Journal Entry #1

Life is meant to be simple. We are supposed to live it to the fullest without regrets or heartaches, but if only life was that easy. I have always wondered about how things have progressed over time. I know it may seem silly, but I’m just curious. I wonder when God created Adam and then Eve. Did they have any marital disputes or wonder if their lives have meaning? Well for them, I guess you can say it was kind of simplistic. It’s the rest of us that has the problem. I mean they had a readymade marriage without going through any trials or tests beforehand. I kind of envy them. Well, God always says to have faith in Him and all your prayers will be answered. I can’t always say that I felt that way. It sometimes becomes hard to have faith when everything you know falls apart. You become so entrenched with those emotions you forget about anything else. The paths that each of us is meant to follow is unknown to us at time, but we try to make the right decisions in life to follow some path. I always knew where I wanted to go and what I wanted to be, I forgot that God has plans of his own.

“It’s such a beautiful day,” a young girl comments to herself as she picks a flower in a field. As she begins to smell the flower, something catches her eye in the distance. As she starts to walk towards it, the thing begins to move and she realizes that is a person trapped underneath a tree. The girl cautiously approaches not sure what to do. Suddenly the tree rolls off the person to reveal a boy. “Are you alright?” the girl asks. “I’m fine. Who are you?” replies the boy. Taken aback by the boy’s inquiry, she replies with, “Who are you?” “I asked you, first.” “So, I found you. It is proper for you to tell me first.” The boy gets up, looks at her, and begins to walk off in the opposite direction. “Hey”, the girl cries out after him. The boy stops, turns around, and says, “If you want to know my name, and then follow me.” He proceeds to turn around and continue walking in the previous direction. “I wonder who he thinks he is. I should follow him to find out his name. I don’t just go and follow people for the sake of it. I have to admit that I’m curious about him. Okay, why not?” the girl reasons for herself as she follows the boy.

As the car drives away, Collins Denise Stratton realizes she is getting closer to her dream of becoming writer that will impact her country as she climbs into the carriage on her way to the palace. “I would have never thought I would be riding in a carriage,” she said to herself. “I know it seems a bit old fashioned, but Her Majesty prefers not to get the road paved to preserve the splendor of the palace and its garden,” said Jacob as the carriage begins it journey to the palace. “I have read that Her Majesty is very strict about preserving the country’s history and traditions, but I ever knew it would be to this extent,” Collins replies as the carriages shakes and moves along the rocky path. “Yes, she is very absolute when it comes to such things”, he responds. “So, Jacob, you were the previous recipient of this internship. Was it a rewarding experience? ,” she asks him inquisitively. “Let’s just say that it was interesting. I am the first in a while to have a position in the palace as a result of it,” he answers with a humble smile. “I guess you’re right, most interns move on to something else don’t they”, Collins replies with a smile. As Collins looks out of the window of the carriage at the trees and bushes, she begins to reflect upon her unique circumstance. She remembers the feeling of achievement she felt as the palace announced her name for the internship. The internship at the palace is only done every four years allowing candidates from all walks of life to apply according to the specifications of the job. It is exclusively sponsored by Lady Lydia, the sister to the Queen, as an opportunity for the people of Silvenia to experience the inter-workings of the palace and have a chance to make connections that could help them in life. The program is only twelve years old with only three others excluding Jacob who have went on to have very successful careers in life that glorify our country.

After her reflection, Collins began to think about the amazing sights she was experiencing. “I wonder,” said Collins as she reaches for the purse and grabs her notebook. As Collins began to write in her notebook, Jacob glanced over at her. “Ms. Collins, may I inquire about what you’re writing?” asked Jacob. Collins continued to look down and write. “Ms. Collins!” yells Jacob. With Jacob’s shout, she is shaken from her trance. “I apologize. You wanted to tell me something,” replied Collins.

“It’s nothing, I was just asking about what has you so captivated.”

“Again, I’m so sorry. This is my inspiration notebook. Whenever I feel inspired I write it down and I have a tendency to get lost in it.”

“It’s quite okay. I know that writing is your passion and you plan on using it to glorify our country. I find that quite admirable.”

“Thanks, Jacob.”

Jacob noticed that the carriage was slowly indicating that they have reached their destination. “Well, Ms. Collins--,” as Jacob started. “Please call me Collins. It is only appropriate since we are going to be working together,” she interrupted. “Ok, Collins. Let me introduce you to Castle Acentia,” said Jacob as he stretched his hand toward the castle.

As Collins emerged from the carriage, she was amazed at the magnificence of the castle. Of course, like everyone else in the country she has seen it on television or in pictures, but up close it was like a structure stuck in the time when chivalry was demanded. The beautiful grey stone seemed to shine with the brilliance of a diamond. “This is a masterpiece,” whispered Collins. As she looked around at the vast gardens, she understood the Queen’s insistence of keeping the grounds traditional because it was the perfect complement to the castle. “Collins,” Jacob called to her softly in her ear. “Sorry, Jacob I got lost in thought”, replied Collins.

“I can certainly understand that, but this is only the opening act.”

“What do you mean?”

Then, Jacob extended his arm toward Collins and she gladly took as she walks into the castle gates.

As she entered through the gates, Collins heard a loud clinging from the chains as the gates closed and it took her by surprise, but Jacob seemed to have calming effect on her that she greatly appreciated. The courtyard is a source of mystery in Silvenia due to the Queen not allowing any media beyond the castle gates. When she walked across the courtyard, she taken aback immediately by the beautiful statues and the different poses each displayed as if they were telling a secret story. The most exquisite piece of architecture was the walkway. The walkway of the courtyard stood out due the fact it was the center point of a manmade lake echoing the feeling as if you are walking on water.

“Collins, are you okay?” said Jacob as he escorted her.

“I’m fine. I’m just in awe. I never knew that the palace was so….”

“Was so…”

“That’s just it. There are no words.”

“Usually we would take the carriage all the way to the castle door, but I figured that you would enjoy it better this way.”

“Thanks, Jacob. You were right. I’m feeling inspired. I’ll have to write about it later.”

“I’m sure Lady Lydia would be glad to hear that.”

“What do you mean? Am I about to meet her now?”

“Is that a problem, Collins?”

“No, it’s not that I just thought it would be a more formal setting considering she is a Duchess.”

“Well, my Lady is a different kind of Duchess.”

Collins was curious about Jacob’s comment, but she decided that it would be better just not to ask any questions and found about it later.

As Collins and Jacob enter the castle door, Collins is greeted by many different people that work at the castle that were unique because their uniforms seem to be causal clothing. Then, one person stood out from the others. She was dressed in clothing that echoed the latest fashion in America and her demeanor was kind, but very professional when she addressed the staff. As Collins approached her, she seemed a little apprehensive, but when she saw Jacob, her expression seemed to soften. “Hello, Jacob. How are you feeling today and who is this with you?” she said as if she was trying to solve a mystery. “I am doing well today. I would like to introduce you to Ms. Collins Stratton, the new intern to Lady Lydia. Collins, I would like to introduce you to Andrea Lowell, the Queen’s aide,” replied Jacob. “Hello, it is a pleasure to meet you. What is it like to work for the Queen?” asked Collins. “Well, Collins, you are an eager one aren’t you?” said Jacob. “I don’t mind, Jacob. I honestly expect it. It is a real pleasure working with her”, responded Andrea. “I can only imagine the different tasks you do. I bet your life is interesting every day,” replied Collins. “Let’s just say it a very gratifying experience. Will, if you will excuse me, I have some things I have to attend to,” said Andrea as she gracefully exited from Collins and Jacob. “She is amazing,” exclaimed Collins. “If you find Andrea amazing, then you are in for a treat,” replied Jacob. Then, Jacob extended his arm to Collins again and they continued to walk around the castle.

The castle was magnificent inside as it was outside. The hallway was long and winding, but it has most unique paintings that Collins has ever seen. Jacob explained the different types of rooms to Collins from the dining rooms to the parlors. Eventually, they reach a room close to one of the gardens. It was a very open room that led to a beautiful patio. When Collins walked through the door, she was so taken aback at the brilliance of the garden that she did not realize that Jacob was calling her name. “Collins, Collins!” called Jacob. With Jacob’s call, it seemed to snap her out of her trance. “I’m sorry, Jacob. I was so mystified at my surroundings that I completely forgot where I was.” “Then, I have achieved my goal,” a female voice said. As Collins entered the patio, she saw a woman that was so elegant she could barely catch her breath. “Collins, let me formally introduce you to my Lady, Lydia, Duchess of Montain, Princess of Silvenia”, replied Jacob as he bowed to her. “Pleased to me you,” responded Collins as she curtsied to the princess. “Please rise my dear. Let’s not get caught up on formalities. We are going to be working together for the next few years”, commented Lydia.

As Collins rose, she couldn’t believe the simplicity of Lady Lydia’s words and her beauty. She didn’t seem to be wearing a lot of makeup, but the natural sunlight made it look as if her skin was glowing. Even the dress she was wearing, it had a simple, sophistication that echoed the country lifestyle the Collins was so accustomed to. Collins realized at that moment that she should prepare herself for more surprises.

As the breeze flows in the distance through the variety of flowers, Lady Lydia had prepared tea and various snacks. “So Collins, how do you like our palace? I know on first look it may seem overwhelming, but I promise you it is a home just like yours”, said Lady Lydia. Lydia picks up her cup and takes that slow sip of her tea. She seemed as if she was savoring every taste of it as if she was trying to drain every bit of flavor out of it. Collins watched her carefully as if she was trying to figure out the mystery of her and what made her so fascinating. “Well, Collins, how have you been enjoying our hospitality so far”, asked Lydia. “My Lady, everyone has been so nice. I’m still taking in everything. This place is do amazing. There is a surprise around every corner,” replied Collins after she took a sip of her tea. “I see that you are a lively one. I predict that you will make a great impact on the palace in the next four years. Do you agree Jacob?” “I believe so, my Lady,” responded Jacob. “Thank you so much, my Lady. I look forward to working with you,” exclaimed Collins. “I don’t know if Jacob has informed you yet, but you will be having dinner with the royal family tonight at 6:00 p.m. It is a welcome dinner that I give for my new interns. It is not a formal affair, so don’t worry. It’s just an intimate dinner to introduce you to the rest of the family that you’ll be working will as well on occasions.” “So, I’m going to meet the Queen.” “Yes, that is correct and the rest of my family.” Collins’s expression changes slightly upon hearing about meeting the royal family. “Is something wrong, Collins”, asked Lydia when she saw Collins mood change. Collins sat down her cup of tea carefully before responding to gather her thoughts. “Everything is fine, My Lady. I’m just a little nervous,” smiled Collins. Lydia tilted her head and gave Collins warm smile as she put down her cup of tea to grab her hands. “Collins, I am not a person that you have to conceal your feelings from. I know that you may be nervous, but your expression seems to hide a much deeper meaning. Come on now please tell me. Jacob had the same reservations about me when we first met. I welcome honesty. I greatly respect you telling me the whole truth.” Collins looked towards Jacob as she heard Lydia’s words as though she was seeking approval from him to speak. “It is true, Collins. Lady Lydia will bear no ill will regardless of what you say”, Jacob responded. Collins took a deep breath and allowed her true feelings to take hold. “While I am honored to meet your family, I am very concerned about meeting Prince Jonathan.” “Why is that my dear? Most young women find him quite pleasing and charming.” “I’m not most women. I believe he could care less about our country. The countless escapades he has had with women and not to mention the way he spends the country’s money as if the treasury is his own personal piggy bank. It is true that he has brought attention to our country, but it is for all the wrong reason.” As Lydia leaned back after she took in the young woman’s opinions, she found herself in a complete trance. “I think that you a simply breathtaking.” “I’m sorry, my Lady. I really wasn’t expecting that response,” said Collins in shock. “Lady Lydia is always full of surprises”, responded Jacob. “I have never heard anyone talk with such passion. You have a general disdain for my nephew. It seems you feel as though his is embarrassing our country,” replied Lydia. “To be absolutely frank, I believe that as citizens of Silvenia, we should take pride in our country and try our best to make it better not act as though our country isn’t significant enough to care about” “Definitely, breathtaking,” repeated Lydia.

As the breeze floats through the air, the silence is broken by the sound of the chimes from the grandfather clock on the wall. “Well, Collins, it has been refreshing talking to you, but that chime means I have an important meeting to get to. It was nice meeting you, Collins and I will see you tonight,” said Lydia as she rose from her chair. “It was a great honor meeting you and I look forward to working with you”, replied Collins. Collins followed Lydia as she graciously put down her napkin and glided through the room out the door. “Well, Collins, are you ready to see your home for the next few years?” said Jacob as he rose and extended his hand to her. I couldn’t be more ready”, replied Collins as she took his hand.

They rose from the table and walked back through the room. As Jacob continued to lead her down the hallway, it had so many different rooms and corridors that were elegant and unique in its own way. When Jacob finally stopped, Collins nearly tripped over him due to being enchanted by her surroundings. “We are finally here, Collins,” said Jacob as he opened the stylish white door that was embellished with gold leaves. When the door opened, Collins was almost blinded by the bright light. She could hardly believe her eyes. “This is my room”, whispered Collins as she walked into the room. “Yes, Collins this is yours,” replied Jacob. The room was so large that it could fit an entire house from home in it. Windows surrounded the room and filled it with so much light that the room had many tiny rainbows refracting inside it. The bed in the spacious room had four posts with the finest quality linens embroidered with a beautiful gold leaf shaped embellishment against a white background. The floor was so sleek it looked like you were looking into a mirror. Jacob guided Collins throughout the room showing her all the intricacies of the room. When she entered the bathroom, she was taken aback at the amazing design of the fixtures encompassing the leaf design. As they walked out the bathroom, Jacob suddenly stopped due to his phone ringing. “Excuse me for a moment”, said Jacob as he answered his phone. “No problem, I’m trying to get accustomed to my new surroundings,” replied Collins. “Yes, my Lady, I will show it to her know, said Jacob on the phone. “We will see you tonight”, replied Jacob. “Well, Collins, it seems as though plans for dinner tonight has changed from semi-causal to formal dress due to the possibility of a guest may be present.” “It’s being changed to formal. I brought a dress, but I don’t know if it is the appropriate dress. I was waiting for my first paycheck to buy something like that. What am I going to do? I guess I have to go out and buy a formal dress. Are we almost done, Jacob? Due to this new development, I need to go.” “Collins, I didn’t think it was possible, but you actually get nervous. Even though you have been amazed at everything and everyone, your demeanor has been straightforward and professional, but now I am seeing you first signs of stress.” “Well, I . . .” “its okay, Collins. I have another feature of this room to show you. Come with me.” Collins took Jacob’s extended arm and walked cautiously across the room to large double door that had the same design as the others. When Jacob opened the doors, she become so overwhelmed the she allowed herself to cry uncontrollably. “Are you okay, Collins?” “I don’t know. This is just too much.” “Actually, Collins, this is your life now and everything to comes with it,” said Jacob as she continued to guide her into the room.

As Jacob guided her down the hall, Collins became increasingly more and more nervous and unsettled as the current situation began to sink in. When they approached the white door with the intricate leaf design, she took a deep breath hoping it would ease her nerves. ''Collins, it will be okay," Jacob said as he put his hand over hers. As the doors open and she heard her and Jacob's name announced, she quietly says to herself, "Just exhale. It's just another chapter,” as she walks through the door

The dining room war dimly lit due to the soft essence of the candles. Whew the candles flicker, it gave off a warm ambience in the room making the gold leaves sparkle against the white background. "This room is full of inspiration," whispered Collins. As they approached the round table, the attendant moved the chairs for Collins and Jacob to take their places. The table was elegant as one would expect in a palace with the finest dishware embossed with the same pattern as the rest of the room. The candles on the table gore it an intimate appeal, but at the same time made it a formal affair.

Collins took note of each person that entered the room. It seemed like a dream each elegantly owned person came to the table. Lady Lydia was the first person that entered the room after Jacob and her. She looked like a golden goddess. Her dress sparkled with radiance of the sun. "Of course, it is not unusual for the woman who is hailed as an international fashion icon," Collins thought to herself. As Lady Lydia walked is the room, she spotted Collins and Jacob and gave them a slight smile. Immediately after her, the prince was announced. He came in alone just like Lady Lydia. He also was splendidly dressed for a playboy prince. The tuxedo looked as if it was custom made to fit him perfectly. The shirt underneath his jacket glistened bright white like the shirt war made of some kind of reflective material. He walked in looking quite confident which made Collins feel a bit apprehensive. She couldn't believe the gall of this person. He spends his life making our country look like a passing joke. "I can see the wheels turning in your head, Collins," Jacob leaned over and whispered to Collins. He noticed Collins and gave her the biggest smile she had ever seen. She nodded her head and turned quickly toward Jacob to avoid his gaze. The prince's smile quickly disappeared when Collins turned her head putting him is a state of shock that made not notice the attendant trying to escort him to his seat. "That's new,” said the prince to himself as he took his seat. Finally Queen Elena and Prince Raymond entered the dining room. Everyone in the room stood to their feet as they walked toward the table. Prince Raymond had such a regal air about him and his attire was elegant, but simple. The Queen's white gown looked as if it was glowing and made her shine like the brilliance of a diamond. Collins appreciated how well they complimented each other as if they were a united front for Silvenia. When they reached the table, they took their positions and the Queen motioned for everyone to sit down. "Well, let us begin”, the Queen beckoned.

Collins looked around the room and was mystified at the amount of people it took to make such a small occasion so formal. "Well, our guest that was going to join is tonight had to leave due to an emergency, so it will be just us this evening, “said Queen Elena. “Well, that’s a shame I was really looking forward to speaking with John, “replied Lydia. "You know these things happen,” commented Raymond. "On a good note, Roya will be here tomorrow," replied Elena. "Wonderful, my niece is coming home after being away for so long," exclaimed Lydia. "You act as if Roya had gone on some kind of prison. It’s just school, Auntie. Was she like this when I was gone?” commented Everson. "Of course, you are my favorite nephew, replied Lydia. As the table burst into laughter, Collins could not help but be taken aback at how normal the royal family acted. They were like any other family that laughed and talked with each other. "You are surprised, aren't you?” whispered Jacob as he leaned over to her. "Yes, I am, pleasantly surprised. Even ***he*** is tolerable. He seems so different,” whispered Collins back. "I'm sorry, Collins. I've neglected to introduce you. Sometimes, we have a tendency to get carried away when we are together", said Lydia apologetically. "It is okay. I am finding this quite enlightening, my Lady," replied Collins. "Then, let me formally introduce you to my family. Everyone this is Collins Stratton, my new intern." "I am pleased to meet you, Your Majesty, as well as the rest of the royal family," replied Collins as she stood up and bowed before the table. As Collins stood there waiting to be told to sit down, the Queen and the rest of the table looked at her and laughed. "My dear, there is no need for that, "chuckled Queen Elena as she motioned Collin to sit down.”R0y will love you," commented Raymond between his laughter as well. Collins was confused, as she rose from her position and helped back into her chair by one of the staff. "I'm sorry Collins there is no need for formality since this dinner was originally for you anyway, said Lydia after the laughter settled down. As Collins gazed around the room looking at all the smiling faces, she realized the icons that she had admired from afar were more human than she ever knew.

The dinner seemed like a fantasy. The atmosphere was so relaxed and friendly. Collins never believed that this kind of feeling was even possible to where she felt totally content .Each course was more spectacular than the next. Everything seemed like a dream. “Who would think that I would be sitting with royalty like I was a part of the family? If it wasn’t for that one flaw, the night would be perfect,” thought Collins. As Prince Raymond and Queen Elena spoke to each other about affairs of the state, Lady Lydia chimed in every so often to add her own agenda to the mix. The only conversation that Collins had was with Jacob as Prince Everson tried to speak, but due to Collins’ interaction with Jacob did not want to interrupt. Finally, Everson saw his chance as the dessert plates were being taken away. “Miss Collins, I understand that you have some strong opinions about me. I would **love** to hear them.” Collins turned to Prince Everson with a look that had a mixture of shock and contempt. She sat straight up in her chair and with a sweet smile responded, “What so you mean, Your Royal Highness?” “Just as I said Miss Collins. Or are you afraid of embarrassing the kingdom if you made your comments known.” Collins stood up out of her chair and replied loudly, “Me, embarrass the kingdom?! You are the one who is making our country look like a laughingstock by gallivanting with so many women not to mention the countless acts of bad behavior in the States. I’m surprised that you have the nerve to show your face in the country.” Her speech was so loud that the entire room grew silent. “Well, you seen to feel quite passionate,” responded Prince Everson. Collins looked around and noticed the silence in the room as she had her outburst. “Well, I think I will excuse myself. I apologize for my behavior, Your Majesty, Your Royal Highness, and My Lady. So if you will excuse me,” Collins said as she curtsied and hurried out of the room. “Jacob, why don’t you go after her to make sure she’s okay,” said Lady Lydia. “Yes, My Lady”, replied Jacob as he gets up to go after Collins. After Jacob leaves, Prince Everson makes a triumphant smile on his face. “Everson, if I were you, I would reflect on my actions instead of smiling like someone who has won a prize. You always feel the need to cause chaos. You should be better than that, but I guess you are still a child after all”, rebuffed Queen Elene. With the Queen’s response, Prince Everson quietly and discreetly excused himself from the table.

“This place is so huge. I’m so glad there is a private app for the palace with a map”, thought Collins as she followed her route. While she was walking along, she began to reflect and the events from earlier in the evening. After everything that happened at dinner, she tried to run to her room, but got lost along the way. Thankfully, Jacob came after her at Lady Lydia’s behest and guided her back to her room. They talked along the way with Jacob being his usual polite and charming self making Collins forget about the horrible scene just a few minutes before. Once they reached her room, his texted Lady Lydia to inform her that I was fine and just wanted to go to bed after having such a long day. Jacob excused himself and Collins called her parents and her best friend, Ginka to tell them about her ordeal. After all that, she just went to bed. “Now, I’m wandering around a castle looking for the servant’s kitchen to get a drink of water in the middle of the night. As Collins got closer to her destination, she noticed a light coming from the kitchen. She paused for a moment at the door, but reasoned to herself that it must be one the staff or a guard getting a snack.

When she entered the room, she was surprised to be greeted by someone unexpected. Well, well, if it isn’t my opponent from earlier. What could you possibly want at this hour?” remarked Prince Everson. Collins in a state of disbelief decided to quickly turn in the opposite direction. With her back facing him, she curtsied and replied, “I apologize, Your Highness for the intrusion. I just wanted to get a glass of water, but I have changed my mind and I will head back to my room.” “That is not necessary. I know we got off on the wrong foot, but stay with me and have a snack. Allow me to apologize for my behavior. Here, you can have my bottled water. I’ll go get myself another one. Please, Ms. Stratton. I’m begging you,” pleaded Prince Everson. After hearing Prince Everson’s request, Collins stops at the door and turns around and responds with a curtsey, “I graciously accept your invitation, Your Highness.” Collins relinquishes the water from the Prince Everson’s hand and proceeds to sit opposite of him.

As the night dragged on, Collins and Prince Everson sat in silence as they ate the snacks and drank water. Suddenly, they both reached for the same chips and began to laugh at their awkwardness. Then, they started talking to each other about the palace and the things that Collins has experience so far. As Collins was telling Prince Everson her reaction to her new closet, he seized the opportunity to ask about her about the situation from earlier. “Collins, I was very curious. Could you please tell me more about your comments in detail? I would really like to know.” Collins took a deep breath as if she was trying to take in all the air in the room. As she exhaled, she closed her eyes and bowed her head to prepare herself for the answer to his inquiry. “Your Highness, I would like to apologize for my behavior and my opinions about you. I should not have been so brazen with you. Please forgive me.” “Collins, you are a breath of fresh air. I think that you are only woman other than my mother to be so objective to me. It seems as though every woman I encounter are so busy trying to impress me to make a name for themselves I never get any real responses from them. So, your honesty for me is a new experience for me. So please feel free to tell me now.” Collins lifted her head and looked at him in confusion. She didn’t know if she should respect his wish or politely decline to save face in light of the incident from that evening. Collins looked into Prince Everson’s eyes and realized that he was being completely sincere with her. So, she decided that it was only fair to respond to his demand. “When you go around the world and do the things that do, do not realize the effect it has on our country and its citizens. You are asking us to take this bitterness and swallow it as it was nothing. Do you genuinely think that it is alright to live as though this country is here to serve you and you not serve it?” “You really think you got it all figured out here. Swallow bitterness? You have on idea. You get to live freely, think freely with no real cares in the world. Sometime, sacrifices must be made to get things done. It is something you cannot even begin to comprehend.”

After their exchange, they bother bowed their heads as they were ashamed of their admissions. “I may not understand everything. But if you have to compromise who you are to get things done, isn’t it done in vain?” Collins relayed to the Prince. “That’s easy for you to say. You’re just a writer not a Prince. Compromise is my job,” responded Prince Everson. “I think that it is time for me to go back to my room. It has been a pleasure speaking with you and I apologize once again for my comments, Your Highness. Thank you and good night,” Collins said as she curtseyed and went out of the room. “I guess we are back a square one. Why I am not surprised? I didn’t even get a chance to apologize to her. It’s me after all. What can I expect?” Prince Everson said to himself as he turned out the light and went back to his room.

As the sun breaks through the darkness in her room, Collins rose from her bed and finally began to get a grasp on her situation. She couldn’t believe that she was sleeping in bed that was the twice the size of hers at home. As Collins began to get out of bed, she heard a noise from beside her. She looked down and realized that her phone was ringing.

“Hello.”

“Hey, Collins its mom and dad”, said her father Braxton over the speakerphone.”

“Hey, honey,” her mother, Patrice, chimed in.

“Good morning, momma and daddy.”

“So, tell u dear. How was your first day?” Braxton inquired.

“Well…....” replied Collins.

Collins told her parents about all the next things that she had experienced so far from the tea with Lady Lydia to the incident with the prince at the dinner.

“Wow that is a lot, honey. You know you have a bit of a temper. You need to learn how to control it. You are among royalty, so you need to be careful of the things you say and do”, cautioned Patrice.

“I know mom. It just kind of flew out before I knew it.”

“Don’t forget your purpose for being there. You trying to become a writer so our country can be better recognized for its achievements”, remained Braxton.

“Also, don’t forget to write. Inspiration is everywhere”, Patrice chimed in again.

“I know mom and dad. I haven’t forgot my goals and you’re right, mom. Inspiration is everywhere and I have found tons of it here. I even wrote some of down in my notebook already.”

“That’s great, honey”, replied Patrice.

“Baby, we are going to let you go now. There is no telling when they are going to call for. Just hang in there. It will be just fine with God on your side. God bless you and keep you. Bye, now,” said Braxton.

“Bye, mom and dad. God bless you and keep you as well.”

Collins hung up the phone and let out a good stretch. “Now what I do know. I know I will say a little prayer for today going well and get dressed, said Collins as she rose from the bed. Then she hears her phone ringing and got super excited when she saw the caller id.

“Ginka, it’s you. I have so much to tell you”, replied Collins.

“I bet you do”, said Ginka.

Collins began to relay the same story to her best friend, Ginka as she did with her parents, but added on the incident with the prince the night before.

“Only you would have a fight with a prince the night that you get there,” said Ginka.

“I didn’t mean too. He just made me so upset that I had to speak my mind”, replied Collins.

“You can’t let him get to you every time he says something that you don’t like. You have bigger goals and don’t let them get derailed because you couldn’t control your temper.”

“I know. I have to be here for an extended period of time and I need to learn to get along with him. But I will say this, he is way more intelligent and approachable than I thought.”

“Whaaaattt? Is the mighty Collins changing her view of the prince?”

“No, of course not. I’m saying there are some qualities about him that I didn’t realize existed from our conversation last night, but my overall opinion of him remains the same.”

“Whatever you say. I’m going to let you go now. You have a busy day today as your official first day on the job.”

“Yeah, you’re right. I need to go meet Jacob and find out what I have to do.”

“Bye, girl and be careful.”

“I will. Bye, Ginka.”

Collins puts her phone down on her bed and walks toward her new closet. She is still mystified to its contents. Everything in the closet was so organized from the shirts according to color and style to the shoes that perfectly matches any outfit. Lady Lydia also thought about accessories such as necklaces and scarves. Collins picked a nice little causal dress that was complimented by some cute sandals.

As she begin to walk out of the door with her phone and notebook, her phone began to ring. “Hello”, answered Collins. “Good morning, Ms. Collins,” replied Jacob in his usual polite tone.

“Jacob, how are you this morning?”

“I am presently downstairs waiting for you.”

“Oh, I’m sorry to keep you waiting. I am on my way down now,” said Collins as she hurried out of her door.

When Collins made it downstairs, she noticed that Jacob was standing by the front door. “Ah, Collins, you are looking splendid today,” commented Jacob. “Thank you. Where is Lady Lydia? I am so nervous due to this being my first day alone with her”, responded Collins. Jacob gave Collins a sly smile and took her hand. “Don’t be nervous. You will do just fine. Lady Lydia will be arriving shortly. As a matter of fact, she is here.” At the mention of his words, Collins immediately turned around and bowed to Lady Lydia as she walked up. “Oh, my dear. There is no need for that. We are going to working together for awhile now and I don’t need you bending down every time I walk into the room. You can save that for the queen and prince,” remarked Lady Lydia with a wink of her eye. She was as elegant as ever in a flowy, floral dress that was topped off with the matching hat. She looked like a breath of fresh air. Jacob escorted both Lady Lydia and Collins to the carriage and they started down the castle path which eventually led to the car outside the gate.

As the car drove down the road into the downtown, Collins was amazed by the historic buildings she saw out of the window. She was admired how the modern structures blended in with them as though they were a part of a grand masterpiece carefully constructed for the city. Lady Lydia looked over at Collins and Jacob and noticed Collin’s delight at looking at the city. She enjoyed watching her face in complete marvel of the city. She was mystified by the capital. It was so vibrant and alive. Of course, her small town is lively, but this was different. Every shop was busy and bustling with people moving in and out. There were so many tall buildings that seem to have their own presence. Collins found herself wondering about the people who frequenting those places. The palace was magnificent in its own right, but all the perfect compliments of each other.

“So, Collins, I heard that you had an encounter with my nephew last night”, said Lady Lydia breaking her from her fantasy. Collins suddenly looked over at Lady Lydia with an embarrassed look on her face looking down. “Really, so he talked to you about it”, replied Collins.

“Don’t look that way my dear,” Lady Lydia said as she reached out her hand using her finger to lift her chin up. “Coincidently, no, he didn’t. I’m good friends with the night guard who overheard you two. I heard you have him a good tongue lashing.”

“I apologize for that. I sometimes I have problem with holding my tongue.”

“It’s fine. I’m sure Everson welcomed the feedback.” Collins looked at Lady Lydia in confusion at her words.

Lady Lydia gave her a slight smile and remarked, “I see from your expression you don’t think so. Well, let me tell you. I’m actually surprised that he talked to you. He has a tendency to keep to himself. I know what the public sees the smile, the witty remarks, but it is all just a costume he wears. He is not as simple as you think, Collins.”

“I can understand some things, but it does not excuse everything”, Collins replied as she put her head down again.

“Well, aren’t you a sell?” remarked Lady Lydia. “So that’s enough of that. Let’s begin. I have to go to the library today to read to the children. You and Jacob will accompany me. After we’re returning to the palace to pack, so we can go in Ladya.”

Collins was looked up in surprise at Lady Lydia. “We are leaving today? my Lady,” replied Collins. “We are, I know you are just settling in, but we have to prepare for the annual ball. I usually go weeks in advance to make sure everything is done. We will be eventually joined by my nephew and niece later today to go with us. We also will be traveling by train,” responded Lady Lydia.

Collins was mystified by the capital as they rode in the car. Of course, her small town was lively, but this was different. Every shop was busy and bustling with people moving in and out. There were so many tall buildings that seem to have their own presence. Collins found herself wondering about the people who frequented those places. The palace was magnificent in its own right, but all of these places were perfect compliments. The car suddenly came to a complete stop. “My Lady and Collins, we are at our destination,” said Jacob waking Collins from her fantasy as he exited the car.

As Jacob opened the door for her and Lady Lydia, Collins was bewildered at the construction in front of her. The library looked more like a gothic school with modern touches. It had to be least five stories tall. “Now, I fell inspired,” commented Collins to herself. She immediately took out her notebook and begin writing as many details as possible in it.

When Collins enters the library, she is filled with so much wonder. Lady Lydia was guided by one of the staff to a cozy little room full of pillows with a big chair that was equivalent to a throne in the back of the room. While the attendant lead Lady Lydia, Collins noticed another attendant leading in a group of children who looked like they were aged from four to eleven entered the room and laid down on the pillows. “Lady Lydia!” yelled one the little girls as she ran to her. “Hi, Gracy, how have you been,” she replied as she picked the girl up and put her in her lap. “So what is the story for today? asked Gracy. “I don’t know let’s see what we have here”, Lady Lydia replied as she reached for the book beside her. “Oh perfect, “The Cat, The Rooster, and The Mouse”. It’s a good story about not judging a book by its cover,” responded Lydia as she winked at Collins. “Hey, what’s your name?” asked a little boy who tugged at Collins’s clothes. She kneeled down and smiled at him with her hand outstretched.

“Hi, my name is Collins. I’ll be helping Lady Lydia for a while.”

“So you will be like Jacob,” he replied.

“Yeah, just like Jacob and what is your name?”

“It’s Benjamin.”

“Well, hi, Benjamin. Pleased to meet you.”

“Benjamin, we’re getting ready to start,” said the library attendant. “Oh, excuse me. Coming?” replied Benjamin as he ran toward the other children to sit down. Collins rose up and smiled at the children. “I see that you have met out young gentleman”, said Jacob as he approached Collins from behind. “Yes, oh, Benjamin, he is adorable.” “Yes, he is one of a kind.”