

Entered Worlds

That's when the realization came to me, I was no longer standing in the presence of the door. I was somehow transported to a forest. It was THE FOREST, there was talk about each room having different types of simulators, the forest was for those who would become the writer. Looking far off, a tablet was on a bench, my task was to find the exit by using my surroundings to navigate. This was not just an easy puzzle, I knew there would be obstacles, such as fighting off guards, of course not real, I had to stay focused and alert. Long story short I got to the exit, it was built so everyone could finish, but the path we take determines what we would be training as for the next few years. At the end of the test I had found out about the organization, I was chosen to start my training in the organization to be a writer. That was six years ago, now I'm 15, the second ceremony for the writer starts when I'm 16, this is the last ceremony that would lead to the final position. There was a time I wondered why they choose our destinies this was before going through all my training, I now realized the destinies chose us.

Learning the combat is my favorite part of my training and every lesson that involves combat hypes me up for the next one. I looked up to see a girl walk over with my friend Wen, I smile and say, "Who is this?" Wen replies "The new person in our sector, she came from sector

4.” the girl laughs then says, “I believe I have my own voice, my names Jasmine and yours?” I drank some water and cleared my throat, “Elda.” I smile and shake her hand and say, “so why move here?” Jasmine says, “I wanted to see why this sector has the best trained, by the way I am a writer and you are?” I reply nervously, “I am a writer too, well training to be a writer.” Jasmine replies, “Wen told me about you. You have the best ceremony scores of all the sectors, they think you might reach a higher place in the organization.” I nervously laugh and then respond to Jasmine “Well I believe there is no higher place in the organization, we are all equal and matter.” Jasmine smiles and says “yeah, you’re right, what I meant was they think you might work alongside the Zelgano” I reply “really, the placer? Thanks, that would be amazing” looking behind Jasmine I notice on the big screen across the room, it was almost time for my next training to begin, I continue, speaking to both “I want to talk more, but my training starts in five” I get up and start to walk off as Wen replies “you asked me once why you and I can’t catch up, we can’t catch up because you don’t take time to relax” I sarcastically reply, “What’s relaxing?” I continue “I know but I enjoy this, promise after this training we will all hang out” I look at Jasmine and say, “I want to get to know you more” and with that I left through the front doors.

After leaving the training room I head to my quarters, falling onto my bed wincing as I do, the soreness overtaking my body. Been training non-stop for the past few years, maybe taking this little piece of advice from Wen is a good idea. Just need a few minutes of sleep. After taking a quick nap I get up and head over to Wen’s quarters. Standing here at Wens door I go through the process of access, I place my palm on the door and Wen lets me in. By pressing the palm to the door, it allows it to analyze the palm and cross references the database for fingerprints and DNA (it pricks your finger to analyze) it will ask the person who is staying in the quarter for permission to let the outsider in. I walk in and say, “Okay what are we going to

do?" I look at them and see an exchange of looks, as if there was something, I ask, "What were the exchange of looks?" silence, I ask rephrasing "What are you hiding?" Wen says, "Okay listen I need to show you something, but can't tell you what it is just yet" Jasmine then speaks "So Wen found something, seven is the best time to go apparently." I raise an eyebrow and ask, "What are we going to do till then?" Wen smiles, I know exactly what he is thinking we exclaim in unity "Game room!" I smile and high five them both. We have a museum of all the systems from the past, those don't even compare to our systems now. There is a system we have in the Game room that allows us to practice combat skills, of course, it's my favorite equipment to use. I say to them "I know! we should see who is better at fighting, me or you." I tell Wen. Wen replies, "yeah you and I have different trainings, but I bet I can beat you" He is training to become a system coordinator, although we are training for different places we all are required to take combat training. Due to the restrictions our government places on us and with the protection of the history and the knowledge we have contained, we need to protect it at all cost. We head over to the system and try the new update, the system speaker says, "ready fighters, begin!". We played maybe 4 rounds before I ultimately won the challenge. "Seems I need practice" Wen says as he fists bumps me. Jasmine says confidently "I want to go against you" I say very non-convincedly "I totally would take you up on that, but it's almost 7" Jasmine smirks and says, "Not even close, barely 6:20, you just want to see what Wen is going to show you" I say, "I'm just curious is all!" Jasmine then says, "Or are you afraid to face me in this challenge?". It's very interesting how each sector train their trustees, I once went against one of the most skilled warriors in sector T, it was the first year I trained, it was in that moment I decided to train non-stop for the rest of my training. I bring myself back to the present and comeback with "No I'm not afraid of going against you, you said yourself I may be cooperating with the placer". Jasmine

then says “I did indeed, but let’s see how you go against me” she smiles confidently and smirks as she starts the system up again. I smile and say to Jasmine “here we go I guess”. We spent the majority of the time playing games and using the simulator. The clock turned seven, we exited the game room and headed to Wen’s quarter. Jasmine and I sat in the comfy chairs in his quarters, we were waiting for him to find what he was looking for. I looked over to Jasmine to say “How long have you been here? I haven’t noticed you around, I’m sure I wouldn’t forget a face like yours” as I said that I cringed at myself and I think “well that attempt of flirting was bad, she doesn’t seem to mind though”, she smiles and says, “well I have only been here for four months, not very long” I reply “wow that long, huh? How are you liking this sector?” Jasmine smiles and then says, “I think it’s pretty great” I then say, “besides Wen and I, have you met anyone else you click with?” Jasmine says “no, haven’t found anyone else who I click with” as she says this Wen speaks “Okay found them, put this ring on and click this small button, it’s the only way you’ll be able to get in” Wen tells us. I curiously say to Wen “Okay? Why do I need this, are we going to a secret underground club or something” I chuckle and Wen laughs then says “Nothing like that really, we need to sneak out through here” he moves his stapler and reveals a scanner, he places his palm and scans his face, revealing a door, “Woah, when did you get an upgrade? This is super cool!” I say in such awe, we go through the door and head down the stairs and much to my surprise there is a self-operated shuttle, it seems to have a programmed location, the code was labeled in the handle of the door “Well I think you should tell me what’s going on, a secret door, a secret passage to a shuttle that leads exactly too?” Wen replies, “I promise I will explain, I received specific instructions to take you and Jasmine to this place and only then can I elaborate, sorry.” I curiously say, “They gave you access to all this, this must be utterly important if it is even more secretive than the organization.” Jasmine looks confused, she

asks “wait so you mean to tell me that they instructed you to take me as well, you told me we were going somewhere with Elda not that I would be involved. Interesting, I have been in this sector not that long, why did they instruct you to take me as well?” Wen replies to Jasmine “it has to do with the capability you both have, now let’s go we need to leave”, I say a little unenthusiastically “okay let’s go” we seat ourselves in the back, Wen in the operators seat, I’ve heard rumors about these shuttles and the qualifications to obtain one, it is rumored to take you to an enclosed location. The shuttle took us to a graffitied area, we got down and headed to a beat down building, we were underground. Wen had to access the door by the same process done by secret door, it led us to a room with another door. This door required us to place the finger the ring was on in a reading tube. To be scanned, thereafter the ring was bonded to the recipient, a security measure to make sure no one else was able to use it. After we all did this, we walked through the door seeing some sort of game room, “so all this for just another game room then” I say unamused, “No. Not just another game room it is a computerized version of people’s lives in the past” Wen responded, “Still it is a glamorized video game, no?” Jasmine says, “Not at all these people are real, they were trapped in a dome for our observations to see the way they had lived, we can play each character” as he says this I flash back to the story my grandmother told me about the two trapped in the dome and bringing happiness to the land, was the story about them in the dome? I had so many questions about the world and the reality I live. I of course won’t bring it up in this place, I don’t know who I can trust with this information. “okay, so what’s the point, I’m having a hard time understanding this” Jasmine says really confused. Wen starts “The way the interactions are between them, it’s about knowing not only the ways in which they acted, but the ways in which relationships formed before, the ways in which love was before, the interesting aspects of each different relationship and the ways in which sex was only

due to reproduction and nothing else, their views in the past compared to now, here look” Wen directed us to a screen where there was a couple that seemed to be partnered, they were hesitant about showing their love in a restaurant, I thought to myself “what was the problem with being with your partner?” I then say, “why are they acting as if it isn’t okay to be loving toward their partner?” Wen replies “It is hard to show their partner their love in this place because of the hostile environment they are in, they would be risking their safety, or be afraid for their safety if done so” it’s a curious thing this was a hostile subject or imagery for the surrounding people. We don’t care much about public forms of affection, everyone now is accepting of the love for their partner or partners. The one thing not allowed for anyone is to give natural births, we are required to obtain a baby from the facility, there are artifactual wombs that can be utilized. If we do not want kids, we do not need to have kids, the amount of kids you want are unlimited, it is about being able to care for them, the sector helps with childcare as well. The only restrictions that we really have is the knowledge of a full history from all aspects and the inability to naturally reproduce, we are required to take a medication to prevent the fertility for all Genders and at the age of eight all are required to take vitamins, this is used to prevent sexual development, we can only stop taking them once we are 21. I learned about this through documents in the lab. I found them in a secret drawer one week ago, stopped that medication and “vitamins” after that, I do not know if the organization is to be trusted. Wen brings me back to the room by saying “So that’s why this is secret, you guys can walk around and test out the systems. There will be someone coming by to debrief you guys” Jasmine and I both said “Okay” I am a bit uneasy about the secrecy of this place. I do not know the reasoning for the entrapment of these people, but they do not deserve to be hidden from the truth. I was walking around looking at the different screens when one caught my eye. There was a couple talking, I sat down

putting on the headphones that connected to the monitor. They were talking about their relationship and creating a mentality of completing each other. They were each other's halves I found this concept rather interesting. Half of a person? Weird. Did they split people up? And make them find another half to become a whole person? As I thought this, I saw a pop up asking if I wanted more information on this love. I opened it to find a love called Phila, a person named Aristotle had this concept on love. I made a note to self to research more about this later, it said that the couple was long distance, they have been dating for nine months. "They keep track of the time they are together? That's weird and what's dating?" I think to myself. It went through the story and gave me choices and as I played, I saw how David was learning more about himself with T, T was also learning about themselves and starting to find self-love. T and David saw each other as each other's halves. Ultimately, I had the choice to decide whether David should take the advising position at a company farther away from what they currently had. I choose to take the job, David decided to break things off with T because he wanted to focus on getting his career on track and thanked T for helping him know more about himself and helping him grow and flourish. T wasn't upset, they were thankful for David, David taught them to gain self-love. I sat there for a second, confused on why they would break up after three years of being partnered? Love was so weird back then.