Halloween Short Story Contest - 3rd place - high school category

American Corner Veszprém

**Creepy Stories to My Great Grand-Niece**

by Elizabeth Umbra

‘Look what we found. It’s a book written by my Great-Aunt Dahlia.’

‘Didn’t she disappear mysteriously while writing it?’

‘Yes, actually she never finished it’.

Aunt Dahlia lived in a hilltop villa with a garden full of flowers all through the year, even in winter. When Halloween was approaching, she would write a story and read it to us when we visited for trick-or-treating. But one Halloween she disappeared before giving us the story. The scariest thing was that night we could hear her voice among all the others crying for help as if she were terrified of something. I was woken up by my mom yelling at me to pack as quickly as possible. This is when I realized that Aunt Dahlia would not be coming back as I knew her, or that she might never return. We left at once. At home I unpacked my suitcase and found a letter. As I cut open the envelope, I heard a scream, the same voice as in Aunt Dahlia’s house. I threw the envelope down and it stopped screaming. The letter went like this:

“Dear Elizabeth,

I hope this letter is never going to be given to you, but I guess I need not say that if you are reading it. The reason is I do not know for sure if I will be alive on the 31st of October. The stories I write to you are for a book. The last story is the one I am writing now. I fear this will be the last day I will be a person and on the first of November I will enter the world as a shadow of love, pain and judgment. I chose you to get this letter with hope that you will believe me and that you will take good care of the villa. The reason you could not find me anywhere is that I was transforming. Did you know that your great grandmother was a witch and that your great grandfather was a living shadow? If you want to know more the book is on my bedside table. The last story will in the book. Do not touch the book without the gloves on my dressing table. And do not enter the house before a year has passed. But do enter the house then as it will shut you out otherwise. Please continue the tradition of writing stories. Do not show this letter to anyone before you enter the house a year from now. As you might have guessed the house is securely haunted meaning it is haunted but in need it will protect the owner. You should visit it often as this will make the house loyal to you. I hope this will help you.

All my love,

Your dear Great-Aunt Dahlia

PS: Please remember me as an aunt not a magical being. And please could you publish my book under the name “Creepy stories to my great grand-niece”.