

Sample Chapter

we took two or three cars. I can't remember all of the relatives who were there, but I do remember the truck that was fire-engine red with a blue trailer as it was sliding sideways down the four lane highway. I remember the pavement was soaked from the drizzling rain and from the moment the trailer went sideways the world went into slow motion. The drainage pipes started sliding off the trailer one by one, bouncing and sliding into the median. It was as if the movie wanted me to pay close attention to the succeeding details without missing a thing, it was surreal. The truck was trying to correct the slide, but couldn't with the trailer already moving in its own direction. Our car was just passing the truck, and then the collision took place. The truck plowed into the driver's side of the car my parents were in, crushing the driver's side and shoving the vehicle down a ravine and out of sight...

My memory flashes back to the point where I'm walking back to my parent's vehicle. I notice the wildflowers on the side of the road, the colors are so brilliant. Yellow, purple these flowers seem as if they're glowing with the brilliance of stars. The people are scurrying everywhere, but in slow motion and in silence. I can't hear anything, not the screaming or the crying., but the colors., the colors stand out in my mind like that of a first kiss or of a first love. I can't remember ever seeing colors so vivid.

I reach my parents' vehicle lying lifeless ten or fifteen feet down in the gully. The car is soaked from the drizzling rain, glass is scattered on the trunk of the car and the ground behind it. The driver's side is crushed, the windows on the driver's side are all broken, the back window, is broken and so are my parents. No one is moving in the car, not even the other relatives who are passengers. I've seen enough., I guess., because I turn and walk away in silence.

Everything, everything is completely silent still. I see my cousin's contorted face. She looks as if she is screaming and crying, but I don't hear her. I am completely devoid of all my senses except my vision, the colors; the colors are so vivid and mesmerizing. I look up to see the rain and in it the hues of the rainbow so beautiful and brilliant. I'm amazed at the color I'm seeing. This is the start of a journey, a journey of experience that has helped mold who I am, and so I move on.