

Anannya Sahu
2025 Virginia Frank Memorial
Writing Contest
January 22, 2025

Endless Loop Fear
Stevie Bell from the Truly Devious Series by Maureen Johnson

My head...it hurts so freaking bad...

Screams were heard. Then stopped.

Huh...what happened?

I got up, still a bit drowsy, and turned around.

"Hello?" No one. "Who's there?" Silence.

I swear I heard someone scream..."

"Hey! Hello?! Where am I?!"

Ok Stevie...don't freak out...

I start hyperventilating and sweating. I can't think and I feel like throwing up. Anxiety starts to take over. I don't have my meds on me. Suddenly I started vomiting. I can't think straight. My head spins. About 5 minutes go by and I stop. I calm myself down and look around. Only a huge wall and a field of grass, its length so long it imitates the sea. Still not knowing where I am, I walk. I keep walking, coming up with a plan.

Ok...so I'm in an endless field of dead grass, and the sky is gloomy and gray. Please, I swear to god, where am I?

The screams start up again, just closer, and I whip my head around.

Where is that from? Do I go to help, or do I not because then there is a great chance of death? Argh, whatever, at least I won't be alone.

I run toward the direction of the noise. I run for about 10 minutes, starting to run out of breath and get tired. About 20 minutes later, I came across a little house. It was more of a cabin, actually. Entirely made from wood. There was a huge wall behind it, stretching out for miles. I walk inside. The screaming stops. I see a mirror on the wall and walk towards it. Door slams behind me. I run back to the door and try to open it but it's stuck.

"Great...I'm stuck...and alone."

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I look for something to break the door open with, but there's nothing except for the mirror, a random book on the floor, and a small slightly opened window. I trudge my way toward it and look at myself. I was very pale, slight bags under my eyes. My hair was really messy, and my clothes were tattered. I started crying again.

"I'm really alone, am I? What did I even do?!"

I need to get out of here. Clues. Look for clues.

You're a detective Stevie, you've solved countless murders before. Where do I begin...

The screams.

That's where I start.

But where would the screams come from?

Ok...Maybe don't start there.

I can't think.

The book randomly opens.

Wind? From the opened window?

It's filled with a repetitive word.

MIRROR

I say it out loud and my hand shakes. I shriek.

The mirror violently shakes, and there are high winds outside. I'm sort of glad now that the door was shut, closed and stuck because it looks like I would have been blown away.

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The mirror abruptly changed colors, and I saw a muddy pool of rainbow, as if someone took it from the sky and threw it on to the mirror as if it were a canvas and mixed all of the colors together. It starts to project screams.

So that answers the question.

The screams start changing.

Slowly...till it sounds like me.

I cautiously walked back, petrified.

The mirror starts reversing, and I get sucked in.

I'm spinning, spinning, spinning...

BAM!

My head hurts...again...

Wait-

Again?

No no no no no.

My eyes shoot open and I frantically look around.

Everything looks the same.

Then again to begin with, everything in the beginning looked the same earlier too.

I started jerking and threw up everywhere.

Same as last time...

No...

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I got up and ran. I kept running. I saw a cabin. Same cabin. I open the door. I see the mirror. I ran towards it. Door slams shut. I look into it.

Nothing happens.

Maybe it's not what I think it is.

But the same things from before started happening again.

I could be imagining things.

But I didn't even feel like throwing up, that wouldn't make sense! None of this does!

But then, why isn't the mirror changing colors?

But, in an instance, I knew. My memory flooded back.

I lifted the book and said the word again.

MIRROR.

Nothing.

I lost it.

I threw the book on the ground and cried. It didn't make any sense! What's happening? I started screaming.

Scaring me, the mirror portal starts up again, sucks me in, and I wake up where I started.

So I was right. I am in a time loop.

And I can't get out.