

Stronger Together

Aya just opened her eyes when her head hurt again. Aya tried to stop the pain, but it just kept getting worse. The only consolation was that she made a friend. From the time she remembered about her life, Aya knew that she never had a friend. Her friend understood what others could not.

Aya was different and she knew it. She had known this after the accident. Aya's brain was connected to a different person. The person was her best friend, Lila. Aya and Lila could hear each other's thoughts. They always knew what was wrong with one another and how to fix it. The two of them didn't have any secret.

Aya lived in an orphanage. That day Aya went to the river behind the orphanage and saw a mystical fish with sparkly scales. Aya was mesmerized. She touched the creature because she heard that a multicolored scaled fish could give blessings. Aya extended her arm to touch the magical fish. She pleaded to the fish. "Dear fish, please make my wish true and help me get a friend."

Aya thought that it would work, but she was not lucky as she thought. As soon as she said her wish, a great wave of water came down the river. Aya didn't have the time to process it. A pair of hands pulled her away from the river and saved her. And that is how Lila and Aya met. They became best friends and found that they had a special power. They never knew what had happened, but they looked after each other.

Their real story begins when they plan to run away from the orphanage. In the orphanage they were scolded, punished, and not given enough food to eat. They were feeling as if they had been taken advantage of. They planned to escape from the orphanage at night. They ran until they reached the jungle. Once they reached the jungle, they started thinking about the next step of their plan. While walking they found a large boulder blocking a cave. The boulder had two holes in which they were supposed to put something. They went closer to the boulder to have a look.

The ground shook underneath them, and a crack appeared. From the crack rose a being looking straight at them and it spoke.

"Who are you?" asked the godly being.

"My name is Aya, and this is my friend Lila" Aya explained to the being because she was scared. "We ran away from our orphanage and needed some shelter. From far away that rock looked like a cave, but we are sorry we disturbed you."

"I know that you are telling the truth." She interrupted them. "My name is Himi, and I am the guardian of this cave. Knowing that your intentions are good I will tell you what this is. Inside the cave, is an orb which can tell you the truth about anything. But to get past the rock you would have to go to the Bloody River and the White Mountains."

Since, Aya and Lila were curious about their past, they decided to go to Bloody River and the White Mountains to find out the truth about where they came from. Before leaving, Himi gave them some food, supplies and weapons which would help them survive in the forest. After thanking Himi, they started going towards the White Mountains first because they were visible from a distance.

During the travel they had to fight off wild animals and sleep on the hard ground. They suffered many injuries but overcame them together. After a week, they finally reached the White Mountains. The mountains were sparkling white and shimmered in the sunlight.

As they reached closer, they saw an injured person. Both girls helped the person to cure his injuries. They helped the man and found food which they shared. The next day, when they woke up, they saw the injured man missing. In place of him was another godly being.

“My name is Xusu. I am the guardian of the white mountains. Because of your kindness I am willing to give you the Willflower. But before that you must answer my riddle. ‘If you’ve got me, you want to share me; if you share me, you haven’t kept me. What is it?’

As usual Aya and Lila thought about the riddle in their heads. Aya repeated the riddle in her mind.

What could it be? questioned Lila.

I don’t know. I always thought that it would be easy to run away and live a happy life but now it’s becoming difficult Aya thought.

Yeah, but I always wanted to get a home. I always thought that I was all alone but now I have a friend. A friend who knows everything about me. This way I don’t have to keep a secret from you Lila told Aya.

We don’t have to lie to each other because we don’t keep secrets from one another replied Aya.

After some moments in silence Aya pumped her hands in the air and said, “I got it. It’s a secret. Because I always wanted to share a secret, and if I share it with you, it’s not a secret anymore.”

Xusu smiled and said, “You are correct.” He then pulled out a rainbow-colored flower from a satchel from his shoulder. “Use it wisely. It is only meant for trustful people. Thanks to your kindness I am willing to tell you where the Bloody River is.”

After thanking Xusu, Aya and Lila started their journey to the Bloody River. This time the journey was much easier than the one before. Thanks to Xusu they knew which paths to ignore and what kinds of trouble to expect.

When they reached the Bloody River, they saw another guardian waiting for them. This one was different. The god had red hair and looked human.

“Welcome! My name is Acre.” he said like he was expecting them.

“We are here for the –” Lila started to say when he interrupted.

“I know why you are here. The rules are the same. I will give you a riddle and you must solve it.”

All Aya and Lila could do was nod.

“I am the beginning of everything, the end of everywhere. I’m the beginning of eternity, the end of time and space. What am I?” questioned the guardian.

It is the beginning of everything Lila repeated.

What is the beginning of everything asked Aya

The Big bang?? joked Lila and Aya chuckled.

Or think of it as a literal question. What is the beginning of – everything Aya asked.

“It’s the letter ‘E’, right?” Lila spoke the question out loud.

“You are right.” He said as he dipped his hand in the river and pulled out a golden stone.

“Here you go. As instructed by Himi,” he moved his hand in an astonishing way and opened a portal. “Here is your way back.”

As soon as the Aya and Lila stepped through the portal they found themselves back in front of the rock. Himi stood there waiting for them.

“Welcome back!” She said as she made a way for Aya and Lila to get to the stone.

They put the flower and the stone together which caused boulder to move and make a way for them to enter the cave. At the end of the cave was a shimmering orb. Before reaching the orb Himi stopped them.

She asked them, “What did you learn during the travel?”

They thought back to what had happened during the travel and got to the conclusion.

“From going to the White Mountains, we learned that secrets should not be kept, and we should trust each other. Keeping secrets turns them into lies with which we must live for the rest of our lives.” replied Aya.

“And from the bloody river, we got to know that together we can solve even the hardest problems in the world.” Lila continued after Aya.

“Well done!” replied Himi. She transformed into a goddess. The Goddess Floated in midair and said, “You did well in my challenges, you are ready?”

“Ready for what?” Lila asked.

“Aya and Lila you two are gods and sisters. You never acknowledged each other and kept things to yourselves. You never worked together and as you crowning age was coming, I had to get both of you to cooperate. Now that you understood the meaning of being together and not having secrets you are ready to get the throne.”

A week later Aya and Lila together descended the throne and made Earth a peaceful place for everyone and with the lesson learnt they never had any secrets for each other. They solved their problems and came together and learned what it meant to be sisters.