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Main content

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Cerise sky memories

Illustration by Jacey [see PDF for image]

Artistic illustration of a lighthouse

I remember a childhood that didn't exist.

Hot apple pies cooling on park benches. Small toes pressed into scorching white sand. Snowball fights leaving crisp, crunchy ice crusted in the collar of my coat.

A tangle of neurological connections to construct a lifetime that never was. Things that never happened. Places that don't even exist.

We whisper about these memories sometimes, Marina and me. She's the only other X3-Model left in the office. The only other employee-asset remaining from that brief phase in biotechnological progress before designers began second-guessing the cost of programming us with such concocted complexity.

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"It cost ten thousand dollars per memory," Marina muses as she swirls her spoon around her yogurt. It's strawberry, as usual. She buys it by the gallon and brings it to work in dainty little Tupperware bowls that she stacks beside the white cube food-packs that the rest of us apathetically consume. I've always suspected it has to do with her childhood, but I don't ask -- not in front of the others. No need to draw more attention to the fabricated pasts that they view as defects, signs of our antiquity.

"If you could buy one more," she asks, "what would you pick?"

"I don't know." I flatten my empty food-pack and keep my voice low, head down. "We ought to get back to work."

"I'd buy a birthday party," she...

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Add to Favourites. Comment. Cerise Sky. 0. 2. Writing Cerise sky memories. One of the best things I've done to improve my writing is to join a writer's group that regularly challenges me to try new things and hone my skills. One way they do this is through contests and challenges, and this story was the result of one of those, in which one of the prompts was to write about a childhood memory. I enjoy using writing prompts.