

Breaking the wall

Inspired by Vicente Guerrero Mexico

By Teijna Pickrell

Age: 19

Peeking through a small crack in her mental wall she saw it, for the first time in her life she was looking beyond she was looking past the manicured lawns and the picket fences, into another world, a world where not everyone owns a vehicle and not everyone is able to shower every day, every second day or even that week. She was looking and seeing things she had never even heard about. Where are the paved roads? Where are the perfectly cut lawns? She had entered a world where those things ceased to matter. The idea of life in this world was completely different than her own, it was not about success or popularity it was not about finally beating the Jones. This is a world where only a few basic things matter, tomorrow, relationships, and living for the day. These are the only things that matter because tomorrow is not guaranteed in fact tomorrow would be a miracle. In this world people live for the day because there might not be another one, so they want to create the best relationships they can and cherish them in the time they have. In this world children do not have shoes, they do not have houses or moms or dads. This world you are not guaranteed a house, you are not guaranteed to eat this week, and you are not even guaranteed to legally exist. She begins to understand, as the crack in her wall crumbles a little more. In this world nothing is guaranteed.

As she stares in wonder and in shock at the things so close outside her wall, she sees a little boy probably five or six sitting on a brightly coloured blanket outside a shack made of garbage bags and a roof made of a big billboard sign reading "I'm Lovin it" with the famous golden arches below it, a little piece from her world making all this a little more than a dream. She watched this boy braid bracelet after bracelet this is how this little boy will spend his day, he will not be in school he will not be playing with his friends he will make these bracelets to sell for 10 pesos, less the one Canadian dollar.

Tears begin to stream down her face as her crack in her mental wall crumbles a little more creating a gap big enough for her head to stick through which she does in eager wonder to see even more of what is beyond. She feels pity for this boy, who didn't eat all day who was clinging with dust and was in bare feet. Desperate to save this little boy she begins to tear at her wall making her crack almost wide enough to fit through, into this new bizarre world, and then she stops.

The little boy looks up, the sun shining on his round face and big brown eyes. There walking towards him is a woman she is also barefoot and covered in dust. She has pants, a skirt, a long sleeved shirt, a T-shirt and a sweater. Her face is covered by a bandana as well as wearing a toque. In that weather the girl is in shock how did this woman not pass out from heat. She

bends towards the little boy kisses him on the forehead and hands him a big bright strawberry freshly picked from the dusty fields she was forced to labour in for the past 12 hours. She walks away into the shack to begin dinner for the family. The little boy beams at his strawberry his eyes twinkling and mouth watering he opens his mouth to take a bite when he looks up for the second time, this time the little boy stares right at her, and her heart begins to thump wildly could this little boy see her on her side of the wall was her gap big enough? She hopes so. She sticks her hands through and begins to push against the wall, chunks of rubble fall at her feet and she begins to inch her way towards the other world, the one that has the little boy. One more big push and she stumble's through. As amazed as she is she has no sight for anything but the little boy still watching her. She slowly walks towards him and leans down; He stares at her then back to his strawberry, then back to her. He smiles tentatively and holds out his hand, in his hand lies one strawberry, big and juicy. He has given it to her. Eyes watering she takes the berry and then his hand there they sit sharing in each other's company, and she is looking in amazement at all the things she had never seen outside her wall.