

“Is It Really There?”

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[#Fictober18 \(October 2018\) writing challenge](#)

Day 26: “But if you cannot see it, is it really there?”

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Ian took another draw on the joint. He held the smoke in his lungs until they burned, then he exhaled it in a long plume. “Damn, this is smooth.”

The scent of pot permeated everything. Lang was certain he’d be smelling it in his clothes for a month, even after multiple washings. Ian probably wouldn’t even notice. They both had a heightened sense of smell, but werewolf trumped a vampire’s nose any day.

Luckily, at the moment, he wasn’t too worried or bothered by the scent. The weed had already begun to relax him. When Ian passed the joint to him, Lang smiled lazily and pinched it between his fingers.

“Vinnie always has the good stuff.” Made sense. She was a witch who loved working with plants. There was probably some magic in it too. That made it even better. Lang paused to take his own inhale off the joint before he passed it back.

Ian took his final hit, then put out the end of it, slipping the remainder of the joint into the semi-crushed half pack of cigarettes he carried around. For later.

With both of them feeling mellow, they reclined back against the steps and inclined their heads back. The stars were out, but not really noticeable with the street lights and the pollution.

“North star’s up there. Should be.” Ian indicated it with a vague wave of his hand. “Always try to find it whenever I look up.”

“Yeah.” Lang agreed.

There was a long pause before Ian added, “But if you can’t see it, is it really there? Like, I don’t see it now. And I don’t see it in the daytime. So, is it really there? Like right now?”

Lang inclined his head, trying to puzzle it out, trying to view it through the haze. But he saw nothing.

And something about that and about Ian’s rumination that was alarmingly funny. Lang let out a bark of laughter. He clapped his hand over his mouth, but the sound was already out there and it wouldn’t stop.

For a second, Ian looked at him, shocked by the force of the laugh, but then he began to laugh too and the sound carried far away from them.