## The man in the forest

Since I was little I have suffered from alexithymia, a weird condition that doesn't let you feel emotions such as happiness, sadness, horror, anxiety etc. I was always told to pretend I was "normal" my mother and father were disappointed at me for being a "weirdo" which I didn't really care about. I mean I couldn't feel anything.

At school I wasn't friends with anybody, they constantly bullied me for not feeling anything. I don't laugh at jokes, feel sad about insults, feel nervous about exams and more. One day my parents left for a work meeting. They were always out, I kinda enjoy being alone reading or doing some "nerdy" stuff but then outside I saw a man? No it wasn't a normal man it had a smiley face, no nose, ears, mouth etc.

I went out to check that thing. It seemed friendly. He took my arm and guided me through the forest. I saw a valley, flowers, a deer family and squirrels. For the first time in my entire life I felt happy? It was awesome, but the smiley face man didn't want me to leave so I ran off.

I didn't want to find the smiley face man. I had a bad feeling about him, I just finished my homework and went to sleep as usual. Every time I felt well nothing appeared and made me happy, I told a random classmate about this and they said I was crazy. They reported me to the office. I told everything but they of course believed I was crazy.

The next day I woke up and everyone's faces were plain skin with a smiley face on them with no mouth, ears, nose etc. They acted weird around me loving and caring but I didn't like it. They were creepy. I ran as fast as I could. They were following me as if they didn't want me to leave but I fell and hit my head on a rock, but then I woke up? "Hey sweety glad you woke up, you were in a coma for 2 years." I saw the nurse's uniform, it was a hospital one, but I turned my head to my left. I saw all of the people I knew were outside but with a smiley face. They were after me...


