

Swans

The sun is hiding
The moon is sleeping
And the stars are refusing to shine
Families are fleeing
Friends are betraying
And hope is the color of the past
When magic seems to be lost
And life dances chaotically
They have nothing but each other
Nothing but the love they share, cherish, and hang onto.

Life can never be defined with precision, for different people have different pictures of what it means. For some life is about collecting materialistic possessions, for others it is about having an education and living in a world that respects them. But not many even have the capability to dream of such things because they are fighting to survive each day that passes them by.

The cold morning wind wakes up Caydon to a world where there is no food, and a place where there aren't any friends. Being raised by a loving family until the age of 14, he still remembers how it felt to be teena ger. Videogames, friends, clothes, and shoes are all in the past, for the present is a world of violence, crime, and struggle to make it through another day. Daunting is an understatement for the life that Caydon leads, but his life story is something of value and passion. Maybe he lives on the streets, but even now his blue eyes sparkle with a sense of magic, and his lustrous smile lights up even the dullest of days.

He never dreamt that his parents ever had the capability to throw out their very own son onto the streets and watch him suffer with their very own eyes. Until that cold Christmas day in 2003, Caydon believed that his family symbolized love and compassion, but his life took one of the most unexpected turns. That day, he became a stranger to his family and an alien to his once loving "friends".

Homosexuality is what started it all. Being only fourteen at that time, Caydon felt it was the appropriate time to reveal a part of him that would give the world a better understanding of who he was by exposing how homosexuality contributed to his identity. However, the world wasn't ready. His parents couldn't comprehend where they had gone wrong, and instead of trying to understand their own child, they found it more appropriate to disown him. This isn't

shocking, after all many teenagers have experienced the same situation. Yet stories like Caydon's never make it anywhere, for he is shunned from society, and discarded as useless.

Caydon doesn't pride himself over his hardships in life, rather he prides himself in getting to experience true love. Myran, a homeless teenager as well, met Caydon after being thrown from an orphanage due to his sexual orientation. Myran never experienced a normal childhood, for his mother kept intervening into his life to create more dilemmas. Life wasn't easy, but Myran's desire to live has kept encouraging him to never give up.

Caydon and Myran's love story is something of a strange coincidence. Myran was rummaging through the garbage searching for any scraps of food when he came across Caydon. There was no attraction or even friendship at first sight, rather there was hatred. Myran viewed Caydon as an intruder who had come to make life just a little worse and Caydon thought Myran was nothing more than another one of those drug dealing teenagers around the street corner. There was no kind "hello how are you?" nor was there any "nice to meet you" phrases that were uttered but rather it was just an angry staring game that turned into love.

Stories are what brought them together, stories about dreams, happiness, and determination. When the nights were cold they both began sleeping behind the local downtown stores, and it was the bedtime narratives that they shared which helped them peek into each other's past. Love slowly made its way, and now it is slowly leading them towards the rising horizon.

It is in the arms of love that life became more beautiful than they had ever wished. Even though the moon still refuses to shine its radiant golden rays, both of them have the courage to keep fighting. They exemplify what it means to love life to such an extent that they desire to cherish each day. Although they might go to sleep hungry on certain days, the love they share is more fulfilling than divine food. The world is a dark place, yet even in the stillness of the night, there are two swans swimming in the lake, holding a candle on their back to show the sleeping world that even though their love might not be accepted by society, there is no way that society can hinder the passion that keeps blossoming within themselves.