Deeper.

Deeper into his last cigarette, Josh watched with that ever-ambivalent glare that he assumed every day. He knew that the ember, slowly ticking down to the filter was his hourglass, and that each breath of the pungent perfume was another breath less. He had never been one to enjoy smoking, but it gave him the hot distraction from the gloom of his New Brunswick monotony. His headphones delivered his mantra, “who care is hell awaits we’re having drinks at heaven’s gate”, and the ember fell into the cold, grey sidewalk. He did not care to extinguish the cigarette. Never before had it occurred to Josh that his interactions with the hardened populace of the lonesome urban dystopia were unique to him, or that he was not another cog in the gears of this society. This day was unlike other days.

This day, Josh noticed the ember’s dying light reflect in the cool blue eyes of a passing woman. In her business dress he would never think to acknowledge her powerful yet surprisingly petite figure, except the reflection burned deeper. Josh felt a feeling of alertness, unusual to the typical daily monotony, and broke his composure for a brief moment.

“Excuse me, miss, but your eyes, your eyes are very beautiful”, Josh struggled to say, awkwardly, struggling to find the words to express his feelings, but knowing that there was some impending need for this woman to know. He was not sure how she would react in his insec-“Thank you very much, my name is Rachel” echoed through the streets, before Josh could even process his thoughts as to what was so different.

He stopped. He paused, with a lack of words. He looked her in the eyes, unable to produce words, but knowing that he was different, knowing that he could read those eyes, that these eyes could not lie. He looked longer, deeper into those cold blue eyes.

Josh did not need words, words could not lie. Josh only needed those eyes, his awkward demeanor, and her unrelenting invisible attack, to know that he had a talent, unknown and unheard, but unmistakably deeper.