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The Ladder into the Cave

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NIGHTMARISH DREAM

Allison Graham

A dream is a nightmare
 With all the right pieces
 In all the right places
 Seeing yours gave me a scare.

Mine are of glory and sun shining bright
 Of grass and gleaming drops of dew
 Yours are of dark forests and quiet streams
 Where you find pleasure, I find a fright.

I followed you into a dream
 Once upon a time and far away
 You swam with fish and mermaids
 As the sun made the waves gleam.

What struck me most, though
 Were the sounds and the sights
 As they pulled you under
 And soaked you through.

I thought you must be mad
 As you laughed and shouted
 Could you not see the way their smiles
 Spoke of something terrible, something bad?

Their smiles were wide
 Their eyes were vicious
 You saw no danger
 But I could see it coming in: the tide.

I began to panic; my mind raced
 I could not find a way to help
 You still smiled, without a care
 The tide came closer as I paced.

Then all at once, it was over
 We were awake,
 Staring at blue skies
 And lying on a bed of clover.

We sat there together
 Watching the wind toss the leaves
 And then you smiled and said
 Something I will remember forever

“A nightmare is a dream,
 With all the right pieces
 In all the right places
 The only difference is the seam.”

THE LADDER INTO THE CAVE

Hayley Earnest

