

# Forces

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## Just Another Diamond Day

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## Glass to Gallon

Emma Montgomery

Both friend and foe.

No matter the form,  
transparent, amber or red;  
it is the gateway to two paths.

Turn left and enjoy the  
earthy sharpness of the elixir.  
The delightfully pungent aroma  
slows the mind long enough to see the truth.

But turn right and find yourself  
gripped by the bitter thickness  
of its riptide, drowning you  
in what you thought were the shallows.

A glass awakens the senses  
of an otherwise unconscious mind,  
but a gallon distorts reality  
to the point of no return.

Endorphins run high,  
turning frowns into Cheshire cat smiles.  
With liquid glee coursing through you,  
how can negativity persist?

The better it feels,  
the blurrier the line becomes.  
Warning signs muffled by the  
roaring of laughter and slurred speech.

It's a painful irony, really.

To her, it's joy. Comfort. An escape.

But to you, it's a criminal holding  
her hostage with a charming chokehold.

The line's been crossed.  
Plowed through. Obliterated.  
The path back to the left is out of sight  
unless led back by a strict guide.

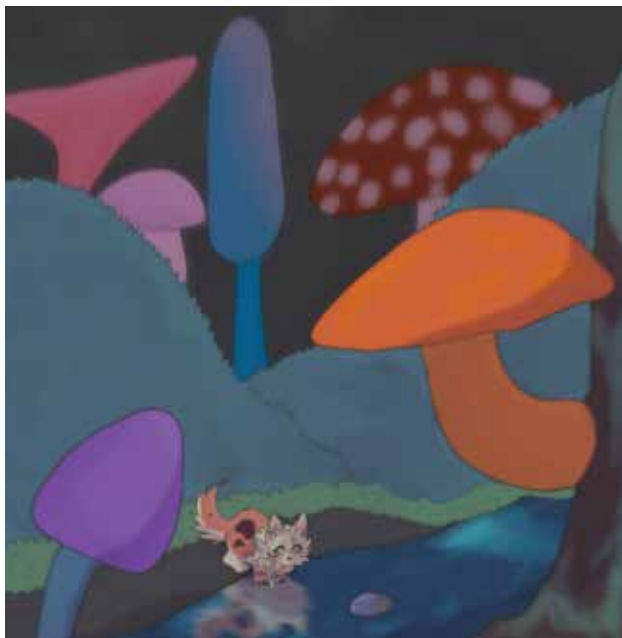
It was supposed to be a joy;  
A taste of true maturity after  
7,665 days. 252 months. 21 years.

But somehow a glass

turned  
into  
a  
gallon.

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Esperanza Dehoyos



## Turning 21

Nicole Bellin