

## Once I Was Lost

Once I was lost. It was a frightful experience. I remember it almost like it was yesterday. I went with my father to the university. It wasn't anything out of the ordinary. The same musty smell seeping up from the carpet. Everything was just as it had always been. The dim light, the cool breeze from the slowly rotating fan. I was used to the environment. My dad hacked away at the computer (click clack click clack) while I drew the most magnificent pictures on the whiteboard. After we were done my father and I decided to take the stairs. We walked together toward the stairway. My dad noticed a co-worker and began to socialize. Even though my dad was talking I made my way down the dark and shadowy flights of stairs. I gently gripped the ice cold railing. I slowly trudged down the steep, narrow stairs. I could still hear the soft echo of my dad's voice. I thought he was right behind me, but he was no where in sight. In a panic I raced up the steps in hopes to reunite with my dad. He was gone. My heart began to race. The first thing that came to my mind was he went back to his office. I ran as fast as my legs would carry me. He wasn't there, the door was locked. So I jumped on the elevator taking it to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. He wasn't there either. I felt a wet warm tear begin to gently caress my cheek. I could taste the bitter salty tear. That taste brought on even more tears. Then it came to me - maybe he was waiting for me in the car. I wiped the pouring water from my face, and began to sprint to the car that was parked 3 minutes away from where I was. I skidded to a stop. My heart sunk. He wasn't there. I felt the tears coming on. I chocked them back and swallow hard. I wasn't going to give up. I started to breathe hard, or at least that's when I first noticed I was. I was breathing hard because I had just been running without thinking. My legs became sore. Then it was like a chain

reaction sparked, my whole body started to ache. Then in the distance I could see the silhouette of the man I had been longing to see. I burst with tears and there was nothing that was going to stop me from getting to my dad. I sped in his direction. I leapt into his arms and gave him a long awaited hug. I felt warm. I felt his heart beating through his chest. I felt found.