

Dream Portals: Sacore's Struggle

By: Riley McShane



there. Kalie began to scream, but her voice was cut short. Without any warning, this blue-ooze-monster lashed out its tail wrapping it tightly around her. Kalie's throat was caught as she squirmed as she struggled to get free. But it was no use. The monster bellowed as the thunder clapped loudly.

"Kalie!," someone screamed. Kalie attempted to turn towards this new voice, but all she could see was a shadowy figure. The monster's deafening roar increased. Kalie used this distraction to try to loosen the creature's grip, but immediately stopped when she saw the poison tip of the monster's tail. Suddenly, something came flying through the air piercing the poisonous tail forcing the creature to drop Kalie. She immediately fell onto the cement. Pain pulsed through her as Kalie looked up to see the creature's tail reforming. Suddenly, the creature turned and ran towards the dark shadow. Kalie began to lift herself up but her ankle gave in. "Help!," she screamed. The shadow figure ran towards her but was cut off by the monster.

"Go! Run!," yelled the person.

"I can't," Kalie cried. But the figure didn't answer.

Kalie woke up in a cold sweat. The dream had seemed so real. Kalie felt her ankle, but it was all right. The rain had been so real, too, yet she was bone-dry. Kalie sat in her bed for a minute trying to calm herself into reality. Finally, she went back to bed, hoping she wouldn't have that dream again.

Chapter 3

Kalie carried Marie into the house and dumped the kitten onto her bed. Kalie sat down with her cat. Marie purred and waltzed up to Kalie. Kalie let Marie climb into her lap and proceeded to scratch her ears. Kalie began to revisit the dream she had last night. It sent chills up her spine. The creature was blood-chilling, with its large fangs and muscular body tense and ready to crush her at any second. But who was the shadow figure? Who was this mysterious hero? Kalie heard a slight knocking sound on her door. "Come in." The door slowly opened and in stepped her mom. "Good morning." Kalie smiled.

"You know you're late for school," her mom said. Kalie shot up off her bed. "I totally forgot! I thought it was Saturday!" Kalie exclaimed. Her mom just laughed hard at having fooled her daughter. "Mo-o-o-o-m!," Kalie whined as she sat back on her bed.

"Breakfast will be ready in a ten minutes," her mom replied and shut the door behind her. Kalie wondered if she should tell her mom about her dream. But the idea fluttered and disappeared. Kalie scooped up Marie. She looked out her window to see the road. A few cars

were parked along the street...but not her dad's. He must have gone somewhere. Kalie got up and ran down stairs as Marie followed her. "Mom?" Kalie yelled. "Where's Dad?"

"He went to the store."

Kalie walked back up the stairs and went into her room. Thrilled that it was actually Saturday, she pulled out her sketch book. She zipped through her collection of art. She was searching. Having drawn most of her pictures about her dreams, there were several pictures that looked as if they came from another world. Shivers shot up her spine! In the midst of all her drawings, she spotted the monster... the very creature from last night's dream!!! It appeared to be leaping right off the page into her room! Kalie immediately slammed the book. But the creature's face still swam in her mind. Kalie dared not close her eyes. Turning to her trusted friend Marie whispered, "Marie? What am I to do?" Marie just purred and begged to be petted. Kalie smiled.

Mom called for Kalie's assistance with breakfast. "Coming!" Kalie yelled back, and with that she sped down the stairs.

Chapter 4

Over the next week, the terrifying dreams got even worse. They began to repeat, all turning and twisting in different ways, while still having the same plot. "Do I need to see a doctor?" she thought repeatedly, but she purposely shoved that idea to the side. She decided, instead, to try and forget the dreams and go on with life as usual. Back at school, Sara seemed to be eyeing Kalie more and more every day. "Are you okay?," she would ask every morning.

"I'm great!," Kalie would lie. Her grades began to suffer until finally, her grades didn't reflect any of her intelligence. Kalie decided to try going to after school study hall, but she couldn't focus there either. Because of her dreams, this lack of sleep had left her drained of energy. Her parents told her, "If you don't keep up in school, we will have to make drastic changes!" But Kalie didn't listen. She quit listening to everyone ever since the beginning of the dreams.



Kalie had just came out of Study Hall and realized she would have to walk home. Rain kept coming in a blinding downpour. Kalie bit her lip hard as she tried to keep herself calm. "Aaarrggghh!", she screamed, "Today couldn't get any worse!" Then suddenly the rain became even harder. Kalie grumbled, "Why me?!" Kalie slowly pulled off her hood, and let it flop on her back. Slowly, but silently she looked around, fearful of attracting attention of people walking by. But the streets were empty. She tried to shake off the unsettling feeling of being alone, but knowing she wasn't. Everything was dark, except for the occasional lightning strike. Kalie stared at some dark blue goo near the gutter. Kalie squinted, trying to see better. But the view didn't change. "Oh no," Kalie thought as she cautiously stepped toward the gelatinous mass, but jumped back when it began to enlarge. Shocked, Kalie could only gawk at the ghastly sight. A head began to emerge from the ground, then a body.

A tail sprung up with a sharp needle like knife. Kalie wanted to walk away and convince her mind she didn't see anything at all. Impossible. But it seemed as if the moment she breathed it *knew* she was there. Kalie was about to scream but her lungs were squeezed by the monster's gigantic fists. Kalie's breath came in small, short gasps, as she felt the monster's claws sinking into her side. Kalie struggled under the pressure. A flash in the sky lit up the creature's face. "Stop!" yelled a shadowy figure. The beast turned its head toward the figure. The creature tensed as it strained to hear the next command.

"Hylesic!" the figure hissed. The monster bellowed deeply at a crack of thunder.

Kalie clasped her hands over her ears, "No!" And with those words the monster dropped Kalie. She slammed hard on the ground, spraining her ankle.

"Kalie!" came a voice from the mysterious figure. Wincing in pain, she looked up through the haze of the rain. The shadowy figure was by her side in an instant. He was tall and somewhat thin, his eyes were the only part of his face that could be seen. They burned like an icy blue fire. "Wh-who?" Kalie stuttered in shock. The hooded man knelt down toward her. "My name isn't to be known yet," he replied. "We have to get out of here!"

The figure grabbed her hand and helped he stand up. "Run!" The man said. "You have to get out of here!" Kalie forgot the pain shooting through her and began to run for all she had. The monster charged in her direction. Kalie evaded the monsters grasp, as it swiped the air beside her. The man pulled out a dagger and with extreme speed began slashing at the beast. The monster screamed in pain as small gashes were torn through its side. It began to slow. Kalie and the man ran as long as they could so they could get as far away from the creature.

"What was that all about?!" Kalie huffed trying to catch her breath.

" You're a dream portal," replied the man.

"A what?!" Kalie yelled.

"A portal between the dream world and real world."

"And exactly how would that connect to the monster?"

"It works for a man who wants to use you to get between the worlds."

"Why?!" Kalie puffed.

"I don't know..."

Kalie sat down and took a huge breath. "Thank you," she slurred, "So how did you... well, I mean..." The man slowly stood up, "I know someone who's just like you... well it's complicated." The man took a deep breath before continuing, "I'm afraid this is only the beginning..."

To Be Continued....