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Age: 15

Word count: 400 words

School: Hillcrest College

The light in the distance was growing stronger. They are catching up. The adrenalin had finally worn off and I could feel every single thorn that had pierced through the paper-thin souls of my shoes. When I finally exited the forest, I had entered a meadow and I could no longer see the light.

I had lived in the orphanage for as long as I can remember. There were twenty-five kids in the orphanage, the majority of us were teenagers who had grown up here. We were “taken care” of by three nuns.

We basically did all the work as the girls did all the household chores and made every meal while the boys would work in the fields tending to the crops. The only time we would see the nuns were during supper, if something went wrong and if there were any special occasions like if there was someone looking to adopt one of us, which only happened once in a blue moon.

It was almost impossible to run away as there we were surrounded by a dense forest with God knows what animals lurking in there. There was only one entrance and exit and to top it all off the nearest settlement being a village was 15 kilometers away from the orphanage. But I finally had enough of this place I had packed all my belongings which were a sum total of 5 sadly this also included the bag I was using to carry everything else.

I had planned everything to the smallest detail but when I told the plan to everyone else, they said I was crazy and I should just wait until I turn eighteen when they kick me out. But I could not survive two more years I this place. I waited until dawn to make my move but as I made my exit, I accidentally knocked a glass in the kitchen waking everyone up in the process.

I was panting like a dog when I reached the meadow. And for the first time in all my sixteen years of living I saw the sunrise over the horizon. Everything was laced in golden rays; the dandelions took up a golden yellow color for a fraction of a second time froze and it felt as though all the pain and torture I had experienced had led up to this very moment. I finally felt at peace.