

Before Prom

"Come on, Daleah, we can't be late!" my little sister, Callie, tugged me along.

I sighed as she flung open the door to the curio shop. Normally, I'd be happy to help. But I've been on one too many shopping sprees with her to know that she looks at everything a million times before buying. And since it was prom night at the Wizard's Tower, there was no doubt she'd be extra choose-y. Earlier, she'd gone to other stores for accessories but the selection was "too boring".

Callie made a beeline to the back. Sure enough, the wigs and hair accessories were limited. I watched as Callie pinned bows in her hair. A teal ribbon that ties itself. A golden bow that had an aura of glitter.

"How does it look?" she asked.

"Um..." I felt the gold clashed with her blonde hair. But judging by her smile in the mirror, she didn't need my input.

"Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the fairest one of all?" she asked her reflection.

A swirl of mist filled the mirror and a ghostly face appeared.

"If you came to be flattered, you'll be disappointed." the mirror said. "But I *will* give you some constructive criticism. Is that fair?"

I was impressed. Normally feedback mirrors were only in high-end shops.

Callie grimaced. This wasn't the reaction she'd been hoping for. But she nodded. "That bow clashes with your hair. Red and light blue goes best with blonde. Or try a wig." with another swirl of mist, the face disappeared. While Callie looked around some more, I wandered down the home and hobby aisles.

Much later, she asked me if I was ready to go. Apparently, she'd been a good sport and took the mirror's advice. She settled on a brown wig that made its own hairstyles and a red bow.

I nodded absentmindedly. My attention was fixed on a platter of silver porcelain spoons. Whenever I waved my hands above them, they thought I was a bowl and dipped, dived, and stirred in the air. As if proud cooks admiring their work, they all stood erect before settling back down.

I've seen pillows that change colour to match the sofa they're on, snow globes that freeze and thaw, and rope that slithers across the floor, but only this spoon collection awed me. Unlike everything else in this shop, it was actually *useful*. It was perfect for mixing spices.

Grabbing a set for myself, we headed out. Although pre-enchanted items are more expensive, the prices were reasonable.

I was happy with my purchase - beautiful and practical. And although we spent so much time at the shop, there was so much to look at, I didn't get bored.

Out of the store, Callie and I ran the few blocks to the Wizard's Tower. Night was falling and people were already pouring in.