

The Touchstone

Chapter Seventeen – Anger

My moods kind of swung backwards and forwards over the next few days.

Most of the time I just wanted to be left alone to think about Tonga Hake and how he died. I had heaps of nightmares about the moa and all the blood and would wake up all sweaty and twisted up in my sheets. I couldn't get over how Tonga Hake died, and I also now felt guilty.

It'd suddenly occurred to me that because of the vision I'd had when I was Matakite, that I knew that someone was going to die, and I should have realised that it would be Tonga Hake. It totally did my head in thinking about it. What if I'd distracted him or that big red moa? Instead I just hid cowering in the bushes with Rua and watched him get killed.

But then bizarrely at other times I would have an incredible burst of energy and I feel like I was some-type of a super-human that could zip in and out of time! But then as usual I would bottom out and mope about hating myself and feeling like a coward because I hadn't tried to save Tonga Hake. Most of all I would just feel anger at being blind.

I never used to feel this way about being blind, sure sometimes I'd get angry because I just wanted to be like everyone else at school. But my feelings had got a lot darker about my sight. I knew that I was driving my family and friends batty with frustration because they never knew what type of a mood I'd be in, but I didn't care.

I kept wishing that I was back in time as Matakite and could see. I was really frustrated that I couldn't keep my sight when I returned to the present day. If I could see all the time, my life would be so easy! I hated being blind, I hated everything about it.

"Bart what's up with you?" My sister Hine was shouting at me in exasperation.

"And why don't you want to come Christmas shopping with us?" Huia added in. She was clearly perplexed as she knew how much I loved anything to do with Christmas.

"I'm just not in the mood alright! Why can't you all just leave me alone for stuffs sake! I've got things on my mind."

"Oh yeah?" "And like you're the only person in this family who has shit to deal with?" Hine said in a sarcastic voice.

"You don't think of anyone else but yourself lately." Huia angrily added in. "No wonder Maddy's going out with that cute guy! She is probably sick of you always feeling sorry for yourself!"

"See ya!" They said together as they stormed off.

I felt like the oxygen had been sucked out of me. Maddy's going out with another guy? I felt physically sick, just like I'd been stabbed in the heart.

Maddy and I weren't like together but we were best friends or so I'd reckoned. I thought about our phone call last night when I'd asked her if she wanted to come over today. When she'd said 'she was busy' I hadn't given it a second thought. But I just realised that I hadn't seen her in over a week. And then I remembered the last time that we'd hung out together and my spirits sank even lower.

We'd gone out with a group of mates to the cinema. I was in a foul mood because I couldn't see the movie and could only listen to it. During the movie I could hear my friends whispering and laughing together about what they were seeing, and it totally did my head in. Towards the end of the movie I'd had enough and so I sent a text to my dad and asked him to pick me up. Then I'd just stormed off. I remembered hearing Maddy calling out to me and now I recalled the voice of Shell's older brother telling her not to bother with the 'weird dude'.

Was he the guy Maddy was now going out with? Just like quicksilver, jealously replaced the blood in my veins, fast and furious. I was so over-come by my jealousy that I could barely think straight for ages.

Stuff it anyway! I said out loud to myself as I lay sprawled on top of my bed later that night. Why'd she want to go out with me anyway? I'm just a useless blind guy. She was probably just hanging out with me because she felt sorry for me.

I had a proper pity fest all on my lonesome and I spent the next couple of days holed up in my room. I only ventured out for food and drink when I knew the rest of the family were sleeping or had gone out.

I knew my parents were still worried about the last time I went all quiet after they found me at Turuturu Mokai and so I milked it for all I was worth. I was hoping that they'd just think I was having some sort of teenage mental relapse and leave me the heck alone!

Free-style area – mum/dad or other whanau: write or draw something for your kids or moko's.