

UHHH,
S-SASHA? DO YOU
KNOW WHERE YOU'RE
GOING? I'VE N-NEVER
BEEN THIS DEEP INTO
THESE WOODS
BEFORE...





DON'T WORRY,
DANNY. WE'RE
ALMOST THERE.
YOU'RE NOT BAILING
ON ME, ARE YOU?
DON'T YOU WANNA
SEE THAT COOL
TREE I FOUND?

I ONLY TOLD YOU
ABOUT IT BECAUSE I
THOUGHT YOU LIKED
PLANTS AND STUFF.
OR DO YOU JUST NOT
LIKE BEING ALONE
WITH ME?

A young man with short black hair and round black-rimmed glasses stands in a sun-dappled forest. He is wearing a light-colored short-sleeved button-down shirt tucked into dark trousers with a black belt. His right arm is raised behind his head, and he has a surprised or flustered expression with a small sweat drop on his forehead. A speech bubble is positioned to his left.

W-WHA? NO!
I LIKE YOU- ERRR, I
LIKE SPENDING TIME WITH
YOU! AND I DO WANT TO
BE A DENDROLOGIST
WHEN I GROW UP!
IT'S JUST-

A young woman with short brown hair and large, expressive brown eyes is running through a sun-dappled forest. She is wearing a dark blue school uniform consisting of a long-sleeved sweater with a white collar and a red bow tie. Her expression is one of awe and excitement, with her mouth wide open. A speech bubble is positioned to her right, containing text. The background shows a dirt path winding through tall trees with sunlight filtering through the leaves.

HERE IT IS!
GOD, JUST LOOK AT
IT! ISN'T IT THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL THING YOU'VE
EVER SEEN? I DON'T
KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE
IT, BUT WHEN I LOOK AT
IT, IT FEELS LIKE IT'S
TALKING TO ME...





WHOA...
SASHA, THIS IS
AMAZING! I'VE NEVER
SEEN ANYTHING LIKE
IT! YOU MIGHT'VE
DISCOVERED A
NEW TYPE OF
TREE!

IS...IS THAT
HUMMING NOISE
COMMING FROM
THE TREE ITSELF?
UHH, M-MAYBE
WE SHOULD
CALL-

A young woman with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue school uniform with a red bow tie, stands in a forest. She is looking up at a large, ancient tree with a thick, gnarled trunk. A bright yellow, glowing vein runs vertically down the trunk of the tree. The forest is filled with tall, thin trees and a soft, hazy light filtering through the leaves.

ALRIGHT,
I BROUGHT YOU
SOMEONE JUST LIKE
YOU ASKED! I HOPE
HE'S WHAT YOU WANT.
HE'S THE ONLY PERSON
THAT WOULD FOLLOW
ME THIS FAR INTO THE
WOODS. SO, WHAT
NEXT?



WAIT...UHHH,
S-SASHA? ARE
YOU TALKING
TO THE...
TREE?

SO...UH...
Y-YOU KNOW, I
THINK I ACTUALLY
WILL HEAD BACK
N-NOW...

A large, ancient tree with a thick, gnarled trunk and sprawling branches stands in a misty forest. Two bright green lightning bolts strike the ground on either side of the tree. The scene is illuminated with a greenish-yellow glow. Stylized text and flower icons are overlaid on the image.

** CRACKLE! **

** RUMBLING **



OH WOW! I'VE
NEVER SEEN IT DO THAT
BEFORE! I KNEW SOMETHING
POWERFUL WAS CONTAINED IN
THAT TREE THE MOMENT I
WALKED PAST IT. I COULD TELL
IT NEEDED MY HELP, AND NOW
THAT I'VE BROUGHT YOU
HERE, I THINK IT'S GONNA
REWARD ME! HEHEHE!





NGHH-
Y-YOU JUST
WANTED TO USE
ME!? GGHCHK- I
THOUGHT WE WERE
FRIENDS! S-SASHA,
WHAT'S HA- AHNN-
HAPPENING TO
ME?!?



SORRY, I
HAVE NO IDEA
WHAT IT'S DOING TO
YOU! I JUST KNOW
IT WANTED ME TO
BRING SOMEONE TO
IT, SO I BROUGHT
YOU...

AND...
AW, DANNY, I MEAN,
WE WERE JUST KINDA
FRIENDS, BUT I'D RATHER
BE FRIENDS WITH A FOREST
SPIRIT! I WAS READING
ONLINE THAT SOMETIMES
IF YOU APPEASE A FOREST
SPIRIT, THEY'LL GRANT A
WISH OR GIVE YOU POWER
OR SOMETHING! WOULDN'T
THAT BE COOL?!



HUN!?
M-MY ARMS!?
WHAT'S-
GHKK-

*
CREAKING
*



GHHAA-
AAHHH!? MY
C-CHEST!?!
W-WHAA-

CREAKING!

CRACKING!

SWELLING



AGHH!!
MAKE IT
STOP! IT'S-
GHHKK-

STRETCHING!

SWEETTING!

CRUNCHING!



GAH!!

* BURST! *

A young woman with short brown hair and large brown eyes is standing in a sunlit forest. She is wearing a dark blue school uniform with a red bow tie and a pleated skirt. She has a surprised or slightly embarrassed expression, with her hands near her neck. A speech bubble is positioned above her head, containing text.

YEESH! I GUESS
THE TREE IS A GIRL
TREE! WOW, THAT LOOKS
PRETTY PAINFUL. I MEAN,
I WOULDN'T MIND HAVING
BREASTS THAT BIG, BUT I
THINK I LIKE NOT BEING
MADE OUT OF
WOOD...



CREEEAAK*

AHNNNGHH?!
W-WHAT THE HELL IS
HAPPENING TO ME!?!
I'M TURNING INTO A
TREE MONSTER!? I
DON'T- HRUN-

CRACK!

RIPI



UAAHH!?
MY FEET?! OH
GOD! WHY WON'T
M-MY LIMBS STOP
GROWING!?! SASHA,
PLEASE! I-

SNAP!

BULGING



GROWING

AGHKK!?
MY BACK!?!
SOMETHING'S
GHK- GROWING!
W-WHAT'S-
HRNN-

SPROUT
CRUNCHING
POPPING!

A woman with long, wavy green hair is shown from the waist up, kneeling on the ground in a forest. Her body is made of wood, with visible grain and knots. She has large, muscular breasts and is pulling one of her arms upwards, revealing a wooden arm. She has a pained expression on her face, with sweat or tears on her skin. The background is a sunlit forest with tall trees and dappled light. There are several green sound effects scattered around her: 'SPROUT*' near her head, 'FWOOSH*' to her left, '*TWITCHING*' on her torso, '*STRETCHING*' and '*CREAKING*' to her right, and 'NGHHH- IT HURTS! GSHH- E-EVERYTHING'S M-MOVING! EVEN MY HAIR F-FEELS ALIVE! I CAN F-HHRRGHKK-' in a speech bubble above her right shoulder.

NGHHH- IT
HURTS! GSHH-
E-EVERYTHING'S
M-MOVING! EVEN
MY HAIR F-FEELS
ALIVE! I CAN F-
HHRRGHKK-

SPROUT

FWOOSH

TWITCHING

STRETCHING
CREAKING

GAHH!!
MY FACE!
M-MY HEAD!
WRAAGH-
W-WHY IS THIS
HAPPENING
TO M-

GROWING

SKREEEE!

STRETCH!

STRETCH!





UM...T-TREE
SPIRIT? D-DANNY?
UHHH...MAYBE I SHOULD
J-JUST, UM, COME BACK
LATER. T-THOSE DON'T
SOUND LIKE, UH...G- GOOD
SCREECHES...AND THOSE
CLAWS LOOK PRETTY
S-SHARP..

CREAKING
CRACKING
SKREEE!



AAHSS-
S-SASHA, DON'T
LEAVE ME LIKE
THIS! Y-YOU-
Aghh?! it'sss
doing something
to my-

* FLASH! *



MMM-
MIND?! HUN- HUH!?
WHAT HAPPENED?
MY MOUTH? MY
BODY? IT FEELS
NORMAL AGAIN?
HOW-

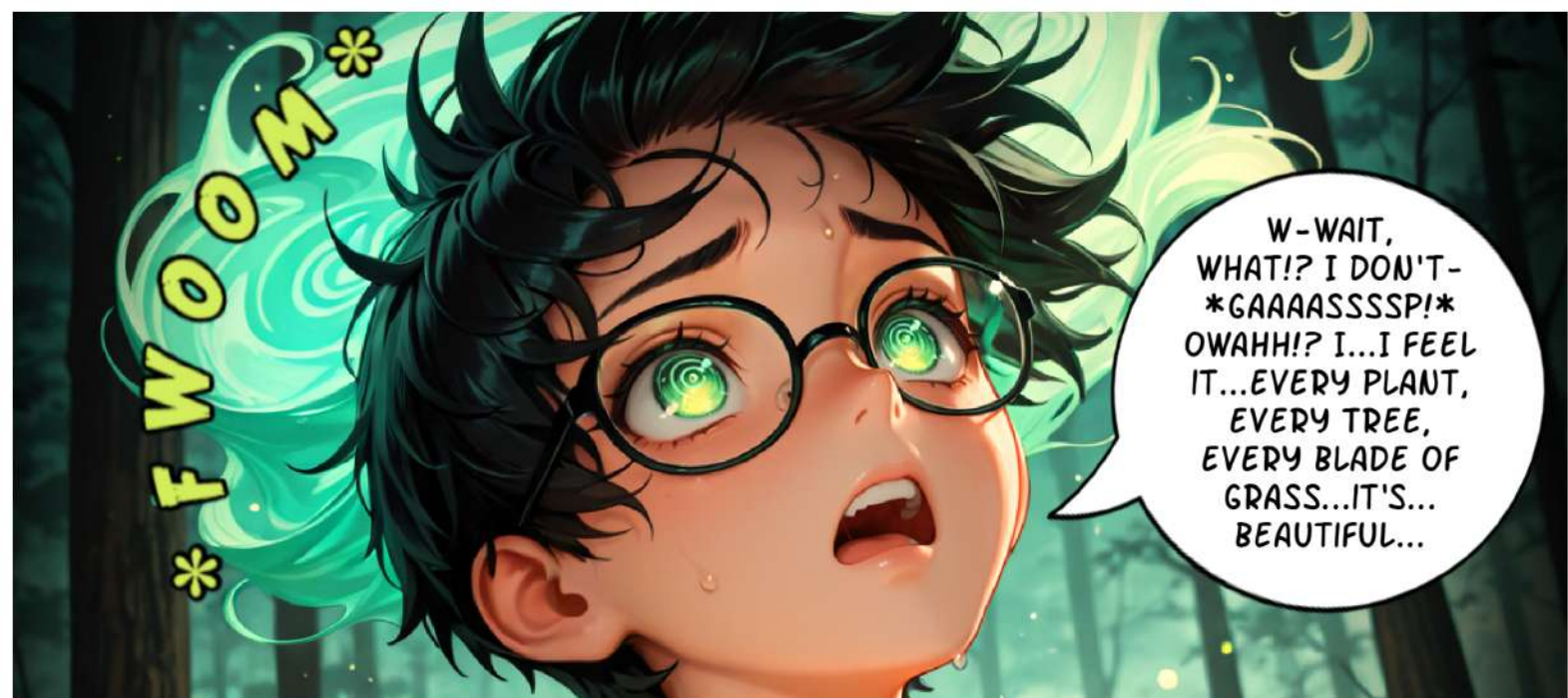


WHAAA?
W-WHERE AM
I? W-WHO...OR
WHAT ARE YOU?
ARE YOU THE
T-TREE?

Do not fear, Danny. We are in the mind of the forest, which is now your mind. Every miniscule impulse, every biological decision, and everything that makes this flora alive resides in this realm with me. Yes, I am the tree you're referring to, and I am every tree that's ever lived. I am the grass growing between the concrete sidewalks, the mold rotting out countless structures across the planet, the houseplants that never get watered. I am Eurydu, the collective life force of all flora on this planet. I exist to protect this life from the sentient life that views it all as disposable. It is my duty to ensure humanity does not upset the natural balance, but there is only so much I can do from this realm. That's why I need a Dryad. Why I need you.



I apologize for the manner this all unfolded, but my ability to communicate with humans is limited. When my energy caught the attention of the girl, all I sensed was her greed. I whispered promises of power into her mind if she brought a human to me that could serve as my Dryad, and she seemingly sacrificed you without hesitation. That is why you are receiving my power instead. You care about this world, this life, this balance. You must protect it from the monsters who only seek to exploit it. You must show them that we will fight back. You must become a monster of the forest, a myth that the humans will spread amongst themselves. Prepare yourself, for you are about to see the world as I see it.



FWOOM

W-WAIT,
WHAT!? I DON'T-
GAAAASSSSP!
OWAHH!? I...I FEEL
IT...EVERY PLANT,
EVERY TREE,
EVERY BLADE OF
GRASS...IT'S...
BEAUTIFUL...



W-WOAH...
GOD, IT'S SO...
OVERWHELMING...
ALL THIS...LIFE...
I...I...



I THINK...
YES, I UNDERSTAND
NOW, EURYDU. I ACCEPT
YOUR POWER. I WILL BE
YOUR DRYAD. I WILL
BECOME A MONSTER,
AND A PROTECTOR
OF THE FOREST.
I'M...



I'm...
Mlaahhh...
SssWellIng With
power...it's
sooo...



Ooahh!!!
Intoxicating!
Oah Yesss!!! The
power, the beauty,
the pleasure! Being
a Dryad feels so
incredible, I could
Jussst-





OH F-FUCK...
Y-YOU'RE, UH, REALLY
TALL NOW! AND R-REALY
SCARY...UHH, ACTUALLY, I
THINK I'M JUST GONNA
GO HOME. I DON'T
NEED A REWARD
OR ANYTHING...

Hek...
Sssaaashaa...
What's the rush?
Don't you want a
taste of this power?
I mean, isn't that why
you were willing to
sacrifice me in the
first place?

You're just
like the rest of the
humans. Greedy and
manipulative. Exploiting
anything you can for
your own gain. Well, I'm
not letting anyone
exploit this forest
anymore...





MLaahh...
But I can't do
that on my own.
Why don't you
stick around
and help keep
intruders
out?

I'll even
give you a
little taste
of my new
power. How's
that for a
reward?

HUMMING

HUMMING



AAHH!?
W-WAIT!
WHAT'RE
YOU-

THWIP!

THWIP!



GYAHH!!
NO, PLEASE! I
DON'T WANNA
BECOME A-
NAAHH!!

...TO BE
CONTINUED!