

FALL-SEASON FINDINGS

PART THREE: THE ???

Mittens had Shell in their arms on their way home from the festivities. The air was getting bitter and bitter by the day as Winter showed its face. The event had just ended, and most tellers were packing up and taking their leave. They were just laughing and giggling evaluating the fun times they had over those couple of days.

Now, Shell and Mittens live out in sticks and bugs and rocks, in a cave even! Just outside the woods on the walls of Blissful Mountain was their humble and away home, peacefully to themselves. Thankfully it was but a simple walk next door to get there.

The stone paths were cold: most people were already home by now. The sun was long set, and the moon almost looked like it was saying its goodbyes itself. Mittens took a turn for a moment, setting Shell down into the grass. It was a wooden community firewood stand, almost all gone to the bottom to prepare for Winter. As the roads tapered out, Mittens started to keep herself alert in case of nature's threat...

"Ill grab some of these, maybe we could start up a fire at home." Mittens said to Shell who simply nodded and plated themselves by a tree to rest.

Grabbing some of the wood, for some reason Shell looked up towards the dense thicket for a moment. Against the faint light of the moon, she noticed an amulet sitting shyly in the grass.

"What in the—" She muttered, looking over towards Shell whose sleepy attention was to the critters and bugs in the grass. She didn't want to disturb them of course, so she went to investigate on her own.

She knelt, holding the wood in her offhand, and the necklace in the other. She held it to eye level, turning it around, forward and back. It was nothing like she'd seen before, let alone anything that comes from the mines.

Mittens looked up then into the abyss of the forest, almost seeing something moving inside... She widened her eyes, scared she'd admit. She immediately stood up, pocketing the necklace quickly and holding an arm out for Shell.

"We gotta go, and now." She said helping them up to her shoulder.

“What? What’s the matter?!” Shell wrapped their arms around her neck as Mittens ran to home, “Did you see something?”

“Oh, it’s nothing... let’s just get cozy.”