

Prologue

Irene looked at the mirror of green water in front of her. The alpine lake of Carezza was tied up at the most painful memory of her childhood, but Alessandro didn't know yet it.

- This place is extraordinary! How did you discover it? -

- I used to come here sometimes on holiday with my family when I was a child. -

Irene's eyes became sad, but it wasn't time to tell her boyfriend yet what happened in the summer of her nine years.

- Ale, do you know Ondina's legend? -

- No, never listened. Let me hear... -

- Do you see the statue there? It's bronze, it was built to remember the legend. People tell this lake was inhabited by nymph Ondina. The wizard of Masaré heard her sing and he fell in love hopelessly. He made a rainbow on the lake to attract her to him, presenting himself as a seller of jewellery and precious stones; but he forgot to dress up. When the nymph came out from the water, she recognized the wizard and she got scared; so she fled into the depths of the lake never to emerge again. He for the angry took the rainbow and shattered it in thousand of pieces throwing it in the lake, with the jewellers and the precious stones. Because of this its water reflects the colors of the rainbow.

- Interesting... so that is the nymph's statue? -

- Exactly. -

- Well, but it's just a legend... -

- Yeah, and yet it fascinated people who decided to remember it forever, building the statue. - Irene added, almost resentful for that adjective "interesting" used by her boyfriend, who didn't do it justice to that extraordinary story in her opinion.

- Now let's see if the inside of the lake is so misterious and particular like the surface of its water... -

Alessandro took off the T-shirt and the shorts and he put on his scubagear.

- Are you sure you want to do this immersion? You know, the water of the lake can be dangerous. -

- Yeah I'm sure, be calm. I dive in continuously in waters more fearsome than this, it's my passion. -

- I know, I know, but promise me that you'll be careful. -

Irene looked at Alessandro with a rather worried look. He came closer and planted a tender kiss on her lips.

- I come back soon my love. In the meantime you get a little tan... -

A second later he disappeared in the lake. Irene sighed. She didn't want to ruin that relaxing day with sad thoughts, so she decided to follow her boyfriend's advice. She lay down in the sun with headphones in her ears and dozed off listening to Chopin.

- Irene! Look at what I found! -

Alessandro's voice woke up her suddenly. She had fallen asleep and she had dreamed. She didn't remember what, but she felt a strange sensation, of anguish. She tried not to think about it and concentrate instead about the object that shined in her boyfriend's hand.

- It's like gold, look! -
- Oh God! But I know this bracelet... let me see the interior! - Irene's heart sank. Her hands trembled while she brought the wet bracelet, she proved to read the interior. The writing was still there, engraved, indelible like twenty years ago: "Forever".
- Irene, what do you have? Are you fine? -
- No, not fine at all. This bracelet belongs to my father. -
- But you told me your father is dead. -
- Yeah, sure. He died here, in this lake. I was only nine. -