

Neal S.

The Everlasting Wish

It's been over 2,000 years since the incident... My mom, dad, two brothers, wife, children, grandchildren. They're all dead. I've been stuck inside this shell made up of flesh and bones for 2,534 years and it will stay that way for eternity.

It was exactly 2,500 years ago when I made the worst possible decision anyone could ever make.

"Why do you have to make everything so hard!?" Carter, my partner for the neuroscience project our company had given us exclaimed after I spilt various liquids everywhere.

To which I replied unenthusiastically, "Sorry. I didn't mean to." Today was supposed to be just like any other day, Carter screaming at me for something, me eating my lunch by myself in the yard, going back to work, and then driving home just to repeat this the next day.

It was around the end of lunch when I saw it. A small gold pot glistening at me, yearning for me to come over and caress it. I fought the urge and went back to work, forgetting about it almost immediately. That was until I saw it again after everyone had gone home, this time it was beckoning me, pulling me towards it, and without hesitation I went to go see what it was.

Upon picking it up, I noticed that it was a lantern, as light as a feather and at the same time as shiny and metallic as a gold bar. I was amazed looking at its sharp details and designs when I accidentally rubbed it. Suddenly, an 8-foot tall, broad chested genie looked down at me. I threw it across the room and cowered away from the genie as it looked at me with curious eyes.

"What is your name?" it asked in a monotone voice staring right at me.

“J-J-Jerome... what, why, who are you?” I replied getting on my feet, still a bit cautious.

“I am Everfrost, a genie who will grant you only but one wish. The rules are simple: No wishing for love, No wishing for the death of someone, and no wishing for more wishes. Lastly, you only have 1 minute to make your decision” He replied edging closer to me. *What! One minute. I need to think fast. Superspeed? No. Superstrength? No. Time travel? No.* That was when I made the decision that would singlehandedly change my fate forever. *I got it! Immortality!*

Without much thought after that, I yelled out to the genie, “Immortality! That is what I wish for.”

With a slight smirk on his face, the genie said “Your wish is my command.”, and with that the pot vanished and I haven’t seen it since. At that point, I couldn’t help but wonder *did I make the right decision and also, now what?* At the time I hadn’t realized that doing this, meant I could never die, and I was stuck in this cruel world forever.

The next few years went by the same, some happy moments, and some sad. Everyone else was getting older and starting to have children. Meanwhile I was over here still in my 30’s wondering what I was doing wrong, until I realized, I was stuck like this forever.

I was distraught, I didn’t know what to do with my life. After that point I started just doing whatever I wanted. I robbed a bank, destroyed a few buildings, killed a few people, and it didn’t matter to me.

It was when I was over 200 years old that I found true love and decided to get married. I still looked 30 so that was a benefit and this may have been the best and worst decision I made.

Over time I had many children, grandchildren, and so on. They have been what I consider the best part of my life.

It is now the year 4520 and I am living my life like I do, adventurous and with no thought in what I do. Today I was skydiving without a parachute, just for fun, when I saw something that sent chills down my spine. Falling through the sky with me was the lantern with its same shine it had the first time I saw it.

I kept my eyes locked on it as if I were a missile and tried flying through the air to reach it. As I neared the ground I put myself in a standing position so I would land on my feet.

“THUD”, I felt and heard coming from my legs as I landed. Just then, the lamp fell just a few hundred feet ahead of me. I sprinted, faster than Usain Bolt on steroids, to the lamp. As I neared it, I felt something inside of me. An emotion I hadn’t felt in a while, caution.

I slowly picked it up and examined it. It looked the same as it always had, light as a feather and at the same time as shiny and metallic as a gold bar. I rubbed it, and a split second later came the same genie who had doomed me to this fate 2,500 years ago.

“We meet again, how have your travels been?” the genie asked me in a calm voice.

Enraged, I yelled at the top of my voice, “LISTEN HERE YOU BLUE DEVIL, YOU HAVE MADE MY LIFE A LIVING NIGHTMARE AND I JUST WANT IT TO BE OVER!”

Calmly, he responded, “I have changed a few rules about the pot and wanted to inform you about them. First of all, all the previous rules except the one about more wishes have been abolished. Secondly, you now have one more wish. Taking this into consideration, you have one minute to make your second wish.”

I-I can finally be free of this nightmare. I can be with everyone I loved. I don't even need to think about this.

Looking at him square in the eyes, I replied, "I want to die, right here and now. I want to rest in peace forever, never coming back to this world."

"Your wish is my command." He responded, and with that, in the middle of the field, I took one last deep breath, closed my eyes, and went to sleep.