

SANCTUARY NIGHTMARES:
3. THE CURE

MEMENTO MORI.

DEATH IS
EVER-PRESENT
IN THIS WORLD.

AND IF YOU FORGET,
SANCTUARY WILL
MAKE SURE YOU
REMEMBER.

HOWEVER, A SON
DEVOTED TO HIS
AILING MOTHER...

...WILL DO
ANYTHING TO
CHEAT IT.

LISTEN,
THERE'S
THIS STORY
I HEARD.

YOU KNOW
THAT CAVE EAST
OF THE VILLAGE?

MY MOTHER
WILL LIKELY DIE
SOON...

THE
SPIDERS IN THAT
CAVE...THEIR EGGS
CAN CURE ANY
SICKNESS, HEAL
ANY WOUND

IT MIGHT
RESTORE YOUR
MOTHER.

IT COULD JUST
BE A RUMOR...OR
IT COULD BE
TRUE.

A SPIDER EGG.

THE ONLY THING
THAT MIGHT
SAVE HER.

I HAVE TO DO IT.

ALL I CAN DO IS PRAY...

I'LL BE
BACK BEFORE
YOU KNOW IT,
MOTHER.

PLEASE,
STAY STRONG
FOR A LITTLE
BIT LONGER.

...HOPING
THIS ISN'T ALL
NONSENSE.

THEY SAY THE
CAVES ARE
TEEMING WITH
SPIDERS.

THOUSANDS
OF THEM,
JUST EAST OF
THE VILLAGE.

I KNOW WHAT I'M
WALKING INTO. EVERY CHILD
IS TAUGHT ABOUT IT.

MY MOTHER, TOO,
ONCE WARNED ME AGAINST
WANDERING TOO CLOSE.

SO FEW RETURN
FROM HERE...

...AND ALL
BARELY ALIVE,
AT THAT.

BUT...

...FOR MY MOTHER...

"YOU CAN SAVE HER."

...I WOULD DO
ANYTHING.

EVEN IN DAYLIGHT,
TORCH IN HAND, PICKING
MY WAY THROUGH THE
CAVE IS DIFFICULT.

THE TERRAIN
IS UNFORGIVING,
THE PASSAGES
NARROW AND
WINDING.

I'VE SLIPPED, I'VE
FALLEN. I'VE HAD
SEVERAL BRUSHES WITH
DEATH SINCE SETTING
FOOT IN THIS CAVE.

NO...

...IT'S BEEN MORE
THAN SEVERAL. THIS
CAVE IS TRYING TO
KILL ME.

BUT I JUST NEED
ONE SPIDER EGG.

FOCUSING ON
THIS THOUGHT
ALONE MAKES
THINGS EASIER.

I'M NO LONGER
TREMBLING IN
FEAR.

FINALLY...

...SPIDER EGGS.

A CURE FOR
MOTHER'S
ILLNESS!

I DID IT!
MOTHER WILL
BE UP AGAIN IN
NO TIME!

BUT GETTING IN IS
NOTHING COMPARED
TO GETTING OUT.

"IF ONLY I
COULD RETRACE
MY STEPS..."

BUT THE MEANDERING
TUNNELS I'VE TAKEN
ALL BLEND TOGETHER.
DID I GO LEFT HERE,
OR RIGHT?

LOST AND EXHAUSTED, I CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT.

THE PATH ISN'T WHAT IT SEEMS TO BE...

...NOR ARE THE WALLS.

AND WHAT I THINK TO BE SOLID GROUND IS ANYTHING BUT.

I FALL, AND FALL, AND FALL.

LANDING ON MY LEG, WHICH MAKES A TERRIBLE...

...CRUNCH.

I'M STILL ALIVE.

THE UNBEARABLE PAIN FROM MY BROKEN LEG IS TELLING ME SO.

THOUGH A QUICK DEATH WOULD HAVE BEEN KINDER.

AUGH!

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

H-HELP! MY LEG! PLEASE! AUGH!

THE PAIN FORCES ME TO SCREAM AND SOB FOR HOURS.

AFTER A WHILE, MY LEG NO LONGER HURTS.

THERE'S RELIEF, BUT ALSO FEAR: I CAN NO LONGER FEEL ANYTHING FROM MY LEG.

"AT THIS RATE, I'LL DIE BEFORE MOTHER."

GLANCE

THE ANSWER COMES TO ME: THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO SURVIVE, TO MAKE IT BACK TO MY SICK MOTHER...

THE SPIDER EGG...

...CAN HEAL ANY WOUND OR AILMENT.

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY.

THE SPIDER EGG...

...IS NEITHER DELICIOUS... NOR DISGUSTING.

BUT IT TRIGGERS AN UNENDING CYCLE...

...OF LOSING AND REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS.

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF I SLEEP FOR MINUTES OR FOR HOURS.

WHAT MATTERS IS THAT MY LEG IS STILL NUMB.

WAS IT JUST A RUMOR AFTER ALL?

RAGE FILLS ME... I WILL STRANGLE THE PERSON WHO TOLD ME THIS NONSENSE, AS SOON AS I GET FREE OF THIS PLACE.

SO ANGRY...

...SO TIRED...

PSST.

I WAKE AT THE SOUND OF SOMEONE WHISPERING IN MY EAR.

I KNOW I HEARD IT.

SOMEONE'S COME TO SAVE ME.

BUT...WHERE ARE THEY?

PSST.

H-HELP!

THERE IT IS AGAIN.

I'M OVER HERE!

SHOW YOURSELF!

HURRY, PLEASE!

GET ME OUT
OF THIS PLACE!

WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?! MY LEG IS
BROKEN! PLEASE...
P-PLEASE...

PASS OUT, THEN
WAKE. REPEAT.

I'VE LOST
COUNT OF HOW
MANY TIMES IT'S
HAPPENED.

AT LEAST MY
LEG DOESN'T
HURT ANYMORE.

THE SPIDER
EGG...MAYBE IT
DID WORK!

BUT...

I'M STILL
STUCK DOWN
HERE.

AND THE
WHISPERS
STOPPED.

HMM...NO...IT'S NOT
JUST THE WHISPERING.
I DON'T THINK I'VE
HEARD ANYTHING FOR
A WHILE NOW.

I FEEL
EMBRACED,
COCOONED...

...BY THIS HEAVY
SILENCE.

NOW, I AM
AWAKE...

I FEEL...SO
STRONG!

I'M WALKING
ON MY OWN
TWO FEET
AGAIN!

THUD

NO, NOT
WALKING—RUNNING!

I CAN FINALLY
MOVE MY
INJURED LEG!

GRUNCH

THE SPIDER
EGG...IT REALLY
DID WORK!

I'M ALIVE!

I CAN
GO SEE
MOTHER!

THUD

EXCEPT...

WHY CAN'T I
STOP RUNNING...?

I...DON'T EVEN
WANT TO RUN...?

I...CAN'T...CONTROL...
MY...BODY...?!

I'M...NOT...EVEN...
THINKING...?!

NO? I'M...? UMM...HEHE...?

WHAT...AM...I...? HEH...

EHEHE