

The Edge

It was almost as though I was tiptoeing toward the edge. I looked around me, and at the edge of this cliff I was surrounded by pitch black darkness. Nothing left to see or feel. It was absolutely void. Yet, just a few steps behind me, was a fire, crackling in the darkness, it was the only source of light left and the sound ever so soothing in a world full of silence. The tent nearby was a reminder of life.

The bottom of the cliff was like an endless pit of darkness, yet it was as though far within the distance I could see the lining of the trees so close together. The fog being my only barrier from seeing beyond the silhouette. I could hear the sound of shuffling behind me, and I turned my head and stared at the tent waiting to see if she would pop her head out with her everyday scowl. Moments passed in silence and with a sigh I shifted my vision toward the fire still burning.

I turned back and now at the edge of the cliff I looked down at the bottomless pit now completely pitch dark. The fog, once a barrier, was no longer in sight and the trees were no longer mere silhouettes as they spread across the land at the bottom of the cliff. I looked down into this pit and at first there was this slight sense of fear almost as though falling into it would be a never-ending cycle and I would fall for eternity. The feeling was so eerie. I felt a shiver run its way down my back. Straining my eyes, I craned my neck slightly forward. Just enough to notice a tinge of purple within the darkness. There was colour! And at that moment I blinked, and a once never-ending bottomless pit of darkness became filled with colours so vibrant, and it was...breath taking.

Sighing, I couldn't help but lean forward just a little more. I had never seen anything like it. *What was this?* I felt this rush of energy make its way through my body and I couldn't help but feel drawn to the colours. *So many colours...could I become one with them?* Colours

like red, blue, purple, teal, orange, green and yellow blended together perfectly. Just enough to not mix as one but to converge seamlessly. *Could I become one?* I did not understand what was happening...*how was I seeing this?* I noticed a bright star within the colour. It was brighter than the rest and as it shone its brightness merged with the lightest shade of purple. Mesmerized, I could not stop myself. Almost as though I lost the will to have any control over myself.

My foot was dangling over the edge and now it was the perfect time. Leaning forward, I was ready, there was a sense of resolve within me. Moving toward the colours, all I desired was to touch one...or become one. My eyes blinking, closed. I shifted my weight toward the edge of the cliff, my fingertips gripping onto the edge so I could push myself forward. The still breeze blew past me, and I felt alive for a moment.

“Adrienne? Adrienne?!” At the sound of my name, I jumped back and with a stump I fell back onto the hard ground of the edge of the cliff. I lifted my head quickly and the colours were gone...

“What were you doing?! Do you realize what you almost just did?!”

With a quick turn of my head, I reached my hand out toward her.

“No! I-It’s not my fault Elaine! The colours!”

“What colours?!”

“They were there! It was magnificent Elaine! Really!” Reality had dawned on me that it was gone and now I was left to come back to reality.

“What are you talking about Adri? Were...were you going to leave me? Am I that bad of a friend? You almost left me alone here...” Her expression saddened and I could see the lining of tears building up.

What have I done? She doesn't understand. What do I do...?

“Elaine. I wouldn't do that. It's just as I told you. The colours! They were gorgeous and I didn't realize-”

“Didn't realize that you almost left all of us? That you would have just broken us all. That...you almost left your entire life behind.”

“E-Elaine.” But she was torn and the tears that once were only building up had broken through and fell so carelessly down her porcelain skin.

“Why would you think of doing something like that?” she sobbed.

What have I done?

Sighing, I looked down, then, slowly I lifted my head up to see her broken expression. It pained me and just as that feeling reverberated within me, I realized what I needed to do. Stretching my hand out to her.

“Elaine, trust me.”

She looked at me, as if contemplating whether I was insane or not. Hesitantly, she lifted her shaking hand toward mine and holding it I tugged her away and toward the edge. We sat side by side and first looking at her, I then turned my head back to the sky. I pointed at the star in the sky that was the brightest.

“There was the lightest shade of purple right there.”

I noticed her look at me from the corner of my eye, before turning back to where I was pointing.

“It blended with this distinct shade of navy blue right there and moved so seamlessly into a bright red. It was as though this sky that seems so void right now was filled with every colour within this world and colours even brighter than a rainbow Elaine. The colours shone and the stars merged with them...Elaine. Could you close your eyes with me for a moment?”

I turned to look at her. Her expression was still confused yet she seemed to be slightly curious by what I was now trying to explain.

Closing her eyes, I followed a second later and tried to imagine the world once more.

“I want you to trust me, Elaine. I want you to try to imagine what I just described to you.”

“How am I going to know Adri? This isn't making any sense to me.”

“I know. Just...please. Try. Imagine every colour you could possibly think of in the sky. Can you imagine?”

“Yes. I can imagine seeing the colours...Like a unicorn threw up in the sky.”

“Stop talking for a second and just imagine, will you?”

“Okay okay!”

Minutes passed and we sat in silence imagining this world.

“Would you open your eyes with me now?”

As I opened my eyes I was flabbergasted by the sight before me. The colours...

“Elaine...open your eyes.”

Please see this with me...

Gasping, she put her hand over her mouth and froze.

“I- Adri, I see them. The colours. Look! There’s the red you were talking about! And the light purple! Its...It’s beautiful!”

Trying to blink her tears away she gawked at the universe we now, both were enveloped by.

“Adri...I’m sorry. I- I didn’t believe you.”

“It’s okay Elaine.”

I looked at our hands intertwined and looked back toward the sky. We sat in silence and the colours before us pulled us in further and further.

“Adri, what is that colour down there?”

Shifting my eyes away from the bright orange I was admiring, I looked down and it was at this moment we had both completely lost ourselves within this world.

“What is this colour Adri...?”

“I’m not sure Elaine.”

It was as though a shade of blue and white were mixed to create this seamless swirl and within that swirl were stars...stars of every colour possible.

We leaned forward trying to get a closer look.

“Adri, do- do you see the stars?”

“Yes, I do.”

“I...How are we seeing this? This can’t be possible right?”

“I don’t know.”

We were immersed whole. Elaine leaned forward and as she lifted her hand to reach out to the colour I felt my hand rush forward to pull her back and my whole body leaned toward her. The air hit my body in resistance, and I screamed.

“Elaine!”

Her hand still reaching forward, and her gaze locked in the colours she was now falling toward.

“Elaine please! Look at me!” I felt the tears blown off my face from the resistance as I tried to catch up and we were now engulfed within the colours.

For a second there was nothing, no light, no colour. Nothing but a void and for that split second, I thought it was the end. How could I do this to her? Elaine...I didn’t mean to make you see the colours.

Letting go of my body, I closed my eyes and surrendered myself to the void. This was our end, and it was all my fault. I felt my body turn as the air now hit my back in resistance and I thought I would fall forever. I lost her. How could I lose her? I felt the tears build up and the air blew them away showing no sign of the agony I was going through. I was ready to accept this endless cycle.

As my back hit the ground my eyes shot open from the impact, and I was blinded by the light. My eyes shut once more before I blinked my eyes open slowly and taking a moment to look around me, I was once again lost within the sight before me.

Lights of different shades covered what looked to be a forest. The trees surrounding me reflecting all the shades of purple, red, green, blue almost in the way a crystal would reflect different colours...the waterfall beside me was like a rainbow and the colours blended

so perfectly. The pool at the end of the waterfall rainbow like, shifting from shade to shade with every slight movement and the grass a dark shade of green, slightly overgrown yet beautiful, nonetheless. This place looked and felt magical... *was this what my end looked like? But where is Elaine...?* As I asked myself this question a sense of realization rushed through me. *I lost her! Where is she?*

“Elaine!”

Sitting up quickly I felt this sudden rush of adrenaline make its way through me. I need to find Elaine.

I got up and started walking around aimlessly.

“Elaine! Elaine, where are you?!”

I heard the sound of what sounded like a twig break from beside me and I turned toward the sound. I waited for a moment, and I was met with the sound of silence.

“Hello? I-is there someone there? I-I mean no harm. I promise! I’m not sure how I got here!” Screaming out loud I hoped this would not be my end...not when I had a chance find Elaine and save her.

I heard the sound of footsteps and as the sound continued the louder it got.

“Please, I mean no harm. I’m just looking for my best friend. Her name is Elaine. I lost her here and I don’t know...”

The sound of the footsteps had suddenly stopped, and I was once again met with silence. A sense of fear began to crawl its way up and my body stiffened as I waited to see what was about to happen next.

“Adri!”

Jumping out from behind the trees she tripped over the overgrown grass and fell on me. Wrapping my arms around her I caught her and helped her stand.

“Elaine! What the hell?”

Giggling, she covered her smile with her hand and looked up at me before she calmed herself down and dropped her hand to her side still smiling.

“Come on! I was joking.”

“Elaine, do you see where we are? I thought I lost you!” Feeling frustrated I sighed exasperatedly.

Elaine flinched and as her eyes widened ever so slightly, she looked up at me.

“Adri, I’m sorry, I didn’t know what to do. I didn’t mean to scare you.”

“Its okay Elaine. I just got worried. This place is different.”

“Adri...this place is beautiful Adri...I don’t know how we got here...but I want know more.”

I did not know what to say. She wanted to stay...stay here and explore. She wanted to stay with the colours...*I wanted to stay with the colours.*

“Then let’s find out.” I smiled as she jumped in the air in excitement.