

One Last Wish

By Lillian N.

Amara laid limply in the hospital bed, exhausted, yet she couldn't go to sleep because all she heard were faint cries for help in the distance. *What am I going to do/ I have little newborn Eva without a father or me.* She thinks, then sighs heavily, wincing at the pain from her aching bones. *If only I can have him here with me.* Her eyes start to droop with tiredness as she falls into a very deep sleep.

"Aaaaaa!" Eva wakes up screaming. She looks around her shared room with a frightened look in her deep brown eyes. "Nightmare again?" one of her many roommates ask. "Yea," Eva replied. "Of course, I'm the only one who has these stupid nightmares." She mumbles angrily to herself. She then starts her day as usual, 1. Smash a cockroach 2. Eat soggy porridge and 3. Get dressed in her ashy, torn clothes. Then she finally starts her long trek around the 'neighborhood'. As Eva is walking, her mind wanders off until she finds herself crossing the dirt road to the town bakery. "Mmmmm. That smells amazing!" she mumbles to herself as she passes a couple eating a warm, mushy apple pie. While she's walking up to the counter, she hears a bang then someone shriek behind her. As her reflexes kick in, Eva ducks under a table to hide from the unknown threat. She hides for what feels like a million years, waiting for a sign that the coast was clear. Then, when the world starts to move again, Eva is up and brushing herself off. *All part of the daily routine.* She thinks trying to comfort herself. She looks back to where the couple sat romantically, now deserted with the pie still laying there sadly on the table. *Score!* Eva takes two large steps to reach the table and picks up the pie with each of her hands. She starts to take small nibbles of the pie, savoring the taste as long as possible. As soon as she finished-which was too short for her liking-she walked away sadly, but still grateful that she even got a little taste of pie. She reaches the orphanage way too quickly, and walks through the giant, rotten doors. "Hey! Eva, honey, baby girl, cutie pie-oh sorry ba- oh I almost did it again! Opps!" Rosalie, the orphanage cook, giggles. Eva glares at the big, brown, loveable cook. "You know I don't like to get called nicknames," Eva says. "Cutie pie, honey boo, baby-NO none of that! But I will make an expectation, only because I had a nice walk." Eva says to Rosalie while brushing right by her. "Oh Eva! You're as thin as a stick, come and eat something!" Rosalie pleads to her in a thick African American accent. "No, its fine, I am actually feeling a bit queasy though." Eva says with a pained look in her eyes. "Come, come let me see." Rosalie asks. Eva walks over, hoping to herself that she didn't come down with something. She then feels a chubby, cold hand press against her forehead roughly. Suddenly, Rosalie's hand pulls quickly away. "Oh no Eva! You are burning up! Here, how 'bout we wait it out and check again in a few days?" she suggests. "Ok," Eva answers. A few days passed, but Eva only got worse. So bad, that they had to call a doctor to see her. "Hello Dr.Nanu. this is Eva, the sick one is you didn't notice." Rosalie laughs blankly. Dr.Nanu grimaced slightly at the joke, but went ahead and did his work on Eva. Three hours passed as Dr.Nanu tested her, trying to figure out what Eva had. Finally, Dr.Nanu turned to Rosalie and Eva to give them the news. "I'm sorry you have to hear this, but Eva here has come down with Salmonella." At that exact moment, Rosalie burst into tears. "I'm sorry, it's just that Eva's mom came down with this too, and died." She walked quickly out of the room. Months passed, and Eva grew wearier. *Wow. No one will see me die, or care that I did. I mean nothing but an extra chore around the house.* Eva then glances toward the door,

just to find a tall, bulk figure standing there. "Hey." The tall figure says in a deep, husky voice. "Who are you?" Eva asks quietly. "Well lets put it this way, short and sweet. I'm your dad." The room starts to spin, and Eva feels queasy. "Dad?" Eva asks in disbelief. "The one and only." Her dad says softly. Just then, her heart stops. Eva is found 10 minutes later in her dad's arms, pulled closely to his chest, with splatters of tears everywhere. And that's the last moment they would ever be together.