

Four Days of Short Stories I Story 4

~Anderson Wicked~

by Thaddeus Coleman

My name is J. O. Anderson. I'm a wicked and cruel man, but I want to change. After a lifetime of thievery, lies, killings, and worst; after shunning family and keeping friends only to use them later, pissing on every god I could think of; I have to one to left to help me and it is hard to change alone. I'm on an expedition now to find the Well of Vladsiera. It is said that this well is blessed by the spirits of the ancients and can purify any soul no matter how wicked. I've spent three years in search of this legend, not trying to think if it is false or not. And now, my journey has taken me to desert right in the middle of the world.

Closed off from the rest of the world, this place is without name. It's only a rumor to the people native to this country. I'm amazing that I was able to uncover it. This place is said to be a lost holy land—a piece of nirvana on Earth that can only be treaded on by saint. If that is the case, I may have the wrong place, yet I feel I have found it. The sand here is nothing like I have ever seen pure white with bits of blue here and there. The blue seems almost to make a trail which I follow. The sun is high, but I don't burn or exhaust. Yes, this is the right place.

I soon find myself at the entrance of a forest. I continue through the greenery and find the eyes of animals of unknown watching me. Small things they are with eyes of bright turquoise. Vines that impede me get slashed and hacked. Every once and a while I check the map, but it offers vague directions at best, yet I continue to move deeper in to the forest. I seem to be getting closer to something as the strange animals coo. Perhaps a warning, but is it for me or something else.

"There," I say as I reach blindingly beautiful well. It solid blue and have craving as over it. I walk up and take out a note with words I need to say before I drink of it. "Oh, great Vladsiera, here me now. I have come to take of your waters so that I may be purified. Oh, great Vladsiera come! Judge!" As I say these words the light above that had been twinkling down slowly dims until no light reaches the ground. The animals' coos cease and a ominous mist fills the area.

"I judge thee impure!" yells a thunderous voice. It's voice that seems to come from everywhere. "You are a maggot who defiles this pure soil!"

"This is why I have come," I plead, unconsciously taking steps back. Then before me I saw it. A massive semi-parent elephant, decorated in jewels and gold, tusks as thick and a long as me. The animals around ducked or hid, others simply closed their eyes.

"I am Vladsiera! I know why you have come human!"

"Then you know I come to pur—"

“Silence, worm!” his voice thunders, blowing me back. “You have come here, because of a letter you received from a woman you took advantage of 24 years ago.”

“Yes. She told me of my son she hid from me. A son who I will never see for he was killed.”

“Even, now before me, your words are full of spite! You do not come here out of a pure desire to change, but of a fear of why may be if you do not!”

A close my eyes for a second and yell forward, “This why I need your water to change me. I tried but I am too evil. To set in my ways. Please, great Vladsiera.”

The giant elephant raises one of his great legs and proclaims, “I judge thee impure!” and crushes me.

I feel cold. The thought of past winters crosses my mind. It’s dark. I can hear a rustling next to me and then warmth. Something is being placed over me. I don’t think about it and I fall back into slumber. Time passes, the amount I do not know, but now there is light. “Is it morning,” I wonder. My eyes struggle a bit to open, but they do I find myself in a cave covered by a blanket. The sun is shining in. I remove the cover and see that I’m not alone here; someone is sleep next to me. I can’t tell who as they are complete wrapped up in the blanker. I move bit of it off the person and discover a young girl. I stare at her for a second and let the mind wonder. I step away begin to walk out of the cave. I stop and walk back to her and put the cover back on and leave again.

“You don’t have to go,” says a girl’s soft voice from behind.

“Yes, I do.”

“Where would you go?”

“North.”

“How did you get here?”

“I died, right?”

“Turn around and look at me.” I do so and she continues, “How did get to the Well of Vladsiera?”

“I researched old legend and gathered information from so of the people of this nation.”

“You extorted people, used them like insects if they we’re quick with what you needed.”

My eyes flared with anger. “Listen you little bitch!” I screamed.

“Some people you beat, others you threatened their families—” I move closer to her.

“Stop it!”

“—for someone who wants to change so badly you even try to break old habits.”

I get in her face, towering over her. “I said stop it.”

“Brutal and violent and savage. You cried when you heard you son died, but why? Those tears weren’t for him were they?”

“I said stop it!” I roar pushing her against the cave’s hard wall. She give out a little scream as a I pin her there.

I a sly and twisted little voice she says, “What are you going to rape me too?”

“You bitch!” I back hand her she flies toward the ground.

I stand there looking over her, shaking with anger because I know what she saying is true. I know it, but to be told so viciously by another. I have been through a lot to get here and I use the best way I knew how to achieve my goals. When I received the letter I had no money, living in a broken down apartment with occasional flickers of light. I tried to change for a little while. I really didn’t but things happen. Again and again, I feel back into my ways. “I really did want to change at first, but then I realized I couldn’t—no I realized that I would rather have people think I changed. The told of how my son died. He was delinquent too. Born, raised, and died in the gutter. The only reason she told me, was because no one else cared.”

The girl gets up and asks, “Why did you want to change? Why did you violate this sacred place?”

“Because I didn’t want to die like that, it was too late for me, I would.”

A shadow forms behind her. It’s Vladsiera.

In a thunderous voice speaks the god, “I judge thee impure!”

Then the girl talk, “The waters here are what changes men, but the journey. You have failed to change because you are empty inside. Do not fool yourself. You have never once wanted to change. Far worst men have successfully made this journey left with fresh eyes, and clean soul, but you will never leave here.”

“Aren’t I dead? I was crushed.”

Vladsiera stomps its feet, causing the entire cave to shake. “I have destroyed your dirty body and in exchange given you eternal life!” It continues to stomp its feet causing a great drumming noise. It’s too much for me to take. My ears feel like they are bleeding and vision begins to blur until nothing is left but darkness. I can’t move. I do anything. And soon I do nothing.

When my eyes open again I find myself high up in a tree. This is the entrance to the forest. I can see the glimmering white sands below. I jump down try to leave, but my body doesn’t respond until I turn back. Then I notice it, the size of the world. It’s huge. I panic and as I look over my now fur-covered body. I scream, but I hear is a “Coo.”