**Lynn’s Joy**

1417 Words

The wind blows vehemently through the valley here. It has a playful, lively energy that touches all things around it. The same way a person so filled with love and joy touches the hearts of everyone around them.

On a decent sized ranch just a few miles to the south of Buena Vista lives a 13 year old girl and her family. Her name is Lynn. She is just like every other girl who grows up on a ranch. She wakes up to her mothers shining face, and her soft words telling her that it's time to get up and do her chores before school.

“Good morning Lynn honey,” her mothers says. “It's time to get up, get dressed, and feed the chickens and pigs.” Her mom strokes her hair before getting up and walking out of the room. “You have five minutes!” she calls.

Lynn jumps out of bed, throws on a t-shirt, a button down, her socks, and jumps into her dirty jeans that have mud caked on around the hems of her pant legs. The jeans were once her moms. Lynn’s dad had gotten them for her mom as a gift not too long after they met. On the way out of her room Lynn grabs her grey sun faded carhartt trucker hat off of her desk.

As she walks out into the hallway the smell of eggs and toast steal her nostrils. She runs so fast down the stairs that she feels like she is levitating through the air. She snatches one of the pieces of toast off of a plate and goes to take a bite. The toast is golden brown and has strawberry jam coating it. It smells sweet and feels just right in her hand. Lynn loves her mom’s cooking.

“Uh-uh, not until you’ve helped your father and done your chores,” her mother reminds her.

Lynn puts the toast back on the plate, quickly pulls her boots on, and races out the back door. Just as she steps outside a small blast of wind hits her and takes off her carhartt hat.

“Oh no!” Lynn shouts. Just as another gust of wind is about to take her hat farther away, someone reaches down and picks it up off the ground. He brushes the dust off of it and with a smile he tells her

“Don’t want to lose this, honey bunches.”

Lynn looks up from where the hat used to be and with a huge smile she exclaims

“DAD!” and runs into his arms. She gives him a big hug. He puts the carhartt hat back on her head and kneels down so he is at eye level with her. He puts his hand on her cheek and says

“Let's go feed the pigs and chickens,” he then stands up and takes her hand. They walk side by side into the barn to do her chores.

After Lynn finishes her chores she goes to school. In the car ride she looks out the window at the mountains in the distance. She thinks about how the wind affects them. How it brings the mountains life. How it brings people life. When Lynn gets to school she opens the door to her dad’s truck. She turns to him, and with a smile as big and bright as the sun she exclaims

“Have a wonderful day at work dad, I love you!” She then hops down from the truck and closes the door. Her dad lowers the passenger window and calls after her,

“Have a wonderful day at school, I love you too!” Her dad drives off as Lynn walks through the doors of BVMS and is ready for her day. When she gets to class she greets the teacher. The teacher comments on what a joyful persona she has today. Lynn sits down in her seat and gets out her school supplies. Class is just starting when she realises that someone is missing. Her friend Zeke isn’t in class. Lynn’s joyful persona swiftly vanishes when she realizes that Zeke is always in class. She knows that Zeke has abusive parents and he gets bullied often in school. She hates this and asks the bullies to stop continually but they never do. Recently something has seemed different about Zeke. Lynn sits in class for thirty minutes, until she finally can’t take it anymore.

“Excuse me Mrs. Record, may I use the restroom,” she asks.

“Why yes of course Lynn,” the teacher replies. Lynn gets up from her seat quickly and half fast walks, half races out into the hallway. She has to find Zeke. Lynn quickly goes through all the places in her head where Zeke likes to hide when he goes to get high. Zeke used to always say no to weed but when things started getting really hard at home he started asking to go to the bathroom during class, and smoking then. She starts to panic and races around the school looking in all of the different spots. She eventually finds Zeke sitting behind the bathrooms of the football field, where he is only visible from one direction. He is sitting with his back against the wall, legs straight out in front of him, and his gaze is locked on the mountains in the distance behind the football field. On Zeke’s lap is his fathers 1911. It is a Colt model and it has all the original furniture on it. The most worn parts glisten when the sun touches them, like a “Hello, I’m here,”

Lynn knows that Zeke’s dad is an alcoholic and his mom is addicted to crack. Zeke's parents frequently beat him. Zeke often comes to school with bruise marks on his arms and face. Lynn also knows that his dad does a poor job of locking his gun cabinet. Therefore Zeke and his younger siblings could access it pretty easily.

“Hey Zeke… Are you okay?” Lynn anxiously asks.

“Hey Lynn…” Zeke replies.

“What are you doing back here with your dads gun?” Beckons Lynn. Zeke ignores her question and asks

“Have you ever wondered what it would be like to leave, and join the wind?”

Lynn pauses and collects her thoughts before she replies.

“I guess I have thought about it a couple times, why?” Zeke looks down at the gun. He runs his fingers across the metallic surface.

“I don’t know… I guess it is just something I have been thinking about a lot recently,” Zeke replies with a quiver in his voice. Lynn can tell by his demeanor that there is a feeling of being done. Zeke is tired of life and its evil ways of treating people. Lynn sits down next to Zeke, who now has quiet tears running down his cheeks. She takes his right hand and wraps her hands around it. Lynn closes her eyes, and breathes deeply

“I love you Zeke. You are the best friend I have ever had” Lynn takes another deep breath. “I know things haven’t been easy for you… well they never really have; but you have so much worth living for Zeke.” Zeke turns his head and looks at Lynn. She is looking off to the mountains. She’s watching the wind sway the trees. Lynn takes another deep breath and channels all the joy, love, and happiness she has ever felt in her life. Zeke has stopped crying by now and is still looking at Lynn. After several minutes Lynn turns her head towards Zeke and meets his gaze. In that next moment all the love, joy, and happiness Lynn has ever felt pours out of her. It pours out like a busted waterline after cracking in a cold winter. After Lynn finishes, she sees that Zeke's spirit has been lifted. There is a new bright spark in his eyes. One that can only be put there by love. Lynn stands up and stretches out her hand

“Let's go home Zeke” she tells him

“Let's go home Lynn” Zeke replies. Zeke unloads the gun and puts it into his bag. Together they turn towards the road that leads out of town, and they start their few mile journey to Lynn’s house. On the walk Lynn turns her gaze towards the mountains in the distance. She sees the wind touching everything on the mountain. Her lips curve into a simper. Using her power of love and joy she has been able to touch all the hearts around her. Just like the wind touches all things, around it.