

## **‘The Eternity’ by Oisín McMahon**

Slow. As slow as time can go, everything in slow motion; but the second you finally blink, it's all gone. An eternity of life which, while you're in it, feels full and joyful, condensed into what feels like a moment afterwards. I've been stuck in this eternity for so long, yet for no time at all. Always with someone, never alone. Someone is always happy to step into the eternity with you. You'll laugh, you'll relax, you won't notice time or reality until you wake up again and smell the roses and feel the thorns in your hands. It's always a process to get there; it's a team effort to make it and once you're there it's no effort at all. A new level. Elevated. Inspired.

The simplest things can spark the most beautiful sights. A flame floating in your hands which you control, the beginning to something wonderful all in the palm of your hands; so easy to use, yet so difficult to master.

The day you don't have the key, you've left it at home or you've sadly lost it. You know it's not hard to get a replacement but it can be hard to find where. Alone you can walk the streets looking for a new key until you stop in the middle of a crowd, feeling alone, yet you smell the magic; the gateway to the eternity is close but it could be anywhere. You have to find it. It could be a team of adventurers or another lone rider, but you know, if you can find them, they'll open the gate for you and together you shall return to this eternity.

This eternity must be respected. It's welcoming and loving but be careful: you don't know what monsters could lie in wait to take your key. Monsters with yellow and blue scales and immense control over anyone who comes near. The kind of monster who is fickle and known by all but only feared by some. To have such power over an individual is terrifying but must be understood or face the consequences. If you ever find one of these monsters, keep your head down and don't draw attention to yourself. Be ready to run if you're spotted, but know if you run it'll be worse when they catch you.