

Elegy "The Story"

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The following tale depicts the life of a vulnerable child born into a world of poverty and despair. The scene is set in a typical overcrowded and run down industrial city. A haven for ranks of the unemployed. A young and naive couple against all odds, ignore the advice of others and secretly marry. Ignorance playing a major role in their futile lives, their instincts sadly influenced, she is pregnant with their first child, while he searches frantically for a means to support them. As time grows shorter, and his chances slowly diminish, the pressure bears heavily on his brittle shoulders. Desperately he battles against his own weaknesses, trying to find strength within. No-longer can he smile, nor will his conscience give him the freedom to lie or cheat. Exhausted, weak and weary, he can't bear to face her. Passing a backstreet bar, he's

easily enticed inside, while a stranger sensing his vulnerability, helps to alleviate him from the responsibility for the couple's last savings. Dumped in a drunken heap, and the stranger nowhere to be found, the father struggles to his feet, as the alcohol suppresses his will to fight. Momentarily he sees a way out. A vantage point high on an empty bridge, peacefully he falls to his death. Frightened of exposing her identity, she gives birth in a darkened backroom. The innocent child free of pride or prejudice, begins it's long journey discovering life's wonders, and tragically life's many weaknesses.

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