

The Little Prince (1943) - Antoine de Saint-Exupéry



The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry is a poetic and philosophical story that explores the nature of love, innocence, loss, and what it means to truly see with the heart. The story is narrated by a pilot who crashes in the Sahara Desert and meets a mysterious, otherworldly boy: the Little Prince. The prince comes from a tiny asteroid, Asteroid B-612, where he lives with a single rose. He loves her deeply, but feeling unsure of her love and growing weary of her vanity, he decides to leave his home and journey through the universe in search of understanding.

On his travels, the Little Prince visits various planets, each inhabited by a single adult who embodies a particular flaw of grown-up life: a king obsessed with authority, a vain man who needs constant praise, a drunkard ashamed of his own drinking, a businessman consumed with meaningless accumulation, and a lamplighter stuck in a rigid, absurd routine. These encounters are not just whimsical episodes - they're pointed critiques of the emptiness, fixed ideas, and loss of imagination that so often come with adulthood. Saint-Exupéry mourns the way adults become trapped in their narrow concerns, losing the curiosity, openness, and wonder that come naturally to children.

It is only when the Little Prince reaches Earth and meets a fox that he begins to grasp the deeper truths he was seeking. The fox asks to be tamed, to form a bond, and in doing so teaches the prince the story's central lesson: "One sees clearly only with the heart. What is essential is invisible to the eye." The prince finally understands that his rose is not just one rose among many - she is *his* rose because of the time, care, and emotional investment he gave her. This realization leads to a bittersweet ending, where the prince chooses to return to his rose, possibly through death, leaving behind a quiet legacy of emotional truth, love, and the invisible ties that endure across time and space.

The book idealizes the purity and simplicity of the child's perspective - one that sees with the heart rather than being clouded by ego or convention. Through the prince's innocent yet piercing observations, *The Little Prince* exposes the futility not just of modern adult life, but of the adult condition across all ages and societies. It suggests that without emotional awareness and imagination, adulthood can become a shell of existence, cut off from what truly matters. Ultimately, it is love, connection, and the willingness to care deeply that give life its meaning - and only a child (or child-like) heart is open enough to see that clearly.

So, how does this relate to the ongoing narrative in TXT's discography, particularly *Minisode 3: TOMORROW*?

TXT's *Minisode 3: TOMORROW* emotionally and thematically draws parallels to *The Little Prince*. Just as the prince leaves behind comfort to search for truth, the boys embark on a journey defined not by certainty, but by feeling. Their story is about holding onto connection, even when it's invisible, distant, or seemingly lost, trusting that love, memory, and hope will still guide them. This album echoes the prince's realization that what matters most isn't seen with the eyes but felt with the heart.

Following the leap from fantasy into reality in *The Name Chapter: FREEFALL*, *TOMORROW* represents the introspective aftermath. Having left the fantasy of Neverland behind them, the boys must walk an

uncertain path alone, much like the Little Prince who steps away from his rose not out of rejection, but in pursuit of growth and clarity. The album explores the emotional terrain of waiting, remembering, and believing in something unseen, as the boy recalls a promise and sets out to find “you” - guided not by certainty, but by hope. This mirrors the prince’s journey through loneliness, where he believes love, though invisible, is still real and worth returning to.

In both *The Little Prince* and *Minisode 3*, youth is not presented as a naive flaw, but a strength - a clarity of feeling and sincerity often lost in adulthood. The boys, like the Little Prince, navigate a world that values success and conformity, yet they continue to cherish connection, imagination, and emotional truth. In doing so, it becomes clear that growing up isn’t about letting go of these qualities, but about learning to carry them forward as a quiet strength. As expressed in the song *Dreamer* from *The Name Chapter: FREEFALL*, the boys now stand “between those two common paths: an adult who doesn’t dream and a boy who only dreams.” In this gray space between youthful longing and adult disillusionment, they choose to keep dreaming, even when the world demands realism. In this sense, *TOMORROW* is not about innocence lost, but about the courage to keep believing, even after innocence fades.

Where *FREEFALL* was the leap, *TOMORROW* is the endurance—the slow, deliberate journey through loneliness, memory, and perseverance. Like *The Little Prince*, it is a quiet testament: the most important things—love, hope, memory—are invisible, yet enduring. And in holding onto these things, even in solitude or sorrow, we find the strength to keep going. Both the prince and the boys remind us that believing in the miracle of tomorrow is not naïve—it’s an act of quiet defiance and profound hope.