

Clarissa Lanzas

Dystopian Allegory Final - Inundation

10/28/22

Mr. Kay

Inundation

The gray old man sat down on the damaged and abandoned roof. Left alone with nothing but the sound of the crashing waves against the 300 levels of the high rise and his only friend, who had the initials “K + RL” marked on his exterior. The old man became used to the silence between them. It no longer bothered him. It no longer mattered. He looked off into the azure beneath him, and the memories flooded back.

-

The teenage boy looked down at the paper his teacher handed to him and wrote at the top left his name, Robby Lawrence, and at the top right, the date, October 1st, 2090. This would have been a typical morning for Robby if it weren't for the fact that there was a loud buzz over the school's announcement speaker with the principal's familiar voice saying, “Attention EHS, There is a lock-in emergency, get to the roof immediately. Do not leave the building.” Immediately the classroom of teenagers started chatting and buzzing, wondering what could have caused this sudden yet ominous announcement.

By the announcement's orders, Robby exited his classroom. When he got into the hallway, there was a sea of heads of students rushing to seek higher ground on the roof of the school. He dashed up the stairs with everyone else until he got to the roof. Once he arrived, it was almost

impossible to see through the bodies of the hundreds of students packed into this small space. He felt suffocated by the lack of room and information about what was happening. He overheard students talking about a flood going on. *Just a normal flood? Here in the North East? Bad enough for us to have a Lock-in? Impossible. There's gotta be something else.* Robby pulled his phone out of his pocket and checked the local news. *'NATIONAL EMERGENCY: Sea/Water Levels Rising so High, That it Causes Fatal Flooding, Stay inside, Emergency services delayed'*. He then looked up from the alarming news article and saw almost all of the students tightly compacted onto the small birdcage-like roof of his school, with even more of them coming. As more and more students arrived the chatter grew louder. Nobody could even stand without rubbing and bumping into each other. Inevitably, a fight broke out. Two girls started attacking each other. Everyone was yelling, even the crows on top watching over and cackling. More and more fights broke out one by one. It was a full-on brawl. Punches and slaps being thrown left and right. There was a loud creaking sound coming from the birdcage fence roof. The cage broke open and half of the children started spilling out of the fencing. Down about 50 of the 300 stories of the school building, until they hit the flooded waters beneath them. Robby and the other half still on top shrieked in horror.

Stranded

Stranded. The students of East High School were stranded inside their building. Half of them consumed by what once brought life to them, taking life out of their eyes. Robby looked around the classroom, his gaze finding his classmates horrified about what had happened prior. Students were sobbing and yelling about the sudden loss of their peers. But not Robby. As Robby left the roof and descended down floors of the school, his mind was set on one thing. Finding Kev.

Kev was Robby's best friend ever since third grade when they had met in their Quantum physics and modern geology class. Since then, they've been inseparable. But now, they've become separated. Robby searched in every classroom he could find. He slammed open doors and checked in the science labs. He even asked other students and teachers.

"Have you seen Kev anywhere?"

"No," a student replied, "not since we had to go up to the roof. Sorry Robby".

Maybe Kev was one of the ones who... No. I can't think like that. He's got to be alive here somewhere. I'll find him eventually.

Robby put his hand in his pocket looking for his phone but, instead found it, and pulled out a little pebble. *I remember when me and Kev were little we would always collect these by the river and throw them into the stream.*

He felt his eyes start to water, but he quickly brushed it off.

Robby looked around, huddles of students were starting to find their friends and cliques and groups they usually hang around with. The sports teams, the engineer focus kids, and many others. Teachers gathered with the other staff with expressions of worry on their faces. Over the PA system, another announcement came from the principal.

"Everyone, I know this situation is less than ideal, but let's not escalate it further and prevent any other problems from happening. Please act like civilized young adults and listen to your teachers and staff."

After the announcement, a student stood on the table and shouted so everyone around could hear.

"Guys! The principal is just *acting* calm! Didn't you all read the news? Didn't you see what just happened to the others? We only have a limited amount of resources! We're all gonna die!"

Another student came up behind her and shouted at an equal volume, “Yeah, with that attitude of course you’re gonna die!”

That’s Kev. Everyone stopped for a moment and looked at each other with looks of confusion and terror. That’s when everyone started breaking out into mass hysteria. Students and even some teachers started fainting with anxiety. People calling their parents with dramatic “goodbyes”.

While this was going on, Robby sprinted up to his best friend who just made this anxiety-inducing speech.

“Oh my god, I thought you were one of the ones who fell off the roof, Kev,” panted Robby, “I’m so glad you’re alive!”

“Of course, I’m alive, idiot,” smirked Kev, “you think a little water could kill me?”

A Dark and Stormy Night

It was nighttime now and it was raining pretty hard. The remaining students and staff of EHS would have to spend the night in the building since there was no way for them to go home, and no promise that their homes would still be habitable with the high waters of the flood. The people in the building were starting to accept what happened and how they would just have to continue living and wait for emergency services to eventually come. As Robby was chatting with some of his classmates, he got a notification on his smart glasses. “Meet me at the vending machine on the 200th floor”

It was from Kev. After getting the message, Robby excused himself from his conversation with classmates, and then made his way down the stairs. He came into the hallway of the 200th floor and across the hall saw Kev getting some snacks from the vending machine.

“Hey, come here!” shouted Kev.

“Hey,” replied Robby, “what did you need?”

“I wanted to show you this thing that I found,” Kev pulled out his phone, “I found this app that can send rescue helicopters to our school and potentially help all of us get to a better location until the flooding goes down!”

“Dude, that’s great..but, do you think it’s legit?”, questioned Robby.

“I think it's worth a shot,” answered Kev, with loud thunder heard in the distance, “If you haven't realized, since it’s raining so heavily outside, the flooding will only get far worse.”

“I guess you’re right,”

“It says that we can have the helicopters here by 4:00 AM,”

4:00 AM

Robby was woken up by loud yelling from Kev.

“Everyone! Get up! The rescue helicopters are here, please come up to the roof so we can board safely and move to a safer place!”

After the yelling, students and teachers started waking up.

“What is going on?” a student said groggily.

“Come on! This is our chance! The water is getting higher!” shouted Kev hurriedly.

The teachers reluctantly started helping Kev get all the students in line to prepare for takeoff on the helicopters.

The people in the school were lining up on the roof of the school once again, half asleep, but ready to board nonetheless.

Once Robby made it to the roof he looked around and saw the remains of the damaged birdcage fencing. *This place killed my classmates.* Robby froze in place. He was shaken with fear and anxiety. *What if something happens again? What if I die this time? Will we be ok?*

The whirring of the helicopter blades taking off snapped Robby out of it.

“There’s only one helicopter left! Anyone who is left please get on now!” Kev yelled.

Robby stared at the helicopter rising up slowly. He noticed some damage to the blades of the copter.

He screamed, “Your helicopter is damaged! It’s not safe to board! Please don’t go!”

“What are you talking about man? Are you insane? Get on!” shrieked Kev, throwing a rock at him to catch his attention.

Robby caught the rock and ran out of sight of the helicopter as it took off.

Robby slid down the wall and onto the floor. *Their helicopters were damaged...*

-

Robby had been alone at the school now for some days. He’d just been sitting. He checked his phone and looked at the news.

“Damaged rescue helicopters have fallen into the inundation carrying 500 high schoolers and staff found dead.”

They’re all dead. Everyone. Even Kev.

A newfound emptiness started inside of Robby’s chest. Kev had kept him grounded for basically his entire life. Kev was his best friend and now Kev was nothing but a memory. All Robby had left of him was the rock that Kev had thrown at him. He looked at it and saw that Robby and Kev's initials were carved into it. “K + RL” He traced his fingers on the initials and the tears overflowed.

