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Chapter 4
Dazzleland

MUSIC: (FADE IN) BLIZZARD OF OSBORN THEME

NARRATOR (V.O)

You're listening to The Blizzard of Osborn by Michael Sheen Cuddy.
Chapter 4: Dazzleland.

MUSIC: BLIZZARD OF OSBORN THEME (FADE OUT).

Scene One: Ext. Jungle – Day.

SOUND: jungle sounds, exotic birds, etc.

NARRATOR

The light was so bright and the colors so intense it hurt to look out the window. Gradually, Cassie's eyes adjusted and she couldn't believe what she saw: the bus was in a jungle! Thick, dark green leaves with giant orange and yellow blossoms pressed against the windows. The sight was so fantastical at first she didn't notice that no one else was on the bus, none of her school mates, nor the driver!

SOUND: metal door on cat cage rattling, cat meowing

CASSIE

Jet!

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NARRATOR

Cassie got up and went to the front of the bus, suddenly feeling dizzy. Her left knee ached. She must have bashed it during the tumble down the ravine.

SOUND: rattling metal door, Jet's unhappy meow

NARRATOR (cont.)

Cassie followed the sound of Jet's meow then found her up front in the stairwell, wedged in her carrier against the door.

CASSIE

Oh Jet, are you OK?

SOUND: one of Jet's loudest meows

NARRATOR

Cassie opened the carrier door and Jet leaped into her arms.

CASSIE

Oh Jet baby, I'm sorry. What happened to you?

NARRATOR

Jet looked a bit tousled, food and water had spilled on her black fur in the crash, but now that she was freed from the carrier and in Cassie's arms she was purring happily and licking Cassie's ear.

SOUND: cat purring

NARRATOR (cont.)

Holding Jet snugly, Cassie looked out at the strange jungle surrounding the school bus.

CASSIE

Where the heck are we, Jet? I have a feeling we're not in North

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Dakota anymore.

MUSIC: (incidental)

NARRATOR

After tumbling down the ravine the bus had rolled back onto its wheels on the Lower Valley Road below and slammed into a Hummer. Despite the Hummer's massive weight and size it was wiped out in the collision.

The driver of the Hummer never had a chance. His front- and side-mounted air bags had both deployed but neither prevented his neck from snapping like a twig. That was unfortunate for him, obviously, unfortunate for his family and especially unfortunate for Cassie because the driver of the Hummer would turn out to be none other than Donald Ducas, brother of David Ducas—the Crow himself—feared and reviled throughout the Empire.

MUSIC: (The After Effect)

NARRATOR

Next, Cassie was lucky to survive the school bus accident. Others were not so lucky.

MUSIC: Blizzard Theme (FADE OUT)

[end Chapter 4]