

The forest of disappearances

One day Alice, who lived in a village surrounded by forests, decided to go with her friends to walk around the town. She went to the house of Mara and Nuria, her best friend. The three friends went down a track, in the middle of the track they heard laughter and whispers coming from the forest, they were very scared because she couldn't see anyone. Still they continued the way. After that, five minutes passed until Mara said that they were walking around, since it was the third time they passed through that tree, since while her two friends were not looking, she made an arrow-shaped mark with a stone on the tree. The three friends panicked. The three friends kept listening to those dark and horrible laughter and whispers until half an hour later they decided to separate so they could find their way back. Alice left for the north, Mara for the south and Nuria for the west, the three friends were to make marks for the trees to be able to know where they had gone. Every fifteen minutes they had to return to inform the others about what they were seeing. In the first, second and third fifteen minutes the three friends met to report that they only saw trees, it was already almost 7 in the afternoon and the sunlight was beginning to disappear. In the next fifteen minutes when they met, Mara and Nuria were there, Alice was missing. Scared in case something had happened to their friend, they went to the north, the cardinal point which Alice walked to. Following the arrows that Alice put in the trees they came to a clearing, but they could not see anything or anyone. In the clearing the whispers and laughter began to disappear until only the joyful and calming chirping of the birds was heard. They could see a very big arrow in the grass made of dry branches.

They followed the arrow thinking that Alice had made it because she had found the right path. After walking for a while they could see the town in the distance. When they got to town they went to Alice's house to talk to her, but Alice's mother told them that she never came home that afternoon. The next day all of the people of the town went looking for Alice. Two days later one person who was looking for Alice informed the people that they had found Alice's corpse. The corpse was in the forest where the three teenagers got lost. The body was on a stone altar covered by ivy where you could barely read the many engravings that it had on its sides. One of the oldest grandmothers in the town said that when she was little, in the forest many sacrifices were made of young girls until the men who made the sacrifices were taken prisoner for doing atrocities, since then strange things have happened in the forest and a lot of people have disappeared. The police carried out an investigation and found the bodies of dozens of people buried next to the altar forming the symbol of the satanic star. Months later I discovered that one of the people arrested for that same case 60 years earlier escaped from jail and had a cabin in the woods near that old altar and was arrested as the main suspect. It was discovered that that old man was the one who killed the girl and many more people than previously thought.

- 1- What did the girls use to know the way back to the meeting point?
- 2- Where was Alice found?
- 3- How much did you like the story? Give a mark from 1 to 5 (being 1 the minimum and 5 the maximum)