

Third Place Prose – Middle School

The Girl and the Island

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On a small island where everyone knows everyone off the coast of somewhere, there is a small “floating Church” that is known for its castle like beauty and its separation from the main island. This church was rumored to be the home of the first king of the island in ancient times. It is said that this church is very important to this islands energy. No one knew what this “energy” was but everyone knew it was running through the island and everyone on it.

Many stories have been told about that church, about how mysterious it is. Some say that it is the center of life on the island. One story is the most memorable of them all. Though most deny it this is the truest story of the Islands history.

It starts out like most stories do, with a girl with an extraordinary amount of curiosity. That wasn’t the only thing that was special about this girl, she had a battle inside her, one that was important to her, and everyone on the island. This girl loved to explore the island and she had been to every corner of it, except for that church. The church was connected to the island by an old rickety bridge that hasn’t been repaired or used in decades.

One day the girl got up the courage to walk up to the bridge but that’s all she could do. Her heart was beating out of her chest and her breaths got shorter and shorter.....

And this is where that battle comes in:

Dark, light. They are complete opposites, yet they fit so well together.

There is a place in each and every persons’ mind where these two reside, even though you might not know it. For this particular girl, she would go to this place constantly. Especially in moments like this one. The place where the dark and light would be in a constant battle, but neither would come to victory. The girl was very aware of this battle, unlike most people. The battle would take place in a never ending forest, much like the one on that island. The forest was very symbolic, as where in a forest there is always shadow and light. The most important thing was that life flourished in this forest giving her hope that she could flourish too....

In that moment thinking of that hope, it gave her courage to keep moving. She walked across the bridge to that mystical church and she went inside to see that it was empty, but not completely. The room was decorated with beautiful pillars, and artwork that looked so ancient that the history seemed to glow from it. She seemed to be stuck in that doorway, mesmerized by the beauty of the art work that as she

looked deeper, the paintings seem too tell a story. That story was oddly familiar to her. As she took the smallest step, she felt this rush of energy. She immediately closed her eyes and stiffened every muscle in her body. As the energy went by everything released. She opened her eyes and saw this beautiful forest, one that she recognized. She walked into the forest that seemed to go on forever. She looked up and saw that beautiful ceiling, but it was different. The art had been stripped from it. She kept walking and came to a clearing. On one side was a dark shadow that seemed to be never ending. On the other was a white light that was as bright as the sun. She stood there curious and confused. She knew where she was, the confusing part was how she got there. She then remembered the paintings, the paintings were picturing this battle, and she was dropped right in the middle of it.

She stood there and watched as two figures lunge at each other and each time they touched she felt a small spark of energy, After a while her emotions came over her and she screamed "STOP! Can someone please tell me what in the world is going on?" The two figures completely froze, and though the girl did not see any eyes she knew that they were staring at her. They came at her and all she wanted to do was run, but she seemed to be paralyzed by fear. The figures stopped a few feet away from her and something started to walk out of each. Coming from the shadow was a girl who had gray skin and was wearing all black, and coming from the light was a girl with a warm complexion wearing all white and looked like what the girl imagined to be an angel. The girl stood there in shock realizing that the two girls were her. They were a reflection of herself but split into the worst and the best of her. They all stood there staring at each other. The girl didn't know what to do or expect. She looked in to the lights eyes and she saw all of her good memories and deeds. She looked into the darks eyes and saw the opposite. She then closed her eyes hoping to end up in her safe place, the in-between place, the place where there was both but never too much of one. She opened her eyes and ended up back at that bridge like nothing had ever happened. She knew then that the energy that she felt was not only flowing through her but through the whole island.

What happened to this girl is not only important to her, but important to all people.

Remember this battle is in every one of us, and you decide who wins.