

Writing Sample From
THE PUPPET OF TERSA
EPISODE 1
"A CURIOUS PLACE"

FADE TO:

EXT. TERSA FOREST - DAY

Cynthia is dropped into a darkened forest by the shadowy tendrils. She is kneeling on the ground. She stands with MR. HOPS in hand and takes a moment to orient herself. She is in the middle of a very dark forest. Strange shadows and glowing eyes lurk not too far away, all watching her.

CYNTHIA

Wh-what was that?

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)

(Not able to see well)

I-I can't see anything... Mom!
Dad! Can you hear me?

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)

No response. Okay, Cynthia, don't
panic. Breathe.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)

Let's figure this out...

CYNTHIA

The ground's cold and... wet, and
I hear... Hmm, I'm outside
somewhere. In a forest? Did I
sleepwalk? There's some sort of
light over there.

As Cynthia emerges into a slightly lighter area of the forest, it looks like any other forest, but it soon becomes obvious this is no forest like she has ever seen. Mossy vines hang lazily from tree branches only to twitch and grasp at something scurrying by. Subtly glowing wisps pass

overhead and disappear through the foliage. Though she can't see it directly, something from within the shadows watches her every move. Tiny, creepy glowy eyes occasional appear and disappear. Some of the vegetation provides illumination, like they have fireflies in them. Little pink flowers retreat into blooms when Cynthia gets near them and bunny snaps appear and disappear.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)
(stepping into the light)
Where... am... I?

Cynthia is trying to understand where she is.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)
(rubbing her head)
Oh, my... Did the bed fall on me?
Is... is this a dream?

TIPPO, a small greenish fairy-like creature with feathery wings and pointed ears flies toward Cynthia from a lighter area of the forest. He has big black eyes and a red gem in his head. The gem, at this time, is dark. Parts of his body look to have stitching. He is excitable, uses poor grammar, and refers to himself in the third person.

Dialogue Knot - Tippo

TIPPO: Hi there!

CYNTHIA (taking a step back): Whoa. Uh... hi?

-> **AskTippo**

=== **AskTippo** ===

* **/*leaning closer*/** Who... I mean, what are you? Are you some sort of bird?

The little creature pirouettes in the air.

TIPPO: Tippo don't think so. What is bird? Is it tasty? 'cus Tippo hungry.

CYNTHIA: It flies and... uh... never mind. -> **AskTippo**

* Where am I?

TIPPO /*giggling*/: You don't know? This is Maze.

** Maze?

TIPPO: Well, is Tersian Forest, but Tippo just call it Maze. So many people get lost all time and all ask Tippo to help find way out.

CYNTHIA (to self): A forest... maybe I did hit my head.

CYNTHIA (to Tippo): You see, Tippo, I was just in my room, and now-

TIPPO: Oh, oh, oh! Tippo never heard of Mirume! Is new place in Tersa Tippo not know?

CYNTHIA: What? No, no. My room. My bedroom.

******* Wait, Tersa? What is Tersa?

TIPPO */*giggling*/*: Silly! This Tersa. You in Tersa. Welcome -> **AskTippo**

* ->

-> **DONE**

CYNTHIA

Tippo, I need to get back to my room. Will you help me?

TIPPO

Okay! It be fun. Tippo like new places, and Tippo not see Mirume before. Oh, what Tippo call you?

CYNTHIA

Oh! I'm sorry. I'm a bit flustered.

TIPPO

Alrighty, Bit Flustered. Nice to meet you. Other people may know--

Cynthia

What? No, that's not my name. I'm Cynthia. My name's Cynthia.

TIPPO

Ooooh! Alrighty, Cynthy. How come friend don't talk?

Cynthia
Friend? What friend?

TIPPO
(pointing at Mr. Hops)
Little Furry.

Cynthia
(giggling)
Oh! That's Mr. Hops. He doesn't
talk. He's my toy bunny.

TIPPO
Okay, okay. Cynthia hold on to
bunny. Would not want get lost.

Cynthia
Oh, okay.

TIPPO
Now... we go ask people about
Mirume.

BUKIT, a strange non-human person wearing an ice cream bucket around his furry, purple body is looking up into a tree that is covered with actual buckets. He's gruff but pleasant enough once you get to know him.

CYNTHIA
Um, excuse me? I'm trying to find
my way home. Can you help me?

BUKIT
(stretching to reach
something)
Not now. Can't you see I'm trying
to reach a bucket?

CYNTHIA
Oh, okay.

Cynthia waits for a moment.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)
(looking side to side)
Excuse me?

BUKIT
Thought I told you I'm busy.

Dialogue Knot - Bukit 01

Cynthia waits for a moment.

CYNTHIA */*looking side to side*/*: Excuse me?

BUKIT: Thought I told you I'm busy.

* [You did...]

You did, but, well, there are plenty of buckets around here.
Why not just choose one of those?

BUKIT: When you're cooking, do you choose any old bucket? Of course not!

CYNTHIA: I'm sorry... I don't cook with buckets.

TIPPO: Do buckets taste good, Cynthia?

CYNTHIA: I don't think so. Come on, Tippo. Let's go. This guy can't help us.

BUKIT: Oh, hey now! How 'bout you two help me unravel my buckets? Then maybe I can help you.

** Sorry, but I need to find my way home.

BUKIT: Suit yourself.

*** -> */*If the player re-engages after this without agreeing to help*/*

BUKIT: Still can't talk unless you're here to help.

** [Okay, we'll help.]

Hmm, all right. We'll help.

BUKIT: Great! Just pick a spot, follow the string, and help me unravel them.

TIPPO */*giggling*/*: Hey, hey, how you know when bucket sick? It turn pail!

*/*Tippo waits a moment.*/*

TIPPO: No? Nothing? Aw, okay, we do this.

CYNTHIA: I thought you didn't know what a bucket was...

TIPPO: Of course Tippo know what bucket is. Tippo just never eat one before.

* Maybe I can help you.

BUKIT: You... help me?

** [Maybe we can help each other.]

Sure. Then maybe you could help me.

BUKIT: Deal. I just need some help unraveling these strings so I can get my best bucket.

CYNTHIA: How fun. Kind of like playing cat's cradle.

** Okay, I'll help.

BUKIT: Great. Just help me unravel these strings so I can get my special bucket, and then maybe I can help you.

CYNTHIA: I'll get right on it.