

The maze

Today, I'm going to tell the story of two best friends and their magical discovery.

Eli and Charlie were in a street in their city, among the stone buildings damaged by time. There were some bicycles parked on the sidewalks, and some plant pots protruded from the balconies.

They were running fast and couldn't stop laughing. Eli turned and watched his friend run after him yelling, "Come on, Eli stop, I can't take it anymore!", as he slowed down. Eli stopped immediately.

He laid down on the ground and looked at the sky. Charlie sat down next to him. As he watched his friend getting down, he laid there, closed his eyes and let the wind caress his hair and move his

school uniform. Charlie stood up and started to run towards the hills near the road, calling him,

"come on Eli, come on!". So he stood up and reached him. After some minutes, they arrived in front of a large labyrinth that they had never seen before.

The two were surrounded by beautiful red roses, set among the brambles. Eli thought of taking one to put it in the vase of his beloved Judy. As they went out, Eli noticed that one of those roses had

withered, the dark color clashing with the bright color of the others. He accompanied Charlie to his narrow driveway, and changed direction. Once he reached the big gray gate he entered. He walked

with his head down, until he felt the ground under his shoes, at which point he raised his sight. He

walked through the tombs until he reached her. He missed too much those hands resting on his

cheeks and those lips kissing him. He put the flower in the vase and after a few minutes he came

back home before it started to rain again. Suddenly he got a call, it was Charlie, totally out of his

mind. He said, "Eli please come to my house. I am alone and there are policemen at my neighbor's door. I believe that someone has been killed, it's happening again!". Eli shivered, he didn't want to

relive the moments he lived after Judy's death. Two weeks after her death, no one had been able to figure out who was the killer as he hadn't left any trace. Charlie didn't know that the girl found

lifeless two weeks before was the girl Eli loved. So he decided to stay home. The following day

they met at school, Charlie was totally shocked. Eli told him, "hey, don't think about it". He

replied, "Eli, it's been a nightmare hour." He hugged him and they entered the classroom. A few hours passed and they left school walking next to each other. They arrived to the same spot as the day before and decided to re-enter the labyrinth. They were surprised to find another withered rose after only one day. They thought they hadn't noticed it the day before, and they took another one. They left the maze, went to Charlie's neighbor's door and left it there. They both went back to their room lying on their bed. Living in that town was difficult lately. A series of strange and sad events followed one another. And no one knew who was the architect of these misfortunes.

The following day Eli got up, and before going to school he went to visit Judy, he looked at the rose, afraid that it had withered during the night, but he noticed that it was beautiful and shiny. Suddenly the rose began to wither under his gaze, but he could not find any explanation. He picked up the phone to call Charlie and tell him what he had just seen, when a phone call from his father came, "Hi Dad, tell me", Eli said. His father replied, "Eli, you must go back home immediately, there's been a third murder in the city". He looked at the dead flower and thought that the wilted roses were three like the recently found lifeless people. Each inhabitant of his town was associated with one of them, and there was someone or something mysterious ready to kill anyone. He called Charlie and explained his observation as he made his way home. His friend thought he was crazy. He hung up the phone and crossed the hills into the woods. Suddenly he felt as if someone was behind him, he turned but he didn't see anyone, he thought it was just his feeling. He kept on walking faster. He could hear every little noise, and heard his name said in an extremely low but equally understandable voice. He didn't turn around, he was scared, he went ahead and started to run. Something took him from behind. He felt his wrists squeezed, he couldn't see anything because that presence was behind him. It dragged him, in front of him he saw the labyrinth of brambles and red roses. Eli didn't understand that the hands squeezing his wrists and dragging him were mine. Once arrived to the labyrinth of roses and brambles, I let him go and I stood in front of him. I stroked his hair to reassure him. He was scared and he couldn't speak. My eyes staring his eyes full

of tears, silence around us, we were in the centre of the labyrinth. Suddenly Eli felt pain, like if his body was continuously pierced by the thorns of the roses. As well as Aphrodite, who, trying to reach her beloved Adonis who died during a hunting trip, felt the brambles and thorns of roses sticking into her body. Everyone in the city was worried, it was the fourth murder within a few months. And the first one to notice it was Charlie, who looking out the window saw the rose on his neighbor's door slowly withering. And no one will ever know who I am.