

Part 1 Summary

The story begins with Yanni seeing and hating his new house. The dread of starting a new school was at the forefront of his mind and so was the annoyance with his little sister, Ari. She cried all the time and got all the attention, movie nights with mum and dad were a thing of the past. What made everything worse was the fact that Yanni's family would usually spend summer in Greece visiting his Yiayia and pappou (his grandparents, who he missed very much) but there were no plans to go that summer because of the house move. When he unpacked, he found his necklace, blue glass on a leather thread, his 'mati', the stone looked a bit like an eye and creeped Yanni out but he put it carefully around his neck anyway.

Sent on an errand by his dad, Yanni found himself in the miserable, tiny village of Fallow Hall with grumpy shopkeepers and a strange woman who told him a story of a boy who went missing from the village called John. This only made Yanni feel angrier.

Yanni's mum and dad went out for the evening and had left him with his cousin Amy that he hadn't seen in years - if Yanni was honest, he'd always thought she was a bit weird so he was obviously not very pleased to be forced to spend the time with her.

After his parents left, Amy offered to try and teach Ari how to play her favourite game, Orc's Quest, but Yanni was having none of it. He stormed upstairs and into Ari's room furious, "we were happy before you came along", he said over her cot, "Now it's all ruined and it's all because of you." He gripped the edge of the cot, "I hate you!"

Suddenly, Yanni felt another presence in the room and when he turned around, he saw a figure he didn't recognise in the doorway. Something didn't feel right. Then, Yanni was tricked by the man - the stranger was paying him compliments and Yanni just wanted him to leave but in his haste, he accidentally agreed to let the stranger take his little sister.

Then the stranger was gone.

Amy raced upstairs and Yanni tried to explain but he was distracted by Ari - she suddenly knew how to walk. And jump. And climb. Andy walk on the ceiling! Yanni tried to grab her but she turned around and hissed at him. Ari wasn't Ari anymore.

"All Hallows' Eve," Amy whispered, "Yanni, I think your sister has been stolen by a faerie!" She explained how in her place, the faerie had left a changeling, like a trade for his little sister.

There was a strange noise coming from the fireplace. The sound of bells. Yanni went and explored but as he tried to peer inside, he fell through and found himself lying on a cold, stone floor on the other side. From there, the bells were much louder than before.

From back on the other side of the fireplace, Amy tried to warn Yanni about the dangers of the Land of Fae and suggested they call the police but Yanni begged her to help him and Amy didn't feel like she could say no.

They followed the fairies footprints out of the house that looked just like Yanni's new house and down the winding road to a bridge. The sign read "Hallow Fall". It seemed everything in the land of Fae was the same as their world but different.