

Lost boy

The bell rings and the teacher dismisses us,I gather my books as I follow the crowd into the prison-like hallway.As I exit the door to my 2nd period geometry class,I pull up the hood of my hoodie and brush my hair out of my eyes.As I walk I keep my head down cautious not to meet anyone's eyes.I start to lose the ability to see those the people in front of me but I still feel doheat from their bodies and hear their angry curses as I bump into them.As I rush to get to the restroom. The final bell rings and I make sure no one else is in any of the stalls.I turn to look in the mirror and watch as the color drains from my already pale face.Pulling my hood down I run a pale shaky hand through my disheveled black hair and watch as my body begins to remove itself from the world of the living to the realm of ghosts. I look as my usually electrifying blue eyes roll back into my head and turn stock white.

“Elijah,it's been awhile since you've been here.”I turned around my hands sliding off the sink,to turn and look at the magnificent features of Alice.I look at her slim figure in a beautiful white dress and watch as her small hands fidget behind her back.I look up and see that her red hair is twisted into a delicate braid that sits on her bony shoulders.And that her small pink lips are turned up into the same smile I've seen everyday since we met.Finally,I meet her chocolate colored gaze.

“Alice I was just here last night.It hasn't been that long.”Her smile falters and I realize how mean I sounded,but I just don't have time for this.

“I'm sorry,I didn't mean to snap at you. It isn't your fault I have to be here.”I hold her hand in mine and manage not to shudder at her cold touch.But at my apology I see her regain her smile and I instantly feel better.Alice is beautiful and her face lights up everytime she smiles.I

have known her for 3 years and still haven't got over her. We met in the human world and fell in love. We talked about starting a life together. Nobody could separate us we were so in love.

“So I may have found out why you keep coming here.” My heart started racing, we have been looking for the reason that I live in the world of the living and dead, since the crash. It has been a month and a half, but I remember it clearly. Alice and I were coming home from a party when a drunk driver in a red pick up swerved and hit my motorcycle. Before the truck hit I grabbed Alice's trembling hand and felt the impact of the car. We went into a ditch. I saw a flash of white and woke up in the emergency room. I looked frantically for Alice praying she was alive. I turned and saw a curtain half closed and there she was. Her usually tan body bruised and bloody, with cuts all over her beautiful face. Her fire colored hair was disheveled and had sticks and leaves poking in and out of it. I pulled her into my arms and laid with her on the hospital bed not caring about how much pain I was in. She opened her brown eyes and it felt like she could see in my soul. I expected her to be scared and ask for my help but she just said that she loved me and it's her time and I need to live. And I watched the love of my life die in my arms. I cried for days after. But then I started being taken to this realm of ghosts and couldn't figure out why. I wiped the tears that started running down my cheeks.

“What did you find?” She smiled the same smile as when she got an answer right on a test.

“After the crash when we were in the hospital I came to peace with death but you didn't,” she put her hand on my cheek and I had to bend down so that she could reach. “I was fine with dying as long as you lived but you wanted both of us to live, and that wasn't allowed to happen. One of us had to die for order to be maintained and I was the only one willing. Elijah you have to move on with your life or else you will be a lost boy.”

“What do you mean a lost boy?” I tried to mask my sarcasm but from the hurt in her eyes I can tell I didn’t do a job job.

“If you don’t move on you will be lost in both realms. You will be a lost boy forever, a ghost in the world of the living and dead. You refuse to believe I am gone you willingly come here even though you think you aren’t. You retreat into your memories back to when we were together. You are getting lost in your memories and that is where you are starting to live. Elijah you are still alive don’t lose yourself because of me. You have to be realizing this, you started off spending seconds here then minutes soon it will be nights. I can’t let that happen to you Elijah or else my death will be for nothing.” She slowly pulled her hand out of mine and placed it on her lap. “Elijah I’m dead, you aren’t. I will always love you but I won’t be the reason you become lost. We have spent the amount of time that we were meant to now move on.” Then she just left. I tried to follow but like she said I’m not a ghost I can’t follow her, I don’t belong here.

As soon as she left I was back in the guys’ bathroom. I look in the mirror and watch my eyes go back to electric blue while wiping the sweat off my forehead. Then I throw my hood back over my disheveled hair and walk to my 3rd period. I give the teacher the pass when I walk in. And he furrows his white eyes brows and I look at how angry he is that I interrupted him.

“So, Mr. Stone did you forget you had class? Or do you just think my job is so unimportant that you can walk in anytime you want. I would like to see you try to do my job with your grades it’s surprising you made it in this class. Everyday you just sit there lost in your own head it’s-” I turned around from walking to my seat, my rage and pain finally coming out.

“You know what I get lost in my head because you are b-o-r-i-n-g. And that’s probably why your wife left.” People started laughing but that’s not what I wanted. I just wanted him off my back. And I watched as his face turned red.

“Office now.” He grabbed my hoodie and tried pushing me against the wall, but I was so done with everything, especially him. Before I could stop, I punched him straight in the nose. He stood against the wall holding his nose as I walked out to the office. I waited in the office and a girl approached me.

“Let me guess, you’re here to complain to the office about the dress code.” I smiled and looked at the girl. I haven’t seen her around here but I haven’t really seen or talked to anyone since Alice died. She was kind of cute with her straight platinum blonde hair and dark green eyes. She wore a bulky leather jacket and a tight bodice, with ripped jeans and chains on her wrist with cross earrings and a red lipstick. I looked into her eyes.

“More like telling a teacher he is boring and that’s why his wife left then punching him in the nose.” I looked back down but not before I saw the flash of her bright smile.

“Wow that’s pretty hard-core. Do you regret it?” I looked down into her eyes. She was about 5’8 in her heeled boots, but she was still a good 7 inches shorter than me.

“Sorry you just look a little lost.” I tell her I’m fine and we keep talking and laughing until the principle calls me in.

“My name’s Jess by the way but my friends call me Aqua.”

“I’m Elijah Stone.” She flashed me that smile once again before I left. The principle gave me a 3 day suspension. My phone buzzed and I looked down to check it.

“Hey it’s Aqua” I smiled to myself. She’s strong and adorable at the same time, but I immediately erased the thought because I still love Alice. We talked all night. I fell asleep at 5am and the last thing she said was “Sweet dreams Elijah” and for some reason it made my heart beat faster. I walked down stair at 2pm and talked to my mom who was making lunch. She seemed startled and surprised I was speaking to her. Then I remembered I haven’t had a real

conversation with her since Alice, but then I remembered how Alice left me. I didn't let it have that power this time. I continued to talk to mom, kissed her on the forehead then when outside.

Hey meet me outside the school fence I have someone you should meet. ~Aqua. I ran as fast as I could to reach the school. Aqua and I have been talking for a few weeks. She keeps me in this realm and it gets harder to go and see if Alice is in the realm of ghosts waiting for me. But everytime I visit she is nowhere to be seen. So I stopped coming, I visit once a week but she never shows. I finally arrive at the school gate and see Aqua and a few girls and guys standing in a circle beside her.

"Hey." I say as I place my hand on the back of her arm. I look into her eyes then at the guys next to her. They all wear all different kinds of clothes and have different styles and colors of hair. But I barely noticed any of them Aqua. She introduced us all and I talked to them and I think I could hangout with a few of them. Jake, who has blonde hair that's half shaved with brown eyes is really funny, and Damon who has green hair that is pulled into a bun on the top of his head and green eyes is very hyper and he likes to play around a lot seems like they are pretty cool. And we all went out to watch a movie then Jake and Damon hugged Aqua smacked me on the back and went home. When they all left it was just me and Aqua left.

"Do you want to get ice cream?" She smiled and looked up at me and I felt my heart speed up. Since we've been talking I have felt a connection to her as strong or stronger than the one I felt with Alice. Since Alice's death I didn't talk to anyone but slowly Aqua is bringing me back to the living. I am starting to feel distanced from the dead and am no longer as pale as I was.

"Of course." We talked as we walked to the ice cream parlor. She kept looking forward and I noticed our proximity for the first time. She is so close that I can smell her, she smells like vanilla and roses even though she looks like a dark queen she smells sweet. As if she senses me

watching she looks up and smiles,that stupid smile makes my heart ache for her.Then she slowly and smoothly slips her soft,small hand in mine larger callaced one.It reminded me so much of Alice I froze in the middle of sidewalk and got knocked into the realm of the dead.Seems like no matter how hard I try I am still lost,on the border of living and dead.I didn't full make it to the realm of the dead when I feel a familiar hand on the side of my face.And I am back with the living staring into Aqua's tear streaked face.

“Aqua,what's wrong?”I bring her closer to me and place her head on my chest looking for whatever made her cry.But she looks up at me, her usually dark green eyes a bright blue.

“I thought you were having a heart attack,your eyes rolled into the back of your head and you weren't responding to me.But now you're ok what happened Elijah?”The sound of my name on her tongue brought a smile to my lips and also a bit of sadness because of Alice.I told Aqua the whole story about Alice and me being lost and how she is helping me.She didn't believe it at first but she came to realize I'm not creative enough to make all of this up.

“Elijah,I'm so sorry this is all happening to you.It sounds horrible.But are you happy that you aren't going back to the realm of the dead?”

Her question had to wait while we got ice cream.I offered to pay and surprisingly she let me.She ordered vanilla and I ordered mint,then we stood on the dock to finish our conversation.

“Yes but no.I don't see Alice anymore, that was my only way to see her.”With this she touched my arm and I looked down into her bright green eyes lit by the moonlight. “But you were the only one to stop me from going there.You brought me back to the living world.Aqua you got me out of my shell.You stopped me from fully becoming lost.You saved me Aqua.”I leaned down and placed my hands on her waist as she placed hers on my chest.She let out a sigh

and I brought my lips to hers and felt the chains of the realm of the dead leave me. She brought me back.