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Lucky Return

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Lucky Return

ASHLEY QUEEN LAMUG GANTI

Personal Creative Project

Artist Statement

My name is Ashley Queen Lamug Ganti and writing and learning are my passions. Often my creative writing pieces revolve around what I learn about myself and relate to the lessons I discover from my experiences. In my piece *Lucky Return* I attempt to put my overwhelming thoughts and emotions into words during a time of loss and grief. Although I understand that there is no cure to heal the heavy impacts of losing those we hold dear, by publishing my work, I hope to be able to provide comfort and create a positive connection to those who are experiencing similar situations in their lives. The new connections that we create help us to deal with those connections that we have lost.

Lucky Return is composed of four stanzas that illustrate one possible perspective on dealing with a sudden loss. Each stanza is representative of emotional responses such as desperation, rejection, denial, nostalgia, affliction, and hope. In the last stanza, just before finally accepting the loss of the loved one, the narrator considers locking away the shared memories into a “vault” in order to forget the existence of the loved one. The “vault” refers to a figurative storage where thoughts and memories are so far buried within the mind that they “disappear.” Hopeful for a possible reunion between the two, the narrator chooses not to let go of the memories of the loved one because although they faced low points of their lives together, they also shared successes. To forget one means to forget the other, and for the narrator, forgetting what is bad is not worth forgetting what is good. In addition, our memories are connections that tie us to our experiences and those who influence our lives. With every relationship we create, we subconsciously incorporate the newly formed bonds and experiences into who we are. Therefore, the memories of our loved ones cannot truly be erased as those memories live on in the form of the habits we have, our ideas and beliefs, and the way we connect to others.

Through my piece, I wanted to incorporate the beautiful and painful feelings of grief, sorrow, sadness, acceptance, and hope into my writing. I wrote it during a difficult time when I unexpectedly lost a longtime companion of mine. Therefore, it embodies the love that I have for the soul that has now left this world. It is also the embodiment of the emotions and memories that I sought to exile from my mind as a way of coping, but now I understand that I will never be able to forget those



Life is a mosaic of what we experience, and while everyone experiences different situations, one common trait that we all share is the inevitable encounter of loss. *Lucky Return* raises the concern of how to respond to these encounters, and addresses the theme of dealing with loss. However, the purpose of this creative piece is not to provide instructions on how to deal with loss because there is no single correct answer; instead, its purpose is to capture just how fickle the experience of loss may be.

In order to do so, the poem uses the narrative of sudden loss. The first stanza showcases the desperation that results from rejecting the fact that a loss has taken place. In the second and third stanzas, reflecting on the subject of the loss evokes the recollection of intimate details of the connection that had existed. This is followed by the thought of rejection once again as the narrator considers choosing to reject the subject of the loss in its entirety as the recollection proves to be too overwhelming. Despite that grief, the narrator chooses to remain hopeful of a reunion between the two and decides to keep the shared memories, both positive and negative.

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feelings; nor do I want to anymore. This is because life will always move on no matter what we experience, so we have to learn how to keep moving forward at the pace that we are able to.

Lucky Return is written in memory of Lucky Lamug Ganti and made possible by a loving support system of my family, friends, loved ones, and educational community. Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to creating new creative works through the vast media that art entails.

LUCKY RETURN

Let me fly into a different land,
Find you and bring you back.
Let me soar amongst the stars, so that you may return to me.
I can bear the sadness and fear for your sake,
But it is the loss of you that I cannot take.

Although your caged heart sings for me,
Have you now gone to the blessed tree?
The one that glowed so relentlessly,
As brilliant as your eyes greeting me.

A single thought of you is all that is needed
For our song to flood my mind on that verse repeated.
So like a drunkard let me drown my mind with other words,
Engulf my heart with stories that do not hurt.

Shall I lock your stories into the vault?
Where memories of you may disappear.
Shall I discard all the years of laughter, anger, love, fear, happiness, sadness and successes that we have shared together?
But then how shall I remember you, when you return to me?

Dedicated to Lucky Lamug Ganti