

A Shadow in Need, 2016

Written by Jake Camara
jake.camara3@gmail.com
(808)-753-4706

Logline

A lonely little girl uses a magic flashlight to bring her shadow puppets to life, but with one shadow intent on hurting her, it is up to the second shadow to help her fight back till sunrise.

Characters

Amelia:

Amelia is an 8-year-old girl who wishes she could have someone to play with. She lives with her mom who works two jobs, meaning that Amelia has almost no time to spend with her mom. While the father's fate is unknown (to us), it is clear that he is not around the house, and therefore not in Amelia's life. As a result, she spends most of her days by herself, wishing that she could have a friend who can be there for her, even though she doesn't quite know how to make friends herself, or rather she's too scared to make the first step. Despite being alone, she spends her time doing whatever she can find; one of those hobbies includes making shadow puppets. Yet even she knows that shadow puppets can't fill the void within her. One night Amelia wishes on a star that she could have a friend of her own. Little does she know that her wish comes true, her shadow puppets come to life. One (known as Umbra) becomes an evil monster, while the other (known as Lumos) becomes a friend, giving Amelia the one thing she never had before. In their fight against Umbra, Lumos is knocked against the wall being cornered; Amelia leaps into action to defend Lumos from harm (as it did for her). From that she understands what it means to be a true friend, to be there for them through thick and thin.

Lumos:

Lumos is the friendly shadow that teaches Amelia what it means to be true friend. This shadow's origins may be unknown; they hold a purpose to protect their newfound friend Amelia

Umbra:

Umbra is the malicious shadow that does everything it can to hurt Amelia, seeing her as their "oppressive" puppet master. At first they are not evil or sinister, but they soon look around confused, and agitated. It doesn't listen to Amelia, unlike Lumos, and it soon lashes out against Amelia by making a scary face to her, which leads to Lumos smacking them upside the head. Umbra retaliates against Lumos and Amelia by turning into a large bear and trying swiping at Lumos, and then goes right

to Amelia. Umbra keeps antagonizing them until they turn into a dragon as a last resort. Ultimately they fail when the sun comes up, which inadvertently gives Amelia the courage to stand up for her friend.

Synopsis

In the present day story of *A Shadow in Need*, a little girl named Amelia learns what it means to be a true friend from an unlikely source. One night she wishes upon a shooting star that she could have a friend to play with, which she gets in the form of her shadow puppets coming to life. One shadow named Lumos becomes her friend, while another named Umbra becomes her enemy, all-leading to a fight for survival till sunrise.

Act I

An 8-year-old girl named AMELIA spends most of her time by herself. Her mom working two jobs, barely spend any time with her, while her father is gone. Amelia has a hard time going to sleep so she decides to turn on her flashlight to pass the time. With nothing better to do, Amelia starts making shadow puppets to entertain her until she falls asleep.

While Amelia makes little rabbits and butterflies with her hands, she sees a shooting star passing by. Deep down, Amelia wishes that she had someone to play with, even though her isolation and anxiety keep her from making any (real) friends. Suddenly her flashlight goes nuts, it starts sparking and flickering, leaving Amelia in fear. Quickly hiding under the covers hoping it will end soon.

After a few seconds the flashlight goes back to normal, Amelia pops her head from the covers and looks around the room and sees that everything is okay again. Being put at ease from the return to normality, Amelia decides to start making shadow puppets again to calm her nerves. A couple seconds go by, and suddenly her puppets acting funny, the two shadows start twitching. Amelia soon sees that the two shadows start moving on their own, freaking out at the weirdness of it, but somewhat amazed at what is happening.

Act II

Her right shadow puppet LUMOS comes to life and seems to be friendly. Lumos first creates a flower for Amelia. Then Lumos starts transforming into a squirrel, then a cat, and then turns back into its original form. Amelia starts to lighten up to Lumos, and is happy that she finally has a friend to play with, one that she is comfortable with. As she plays around with Lumos, Amelia doesn't really notice how her left puppet UMBRA doesn't really do anything. In fact all Umbra does is look around the room, then at their hands, next they look at Lumos, and finally at Amelia.

Umbra's gaze (quickly turning into a glare) is directed at Amelia with its one glowing eye. At first they act mischievous, but slowly turns evil from the lack of attention, as well as being free for the first time in its life. Amelia tells Umbra to do

something, but they don't respond, let alone comply. Amelia starts to get frustrated with Umbra and repeats herself while getting closer to them.

Suddenly Umbra turns its face into a monster to get Amelia to leave them alone, which scares her enough to fall backwards. Lumos moves into to get Umbra to back off by smacking them upside the head. Umbra really doesn't like the idea that another shadow is backing with their jailor, they soon get mad at this and transforms into a bear, shoves Lumos out of the way and attacks Amelia.

Lumos turns into a wolf and tackles Umbra to the ground, effectively pushing them both out of the wall. A fight breaks out when Lumos is knocked back by Umbra and starts making its way towards the girl. Amelia quickly bolts over her toy chest and starts throwing whatever she can grab at Umbra, knocking Umbra back into the wall. Lumos changes back to their original form, jumps into the wall, and then creates a cannon against Umbra and fires while their distracted.

The cannon ball shoots a hole through Umbra causing them to change back into their original form. Umbra then creates a ballista to shoot at Lumos, while they both continue to dodge each other. Eventually Umbra's ballista destroys Lumos' s cannon. Amelia uses her hands to help Lumos, by making an alligator to destroy Umbra's ballista.

Umbra becomes furious that the girl and their counterpart keep making of fool of them. In a last ditch effort to get rid of their jailor, Umbra turns itself into ferocious dragon, smacks Lumos in the face with their tail, and soon pulls off the wall marching into the room. Amelia is terrified as Umbra comes towards her, her flash light is knocked out of her hands, Lumos tries to get off the wall, but struggles to do so.

Act III

Amelia runs from the toy chest, which Umbra knocks out of the way. Amelia dodges Umbra's attacks and runs to get her flashlight back. Umbra doing everything in their power to hurt Amelia and keep the flashlight away from her successfully swipes the little girl away from the flashlight. Amelia is knocked back against her bed and is cornered by Umbra, but then Lumos finally rips himself off the wall, and springs into action.

Lumos creates a sword and shield for him, as well as a knight's outfit while they are in mid air above Umbra. Lumos lands in front of Amelia and puts their shield up just in time before Umbra breathes fire (or in this case green smoke), protecting Amelia, who opens her eyes to see what's going on. Lumos uses their sword against Umbra slashing away, damaging them as they go. Meanwhile Amelia runs for the flashlight and shines it directly at Umbra. Once the dragon is hit with the light, they start to sizzle and weaken from the light.

Just as things are starting to look up, the flashlight burns out, and with the (magic) light gone, Umbra slowly recovers their strength. Lumos keeps up the attack but as soon as the light goes out, Umbra knocks both Lumos and Amelia across the room, while smashing the flashlight in the process. After seeing their handiwork, Umbra starts charging straight at Lumos while they're down. Amelia runs in between Lumos and Umbra and shields Lumos from the fearsome dragon, the little girl standing her ground to protect her friend, closes her eyes as Umbra is about to breath green smoke (fire) to destroy both her and Lumos.

Right before Umbra's fire breath is released, an alarm starts blaring, filling the room with noise. The two shadows look around wondering what's going on, while Amelia sees the sunlight starts peeking through the curtains. Being distracted from the alarm, Umbra doesn't notice (until it's too late) Amelia grabbing one of the curtains. Amelia pulls back the curtain letting the sunlight through; the morning sun hitting against Umbra causes them to scream in pain. Lumos then moves to the other curtain and pulls it back, bathing the entire room in sunlight, Umbra having nowhere else to hide from the sunlight, explodes.

Once the fight ends, Lumos, being in a shady corner of the room goes to Amelia (who's in front of the window) to hug her goodbye. Amelia hugs back, getting a little teary eyed as Lumos disappears after the hug. Amelia looks around the chaos that is her room, a reminder of what had happened throughout the night. Suddenly hearing her mom's car coming into the driveway, Amelia runs out of her room downstairs to tell her mom about what happened. Once she leaves the room, the scene pans down to flashlight slowly flickering back on, and then fades to black.