

## Introduction

I tried to walk in quietly because I knew it was late. I left the door open cause I knew it made too much noise, but the door had other plans. It slammed shut and I felt all of the eyes in the room fall on me. "Glad you could make it, Shadow." I sighed as I walked into the group. I heard a faint click and turned to look at the doors. Thanks to my survival skills, I detected instantly that they locked us in. I silently cursed before turning around and actually paying attention. "-all signed a contract." The guy, well scientist, continued talking. "So you have to do this no matter what." That already made me get chills and regret this decision. "I wanted to warn you now, there is only one escape. And if you die in there, you die, forever. Any pain, will be inflicted to your real body. Same with wounds and anything along that line." By then, I wanted to swear my head off. The scientist had us lay in beds and he and his scientist partners strapped some sort of crap to our heads. The scientist stopped at my bed and stared at me. "Shadow, you're special. You'll lead them. You'll live." He said. "Cool." I mumbled, feeling drowsy. "And, fu-." My words slurred and my vision turned white.

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## Shadow

I woke up on sand, and, can I just say, you do not want I have sand in your pants. Wait, how can I feel the sand? I swear I fell asleep, but it all seems so, real. I sat up and looked around. All of the other kids I saw earlier were here. I don't remember any of their names, but I do know it's 5 girls to 3 boys. Not really equal, but, oh well, I really don't give two shits. I stood up and pulled one of my famous Shadow moves. Basically I just snuck up on all of them without anyone noticing. They were talking about something, someone, me. "He's been out for a while." One of the girls said. "I bet he's hung over." One of the guys joked. "He's 16, well, he looks like it at least." Another one of the girls said. I had enough of them talking about me. "Whatcha guys talking about." I said, making all of them jump. I was bombarded with questions like "when did you wake up?" Or "when did you get here?" I waved them all down and sat with the group. They all looked at me as I took my hood off and let my hair fall into my face. They looked around seeing who was gonna talk when I spoke up "Ok, we need to compare notes."

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## Shadow

"So, let me sum this up. Mad scientist trapped us here. On our own. Everything is practically real even though it's a dream. And we're stuck." I summed up for everyone. "Pretty much." One of the girls said. "Also, I know all of us are too young to marry so, did anyone else get rings?" I said holding up my right hand. And on my ring finger, a black and red ring. "Yeah, we did." One of the older boys said holding up his hand. Everyone else followed his lead. I assumed instantly that they elected this kid as their leader. They made a mistake. I could tell he would fail. He's a city boy, doesn't know shit about surviving, and can't fight. Although, at the same time, I respected him for taking charge. "Don't lose them." I said. The older boy asked why, I waved it down. I had a reason why. It's cause I knew how to get out. I just don't know how.

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## Shadow

“Shadow, wake up.” I heard the voice of Claire, one of the older girls. “Just give me 5 more...centuries.” I replied sleepily. “We’re going hunting today and need you.” She said again, another attempt to wake me up. “Just give the sword to Mason.” I replied, still trying to get out of having to get up. “You’re the only one that can use it.” She said, insisting I get up. “Fine.” I said a little grumpily as I rubbed the sleep out of my eyes and sat up. I stood up and threw on a white shirt as I grabbed the sword we recovered from the cave underground. “Where’re the others?” I asked Claire. “Jack and Night are scavenging” She said, using air quotes with the word scavenging. “Masons still out cold, and the other 3 are hanging out in their tents.” I grabbed a spear off the rack and tossed it to Claire. “Well, looks like we’re in hunting duty huh.” I said as I adjusted my sheath. “Yeah.” Claire said a little dully. We walked out of the mini house. Sometimes, being promoted to leader was awesome, sometimes, It sucked. “Umm, Shadow. I don’t really know how to hunt, or fight.” Claire said, a little embarrassed and ashamed. “Cool.” I replied and she looked up at me. “I finally get to teach you something.” I said smiling a bit.

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### Shadow

“Diger 3 o'clock.” I said as I helped her aim the spear. “Breathe, throw.” I said letting go. I heard her take a deep then saw her throw it. I was pretty sure she hit it by the dying growl. I jogged over to the digger and picked up its limp body. “Stew?” I asked. “Yeah. Why not.” I slung the dead digger over my shoulder and we had a race back to base. Claire may not be that good of a hunter, but she’s a master chef. I took the first bowl and walked over to Mason’s cot. “Yo lazybones. Wake your ass up.” I said while lightly pushing him. “Ughhh. What.” He said sleepily. I also detected a hint of ‘I will fucking kill you if I fully wake up’ in his voice. “We got food.” I said. That was pretty much the word Mason needed to here. “Huh we got food?” Mason said waking up completely. “Here, eat up.” I said laying the stew and a spoon in his chest. “Shadow, what about you? You haven’t eaten for the past week.” Mason said with a mouthful of stew. “I’ll be fine.” I said handing off the last bowl of stew to Night. “No you won’t.” Mason argued. “We need you, Shadow. I won’t let you die by starvation.” Mason said as Jack handed me his bowl of stew. “Eat up.” He said before going to sit back down next to night. I Leaned against the wall and slowly ate. When I finished and put my bowl up I walked out of the house. I wanted to go late night searching but I found a piece of paper that caught me by surprise. With curiosity itching, I picked it up.

The one who controls the night,  
The one who can bring tears and fright,  
Will lead a group of eight,  
Into an endless escape.  
The angel of darkness,  
The angle of light,  
Both must unite,  
to leave alive,  
But one shall perish, in the great fight.  
The men who fight for night,

Will need to sacrifice one of their lives.  
The girl that tried, will put up a fight,  
The city boy of leadership, will live a normal life,  
The angel of darkness and the one of light, will choose what's right.  
The one with the best voice, will try, but won't succeed.  
The shy, will die to the girl of the night, while the girl of the night, pays for her crimes.  
3 will live, escape the dream,  
The angel of darkness,  
With a single chance to revive,  
Will bring back who he needs.

What the shit? The hell was this supposed to mean? I thought about it for a few seconds and walked inside to show the others.

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### **Shadow**

"Ok, first line." Max (AKA Ms. WillFuckYouUpIfNeeded said) "The one who controls the night. What's up with that?" She continued. "Well, it's not talking about me because it said the night instead of just Night." Night said, stating the obvious. "It could be Shadow." I heard Artemis said (AKA Miss.Beauty Queen). "I can't control the ni-oh wait. Yeah I can. Well, continue." I said just now realizing they're right. "The one who brings fright." Katelyn said (AKA Ms.Shy). "Defiantly Shadow." I heard Jack say. "Hey!" I said defensively. "But it's that 3 part. Masons our leader. As soon as Mason good to go shadow said he would step down, but now the sheets saying he'll stay leader." Claire said. "Yeah, you're right." I said, just now realizing. "And what's this about an endless escape?" Mason asked. "I don't know." I responded. "The angel of darkness, could be me or Shadow." Night said. Everyone except me apparently heard something and turned towards me. I heard all of them gasps and I looked up at them. "What's up?" I asked. "Shadow y-" Mason began. "What?" I asked again. Then Jack held up a mirror so I could look at myself. Everything was fine...until I got to my shoulders. There, right behind my shoulders, were wings. "What the hell?" Where the only words I said. "J-just ignore them." I said again going back to the paper. Everyone seemed to listen to me and turn their attention back to the paper. "The angel of light." Claire said. Instantly all of us looked up and at everyone looking for white wings. None. I let out a sigh of relief. We used the rest of the day to try to interpret the paper, or well, prophecy.

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### **Shadow**

The cold water stung against my warm face. Even though it's just a dream, it's fucking hot! Everyone else was in the ocean and I was deciding if I should Join them or not. Until I got pulled in. "Come on, Shadow." I heard Night and Claire say. "Heh, prepare for the tsunami!" I yelled so everyone could hear me. They stopped and turned to see what I was going to do. I extended my wings that I had gotten a couple weeks ago and started flapping them in the water, fast. Water went everywhere getting everyone. I retracted my wings and stared at all of them. "Oh it's on!" I heard Mason say. We started an all out splash fight. It was pretty fun. And, obviously, I won with my wings.

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## Shadow

“Oh God, that is definitely not good.” I said while thinking about my shit luck. This is possibly my 8 injury this week. I was hit by a Diger and it's claws raked across my chest. Now I'm bleeding bad, and was probably gonna end up with a scar across my chest. I'm barely conscious, I think, and i'm in a shit ton of pain. I felt my heart start to slow. Voices of everyone were being tossed around me but I didn't pay attention. I felt pressure on my wound, but it didn't help. I felt my breath being taken away, my vision tunneling, and, finally, my heart stopped, my eyes closed, my breath stopped. It was over. “Shadow. Wake up.” Or so I thought. All of a sudden, my eyes snapped open, my breathing came back, my heart started pumping blood into my veins again. Voices stopped, tears were wiped, and everyone stared in shock, or whatever the look was. No one knew what to say. I sat up and got caught in the middle of a group hug. I was bombarded with questions, but I didn't really know how to answer them.

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## Shadow

I stared into the forest at night. The wind whipped through my hair. I squeezed my hand for the 100th time just to make sure it was real and not an, well actual dream. The voice, it sounded so familiar, but I can't seem to put my finger on it. “Shadow?” I heard Claire's voice from behind me. “What's up?” I replied. “Aren't you going to sleep?” She asked. “Don't necessarily plan on it.” I replied, a shadow-like reply. “Why?” She asked, I was actually starting to get annoyed. “I have an idea.” I said as I unfurled my wings and shook them. “Can I come with?” She asked. “I don't know, can you fight?” I asked, in a shadow-like way. “No.” she replied glumly. “The I guess you get to stay here. Get some rest.” I said right before I took off into the sky. I looked down to see Claire had obeyed and went inside. The wind hit my face and whipped my hair back. It felt amazing to be in the air with the wind skimming my feathers. I pulled out my sword and slashed and hacked shit that was in my way. But as I got deeper, the shitheads (As I call them) kept getting harder and harder to kill. I only got ¼ of the way in before I had to turn around cause of a lot of reasons. I had made sure the window by my cot was open before I left so now I rolled through it and next to my bed. I bet I looked like shit so I tucked in my wings and walked to our “bathroom”, aka the lake we purified (enough) and surrounded with walls. I knelt down by the water and splashed my face. I checked myself to make sure nothing serious happened then I walked to my bed and laid down. I took a headcount of everyone, made sure they were passed out, the passed out myself. *Shadow, you will lead them. You will fulfill your destiny. You're much more than you think you are. Choose wisely.* I heard a voice say in my head. Great, now I have a voice in my head. I woke up to Mason shaking me and 7 concerned faces. “Are you ok?” Mason asked “Cause you were just mumbling stuff.” I rubbed my forehead and said “Yeah. Yeah I'm fine.” I sat up and looked at them. They all seemed like they didn't believe that, but with one wave they all backed off and got to their morning routines. To be honest, I felt like shit. I got off my cot. I saw Claire lay back down on her cot instead of going on perimeter duty. I went over and sat by her. “Claire, you feeling ok?” I asked in a non shadow-like way. I actually asked it pretty gently. “Who are you and what have you done with Shadow?” She joked, practically coughing the whole sentence. “What did you catch?” I asked again, almost even gentler. Claire looked a little concerned. I never got this gentle around people. I only did it around my family, who are dead. To be honest, I didn't even know why I was was doing it. “Probably just a cold or

something." She coughed out. "Someone on Per Duty?" I asked. "Yeah. Mason." Claire coughed out again. "Alright, rest up." I said as I got up and walked outside. I met with Mason and talked with him about the fact that the shitheads (still, my term only) get harder and harder the farther and farther you go into the forest. He seemed more concerned and a little afraid the farther I went into my story. I heard a faint *tick tick tick* and tackled Mason to the side as a bomb went off. I looked up and saw five bombers. "Shit! We need to get out!" I yelled over the ringing. Mason nodded and we both ran into everyone else. Our house was on fire so Mason and I had to make our way through the fire and bring everyone out. As soon as I set them down I would tell them to go to the beach, Mason did the same. The last person I grabbed was Claire. She tried to walk but was too weak. I carried her on my back and brought her to the beach. I walked over to Mason, took a headcount and reported 1 missing, Katelyn. I handed Claire over to Mason and took off towards our burning hut. I was able to put out the house before it spread to the forest. I looked around, only to find Katelyn's dead body. I carefully pulled out the knife and inspected the handle. There were two matches. Claire and Night. That means either one of the 3:Night had killed Night with Claire trying to stop her, vice versa, or the both tried to help Katelyn. And I highly doubt it's the 3rd one. I jogged back down to the beach and delivered the news. I saw nervousness in Night's eyes. I held the knife tightly as Night stared at Claire trying to blame it on her. Jack held Night in a protective way seeing my grip tighten and my jaw tense. Jack seemed to send me a message: *stay away*. Which I ignored. I charged and felt all eyes fall on me. Jack tried to defend Night but I shoved him out of the way. "Shadow?" I heard Claire say sleepily. I stabbed Night. Her body slumped forward, not quite dead yet. "Now you pay for your crimes." I said as I pulled out the knife and kicked her now dead body to the floor. I looked around and checked everyone's emotions. Jack was pissed, Claire and Artemis were shocked and confused, and Mason and Max seemed to understand. I dropped the knife as I got punched in the jaw. "How could you kill her?! She didn't do anything!" I heard Jack practically yell. I had a blood taste in my mouth. Jack was about to throw another punch until Mason tackled him. I was surprised he was on my side since Mason had a crush on Night himself. Me and Mason double teamed Jack and beat him up enough to knock him out. Artemis and Claire were trying to figure things out as Max finished a fire. Me and Mason dragged Jack over to the fire and laid him down by it. I sat a little bit away from everyone else and looked at the stars. I laid down and fell asleep to voices talking about me.

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### Shadow

*Two dead Shadow.* The voice said. *Well no fucking shit* I responded. *Don't blame yourself, there was nothing you could've done. And you made the right choice.* The voice said. *I hope so* I responded *thank you for your words of wisdom.* I woke up and felt someone's arms around me.

I turned my head and saw Claire asleep next to me. I turned the other way to the concerned faces of Artemis, Mason, and Max. "I did it again didn't I?" I asked. "Yea." Mason said. I could feel Claire's cheeks on my shoulder get warm as she woke up. "Did one of you two do this?" I asked pointing to Claire. All three of them snickered. I faked laughed. "That's a good one, here I have a reward for you guys." I said trying not to put anger or embarrassment in my voice. They seemed to buy it as I pretended to rummage through my pocket. Claire seemed to catch onto what I was doing and I could feel her arms ease off of me and her trying not to laugh. I pulled

my hand out of my pocket with my middle finger out and flipped all three of them off. "Fuck you guys." I said as Claire giggled a bit. They seemed disappointed and went back towards the fire. I rolled around and looked at Claire, to lazy to sit up. "Sorry about that." I apologized for the Trio Of Romance. Claire shocked me by wrapping her arms around me and pulling herself closer to me. "Uhh, Claire?" I asked, a pink tint seeping into my cheeks. Another rare Shadow occurrence. "I'm cold." She whispered weakly. I wrapped my arms around Claire and pulled her tighter, trying to help her. Claire smiled and fell asleep again. "I ship it!" I hear the ToR (Trio of Romance) yell. "I will fuck you all up!" I yelled back and they all went silent, "That's what I thought fuckers!" I yelled again. I stared at the sky and eventually fell asleep myself. *Seems you found love* my favorite person in the world (#Sarcasm) said. *Shut the fuck up voice. One last thing, Shadow. You will come across an enemy that requires you to sing.* The voice said, some helpful advice for once. I woke up and saw Claire gone. I looked around, everyone else was gone to. I sat up and looked around. I saw cages. And within the cages were my friends, and 2 of them were (hopefully) knocked out cold. I stood up and pulled out my sword. There was some kind of snake lady in my way. I started attacking, but the sword just bounced right off the snake lady. And it was virtually impossible to block or defend the attacks. *Shadow, sing.* The voice said *Wh-oh this is the monster.* I came to realization. I didn't wanna do this but, oh fuck it. So the next time I went in attacking I went in singing to:

"No matter what you throw at me,  
I'll rise up to the top-

I already had weird and surprised looks but when they saw my attacks actually doing something they stayed quiet.

"I become the greatest,  
Better than the rest.  
I'll try my best,  
I'll pass the test.  
I'll prove that I'm strong enough to be one of you,  
I'll prove that I'm not some cast away.  
I'll prove,  
That I'm a Shadow Within The Niiiiiiiiiggggghhhht."

Finally the Snake Lady died and I could stop singing. I sheathed my sword and looked at my cages friends. I got a round of applause as soon as I opened the cages and woke up Artemis and Jack. We all walked back to the camp and sat around. "Where did you learn to sing like that." Everyone literally said at once. I waved off the question while taking a bite out of a shark I found and cooked. I started thinking about the paper, then something hit me. What had I said to Night? You shall pay for your crimes, and I'm supposedly the Angel of the Night. The wings, what I had said. It's true.

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**Mason**

I'm terrified. I just witnessed my best friend kill the one I loved. I'm stuck in this stupid world where I could die in a instant. I want to go home but don't know how. I'm trying to act tough but I don't know if I can. They look up to me as a leader since I'm the oldest, but I'm not a leader. Shadow is. Shadow is the person who keeps pulling us through. If it weren't for him-nevermind, I gotta stop thinking this. I stood up and looked around. I motioned for Shadow to follow me as I ran towards the forest. I heard Shadow's footsteps catch up to mine. "Are you insane." He yelled overcoming the snarling and growling that was going on around us. "I have this feeling!" I shouted at him. "We have to get to the middle of the forest." I heard Shadow say "Now I know you're insane." I heard him also say "Catch!" I turned and caught something he threw at me. When I looked down I saw a sword. I looked back over at Shadow as he came back up from picking up another sword off the ground. He had taught me how to fight so I took the sword and attacked anything that got near. I'd occasionally look over at Shadow to see him doing the same thing. It kept getting harder but with Shadow by my side, we pushed through. When we got to the middle, they all backed off. It was such a relief. I was beaten up and my everything hurt. Shadow walked over to some type of crevasse and looked in. Shock and surprise (Those may be the same thing but, I'm rich so I don't care) passed over his face. He dropped the sword he had grabbed and jumped into the crevasse. I followed his lead. We walked up to a stone with a sword in it. Well, guess we found the fucking Master Sword. Shadow put a hand on the grip and yanked it out. Then he looked at something. When I looked at it, I believe I understood. I took of my ring we got the very first time we came here and Shadow did the same. We both put our rings in two of the holes out of 8 in the rock. We both looked at each other, I grabbed two swords, he grabbed one, and we ran. I headed towards the camp while Shadow ran towards our hut.

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### Shadow/The Finale

The rock, the rings, it all made sense now. I had to get Katelyn's ring and Mason had to get Night's. Halfway through the forest I unfurled my wings and soared the rest of the way. I went to Katelyn's body and knelt by her. I slowly slid off her ring and stood up. To be honest, I half expected her to wake up all zombiefied. I took off again and soared back to the camp. Once I landed I noticed everyone was up and ready to go. I noticed Mason had made a decision to give Jack the extra sword. We all nodded as Jack, Mason, and I took the lead and enforced our way through the woods. It was hard. In fact, harder than when Mason and I went through together. We made it to the center. Jack covered us all as we one at a time put in our rings. We kept getting hit, even with all of our fighting. I turned and saw Jack. He turned and looked at me. He tossed me something, his ring. I looked up and saw him dead. I wanted to fall to my knees and cry but Mason pulled my shoulder. I turned and slammed Jack's ring into the slot and everything went white. *Beep, beep, beep.* I woke up to the sound of a heart monitor. I pulled off the ring on my head and my hair, even longer than before, fell. We had been in the dream for a year, right? Yeah, that's right. I sat up and felt extremely weak. After a bit, I was able to stand up and walk. No one visited me. Not a surprise. I heard cheering and tears in the other rooms around me. It sounded like everyone else woke up. I closed my eyes and focused for Mason's voice. I walked into the room in front of me. Trying not to fall down I walked around the corner. Mason and his (or who I presume is) family we're talking until I said. "You're one brave bastard, Mason."

Everyone stopped and all eyes fell on me. "Dude!" Mason said. "You made it!". He sounded, happy. "Yea." I said. I waved him over and he followed me. We went and got the remaining 3. Then together, we all went to mourn the 3 that had fallen. Well, I didn't mourn Night's death. That little bastard deserves to be in Hell. As we were all walking each other to are families something crossed my mind. Then I felt them. "Guys guess what?" I asked them. "What?" All of them asked back. I waited until all of their eyes were on me then, spread out my wings. They all gasped and I smirked. "Holy shit!" Mason said. My family walked out of the door. I looked up at them as they stared at the wings.

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#### **Author's Note**

Thank you for reading my story. I just wanna say I'm sorry for it brining short, but that I will make even more so Dream Escape isn't over. And even if you didn't like it, I wish you can respect it cause it took me a long time to make this.