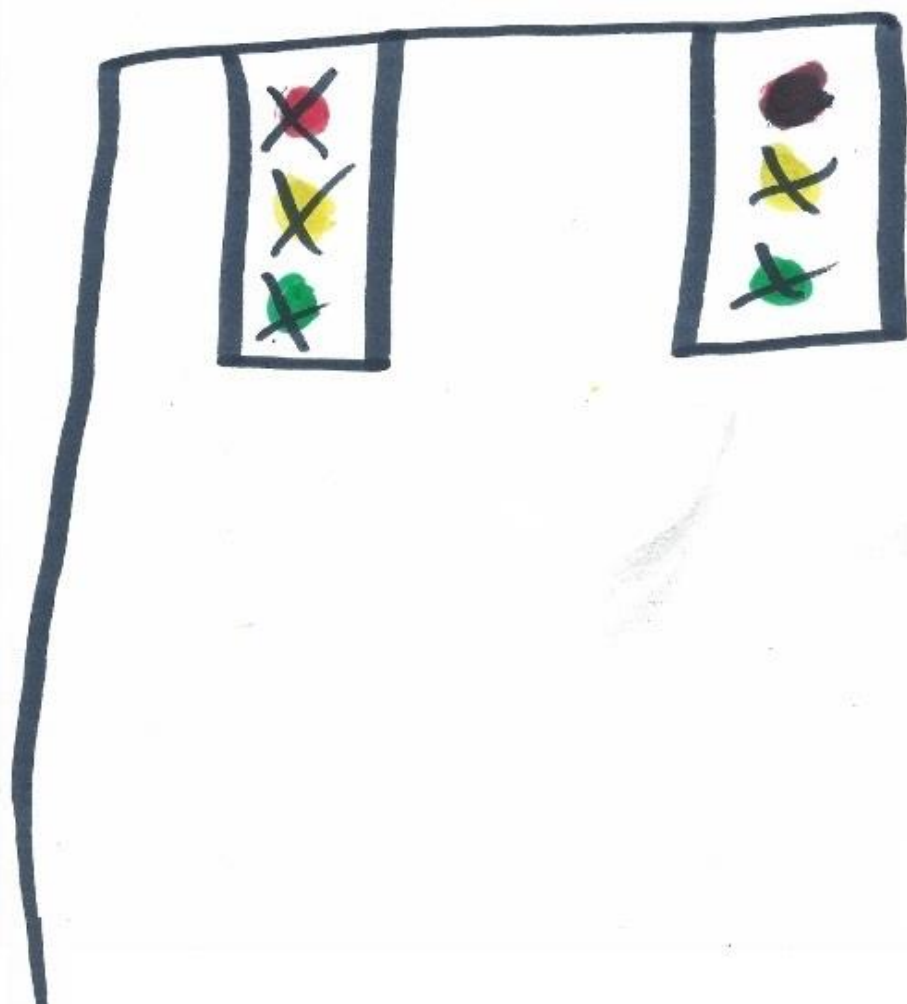


RUNNING GIRL

By Acacia M.



Running Girl

By: Acacia

Chapter 1

The seventeen year old girl named Alexis slowly drifted asleep as her blue hair covered her face as their teacher assigned their homework.

The professor walked by Alexis, "So Alexis, what is our assignment for tonight?"

"Oh, um," she stopped

"Would you like me to choose someone else Alexis?"

"Um, yeah sure," she responded sleepily.

The professor chose someone else to the right of Alexis. She answered right away. The loud tone of the school bell pierced the students' ears, although this was many of the student's favorite time of the day because this meant school was over.

Alexis strolled to her little sister Brittany's school to walk home with her. Her sister couldn't walk home by herself because she was only four years old. There she was walking towards the crosswalk. They started walking down the sidewalk and all of the sudden all of the stop lights turned off, and there was a cone that covered the sun's light. The ground started to shake.

"Alexis!" cried Brittany.

Chapter 2

“Don’t worry Brittany,” Alexis said to calm Brittany.

The stop lights flickered on and the sun light came back. Alexis and Brittany walked back home quickly so the lights didn’t turn off again. When Alexis and Brittany got home, their parents were still at work. Alexis and Brittany walked in to their own rooms to calm down.

Brittany got out a coloring book and some crayons. Alexis got out her homework and her calculator. There was a big bang on the front door. Alexis looked out of her window to see who it was. She didn’t recognize the very tall young man standing outside of the door. There was another knock at the door. Alexis ran to the door and slowly opened it.

“Hi. My name is Jaeden. I’m here to check the electricity.”

Mysteriously another man stepped out from behind Jaeden. “And I’m Landon. I am Jaeden’s little brother. I will help him check your electricity.”

“And how old are you guys?” questioned Alexis.

“Well, I am 21, and my brother is 24,” explained Landon.

Landon and Jaeden walked in to the house and sat down on the couch. Alexis called Brittany in to the living room and introduced her to Landon and Jaeden.

“What are you guys doing here?” asked Brittany.

“We are here to make sure your lights are working,” answered Landon and Jaeden.

“Because all of the lights turned off when me and my big sister were walking home from school?”

“Yes,” responded Landon. “That is exactly what we are talking about.”

“Alexus, could I talk to you?” asked Jaeden.

“Why should I trust you?” asked Alexus.

“Well I can’t tell you too much. But remember when you were at the zoo with your family, and your older brother disappeared. It was no accident. Your parents are into experiments deeper than they understand.”

Alexus nodded and then went to her room, and Jaeden followed.

“Where is my brother? What do you need?” asked Alexus.

“For your own protection right now I can’t tell you more. After the lights turned off, what happened?” questioned Jaeden.

“Well, the stop lights turned off and a cone sort of thing covered the sky, blocking the sunlight from shining. The ground shook and then we just walked home.”

“Hmmm,” Jaeden thought for a moment and then walked out of the room.

Brittany and Landon were coloring in the living room. Alexus came out of her room and saw Brittany having fun and she smiled.

The ground started to shake again.

“Get to Alexis’s room!” shouted Jaeden.

They all ran to Alexis’s room. As soon as the tremors started the electricity went out again. Seconds later they stopped and electricity returned.

Landon pulled out a small tablet and quickly pecked on the screen. Ten minutes later, Brittany ended up falling asleep.

But then Landon said something that was very strange. “We better get somewhere safer because the darkness is coming in about two and a half hours,”

Alexus stared at Landon, “How do you know that the lights were turning off and a cone would go over the suns light in exactly two and a half hours? How did you know that it was called ‘The Darkness’?”

“No time to explain now,” said Landon. “You must trust me.”

Chapter 3

Landon swooped Brittany off of the bed, and Jaeden picked up Alexis by the hand. Landon and Jaeden took them to their Jeep and then drove away.

“What’s going on?” asked Alexis.

“I told you that, ‘The Darkness’ was coming,” Landon stated.

“Yes. You did,” answered Alexis in a questioning voice.

Brittany started to wake up in the worn out passenger seat, “Where are we Alexis?”

“We are going somewhere safe.”

“Where are mommy and daddy?” panicked Brittany.

Alexus thought for a moment, “They’re safe. Don’t worry.”

All of the lights turned off and the cone went around the sunlight. The car came to a stop at a building with many staircases. Landon, Jaeden, Alexis, and Brittany got out of the car and ran up the stairs.

“We need to get to the top and then get in to the plane,” Jaeden explained to everybody.

“What plane?” asked Alexis.

“Just follow us,” Jaeden told her.

“Ugh,” Alexis groaned, then followed Jaeden as he picked up Brittany so her feet wouldn’t get cold on the cement. Landon stopped and waited for Alexis.

“What do you want Landon?” asked Alexis.

“I didn’t want you to be by yourself. It isn’t very safe to be by yourself at the moment,” explained Landon.

Alexis rolled her eyes and then caught up with Jaeden and Brittany. The stairs were starting to make their feet hurt. The bumpy pattern on the stairs made Alexis think of their house all the way in Texas. They didn’t live in the super western part of Texas, so they have never actually seen a buffalo. Every once in a while Alexis’s, and Brittany’s parents would point them out in the distance, but other than that they have never seen buffalo.

“So what are we doing again?” Alexis asked.

“For the last time, just follow me,” Jaeden said with an attitude.

Alexus rolled her eyes once again, “Fine. Sorry I forgot.”

Landon started to get in the plane, but then Jaeden looked at him and then nodded at Alexis.

“Hmhmhm,” sighed Jaeden.

“What? What do you need?” Alexis yelled.

Jaeden didn’t say anything and then got in the plane. He waved for Alexis to come in behind him. After that, Landon came in. They all sat down. Landon put the brown thread seat belt around Alexis. Jaeden placed Brittany in the seat next to him and put the brown thread seat belt from her seat around her.

“Are you guys ready?” asked Jaeden.

“Sir yes sir,” said Alexis sarcastically.

Suddenly the loud rumble of the plane began to shake the stairs and finally they could look out of the window and see the clouds so close that if the windows were open they could take part of one and pretend they were Santa. They heard Jaeden turn on the auto pilot and walk back to them.

“It’s pretty isn’t it,” Jaeden sat by her as she watched the clouds.

“Yeah. It is.”

“So, why are you so rude to me?”

“I don’t actually know. I guess I’m just not really use to being away from my mom and dad. I mean, yeah I’m about to go to college, but, I haven’t been on a vacation for thirteen years.”

“Wow. That must be the longest anybody hasn’t been on a vacation,” Jaeden said with humor.

Alexus took a glance at Jaeden. “Yeah. Probably,” Alexis said with a soft tone. The heavy stone of sadness pushed on her chest.

“You okay,” asked Jaeden.

“Yeah. I’m fine,” answered Alexis.

Jaeden walked over to Landon and Brittany, and then took Brittany out of Landon’s arms. He started to hum a lullaby.

“What’s wrong,” asked Alexis as tears welled up in Jaeden’s eyes. Alexis spotted a piece of paper sticking out of Jaeden’s back pocket, “May I?” Alexis asked permission.

“Yeah,” Jaeden said emotionally.

Alexis took the piece of paper out of Jaeden’s back pocket. She unfolded it and inside was a bracelet that looked like somebody braided the strings. The strings were all different colors. The piece of paper had a picture on it. It looked like Jaeden, but Alexis couldn’t tell. There was a little girl standing next to the man. The little girl looked like Brittany.

“Who is this?” asked Alexis.

“That’s me and my daughter. My wife and I went to the carnival and ‘The Darkness’ came. My daughter got scared and ran off. I tried to hold her by me, but she ran. I think she was trying to find my wife.”

“Well then, where is your wife now?” asked Alexis.

“She didn’t come back after ‘The Darkness’ came. I thought she was trying to find my daughter. But then when the carnival ended I

just had to go home. I looked for them the rest of the day, but I never found them,” said Jaeden as a clear tear drop rolled down his cheek.

Landon looked over at him, “Are you okay Jaeden?”

“Yes. I’m fine,” Jaeden said as he walked to the front of the plane and pretended that nothing happened.

“Why did he just act like nothing happened?” asked Alexis.

“He has been very sensitive ever since his daughter and wife disappeared,” Landon said with a soft tone.

Alexis went to the front of the plane.

“No! Don’t go in there. He is going to be in a very grumpy mood.”

“I don’t care. I need to make sure he is okay,” Alexis argued as she started to the front of the plane.

“Okay. Your choice.”

Alexis stopped at the entrance of the front of the plane. She saw Jaeden sitting in the seat.

“Are you okay?” she asked.

“Yes! I’m fine. Why do people keep asking me that?” Jaeden said with an attitude.

“Because, we are worried about you. You lost your daughter and your wife. It has to be hard.”

“Yeah it is. Now go and sit in your seat.”

Alexis walked in to the seat area,

“I told you he was going to be grumpy didn’t I,” Landon exclaimed.

“Yes you did,” she paused. “And, you were right.”

“What a surprise,” Landon said sarcastically. “I’m never right.”

“Ha,” said Alexis with humor. “You are so funny.”

“Sissy! Look at that water down there,” Brittany said with excitement.

“Yeah. That’s Lagoon Lake. Make sure your seat belts are tightly buckled. We will be landing soon,” Jaeden said as he walked in to the seating area with a sad tone and back to the cock pit.

To Be Continued

