamed at them.

“You kids are amazing!” She told them.

“When are we not?” said Alec smirking.

“Guys, I’m going to stay here and eat delicious cookies.” Said Dad grinning.

“When are you not eating?” complained Amanda.

“My brother you see, has a big soft spot for my delicious homemade cookies,” teased Aunt Silvee, grinning.

When Amanda and Aunt Silvee left the house, Alec said, “Dad if you keep sitting and eating, you’ll get very, very, very fat.”

Then Alec quickly went through the front door while grinning.

Alec heard Amanda ask” How are we suppose to carry all of these bags?”

“Well, you have to put small bags into the medium bags, that are going in the big bags,” replied Sylvanna.

“Wow, that was the most obvious thing.” Alec said smirking.

Amanda rolled her eyes, “Wow, I totally wish I knew that,” She said unenthusiastically.

“Ew! There’s disgusting oozy candy in this one!” Said their Aunt.

“Ew!” Amanda and Alec said in a unison.

“Yeah, it is,” replied their Aunt. “Truly terrible indeed.”

As they picked up more plastic bags, Alec and Sylvanna heard Amanda scream.

“Oh my god! There’s a little sea-turtle here!” Amanda screamed.

As Aunt Sylvanna and Alec run towards her, Amanda took the plastic inside of the turtle’s mouth and threw it in the bag.

“Oh my, could it really be a sea-turtle?” asked Sylvanna?”

“Yes, Aunt Silvee, it is!” cried Amanda.”

“What did you think it was lady?” demanded Alec.

“I thought it might’ve been a Unishell,” said Aunt Sylvanna lowering her voice.

“What’s a Unishell?” asked Amanda curiously.

Sylvanna looked behind.

“A Unishell is an ancient creature that looks like a sea turtle, with a unicorn horn. Legend said that the Unishell sometimes washes onto the shore. Watching if anyone would help it. If a mortal helps it, the Unishell turns them into half mermaid, half human.

Alec reaches and wraps his handkerchief around the turtle’s injured leg.

“Look!” he said pointing at the turtle’s head, “It has something on it’s head! It looks like a... Horn?!”

Aunt Sylvanna gasped, “Oh my, it is you!”

“What do you mean?” The twins asked in a unison.

“Wow, we should seriously stop doing that,” Alec said.

“Agreed,” Amanda replied.

Alec and Amanda saw that there were tears in Sylvanna’s eyes.

“Oh, Sa-Sea! I missed you!” She cried.

“Whose sassy?” Amanda asked.

“You are!” Alec replied.

Amanda gave Alec a dark look.

“No, I’m not. I’s classy, not sassy,” She said, trying to defend herself.

“Mhm” Alec said, trying not to laugh.

“Hey guys,” Sylvanna said, clearing her throat, “This is Sa-Sea. She’s a Unishell I found when I was little.”

Amanda gasped, “So, you’re a-a-a mermaid?!”

“Well, technically yes.” Silvee replied.

“Does our dad know?” Alec blurted out.

“No, all your dad ever did was sit down on his toush and watch Dora the explorer! I started to think he seriously liked her when I was little,” she giggled.

“Anyways, you guys are now mermaids!” she said excitedly. She also added, “Also, merman for Alex!” she said with jazz hands.

The twins were dumbfounded. Both of the twins dropped their jaws to the ground.

“Oh my god!” Amanda finally squealed.

“No one can know about this except for us,” Sylvanna whispered.

“Good, I don’t know what the guys would think of me if they knew,” Alec said, shuddering.

Just then, they heard some noise.

The twins looked back, just in time to see bouncy golden looks flying.

“Oh no Sa-Sea. She has returned...” Silvee said.

“Who was that Aunt Sylvanna?” Amanda asked.

“Tell us Silvee, please?” Alec begged.

“That was Candy feathers...” Sylvanna said shakily.

“Run into the waters with me!” Sylvanna said as they ran.

“hold hands and chant with me!” she said.

“Legs to tails, tails to legs, give me tails right now!” they chanted in the sea.

They instantly transformed. Sylvanna had an emerald green one while Amanda and Alec had blue ones.

“C’mon! Quick children, follow me!

Sylvanna said,” Your dad will kill me if you guys die.”

“To move, you have to move your fin up and down, like you’re moving your feet up and down,” She explained.

The twins got the hang of it, but neither one dared to breath.

“Oh, just breathe already,” Sylvanna said, as she rolled her eyes.

Alec was the first one to give in. He gulped the water down, like he never breathed before.

Amanda hesitated at first, and then began to breath. It felt wonderful to breathe in the cool salty water, and let it out.

Bang!

A bullet came near.

“It’s Candy! She’s coming!” cried Sylvanna.

All four of them swam like bullets themselves. They dove right and left, trying to avoid the schools of fish. As they swam, they found an underwater cave, and went inside. The cave had no dry land, nor air.

“Isn’t it illegal to shoot this handsome guy?” Alec screeched, pointing at himself.

“Why is Candy after you?” Amanda asked, clearly out of breath.

“We were enemies back in high school. When we were on a field trip, I helped Sa-Sea and she saw me talking to him. She was in the bushes like a creep. She heard everything. Mer people can understand sea-creatures so I kept repeating stuff. That’s how Candy knew. Naturally, she tried to tell everyone, but no one believed her, except for her boyfriend, Liam. Liam also hated me, so they were a perfect match. They always tried to throw me off guard, so they could expose me. After a while, when we finished high school, and college, I became a helper in Aquatic waters, an aquarium and fed turtles. Of course, after Sa-Sea left me when I was little, I never knew how to use my magical powers so, I asked a wise sea-turtle. His name was Willy the wise, and he taught me everything he knew. He also told me to go to the waters to check if there were signs of Sa-Sea. After a while, he... well, died of old age. A great turtle, with a great old life. After a while, Candy found out what’s my job and where I lived. She worked at the same place as me. She kept trying to push me into the waters, so I could transform. Once, I nearly drowned! Finally, she gave up and quit the job. Now, she’s found me once again, and she’ll probably expose me once and for all!” Sylvanna cried.

Alec and Amanda were shocked. She hid this secret for this long?

When they went out of the cave, another bullet came. This time, it hit someone...

“Sylvanna! NO!” Amanda sobbed.

“You-you MURDERDER!” Alec cried.

Sylvanna’s lifeless body slowly drifted down.

Sylvanna was gone when the bullet instantly came in contact with her body.

Alec had gone white, and Amanda was still sobbing.

“Guys, we need to get moving, or else we’ll die. SWIM!” Sa-Sea ordered,

As they swam, more bullets shot out. One almost hit Sa-Sea, but the Unishell just used its shell as a reflector, and the bullet simply just bounced off.

“Why didn’t you do that when Sylvanna got shot?” Alex asked.

“Is Candy a mermaid?” Amanda asked Sa-Sea.

“The bullet instantly hit her when I barely moved a mussel” Sa-Sea said sadly.

“No, she’s a sea-nymph. She could change into human form if she wanted to,” Sa-Sea replied.

“Are you a girl or boy?” Alec asked.

Sa-Sea rolled her eyes and replied, “I’m a female. Look, we don’t have time for this, so let’s keep on swimming.”

After a while, they began to grow tired, so they stopped, to rest behind a gigantic rock.

“Oh no, what would dad think?” Amanda groaned.

“He’ll probably just tease me about this,” said Alec, moaning.

“I’ll just use my magic to make him into think that, you guys were only gone for an hour.” Sa-Sea offered.

“really?” The twins asked in a unison.

“Alec, we should seriously stop doing that,” Amanda said, smiling.

“Yeah, it really getting annoying,” Alec said, grinning.

“Yeah, I’ll do it,” Sa-Sea said.

“What about our Aunt, dead?” Alec asked, trying to hold a tear in.

“Well,” Sa-Sea said quietly, “I could make him think, that she was on the beach and drowned.”

“O-oh thanks Sa-Sea!” Amanda said, starting to cry.

“Save your tears for later, we don’t know who’ll die next,” Sa-Sea said.

“What’s our purpose for this journey?” Amanda asked, hiccupping.

“Candy is going to the surface, since Sylvanna died. Candy wants to find The Foam of Queendom, so she could rule the mer people’s waters. Legend said that if a mermaid, or merman dies, the foam appears onto the surface for the ocean,” Sa-Sea explained.

“Did anyone find it before?” Alec asked.

“Well, no. You have to find the foam within two days, or else the foam will disappear after two days. Sometimes sailors can the foam, but mistaken it as just regular sea foam,” Sa-Sea said.

“What does the foam look like?” Amanda asked as they swam to shore.

“It’s white, but it has rainbow sparkle to it.” Sa-Sea explained.

“Wow, you sure know your facts!” Alec said, impressed.

“Well, as a Unishell, I do need to know about this,” Sa-Sea said, pleased.

When they reached on the ocean’s surface, the twins chanted, “tails to legs, legs to tails, give me legs, right now!”

“Amanda and Alec got their casual clothes back, but it’ll be hard to swim in t-shirts and shorts.

The twins were drenched in water when they finally reached the shore. People stared at them like the Twins were some weirdos that didn’t like to wear bathing suits.

“People these days, no respect,” Alec said gruffly. The twins went to the cottage and told their dad that they splashed in the water, and that aunt Silvee told them to get dry clothes on.

Their dad didn’t care so, he just waved his hand goodbye.

“Wow talk about a terrible dad,” Alec grumbled.

Amanda merely smiled, and off they went.

Sa-Sea was almost forgotten, but Sa-Sea exclaimed, “Wait for me!” Then, off they went, for real this time.

It was 5:00 P.M. or so. They were tired from walking, so they went to the nearest shop they could find. They walked 2 hours straight, not including breaks. There was no way that they’re going back home now. The nearest shop that was there, was a candy shop. Candy’s delicious candy, was the shop’s name.

Amanda opened the door.

“Hi there, children, want to buy some candy?” Candy asked.

“Oh, can we just look around?” Alec said, scanning the room.

Candy shrugged, “Okay...Don’t eat the candy though!”

When Candy left, Amanda nudged Alec.

“This is Candy! The one that killed our aunt. I don’t think Candy recognized us yet,” Amanda said in a low whisper.

“I know, I thought we could discover where the foam is by pretending to be innocent little children,” Alec said in a whisper.

“Hmm... We could sneak into her office while she’s busy.” Amanda suggested.

“Okay good. We’ll wet anything that might help us,” Alec said.

When the twins thought Candy was helping a person, they crept in the shadows, scared that they might be seen. They went into her office and looked around. The twins searched wildly, thinking candy might come at any moment.

At last, Alec found a journal that explained The Foam of Queendom.

When they were done looking, they crept to the door and ---- *creak*

Alec stepped on a loose floor board, and Candy was already plunging towards the twins.

The twins ran for their dear life, while Sa-Sea dozes off in Amanda’s pocket. -- Unishells sleep too!

“Come back here you twerps!” Candy screamed furiously.

The twins ran towards an alley. Amanda looked back and made eye contact with Alec to show him that she’s going about to go in.

The alley had restaurant tables and people eating there. As Amanda and Alec, and Candy ran, many people had to dodge out of the way.

Amanda heard the French chef said, “Ugh, me restaurant is ruined! I will get me revenge Candy!”

“Shut up! I’m chasing brats right now so don’t get in my way!” Candy screamed back at the chef.

Then Alec and Amanda dived under a table.

Amanda made a gesture for Alec to flip over the table.

Alec did so, and the hot sauce (in a jar) opened up, and hit Candy, right in the face.

“AGHH! YOU STUPID KIDDSSS!” Candy screams. As she tries to wipe the hot sauce off her face.

Amanda and Alec quickly went on a ferry without paying and ran to seat.

As Amanda reads the journal, she discovers that the foam only shows itself to the “Chosen Ones.” She also learned that you’ll need a bottle to capture it. Good thing Alec took a candy jar before we left, thought Amanda.

“Hi I’m Liam, and I’ll be your guide today,” said the speaker, “I’ll be showing you guys many awesome views.”

Something didn’t seem right. All the people on the boat looked like they never smiled. Even the babies.

“Alec, let’s get off this boat,” Amanda whispered.

“Yeah, these people look like body guards” Alec whispered back.

As the twins jump up, the speaker went on again and said, “NO ONE LEAVES THE BOAT!”

As if it was on command, All the people pushed Alec and Amanda back to their seats.

Another voice on the speaker came on, “LIAM! I LOST THE STUPID KIDS!”

“WHY? YOUR SUCH AN IDIOT! THEY’RE ON MY FERRY RIGHT NOW---- OMG THE SPEAKER IS STILL ON!” Liam shouted.

speaker closed

“Oh my god Alec! It’s Candy. So that means, the guide is Liam Feathers!” Amanda said, whisper-shouted.

The twins said they were going to the bathroom and left the room.

On their way, Alex found some keys, and tucked them in his pocket.

“Why do we need those keys?” Amanda asked curiously.

“When life gives you shiny objects, you keep them.” Alec said, shrugging.

Then the twins saw it, their one-way ticket out. A jet ski. The twins went through the door, and went to the outside sitting place. The twins stalked around, trying not to get noticed. Then they quickly sat on the jet ski and lowered it down.

“Oh no we need a key for this jet ski!” Amanda exclaimed.

Sa-Sea finally woke up.

“We could use the keys I found!” Alec said gleefully.

motor starts

“It works!” Alec said.

The twins drove off. Then heard loud voices on the ferry, and Liam was the loudest of all of the voices.

“KIDS, I WILL KILL YOU!” He screamed.

gun-shot sounds

“Alec, drive!” Amanda shouted.

After a while, the twins were a few distances away from the ferry.

“I feel a magical aura coming!” Sa-Sea exclaimed.

motor stops working

“Was that what you mean?” Alec asked glumly.

“No, another!” Sa-Sea shouted.

ferry drives closer

“What about that?” Amanda asks sadly.

“No, I’m serious,” Sa-Sea said.

More bullets are shot

“We’re going to die!” Alec said groaning.

Then all of a sudden, a huge wave with rainbow colored foam came and lifted the jet ski up.

“Alec quick, hand me your jar!” Amanda ordered.

passes jar

“Oh my, I told you!” Sa-Sea exclaimed.”

As Amanda catches the foam, the foam didn’t disappear when she touched it.

The foam looked like delicate clouds of the sea. The foam looked white but it reflected colors of the rainbow. The foam was covering the wave like a gentle fluffy blanket.

“Wow,” Amanda gasps.

The big wave then slowly rose down.

Then another big wave without foam came and blasted away the ferry full of bad guys.

All Alec, Amanda, and Sa-Sea heard from them was, “AHHHHHHH!”

“Now since you guys have the foam, you guys will have to claim your reward, C’mon!” Sa-Sea exclaimed.

“What reward?” Alec asked curiously.

“Alec, you should’ve read the journal. It said you can rule the mer people or get a wish granted!”

Amanda explained.

*Legs to tails, tails to legs, give me tails right now! *

As they swam down, Sa-Sea led them to a magical barrier.

“Oh my god! I can’t believe this is happening right now!” Amanda said really fast.

The kingdom was beautiful. There were many mermaids, and mermen. There were many jewels and pearls. It felt like a fantasy.

Then Sa-Sea said, “now, do you want a wish, or do you want to rule this beautiful kingdom?”

All the mer people stared at Alec and Amanda like they never saw anything like them.

“Should we rule, or not,” Alec asked.

“I think we should take the wish,” Amanda replied.

“Why?” Alec asked.

“So, we could bring back Sylvanna.” Amanda said, trying not to cry

” Okay, wish it is,” said Alec.

Alec clears his throat, “Amanda and I would like a wish.”

“What’s your wish Alec?” Sa-Sea asked.

“To bring back sylvanna,” Alec said.

Sa-Sea smiled sadly.

“Np magic could ever bring back the dead,” Sa-Sea said.

“Well, then we wish we could go through time,” he said.

“Oh, of course,” Sa-Sea said.

Sa-Sea muttered something, and a blast of blue came from his little horn.

“Farewell, my friends, I made your dad think you and your aunt were gone for only an hour!” Sa-Sea called as the twins left the castle.

The twins looked up to see that it’s dark. As they turned back to human, they went to the cottage and jumped when their dad came into view.

Their dad looked as if he was confused.

“I thought it was still morning. Time does go fast when you’re eating!” he exclaimed.

“Dad, your so cringey,” Alec said.

“Dad... Aunt Sylvanna drowned in the ocean,” Amanda lied.

“Oh...” their dad said as a tear trickled down, “she always loved the sea...”

As their dad sobbed, the twins knew he didn’t suspect much. The twins cried too though.

“Why didn’t the lifeguard help?” he croaked.

“He was... too busy making out with cookies!” Alec blurted out.

Amanda looked at her brother with her eyebrows knitted together. Sometimes her brother was crazy.

“Well. I’m definitely filing a complaint,” Their dad said, as they went into the car.

As their dad drove, he asked many questions.

“How did this happen?” He asked, his voice full of sadness.

The twins felt guilty. Amanda wanted to blurt out the truth while Alec wanted to jump out the window.

“When Aunt Sylvanna was taking a dip, she didn’t notice that there were plastic bags weighing her down,” Amanda lied.

“She was screaming but the life-guard was so in love with his chocolate-chip cookies that he didn’t notice her,” Alec said seriously.

Both his sister and his dad snorted.

“Are you serious? Do you seriously think I’d believe that?” Their dad said.

The twins shared the same look on their face.

“What are you guys keeping from me? I’m your dad! I should know!” He accused further.

“You won’t believe this but---” Amanda began.

“Oh, that a crazy psycho killed your aunt, and you blew off the psycho?” he asked Sarcastically.

“Well that sums it up,” Alec said.

Amanda forced a smile and kicked Alec.

“Ow! That hurts!” Alec gritted through his teeth.

Their dad was in shock mode. He stepped on the brakes so abruptly that Alec (a non- seatbelt wearer) almost got launched out the front window.

Their dad then drove to the rest center.

“Kids,” He said seriously,” Did you both lose your mind? I feel like both of you guys got traumatized because of your aunt death. This is just like losing your mom, all over again.”

“That was so true,” Amanda said,” We are traumatized. Right Amanda?”

Alec replied quickly,” Yeah...”

“Well, let’s buy some flowers,” he said as he went in the rest area’s shopping area.

“Alec... we have the power to go through time...” Amanda said in a whisper.

“We have to pick wisely though because, time is permanent.” Alec said softly.

Then all of a sudden,

“Hello? Hello? Alec, Amanda?” A voice said.

“Sa-Sea!” The twins exclaimed.

“Shush! I can send direct messages to your mind. You can only go through time for 3 times Also by the way, you guys can just talk in order for me to hear you. I don’t have enough magic for more visits. Sorry about Sylvanna though... She was my dearest friend,” Sa-Sea said.

“How do we go through time?” Amanda asked.

“You must go taste the whitest rainbow...” Sa-Sea said mysteriously.

“What?! Aren’t rainbows supposed to be colorful?!” Alec asked.

“That’s all I can tell you...” Sa-Sea said, her voice drifting away.

“Stupid Unishells!” Alec spat.

Sa-Sea's voice slowly came back," I heard that!" Sa-Sea yelled, "Good day! I said good day!"

"Well you only accomplished to anger our only helper," Amanda said.

"Whatever," Alec said," She wasn't even helping."

Taste the whitest rainbow...what did that mean?