

WISHES AND LIES

BY LEONORA BALTODANO

Just like every other day, Ethan woke up having nightmares again. It wasn't anything special, he had them since he was little, so he just continued with his daily routine.

As he used to check on social media, the first video that popped up in his phone kind of concerned him.

'Another couple of teens that got into the "Ghosted" Cemetery of Ohio, unexplainably disappeared while they were trying to solve the mystery about the place,' the video said. But it wasn't the first time he had seen a video related to the "Ghosted" Cemetery of Ohio (they called it that way because once someone got in, they suddenly 'disappear'. The weird part? It was true, people disappeared as if by magic).

Recently, everyone was talking about that, it was the number one topic in the media. Ethan didn't just felt curious, he felt annoyed and thought about making a little trip 'Just to truly solve the mystery', he said 'I'll show everyone how the work needs to be done'. Even though he sounded arrogant, he had a soft side on the inside yelling him to do something about it, and that's exactly what he did.

Once he got in the Cemetery, he noticed a young woman with white clothes staring at the ground, crying. Ethan approached her and asked politely if she was okay, but the lady just turned her head and looked at him in the eyes. 'It's none of your business boy', she said. Her face was pale, and she looked malnourished; Ethan could feel a shiver running through all his body. It was odd.

He kept walking through the cemetery when he suddenly started feeling headaches. All of a sudden, he was in the middle of an empty room that didn't seem to have walls. It was all dark and he was chained in a chair looking straightly towards a kind of giant television where it was showed the outer world. Ethan was inside of this head but even so, he couldn't control it, he was trapped in his own mind.

Shocked, he tried to break free with all his strength, yet it wasn't possible. The chair contained a lot of buttons, each one with a meaning. On the other hand, the TV was showing a story that, he could remember, the death of his mother.

Ethan's mother died a long time ago in an accident where they were together. She was the only one physically affected and that, caused her dead but for him, the pain was mental. Since that day, he wasn't the same person and everyone noticed that.

He didn't want to see that story again so he tried his best to at least press one of the buttons, and he did. The TV turned off and the chains holding him got unlocked. When he got up, a door opened but no one got in. Ethan didn't even doubt it, he just ran to it but before he had passed, it closed.

The women he saw before had appeared and just as he thought, she was with his mother. The evil women offered him a trade. 'I need to escape from this cemetery and need your body to do so. I could give you back your dear mommy, but first, I need your soul. If you refuse, I can transfer your mom from to heaven to hell and she will suffer all the days of her miserable life.'

Even so it wasn't true because the devil wasn't going to give him his mom back, Ethan didn't know it, he just knew that he loved her mother more than anything in the world and he was willing to lose it all just for her, he didn't care what it was. 'She deserves the world' he said, so he agreed.

When they were going to exchange, he heard the voice of his mother in his head remembering him *where* they were. It was true, they were on Ethan's mind and if there was someone who could control it, that was him for sure but he remembered that even if he defeated the devil, her mother wasn't going to go back to life, so he had to choose but while doing it, he cried and cried until one of those tears turned into blood. This phenome happens when the persons crying is deeply in pain.

That tear made the evil women slowly collapse until it disappeared completely. Ethan didn't think it twice and still knowing that her mother wasn't going to revive, he grabbed her, but when they had passed it, Ethan woke up.

It was all a dream.