



Item Code:

951

Participant Code:

106

DREAMERS

THE LAND OF ~~DREAMERS~~

The moon shone exceptionally brilliant that night.

Full moon nights were supposed to lead people towards their rights and away from what's wrong. At least that's what people from Hope street had thought.

The woman walked away from the street hoping the moon would lead her on the right path. The cold December wind slowly caressed her let down hair.

On the sidewalks, a tiny dew drop landed on the pine leaves. It danced on the leaf for sometime only to die upon reaching the end. Somewhere distant, Mariah Carey was faintly playing on the radio. It was a christmas season. All along the street, the woman saw red. Red hats, red stars... for most of the people, christmas is red. The colour of hope.

The colour of new beginnings. The colour of love.

But there were some souls out there; for them christmas was grey. Not many notice them, for

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They lurk in the shadows, out of everyone's sight, slowly carrying their burden, all alone. The woman looked back at the street, for one last time, and continued on her path.

- 1 year back -

"Adeline! Can you please help me on this project? The deadline is today and guess what, I completely forgot about it!" Daphne said, struggling to catch her breath. "But.. I too have a project due today. I'm really sorry -" "Oh, come on! A little help for your colleague won't hurt right?" Daphne said cutting off Adeline's words. "Um.. yeah, sure" Adeline replied helplessly. It's been almost four years since she started working in this company. Since the first day, she was always a pushover. She was so tired of being used by everyone and then left in the drain like she was

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Something that insignificant. She was never anybody's priority, not even hers. She often felt like a piece of ~~her~~ her was dead. Her soul had nowhere to live, like a worn up cardigan under someone's bed. Since childhood, Adeline was always alone. Her house never felt like home for her parents never really ~~got~~ put up with each other. She often woke up to the sounds of plates crashing or her mother screams. Maybe that's why she always yearned for a house, a house where her soul could reside. A house which would feel like home. ~~She~~ Despite being a bright student, Adeline never had a chance to complete her studies. She dropped out from college and was busy making a living. Her job was never easy, but she put up with all of that with the hope of one thing: a house.

"Miss Adeline, we are sorry." The executives words

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bell out midway. "Wha-what do you mean by contact termination? What exactly did I do wrong?" Adeline asked fighting back her tears. "Oh no! You did nothing wrong. It's just that...."

"Come on now! Adeline, I think you would understand this better than anyone. People are lining up for a job outside. You have been working here for over a long time, let others have a chance. Besides, it's not like you have a diploma or anything" the manager said cutting off the executive. Yes. Adeline did understand. They are doing exactly the same what they have been doing for the past years. Discarding her after their use. Adeline slowly got up and went over to her desk. She've got to pack up her things. Many people surrounded her with shallow words of empathy. But she was unable to hear anything. She was still in that trance. She packed her things and left for home.

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For the next few days, Adeline did nothing but eat and sleep. She lost the direction of her life. She felt like that little kid who was trapped inside an adult's body. One day, she had a sudden realisation. She can't go on like this forever. But right now, what she really needs is a break. A break from her life. She wanted to ~~put herself~~ put herself first for the time being, at least once in her life. She has some money she has saved up for the last few years. She packed a few dresses and necessities and left home. It was late night. But she was not afraid. And again, what's there to fear for someone who has nothing to lose?

She got off the bus at one point, she didn't know where she had reached. She walked and walked, for a long time. She stopped at a crossroad. There she saw a weird street name, Hope street.



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Who in their right minds would name a street as hope? She thought to herself. But then it struck her. "Why don't I just live here?" she thought. She took a deep breath and walked down the Hope street. For once in her life, she was about to take a risk. And most importantly, she was excited, a feeling she had buried deep inside her.

"Ma'am, this is the cheapest house you can get here. You would literally be homeless if you want something cheaper than this." The broker said impatiently. They've been looking around for houses for a long time and still, she couldn't find one in her budget. This one too, which the man was proclaiming as the 'cheapest' one was out of her league. "Sir, I don't mind poor living condition... just something a bit lower than this..." Adeline said trying to make a smiling face. The broker rolled his eyes and ~~to~~ thought for a while. After

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Some time, he replied, "Will you be okay with sharing your space?" "Oh not at all! Is there a place like that", she asked, full of hope. "Well yes, come with me" he said. Both of them stopped in front of a house. It was a small one, but it felt beautiful. There were flowers and butterflies around the house and a small cat was running laps around it. The man rang the doorbell and a woman in her mid twenties opened the door. She was beautiful. Her dark hair was let down and it flowed on her shoulders. The freckles on her chocolate skin felt like a thousand stars had aligned together. She smiled warmly at Adeline. "She will be staying here for the time being" the broker said casually. "Really! Pleased to meet you, I'm Eloise. Honestly, I was looking for a person to share the rent with. Hope we would get along" Eloise said beamingly. Adeline smiled and shook her hands. "Well, then I'd leave it you

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both. You can come over and sign the contract later. Make yourself at home." The man said and left the home. "Come inside" Eloise welcomed her home.

Inside of the house was nothing grand, but it was pretty and neat. There were some fairy lights and decoration along the house. On a corner of the house, there was a small crib; a baby about one or two year old slept peacefully in it. Adeline went near it. "Oh! It's John, my son. Took a while to put him to sleep" Eloise said childishly. "So, your husband would be here too?" Adeline asked suddenly. "I don't have a husband" Eloise said casually. Upon noticing Adeline's wide eyes, she left a small chuckle "Well, you don't need a husband to have a baby, don't you" she said ~~tease~~ teasingly. "Well, no" Adeline replied with a small smirk. Come along, I'll show you around the house. Eloise

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said holding her hand.

Adeline's initial plan of staying at the Hope street failed miserably. She found a small part time job at a nearby library. The pay wasn't enough, but it was enough to live for a day. Maybe that's how she liked it, just getting by day and day. And as months passed by, she found herself more and more attached to Eloise. She was slowly opening up to Adeline and letting her heart out. She ran off with her boyfriend at a young age only to find him abandoning her after they had a baby. She was at the brink of taking her life but she had to live on for the sake of her child. She came to Hope street for a job and found herself attached to this place. "There's a myth here" Eloise said to her one night gazing upon the moon. "They say the full moon guides the people who are lost. That's why no one ends here at Hope

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street without a purpose." "Do you think I would find a purpose too?" Adeline asked with a sigh. "Do you see the moon Adeline, its so beautiful tonight dont it? But you know what, it had to consume a piece of itself every night in order to feel whole again. I really hope you would feel whole again, you deserve to." Eloise said still not taking her eyes off the sky. Adeline looked at Eloise. She came to hope street without a single ounce of hope, but right now she couldn't wait to feel whole again.

Adeline sat on her bed. The colour had drained from her face. Her phone was lying down. It was a call from her old place. Her mother passed away the day before. She was supposed to be sad, she thought. But not an ounce of tears leaked from her empty eyes. She laid on her bed for the next few days. Eloise asked nothing but made her

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food and stroked her hair now and then. One night, Adeline packed up her things in the thoughts of leaving Hopestent. Maybe this was a place for souls who needed to be fixed, not for the ones whose soul is dead, she thought to herself. She quietly left the house and walked through the night. Once again not knowing where to go. Suddenly, she heard a car rumbling. It took a break near her. It was Eloise. "Get in" she said "Thanks, but I would just -" "It was not a question" Eloise said. Adeline couldn't stand Eloise getting mad at her. She half-heartedly got in the car. They sat in silence for a long time. ~~The~~ Finally Eloise broke the silence, "Adeline, I would not ask you what's wrong. I know you would say it once you are alright. But right now, I just wanted to tell you that you are not alone. You have me and John and for me, I have you. You don't have to carry the burden alone, you can share it with me, you know". ~~Eloise~~

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~~said~~ Adeline said nothing. It was about to be  
day soon and they have been driving for a long  
time. "Whatever you do, just know that the house  
on the Hope street would always be your home".  
Adeline looked at Eloise and thought about the house,  
it just felt like home for one and for all. Eloise  
put her hand out, the ~~wind~~ swirling wind dancing  
along her hand. Soon Adeline's hand joined her,  
and both ~~be~~ their hands danced in a melancholy.  
There was sadness, but along it, there was hope  
shining. Brilliantly, Peacefully. Together they  
rode towards the house on the Hope street when  
it felt like home.