

Mirage  
By Kylie Outten

Well...maybe I ignored the signs, maybe I had it all wrong, followed a trail to a mirage but ended up miles off. My eyes were covered with rose tinted glasses that I never took off while blinded. Did this in any way affect the result of the relationship? Or was the effect always destined to be the same.

I should start from the beginning, moving forward from left to right in order of events, in case you accuse me of jumping to the end and jumping to conclusions. Do you take me as someone who reads the final page of the novel first and disregards the rest? It currently seems backwards to me as your explanations could have been in Pashto<sup>1</sup> for I could never understand them.

When exactly we started to drift apart is difficult to determine. Maybe we need a horologist<sup>2</sup> to help us, but then again how much horology can one relationship stand.

I should have seen the signs, or maybe read between the lines. I tried, but could never ever read your mind. If only things had rhymed as simply as these three lines. Should I try to explain it one more time?

*Knock knock...<sup>3</sup>*  
*Who's there?*  
*A broken pencil.*  
*A broken pencil who?*  
*Never mind it's pointless.*

It should not have been a surprise as we had traveled down this road together, or perhaps apart. Our road had more than a fork in it dear Frost.<sup>4</sup> We took a road now too late to turn back around. A forked tongue<sup>5</sup> I somehow missed. Our injuries now are too much to be forgiven.<sup>6</sup> They say “birds a feather flock together”<sup>7</sup> but I think we rejected that stereotype.

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<sup>1</sup> Pashto is a southeastern Iranian branch of language that is typically spoken in Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. It is read from right to left rather than left to right.

<sup>2</sup> Horology is the scientific study of time

<sup>3</sup> A knock knock joke from readersdigest.ca

<sup>4</sup> Based on Robert Frost's poem *The Road Not Taken*. Frost, Robert. “The Road Not Taken.” Poetry Foundation, 2023 <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44272/the-road-not-taken>

<sup>5</sup> A snake has a forked tongue.

<sup>6</sup> Based on Aesop fable The Scorpion and the Frog. Neither the scorpion nor the frog can forgive each other because of the nature of their transgressions.

Kaplan, Jillian. “The Scorpion and the Frog: A Fable for Contemporary Times.” PA TIMES Online, June 10, 2021. <https://patimes.org/the-scorpion-and-the-frog-a-fable-for-contemporary-times/>.

<sup>7</sup> Reference from News In Health that people tend to surround themselves with people who are similar to them. Harrison, Wein. “The Power of Peers.” National Institutes of Health, July 15, 2022. <https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/2021/09/power-peers>.

I think the best thing for us to do is handle this like any other situation. I'm going to treat it like I would a rainy day. All I need is a raincoat, an umbrella, and a new beginning.

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