

WRITE  *ON!*
Short Story Contest

Hero

by Macey W.

Hero

Hero. That's what they call her. She hadn't done much but what she did ended up saving the town.

Liana Muzschy was a pyrokinetic and hydrokinetic, meaning she controlled fire and water. Most people would give *anything* to have the kind of power she has, but they don't know the burden that comes with it. No one knows about Liana's power. Everyone in town thought that she had miraculously gathered enough water from the nearby creek to put out the fire. That was why she was known as a hero. Liana sighed. She hated all the fame she was getting. To make things worse, a strange girl kept approaching her and telling her that she belonged somewhere else. Liana had no clue where that "somewhere else" was, but she knew that the girl was right. The girl also wanted to take her somewhere. Finally, Liana built up enough courage to follow the girl the next time she saw her. That time was the evening of the next day.

The girl took one look at Liana and said, "I'm Kilea! Follow me" as she tossed her waist length blonde hair. The girl also had ice blue tips and matching blue eyes. She looked about thirteen, the same age as Liana, but was much paler compared to Liana's tan skin, light brown hair, and teal-green eyes. Liana followed her, careful to keep a safe distance from her. Kilea arrived at a nearby pond a few blocks from Liana's house. "So... remember how I told you that you didn't belong here?" Kilea began, "Well I am now going to tell you where you actually belong. You belong in the same place as all the other elementals."

"The wha-"

"Hang on, I'll explain it all. I was saying that you belong with all the other elementals. An elemental is someone who has control over an element, such as water, fire, wind, light, and darkness. I am a flasher, meaning I control light." Kilea snapped, and a globe of swirling colors hovered over her hand. She waited a few seconds, and then closed her hand, extinguishing it. "I watched you put out the fire" Kilea began, "and could tell you were a hydrokinetic."

"I am also a pyrokinetic." Liana said.

"Wait what?! You are a pyrokinetic *and* a hydrokinetic?!" Kilea exclaimed.

"Yeah..." Liana slowly said.

"That has never happened before." Kilea whispered.

Liana sighed. "Can you take me to the place I supposedly belong?"

“Sure! Just let me get my waterwand. Also, you never told me your name.” Kilea said.

“My name is Liana. What is a waterwand?”

“A waterwand is what elementals use to travel. They take us to any place we think of as long as there is enough water to fit us. Every house in Hydrogustpyroflashade has one.” Kilea explained.

“Hydrogustpyroflashade? Is that your town name?” asked Liana.

“Yeah, whoever thought of that name was *not* very creative.” Kilea replied, clearly more than a little embarrassed by her town’s name.

“Who came up with it?” Liana asked.

“One of the elders. They were are ruling order before...”

“Before what?” Liana said, when Kilea didn’t finish her sentence.

Kilea sighed. “Before the Disappearing Act. That was when children in Hydrogustpyroflashade started randomly disappearing.

“How many?” Liana asked.

“168 over the past fourteen years. C’mon, we need to go. It’s getting dark. Will anyone notice you’re gone?” Kilea asked.

“Yeah, but no one will care. I’m an orphan that survives off kind peoples’ donations.”

Liana said, looking down at the ground.

“Um... let’s go.” Kilea said, awkwardly changing the subject as she grabbed her waterwand and put it in the water. She then grabbed hold of Liana’s hand and let the water woosh them away.

“Where are we?” Liana asked, for like, the fifth time.

“My house.” Kilea finally responded. “My family won’t mind if you live here. But... there are a *lot* more things that I haven’t told you. Like the fact that we are sisters and my family placed you in Humanland so that you would have a different perspective on humans. Also, I forgot to tell you about our current ruling order. They are called the council. The people elected them in place of the elders because they felt that the elders were doing nothing to help the kids that had gone missing. The council *definitely* worked harder, but they still could not recover the missing kids. My family had had enough of it. We wanted to do something about it. That’s why we placed you with humans. We suspect that the missing kids have been kidnapped by a human.

You know humans better than that of most elementals we now have an advantage.

“That is a lot of information to process. How are we going to stop the kidnapper?” Liana said, hating the whine in her voice.

“You’ll find a way.” Kilea said with a knowing smile.

The next day, while the girls were eating lunch, Liana came up with a plan. They would trap the kidnapper using a realistic dummy that would be lying on a bench, pretending to be a person taking a nap on a bench. Liana and Kilea would wait in the bushes nearby and then when the kidnapper came Kilea would use her ability as a flasher to create a forcefield and trap the kidnapper. Liana would then call the cops and they would arrest the kidnapper.

“You’re a genius!” Kilea exclaimed to Liana after she had shared her idea.

After lunch, the girls bought the supplies and set up the dummy on a bench two blocks away from Kilea’s house. They waited in the bushes until evening came. Evening turned to dusk. Dusk turned to night.

“Can we call it a night?” Kilea asked.

“Sure.” Liana said through a yawn.

Both girls stepped out of the bushes and walked toward the dummy. Little did they know, but the kidnapper was right behind them, ready to pounce.

“AHHHHHHHHH!” Kilea screamed.

“What is it?!” Liana exclaimed as she quickly turned around. Kilea was nowhere to be seen. Thankfully, Liana has another secret ability. One that she had not risked telling anyone about. She had a rare ability called tracking. Liana stretched her mind into the empty darkness until she could feel where Kilea was. Liana sprinted toward her, not caring if she was heard.

Finally, she spotted Kilea struggling helplessly as the kidnapper held her tightly over his shoulder. He was almost to a pond! Liana knew that if she didn’t stop him soon he would water-leap away and she would never see her sister again. Using her pyrokinesis, Liana formed a ball of fire and flung it at the kidnapper, forming a wall of flames around him and Kilea. Liana ran through the wall, immune to fire because of her pyrokinesis, and threatened to burn the kidnapper alive if he didn’t let Kilea go. The kidnapper could tell she was serious and reluctantly released Kilea, who ran toward Liana and hugged her tightly. After a few moments, Liana called the police. They came and arrested the kidnapper, who was never to kidnap anyone again. As

Liana and Kilea walk home, Liana says, “We still don’t know where the 168 missing kids are.”

“We’ll have to figure that out soon.” Kilea replied. Little did they know, but that mystery was on the brink of discovery.