



Serendipity

CREATIVE COLLECTIONS

Priyanshi Singhal

Priyanshi Singhal, an enthusiast of magical realism. (India)

It was more than a year ago,
I accidentally took the wrong train.
The platform number was the same old,
as nothing had changed in my daily course —
still not sure how I stumbled upon this passing rail.
For now, I thank my stars for it having stopped at my junction.
Even though I had no information about its last stop,
I naively jumped aboard.

Peeping outside from the window seat, it was all foreign at first
Yet looking at it brought me a sudden sense of comfort.
The visuals were not only pretty and mesmerizing
but what it stood for was grand and inspiring.
Instead of scenery filled with trees and birds,
hidden messages woven in melodies brimmed my view —
the soulful words and realistic imagery they carried
led me to dive deep inside my thoughts.

The journey itself is telling.
The things I learn on the way aren't something new,
but I am beginning to practice them for the first time.
Learning to move on from the scripted version of life,
I have come to accept the sea of my fault lines
Instead of a prescribed pill to cure anxiety and sadness,
The fun-filled package of the ride act as a natural dose for me—
making me forget this gloomy reality for a second.
Just a small sip of it brings a far-reaching smile to my face.
Not many people around me see this change,
ignoring and brushing past my monologic praises,
carrying on with their daily course —
they are yet to recognize this mystic train.
Perhaps, like me, fate will let them step aboard,

and help them realize what they are missing.
Instead of the world of cunning and misleading people,
they would also come to enjoy the company of this band of seven people
who are funny, smart and excellent motivators.
Some would say look at this fanatic talking,
obsessing over some individuals who might not even exist like this in reality.
However, I would like to argue differently –
Even if all of this not tangible to me,
knowing that we face the same vulnerable emotions
and it's okay sometimes for your shadow to take over,
this tiny reminder has helped me survive sleepless hours.
No doctor, psychiatrist, or preacher
could make this much progress with me.
breaking past the barrier of my negative thoughts –
their message has been well received.

While passing through a dark tunnel of life
where there was no hope in sight,
a random video helped me discover my magic shop –
for all those who are curious, this is all I have to share for now.
As time travels by,
there will be a lot more to add,
as I have just begun to embark on this track.
And though I am waiting to wander like Alice in Wonderland,
with a pair of binoculars and a dictionary in hand,
I can say with some assurance,
what a serendipitous encounter it has been.

Artist Statement

BTS has been my biggest inspiration for the past two years now. I originally wrote this piece as an answer to people around me who do not understand why I like BTS. It also reflects what their music and their message mean to me. Finding myself surviving vulnerable times through their songs and videos has been eye-opening to say the least. In some ways this piece is a glimpse of my journey towards healing and self-realisation through BTS.

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