



# The Compass

"I honestly don't think I have a purpose in life," Nelly mused as she stared at the soapy dishwater in front of her.

"What do you mean by that?" Alice quipped, sitting on a stool behind her complaining friend.

"Well, everyone in this land is given something special to do, be it farming or making beautiful flowers from the earth." Nelly sighed as she plunged her hands into the water and started to work.

"You are right," her friend mused, "some gifts are more elaborate."

"Yes, for instance, you and Holly can manipulate water," Nelly turned as she smiled at her friend sheepishly.

"Yes, we can, but that smile on your face will not make me perform a trick for you," Alice rolled her eyes and chuckled.

Holly shook her head and continued her chores as the room fell into a comfortable silence. It was not an awkward time because the girls had been best friends since they could walk.

"You are not one to give up on teasing and questions," Alice finally spoke, "What is going on?"

Holly frowned and muttered, "I have been given my gift."

"Oh, my word! That is wonderful news," her friend squealed. "Why are you just telling me now?"

"I am only mentioning it because it has taken me a while not to be ashamed of what I got."

"Ashamed?! There is nothing to having gifts. The givers saw this as the best one to bless you with because that is what would fit your personality."

"I am a compass, Nelly. A compass!!! What is that supposed to mean? I know you are encouraging, but I do not like it. It is horrible." Nelly fumed. "Is it my job to be showing people stuff?"

"Precisely that!" Alice smiled, irritating Nelly further. "My grandmother was a compass, you know, and she often had the best advice for everyone."

"Nana Grace was the best, but I am not her," Nelly shook her head.

Alice finally got up from her stool to hug her distressed friend. "Being a compass is not so bad. They are the most grounded and stable people life has to offer. They make the best of friends, and they are supportive."

A very genuine smile formed on Alice's face. "You are just that, Nelly. That and more! Just try to make your gift flourish, and I will be with you every step of the way."

