

## Section 1:

### #1: Opening paragraph and introduction

#### Strengths:

- Your opening effectively establishes Avery's cheerful mood with vivid descriptions like "huge smile" and "her optimism could be felt miles away"
- You create a strong visual starting point with Avery getting out of bed and opening curtains

**Weakness:** Limited connection to the prompt → Your story begins with a strong introduction to Avery's character, but there's no immediate indication that this is a hero's quest narrative as requested in the prompt. The opening fails to establish Avery's goal or motivation, which are crucial elements for a quest story. *Perhaps begin with: "Avery clambered out of bed, her mind focused on the day's mission: to reunite with her wayward shadow before it disappeared completely."*

### #2: Shadow's first movement and Avery's reaction

#### Strengths:

- You create an intriguing supernatural element with the independently moving shadow
- The comparison of the shadow "bounding like a kangaroo" provides a vivid visual image

**Weakness:** Underdeveloped reaction → Your description of Avery's reaction to the shadow moving independently lacks emotional depth. She stands "still as a statue" and is "shocked," but these reactions feel generic rather than specific to her character. There's missed opportunity to develop how this moment transforms her from an ordinary person into a hero beginning a quest. *Consider developing her reaction: "Avery stood frozen, her mind racing through possibilities—was she hallucinating, or had her shadow truly developed a mind of its own? Either way, she knew with sudden certainty that she needed to understand what was happening."*

### #3: Final paragraphs and resolution

#### Strengths:

- You establish interesting consequences of the shadow separation with physical symptoms
- The conclusion shows character growth with Avery learning to respect her shadow's independence

**Weakness:** Rushed resolution → Your ending resolves the conflict too abruptly without showing Avery actively overcoming obstacles or completing a true quest. The final paragraphs compress what could be the most interesting part of the story—Avery's journey to understand and accommodate her shadow's independence. *Instead of "It drove Avery crazy, but she had to respect it's wishes," you might develop this: "Over the following weeks, Avery learned to negotiate with her shadow through a series of tests and compromises. Some days they travelled together to places they both enjoyed; other days they reached agreements about temporary separations."*

■ Your piece shows creativity and imagination in developing the concept of an independent shadow. However, the structure doesn't fully address the quest narrative requested in the prompt. While you've created an interesting supernatural situation, Avery remains largely reactive rather than embarking on a deliberate journey with clear objectives and challenges. The physical separation from her shadow could serve as an excellent inciting incident for a quest, but we need to see Avery actively pursuing a goal rather than simply adapting to circumstances.

Additionally, the pacing feels imbalanced—the setup takes several paragraphs while the resolution happens very quickly. Try expanding the middle section to show Avery actively pursuing understanding or reconciliation with her shadow. This would transform your story from an interesting situation into a true quest narrative. Also, consider developing specific obstacles that Avery must overcome beyond just the initial separation, perhaps encounters where the shadow's independence creates specific challenges or opportunities.

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**Overall Score: 40/50**

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## Section 2:

Avery clambered out of bed, her blanket flopped over the side. She wore a huge smile, so happy that her optimism could be felt miles away. She basked in the ~~suns~~ [sun's] bright rays, as she opened her curtains with a flourish.

#1 Avery scanned the horizon, eyeing the waking city from the top floor of her apartment. The sleeping city looked serene and still, but many were starting to ~~stir~~ [stir]. With her face pressed against the window, her breath staining the glass, she caught a glimpse of movement. Avery turned slowly, as cautious ~~when~~ [as if] entering a bear's den.

#2 A ~~flickering~~ [flickering] shadow swept across the wall, bounding like a kangaroo. It took Avery a moment to process that it was not in line with her body. At the same time, her shadow seemed to have the same thought, returning to the position that it was meant to be in. Avery stood as still as a statue, still shocked from what she experienced just before.

Closing her eyes, ~~se~~ [she] replayed the scene in her head. ~~Surely~~ [Surely] it was her mind playing tricks on her... Avery knew that was the only reasonable answer. What she didn't know was that her shadow started moving as soon as she stepped out of her room.

Entering the picturesque kitchen for some water, Avery felt a sudden stab at her heart. She felt as if she was split in half, separated from her vital organs. Avery's face turned as white as a sheet, her hands now clammy and cold. Then she crumpled to the floor.

On her hands and knees, Avery hoisted ~~hersef~~ [herself] to a ~~crawling~~ [crawling] position. She moved slowly, dragging each limb like it was as heavy as a barbell. Nudging open the door to her bedroom, a wave of realisation hit her.

#3 The closer she got to her ~~shadow~~ [shadow], the more energy she regained. Without her shadow, Avery wasn't complete. Without ~~every~~ [every part] of her ~~part~~ together, Avery wasn't herself. And she never ~~forgot~~ [forgot] that from that day on.

When she left the house, she checked if her shadow was following. And if not, she stayed home with it instead. It drove Avery crazy, but she had to respect ~~its~~ [its] wishes. (It was an ~~unanimous~~ [unanimous] decision).