

## Isaac Harrison's A Cosmos In Between

I love creative writing, and have written all sorts of stories since my early school years. I prefer to create long, fantasy stories with chapters, richer sentences, and a lot more description and attention to the scenes and characters' intentions. So writing *A Cosmos In Between* as a 'short' story was an experiment after several previous stories that I tried just didn't feel right. Instead, this short story cuts most of the additional, fleshing-out techniques in place for small, sharp sentences with a lot of periods. I did this to capture what I love about creative writing and language in general - that being how language can be heard/read and interpreted differently by different people. I made it easier to hear and read it differently thanks to the unclear ending/staring point and speed of a sentence, as an example. Other cases would be my love for words that have several meanings that can clash with itself or just have multiple insinuations and therefore interpretations. I would emphasise this my experimenting with the use of precise words, periods, and punctuation to create this warped text where the barrier between a full sentence and meaning is blurred and easy to interpret differently. So it was fun to write, having no real plot or message in mind since, like in the story, we all interpret and experience things differently to one another. But I tried to not get carried away with only letting my views be the forefront of the story by introducing opposing ideas in other characters.

I based the characters on opposing beliefs and interpretations of my own, seeing how they interact and reason. Using a first-person perspective for each character was also new, interesting, and fun to work with, since I based the overall theme in the story; being unable to understand someone, on my real life experiences of finding it hard to understand someone. From not hearing someone's tone correctly, nor understanding the intent behind their voice, words, and what they're saying; I wanted to incorporate what I found difficult with people and language into a story and its characters. So I did. I also wanted to use this story to express my constant clashing of my ideas and perspective, turning an internal clash of views and reasoning into a visible one between character's ideals and beliefs. Having little inspiration for my story made it harder and easier to write as well, since I only had my mind to guide what I was writing and where I was taking it. I admit this can be clear in some cases. Yet I was inspired by Paulo Coelho, having been inspired by how he plants deep symbolism, moral questions, and meaning into his stories and characters. His real story of perseverance through hardship like when he was arrested yet failed to stop him from chasing his dreams and faith further uplifted by own beliefs and fortitude, as despite the pain and struggles he went through, he found his faith and purpose in life and continued to do what he loved.

Working on *A Cosmos In Between* took a lot of time, since the idea just popped into my head and it clicked. So the rest of the time I had after some weeks of scrapping past ideas was devoted to finishing one draft, then another, and then refining the latest version. Yet unlike some other of my projects, constantly reading it over-and-over never got old or boring, since I put more effort, dedication, and time into making this story. I put and found meaning in every character, sentence, and punctuation, as they all work together and add to the story and helped me learn how to cut things when it got too long. The work was hard and took some time but it was worth it and I am very pleased and proud with the final version and even plan to continue with the project beyond the competition and original experiment.

*A Cosmos In Between* is where I put my thoughts, ideas, and questions into play to conjure situations and interactions that reflected the power of interpretations and different perspectives that I find in real life. However, *A Cosmos In Between* doesn't go any further than that. It is just a fun, creative

experiment and story that I am proud of, with the lone purpose of expressing my view on how language and our words can cause people to understand things differently. By allowing for all kinds of interpretations to be made for every character and their every word, reaction, thought, and action, I find that this short story indeed does emphasize the occasional difficulty I have trying to understand someone and what they said or meant. Only taken to extremes, in this story, in a fictional setting that I made as realistic as I could.

I am proud and pleased of *A Cosmos In Between* and its unclear, cohesive, and hazy story that is built around characters, emotions, and interactions, just like my interpretation of life. So I wanted the story to convey this theme and belief of mine. Writing it with no real plan in mind, I am satisfied with how it turned out after changing the writing perspective thrice and making a few drafts. Having added all I wanted to and removed that I knew I had to, this project has proven useful and fun for me, trying new ways to write whilst still using what I already knew and had implemented many times before. So however someone interprets either the whole story or a lone sentence, I hope they enjoy the read and are pleased with their interpretation, as I indeed am happy with my work and the underlying theme that I wrote. So whilst *A Cosmos In Between* was made for this competition, I can say that it goes beyond just an entry of mine. I am proud of my work and how it turned out and plan to expand upon it for my own interest.