

Meet Aether, they're running through the forest with another starlight creature trying to escape the violent petrification which is transforming each living thing into monotonous stone statues, tearing them from their humanity and individuality. As they make their way towards a lake in the centre of the forest (other creature name) stumbles and gets caught and petrified. Aether turns back to catch a glimpse of what happened before continuing to flee towards the lake. Aether reaches the lake, eyes full of tears, and starts frantically pulling different ingredients from their pockets, throwing some on the surrounding grass and some into the lake. The petrification begins to catch up with them and we see it darting towards them jaggedly.

- Aether starts to panic more, wiping their tears from splashing into the water and reaching to put one last item into the water but as they do so the petrification catches up to them and transforms them into stone with the last herb dropping slowly into the water - falling out of their frozen hand whilst one final tear falls and hits the water unlike those who were wiped away. For a beat, the water is calm and Aether stays frozen in their stone form but then the water starts to react to the magic that it was imbued with and the fizzing bubbling water starts to splash up onto Aether and make its way up their fingertips and up their arm before spiralling to their heart. Aether starts to glow and the water bursts them free from their frozen stone form and transforms them into a new, more magical looking being. Taking in their new form, they begin to walk over to their petrified friend to mourn their loss. They lean their forehead against the statue and in doing so, to Aether's surprise, the statue of their friend begins to shatter as they break free to their old self but brighter and the two embrace. At this point we zoom out to see the whole forest lighting up with the colours of the other forest creatures breaking free from their stone containment.

- consider it being something that's just in Aether that resolves the story//no lake - r+j
- they both stay as stone statues and are put together - more tragic ending
- what is turning them to stone?
- Do we need the lake moment?no

- Aether starts to panic more splashing their hands into the lake before jumping in, however as they begin to regain their bearings the petrification catches up to them and turns them into stone. The frozen Aether begins to sink down into the water but as this happens the water starts to react to the magical items that Aether had thrown into it and begins to fizz and bubble around Aether's statue body. The glowing water starts to flow into the cracks in the stone of their body and the glowing brightens in a burst of light. We see Aether break free from their frozen state in a new glowing form. They make their way out of the water, taking in their new form etc etc same ending as the other part.

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Aether is walking through the woods, picking up different herbs and flowers and putting them into the pockets of their cloak humming as they go. It's clear they're being very selective with what they pick like they know exactly what the purpose of what they're selecting is. They hear a harsh cracking sound and notice the sounds of other creatures in the forest turning to silence. As they begin to look around, they see that their fellow creatures have begun turning to stone, all stuck in horrified positions with the same blank heads and blank expressions. Aether begins to panic watching more and more of the others turn to off/crushing them etc and throwing them into the water of the lake. We see a pov shot of Aether's reflection in the water and as they throw their last items in; distorting the reflection and begin to stir it they rapidly turn to stone completing their petrification. The different pieces hit the surface of the lake and sink into the water, once they are out of sight in the depths of the water, the surface of the water starts to bubble and fizz and glow, reacting to all that's been mixed into it like the lake is a giant cauldron. With the water splashing around it begins to splash onto Aether's now stone arm and the glowing water travels up their arm and to their heart. Aether starts to glow and the water bursts them free from their frozen stone form and transforms them into a new, more magical looking being. Taking in their new form, they begin to walk over to their petrified friend to mourn their loss. They lean their forehead against the statue and in doing so, to Aether's surprise, the statue of their friend begins to shatter as they break free to their old self but brighter and the two embrace. At this point we zoom out to see the whole forest lighting up with the colours of the other forest creatures breaking free from their stone containment.

And so , because

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- connection metaphor

Stone person, friend, montage of scenes w them trying to be friends w no reaction ,
Magical hug solution
comfortin g

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Aether and their friend are in the forest that says do not enter. While playing a game with the staff around Aether turns their friend to stone by mistake. You can see the horror on Aethers' face crying.

There is a short montage of aether trying different ways to get a friend out of the stone.

- They try to break the stone with a stick. The stick splinter
- Aether cleaning the statue
- Aether reading books and noticed gum on one of the pages that send them into a flashback

Flashback to when they were younger where the star character says a potion for the magic witch breaks all cursed in return on a super important body part

Aether rushes to this witch and gives up his eye. An intimate hug is shared after a short moment the stare creature recognising aether

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Aether and Starlight are running through the forest trying to escape from a cloud of fog that is rolling after them. They don't know what will happen when it catches up to them but they know that they need to keep going. As they're making their way through the forest, Starlight stumbles, tripping and falling, getting caught by the fog and turning to stone. Aether looks back to see this happening and runs into the fog after Starlight, you can see the edges of their limbs beginning to turn to stone as they grasp onto the statue of Starlight, knowing that it's too late and embracing them turning into stone with Starlight.

We see a montage of them as a statue through time, in the sun, snow, rain, mossy etc and we gradually see a town be built around them. We cut to them as a statue in pride of place in a town centre. There is a young couple of other star creatures admiring the statue, we hear a rumbling and a crack forms on the statue, they look back to see in the distance a new cloud of fog rolling in and in terror they begin to run. The cycle starts again.

- Starting with them running through their town being petrified, make it into the woods etc etc //
- or don't put it in and consider it as world building
- Hint to a cycle at the end with the fog coming back around or another kind of disaster

Logline: Aether and Starlight are fleeing their village from an all consuming fog which is ravaging their homes and turning their people to stone, will they manage to escape or will it be too late?