Title(s): ANY LAST WORDS?(short story) (2020)

A story about the possible way a young child's life could have been altered if he left on bad terms.

Journey To The Abyss - (Short story) (2020)

A story about the journey to the world the lies in between life and death.

Author / Artist

Cedric Spicer

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Authors Note

Things are never given to the ones that deserve it, hardly ever. Dread the day life stop giving you things because someday life will start taking things away. Everyday is a blessing, remember.

Cedric Spicer

II
Cedric Spicer

Dedication,

For Hazel, May you forever rest in peace. Love you Grandma, today, tomorrow and every day that follows. Finally, I'm doing something positive...

Finally...
Any Last Words
WHY LIE?

Especially to you.

I don't get high
No self-medication

NOPE!
No drinks or anything in that category.

First of all
I'm too young

All I know
Is what I remember

THE STORY
THIS STORY

-1-
THE ONE

I'm about to
tell you is

So oo true.

Still I'm trying
to wrap my head
around the moment.

It made me
thankfully

THANKFUL

Really.

It really did

-2-
HI!
My name is
Slim Shady.

"HA HA!"

You know, like
The rapper,
Not a lie
Just was a
Joke.
That was funny
Right?
I thought it was
No really, only the
Truth from this
Point forward.
Zaiyon.
Thats me.

-3-
MY MOTHER NAMED
Me that, said it.
Was um, different.

Yea, different.

Friends, well my friends
The best ones call
ME Zay.

Just Zay.

Plain in simple.

Now this story I'm
About to tell; I'm
Sure this didn't only
Happen to me.

Did It?

Maybe.

-4-
8:45 pm
THAT WAS THE TIME

That my new Sonic
The Hedgehog watch read.

It wasn't that late,
Wasn't late at all.

Right?

But kinda knew I
Shouldn't have been
Outside.

OK, so listen.

I wasn't outside, yet
But I was most
definitely on my way.
ME AND MY MOTHER HAVE a love hate Relationship. Who dont? Come on, who really dont?

I love her, but she be doing the Most and it urks my nerve.

"Urks. MY DAMN NERVES!!"

Dont know what that ment, but its something she says alot when she gets mad.

DONT tell her I cursed, it slipped.
ATTITUDE

That's what she had
With me because I
Didn't want to eat
None of her boyfriends

NASTY!

Icky!

FOOD.

I hate him
So much.

Believe me when I
Say when I get
Bigger, I'm gonna
Beat him up good.

He aint my daddy!

-8-
MY BIG BROTHER
He in jail

"HE DIDN'T DO IT!"

THAT'S what he tells
Me. I believe him
I miss him so much.
I THREW THE PLATE
On the floor and
Stormed off.

Maybe I was wrong
For that. I thought
about it.

Shrug.

Didn't care.

My dog ate the
Food so it didn't
GET WASTED.

Right?
8:46 pm
"You lost your damn mind, Zaiyon! Come here!!"

My mother screamed looking over her shoulder as I passed.

'No! I hate Cho ass!'
STRONG WORDS?

Would you be mad
if that were your
last?

Didn't care.

That's how I felt

Who cares?

The front door slammed,

NOW,

I was outside
It was the Fourth of July.

Independence Day.

Fireworks could be seen high in the sky
And heard for blocks.

Instantly I smiled,
Then inhaled the air.

"I love this holiday."

Zay. That's me.

I'm nothing but a child. You know, just a regular kid.

-15-
I'M ELEVEN YEARS OLD
To be exact. At
First glance I've
Been mistaken for a
Young adult. I'm

Tall for my age
A surprising five-foot
seven inches.

My mother is young
too. At least she says
so, and we always
bump heads. The only

Person I listen to
Without confrontation
Is Grams

Short for grandmother for
Those that don't know
the lingo.

-16-
Walking down
The street I kicked
A rock.

That's what kids do when we are bored, right?

It was loud outside.
As the sky lit up.

Had no clue to
What I was about
To do.

Anything
But stay in the house with my mother.
“Hmph!”

Sucked my teeth.
The rock went into
The street.
What to do now?

“I almost forgot
I stopped walking
And dug into
My pocket,”

-18-
9:00 pm

C. Spicer
I was excited.

Pulled out a lighter.

Remember,
I don't smoke

I'm a kid, duh!

But my mother does
In fact it was hers. I took it
right off the counter
before I left.

No one is slicker
than me.
THE LIGHTER

I FLICKED IT!

"YES!!"

It worked.

Kind of made me get more excited.
Now it was time to have some fun.

- 21 -
Guess what I had? ? ?

You'll never get it.
Go ahead, guess.
Come on, guess.
Okay, I'll tell you.

Firecrackers!!
9:05 pm

A sound.

-24-
THE SOUND THAT I
Was taught to dislike.

Taught to hate.
So I hate it.

Hate it!
Hate it!
Hate it!

Sirens...
THEY ARE IN
Close vicinity.

I panicked.

I tossed the remaining
firecrackers I had
and jetted.

"my mom gonna
KILL me!"

Was my first thought.

I had to get
away. Far away.

The police cruiser turned
the same block I
was on and noticed
me?

-26-

C. Spier
"I'M INVISIBLE. THEY DON'T SEE ME."

I told myself.

"KEEP DRIVING. PASS. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE."

Yeah right. Wishful thinking.
THE CRUISER PULLED
Along side of me
Shined a bright light
in my face. I
Shielded my eyes.

AYE YOU!
Let me see
Your hands!!

The officer demanded.
Options. I had a few.

Option #1
My mother told me to comply and don't give them a reason.

Option #2
My big brother had a famous line "Nigga run!"
I ran...
Didn't PLAN TO
BUT IT WAS LIKE
MY LEGS HAD A
MIND of their own.

Crazy enough
This action didn't
help me at all.

How was I suppose
To know a lady
was shot and robbed
a few blocks away

A WHITE LADY
AT THAT.

Witness said it was
a black man with
blue jeans and dreads.

"Aint that some Mess!"
The description matched me to the letter.

Not just me but every youth in the surrounding area.

To make matters worst

The lady...

THE WHITE LADY,

"Yes it matters"

WAS supposed to be accompanied by a

White MAN.

"Oh boy!"

And he was knocked out cold.
I had no clue
to what happened
down the street.

I only ran fearing
the possible whooping
I was to receive
If Valerie found
out.

Valerie being, Momma

Earlier in the day
She just confiscated a
whole brick of fireworks
from me.

Talking 'bout they
I illegal.

What d'at mean?
It's the fourth.
IM PRETTY FAST

My friends, well some of them call me Sonic

Just like my watch and favorite cartoon.

I dashed down the block and heard a door slam.

"oh Shucks!!"

A officer got out his cruiser in attempt to give foot chase

The squad car sped in front of me trying to cut me off

-35-
My youthful legs sprang over the cruiser only slightly touching the hood with a palm.

The foot cop,
They should have called him Sonie.

He was fast and gaining on me quickly. He had to run back in his day.

I looked back.

-36-

C. Spicer
PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY
When you look back
It slows you down.
But I had to
look.

His face read
adrenaline rushes
I seen him pump
his arms.

The block was long,
seen a short cut
in my mind.

A ALLEY

I entered and ran
through it. I was
on my way to
the great escape.

-37-

C.Spicer
"Come on man NN!"

DEAD END
I HID BEHIND A
DUMPSTER

Great hiding spot, if
I should say so
myself, right?

S K R R R

Tires screeched!

"Dang It!"

Squad car and foot
cop came in the alley.
Flashing lights illuminated
the surrounding walls
THE JIG WAS UP!

I surrendered.

"Aight po-po you wiN i give up"

Silence...

DID THEY HEAR ME?

I peeked.
WHY ARE THEY
STILL Approaching
With such agression

?
THE SUN WAS GONE
It looked darker than
It really was in
This narrow alley
I was in
Peeked around the
bin again.

leaned back quick.

"That Fool Got His
Gun Out!"

The officer had his
weapon drawn with
his other hand holding
a flashlight on top
of the gun.
A Chill went down
My spine.
Nervous?
Uh, yeah.
I was scared
to death.

-44-
"All this for firecrackers?"

I thought.

I blew a sigh.

"Hey! I'm coming out!"

My phone vibrated again.

She was blowing my phone up.

My Mother.

Valérie.

Maybe she could talk to the police and let them know she'll punish me for being bad.

"Yeah, that's what I'll do!" -415-
I REACHED FOR IT.

"HE GOT A GUN!!"

The real fireworks Erupted.
STILL WITH ME?

\[ \text{They shot me!} \]

Multiple times
Too...

C. Spicer
NOW REMEMBER, IM
Telling you the truth.
This where the story
gets crazy. I told
you in the beginning
nothing but the truth.

After being shot
I opened my eyes
I was slumped over
and began to stand.

I putted my body
trying to find...
I dont know
Something.

"What Da hEck?"

Did they miss?

48.

C.Spicer
NO!

I had multiple holes in my shirt.

-49-

C.Spicer
THE PAIN I ONCE
FELT WAS GONE.

No Blood

No HOLES.

Gone

Gone ?

Da fuck ?

I don't curse often
but this warrant a
few bad words
What's going on ?

The heat from the
Shells that I once
Felt, gone

It was hot and
It stung, but now
Nothing.

-50-

C. Spicer
THE OFFICER LOOKED
AT ME WHEN I
MADE IT TO MY
FEET.

I LOOKED AT HIM
TOO. I BRUSHED
MY SHOULDER.

"I'M bIONIC!"

Both officers wore a
Strange expression. It
Kind of threw me off.

The look almost resembled
Sorrow as they approached.
Their weapons, still drawn.

"I said I GIVE UP!"

My hands shot
To the sky.
I SHOOK MY HEAD

"Why did I come down Dis alley?"

The officer made it to me,

Walked straight pass

I Followed them with my eyes only as I listened to them talk.

53

C. Spicer
"Damn Colin, he was just a kid."

"Yea, partner. Shit! Call it in."
I TURNED AROUND
And both officers
Backs where turned
to me.

I walked beside them
And stood. The sight
In front of me
Blew

my

Mind...
THERE I WAS
Looking at me.

But, looking at me?
I was slumped on the side
of the wall, by a dumpster.

Bloody and Lifeless.
9:20 pm

Incoming Call
MOM
(202) 555-1212

My phone still vibrating

-57-  

C. Spicer
Both of them. The one in my hand and the one layed beside my lifeless hand.

My mother probably wondering where the heck I'm at.

I reached for the officer. My hand went through him.

"What da what?"

THE SCENE TURNED BLACK...
I BLINKED A FEW Times. I stood frozen in my living room.

I looked at my watch.

Time went back

8:45pm

C. Spicer
THE FRONT DOOR WAS
In front of me.

My mother stormed from
the kitchen area behind
me.

I turned to her.

She spoke.

"What did you just
say to me, little boy?"
A LONE TEAR ROLLED
DOWN MY CHEEK.

I looked at my
mother.

"I said 'I'm sorry
Mommy and I love you!'"

I rushed into her
arms. She was
confused but I
didn't care...

After the hugs, I felt hungry
and jetted to the kitchen.
I was thankful that the vision wasn't real.

Never would I leave saying such hateful words, to the ones I claim to love the most.
You don't know what
Might happen.
It just might
be your last...

Um I almost lost you forever
DO YOU HAVE ANY
LAST WORDS

THE END

C. spicer
Journey To The Abyss

A C. Spicer

Short Story

- 64-
FOREWARD.

Purgatory is real, a state in which the souls of those who have died must expiate their sins before attaining heaven. On the flip side, it's a place or condition of suffering, expiation or remorse.

This is where they are headed. The circle of life is not what it seems. The fight of your own fate is entirely on you surviving the Abyss. Only the strong will survive. It's a second chance only given to the innocent.

In the Abyss, your fears are your reality. You must conquer them if you wish to live again. To some it's called the cross roads.

-65-

C. Spicer
Either you make it out alive or you die eternally.

Everything exist, its populated by the failures of others. Hell is only worst if you fail the Abyss. People die everyday, some of natural causes and some are cheated of a full life. Millions are born to replace you. Its a gift to be alive on Earth. A second chance is earned and inside the Abyss there arent any favorites.

Today is July 4, Independence Day...
KHLOE

My day off. I
AM A FIRE FIGHTER IN
The city of Washington

D.C
The Nation's Capital.

It's a proud job
And it brings me
Joy to help others,
in their time of
Need.

-67-
My Physique.

Is a slim but shapely five foot eight with fire red hair.

Usually the life of the party when I'm out with friends.
New to the Metropolitan area, I've only lived in this city for about a year.

I love to work and do my twelve hour shifts cheerfully.

Even though the neighborhood I work in could get rough, I'm still at ease, stationed in Southeast Washington on Atlantic Street. My fire house is on its own block for the most part.

But surrounded by the urban youth.

The city as a whole is going through gentrification, so different ethnic groups are moving in changing the dynamics of the community.
This is what I've been told by many of the people in the area.

Well the city period.

I'm beautiful.

Just to throw that out there. I'm also single, which sucks.

Won't lie.

Nearly every social media outlet has a profile that I use in an attempt to find Mr. Right.

"Does he even exist?"

I'm trying to find out. So today I decided to go out of my normal and take a leap of faith.

- 70 -

C. Spicer
A couple of days ago I swiped right on a guy's profile.

Minutes later,

I received a message that made me blush. The guy was interested and a date was set.

"Easy."

Today was that day?

"Nice area."

OKAY, SO I PULLED UP TO this residential area of Capital Hill.

I thought to myself.

After locating the address that Google Maps led me to, I honked the horn.

I insisted that I drove.
"Don't know this guy, he might be crazy."

I am a very cautious woman naturally. Wasn't taking any chance of this guy being a creep.

Or, not what the profile suggested.

Nervous?

"Uh, yeah!"

The porch light of the two story home illuminated.

"Um, not bad."
His frame suggested the body
of a well fit man. He was dressed
casually in some jeans, a button down
shirt with some nice loafers.

His chest was big
and I loved that
feature as he neared.

The guy reached for
the door handle.

"Here we go."

It was locked, he leaned over
so he could be the height
of the window and smiled.

"Oh, I'm sorry."

I said as he tapped the window
snapping me out of my trance.
Opening the door he sat in the passenger seat of my Subaru. He extended his hand across the center console.

"Hello, beautiful, I'm Travis."

I smiled.

"Hey Travis, I'm Khloe. Nice to meet you. In person that is."

He laughed, some.

I thought

"Same here, I didn't think you were real. I must admit I thought I was going to have to reach out to "NEV" on Catfish."

He joked.

-75-
"Same here."

I admitted.

I PUT THE car in gear and pulled off. The sounds of the 90's group BOYS II MEN played softly. Surprisingly Travis began to sing the lyrics. I smiled shocked that he knew the words.

"What you know about them, white boy?"

I quizzed.

Travis brushed his own shoulders and smirked.

"I'm versatile, I love all music."

"Is that right?"

HE smiled.

"Yes Indeed."

"But uh, where are we headed too?"

-76-

C. Spicer
Karaoke Night!

We walked in trying to find a seat.
No Hostess, apparently

"Let's sit here."

"That was cute"

"It's your world beautiful girl."

"Might have a winner!"
Quietness.
Crickets...

I began to stand

I pointed at Travis

"Yea!"

*I have someone, he would love too!"

"Everyone give him a hand."

Everyone clapped as I nudged him grinning.
Travis looked around
bubbled eyed shock, then
whispered

No No No
I cant

He was shy. Didn't even move a
muscle. I wasn't having that, I help
him to his feet by his armpits and
whispered back in his ear,
I made sure to let my tongue
touch his inner lobes.

"We'll go together."

-81-

C. Spicer
Hand in hand we walked to the stage.
I looked through the selections. Needed
to find something fun. Travis just
stared into the crowd of lights.

"Found it!"

I turned to face him.

"Just like we were
in the car. Just
you and me, okay."

The beat dropped. It made Travis smile.
I nodded my head, I knew I picked
a good song. It was a popular duet.
"Shallows" by Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga.

The whole bar, especially the young college couples
sang along reliving the goosebumps as we watched
the screen with the words. The song ended, everyone
clapped as we left the stage hand in hand.
Sitting down I was still excited.
"See! That wasn't so bad, was it?"

I leaned over pressing my head onto Travis chest. The night was going great as we watched and sang along with a few more songs.

A night better than I could have every expected. Travis paid the tab and left a hefty tip for the waiters. Leaving the bar I sang as we walked down the street.

I NEVER SEEN HIM...

A man sat in the creases of the night, watching, waiting. As we neared my car, never seen him as he swung a large caliber handgun.

WHOP!!
Travis was hit HARD!
The blow connected with the temple of his face as he was reaching for my door handle.
I screamed. He pointed the pistol at my face.

Give me your keys. Woman!

I was trained in hand to hand combat. I also boxed in college and could take a punch. wasn't afraid of the gun. I made a decision and rushed the carjacker in attempt to disarm me.

He side stepped me. BOOM!

He fired, I flew back landing on my back.

C. Spicer
I WOKE UP
I think?

It felt like my body was floating
I opened my eyes, trying to focus,

"What the fuck is going on?"

SEEN myself in front of myself, laying
on a hospital bed, unconscious with
an IV in my arm. The machine said
my pulse was slipping away.
Hey, I'm I being punk'd
This not funny. HEY!
HEY Travis!"

Travis sat beside me
With his own head
Wrapped in bandages. He
Was talking to me
As I watched. I
Stood in front of
Him waving my arms.

"Travis! What's going on?"
I tried to touch him. My hand went through him. I couldn't be heard or felt.

The hospital walls fell...

I was floating in darkness, I fell
My body dropped and I screamed momentarily before passing out...

I awoke again

I was in a creepy cabin by my lonesome.

On the wall a flaming sign read:

The Abyss
A co-worker said to me. I heard her but ignored it. She know to leave me alone while I'm meditating. I love my yoga and its apart of me. My shift for today was done and complete. Tonight I had plans on lighting fireworks with my son.

-89-

C. Spicer
I am a yoga instructor and I love to stay in shape. My love is deep, only stronger for one another. My son, Malik.

Malik is only seven. If you ask me, he going on thirty.

Growing up was rough in the Nation's Capital, especially on public assistance with five brothers. It wasn't an easy task. I had to work hard to get where I am in the world today.

I pledged to myself that my son would have much better
I was running late.
 Didn't know I was
 in the shower that long.

I was scrambling trying
to get my cloths on,

Come on!!

I can't afford to
pay no damn late
fees, again,"
The elevator took longer than usual to come as I tapped my foot impatiently in the parking garage. I had to pick up Mulike from his aftercare program.

What the hell!? Hurry up! Shoot!

Finally!

Leaving the elevator I rushed through the parking lot headed for my vehicle. I looked at my phone and noticed the time.

"Ah man, I'm cutting it close."

Scrolled through my contacts decided to phone my little brother. Why not? Usually he hangs in that area...

-92-

C. Spice
Answering machine.

"Shit!"

Seemed like nothing was going my way as I heard his voice on the machine. I looked at my phone, yelled.

"ANSWER THE PHONE KNUCKLEHEAD!"

I called back, same result. Making it to my truck I pressed the unlock button on my keychain. The door remained locked.

"Come on man!"

I pressed it again.

"What's wrong with this thing?"

I banged the key against my palm. I was confused. Couldn't understand why my brand new GMC Yukon wouldn't unlock.
He smiled a flirtatious smile.

"What's such a small lady doing with that big ol' truck back there?"
I narrowed my eyes. Thought it was evident that I was not in the mood. The look on my face should have made it very clear.

It did. The guy kept walking and actually picked up his stride.
I am five feet four inches but
I loved to sit high on the road.
Besides having an active son, I also
owned two pit bulls terriers.
Both, blue nose.
Loyal only to me and Malik. I
spoil them all. Irritated. I left
the package garage. Walking down
the street I headed to the station.

"I'm definitely going to be late."

The Naval Yard, The green line train I
had to get on. It was the next best
way to get to the other side of town.

'Train approaching in
one minute

The sign read as I put the correct fare
on my newly purchased smart trip card. Jogging
down the escalator two steps at a time I
barely made it before the doors chimed.
I sat in an empty seat exhausted.
Grabbing my cellular from my chest I
decided to try my little brother again.

It went through
this time.

I couldn't wait to give him
a piece of my mind. Really I
think he been forwarding my calls.

He answered

Yo!! What up
Ugly?
"Finally!! I shouldn't have to call you this many times, you don't—"

He cut me off in the middle of my sentence.

BLAH BLAH BLAH
Are you done?
What you want?

Don't cut me off when I'm talking! I'm the big sister. I need you to go pick up your nephew.
My car battery died
I'm on the train right now"

What? Why?
What you doing?

Stop lying! That's a brand new truck.
You think I'm sweet?"

Click!!

I know that Knucklehead didn't just hang up on me, ugh!!

I sat deeper into my seat, blawn.

-100-

C.Spiby
The ride was relaxing. It was the end of rush hour and the after work crowd had mellowed out. My stop was approaching and I stood up, waited at the door for the light to turn off that indicated the doors were about to open.

GALLERY PLACE
CHINA TOWN

Was the station I exited out of. I lived in the Trinidad neighborhood. My trip, only half completed, still had two more buses to catch.

I stood at the X-2 bus stop and decided to take a vape. The strawberry vapors tasted good on my tongue.

"Bout time."

After a ten minute wait the bus arrived. The bus ride wasn't as pleasant as the train. Young and rowdy youth flooded the bus.

-101-
Looking out the window I noticed the bus that I needed to transfer to was pulling up. I wasn't going to miss this bus.

"Move, Move, Get out the way!"

The wait for the next bus could be fifteen to twenty minutes. I ran down the three steps and got off. Instead of heading to the corner, I ran in front of the idle bus, as it boarded other passengers.

Not being able to see around the bus I still ran into the street...

Skrrrr!
Sade screamed...

Finally landing, she was on the floor still extending her arms as if she were falling. She tried to lift her upper body up to see where she landed.

Khloe jumped! She looked over her shoulder to notice someone had arrived in the chamber.

She held her chest breathing heavy with bubbled eyes.

"Whew girl you almost gave me a heart attack.

This place already creepy as it is..."
Sade was in bewilderment. She was looking around trying to figure out what was going on.

"Uh, who are you!?"

Sade asked getting up from the floor.

And, can you tell me where the hell I am?

Questions came rapidly. She was now pacing.

Calm down, breath.

Khloe tried to explain what little she gathered.

Calm down! Calm down? I mean like, I was literally falling for 30 seconds!"
Sade paused and looked to the ceiling.

"Is this a dream?"

Khloe just watched her. She knew first hand the emotions Sade was going through. She was still trying to process it herself.

The sign on the wall began to flicker.

"I think someone else is coming."

Sade looked at the sign the Khloe.

"Somebody else? What the hell is going on?"

Sade asked again.

-106°

C.Spear
“Really I don’t know. I was only here for fifteen minutes before you arrived.

All the windows are steel bars that are smoking hot. The knobs don’t turn.
There are no exits.”

Khloe said sadly then looked at the sign and pointed.

“Look! It’s a clock under the sign now,”

Sade looked to where Khloe finger landed.
The clock wasn’t even a interest at the moment.
It was the sign that grabbed her attention.

Confusion was evident as she asked.

"What's the Abyss?"

A evil voice roared.

"Can you survive the abyss
Let your journey begin..."
CEDRIC Spicer is a person with a wild and vivid imagination. Telling stories come easy. He loves to get the reaction out of his readers and feedback. Let him know how you feel about his stories.

(CEDRIC Spicer 40847-007 by mail
FCC Petersburg
P.O. Box 1000
Petersburg, Virginia 23804) by
(SPIECE - cedric@yahoo.com) Email

-109-