

PRESENTING

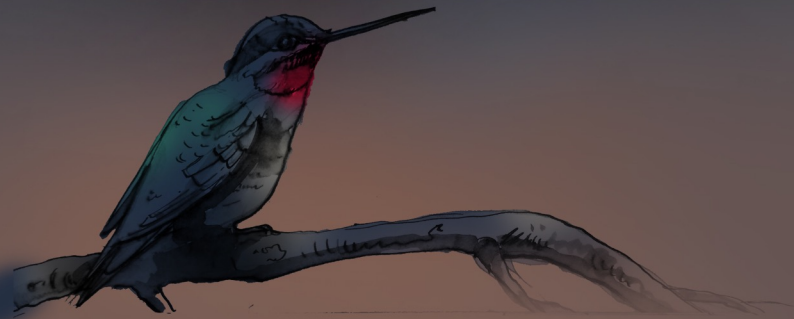
ISSUE

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# THE FIRST STEP



STUDIO  
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Theiworld



THE STORY OF THE HUMMINGBIRD IS ABOUT THIS HUGE FOREST BEING CONSUMED BY AN UNSTOPPABLE FIRE. THE ANIMALS IN THE FOREST FELT VERY OVERWHELMED AND POWERLESS AS THEY WATCHED THEIR BEAUTIFUL FOREST BURN TO ASHES. ALL BUT ONE LITTLE HUMMINGBIRD DECIDED TO TAKE ACTION.

THE HUMMINGBIRD EXCLAIMED, "I'M GOING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE FIRE!" SO THE HUMMINGBIRD FLEW TO THE NEAREST STREAM AND CARRIED A DROP OF WATER IN ITS TINY BEAK. THE HUMMINGBIRD FLEW OVER THE STREAM REPEATEDLY, UP AND DOWN, BACK AND FORTH, DROPPING EACH DROP OF WATER ONTO THE FLAMES AS FAST AS IT COULD.

ALL OF THE OTHER ANIMALS, LIKE THE ELEPHANT WITH ITS BIG TRUNK THAT COULD CARRY OVER MUCH MORE WATER, STOOD THERE HELPLESS AND DOUBTFUL. THEY SAID TO THE HUMMINGBIRD, "YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE? YOU ARE TOO LITTLE. THIS FIRE IS TOO BIG. YOUR WINGS ARE TOO LITTLE AND YOUR BEAK IS SO SMALL THAT YOU CAN ONLY BRING A SMALL DROP OF WATER AT A TIME."

AS THEY CONTINUED DISCOURAGING THE HUMMINGBIRD, IT TURNED TO THEM WITHOUT HESITATION AND TOLD THEM, "I AM DOING THE BEST I CAN. AND THAT TO ME IS WHAT ALL OF US SHOULD DO."

WE SHOULD ALL STRIVE TO BE LIKE THE HUMMINGBIRD. OUR EFFORTS MAY BE INSIGNIFICANT IN THE BIG PICTURE, BUT I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T WANT TO BE LIKE THE ANIMALS WATCHING THEIR HOME GO DOWN THE DRAIN. I WILL BE A HUMMINGBIRD, AND I WILL ALWAYS DO THE BEST I CAN.

PROFESSOR WANGARI MAATHAI

I GREW UP IN A RURAL VILLAGE IN GATUNDU, CENTRAL KENYA. IT WAS PARTIALLY IN AN URBAN SLUM, SURROUNDED BY TEA PLANTATIONS A SMALL RIVER GORGE WHERE WE WOULD GATHER OUR WATER, AND AN AVOCADO TREE THAT MY MOTHER AND I TOOK CARE OF TOGETHER.

MY GREATEST CHALLENGE WAS ADJUSTING TO LIFE AFTER A MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE INCIDENT AFFECTED MY LONG-TERM ABILITY TO WALK. MY PARENTS AND I HAD A HUGE STRUGGLE AHEAD OF US, BUT FORTUNATELY, THEY WERE WILLING TO MAKE THE NECESSARY SACRIFICES TO ENSURE THAT I LIVED A NORMAL LIFE.



I WAS, AND STILL AM, DEEPLY INFLUENCED BY MY MOTHER. I SAW MY MOTHER REALLY FIGHTING FOR ME AND ENCOURAGING ME TO GO TO SCHOOL. IN FACT, SHE ACTUALLY USED TO TAKE ME TO SCHOOL DAILY ON HER BACK.



I RECALL THE VERY  
FIRST DAY I JOINED  
PRIMARY SCHOOL.

AFTER  
MY MOTHER  
DROPPED ME OFF,  
I WAS SURROUNDED  
BY HUNDREDS OF  
STUDENTS WANTING  
TO SEE AND TOUCH  
MY BRACE. IT WAS VERY  
EMBARRASSING FOR ME.

THE TURNING POINT IN MY LIFE WAS  
WHEN I ATTENDED JOYTOWN SPECIAL  
SCHOOL. BEING AROUND THESE KIDS  
WHO WERE GOING THROUGH WHAT I  
WAS GOING THROUGH SPARKED A  
PASSION WITHIN ME THAT I NEVER  
KNEW I HAD. JOYTOWN STILL HOLDS  
A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART.



I SAW MANY OF  
THESE KIDS  
AROUND ME  
THAT NEEDED  
A VOICE.  
THIS IS WHY I  
CONTINUE TO  
CAMPAIGN FOR  
DISABILITY  
AND HUMAN  
RIGHTS ISSUES.

I KNEW I HAD  
TO DO  
SOMETHING  
EXTRAORDINARY...



IN SEPTEMBER 2014,  
I STARTED A TREK TO CLIMB  
MOUNT LONGONOT (A 13.5KM HIKE)  
IN ORDER TO RAISE  
FUNDS FOR KENYAN CHILDREN WITH  
VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS.

MY GOAL WAS TO ADVOCATE FOR  
THE RIGHTS OF YOUNG GIRLS WITH  
DISABILITIES TO HAVE ACCESS TO  
A PROPER EDUCATION.

I AM THE FIRST PHYSICALLY  
DISABLED WOMAN TO COMPLETE  
THIS VENTURE.

I HOPE THAT MY EFFORTS WILL  
INSPIRE OTHERS AND SHOW THEM  
THAT WITH THE RIGHT SUPPORT, A  
YOUNG WOMAN CAN LIVE A BETTER  
AND PRODUCTIVE LIFE AND BE  
AN AGENT OF SOCIAL CHANGE...  
NO MATTER WHAT THEIR  
CIRCUMSTANCES ARE.



MY NAME IS  
HANNAH WANJA MAINA.  
I AM 24 YEARS OLD.  
I AM FROM NAIROBI, KENYA.  
I AM A GLOBAL YOUTH  
AMBASSADOR FOR A WORLD AT  
SCHOOL, A GLOBAL MOVEMENT  
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WORKING  
TOGETHER TO GET EVERY CHILD  
IN TO SCHOOL.

I AM A HUMMINGBIRD.