**That Glowing Penny**

**Aleena Sebastian**

**(Age: Eleven)**

Harper knew she shouldn’t be in the city. Or awake, for that matter. She pulled her cloak tighter as a freezing winter breeze blew by. She could feel the dry, rocky ground through her sandals. Scurrying past the dumpster, she stopped in front of a brick wall. She felt for the doorbell, and pressed. The echoing chimes were chilling, sending shivers up her back. Her icy blue eyes were wide open as she wanted for the door to creak open.

“Harper?” she heard a voice murmur. “What are you doing at this time of night?”

“I’m sorry, Ms. Clarisse! But I just couldn’t sleep, and Mother wouldn’t give me the pills, and those nightmares…” Harper couldn’t control the hot tears streaming down her face like waterfalls cascading down into a lake. She felt strong arms wrap around her, and took a deep breath.

“It’s okay, calm down. Let’s get you inside, and I’ll give you some extra pills.” Still sniffling, Harper nodded.

“Thank you,” she whispered.

<Story Truncated>