

INDESCRIBABLE FEAR

Terror trickled into her brain, pinpricks puncturing every possible nerve in her body. Thick clouds settled in the front of her brain, the back buzzing with a gray she couldn't understand. Before her stood a creature, one that didn't seem naturally possible. Limbs pushed out from every part of its body, patches of hair growing in almost no pattern, its torso twisted left and right. Its face was a combination of two open gaps for eyes, filled with darkness and accompanied by a crooked frown. Its teeth looked so thin, but sharp enough to be used as needles.

At this moment all she could feel was fear, fear and shock as she stood still. She couldn't run, she was stuck. So completely stuck as her feet stayed planted to the ground. It felt as if the grass started to grow into the soles of her shoes, slowly roots sprung up from every nerve in her feet and forced their way into the earth.

The creature had begun to tread closer to her, a thump thump thump as its creaky limbs brought it closer and closer to her. It moved clumsily, feet slamming into the ground, destroying the grass in its wake. Almost an eternity passed before the creature was finally standing in front of her, face to face.

Her eyes opened wider, mouth agape with dread. Looking down at her feet, flowers now blossomed from the roots, now so deep in the dirt they must have reached the Earth's core. She returned her eyes to the creature, studying it from so close. From so much closer the creature looked different.

The creature no longer seemed so terrifying, instead it looked... lonely? It looked as if its very existence was bringing it pain, though darkness filled its eyes the darkness also had emotion. That emotion looked so sad, sad and lonely. Her heart ached for this unfortunate creature, pity clung to her chest. She tilted her head in confusion, how could a creature so scary also look so hurt.

She extended her hand with an uncertain smile, she had always been taught to give people a firm handshake when meeting them. Hopefully this creature was close enough to a "people."

"I can be your friend," she said with hesitance. "We could be friends."

The creature's needle-teeth slowly curved upwards, its empty eyes shining slightly brighter. It created a noise, a sort of moan slash groan that she assumed was some sort of happiness. The creature grabbed onto her hand, ripping her forward, breaking the roots of the plant which had now grown above her knee.

"We could play?" She suggested as she searched the area for something to do, a playground had randomly appeared out of nowhere. One filled with green swings, a yellow and blue slide, four different bridges leading from multiple castle looking bases, and a red seesaw. "Look!" she pointed as she grabbed onto one of the creature's limbs and ran over.

They started on the seesaw, the cherry red catching her eyes with the perfect shine it owned. She giggled in excitement as they both climbed on, then realizing the creature was almost quadruple her size. They tried to see the saw, but her legs couldn't reach the ground and the creature started to do all the work. It had seemed cruel to make it do everything.

"This might not work very well."

The two then moved onto the swings, the creature pushed her with all its strength, sending her so high she felt like she could taste the clouds. They tasted like cotton candy, sweet and feather light. A delicious mix of sugar and air. Maybe she had actually tasted them. The creature went next, she hadn't been able to push it very high. The creature had not been able to taste the clouds. She felt bad, it wasn't fair she got to experience the sweet treat and the creature got nothing.

Suddenly, a staircase appeared at the highest point of the playground. It looked like it went all the way up to the clouds, high enough that the creature could taste what she had.

"Look!" she said as the two ran to start their climb. First, they climbed up the playground stairs, then a ladder, and then a rock wall, once they reached the staircase they climbed and climbed and climbed. It felt like it never ended, the clouds looked like they never got closer. She started to feel tired, they had been climbing for fifteen minutes and the clouds were still just as far as when they were on the ground. She sat down, patting the spot next to her so that the two could take a break.

"Why won't they get any closer creature?" she asked, looking at it. "You have to try the clouds, yet I fear we'll never make it." The creature made a groaning noise again, one that she couldn't put a meaning behind. "Maybe if we try and jump?" she looked to the sky and then at the creature as it shrugged. She stood back up, squatting down and preparing to jump as high as she could, "One, two, threeeeeeeee!"

As she jumped she shot up into the sky, once she finally stopped ascending she looked down to see herself standing on top of the clouds. She knelt down to dig through the cloud until she could see the creature still standing on the staircase, "Creature!" she yelled. "You just need to jump!" The creature then bent its legs and jumped as high as it could. It joined her on top of clouds, the two now dining on the delectable confection. Apparently, clouds had more than one use, they made cloud angels, and created cloud beards, she had even given the creature a wig that made it have a supermodel's hair. The two laughed and spun until they both got so dizzy they fell down and redid everything again.

It had felt like hours went by, hours of everything and nothing pulling them into a realm of indifference. Without warning an elevator popped up on the creature's right, spooking her as she squeaked out a scream. On the outside was only one button labeled "159".

"Look!" she said a third time.

The two stepped inside, amazed by the mirrors covering every wall. The two stared at their reflections in awe, she had almost forgotten that the creature looked so different to her, that the creature and her were not of the same species.

The elevator slowly rose, smooth jazz filling the small space. Yet again, it felt like decades passed before the elevator doors finally opened. Once she saw inside she was left speechless, the 159th floor was beautiful. It had a garden filled with all sorts of greenery. Flowers from every corner of the Earth, including ones that looked awfully similar to the ones that grew on her feet earlier. The garden looked like it would go on forever, never ending and filled with more plants than existing in reality. Even though she had never actually walked through the whole thing she already felt as though she'd seen every single flower in it. Like she had somehow read a book by only reading the title, an impossible feeling.

The two walked around the garden for a few minutes, analyzing hundreds of flowers in about seven minutes. The sun began to set in the sky, a golden glow and haze filling the clouds the garden rested on. Night was coming and the creature had begun to look sad once again.

“What's wrong?” she asked, “Do you have to go home?”

The creature nodded with the same pain in its eyes as before, its face morphed back into a frown. She hated to see the creature look so upset.

“We should play again creature, I'll come back tomorrow.” The hurt in its eyes hindered, an exciting noise erupting from its being.

The two then trekked all the way back to the bottom, they rode the elevator to level zero, sank through the clouds, descended the stairs, then braved a rock wall, ladder, and playground stairs.

Once they finally reached the ground she brought the creature into a tight hug, careful of its teeth and ragged limbs.

“I'll see you tomorrow, creature.” she beamed as she watched the creature not-so-clumsily walk away. She hoped the small amount of fear towards her new friend she still hung onto would dissolve by tomorrow's sunrise.

She then sat on the swing by herself, she knew she would wake soon to the sound of an irritating alarm. At least in this moment all she could do was smile, smile with her dull teeth and too-full eyes.