

PORTAL TO THE UNDERWORLD

Chapter 1: The forest

Crack! I winced every couple of seconds as I frequently stood on sticks. It was creepy here in this forest, with its creepy openings between trees and bird chirps echoing like a witches evil cackle. What was I doing? Why was I here? Oh, yes. Now I remember. My “BFF”, Sally, had dared me to go into this forest for *two whole days and nights!* Oh, well. I guess she wasn’t much of a BFF after all.

My back was aching from all this carrying of my heavy backpack. “Arghhh!” I yelled. Lost in my thoughts, I had tumbled into some sort of *portal...*

Chapter 2: Entry to the underworld

“Aaah!” I screamed. I was terrified because I couldn’t hear or see anything. I just tumbled through nothingness.... Until— WHAM! My feet suddenly slammed into something hard and stars twinkled in my eyes. I scrunched them up because sunlight was *flooding* everywhere and they needed to adjust after being in the dark for so long. One thing for sure, I wasn’t in the portal anymore.

Chapter 3: The underworld

"What the?!" I said to myself. I was in a little town. This must be the underworld, I thought. Out of all the places, out of all the portals, I had to get stuck in this one. I must be a million miles from home, and to make things worse, the portal was slowly fading away...

"Drat!" I said. "I'm stuck here now!" "Oh yes, unfortunately." said a voice from behind me. I turned around and I saw a gnome looking at me. "I'm Grumpy," he said. "Perhaps you'd better come with me so I can explain what just happened."

Chapter 4: The Explanation

As we made our way through the little town towards Grumpy's house (I think), he started explaining things. "Long ago, an evil wizard called Abchanchu created that portal that you fell into. By the way, what's your name?" he said. "Deborah Crane, but call me Deb," I said. "Okay, Deb. Abchanchu created that portal because he was angry with people having freedom. He wanted to be the only one who had freedom. Oh, and this is my house," he said, gesturing towards a short, stubby mushroom. "Do come in!"

I walked in and found myself in a cosy living room. Pictures of Grumpy and what I could only assume as his brothers littered the mantle piece. I settled down on one of the many couches as Grumpy continued explaining things.

"People are now coming in once or twice every year through that portal. And they are stuck. But not you," I gaped at him, speechless. "Oh yes. I can

help you get out of here, Sophia. **JUST FOLLOW ME!!**" he cried.