

The Mystery of the Burnt Cottage

By Tessa

"Mum I'm off to school," Sophie yelled as she left to walk through the little town on her way to school.

"Dear, dear read this quickly," Her mother Margret said while forcing the latest edition of Bear Point Weekly.

"Mum," Sophie groaned, "I really have to..."

"Please," Margret butted in "I just want you to be safe."

"All right fine if your gonna stress."

Sophie quickly read through the newspaper. It was a special on The Dark Side of town, it featured articles on mysterious happenings that have occurred and Old Man Bob.

Now Old Man Bob is the cooky old gentleman who lives in the dark side of there little town up on a hill named bear point. He looked about a hundred years old but his actions told a whole other story. There many rumors about him that Sophie would die to investigate but she knew that her mother would kill her.

"Maybe I could just walk past his cottage," Sophie said to herself, "I mean know one will die or anything."

...Well thats what she thinks.

So Sophie tied up her long brown hair in her favourite blue ribbon and put on her furry blue rain coat to match and set of to school.

Of course she planned to go through The Dark Side so she took a different route.

As she walked through the town square, down a long cobblestone path in into the dark ally ways and streets of The Dark Side, she caught a wiff of this smell it smelt mysterious almost hypnotising.

"What is that," Sophie exclaimed out loud.

By now Sophie was freaking out she didn't know whether to continue or just turn back.

"No!" Sophie yelled at herself, "Stop being a wuss."

She continued. As she walked more, the smell got stronger and stronger, until she found where it was coming from; A very scary looking cottage. This cottage had completely dead grass and no signs of life but a black crow sitting on the large wired fence that surrounded the whole Cottage. It sure had the size of your average cottage, maybe even smaller but it reminded Sophie of an Evil Castle.

"Who would live here?" Sophie thought.

She was scanning the area for any clues then she remembered the newspaper she read this morning. Sophie knew who lived here.

She knew her mother would never forgive her if she became aware that Sophie had been trespassing, especially in Old Man Bobs Cottage. Even with that in mind she entered.

As she pushed open the Massive Oak Door she became aware that this was no ordinary cottage. Most cottages in the area were sweet and had a welcoming fire and they have furniture as this one didn't and also most cottages in this area didn't have empty photo frames on the walls. The smell seemed to be coming from the back of the house.

She slowly walked down the long narrow corridor towards the scent. She found a door, opened it cautiously and realized that this must be the living room as it had a small heater in the far corner. Sophie was so cold and this room was just so warm she had to enter. The second Sophie's icy cold toes touched the hard wood floor the whole room burst into flames. "Help, Help," Sophie cried, "Anybody."

Luckily for Sophie her best friend Bella was following her to see what she was up to in such a strange place when she should be at school and was nearby so she heard her friend's cry for help. Bella ran without hesitation into the old cottage, down the corridor straight into the red hot flames.

"Sophie, It's me Bella," She yelled in search for her friend, "Where are you."

"I'm over here," Was Sophie's almost instant reply.

Bella was searching frantically for her best friend but that's very difficult when you can't really open your eyes because of all the smoke. After about 4 1/2 minutes exactly Bella grabbed hold of Sophie's now extremely fragile arm. Bella was pulling and pulling with all her might. She managed to get Sophie out of the fire but just didn't have it in her to get herself over the door frame. Sophie who was safe, thought that Bella was as well.

"Oh my gosh that was scary I'm glad were both...," Then she realized that this battle wasn't over just yet.

She was running back towards the bursting flames with horrible thoughts going through her mind. As she neared the fire for a second time the fire started to turn an odd purple colour. She jumped into this weird fire expecting a huge impact but, nothing, in fact it disappeared completely. Sophie stopped in her tracks, she was now standing in nothing more than a huge pile of ashes and she never saw her best friend again.....UNTIL.....

As Sophie has hobbling out of this horrific place that she never wanted to see again she noticed that the only part of the cottage that was affected was the living room, the room that the smell was coming from, the only room except from the hallway that she actually set foot in. Sophie was just about to investigate further when she remembered her best friend Bella, she was always there for her she sacrificed her own life for her and she only had a couple scars and scratches. She was getting out of that place right now.

Two weeks had passed and Sophie was now almost fully recovered. The police had been over the crime scene many, many times. They had found two crucial details about these mysterious flames. The police had discovered that this smell that Sophie had described as hypnotizing was the same smell that some extremely dangerous types of predators use to attract prey. They had also found a used lighter lying on the ground around the back of Old Man Bob's cottage with finger prints. Who's finger prints you ask? But old Man Bob's himself.

“But why would he burn down his own cottage?” Sophie asked the Police Officer curiously.
“We don’t know for sure, but we do know that he is dangerous and you know how some predators use this hypnotising scent to attract prey?”
“Yes,” Sophie stared, “Wait so you mean to tell me that you think that this guy is trying to attract prey?”
“Well not exactly, we think he uses it to attract children” The police man explained hesitantly.”
“What!” Sophie screamed in fear. “Who does that and also who burns down their house in order to do that?”
“I don’t know kid, that’s a question you need to ask him.” The Police officer replied.
“Fine, I will, just tell me where he is,” Sophie said confidently expecting an answer.
“Well....,” The Police Officer kind of answered.
“Don’t tell me you don’t know where he is. That fire that **he** started killed my best friend Bella.” Sophie yelled as a tear was brought to her eye.

Just as Sophie’s mother took her away for further questioning, there was an ear splitting beeping sound coming from the Police Officers walkie talkie. He picked it up and pressed the talk button.
“Hello, hello are you there we found him.” Came the voice on the other end of the receiver, “He’s down the bottom of the mountain, come quickly.”
“I’m on it,” The Police Officer Said confidently with no doubt in his mind that he will catch this bad, bad man.

So he grabbed Sophie and her mother by the arm and they all ran towards the police car. The sped down the slippery mountain at full speed. Once they arrived at the bottom they saw that the three Police Officers were already struggling to hold down Old Man Bob without him attempting to run away from them so the Police Officer with Sophie and her mother called in for more help. Once they arrive they all ran towards Old Man Bob and tried to hold him down while the others could handcuff him. Thing started to get dangerous what started as a little fisty fight had turned into guns getting pulled out of pockets.

“Sophie take your mother and run for cover!” The Police Officer yelled.
So Sophie took her mother and they ran behind a police car that had a smashed window.

Sophie being the smart girl she was and still is saw that Old Man Bob was starting to tire and thought up a plan. She would quietly slip out from behind the police car that now, had no windows and 2 flat tires, make her way towards a big and climbable tree overhanging this whole situation, climb up the tree and when Old Man Bob was underneath it jump and squash him giving the Police Officers time to hand cuff him, put him in the car and drive him far away.

So she did just that. Once she got to the tree she began to climb up each branch one by one until she got to a low-hanging branch. Sophie counted to three, 1....2...3. She jumped down from the tree, ripped her new cardigan on the way down and landed right on top of Old Man Bobs back. The very impressed Police Officers grabbed him by the arms and put him in the Police Car. He was driven away and never seen or spoken about in that tiny town; Bear Point, again.

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Now what was in the crate I mentioned earlier you ask? Well lets just say the fire didn’t kill Bella...

...SHE WAS MURDERED.

