

A Still Symphony

by Jolie Hobbs

High above a bustling city, Angelou reclined atop a thickly tufted bed filled with delicate feathers. The soft, muted sounds of footsteps and voices faded into a tranquil symphony. She often watched people move through their busy lives, always climbing higher and higher but never leaving the ground.

Angelou wanted to experience a different kind of solace in this late afternoon. She left the comfort of her bed and drifted through the park at the city's heart. The trees formed a lush, rich canopy—an emerald, crimson, and gold stained-glass ceiling permeated by the sun's soft, warm glow. Though she was closer to the city's sounds, the trees provided a buffer against encroaching noise.

Angelou followed weary pedestrians who trod along a winding path, head down and shoulders up, through the park toward their home. The strangers parted ways when Angelou settled herself near a small, still pond. She watched the tired travelers until they disappeared through the foliage at the park's exit. The air cooled as the calm reassurance of dusk began its work to dissolve day into night. The dreamy breeze flowed over and caressed her as she gazed at the still glass water.

Her breath was as clear and unfettered as the serene landscape around her. She idled along a dusty path with an effortless grace. As she meandered through the city's natuescape, she realized the peace she felt at this moment was a fleeting enchantment for most people. She paused and closed her eyes to fully appreciate the supple tenderness of nature's blanket around her. When she opened them again, the sun's vibrant hues were just faint trails in the deep hues of the night sky.

She looked up at the silver crescent and leaped from the branch she rested on. Her wings spread and caught the breeze, and she soared through the trees' canopy and into the open sky above. Once she reached her high-rise nest, she looked over her shoulder to drink in the flickering lights below, then cozied into her plummy bed. She drifted to sleep with a new understanding that peace is known, not summoned, only by learning to be still and experience each moment of life.