

Fall In Love Like Ghosts By the Sea

Rahrah: Once upon a time there was a lighthouse filled with broken hearts. The how the why have been lost to record and interest as they are eclipsed by the truth and weight of loves now lost. Our Novella is only allowed a glimpse, just a single page to sum up a story with unique depths, just as your own. With mistakes made, just as your own. We all shed innocent love becoming who we are but perhaps if we glow so bright even in our brokenness others may see from some distant shore and choose to steer away from rocks that are now hidden and revealed.

We see the Lighthouse of Broken Hearts, we see dusk approaching like a daily fear that cannot reach completion until it begins it rises from the dark oaks and the estuaries draped in fog to stand resolute in its strong and gentle purpose. The sky is perfect and like you all it's worth a moment to take a look or listen.

Miradore, when we see you what do we see, and what do you think of when you look at the ocean?

Miradore: Um dusk is the time for work for Mirador because as a Lighthouse Keeper that is the time when you have to actually do the process of setting up the light so that in the darkness people know where the rocks are.

The sea to them is a habit it is what they have been charged with for more than a decade and it is home in some ways it is work in some ways and it is purpose in others um and so I believe you know they're they're pushing these things and they are looking out occasionally at the sea reminded of the necessity because lighthouses their purpose is to keep people alive.

Grayson: As Miradore is inside and um taking care of their daily duties um similarly looking over the garden you see Grayson standing outside just intently staring at the sea. Um he's somewhat of a youngish man, youngerish in his early 30s and you know he's kind of huddled in his sweater as he's staring out and um it's a strong wind this morning so he's kind of keeping everything close tightly bundled to himself and he looks tired. Just completely exhausted. I mean this is this is a man who probably hasn't shaven in over a very long time and not really unkempt but you can see the time on his face

Rahrah: We move through this space again to find Saccharina. What do we see when we see you and what do you think of when you look at the ocean?

Saccharina: On the gulf current you see a shadow under the water massive, murky, mysterious, but soon it's replaced by the long graceful emerald green neck of a

Plesiosaur. Her toothy grin peering at the revelers waving a fin casually as she rides along the warm current as she looks at the sea. She sees boundless opportunities. Fun, food, friends, lovers. Anything she can take. It's all at my disposal. A smorgasbord of the sea.

(5:49)

Riven: You see a lone figure walking across the beach. At the portion where the water meets the sand. Their pant legs are rolled up, shoes are off and in hand. She's pretty, she's quiet, eyes on her feet watching the water come in and go out. Each time more grains of sand, each time her feet sink further and she lifts her foot just in time before it's too far and she watches her footprints.

And when she looks at the sea she sees a greedy thing. A greedy thing that only wants the shore during high tide. We are together, you are here and you love me and you're gone. We are together you're here and you love me and you are gone. Over over and over and over. Why does the sea only want the land during high tide?

Miradore: Um I definitely, you know, hearing everyone arrive I finish up my work um and I you know, go downstairs. And I'm really not sure what to expect, you know. I extended invitations and I think I extended more invitations than were accepted. I think it is a surprise to me whose footsteps I am hearing when I descend um and I'm I'm wondering you know when I descend like is there someone I see first is there what is the reaction what is that moment?

Rahrah: I'd say you do see Grayson first as you descend. Grayson you see Mirador descending.

Grayson: Grayson lost in thought. staring at his feet as he walks in. He hears the footsteps of Mirador and he shakes himself out of his self-induced trance to put on a put on a mask um trying to see warm and open and appreciative for the invitation because it's a maybe not realized yet but a welcome distraction from the alternative of what he would be doing at this time.

Rahrah: Before any interaction Grayson could you roll me a believe roll, as you allow the small warmth of comfort, hope, something take root in you.

Grayson: I rolled a three, which is a you'll be holding on forever. It's a plus one to stay.

Rahrah: It pulls you back um from a place where you may be spent a lot of the day lost in the your own Solitude, your own hallways. So you feel a little more grounded and a more a little more resolute here being like they wanted us here they invited us here. I'm welcomed and you can add one to your stay pool. If you two would like to speak to one another or just to the open air, the curious clouds, whatever you will.

Miradore: It's um a lovely sound isn't it?

(9:24)

Grayson: Sorry what?

Miradore: The ocean. um I know some people like to listen to it to fall asleep you seem a little tired.

Grayson: Oh yeah um no it it's it's soothing, it is, it's um I haven't found much sleep through it yet. I but it is soothing. Yeah.

Miradore: Well that's good. I'm glad you decided to come.

Grayson: No I I um I appreciate the offer. I know that you've offered before and to my own detriment I have ignored but just kind of came at a good time you know and so um thank you.

Rahrah: We go outside just as two figures are arriving. I imagine a lower Stone dock of sorts that connects to a lower door of the lighthouse. A dark figure coming from the sea. I'll let you describe how your figure shifts as you approach Saccharina and Riven you see this in the shadows in the dark.

Saccharina: It's very mystical but it's mix of it a little bit of that frat boy swagger. So it's just beautiful sea foam flowing onto this before a fish like.. it's a mix of in the Innsmouth look and a beautiful seamyth, big black eyes, webbed fingers, kelp for hair she strolls out casually says hey there chicken chicky how you doing the gulf took me this way here how you doing? It's only been like what five years that's like half a century right?

Riven: Has it really been five years?

Saccharina: You know what they say, El Nino, that kind of stuff.

Riven: I feel like it was only yesterday.

Saccharina: Really that's the thing with humans you're on the land I'm telling you it's how the ground sticks to your feet, you hold onto things. I'm glad you're not one of those humans Riven, you really are a wonder.

Riven: I definitely don't. I don't hold on to.. no not me. I don't hold on to things. We should go inside, do you want to go inside?

Rahrah: You both enter, you hear uh speaking upstairs, hear the footsteps the place is familiar. The old stone curling stairwell solid in its structure not some like some of those other lighthouses with the metal stairs that creak and bend. This place has been here since maybe the dawn of time. It's beautiful and unchanging. Resolute in front of the wind and the sea. I'll say you're all together or at least you enter into a space where you all can see one another.

Grayson: Grayson sees Saccharina from a distance I would say. From the top of the stairs to where you can kind of see where before it crests and he stops and his hands start to shake. He's clasping a mug and he just stands there.

Miradore: I think Mirador also descending the stairs sees the little shake and places like a gentle hand on Grayson's shoulder.

Grayson: oh um sorry..

Miradore: It's fine um and then like continues descending to go say hi to the other two. I'm glad you both came.

(12:56)

Saccharina: Sorry about missing those invites you know I go with the flow as they say. You know everything here on the land's so stagnant I knew you'd always be here it is good to see and it's just a very casual one-armed hug looking around probably see Grayson at the top of the stairs pop a finger gun. Seems almost forced and playing at being human playing at this game of social exchange.

Rahrah: Through a window briefly the fearful Eastern wind finds a path through this space right up to Grayson's ear almost like a friend and whispers a few ideas and leaves. Grayson how did the finger guns feel?

Grayson: Internally this is what's happening or this is what is said: Finger guns really? It's been seven years since I've seen and finger guns is what you... okay growth right, growth. Growth is in many forms ever changing similar to how the sea is. One minute you can look at it and it's calm and still and next it comes crashing in like a wave, destroying anything it touches. Here's my wave.

What are you um what are you what what are you doing here CeCe are you okay or I'm sorry I can't it's been... it's like a wave. Um you okay?

Saccharina: Oh boy trying to get to deeper emotions. oh oh I'm going to cover that up because he cannot know that I am having an existential crisis I am thinking about extinction events. Will I be the next one? Will I be the last remainder of my species? Will I evolve? Who knows?

Rahrah: Roll me a feel or a or a speak depending on what you want to tap into. Do you want to say something or speak to yourself basically.

Saccharina: Never feel, we're going to talk it out. A five, which is tell them how you love them oh.

Rahrah: And you know that can be you're great at cooking, I love that about you. Uh that is up to you to choose degree and force behind it.

Saccharina: Grayson is okay if I kiss you like just on your cheek?

Grayson: Are you asking in character or me as a person?

Saccharina: Out of character, above table.

Grayson: We're good, we're good.

Saccharina: Hell yeah. Saccharina is going to lean in kiss your cheek, one armed hug, very non-committal and say you know that's the thing I love about you Grayson, you don't change you're still here, you're still your sweet self and I got to admit I find the stagnancy of the whole land loving thing kind of boring but I love that about you man, always good to see you.

Rahrah: As both of your eyes lock, if you two had to assign a season to how you felt towards one another what would it?

(16:32)

Riven: I think I would say for Riven it's autumn. um It's very look I still have good things to offer, look at how beautiful I am, take a walk you'll see, it's gorgeous. It's nice. But inside how much do I really have to give you? I love the invitation I love that I'm here with all of you I love the company but it won't stay. It never does.

Miradore: I think for Mirador I would describe this as spring and that I think there is an intent to grow this. I think with Riven there is a sense that like something has been missed so far and if we come together and we figure it out something beautiful could happen and I think that is what Mirador is feeling.

Rahrah: If the torch wasn't already lit on the top of this place the four of you in the center would probably light it on your own. As eyes meet eyes, hand, shoulder, kiss, cheek, heart, broken, heart, free. In this space right now in the moment of Grayson's trauma we're going to enter into an initiative of sorts, where Grayson is going to have a release, a moment, an action of sorts and then we're going to go um to Saccharina in a response and then to the two of you as witnesses to Grayson's heart realizing too much too quickly.

Grayson do you feel in this moment you would speak, feel or believe something?

Grayson: He would speak.

Rahrah: I believe it too.

Grayson: Um after that friendly embrace Grayson kind of pushes himself back from Saccharina And he goes. It's been some time. I haven't really been stagnant. I mean there's been change maybe it's too minor for you to see but there's change here and surprisingly from our last conversation I don't see much change from you.

Saccharina: oh I absolutely want to roll for this do I want to see how Saccharina is feeling because this is, that's a lot to take in.

Rahrah: The heartfelt wind is in here sweeping through all of you during this moment.

Saccharina: oh so that is 2 for feel. Name them and learn what it is they treasure. He yearns for consistency but I'm remaining inconstant. Why isn't he happy? Why is he being upset?

Rahrah: I mean you're here.

Saccharina: I'm here and I pull a bit from Grayson and I'm I'm here. Why are you pulling away, why are you saying I haven't changed? I don't know what you mean, I never change. I haven't changed in 60 million years, I mean I changed where I lived I've moved out of the loch and all that but why is that a bad thing?

Grayson: I...I.. but yeah, you're here. You're here again in front of me and 7 years ago that would have been enough.

Miradore: I think I'm trying to break the tension or just you know divert so I think I'm going to speak. Okay that is a four, promise more than your heart can give. Okay um I think I turned to both Riven and Saccharina who are still here. Um I just I want you both to know that there will

(21:20)

always be a space for you here. And I think I say that because I think it's comforting but there's a part of me that you know, once you've been the lonely Lighthouse Keeper for a decade I know that it will be me and the lighthouse here. Constant and while there might be a bed available for people who come and go I believe in my heart that they will come and go. As much as I might like it to be otherwise the secret of my heart believes that it will just be me in the lighthouse.

Riven: Hi uh hi Grayson I didn't actually get to say hi to you everything kind of happened really quick.

Grayson: uh yeah no hey hey um hi how's it going?

Riven: we don't have we don't have to it doesn't have to be a pleasantry kind of thing. We we know each other.

Grayson: Yeah, no, you know what here, he takes the second glass and pours a little bit slides it over yeah yeah yeah.

Riven: She's not much of a drinker but she's like when in Rome! Uh are you you're not not okay I was going to say are you okay. You're not okay. I can see that you're not okay.

Grayson: Is it that obvious?

Riven: Yeah. Yeah it is. Unless you don't want it to be then I'll lie to you. I didn't, I couldn't tell it all it's a it's a shot in the dark.

Grayson: uh no uh my insides are caving in.

Riven: Get it shot in the dark? Do you get it?

Grayson: Yeah I do it's clever. Pours another.

Rahrah: Pause. What is the season feeling between the two of you now that we've seen this one wonderful little um introduction moment?

Grayson: it's definitely spring vibes for..

Riven: I would say, I would say so too, it it feels like um like a growth of connection over even though it's over mutual hurt to some degree it's still you know good things can grow out of bad.

Rahrah: You both emerge from winter together, feel free to take your scene.

Riven: oh gosh um have you..

Grayson: No my my insides are caving in right now but..

Riven: I'm so sorry. I wish I could say I wish I could say that I don't understand it but I do. I really do. Uh have.. you uh.. have you. You know, Saccharina really has hurt you. I don't think I realized how deeply until now. For the long haul.

Grayson: No you wouldn't believe. I think what the biggest part about it is is that they didn't do anything. Right? Like normally when when you go through this hurt it's because somebody said something or somebody acted out in a way to where it was justifiable for you to be angry but in my own, this is my own fault. I knew this of Saccharina she's...

Riven: It's not your fault.

Grayson: Well..

Riven: it's not your fault it's not your fault.

Grayson: Isn't it though? Because I knew this. This is something I knew, like from jump street I knew this but I still had like a little you know..

(24:59)

Riven: Love is not to blame. You saw her and she was beautiful and exciting and devoted and when you are with someone in that way sometimes that's all you can see. And sometimes you do see those question marks. Those things that make you doubt but these are so much more valuable and look at it look at these flowers look how they grow. You know it's just and you don't see the thorns sometimes not that the thorns don't have their place, everyone has them, I have them, we all do. We all want to look at the flowers cuz they're gorgeous and they smell beautiful and you want them to always be in bloom and sometimes it's just not how life works.

I was.. I had a friend once. I had a friend once who I deeply loved as my friend, deeply and I realized the the love ran a little bit deeper than I thought it did. And not to compare our experiences too much because yours is yours and mine is mine but you know Saccharina she woke up one day and she left. The love of my life did not leave she's there I could see her I could talk to her when ever I wanted. I just wasn't what she wanted and so it's a different it's a different kind of pain but it's both love lost isn't it? And you are not at fault for seeing everything that Zarina has to offer just so so much lifetimes and lifetimes and we are just we are just such a small little pin prick to it we are just one chapter in a very very large book for Saccharina and your chapter with her is no less beautiful because of it. And I know it's hurt you I know it's hurt you um but she's here. She's here, she wants to see you and I know we can't undo everything that has happened but we can put new flowers in the vase. You can do it again if you want but that's your call too.

Miradore: For me I think this is summer. I think when I extended the invitations to everyone Saccharinas reaction was the one I was expecting and looking for. And that what I was foreseeing was someone who would come for a while, invite beautiful stories into this Lighthouse and then in my heart I would expect them to leave and here I have the person who I most expect to follow that and so I feel warm I am glad that there is laughter in this Lighthouse and I know things are awkward but seeing Saccharina it feels expected and it feels right.

Saccharina: So funny because I was going to say summer as well. Summer in the sense that all warmth comes here. It is the culmination of the seasons, the harvest is done, children are out from school. They're running, they're playing, they're swimming. The feelings are here but they feel soured for some reason. That sunburn is hit. Dry, crackling, peeling, it's revealing too many vulnerable things and I don't like it. And the heat is on me now, I've hurt Grayson and I don't know why everyone is okay with staying here for so long baking In the heat of being exposed and loved it's too much!

Miradore: I think maybe there's a moment of quiet and a bit of silence as people are trying to gauge what to do um and Mirador has taken amongst themselves that they are going to make sure that people have a good time while they are here and so stands up and puts on an old record and it's a little Jazzy kind of upbeat but wouldn't wouldn't disrupt the conversation but it's it's pleasant music.

(29:49)

Riven: It's a toe tapper.

Miradore: A little bit yeah.

Rahrah: The space is your own.

Riven: Riven's feeling it just's a couple drinks in. We we hit the liquor early she's having a good time.

Grayson: We did. Grayson's just like yeah yeah this is it this is nice.

Riven: Get up here, get up here Grayson.

Grayson: We're doing this? Okay yeah sure he gets up.

Riven: and there's there's no there's no any sort of motive here, Riven for a change is just is just leaning into the fun that could be and now is.

Miradore: I think seeing Riven offer Grayson to dance Miradore will once again extend their hand to Saccharina if you'd like to dance as well.

Saccharina: Saccharina gives them this wide eyed curious look and then justly takes their hand. She's acting with a shyness that is very unlike her.

Riven: I would love some square dancing but you know not not real square dancing but you know how we like switch up partners? We get real goofy with it we start linking arms it's great.

Rahrah: The windows start to slightly fog just with the breath and the smell of the booze mixing with the salt and the fog of this space and laughter for a moment at least fills this Lighthouse making it glow all the brighter just like yourselves. Saccharina what have you found to be the most difficult part to pretend to be able to dance to the dances of mortals?

Saccharina: All in the footwork. I'm used to things flowing? You have to put a foot down here, what if I step on toes? It's always just one step ahead of me.

Rahrah: Always stepping on toes when you enter into the mortal world. Grayson how are your toes in this moment of joy and dancing with Riven who is no longer alone at the moment.

Grayson: I think in this moment like Grayson he's mentally letting loose like he's, he's picturing himself just in this moment and then also at the same time has a moment of realization like this moment, this moment this moment, is nice like let's stay here for a little bit and then looks over at Saccharina and has like a half knowing look but then it's also like I wish I still had that moment but then forces himself back into this one continues to dance.

Rahrah: That fearful eastern wind is trying to get in and is just bouncing off the panes of glass so desperate to come in and tell you tomorrow she'll be gone. This is just wasting time so she doesn't have to speak but it can't reach you Grayson. As Riven's laughing, Miradore you have created this successfully.

Saccharina: I should be happy in this moment. I really should be. Everyone's laughing, we're joining hands, flesh on flesh, breaths mingling. But I can't help but think I don't want this to end but you can't just pluck this out of the sea like a sardine you have to foster it. You have to reach out and take the chance. It's almost worth staying for and maybe she slows down in the cadence of the dance, she's thinking about it. Can I stay? I've experienced everything a life can on this Earth but I haven't experienced safety, stability and I probably step on Grayson's toes while I'm doing so, as well probably both two people's toes at once Riven's toes getting squished, Grayson's toes being squished, as I'm having this life-altering moment.

(34:08)

Rahrah: And you notice the lines on Grayson's face that weren't there six years ago. That's all.

Riven: I do think.. I can't predict the future but for tonight.. Riven has so much she carries. It is this backpack that keeps filling and filling and has not once stopped to empty it. Uh it's almost bursting at the seams. But this night maybe we should take a few things out. Maybe we should toss out the date gone wrong. Maybe we should toss out that heated argument on the porch. Maybe we should toss out when she left me for college and I stayed in this hometown where I've always been. Maybe we should toss out one too many nights crying into a pillow. Because this night is fun. And these people are here and they may not love me in the way that I'm looking for but there is love in this room. There's love in how we look at each other, there's love in how we swing each other around and how we stop to appreciate the unique sound. That ring of somebody's laughter and it's all just lights swirling around a room and there's a lot of love in that. So I think for tonight it will be enough and I can't guarantee what it will be like in the morning but I'm happy for now.

Rahrah: And what is love for if not through these lives of trauma and loss and the Sea and wreckage and disasters and heartbreak but to be able to look back and remember those nights where we felt whole and at peace?

The lights dim, the candles get lower, when we reach those secret early morning hours where not even the town stirs, folks are sleeping. Where is everyone? Have people gone to bed? Are people up still communicating? Are they, are we making love like thieves stealing everything from each other in different parts of this space? Or is this a night of nostalgia and storytelling and reconnecting? I'm going to go in the order of our early role to see where each person would be let's say 3:00 a.m. The bars are definitely closed, but all of yours are up.

Mirador do you stay up and watch over your guests? Do you trust them in the space? Are you with them? What do you imagine it being?

Miradore: I think at some point as the dancing is maybe winding to a close, Mirador has a room in this Lighthouse but Mirador goes to the top again to the beacon. To the lovely porch and I think there's a chair up there that kind of reclines slightly. It's not meant to be a like bed, it's not you know, designed for that, but Mirador retreats up there um and sort of is alone with their thoughts and the wind and the sea and lets those lull them to sleep.

Grayson: No I would say at 3:00 a.m. Grayson is, I guess, he's on the bottom half of the lighthouse, outside. He is also sitting on a chair and he's sitting there glass of water in hand this time, eyes closed and he's listening to the sound of the the waves and he's just going back to the conversation earlier that day with Miradore of how the sound gently lulls people to sleep and for the first time in a very long time it works. And he doesn't feel so tired at this moment and he kind of just dozes off a little bit sitting there in front of the lighthouse.

Rahrah: And joy sets us free. Saccharina, where do we find you in this peaceful and trusting moment?

(38:50)

Saccharina: Saccharina is also on the beach. She's been walking along its edge. She's well familiar with it. Now would be the time to dissolve into foam sink back in. Scottish Shores are plenty full of food, tourists, new faces, new lovers but I tried that before. I tasted that. But I haven't tried staying. I look where Grayson is snoozing away leaning against the lighthouse and gently tenderly take a seat next to them. I haven't needed to sleep in centuries but I'll keep watch over him. I'll be here when he wakes up.

Rahrah: May we all have a love one day that can make someone choose to stay. May we all be that place. Oh. Riven where are you? As people are discovering home, sitting by the glow of their home as its light turns through this Cove, where are you and do you glow as bright?

Riven: I would I would say so. uh Riven has been drinking and is having a lovely time and only the best idea occurs when one has overindulged. So she is uh rummaging around in the lighthouse finding buckets and shovels and she is skipping practically flying down to the beach and is gonna make a sand castle. Because look at this sand, look look at what can be done with the pieces of the shore that are still here. The ocean does take but because of it we're here and because of it I'm here and I have the tools I need and what can I create now, knowing what I have? Knowing what's the next step and it is elaborate and it is beautiful and you probably hear them calling out to both of you as you are trying to be restful just jubilant and excited and uh like a child, like the whimsy that had been perhaps locked away. It is a good moment.

Rahrah: Do you want your heart to stir everyone from sleep? Do you miss your friends?

Saccharina: Be selfish bitch!

Riven: I do miss them.

Rahrah: The winds come to your aid as what else would in a place built from love and stone. To of course the playful wind ever loving Mirador zooms up the front to stir her hey hey we're playing again this is actually playing. And below you two instantly wake up as Riven comes out of the door right next to you as you lean against the side of the lighthouse sleeping. There is a castle made by loving hands that awaits you all. Your attention and your company. Do you go?

Saccharina: I'm going to find a big rock to go in the sand castle.

Riven: The night is young!

Grayson: I think Grayson wakes up and sees that Saccharina is sitting next to him and it's just the biggest brightest smile and follows after them looking for a rock.

Saccharina: I imagine she even is the one who wakes him up. She just like Grayson, we're building a sand castle, help me find a rock, if you like that is.

Grayson: Yeah, yeah absolutely.

Saccharina: And just taking him by the hand going to go find rocks, Chase off the seagullsm the night birds.

Miradore: Miradore wakes groggy and then just kind of like runs down the the winding staircase of the lighthouse on the first floor, It's like Are we doing sand castles, what's up?

Riven: Yes yes we are hurry! If you wanna, you don't have to!

(43:18)

Rahrah: Our camera pulls back in the dark. The moon full, all of you so full. Nobody hit the change mechanic in this game but everyone changed a little. The last glimpse would be the waves coming in. The castle changing, slowly dissolving, shifting back to where it came from. And all of you, laughter ringing equally and the same as you run up and down this beach at night near the lighthouse filled with hearts.

The Lighthouse of Broken Hearts
By The Heart is a Dungeon

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