Alone

The moon filtered through the branches casting shadows of vivid gnarled creatures. The gritty sand crunched underneath my calloused feet. The sky was grim and grey threatening to spill any moment. Water ran up to bite my toes. Freezing pins stabbed through me. A single drop fell from the sky landing on me in a deadly splatter. Innocent but deadly when needed.

Memories took over. Trapped in a cell, the walls marred with scratches and souls etched into the crumbling walls. Water started seeping in through the various hole. The metal chair turned freezing as the water level rose higher and higher every passing second. Mingling with the electricity. The pain started, electricity coursing through me. A tunnel leading to nowhere but pain. I tore at the shackles bound me to the pain and despair. My hands raw with blisters. Praying my last breath would come soon enough to rescue me from this world.

The scene faded replaced by and endless ocean, Waves tickling me. Up down up down I floated as they gently pushing me to shore. The memories retreated back into their cove in my head. Waiting for when they could attack next. The biting cold swept over me pinning me in place. I crawled into a lone cave sheltered by towering rocks. I stared down at my wrists pale and thin without the iron cuffs trapping them within.

The sun's rays sifted through the clouds. My stomach ached with ever-lasting hunger. My vision flashed black and white and all the shades in-between. A heavy, rusted iron door bolted shut with locks and keyholes of all different sizes and types. The hay which was my bed sat forlornly in a corner, mould attacking it with glee. A window no larger than my palm stood high above me. Iron bars crisscrossing over it protecting them, trapping me. A small tray clattered to the ground. Holding my precious daily rations. A small greasy plastic bowl filled with grey slop accompanied with a semi-rotten apple. My arms were weak with malnourishment. I shifted the only strength I could muster my chains clanking together in unison. There was no time here. The window provided no help. The guards would regularly place a thick black cloth over it blocking out all light. Sometimes if felt like minutes other times it felt like eternity was stretching on without me.

This time when I woke up it was already dark. I had been lost in my mind for hours, looking for a way to get out. I was sitting in a large moonlit tree, the moon's light weaving through the twisted branches dancing in the air. A boy stood in front of me staring at me with curiosity. I waved uncertainly, the gesture feeling unfamiliar after years without use. He beckoned me to follow him into the bushy undergrowth. He stopped at a small cave complete with a running stream of fresh water. A quick glance and there were fish swimming peacefully downhill. Over the weeks we spent together he showed me how to cook with a fire catch small animals and fish to eat and grow my own crops. We soon became friends. We only had each other for comfort and company. Time flew past in a flurry.

One day he seemed more distant, yet, somehow closer than normal. I asked him tentatively what was wrong. He replied almost as if he was somewhere else "I am the boy in the moon I serve her as her slave and guardian. I am bound to her for a hundred years the price to pay so I can return home when my time is up. One day the scene changed to show you. Drowning in the sea, shivering in a cave. I begged her to let me go down to you for just 4 weeks. She couldn't understand why I had to go to you neither could I and I still can't. For those four weeks of happiness she added another 100 years to my time. Remember this you will be alone but always free.

He started shimmering away fading into the background. I lunged for him my only company in my useless life. I tumbled right through. When I looked back he had disappeared entirely only his ghostly

smiled remained lingering in the air. I stared up at the moon and caught a shadow as it waved and blinked out.

I was truly alone but I was free.

Word count: 743