The Vanishing Shadow

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 bright rays, as she opened her curtains with a flourish.

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 stirr. With her face pressed against the window, her breath staining the glass, she caught a glimpse of movement. Avery turned slowly, as cautious when entering a bear’s den.

A flikering 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 replayed the scene in her head. Surley 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 to a crawlind 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.

The closer she got to her shdow, the more energy she regained. Without her shadow, Avery wasn’t complete. Without every of her part together, Avery wasn’t herself. And she never frogot 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 it’s wishes. (It was an unanimous decision).