At exactly 9 o’clock in the morning me and my class went on an excursion to a rainforest expecting nothing weird. As we arrived, not even one of us suspected a thing about the forest. It was all calm with a few bird songs making it the most tranquil rainforest I’ve ever been to. While a walked silently with my class, I noticed the strangely displaced bamboo.

It was off the path, leaning oddly, almost as if someone, or something, had moved it. I slowed down, staring at it. A flash of bright green caught my attention. A small lizard darted up the bamboo and disappeared behind the thick leaves. Without realising, I stepped off the trail for a closer look.

By the time I turned around, the class was gone.

“Hello?” I called, my voice sounding too small under the giant trees. “Ms. Reys? Raymond? There was no answer. Only the sound of the forest responding in its own way. The leaves rustled gently, even though there was no wind. The trees loomed above me, their trunks twisting like they were alive. The vines swayed slightly, hanging down like curtains that hid hidden doors.

The sky began to darken. Clouds gathered fast, and the air turned heavy and damp. Rain started to fall in soft, steady drops. The forest, once calm, now felt awake. It was as if it had been pretending to sleep while we walked through, and now that I was alone, it was watching me.

I started to hear whispers in the leaves and the bamboo, but I thought I was just hearing things. The creepy whispering started to grow louder and louder until it stopped abruptly. Just as my heart started to pound harder, I heard a voice.

“Kai? Is that you?”

I froze. The voice sounded like Raymond’s, but it came from the trees, not the path. I turned slowly and looked around. That’s when I noticed something else. The leaves were shaking, but there was no wind.

“Kai, come here”

This time it didn’t sound like Raymond’s as much. I didn’t dare to speak or move because of all the kidnap stories I read last night. I spun around trying to find the speaker but all I saw was leaves rustling in the still air. That was when I realised that the Sci-Fi stories could be true and the forest might be trying to take me prisoner.

Unexpectedly, the sun came out which lightened my mood greatly. Its light helped me find my way back to the track which my classmates and teacher were on. I rejoined the group like nothing had happened. None of my classmates noticed that I was missing and when I asked them about how the sun came out so fast, they all said it was just a coincidence. I just laughed and said that I agreed but, in my heart, I know that something in the forest which knew how to talk was alive and tried to take me into an uncharted territory.