

I woke up the next day to my alarm which I had made sure I remembered to set. I got up and had a new spring in my step. We were learning more and more about the magic and we had a new member of the team. My parents noticed and looked at me funny. Hey honey, what's up? My mom asks me. Just enjoying the day. I tell her and hug her goodbye. She was surprised and I smiled and pulled away and waved goodbye. She smiled in a way she hadn't smiled in years. Bye darling! She says and I walk with Dad down to the car. We got in and my dad sighed. So, Ms Amy called and said she would like to do some extended sessions since your making head way. He says. Why would w- wait. Clever Ms Amy. More time meant more time in the book world. Yeah, their going really well. I tell him. He nods. We continue our drive in silence. I walk into school and unfortunately have to avoid Jake a lot. It hurt not to be able to talk to him but with Mary Jane's spies everywhere, no where was safe. I heard him call my name but i hurried faster to my next class. I sighed and sat down in my next class. Math again. This lesson was not very fun and I almost fell asleep in class. After that, I walked to my car and sighed. Another day, another step closer to summer. I tell myself optimistically but it didnt really help. I got in the car. We pulled away from the school and I watched as the cluster of buildings recede. Dad, can we do a Code Cream? I ask him randomly. He seems taken aback. Uh sure, lets do one. He says and a small smile comes across his face. Now you're probably asking, Riley, what's Code Cream? Well im happy to answer to for you. Code Cream is something I came up with a while back. Whenever I needed to talk to Dad about something, I would say "Dad I need a Code Cream" and most times we'd go to the local Baskin Robins and get ice cream and talk there. We hadn't done one in years. Not since Ryan disappeared. We pulled into the tiny ice cream shop and the familiar tinkling of the bell as the door opened greeted me. The sweet smell of sugar and an assortment of different incredible flavors wafted through the air. I sighed and remembered all the times we came here. Welcome to Baskin Robins, what can I get for you? A kind portly lady in the Baskin Robin's uniforms uniform asks. Hi, can I get a scoop of the moose tracks in the cake cone and... what do you want? He asks me. I give him a mock shocked face that he had forgotten my usual. Two scoops of the cookie dough in a waffle cone please. I say and smirk at my dad. He chuckles. Is that all for yall today? She asks sweetly. Yes ma'am. My dad says and hands her his card.

We pay and she fixes us our ice cream. We walk out to the nearby park and sit in our old spot. Thanks Dad, I needed this. I tell him. No problem sweetie, so what's it you need to talk about? He asks me. I face him. Well, its about what happening at school. There's some mean girls that are pretty rough and their being jerks. I dont know what to do. I tell him and my eyes tear up. Awww baby. Its ok. Well, theres really no way to figure out the web of drama but I can tell you this, next time they pull a stunt like that tell them 'hey, you may think its funny but its not. And im not afraid of you. Do what you want, I dont care' then walk off. It takes away their power over you and they'll probably leave you alone he says and takes a lick of his ice cream. A tear rolls down my cheek. I tackle him in a hug and he chuckles. Thanks Dad. I tell him, letting myself enjoy being in his safe embrace. No problem baby. He says and we finish our ice cream. We head home and the night goes on as normal. Though, i did want to try another book world trip. I think i was on better terms with my parents now and it felt good to get back to a sense of our past lives. I waited again for my parents to go to bed and got out my binder. Hmm, lets see if I can't change the timing around a bit. I think and open it up. I looked at the clock. 10:37. Ok, lets go for two minutes. I think. I flip to the Shannon falls part but stop mid turn. Wait. I flip back a bit to where Heather was alone in a section of the forest and was watching the stars. Another scene I wanted to go to. I wish to go to this place. I say loudly but not enough to wake up my parents. The tingle and blackout sucks me in. I recover quicker this time. I think im getting the hang of it. I think and realize i was in the scene. I made Heather, or myself, sit down on the rock and watch the constellations and stars. Wow, i could really get used to this. I think and reflect for a moment on the days events. The talk really struck home. I thought for a second and stood up. I had given Heather a special power. I dont know how to activate it though. I think. I warily open my mind to Heather's thoughts. I was bombarded by all the new information and almost pulled out but I desperately wanted to know how to activate it. I was conscious of the fact I had to leave soon. Come on come on. I think and finally find it. I latch onto it and realize I really needed to leave. Ok, note to remember this. I say and forced myself to concentrate. I wish to go home. I say. No tingle. Panic again. I wish to go home! I say. No tingle. I WISH TO GO HOME! I yell and the tingle finally comes. As I settle back in the real world, my heart doesnt stop

Racing. Its getting harder to
come back on my own. I think
and I know its gonna be a
while before I fall asleep if I
do.