

TAPPING THE GLASS

Written by

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INT. CASTLE HALLWAY - NIGHT

The castle is quiet, the marble halls empty, as JALYS (black, curious teenage girl in white flowing nightgown) quickly tip toes, nearly dancing, around the corner. Statues of mythical winged creatures, like gargoyles, rest on their perches near the arched ceiling, observing her with their eerie gazes.

Coming to a line of mirrors, surrounded by heavy ornate frames, she stops. Studying them, she approaches the first one. Tapping the glass, a dull knock is all that's heard. She moves down to the next. *Knock.*

Next one. *Knock.*

Then, flicking her finger on the fourth mirror's smooth surface, an exciting *ting* sounds. Jalys does a happy little jig and twirl. Finally, turning back to the mirror, she takes a deep breath.

JALYS

Oscail an doras (Open the doorway).

At her words, her reflection shimmers and the surface begins to flow like water, no longer solid, and the frame starts to glow. Hiking her skirt, she steps through the frame and into a new world.

EXT. DARK LAND - DUSK - CONTINUOUS

Twilight sun gleams in the horizon behind tall trees, making hovering shadows. She hugs her arms against the chill.

Shrugging, she moves farther away from the mirror. As she walks, the mirror begins to fade, until it disappears completely. Spotting a foreign plant, she goes to inspect it. Lightly touching the bush-like foliage with dark green leaves and sky blue flowers, she runs her fingers along the fragile looking stem.

JALYS

(Shocked)

Ouch!

Snatching her hand back, crimson blood wells on her finger. She puts it to her mouth to nurse it for a moment.

Crouching low, she looks closer at the offending plant.

Finding tiny thorns riddling the stems and stalk, the beautiful plant suddenly looks more like something from a realm of hell. Under her scrutiny, the flowers twist unnaturally, reaching out towards her.

Startled, she quickly steps back. Looking around with apprehension, she walks closer to the line of trees. As the sun rapidly disappears, darkness becomes a cloak on the earth. Some clouds crawl by, covering and uncovering the moon.

Suddenly there's a rustling in the trees ahead. Creeping closer with renewed excitement, she peers into the shadows within. Squinting to see, she jumps when a large shadow moves, causing her excitement to cease, replaced with trepidation.

Slowly stepping back, she keeps a focused eye on the inky, blurred shape. Rolling her ankle on a rock, she stumbles, losing sight of it for a second. She rights herself quickly, swinging back to locate the shadow again.

Not finding it, the sound of heavy breathing sounds to her right. Afraid, she checks her peripheral, then slowly turns her head to look. All at once, before her vision could catch anything, a heavy weight slams into her, throwing her to the ground. Winded, the CREATURE is on her now. She throws her arms out in defense. Straining to hold it away from her neck, she finally sees her attacker.

Glowing red eyes, razor sharp fangs in a gaping mouth that makes a high pitched hissing sound. Large bat-like wings spread out behind it.

Cringing, she works a hand to press against its throat, while grappling for some sort of weapon on the ground with the other. Grasping a rock, she rams it into its skull as hard as she can.

Stunned, Creature falls to the side, cradling its head with large, clawed hands. Not looking, she scrambles to her feet, holding her skirt up as she does. It's not long before racing footsteps sound behind her, rocks and leaves crunching and cracking under its ungratefulness.

JALYS (CONT'D)
(Breathy holler)
Abrais doras (Door reveal)!

At her words, the doorway reappears in the distance, a beacon of solace, but still far away. Creature gaining on her, she looks for shelter. Spotting a collection of large rocks coming up, she heads for it. A felled tree lays in her path, broken branches spread about.

Leaping over the tree, she grabs a branch close to shape and size of a baseball bat. Hunkering down behind the largest boulder, she waits. Huffing breaths grow closer.

A break in the sky allows the moon's brightness to shine down, creating a shadow from its wing tips that peek over the rock she's sheltered at.

Waiting, she grips the base of the branch, some remaining bark flaying off. She takes a chance, standing and swinging at the same time. *Thunk*. She drops the branch and runs for the door. Jalys doesn't hear its footsteps following this time. She reaches the mirror's frame, seeing the still darkened hallway on the other side.

JALYS (CONT'D)
(Panicked)
Oscail an doras.

As the pane shimmers and shifts, she checks over her shoulder. Nothing. Looking back to the mirror, she quickly steps through.

INT. CASTLE HALLWAY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Stumbling through the frame, she looks back at the mirror. It stills and shows Jalys her reflection. Closed once again.

Sighing in relief, she brushes her hands over her hair, then smooths her gown. Turning away from the mirrors she heads back the way she came. Turning the corner around the hallway, she disappears.

The fourth mirror suddenly shimmers and rumbles, disturbed. Breaching the calm of the reflection, a dark arching wingtip breaks through the calm of the glass.

END