

## THE SLEEPING DEEP

by

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**LOGLINE:** A young journalist and a psychiatric nurse are both drawn into the mystery of a drowned woman in the backwoods of Maine. Their journey leads them to a sacred lake, an ancient Indian tribe, and a dream world of gruesome demon-spirits.

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**SYNOPSIS:** 3 YEARS AGO... KEVIN (27) & JENNIE (25) are visiting backwoods Maine when Kevin asks her to marry him over a game of scrabble. They celebrate by camping out and later that night, Jennie is “drawn” to a mysterious lake where black tentacles encircle her and pull her down into its depths.

PRESENT DAY... CHARLOTTE (26) is not doing well in her new publishing house job in Providence, Rhode Island and her imposing boss BARBARA (50) is giving her one more chance, an assignment to report on backwoods New England. Friend/co-worker ERIC (27) encourages her to make the best of it. That night Charlotte finds another rejection letter from a literary magazine in her mail. She falls asleep and we enter Dreamscape (a hyper-reality of dramatic skies, ancient landscapes, and gothic atmosphere), where Kevin pledges his soul to the demon spirit Fashtanak in order to find Jennie. Kevin awakens from this shared Dreamscape to find he is actually in a library. At the Portland, Maine hospital, psychiatric nurse JANICE (55) visits Kevin, who has been “hearing voices” since the accidental drowning of Jennie at the lake. Later at St. Ann’s Halfway Home he shows her his sketches of creatures/symbols/bizarre lands and explains, “they’re hiding her”. Meanwhile Charlotte is in New England and immediately hears about the mysterious Hokum Bog. A google search brings up no entries, which intrigues her all the more. Arriving at Stony Hill Folk Museum, Charlotte meets old-timer STONY HILL (65), who gives her directions to Hokum Bog/Foes End, saying... “Hokum Bog is more like a state of mind.” Before she leaves she takes a photo of a newspaper clipping, the headline reads: *Drowned Victim Retrieved From Lake*.

Charlotte arrives at Foes End to find a statue of a woman grappling a hideous two-headed eel. Soon after she comes across Lakeside Inn, an eerie spot with no one save the unfriendly proprietors, HAROLD (50) and EFFIE (60). Meanwhile Janice discovers Kevin having one of his nightmares and a mysterious symbol on his chest. Charlotte asks Effie about the drowning but only gets vague answers. That night while sleeping she is visited by an eel-like demon-creature with inky black tendrils. Back at the hospital Kevin is in a coma. In Dreamscape... Kevin chases Jennie who becomes Charlotte who becomes a demon-beast. Kevin kills it with his sword.

Charlotte awakens in her car from the same dream and realizes she is no longer at the Inn. She returns to find it boarded up as if it has been vacant for years. She returns home to find that her own cat doesn’t know her, and is soon having bouts of nausea that her doctor cannot explain. Searching the web for more info on Jennie’s drowning, she comes across a photo of Kevin and recognizes him from her dreams, also discovering that Harold &

Effie committed double-suicide in 1978. At work Eric worries about her. Meanwhile Janice has a flashback of her former patient, Audrey, who killed herself by jumping off a roof. Janice packs her things, deciding she owes it to Kevin to check out his story. In Dreamscape Kevin watches as Charlotte slices open Jennie's belly, pulls out a baby creature, then kills it. Charlotte awakens and decides she must return to Foes End.

Janice learns more about the Jennie drowning from SGT. DEMERS (45), who tells her it was a cut and dry case. She recognizes the symbol on Jennie's body as one of Kevin's sketches and is sent to see Stony Hill to learn more. Meanwhile, Eric searches Charlotte's apartment for clues of where she went. Charlotte's trip turns eerie when she sees creatures in mirrors and "the symbol" on her stomach. Stony shows Janice a skeleton of a giant eel and tells of the Maknaki Indians and their relationship with the lake. The lake fed them eels and in return they paid tribute to the lake via ritual. In Dreamscape Kevin fights the demon MAZIMUS for the return of Jennie & Charlotte but is soundly defeated. Stony and Janice find Charlotte lying unconscious next to Jennie's grave, and Stony has an idea.

At "That Healing Feeling" herbal studio, we meet spiritual counselor NELLIE (50), who enters Charlotte's Dreamscape and saves her from Fashtanak. This resuscitates Charlotte, who reveals she saw Kevin die in her dream. Janice then gets a call informing her that Kevin has just died. Nellie explains about Fashtanak, evil spirit of the lake, and the symbol, which is a gateway. Nellie takes Charlotte and Janice to Hobbs Island via canoe while Stony goes to his museum to collect the tools needed for a ritual exorcism. Stony runs into Eric, who has arrived looking for Charlotte. Eric tags along and convinces Stony to check out Lakeview Inn. They find nothing and move on, but Effie releases dozens of "Sosk" creatures into the night. Stony/Eric arrive on Hobbs Island and join the others... the Sosk follow. During the ritual, walls of water rise and fire erupts. Charlotte disappears in a flash of light and enters Dreamscape as a Maknaki warrior.

In Dreamscape Charlotte fights a demon (formerly Kevin) while our heroes fight off the "Sosk" creatures in our world using primitive weapons from Stony's museum. In the lair of Mazimus, Charlotte gets past another demon (formerly Jennie). Our heroes are winning their battle against the Sosk when Eric is suddenly killed by Effie. Fashtanak then rises out of the lake 15 stories high and explodes, transformed into a harmless rain. Charlotte re-appears and our heroes realize they have beaten the evil spirit of the lake. Later at Lakeview Inn, Sgt. Demers finds the remains of Jennie and countless others.

ONE YEAR LATER... Charlotte is now a successful novelist and signing her new book, "The Sleeping Deep". She talks via phone with Janice, who is now helping Stony Hill at his folk museum and dime shop. That night, Charlotte takes her sleeping medication, while off the coast of Maine... Nellie rows out into the bay and conjures up an enormous tentacle, which promptly thrusts her into the ocean deep. The nightmare is not over...

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