Suo 1

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The Deer Island

On this beautiful Japanese island full of deer, three young men from America planned to race up the mountain. The locals have said there was a divine treasure on top. Big Willy, Eric, and Ryan were skeptical about this. But winning, surely sounds good right now for the restless souls, pushed to the corner by greed and lust in this dysfunctional world, longing for power to change everything, yet warped by the very demon they vowed to fight against.

On their way up, they sprinted past an old Japanese couple with pink towels wrapped on their necks. Eric swept up the towel and never looked back. The couple shook their head. Further up, birds can be heard chirping within a lush forest, across the rainbow formed by morning dews on the side of a precarious cliff. Big Willy was petrified by the view, but as the other two men rushed onward, he spat down the cliff wearily and quickly turned around. It was mating season for the monkeys and they could be seen making love happily in the bushes. Meanwhile, Ryan was gasping for air, for different reasons. Three miles later, the sky is open, blue, with white clouds. They looked down from the precipice, humans were slowly crawling up the mountain path like measly ants. But there was nothing spectacular waiting for them, only a weathered, empty Buddhist shrine with its pillars painted in red, and carved with some Kanji inscriptions. Eric stepped up and recited the inscription in English: “Cleanse-your-desires.” They wish they had known.