

*Fruition* - the state or action of producing fruit.

“Open your eyes,” whispered The Universe.

I stretched the Sun’s arms over my soul and wished that I would never have to part from the warmth of her embrace.

“I have found your new home little one.”

The Universe began to stitch sapphires onto the sky, biting thread and tying up knots. He gifted Saturn with golden rings and painted the bubbling auroras with a brush made of dandelion. Every night The Universe romanced me with his art. He had the most beautiful hands. They had spun nebulae and woven galaxies, but I was his greatest creation. The Universe was my first love.

“Don’t be absurd! You are my home,” I replied lovingly with my eyes tied shut.

The Universe had loved someone before he had loved me. He told me that he had set her free, I didn’t understand what that meant. I began to recoil my spine, yawning with delight. Hair drooling off of my shoulders, The Universe said, “You look beautiful today.”

“You are mistaken, I am a jewel every day. I sparkle more than your stars, I shine more than your galaxies.”

“You are right little one. I created you with infinite beauty — beauty nobody can appreciate if you don’t get up.”

I rose from my silk sheets, wiping away the dreams of last night. The Universe doesn’t go to sleep. I wonder if he wishes that he could dream. Last night I dreamt of an opulent castle, with ceilings covered in gold and floors stretching with marble. There was a woman draped in purple silk waiting for me. She motioned me to follow her down the stairs. I traced her steps and I saw the most beautiful sight I had ever see — a room filled with beds. A fetus in the first bed, a baby girl in the second, a child in the third, a young woman on the fourth, an old lady in the fifth and a

star on the sixth. I couldn't wrap my head around it. Why do children grow up? The Universe says I ask too many questions.

I rolled out of bed and kissed the Sun goodbye. She began to cry as if I'd never come back, but I made sure to tell her that I will soon and that I hope she watches over me until I do. I never came back.

"Finally you are here little one," The Universe said peacefully.

It looked as if he was about to cry too.

"What did you want to show me?" I asked. I felt a lump in my throat. I twiddled with my thumbs and looked down.

He sighed and said, "I have been looking for a place you could call home. I know how much you love being here with me, but today is the day I will set you free."

"Set you free," I thought. Those words began echoing in my head.

"But I don't want to be set free, I want to stay here with you. I could watch you paint for the rest of eternity. And how will I fall asleep without the Sun? Her arms are my home. Who will I play with? Saturn always lets me play with his rings. This is my home, how can you abandon me?"

My eyes were swollen with tears. I curled up my hands into a fist and began heaving as the aches in my chest grew stronger and stronger. I pursed my lips tightly. How could The Universe do this to me?

I continued, "You don't love me anymore, that's why you're trying to get rid of me."

"Little one, that isn't true," The Universe got up and walked ahead, staring off into the distance. His gaze fell on a planet I had never seen before.

I walked towards him and stood there, gazing with him. It was blue, not blue like sapphires.

“What color is that?” I asked

“Little one, that color is called green.”

“Grr-ee-nuh, that’s a funny word,” I giggled. The Universe turned towards me and knelt down on his knees, “Little one, that little ball of blue and green is called Earth”

I tilted my head in confusion. “Earth?” I repeated.

“Is this my new home?”

The Universe sighed. I stared off into the distance. I had never heard of Earth before. It looked nothing like Saturn or the Sun. I closed one eye and began reaching for it with my palm.

“So you do like it after all?”

“I never said I did. I’ve just never seen something like it. Did you make it for me?”

“Well Little one, I created Earth long before I created you. At the time, it was my greatest creation. Nothing sparkles like the sea, and nothing bends like the trees. It is a beautiful garden brimming with life, overflowing with love,” his gaze fell on Earth again. He never looked at me the way he looked at Earth.

“Do you love Earth more than me?”

“Love is love little one.”

“Then why must I go?”

“Because Little one, you are meant to be with Earth. I created you so that you could learn to love the Earth. The love you have for me won’t be as strong as the love you’ll have for Mother Earth”

“Why would you think that? You’re The Universe, you have everything. What can Mother Earth have that you don’t?”

“She is more beautiful.”

The Universe had a love affair with Mother Earth. I saw it in the way he looked at her. I turned around and walked back. Why doesn’t The Universe love me? Why does he want to get rid of me?

“You say that you love me, well if you love me then you must set that love free. I will always be watching you, even when you begin to forget me. I will always protect you, even when you think you no longer need me. Love is sacrifice and I ache when I think of letting you go, but it is time that I do, this is why I have created you.”

The Universe wore a soft smile.

“What will happen when I am gone? Who will admire your art? Who will love you?”

“You ask too many questions Little one, you will forget me when you are gone. You must never be afraid of change.”

I embraced The Universe, holding back my tears.

“Are you ready little one?”

“I’m ready.”

I looked into his eyes one last time. Everything began to glow, my vision became blurred. I heard The Universe’s last whisper, “Goodbye.”

I opened my eyes and saw the woman from my dream.