

Stephanie always knew she was the only human on the Surface.

Since her parents unexpectedly died from an unknown cause when she was only a baby, her foster parents took her in after the humans disappeared, taking her into a house in the middle of the woods where no one could find them.

Not even the giants themselves.

After escaping from the cause, they lived together for six years, before the foster parents had died from a disease when she was only six years old.

After that, she was the only one alive and *terrified* for her life.

‘Beware of the giants that lurk in the shadows, Stephanie,’ her foster-father would tell her every time as they left to gather food for storage. ‘They will capture you and make you of their own, refusing to give you any freedom once you are in their grasp.’

‘Always lock the door, lock the windows, and do nothing during our travels.’ Her foster-mother would add after the father warned her. ‘And never, ever, ever, go into the woods. The giants always live there more than in the cities.’

Stephanie did as her deceased foster parents told her to do every time they went gathering food from the stores, keep her door barred, have the windows locked, and do minor things inside her two-story-tall house to keep a low profile from being discovered.

Since her foster parents only gave her a little food during the stay, Stephanie was rarely fed but kept the food to last long without having to go outside.

She did not mind being skinny since it was easier for her to run away from giants if they saw her.

To her foster-parents, they believed that the skinny you are, the harder it makes for them to catch.

So, she followed their belief and continued with their idea.

After staying in her home after her foster parents passed away, Stephanie, one day, decided that it would be enough of hiding, deciding that one day of being outside for a little would not hurt that much.

So, in that early morning, Stephanie checked if everything was safe after deciding that this peaceful day would be enough, peeking through the curtains and looking through areas where giants might look through.

Once everything was checked and looked safe, Stephanie went to the balcony, opened the door carefully, poked her head out slightly, and glanced around.

She double-checked for any lurking giants around before she carelessly walked out into the open.

Stephanie was a twenty-year-old young female woman with a fit appearance but was short compared to others.

She has long straight brown hair, fair skin, and has heterochromia, so her left eye is blue as the other is hazelnut.

Stephanie wears an oversized cameo blue sweater in peacock, sky, white, dark blue, and the hems are in a frost blue color that reaches down to her hips.

She also wore rectangular dark blue and black glasses and blue jeans with white and light pink shoes and white shoelaces.

In one of her pockets, Stephanie carried a pocket knife with her.

If a giant came out of the forest to eat her or kill her, she would use the knife to attack back and return to safety.

After double-checking, Stephanie slowly inched herself outside and quietly closed the door behind her back, still not feeling safe to make any noises to attract any attention for creatures.

Once the glass door softly clicked from behind her back, Stephanie slowly walked out towards the ledge, as she was being careful about stepping on any of the leftover leaves on the balcony from the fall.

When she was close enough to the railing, Stephanie softly and carefully sighed in relief after finally being able to reach the handrail without getting a single giant to find her.

She gently leaned against the railing as she stared out at the forest behind her house, wondering to herself if she could either find a rare creature that could hide in the enchanted forest or a group of deer eating grass at a spot.

But, after a while of patiently waiting for any creatures to appear, Stephanie soon became bored with just waiting for nothing to happen.

Moving her body up slightly, Stephanie remembered a song that her foster-father used to sing quietly to herself when she went into an anxiety panic attack when she thought a giant had arrived at the house.

First, she vocalizes after remembering the lyrics, which were beautiful as a night gale's singing, forgetting one rule her foster-father told her.

“ Upon one summer's morning~, I carelessly did stray~, ” she sang softly to herself, feeling, at last, relaxed than having to hide all the time. “ Down by the Walls of Wapping~, where I met a sailor gay,~ ”

The wind blew softly past her as she continued singing softly to herself, feeling more relaxed than tense and on her toes for any dangers.

“ Conversing with a bouncing lass, who seem'd to be in pain~, ” She continued singing, sighing softly to herself. “ Saying, ‘William, when you go, I fear you will ne'er return again.’ ”

The trees gently rustle from the fresh wind, feeling a little calm shiver go down her spine as she continued singing the song she learned.

“♪ His hair it does in ringlets hang, his... ♪” Stephanie stopped when she could not remember the other half of the song, thinking hard about what else the melody has.

As she thought about the lyrics, something else made Stephanie’s blood run cold when *someone else finished the second half of the song for her.*

“♪ His hair it does in ringlets hang, his eyes as black as sloes~, ♪” the voice sang from inside the forest, causing Stephanie to bolt up from gently leaning against the railings, as a terrified expression was on her face. “♪ May happiness attend him wherever he goes, from Tower Hill, down to Blackwall, I will wander, weep and moan, all for my jolly sailor bold, until he does return.~ ♪”

Stephanie did not continue singing the song after hearing that male’s voice singing the other half of the melody for her, feeling the hairs on her arms prickling with fear.

Her hand slowly crept over to the pocket knife in her pocket to take out if the figure bolted out of the forest at full tilt, deciding to attack her for no good reason.

Then, she slightly paled when she realized she had broken one rule that her foster-father specifically told her to follow the most: ‘Do not sing. Giants love hearing singing from us humans, which is why they keep humans as slaves.’

Stephanie’s breathing hitched as she continued to watch, her steel-blue eyes underneath her rectangular glasses quickly glancing around in fear, wondering where the giant could be.

Stephanie slowly soon started calming down from her fears when she noticed the voice did not speak again after she sang, moving her hand away from the knife in her pocket slowly as she continued glancing around.

No giants were coming out of the forest... yet.

Before she could make a u-turn and head back into the house to repeat the process of a giant lockdown, something cracked in the distance that caused her whole body to freeze on the spot, feeling the hairs on the back of her neck now standing up.

“Hey!” Stephanie’s breathing hitched when she heard the same male’s voice speaking, sounding confused. “Where are you?”

Stephanie continued to be quiet as she covered her mouth with her left hand, feeling terrified and scared of what else might happen to her.

“That song was beautiful, though!” the voice continued, confirming her fears.

She was still frozen in her spot as she kept hearing the voice before noticing something strange from the ground.

Keeping her body still from shaking from head to toe, she focused her attention on the rails of the balcony, feeling curious and anxious.

As she kept focusing on the rails, she felt slight tremors that shuddered slightly before stopping.

It repeated after each minute before the sounds of massive footsteps hit her with fear.

She glanced back up towards the forest before her face paled with fear, and her breathing hitched.

There, standing in the distance from the house, *was a giant!*

The giant was about fourteen or thirteen feet tall and had fair skin and short, semi-messy jet-black hair, with light blue eye color.

He wears a light blue jacket with yellow lining, and underneath is a white, short-sleeved shirt.

On the collar of his jacket, he has the number one pin on it.

He also wore a pair of blue pants with a single red line down the sides and black shoes.

Knowing that he was a giant is his elf pointed ears from underneath his hair.

The giant had his right hand on a tree that was still taller than him, as he glanced around with his eyes to see what the source of the singing was.

Stephanie wanted to run away from the giant before he could see her, but her body was not responding to her mind but was just frozen with fear.

Soon, his eyes glanced past her for a moment, making Stephanie's heart skip a beat as her hands clenched the railings in front of her.

Did he just see her?

The answer was yes.

His mind did a u-turn at what he had looked over before, and he glanced back over to where Stephanie was standing before looking surprised to see her, standing there on the balcony of the house she lives inside, frozen with fear.

Stephanie flung backwards out of surprise, tripping on her feet a little, and landed on the ground on her back, banging her head on the pavement, but it was not enough to knock her out.

She softly groaned as she placed her hands on her back, curling slightly in pain at the impact of the ground.

"...Am I dreaming?" Stephanie glanced back up to see the giant still was not rushing over to her but staying in the spot he was, looking away from her as he had his left hand on his temple, looking confused.

Stephanie took this chance to escape from him before he could kidnap her.

Scooting her body backwards, Stephanie headed towards the glass doors of the balcony.

She froze a little as he glanced back over at her after looking away from her.

They made eye contact again after looking away for a few minutes.

Stephanie panicked, flipping back over to her front and scrambling up to her feet before opening the door and entering back inside the house.

When she got inside, Stephanie turned back around and pulled the curtains back over the glass window, refusing to look out to see if he had followed her.

Once she was inside, Stephanie started softly crying to herself as she collapsed on her knees near the glass door of the balcony, feeling terrified and blamed for breaking two of the rules her foster-father told her to follow.

‘To not sing’ and ‘to not get caught by a giant.’

Outside, the giant blinked a few times after watching the little human run off the balcony and hide inside her home.

He glanced away from the house for a moment, looking very perplexed about what had happened.

“Did I see a human...?” he mumbled softly to himself. “But aren’t they-”

“Thomas?” The giant glanced up into the deep forest, responding to the name ‘Thomas.’ “Where are you?”

Before Thomas could follow the voice, he glanced back over the human’s home, thinking to himself for a moment about the strange human.

After a few quick minutes, he glanced back over his shoulder from looking at the house, not wanting to walk over to it to make her more scared.

“I’m coming,” Thomas called to the voice inside. “I was just a little distracted.”

After the giant left the spot he was standing, everything around the house was back to peace, except for Stephanie’s peace, which was shattered from being discovered by a giant.