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| What to wear to school tomorrow, if I would make the basketball team if I should take down a post with only 8 likes, these are important questions in fact they can be quite consuming. And my life revolved around them. Well them and question like them.   Goes to save beat gets to place in artic that's stuck in time tries to save bear and our world befriends mermaid  You might think you know what it's like to be a high school student or what it's like to try and fit in but the thing is it actually is pretty important.   At least I thought so I mean I really believed that.  Most adults probably think it's pretty easy to be a high school student and that fitting in isnt all that important, just get good grades as my dad would say and everything else will Work itself out. but the thing is it actually is pretty important to fit in and high school can be a challenge. And if you have sports practice the days can be pretty long, but all In all I'd say it is pretty tought.  Most adults probably thought all that was pretty silly.  At least I thought so I mean I really believed that.  Goes to his city he is captured by bad army  Runs an hides finds mermaid must save bear    In a typical day i was faced with all kinds of questions, why is everyone in class staring at me including the teacher? Should I make up an answer to the question I apparently didnt realize i had just been asked ? I mean this is math class and there are only so many numbers maybe ill get lucky. (I didn't 74 was not the answer, the answer was add the constant c) um 74 I volunteered, wrong.  And then after math class more questions why didn't Katie accept my friend request what should I wear to watch the volleyball game tonight? These were important questions and as I said before my life revolved around them.  But now I'm faced with different and far more terrifying questions what were the eyes that were watching me last night, will I be attacked in my sleep by what was watching me last night?  And will whatever it was attack me in my sleep.  What was the shadow that watched me last night.  What was the dark shadow I saw gliding through the pines.  will I freeze to death before the winter ends with just my bones to tell the world I ever existed. Some graduate anthropology student with a research grant who will come to the conclusion.  Definitely a Paleolithic specimen perfectly preserved, Paleolithic? I own a play station!  or will I be lucky and make it long enough to starve to death.  Or will I stay Alive long enough to starve to death.    I don't know what's worse starving or freezing.   But i do know this My food situation is dire, worse then dire I have no food. and nothing with which to make any traps. I lay awake last night in a small hole I had dug out of the snow beside a pine tree I was cold and hungry and hated them equally. The wind kicked up and tore through my shivering body, I'm gonna die I'm gonna die I thought.  I dreamed of laying beside a warm fire cuddled in blankets or laying between two space heaters both on high like I used to do when we got back from snowboarding until my selfish older sister would take one.  "I don't know if she is being selfish if you have two and she has none"   my pretty and kind mom would explain patiently.  Ya well it's the principal of the matter i would reply reverting to a line my dad seemed to use with success. Ok dear my mom would say then come back with more blankets here use these and I Brought some hot cocoa. It's hard to be difficult when you have a sweet mom. She eventually bought three more space heaters when they were on sale at target forcing me to find other ways to antagonize my sister.  The wind kicked up and tore through my shivering body, Knocking me out of mr reverie.    But I didn't I drifted off and woke sore and colder and hungrier then the day before. What I wouldn't give for a nice warm Starbucks and my own bed. But the day and another desperate attempt at survival pass and another cold night comes the snow begins to fall as I huddle beneath the pine boughs still unable to make fire and even weaker the gnawing pains in my stomach stronger and more painful.  The snow begins to fall gently the world becomes quiet and muffled a gentle place of soft and beautiful snowscape. It would be magical from inside a cozy room with big windows and an even bigger fire.  I had spent the day gathering pine boughs and piling them up into a shelter.  I felt so Desperate I tried to eat a pine needle, can you eat pine needles, I'm not sure but I swallowed one whole and decided to see how I felt when I woke up. That means my entire days food was one lone solitary pine needle, not good for a growing boy who is quickly becoming a shrinking boy.   I also tried to make fire and find food but failed at both. Failing at survival is a lot different then failing a test or failing to make a shot in a big game. Sure those matter in the moment and doing good at school helps you succeed in a capitalist society but failing at survival is much more dire and imminent.  You can always go back to high school if you decide to start taking life seriously. But if you don't find food water and shelter that's it, it's over, your dead. All though of I had to walk back into my high school at 25 I might die if embarrassment.  But back to what matters I had finished a rough shelter and was exhausted. Night is coming fast.  I crawl desperate and weary into my shelter and watch the snow begin again gently and peacefully drifting down against the dark night sky. The whole world becomes silent under the gently falling snow, the distant moon shines illuminating the forest surrounding me. The moon seems older and sadder and farther away and still the Snow drifts down. The flakes become larger as they quietly tumble from the sky; gentle, Peaceful whispering softly, we will kill you.   How could something so delicate and beautiful  be so deadly I think as I lay shivering. My emotions were all over the place today but now they have settled into despair and worry. I am in a seriously dangerous position. And have no clue what to do, why didn't they teach me survivor skills instead of geometry, wait I like geometry.   And it's in these painful moments of weakness I have  so much time to think.  in those painful moments that made me realize a sleepless night can feel like a lifetime I've had plenty of time to think; to think about my past life and the kinds of questions that used to define my existence. I came to the realization that to me those questions did matter deep down don't we all just want to be happy to have friends and fit in. I think a lot of those questions revolved around those things.  Is there a difference between popularity and acceptance we all just want to be loved and to belong which got me thinking about my family.  A family too I think we take for granted how nice family is. I didn't most of the time but if I still have a family I will never take them for granted again.   Heck I'd even be ok with a month long road trip where we visited a museum all day then weird relatives every night oh and we all shared the same small hotel room and I would get the shower after everyone had used it, the floor moping wet the only dry towel left a small hand towel and the whole place so full of steam I felt like I was A cloud filled sauna.  and At night we all shared a hotel room at least I would be warm and there would be plenty of food.  And with it a shift in the questions that define my existence. But there are other questions, in fact they might be more important     The morning comes cold, bleak, hopeless. I've leaned and grown so much in such a short period of time. But I haven't leaned enough yet of what really maters, survival skills. But now in a very short time I have learned a lot and I've got stories I can tell the grandkids. If I live long enough that is and also if there's anyone else left alive on this island called earth. On this place that used to be called earth.  On this place that used to be called earth. I think that was its name, I've been thinking of changing it.  Ok let me be clear at this point I really don't know what's going on and I'm getting ahead of my self so ill go back and fill in what I can remember. The memories are beginning to piece themselves together; at about the same rate that the cold and hunger and loneliness threaten to end all memories for good.   And with it a shift in the questions that define my existence. But there are other questions, in fact they might be more important, what are the dark eyes that were watching me last nigth, will I be attacked in my sleep by what was watching me night will I freeze to death before the winter ends or will I be lucky and starve to death long before then. I don't know what's worse starving or freezing. I lay awake last night in a small hole I dug out of the snow beside a pine tree I was cold and hungry and I hated them equally.  I've had time to think. A lot of time and I wonder if those questions did matter deep down don't we all just want to be happy to have friends and fit in. A family too I think we take for granted how nice family is. I didn't most of the time but if I still have a family I never will again.  Changes the future Everyone might disappear Must take risk    My life changed in the blink of an eye, but I don't remember the blink. In fact I'm beggining to wonder if I ever existed in those dim memories, dad coming home in a  suit after an important meeting, lighten off fireworks late on a warm Fourth of July, walking on the hot asphalt to seven eleven to get Pepsi and cheap donuts Then lighting off fireworks on the Fourth of July. Going blackberry picking in the bright green meadows on a late autumn day. Picking pumpkins at the pumpkin patch and drinking hot chocolate as the snow gently comes down covering the city in a soft white blanket.  Watching the leaves fall as they burn bright orange reds yellows in the Autumn, the crunch leaves and twigs beneath your feet and the first signs of green as spring comes  Autumn the leaves crunch beneath your feet.  It makes me ache inside with loneliness just thinking about them and all the people I miss.  Maybe I should back up a little, my memories, if they are mine, are fragmented and the pressing darkness has left me scattered and afraid. But I do remember this I was waiting to be picked up  out in front of the crowded high school when suddenly  I went to lake view high school In a normal suburban neighborhood in a cute and quiet town.  "Sweety, muffin cheeks" a high pitched voice yelled from a dirty beat up green mini van with wooden paneling. Did I say dirty I mean really dirty, like filthy.  I felt my face go bright red "Johnny Come on and hurry your grandma has to go to the bathroom and you remember what happened at thanksgiving"   The high pitch yell came right as two attractive girls were walking by me Nicole  and her friend jenna it's like my brother and his friend had some sixth sense for how to embarrass me the most. Nicole had talked to me once freshman year and I never got over it. Most of the time she just walked around looking disgusted and better then everyone. She only talked to her friend.  I guess I had a small crush on her, maybe I still do. My crush oscillated sometimes I felt I liked her and others I would get frustrated who does she think she is and why does she think she is so superior to everyone else.  She's not!  I would think that then remember that I was the one thinking about her not the other way around so maybe she was superior.  My thoughts were broken as The call rang out again yoo hooo Alex were over here! Do you see us?  Nicole turned with her friend and looked at me they both laughed but I could tell they were trying to hide it, were they laughing with me or at me? Nicole was the only person I knew who could look So superior when laughing. I felt my face turning bright red.  "it's not my mom I mumbled about to try to explain it was my older brother who had apparently just got back From college. They kept walking so I stopped talking Whatever I mumbled.  The voice called out again, "jonny you really better hurry.  Him and his friend apparently found two wigs that they put on to try to make themselves look like two old ladies and now were having a bit of fun as they picked me up from school. My brother was actually pretty cool he played on the college basketball team and his friend did to. Neither of them started but they were both on the team.  Normally I would be proud to have them pick me up but not If they were dressed in drag screaming across the parking lot and  Honk! Honk! Honk!  Honking the horn  Alex do you see us were right over here! The shrill voice rang out again.  I looked over Nicole and her friend were definitely laughing as was everyone else nearby.  There was a full school bus waiting to leave and they all Seemed to have picked up on the situation and were watching eagerly, smiling bright faces pressed against every window. Watching what I would assume would be my bright red face.   Better not keep your mom and grams waiting you remember what happened last thanksgiving austin yelled at me while laughing. I rolled my eyes he knew that was not my mom but I didn't think anyone else did it was difficult to see they were parked on the far side of the school parking lot.   I would have felt a lot better if I would have heard Nicole turn and whisper to her friend he never seems to notice me. But I didn't I missed my chance and will never have another. time is running out.  I walked across the parking lot as time continued to rush forward crushing the past turning the present to memories captured in photos or the most important written forever in our hearts. Only captured by photos or the most important etched into out hearts.  But time rushes forward and we often don't get second chances.  I walked across the parking lot trying to ignore all the eyes on me. I got in the mini van as my brother and his friend turned grinning at me.  Thanks for picking me up I said a bit sarcastically I never would have found you if you didn't beep and yell and beep and yell. They both laughed Justin turned sorry it was your brothers idea I just went along with it.  Is that lipstick your wearing ya Justin laughed I found it in the glove box Justin was a bit crazy but I liked him.  My brother laughed  Gross do you know how old that probably is?  Who in our family even wears lipstick that red.  Dad probably picked up some hoo  Justin! I cut in  What he asked innocently he probably picked some up for mom and got the wrong kind he finished innocently. You know how moms always sending him on errands even though there is only like a 50 50 chance he gets the right thing.  You look like an awesome deranged clown my brother laughed  More like a cute older lady he replied.  I knew it was funny but decided to stay a little annoyed you know I said I'm surprised this old thing still runs did you notice the moss growing on the roof?  Oh yes we did if you turn you'll notice some lovely mild growing in the back. Nasty I said and eww what's this I sat up and pulled some hardened Cheerios from my seat. Gross gross gross. You know you could have taken the Audi I said the new one? The nice one?. I know it's sitting in the driveway.   What fun is that my brother replied and check out this lovely gem he said  as he pushed a cassette in the tape deck and turned on a children's song as loud as it would go. This songs about potty training, He then floored it and we lurched noisily out of the parking lot my brothers friend had taken off his wig and shirt was now leaning out of the window yelling at everyone as we drove away.  Next time ill take the bus I muttered.  What was that my brother yelled over the music.  I thought college kids were supposed to be mature.  We're freshman again my brother yelled back we devolved. gotta get it out of our system.   That day was September 25, 2017 the clock was ticking and I had no idea. It makes me shiver and my blood run cold just remembering how clueless and blissfully naive the world was. Maybe it's a good thing we can't see the future we would be to paralyzed to function in the present.  As the world bleeds out  Exactly one month left tell the beginning  of the end and I had no clue. October 25 2017 the beginning of the end. Maybe remove  October 25  the day the whole world sat glued to their TVs watching in horror as one by one nightmarish events unfolded each more horrifying then the last. The world shattered beneath the tragedies unfolding all through that winter but still humanity clung on. life remained fairly normal through the holidays but there was fear everywhere.   and spring through summer again and back to fall until the last winter. One full year of chaos. Our lives remained mostly the same until the following fall then  The greatest tragedy began the next summer on July 15 a day that was close to one hundred degrees the power grid shut off and  mankind sat rapt with attention until slowly the electricity bled it self out from everything and the world went dark for the last time.  Well that is somewhat untrue October 25 was the terrifying day that started it all, the whole world sat that day glued to their TVs watching in horror until slowly before the end of the year the electricity bled it self out from everything and the world went dark for the last time. Who would ever imagine it would start so innocently with a missing plane. By the fourth missing commercial plane people began to panic but as time went on people forgot about the incidents and they let their fears sleep. Why were people stealing planes? Everyone speculated they crashed in the wide oceans and were lost without a trace. Four planes disappeared completely in three years. Flight 734, flight 469 All vanished over the vastness of the ocean electrical failure most likely the cause and the black box never found.  Basketball was kinda life in our family our dad had played pro. He  But that didn't matter we had an important basketball game tonight.              Chapter Did you hear the news?  No what happened  Another plane went missing  Oh really?        The memories have come back sharp and clear, it was a normal day at school a Thursday. Dustin was being particularly rambunctious in fourth period and had just gotten detention. Lunch had been pizza and it wasn't bad at all in fact I would give just about anything to have a piece right now, I'd probably even try to eat the grease soaked plate it was served on.  There also were a side of carrots which everyone at my table ate about half and saved the other half for throwing. A quick toss when no one was looking and then we all focused intently on the lunch in front of us. Hoping no one, particularly a teacher had seen us throw anything.The goal was to hit the freshman cheerleader table or the robotics club table. Why those two as targets? I'm not totally sure but their reactions were the best by the second carrot there was both deep indignation and outrage.  "Whose doing that" I heard a high pitch squell" as a carrot scored a direct hit.  Haha nerds and cheerleaders sound the same when their angry Austin laughed stupidly.  "I wish we had something bigger to throw" Alex said  If we need something smaller we can throw jonny" Austin replied  Oh haha very funny jonny replied sarcastically and if we need something stupider we can throw you. Alex was small for his age his parents were also very wealthy and he was spoiled. He got teased a lot for being small and had evolved quite a sharp tongue. He was also pretty cocky and fit in well but Austin still teased him.  Stupider then a carrot? Ya that's probably true Austin said. Come here austin lunged across the table with mustard on his fingers that he waved dangerously close to Jonnys expensive and preppy polo shirt. as jonny backed away. Austin was big and not too bright but I sometimes felt he played it up a little everytime I snuck a peak at one if his tests he always had an a.  Why do you even have mustard jonny asked sarcastically we have pizza and carrots neither need mustard.  Austin dipped a carrot in mustard and ate it with a stupid smile on his face mmm delicious he said.  Hey guess what my mom had to help me get dressed this morning Austin laughed  Eww jonny replied you seriously have issues.  Jonny and Austin were actually pretty good friends and they liked to tease each other. Jonny also had a crush on Austin's mom she was single and still very attractive she had Austin when she was young and even now was probably in her early thirties.  Hey watch this Austin said. No don't three of us tried to say at once as Austin there a rotting banana.  Direct hit.  Austin Daniels you get over here right now! A teacher had seen.  The moment has come back clear and piercing I remember it now like it was yesterday. We were in third period history class. I was sitting on the left side of the classroom against the windows. It was a windswept day it hasn't rained but rain had been threatening all afternoon. Instead the wind Just blew scattering autumn leaves across the grounds and causing others to come spinning lose from the trees on which they clung.  It was a nice day though it was a Thursday and there was a basketball game that night and everyone was excited we were 15 and 2 and Doing very well, Chelsea and Sara sat in front of me and Austin was sitting beside me. We were all very talkative and had been scolded once so now we sat quietly listening to the story of the battle of the little big horn.  We were given a small break and everyone began to talk happily I remember feeling strange like something was wrong but maybe my memories are incorrect. Class had just started up again when Ms Janes bust into the room her face as pale as a ghost. They whispered briefly and ms James turned to the class I just heard there may have been an attack on New York City there are rumors it was an atomic bomb.  It felt like time stopped what this has to be a joke I remember thinking I wonder if our basketball game will be canceled. Now before you think I'm callous or heartless I would like to say i was somewhat in shock. I felt there must have been some mistake and I think deep down I needed confirmation.  It didn't take long our phones started to buzz with messages. Ms Janes put the news on and we watched in stone cold silence.  Everyone was being evacuated there was a brief clip they played of the mushroom cloud spreading up and over the great New York skyline before the camera cut out.  What's happening What's happening This can't be real     Chapter Has any one ever you told you, you have beiber hair.  Billy looked at him. And didn't respond  Alex laughed  Then billy replied  Yes You Everyday Punctuating each of his words  Has anyone ever told you you shack your hips like Elvis  Haha no I don't shake my hips ... In public.         Chapter 3    I even had the audacity to be bored that night I have a lot of regrets but I ways loved my family and that whole month we got along great we always did I was blessed, blessed for 17 years  These are the memories that I pieced together but I should back up to the day I was born well I call it that day because it felt like I came from a void as dark as a . Of course on that day I was almost 18, well that's another thing biologically I was 17 my body was 17 my mind was 17, well actually mentally I acted about 13 or 14 lets see about to start college in one year and i still laughed when someone said uranus.  but there is always time to grow up later. That last part is a bit confusing so let me be clear my last memory was of being 17 i know for a fact i have lived at least 17 years, but how many more? I had been 17 a while and then came the darkness I have no recollection of time so I could be 17 still, but I'm beginning to think that a LOT of time passéd while I was covered in my watery cell. I think I may be far more ancient, the lives of kings, rulers and entire empires just quick flashing memories like a passing road sign on a road trip, last chance to get gas, stale donuts and shirts with wolves howling at the moon for 120 miles.  Ahhh I gasped for air everything was darkness total and complete blackness. I was also totally  wet with close walls around me smooth and deathlike. A powerful humming noise like a generator shutting down could be heard outside.  D was close she wrapped her hands sweetly around me calling my name. My tomb encased me all though I was too disoriented to know that death was pressing in, all I had was a primal instinct, oxygen I need oxygen. I shoved my face into the top corner of the dark tube in casing me and gasped again the air was getting stale i would be dead in minutes i thrust out with my arms and legs trying to free myself in any way possible. There was about 8 inches between the water and the lid that contained the quickly depleting oxygen that stood between me and a sudden death.  Panic set in I didn't know who I was I didn't know my name, everything was blank just the overwhelming urge to live and to breath. I thrust out again at the roof harder this time and my hand caught something hard and sharp near the top. I felt it cut my hand and the blood come out fast and strong into the dark cold water around me. I felt myself going dizzy and in fear, terror and panic began hitting whatever it was that had cut me. Once, twice, three times! Over and over I struck but on the last time I felt it give with a life saving noise the top of the tube shot open on its hinges flooding the area above water with air. I gasped in as I pulled myself up and rested my arms on the edges of the tube. I had managed to hit some kind of escape latch that must have rusted shut.  I was cold and wet I felt around the edges of the tube for a way to pull myself free but felt nothing. I could touch the bottom of the tube if I sub merged Myself, I think the overall tube was about 8 feet deep and 2 feet wide. The walls were completely slippery and solid The water came up about 7 feet in the tube. I hung on the edge exhausted, Listening to the strange sound of the humming noise as it seemed to be slowing down. The generator sounded massive but at this point I was still totally disoriented. I really knew nothing no memories of who I was, of my past or any clear idea of the present; where I was or really any perception of reality. Just a few basic feelings cold, dark, exhaustion and a throbbing pain where I had cut my wrist. Something told me there was more to life then the tube I was in and the dark water around me. Trying to get out made me realize how trapped I was the sides were round but everything was wet and slippery. The total and complete dark made it even more difficult to come up with a plan of action. I was also totally weak I began to worry that perhaps I might drown after all.   I lay on the ground bleeding and exhausted but alive and I intended to stay that way. As the darkness pressed around me I felt pale and hopeless. I also began to remember another feeling, hunger. It was intense between the throbbing of my hand, the hunger and the total exhaustion I was beginning to think that escaping from the tube was going to end up being pointless.   Maslow has a hierarchy of human needs, right now I was in desperate need of all of them. I was like Robinson Crusoe trapped in an icy and forbidden world.  I opened the door and found a Geiger detector. We had used one in high school science and I was familiar with how they worked. There were about 5 of them on a shelf and I   I looked out and soaked in the fading daylight and was hit by a blast of icy air. The view almost took my breath away, maybe that was the cold. I looked out over the vast icy snow clad mountain range stretching endlessly as far as the eye could see, dark powerful mountains taunting me to try and survive their Wintery wrath. There was beauty too, the giant mountains were Gorgeous shades of blues, whites and purples. They were mostly what looked like evergreens I also saw a lake a few miles further down.  Chapter 2 A nuclear bomb! Stunned silence the classroom sat starin at ms white she was shacking her pale face speaking the words this is not a joke. And besides a teacher wouldn't joke about that anyways.   Chapter 3 Jason scanned the room frantically Katie come here you need to see this I think I found something, it's big I mean really big.  About the missing plane she asked as she hurried over to his desk on the third floor of the FBI building. Yes there are four planes that have gone totally missing right?  Right she responded.   Chapter 3 Do you think you of all gods creatures would be the only ones to evolve  Chapter 4 I set out, like a modern day Robinson Crusoe escaping his island, or maybe gilligan would be a better likeness. I felt nervous but double checked the raft one last time, food, oars, a small tarp shelter fishing line, water and the emergency kit I had found.  The shore was relatively warm and I had cut my jeans into jean shorts. I waded out into the ocean pushing the Raft against the strong ocean swells. The water was cold but the sand felt good on my feet.  It was actually more of a struggle then I realized to get it past the waves coming in. I had waited for the tide to go out but the raft was awkward especially when I had gotten to almost waste deep water. The waves were fairly large and seemed to break right over the top of where I was standing. If it had been a day at the beach it would have been great but right now it was preventing me from setting sail.  I finally reached the point where my feet lifted off the sand and I was swimming with my arms resting on the raft. Well it was more like kicking with both feet then swimming but it was starting to work, it was a good thing the day was somewhat warm because I was totally drenched by now.  I finally made it out last the big breakers and the sea grew calmer. Every journey starts with a first step and in this case t was a paddle. I grabbed a hold and splashed the paddle into the ocean and began my trip out to sea.  I have to say at this point that sailing out in the ocean raft was incredibly stupid. I probably should have waited on th island for help, but something deep down inside told me help was never going to come. This led to my decision to sail as soon as I could while I was healthy and the. Weather was not too cool. I was almost sure now that it was late summer.  As far currents, tides, monsoon seasons I had no idea, I wasn't even sure what ocean i was in. The thing is 6 months is long time alone. And this led to my somewhat rash decision. I didn't want to die alone on this island, but don't get me wrong it would have been a nice place for a vacation with some friends.  As it was I think that I caught a current because over the course of the day I watched the island sinking away on the horizon. It was gradual but I could see that I was making progress  some where. The seventh day out was relatively warm and by mid afternoon the sun had warmed my little raft up a lot. The blue water spread out around me began to look more and more inviting so I  decided to take a dip in the cool ocean whole staying close to my raft Right before I plunged in I wondered how deep the ocean was and how far away the sandy floor might be. I also wondered what creatures might be below me; particularly of the shark variety. But it was too late, splash! The cool water felt good and I swam around my raft and enjoyed the refreshing ocean. Some water splashed in my mouth and I didn't drink it but the water tasted pure it was salty of course but much fresher then when I had gotten a mouth full trying to surf off the California coast south of San Luis obispo. One strange thing happened. As I came up out of the water and opened my eyes I thought I saw a human face with blonde hair watching me off in the distance. It happened so fast and their was a glare from the sun on that part of the ocean and I decided it was just a trick of my eyes. But it made me think of my friends and family and I wondered where they were and if they were ok.  When I crawled back on the boat on though about how pure the water was. I lay in the sun wondering the implication could be. Of course I was far out to see so maybe humans hadnt reached this far but something inside told me I was very alone. I also thought the feeling is natural considering I was a adrift in the ocean by myself but I had a nagging feeling whenever I made land I might be just as alone as I was right at the moment sailing on my little raft a small dot in the middle of a vast blue ocean.  The soft and warm sun came down and spread its light over the deep blue ocean. As the sun slowly drew across the sky the day warmed considerable.  I lay for the rest of the afternoon staring at the blue sky being tossed by the waves and feeling both peaceful and lonely. I began to wonder if I would ever make land and thought maybe I should turn around and head back for my island. What made me decide against it was I didn't know where my island was and I realized  I would be fighting against the currents which is why I decide my best plan was to keep sailing in whatever direction it was I was sailing towards.  Time became tedious the days and nights stretched on forever.  On the eleventh day out something interesting happened it was towards the evening time and I spotted something on the horizon. I used my paddle to push my self towards it and realized it was a small sandbar. There were even 5 or 6 coconut trees.  Probably from coconuts that had drifted across the ocean lonely in search of a home. They landed adrift on this small island to go about their lives, reaching upwards towards the sun with their branches and sinking their roots deeper and deeper. I imagined the cocoanuts drifting endlessly across the sea until by a twist of chance they landed on this tiny sand bar, Similar to me but hopefully I won't spend the rest of my life here.  I landed on the small sandy island and waded ashore as ocean water splashed all around me.  it felt good to be standing on firm ground. If the island had been bigger I would have been tempted to stay longer if it was sufficiently large I may have stayed for a considerable time I was Nervous about setting sail again. The thought of a large storm thrusting my raft into the ocean had been growing on me. So far I had been lucky but I knew that one good storm could end my life. But I would starve on this small peaceful island so I decide to just enjoy the night and then leave in the morning. I gathered palm fronds and made a large fire I also ate some coconut and warmed some of the milk.  I decided to inspect the small island, I counted all the palm trees, 1,2,3,4,5,6,7. Seven trees not enough to support a human being. even one whose only other option was to sailback out into the giant vastness of the ocean, the burning sun and the aching lonliness not even broken by the sound of sea birds.  The small island, was probably about five hundred feet long and a quarter  of a Mile wide. The trees all grew in a clump in the middle and I harvested coconuts.  Either way it was heaven to me I ran around the island like a mad man splashing in the ocean and laughing. If you haven't been adrift alone on a small raft for days you probably won't understand. Maybe you have been couped up in a mini van on a vacation driving for a couple days and spending every minute in the van or in a hotel. Well when you finally get back and regain your freedom that's kinda what it's like.  I kicked the sand up and watched it blow in the evening breeze I hugged a palm tree like it was a long lost friend and climbed one And knocked a coconut down the sheer joy of it made me laugh.  After my out poring of pent up emotions fueled by worry exhaustion loneliness and poor diet.  I lay back in the sand exhausted and slightly worried that I was losing my mind. I felt my face, dang it was still mostly smooth if I was gonna go crazy at least I wanted a full wild beard to go with my insanity. How could I be almost in college and still not able to grow a beard. How could I be almost on college and the last living human on earth. No, I can't think like that I told myself. I have been on an island and a sand bar I have no idea what year it is or the state of the world. My nagging doubts had plenty of real evidence they may be real but I had no proof.  As I recovered from my pent up days at sea I decided to try to catch a fish if I did I would be able to cook it. I put my fishing line out into the sea in hopes that I could catch a small (or large) fish to supplement my dwindling rations.  It was definitely my lucky day because I managed to catch a small fish. Now normally i won't eat fish but I was somethsy of a changed person, funny how starving with the possibly of starving to death can make you far less picky.   My father would be proud or would he? He always lectured me about stupid things I did, "so your friend dared you to roll up a roll of flash paper and pretend you were smoking it you deserve to have the front of your hair singed." Hey its not my fault that it stuck on my lip as I went to spit it out and I didn't know flash paper burned that fast.  He never thought to lecture me about setting sail on a small raft alone with limited supplies on the mighty ocean. Well there is nothing I can do about that I am here right now on an island that can't support a life form as large as I so the only thing to do is continue my reckless voyage.  I Laid on the raft just the gentle swell of the ocean rising and falling and the lonely cries of the seagulls wheeling over head. It felt like my life was coming to an end and I felt sad I wanted the peacefulness to go on forever. The sun hung overhead  I took the fish i had caught and cooked it over my fire and had coconut and fish and felt my strength revive. Human moods and emotions are a strange thing because while I was cooking and eating my dinner I felt on top of the world, like finding my friends and family and makin land were just right around the corner.  Matin  But after eating as I sat with my back to one of the palm trees and stared out and listened to the vast ocean and listened to the gentle waves roll in and off the small beach I was overtaken with an immense feeling of loss and loneliness. Deep down something told me the world I loved was gone. I dug my hands into the warm sand and watched as the sun slowly touched the edge of the great ocean.  As the sun set it set the skyline a blaze with brilliant shades of reds and oranges the lonely island waves washed gently on the beach and I sat on a bed of palm leaves I had made.  As the sun sank below the horizon a cool breeze picked up and I shivered in the night air.  I had a feeling of the immense weight of time driving a wedge between me and hope. I stared at the sun until my eyes burned and felt the sun was larger and older both the sun and i might go about our lives never finding what we were looking for.  The weight was too much to bear and I lay back in the sand and stared at the vast stars overhead. They were piercingly bright and so many I have seen the night sky far from civilization before but never had the stars been so bright. I didn't see Perseus or Orion or the Little Dipper or any of the constellations I recognized. What this meant about my location in time and space was not lost on me. I fell asleep to the sounds of the ocean waves washing up on the beach.  I woke once during the night feeling cold and strange, my body had grown used to the ceaseless tossin of the ocean.  When I woke the sun was already fairly high in the sky. I went down and contemplated staying another day on the Island but decided I would get to bored and impatient and I only had limited food and water. There was no fresh water on the island.  That evening I sat on the beach the lonely expanse of the ocean stretched out before me. The solitude was staggering, like a physical force crushing me. I realized I could die here or some where out at sea and never see another human being again.  Time slipped away, slowly it had no meaning just day and night, then day and night. A tugging on the fishing line roused me from my dark reverie and I began hailing the line in. I kept pulling and winding the stick the line was tied to as whatever was at the other end tugged much harder then I was expecting. I fought and fought and eventually was rewarded with the site of the ocean splashing and the a large fish being pulled up on the beach.  It was probably almost two feet.    Eventually I roused my self.                     Chapter The island was a strange place remote, lonely and forgotten. Strange birds hung in the air their lonely strange calls echoing out into the stillness. Piercing the lonliness. The whole place felt dreamlike just lonely round green grassy hills rising and falling for what seemed like forever.  I pulled my small raft farther up shore into the grass I didn't want the tide to pull it out into the depths of the great ocean.  I drank deeply from the cool swift running steam and later down in the soft green grass totally exhausted the warm breeze blew around me and the starts came out bright and piecing once again I was struck by how strange they were I drifted off to sleep wondering where I was peaceful and warm.  I woke cold and achy a soft falling around me, it would have been pleasant in another time and another place.     Far away mountains rose in the distance.  A ruined city it must have been fair and lovely.  He decided to scale the mountains to see if he could see anything.     No I decided I needed to leave at least on my raft I was going somewhere even if that some where was circles.  The day started out brilliant but as I sailed I watched dull gray clouds gather across the vast horizon.  I had woken in a fairly good mood but the gray clouds lowered my spirits considerably. The day seemed to drag forever and after I had lost sight  of my island I had nothing to gauge time or how far I had travelled.  This day the boredom was by far the worse I had ever experienced around evening as the sunset the waves started to get more choppy and rough and my boredom was replaced by anxiety of an impending storm. The storm never seemed to come though   I carved a small mark for each day that went by, I I I I I I I I I I I I I . 14 days I had been sailing I think the worst part was the boredom and loneliness. My emotions went up and down. The first couple days I was excited and hopeful but by day 14 I was starting to think that I was gonna die out here. It was at this point I started to regret leaving the island.  I didn't have long to regret because on the 15th day the skies gathered with pinkish looking clouds and I began to be concerned a storm was coming. When I went to sleep I lashed myself down with rope and it was a good thing I did.  A massive storm hit my raft and tossed my tiny raft about. The wind and rain and spray covered me and fear tore at me. I would rise up on a mighty wave only to be slammed down again as more giant waves rose all around me.  The sound itself was defeaning I felt pure terror and fear but somehow my raft stayed afloat and in one piece.    Nothing but the old broken stones And ruins of lost civilizations vanished long long ago. So old he wondered if they ever existed or simply sprang from the earth. The place lonely strange birds wheeled overhear there plaintive calls heard far far away.  The windswept grass stretched away to towering mountains. Something told Alex this place was an island  He walked through the lonely city broken walls and tumbled stones  He wondered what people had lived here long ago, were they kind, what led to their abandoning this city, who was the last person to live here was he all alone, did he feel lonely.  Alex continued waking up the windswept hill and entered the stone ruins. He decided to climb the mountains to see if he was on an island or to make sense of what this place was.   He saw the sun reflect off something  Director Salem paced the room nervously  They hadn't heard an update in 16 hours and the last communications with the antaryic base had become increasingly more frantic and in coherent  Everyone sat at their stations at the NASA base quietly hoping they all had friends who were trialled or dead but Salems wife of three months was one of those lost. The military was working on a rescue but it was dangerous to go down during the long dark winter  Kill her  Don't injure him tell we know whig one we are keeping a live most likely the boy so if you need to keep him inline use his sister.  Knew better then to remind him the girl was still on the loose he knew he would be being hit. Aw  Chapter We have been receiving strange signals from quite some time a few physicists discovered then but then the governments silenced them and continued to fund their work.   Chapter The dark figures ghosted through the woods. The old houses wooden floors groaned and creaked as the people tried to slide silently across throuhh the house made his way  The sea was fairly calm after the storm I laid on the raft in the soft sunlight slowly filtering down from the soft blue sky. I lat there drifting wherever it was the waves would take me to. I was completely exhausted and felt weak. I knew I would feel better if I are and drank but the storm had tossed everything into the sea. I would have been more upset but my foot was almost gone and so was my water. My only regret was not eating and drinking it before the storm hit. Now they were lost forever to the depths of the ocean.  My body and spirit where already weak from everything that had occurred and the three weeks at sea had not been kind. I knew it was a fools errand and I had vacillated between being glad I set sail to know feeling I had made a terrible mistake.  But food was running out on the island and I didn't want to die there all though now I wonder if that would have been better then dying at sea.  I knew I would be dead soon if I didn't make land and drink and eat something.  The sun warmed considerably after the storm and I wondered where I be drifting. The ocean was a beautiful shade of blue in the late afternoon sunlight. It would have been a peaceful afternoon at sea ify situation wasn't so desperate.  On the twenty second day I began to hallucinate and my throat burned like sandpaper. It was getting hot i think in the 90s but it was worse because i was totally exposed and the ocean seemed to create a canopy of heat around me, the sun glared terribly of the surface of the ocean. I was so thirsty  I couldn't stop thinking about water swimming in a nice cool pool, drinking a cool glass of water. I had that same desire for water like after soccer practice on a late summer day. But then I knew my thirst would be quenched now I wasn't so sure. I began to think that it wouldn't be such a bad idea to drink the ocean water.  I had always heard never to do that but in my current state it seemed foolish to die of dehydration surrounded by water. I tasted a little but it was awful and salty and i decided to keep hoping for land and a creek. I think deep down I knew it wasn't gonna happen. But I still hoped!  I began to grow more and more weak as I drifted in this aimless state tossed and turned by the tides and eddies of the ocean.  As I grew weaker I began to spend more and more time passed out with my shirt pulled over my head to shield me from the sun. I was so dehydrated (and hungry but I didn't realize it) that i began to feel less of the original emotions I had experienced fear was gonna discouragement, frustration now I simply felt Hungry and weak.  I fell asleep into fitful dreams and woke the next morning feeling weak and faint. I drifted off again into a state bordering on consciousness and unconsciousness. The whole day passed like this I remember the sun beating mercilessly down on me and also boredom. I passed out and awoke close to evening time.  I was shacky but i still managed to unroll the last line of fishing wire and cast it into the sea. I hoped maybe I could catch a small fish. As I stared up at the stars I wondered how much more I could drift like this I also wondered if anyone was looking for me but something deep down inside told me they were all dead. I decided to out aside my gloomy thoughts and think about what I would eat if I could. First I would have my favorite homemade pizza followed my papa johns pizza a totinoes pizza then old Chicago pizza." And plenty of water then later I would enjoy a nice ice cold Pepsi, no scratch that I would get a Starbucks smoothie something strawberry flavored. I awoke the next morning almost totally gone and disoriented. The sun was a little cooler and I think this helped keep me alive.  It was in this state that the strangest thing happened to me. Four arms threw themselves up on the raft and two of the wildest and most beautiful faces I had ever seen pulled themselves up out of the water and looked at me. Two girls the wilder looking one of the two had curly blond hair all dripping wet. The other one had jet black hair and was just as wild looking as her friend. I wasnt very afraid of them at the moment. this could have been how far gone i was or that they did not act threatening; though wild I just sensed curiosity from them and a little bit of caution. I even felt a little like they were afraid of me. They talked excitedly but I couldn't make out their words, maybe it was french the blond one pointed at my feet her toned and tan arm glistening in the sun.  The shock called me somewhat back to my senses and I realized they were laughing about something the blonde one called out something and her voice was the most beautiful I had ever heard. The words were music like in nature. Her voice made me want to throw myself in the ocean but I was too exhausted to move. I realized she was calling to her friend a third girl that hung farther back then the rest floating in the ocean. She had brown hair and I had thought the first two were beautiful but she far outstripped the other two girls and while she looked wild she was the least wild looking of the three and she also seemed like the most timid. I got the feeling that they were almost like three teenagers playing a prank.  They kept laughing and pointing. I realized they were pointing at my legs. And then. Splash they disappeared beneath the ocean surface. They came back up again further from the raft closer the the third girl.  A wave came up and splashed the blonde girl in the face and her black haired friend laughed. This followed with the blonde girl splashing her friend with her hands I was surprised how much water they splashed at each other and then they stopped and laughed as they caught their breath. They then sat contentedly rising and falling with the gentle ocean swell. By now the fog had burned off and it was a beautiful day. It wasn't hot but the sky was a the dark blue of the ocean and the sky looked like the view you should see whole vacationing at a resort not dying on a raft.  I started to feel weak and couldn't keep my head up. As my head fell back to the   raft I tried to keep my eyes on them but they had disappeared again.  When I regained consciousness it was dark. The stars pierced the sky brighter then I had ever seen. My raft gently swayed and I felt some energy and less thirsty. What looked like a small green  glass vial rolled around on the raft it kept getting closer yo the edge. i tried to crawl towards it bit my shifting weight tilted the raft and it spilt off the raft into the moonlit sea. I lay on my back watching the stars and feeling the gentle swell of the ocean. I felt less Thursday and hungry and even peaceful. The moon hung in the sky and reflected off the water.  I felt enough energy to prop my head up and look for land. As I turned my head the only thing I saw in any direction was the endless sea stretching on forever. And above me the vast expanse of the sky bright blue and falling away into nothing.  I felt weak again toward the evening And this is when the second strange thing happened. I woke in the evening twilight and saw the third girl sitting on my raft. When I opened my eyes she smiled at me. There was a sadness about her that made her even more beautiful, It i couldn't even lift my arms but wanted to help her, a totally foolish sentiment given how helpless I was.  She spoke some words I didn't understand and gently laid her hand on my forehead. She was sitting with her back to me and her feet in the water, I couldn't move but I swear her legs were a tail like a mermaid. No wait, she was a mermaid!  the shock woke me and I tried to turn but was to weak inlay back down and she said eleemosynary elle or elly and pointed at her sel, her name she was telling me her name.  Alex I tried to say but I was to weak. A look of concern passéd over her face and she pulled out a small green bottle and gently pressed it against my lips as I swallowed. Whatever it was it tasted delicious it had a faint taste of peaches but mostly tasted like refreshing water. She then pulled out a larger bottle and have me a small sip it tasted like water and was the most refreshing drink I had ever had.  Thank you I managed to say.  She smiled again but this time the look of sadness passed over her face again an she didn't say anything I was still laying on the raft too weak to get up and I worried that maybe I had offended her. I tried to smile and she noticed, she said a few more words but I couldn't understand and then she began to Sing quietly, she had the most perfect voice I had ever heard.  After a while something startled her and she dove gracefully back into the water barely making a splash. I realized there was a number of plants on the raft they all looked like ocean plants but kinda I didn't recognize. I decided that I was gonna die of starvation so the risk of eating them was much lower then eating them. I was still too weak to sit fully up but layers on my side and delicately tasted a green looking one. It was surprisingly delicious (I assume everyone is when your starving) so I quickly ate it all.  I was finally feeling a little better and lay on my side resting in the weak sunlight filtering down from the mellow blue sky. Totally and completely unaware of the Terror that was waiting for me.  The slight breeze felt good and I lay On my side feeling better then I had in a long while. It was laying like this that it happened, I looked over and saw a large fin break the surface of the water. I felt my body go numb with fear, something inside told me  it wasn't a dolphin.  It was still a ways off and I hoped it would swim away, but my hopes were not to come true. It sailed closer and I realized it was circling my raft. It disappeared and I hoped that it had gone.  Then something slammed into the raft with tremendous force. I clutched onto the raft terrified and afraid.  Chapter 6  Chapter 4 He was gigantic thick and massive covered in think armor but he moved with fluid and graceful ease.  He leveled his massive lance at me as he sat upon his massive battle horse. I knew my life hung by a thread the lance looked like a small tree  His voice was thick like the earth  Son of earth we are at an impasse what know you of  magic  Tells their creation story  He laughed it was a deep rumbling laugh it sounded like it came from the earth  The next thing I knew it felt like a thunderclap or a city bus hit me  We traveled further deep into the mountains  The time walkers Chapter 5 Alex!!! She screamed and dived out of her chair the giant guards drew their swords   Guess what she laughed I've been here two years which makes me older then you.  I just want to go home.  But where or when is home?  On island explores Builds raft Sails Sharks Sees mermaids They help him Explores continent Empty  Time machine antartica Ice then green city Then dangerous continent   In darkness they slumber They walk the face of time In The edge of time The end of the world The end if time    time walkersk           Chapter Story line 1 Hayley and Jason walked down the winding French street. It was a windswept day and the ragged clouds jutted across the sky. It seemed like they were fleeing they did not want to hear what terrible secrets might be revealed.  This could just be another dead end hayley said. She was dressed in a smart black dress and Jason was In a suit.  That's true Jason replied but it was worth the flight over he new at lease some strange facts that seem related to the case.  They were shocked he was much younger then they imagined.  He was handsome and obviously wealthy.  It was all a game to them you know how you might sit down to a game of chess that's what these armies are there pawns and they sit back and pull the strings from a safe distance. They even wager on who will win. Sometimes they both lose like the Cuban missle crisis that was supposed to escalate.  He buried his face in his hands. But this time the game had gone to far I'm the youngest member and I'm already guilty beyond imagination. Meeting You has signed my own death warrant I'm a walking dead man. Harley looked at Jason she was confused.  He went on of course everyone is a winner because war is a business and they own the steel and the mines and the factories.  I'm just telling you facts it's up to you to choose how you interpret them.   Main story in future School story the present Young FBI agents Trying to stop attack Future rogue bears capture his friend  Secret society plans wars to get rich and it's a game  This one gets out of hand                Chapter 3 I had totally given up hope when I saw what looked like land off in the distance.the rush of joy overwhelmed me and with my last strength I began to paddle and swim towards the Land. As I got closer I could feel the waves pushing me in and then I was sure it was land a rugged coastline covered in deep pine woods and rocky cliffs, at the moment I had never seen anything more beautiful as I created at the top of a wave I saw a small steam cascading off the too of one of the cliffs, water!  I made it on to the beach exhausted but full of joy. I layed in the sand for a while with the waves gently washing up and over my feet. There was a thick pine forest ahead of me and I knew that if I had drifted in tropical waters I was back now some where that reminded me of the Pacific Northwest. It was getting to be dusk and I rose an staggered for the tree line hoping to find the creek I saw and maybe  some wild berries or anything edible. As I passed over the sand dunes I had to take a break to gather my energy. As I sat I realized that the trees were far more massive then I had realized. Some of their trunks were easily 10 or 15 feet in diameter. I sat in silent awe of the giants and wondered how long they had been growing.  It felt like I had stumbled into some primeval world. I began to walk to my left towards the cliffs that I had seen in hopes of finding water. I was still feeling exhausted and hoped they the woods would hold something I could eat.  When I made it into the woods they were silent and peaceful, they held great arching branches that spread above me like a sacred chapel. Small pieces of sunlight streamed through the branches and illuminates the grad and ferns and mosses for bring the floors.  I paused for a minute taking in the immensity of it all. As I sat listening I thought I heard a creek further ahead. I was now traveling up with the great ocean laying to my left.  If I found the creek my plan was to follow it more or less inland. If there were people wherever i was I hopefully could find them before I starved. As I walked through the vast undergrowth I was struck by the mighty pillars of the pine trees rising up far far above me.  And then I saw the steam buried beneath grassy banks. I rushed forward barely able to contain my joy and threw myself drinking the cool clear water. It was the most amazing taste and one ill always remember with gratitude. After I had drank my fill I briefly worried that there might be something in the water that would make me sick, but then I also thought sick means not dead and thats a more appealing alternative. I felt my energy come back and began to walk slowly along the mountain steam. I was winding slowly up hill through the wood and it felt like I was walking though a dream.  A gentle evening breeze blew thought the tress and the leaves made a nice comforting sound. It helped because after being out at sea for so long I had to regain my land legs it felt like I was still pitching at sea.  I had climbed a considerable way up when I decided to stop for the night. I had found a grassy meadow and over the tops of it I could see the ocean. It felt like the place you would have a wedding, I could picture the lights hanging and tables set and all the guests dressed in nice suits and dresses.  For some reason I clearly pictured myself at one of the tables wearing nice dress clothes and I was talking and laughing happily with the girl I had met on the raft. Was she real did I imagine it, I wasnt sure.  The thought made me happy but also miss everyone. The water had made me too and I looked around and the pone and for and oak trees and ferns and tall green grass and wondered what was edible. I also thought about.  I followed the creek all the next day but it was increasingly harder among the overgrown banks. I began to wade among the stones along the bank. Towards the end of the night I was tired and hungry and wondering if there was any civilization to get too. I was so sure all I had to do was make it to land and I would be saved but here I was better off then at sea but still facing starvation.  I wondered what I could eat, I felt like I remember that you could eat fern fronds but I was not sure. I also thought maybe you could drink tea made from boiled pine needles but I had no way to make a fire.  In the end I just layed down is some tall grass and drifted off to sleep with the night noises all around me. When I woke I was cold and felt achy. I was also wet, and heard the gentle potter patter of rain falling the forest leaves. If I had been inside it would have been a cozy morning. One to eat a breakfast of potatoes and bacon. Then have an active day and curl up with a nice book by a fire in the evening. But my day involved surviving. And that included finding food. With the creek by my side  I had plenty of cool clean water that hadnt made me sick. But now I needed food.  I got up and continued along the creek bed. The cloudy skies had given way to a beautiful blue sky that turned a lovely shade of dark blue.  The undergrowth along the side of the stream was less so I came up and waded though the grassy banks. The whole first felt ancient the tress so broad and majestic. The ground had slopes steadily upwards and I was fairly high up the mountain pass. At a small grassy clearing I turned and stared out, far away in the distance I could see the ocean stretching out below.  I wondered what elle was up to and doing myself missin her. Strange when I didn't even know if the whole thing had been a hallucination. A also stared up at the sky and looked for any aero plan that might be crossing the sky. I imagine the joy I would feel know want that there were other humans.  As it was i continued to walk though the wonderland around me. The dark green of the giant pines the thick lush grass that grew and the ferns. I couldn't remember seeing beauty like this in a long time. That night something Alarming happened. As I was sleeping i suddenly woke and saw a pair of eyes up on the hill watching me. It scared me terrible but I continued to lay still.  I layed still not sure what to do. I knew whatever it was it was watching me. I thought about running then decided that I was too weak from not eating and my best bet was to lie still. Eventually whatever it was went away but I couldn't fall back to sleep. I just layed shivering and cold and miserable. The night past slowly but eventually I woke back up and it was morning so I must have fallen back asleep. I felt weak and hungry but new my best bet was to continue on whole I had strength.  To keep my mind busy I tried to imagine where I might be. It had to be somewhere remote.  I finally reached the end of the creek and it fed into a mountain lake. Beautiful blue mountains stood around me and the area felt peaceful and serene but I was discouraged and felt lost. I was weak and all the mountains appeared steep. I layed on my back in the grass and rested my eyes in the after noon sun.  The lake was beautiful high mountains stood around it and trees and forests crowded around most of its banks.  I sat up resting my back against a large oak tree, the ground under it was a thick carpet of beautiful green grass.  I had my eyes shut then heard a noise that sounded like a horse whinny.  I opened my eyes and just about jumped out of my skin.  The most giant knight sat a board a beautiful massive charger.  He was gigantic thick and massive covered in think armor but he moved with fluid and graceful ease as his horse sheighed slightly backward.  He held a massive battle lance pointed at me I don't think I would have resisted even with a gun.  I raised my hands timidly, I'm lost and hungry please and your the first person I've seen I'd rather we talked an be friends I rambled on.  He leveled his massive lance at me as he sat upon his massive battlle horse. I knew my life hung by a thread the lance looked like a small tree  His voice was thick like the earth  Who are you and what are you doing so far out in the wild?  Tells their creation story  He laughed it was a deep rumbling laugh it sounded like it came from the earth  The next thing I knew it felt like a thunderclap or a city bus hit me  We traveled further deep into the mountains   I just about jumped out of my skin.   The giant statue sat motionless and I thought for sure I was going to die. But I also marveled at the size of his massive charger. Id never seen  a horse that size in my life.  It seemed strange that all of my efforts to survive would end with me tragically impelled by a medieval lance.  A deep voice rang out from the motionless war helmet. What is you name? The vice seemed to be a part of the earth so deep and wild yet calm and in total control.  Alex I stammered my name is Alex and I'm lost and hungry I was lost at sea and swam to shore.  The charger and the man sat motionless.  After a long pause he said are you a human?  The question confused me, yes I said I  a human a man. Aren't you? The next couple of exchanges would leave me shocked and confused.   Strange he said. After all these Years.  He slowly sheathed his lance and pulled off his helmet.  Of everything  that  had happened this was by far the most shocking. A giant bears face was hidden beneath the helmet.  Are you ok he asked with more care in his voice then I would have thought possible. You don't look so good, not that I know much of your kind.  He got off the horse with speed and a grace I wouldn't have imagined is possible.  You killed each other and for what? As your armies fought what would have happened had both armies been required to wear the same uniform? You see little one were more alike then we are different.  Yes but in our world evil hung about our footsteps always tempting us as our pride and our arrogance grew so to grew the evil we were capable of. Great portions of mankind grew to hate and despise others.  And when evil men rose to power it was up to the good ones to stop it.  Even at the end I believe there was far more good then evil.   Yes yes please forgive me my ramblings I'm a dreamer and my words are often rambling too flighty my father always says.  He dismounted, now that he decided I wasn't an enemy I saw nothing but caring in his face.  It was so strange he looked eveey but a beat but also human an there was a keen intelligence in his eyes. He laughed a warm laugh that filled me with joy.  Are you hurt he asked in his deep voice.  No I don't think so I just have been stranded at sea, I don't know the last time I ate. I thought I would die soon if you hadnt found me.  Hmm yes yes, well ill make camp here for the night. But we needs to get you some food. It you haven't eaten in a whole I better start you off with something mild.  Here is some traveling bread, it is very soft and made from honey, it's probably not the healthiest but its nice and mild. It's a pity we don't have milk that's always comforting.  Some nice warm milk ok a stormy day with a book by the window.  You have windows alex said suddenly wondering what a bear house looked like.  Why yes were not barbarians, you must be mistaking us for the valkrin.  Who is that Alex's replied.  Oh he said with a deep chuckle out nothern cousins they live in the great ice planes and they are not renowned for their manners  Oh Alex said he found himself laughing too in spite of his weekness, the giant beats laugh was quite infectious.  A number of them came for a visit and they rather tore things up. They like to fight and they don't seem to mind the occasional crashing furniture. Why the poor deer wouldn't come out of their stables and the centaurs called a council of war.  Quite a mix up he chuckled.  Centaurs? deer? Where am I is this earth?  Are there mermaids here?  Hmm yes eyes I believe this place used to be called that.  Now it has many names.  What do you know of the merfolk?  Well alex said, I am still not sure if its a dream but i think they saved me when I was adrift at sea.  Interesting,  interesting he mused. The merfolk are very suspicious and a good judge of character. If they did help you that is very rare and surprising. Usually they keep to themselves and you can't blame them.  Why is that Alex asked him.  It's quite sad he said. They were hunted greatly by seafarers who sold them. A disgusting and regrettable business. Now they have withdrawn into their own kingdoms underneath the mighty  ocean.  It's rumored they come ashore and lay in the sun on small islands covered in sun and the great blue sky that hands above it.  Have you ever seen one asked Alex.  No I am not much of a seafarer he laughed, my brother is but he usually travells to the north which is covered in ice and snow and rock. The merfolk don't go to there the water is to cold. It's too cold for many bears except out white cousins. There cities are wondrous and quite comfortable, have you been to the north?  Alex paused well no, to be honest I'm still trying to figure out where it when I am.  Yes I'm sorry it's obvious you have been through a lot.  What year is it?  It's the year 57 of the second age.  Well I suppose you could say it was over 2000 years bc where I was from.  A quizzical look passed over the bears face but he didnt say much.  He seemed uncomfortable, then started to speak, we have a policy.  You seem I'm a soldier in the brigadioon.   We have a policy that anyone caught in the wastelands must be taken prisoner and brought before the queen.  Me a prisoner alex laughed. Well I would probably have died soon anyways.  Then he got serious Ihope they don't put me in prison though.  No. No the bear replied, and I like you if you want me to look away whole you escape that's fine.  Well truthfully I don't have anywhere to go.  Well good. You can be my guest I never liked that law Anyways.  If you need to bind me when we get close I understand Alex said.  I am almost back to my camp he said. When we get there we can make dinner and get settled in. Alex was thrilled at the thought of sleeping with blankets and being full and content.  They winded their way along a small dirt trail covered with grass on both sides. To their left the lake spread out and on their right deep pine covered slopes rose up to tall mountains in the distance.  Will we have to cross those Alex asked?  Yes unfortunately we will he said. They run mostly parallel to the ocean. Will head north about a days journey and there we will find a path that we can take. If it doesn't snow it's about a four days journey over the mountains and then about 3 days back to the first city. We can stay at inns the rest of the trip which will be about 2 days.  He beamed a big smile and I know the best inns with the best food. Then he paused pensively, but you will be a bit of an oddity.  How so Alex said.  None of the other creatures have seen a human, your a thing of legends, a mythical creature. A few of our scholars study humans and they are considered well, well they don't get taken very seriously to say the least.  What do you think will happen when they see me?  I'm not sure he said in his deep voice. i suppose  they will have to believe he smiled.  It will be nice to be back I have been gone a long time.  How long have you been gone he asked.  It's been a full year he said.  Wow Alex said that is a long trip where have you been.  I journeyed up the Coast into as far as the icelands. There I spent the winter with the wolves learning about them and their culture.  Normally there was peace but lately the wolves and the bears have been having conflicts over land and resources.  Get to camp eat  The next day they packed up and set out they winded their way up gentle forested hills into the deeper mountains.  As they're camp he set up four small lanterns on posts around the four corners and lit them.  What are those for Alex asked?  The spirits don't like them he said.  Spirits Alex asked nervously  Yes he said some of them are good but many are evil and quite dangerous.  They didnt harm me when I was sleeping alex said.  Yes they inhabit some places more then others, there haven't been many around here they prefer darker places but at night it's best to be careful.  There biggest weapon is fear. Notice is known about them but they have been increasing more and more.  That was actually party of my mission to the north. Ten of us were sent but the other ones came back I wanted to journey farther north.  The were worried about my safety coming back but so far I have been safe and I enjoy traveling by myself from time to time.  Oh no I hope I didn't intrude alex said. Your quite fine I was ready for some company, and it's even better when your with a mythological beast. He smiled.  Yes I suppose that's true alex laughed.  They continue for many days traveling over the mountains and through the pine and fir and evergreen forests.  Alex felt quite safe with his large companion.  They walked up the grassy slope. It was all so beautiful that Alex felt like he was walking in a dream.  Beorn! He heard the excited yells and looked up to see squirreles tearing out of the trees towards them.  They began to climb higher up into the rugged mountains. The slopes were covered in pine an fir and the ground was steep and rocky and they often could turn and see far out over the mountain ranges they were traversing.  At times it felt like he was striding atop the clouds like some ancient Titan come back to life.  The mountain range broke and fl in jagged peaks covered in rock and trees.  They crested a large mountain almost touching the bright blue sky laced with white clouds slowly drifting forever across the sky. They descended into a gentle mountain valley Streep mountains rose all around them as they descended the slope down a small mountain trail Alex caught glimpses of a small village tucked in the far corner. Who lives there he asked.  Dwarves he said there very friendly and they have a great inn will sleep warm and dry tonight. Will also eat well warm door the inn keeper and his wife are delicious cooks.  It's a bit out of the way but well with it.  Yes look at those storm clouds gathering it would have been a cold and wet one tonight from the looks of it.  As they descended the pass they saw a stone tower built into the living rock.  The village looked like it was from a storybook. Quaint little houses about 30 or 40 of them with thatched sides and brightly painted shares of color.  They descended through the forest then came our I to the grassy mountain valley. Alex felt so good under the sun and cool breeze. Look at that beorn said pointing to the dark clouds gathering on the far peaks.  I'm glad will be inside before the stu hits Alex said.  Yes it will be just in time. They continued through the valley at a diagonal angle until they hit a well made small road that ran to te village.  The village is a little bit larger then it first appears because some of the shops and houses and blacksmiths love in the mountain.  He pointed upwards and up there if you look there is a small dwarven house. It's inside the mountain but their veranda is carved out in the mountain. They are very nice peopl that love there and will visit them.  It's very rare for dwarves to live atop a mountain like that. Most prefer to be deep underground.  They continues along the path bright green grass and trees covered the valley and tall steep precipices and mountains circled them in all around the distances.  Two soldiers came out of the tower he knew at once they were dwarves with their wild beards for a second hw was nervous at how quick I they were approaching but he mistook their energy. It was excitement, beorn they yelled practically throwing themselves on the giant bear. They looked like small children compared to him. Good to see you beorn boomed out embracing them in a hug that almost hid them from site.  They all began heading back to the village.  By the time they made it to the village the clouds had started to gather and the first rain drops had statues to come down. A friendly young dwarf came out who knew beorn, I'm topple he said smiling as he introduced him self to Alex. Alex liked him at once he was wearing leather work clothes and had a large beard and smiling eyes.  Ill take care of your horses he said cheerfully its nice to have you here beorn he looked with admiration at ye giant bear.  It's nice to be back he replied I'm looking forward to some of the delicious food we have eaten good on the trail but not nearly as good as we will eat soon!            Chapter 8 Dusk fell swiftly as the waning daylight faded. Alex used the light to quickly try to set up his tent. As he was doing so he noticed beorn Pull out a number of think wooden poles with a small lantern attached at the top of each. He placed each one in the ground and lit a small candle wick placed inside.  After he had the first one lot it began to give off a pleasant smelling smile almost like citrus.  Would you like me to gather some wood Alex asked. Thank you that's kind to offer he replied in his deep voice. I will go with you once I get these candles lit.  what do they do Alex queried.  Beorn straightened up and looked over at him. Your not familiar with them he asked.  He seems reluctant to talk about it. It's not the best thin to speak of at night he mused slowly.  Alex walked over closer  Beorn sighed you've not heard of the twilight ones.  No Alex replied suddenly very curious. Well he said they are common in these parts. They are shades or spirits and are said to deove people insane with fear and terror some have lost there minds forever and some have been dragged into the spirit world doomed forever to haunt the night.  I can't speak much of wether the rumors are true but there is something that walked these mountains and they grow more bold.   Chapter 10 they walked through a dark forest mist hung about the trees and dampened there footfalls on the years of pine needles that covered the forest floor.  Beorn was silent and Alex could tell he was alert and poised his great body seemed coiled like a spring.   PLOT 1 Alex remembering the present leading up to the beginnings of the end of the world  PLOT 2 Alex surviving after waking up traveling across the sea and finding a strange land  PLOT 3 FBI intern Haley trying to stop the pending war and uncover the generic mutations being experimented on.  PLOT 4 Alex discovers beorn in the new world beorn is captured and taken north.        CHAPTER Hayley was nervous she couldn't believe she got an internship with the FBI. Her first day was tomorrow. She had moved into her new place for the summer with a nice older lady whose granddaughter she went to church with 1200 miles a way. It sure is a small world she thought.  She had flown in late last night and felt tired and homesick when she got to her hotel room she broke down and texted her mom she wanted to come home. Her mom must have had some sixth sense she woke up saw the text and called her with a mothers love she reassured her or was just the summer and to give it a week of she rely hated it and could come back.  Hayley was pretty and popular and on her schools soccer team she had to leave her internship a week early for practice.  She set up a work out plan and planned to run everyday after work. Since she didn't have any friends in the big new city sh figured it would be a hood way to kill Time.  When she hung up she  contemplated how she could be so strong and self assured and yet still be a little girl sometimes. Better then her younger brother she thought he is. 16 and is mischeceous teenager and little boy.  The hose was small and clean and cute and she had the whole upstairs to her selfs. It was an older house with slanted roofs.  Ms white had backed her a delicious banana bread and it made the whole house smell delicious.  She was nervous she had to get up and catch the subway by 7 am to get there in time. It was already 11 and she was not even close to rest to go to bed.    She stared at her face in the mirror ugh I look pale  She thought I'm being silly they hired me for my brains not my appearance but then she laughed quietly to herself well I don't have much oh those either. She hadn't been a stand out student in high school she was always bored and didn't pay attention. She barely managed to graduate.  She sat down on the cold hard subway seat. All the people's faces looked drawn and tired she sighed and tried to calm her nerves.  Hello dear your to young and pretty to look so serious.    In case you haven't noticed I'm black   There is a lot of good in this world but there is also evil, i choose to see the good but we have to be careful it doesn't take much evil to swallow the good. And often the evil gives us a right to hate we hate what we see but hate is a dangerous beast it doesn't care how it swallows you as long as it can.   You being in the FBI you are probably gonna see a lot of evil but you most never let it steal your humanity. I'm afraid it might steal your youth so you have to try to keep a grasp on that. Young at heart she smiled  I'm sorry this is a rather serious conversation   You shouldnt do this on a new york subway but Here is my number if you ever want to talk we can meet at a Starbucks my place is rather small anyways.  She whispered as they walked he is a bit stern so yes if you can so yes this will probably be the worst part of your day but everyone respects him he just is a no nonsense type he used to be a navy seal.  Here is the thing your one of us your part of the team we won't treat you any different the only difference is your security clearance.  We have casual Friday so next Friday business casual will be appropriate.  Do you normally west a tux she slipped  out then clutched her hands over get mouth sorry.  A half smile crossed his face well the director gets certain privileges like not dressing down I have a meeting with a senator this afternoon.  I have a Daughter around your age she is 16  Oh I'm sure she is lovely  Well we have our differences and now if you'll excuse me.  Oh and hayley don't screw up.  She felt a rush like a cool breeze on a stifling day she felt she liked him but that she was not at all comfortable he was smart and intimidating.  I hope not everyone is that serious  She was ushered into the directors office he was in a smart fitting suit and was very business like and intimidating.  He was handsome and athletic looking and rather intimidating.  Oh great she thought is everyone here going to be strict and intimidating  She felt like she was being ushered into the principals office like a naughty child delinquent.   Oh that's to early he laughed We're pretty laid back I think if you her here by 930 that will be fine he gave a pointed look at brad.  Get I stay here tell 8pm brad laughed criminals don't sleep  I don't know she mused the illuminati is kinda like  bogey man or the slender man you know things that go bump in the night? He laughed yes well working here you'll learn you probably should be more terrified of those things that go bump in the night. He tried to look serious but when the other workers laughed he couldn't keep it up anymore.   She quickly threw her clothes out and realized everything had gotten crumpled; she would have to iron. She glanced with dread at the clock 1130 oh it's gonna be a rough night she whispered under her breath. She pulled out what she thought was her nicest outfit and tried it on peering at the small narrow mirror on the wall, at least there is a mirror she thought. She put on her dress shoes ugg I forgot how uncomfortable these are she looked longingly at her slippers I wonder of they would notice if I wore those she said softly to her self then laughed. She though how glad she stated on a Thursday just one day then she could get settled in on the weekend and get on a normal Schedule.   The thing is we have had some rather disturbing attacks they have been mostly ignored but we have been following them. I normally wouldn't want an intern involved  but your gonna hear rumors as we talk about it in our department, and after all this is the FBI.  Hayley smiled its ok I can take it just if there are any photos or videos I may try to avoid them if I can especially if I'm having a snack or its close to dinner.  He laughed yes we get some things coming through here I wish I could unsee  But her interest was piqued she didn't want to pry on her first day so instead she just asked what kind of things will I be doing.  Well he said we actually are going out to investigate something in the Pacific Northwest it just came up late last night we leave Sunday would you want to join us?  Oh yes I would love to she said I mean if its not too much an inconvenience  You know things that go bump in the night  A girl walked in she was very pretty  but hidden behind a tangle of dark black hair her roots were blond hayley noticed her black jeans were ripped and tattered and she had a black t shirt.  Hayley caught a brief glimpse of her sure she was struck by them beautiful blue the only color she had, but they were sad hayley felt sorry for her she seemed lonely.     They landed his face went pale another airline has gone missing over the South Pacific.  She finally made it back home but no one was there the small lift in the cozy front room was on but the house felt lonely.          Maybe he goes to another world in that world he finds out our world has been destroyed.  When they get back to the city it is attacked and the beat is taken away to the north. He must rescue him and help the mermaid   elves just woke up Are disappearing Bears rule cities of people and animals dwarves  Centaurs Mermaids Fairies Dragons  Travel back to the city   his friend is captured and taken north  He escapes  Must save him  Chapter Then he saw it a Massive shark if looked like a Great white probably twenty feet long.  Chapter He woke to the morning sun shining down on him and noticed a haze in the distance it appeared to be land a thrill of excitement went through him.   nothing but emptiness and the plaintive call of birds circling far overhead in the wind swept sky.  whatever civilization had been here had longed since crumbled many ages ago.  It felt so empty and lonely and forgotten.    He got a stick and began to write words in the sand.  Centaurea   Alex knelt by the swift creek and bent to take a drink the green leafy canopy of trees stretched above him and reflected in the clear water. Small pebbles lined the creek bed and grass and ferns grew down to the banks.  The water tasted cool and refreshing and he enjoyed the stillness.  But suddenly he felt he was being watched and heard a sound like a hoof pawing the ground.   The green leafy stillness hung around  him and as he looked up he gasped in shock chocking on the water. A majestic centaur his upper body rippling with muscle say on the othe side of the small steam bank. With a giant leap he cleared the river with expert grace and leveled his lance at Alex.  Alex sat crouched to stunned to move.   You know the prophecies this boy is dangerous to everyone not just the Venturi and centuri clans.  Where are you from  Sunset valley high  An angry murmur rose around the room as the   They seemed to accept him they were even friendly inspire of their haughtiness.  He sat out under the starlight, the whole world was shades of dark blues and blacks the creek gently tumbled by and in the distance the shadows of great mountains rose.  His thoughts turned to the mermaid haikie hailie she was so pretty and sad it made him feel sad he would never see her again. His thoughts slowly turned to wonder where and when he was. He kept thinking this must be a dream and he would Wake up soon in third period.  He could Feel his wrath and power it was absolutely terrifying  He saw a think red out the boy loose he said urgently put your weapons down   PLOT Alex goes to get water Is captured by centaurs They take him to their village   It was a pleasant land dotted with cities and villages mountains, forests and swift flowing rivers. As they went on it became more settled with well paved roads full of travers. Oh and what an interesting group they were!  If she went to his high school she would be the prettiest girl there he thought how cool it would be to invite her to prom  Do you miss your family?  Yes but it already feels so dim like a million miles and an eternity away  He would have felt more nervous but she was sweet and shy and she seemed so sad and she was kind.    Chapter Barron had ruled his green and leafy hamlets and cities Witt  Chapter Alex couldn't believe he was sitting here next to a mermaid, well an ex mermaid. He wondered what the kids in high school would say, but then that got him thinking were there still any kids in high school? We're they all dead buried by the sands of time or nuclear holocaust.  Was the earth blanketed under nuclear winter or was the the earth, it certainly wasn't the earth he knew. How much time had passed? He kept coming back to the question of where was he. This all seemed like a dream or maybe his past life was what felt like a dream, a very real dream.   chapter It's like a faded scratchy dream hovering at the edges of my memory. Sometimes I feel a little sad but ill walk to the edge of the great ocean and let the waves wash over my feet. How long I have been on this island I am not sure catching at eating te small fish that swim in the shallows and running across the windswept hills.  Sometimes I wonder if I am still alive it gets so lonely sometimes. This place is strange and peaceful before I felt I was someplace far far away but now I feel I am drifting disassociated and ditached from the world.  PLOT lands Meets bear goes to dwarves village they are worried Goes to council rumors of ghosts and strange creatures Captured by centaurs Heads to main kingdom where bear is captured Follows him north where he stumbled upon a modern city in the ice  He is captured  Plot 2 Hayley trying to solve missing planes and war starting  Plot 3 high school life   Chapter The sun spilled down on the harvest festival evening closed upon the small village  Chapter 12  I felt so frustrated I laid on my bed staring at the ceiling feeling like this was the end of the world and of course I got a text we were having a family dinner. I was in no mood to talk and to make matters worse my dads bias the owner of the firms family was coming over. This was not going to be a good night or week or month or year or life.   Sails to a little piece of Atlantis that didnt sink sees part of ruined city in the shallows |