

# **Journey to the Valley of Light**

**By Ten\_chan**

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*This is a tale of three very different beings; a human, an elf, and a centaur. With a kind of 'Hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil' theme, each of them is missing one ability; speech, hearing, or sight. However, they join together on a journey t*

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<b>Chapter 1 - Mute and Deaf</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Chapter 2 - Joining Together</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Chapter 3 - When Trees Throw Fruit</b>	<b>5</b>

# 1 - Mute and Deaf

Lily walked through the forest by herself. She had heard of a place called the Valley of Light. She had heard that it was a beautiful place where there were no wars, everyone was friends with everyone, the weather was always perfect, and where peace reigned. She had also heard that the Valley of Light could be found in the West. So that's where she was headed; to the West to find the Valley of Light. As she walked through the forest, she smiled at the songs of the birds and at the squirrels chasing each other up the trees. She giggled a little, but the sound didn't come. It was just silence.

Lily Alshemay was mute, and she always had been for as long as she could remember. It was quite hard on her sometimes, having to say everything with sign language or not being able to really laugh at a joke. Yet, she still managed with it. There was always someone around who understood sign language and could act as her voice. Though, they never stayed by her side constantly. It was always someone different who would be Lily's voice.

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Alex sat alone beneath a tree. He knew that no one would ever accept him, especially not other elves. He was different from all of them, and he knew it. He sighed sadly and conjured a small orb of pale blue light. A small sparrow landed on his arm and opened its beak. Alex smiled at it, and the little sparrow looked at him. The young elf put out the small orb of light, and the sparrow opened its beak for a moment before it flew away.

From the moment he was born, Alexaldrian Koramaar was deaf. He had never heard the song of a bird or the music at elfin festivals. It was tough for him sometimes, not being able to hear the birds or listen to elfin music. However, he ignored it most of the time and didn't let it bother him. Even though he'd been shunned by all other elves, he still managed to keep a cheerful attitude. Yet, he wished he had someone to be his ears.

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Lily stopped and looked around. She'd seen a small light for a moment, but it hadn't lasted long. She started to head in the direction that she'd seen the light, and she came into a clearing where she saw a teenage boy about her age sitting beneath a tree. She slowly moved closer, not wanting to startle him. As she got nearer to him, she saw that he had the long, pointed ears of an elf. She wasn't really paying

attention to her feet until she was right next to the young elf, and then she stopped and knelt down next to him. She tapped him on the shoulder, and the young elf panicked.

Alex stared at the young human girl kneeling beside him. His heart was pounding so fast that he felt as though it would burst. He wished that he could've heard her coming. He longed to be able to hear the sounds of the world. Yet, his wish would never come true, and he knew it. He swallowed hard, hoping the girl would just leave him be and not harm him. The human girl gestured to him in sign language, saying `It's okay. I won't hurt you.'

"How did you know?" Alex asked.

`What do you mean?' The girl inquired in sign language.

"How did you know about my..." Alex paused, choosing his words carefully. "My *curse*?" He finished. "How did you know to speak to me in sign language?"

`It's the only way I *can* speak.' The girl answered. `I'm mute...'

Lily didn't understand what the elf meant by `his *curse*'. The elf stared at her when she told him that she was mute.

"Oh...I-I didn't realize." He stated. "So...you don't...don't know about it..."

`Know about what?' Lily questioned.

"I'm deaf." The elf replied. "I have been for as long as I can remember." Lily stared at him.

## 2 - Joining Together

They sat there in silence for a little while. After a little while, she had an idea.

`I'm on a journey to the Valley of Light.' She told the young elf. `Would you like to come with me?'

Alex looked at her, surprised that anyone would ever want him with them. He was unsure of what to say. He wasn't used to being accepted by anyone. Slowly, he nodded.

"Of course I'd like to come with." He told the young girl. "You have no idea what this means to me..."

`What do you mean?' The young girl asked.

"I've been shunned my whole life." Alex answered. "No one has ever accepted me...just because I'm deaf. To be a deaf elf is as good as being a *dead* elf. So...I'm not used to being accepted, but it just makes me feel so good inside."

Lily felt sorry for the elf when she heard him say that. *It must be tough on him, always being shunned because he can't hear.* She thought.

`Well, I'm accepting you.' She told him. `I'm not going to shun you just because you're deaf.' The elf smiled at her.

"By the way," He said. "My name's Alexaldrian Koramaar, but you can just call me Alex." Lily smiled.

`My name is Lily.' She told him.

"That's a pretty name." Alex remarked. Lily laughed silently and happily a little bit.

`Come on,' She stated. `Let's go!'

"Right!" Alex agreed. "On to the Valley of Light!"

### 3 - When Trees Throw Fruit

So they set off for the Valley of Light. As they were walking, the forest suddenly seemed extremely dark, even though they knew that there was not a cloud in the sky and everything was sunny.

`That's strange...` Lily remarked. `Why is everything so dark?`

“This is the part of the forest that's always dark like this.” Alex explained to her. “We've got to be careful. There have been rumors of many tree spirits in this part of the forest as well as living trees and other creatures.” Lily nodded and kept close to Alex. *I'll help him if anything attacks him and he can't hear it.* She thought. *I've had people to be my voice, but if he's been shunned his whole life, he's probably never had anyone to be his ears.*

All of a sudden, a fruit came whizzing through the air and hit Alex in the same of his head. Alex jumped and looked around.

“Who threw that?” He asked. Just then, a tree swung one of its branches and threw another fruit at him. This time, Alex noticed the branches moving without any wind to blow them, and he got spooked.

“Yikes! Moving tree!” He exclaimed, ducking behind Lily. Then, the tree spoke.

“What are you doing in our part of the forest, elf?” It demanded.

`Talking tree, too.` Lily informed Alex.

“Oh, really?” Alex asked. Lily nodded. Alex then came out from behind Lily and glared at the tree.

“Hey! Tree!” He called. “Talk to the hand, `cause the elf can't hear you!” With that, he looked away and held up his hand with the palm facing towards the tree.

“So you're deaf, are you?” The tree commented. “Let's see how you handle this then!” It then raised about five more branches, and all six of the branches it now held up were each holding a ripe fruit at the ends. The tree began throwing the fruits at Alex. Lily saw them and heard them, and she grabbed Alex and pulled him down to the ground so that he wouldn't get hit. One of the fruits landed right in front of Alex's face.

“That was close.” He acknowledged. He looked at Lily.

“Thanks for pulling me down like that.” He told her. She smiled at him and helped him up. Then, the two of them ran through the dark forest, covering their heads with their arms as they were bombarded with fruits from several trees along the way.