

Memories

You see people. People who look similar to you. The more you try to focus though, the blurrier their faces get. They are speaking but you can barely understand what they're trying to say. Their voices are stricken with panic and despair. One of them reaches their hands out towards you as if wanting to embrace you, but you back away. They immediately pull their hands away as if they were scorched. They fall to the ground with their hands over their face. The sobs echo out as everyone arounds you grows silent. The sobs continue and it sends you into a state of numbness. It gnaws at you that you do not understand what is happening. Who are they? Where are you? You have many questions, but no answers. The sobs slowly subside into small sniffles and they look up at you. With a broken voice, strained from their sobs and emotional state, they ask you something that strikes fear into your heart. *"Don't you remember us?"*

Before you can answer, everything fades to black. You stumble, trying to not fall on your face from the dizzying change. As you blink the black spots away, you look up to find yourself in a familiar farm town. You're back in Louise Hill. A sigh of relief escapes you. Putting behind what you had just experienced, you walk over to Bearnard's quaint little farm to help him. It was quiet today. Almost a bit too quiet and it took you a while to realize that there were no turniplings on the farm today. Normally, there were always at least a few turniplings hopping about on the farm. Taking note of it, you look for the bear who treated you with kindness from the start. You finally find him at another part of his farm. You walk up to him and ask him if he needs help but all you receive is a blank stare. He opens his mouth and what he says leaves you weak with dread. *"I'm sorry, but do I know you?"*

Visibly shaken up, you apologize and run away to Buli's home and desperately knock at her door. She slams it open with a grumpy look on her face and you ask her if she needs any turnips. She looks at you with a confused expression before asking you why she would need any turnips. You stutter out an apology and quickly make your way to the tavern. You look for the Old Farmhand and Calbet. Spotting the Old Farmhand, you run up to him and ask him if he knows who you are. He looks at you in surprise and tugs at his beard for a moment before shaking his head. Before he could say anything else, you're already dashing off to find Calbet. You run up to him and ask him if he has any tips on how to be cool but he only glares at you in suspicion. He accuses you of trying to bully him and he runs away. You want to chase after him but you're scared to do so. You rush over to find Lilia and Fantasia instead.

Your legs ache from all the running and you almost trip many times, yet you still keep running. You notice Lilia and Fantasia training together and they notice you. Fantasia stands forward warily and asks who you are. You don't bother to answer. You navigate yourself to Three's Forest in hopes that maybe they will remember you.

They don't remember you.

Neither do the people at Silvie's Mines, Aviar Cove, or Vaer Reef.

Even the people at Peddler's Port don't remember you.

You fall to your knees. You look around and notice that your pets are gone too. Your inventory is empty. There's nothing in it. No hatchables. No totems from your friends. No special food that they made for you. No memories. Nothing. Did you even exist? Sobs escape you and everyone around you seems to not notice your pain. They move on with their lives as if you're not even there.

You black out, and wake up to the concerned looks of your friends in Louise Hill staring at you in concern. They ask if you're alright. Bernard holds up his signature soup for you to eat and Calbet tells you that it's definitely alright that you had a nightmare. That it doesn't make you any less cool for having them. Lilia grabs your hand and Fantasia lets you know that the both of them are there for you. The Old Farmhand gently pats your head before going back to stroking his beard. Buli promises you that she'll make you a blue bow cake later when you feel better. She leans in and whispers that you have to pay her some turnips though.

You're so overwhelmed with relief that it causes you to cry once more. Everyone panics and tries to comfort you which only makes you cry harder. You start to laugh and hug all of them tightly. Between your sobs, babblings about the nightmare that you had were clumsily given and your friends quickly stitched the pieces together. Bearnard pats your back. His touch is firm but gentle. It soothes you. The Old Farmhand comes to you and gives you some advice.

"Even if you forget, or we forget. The past may be erased, but the future can still be written. If something happens, we'll just have to make new memories."

You're not sure if you can handle the stress of not being remembered. You still think about the memories that you don't remember. Thoughts of where you came from. Still, you keep the Old Farmhand's advice. You look up. You are surrounded by friends. The future might be uncertain, and your past might be missing, but the present is still here. You relish in the warmth and affection of your friends.