



Beyond the Basin

Alexander Beiner

In a shallow basin of water, separated from a vast ocean by a narrow isthmus, two children play secretly. Behind them lies a dense rainforest, within which two communities wait divided. One is an undiscovered shamanic tribe deep in the forest, the other a Franciscan mission. Both children were born into the tribe, but only one has stayed.

Half-way across the world, a young journalist follows them in his dreams, waking up each morning with no recollection of what he has seen. In his waking life, he begins to feel the tug of an unfamiliar and alien emotion, something telling him to leave his life and seek something else.

We discover the history that has divided the two children, Anjuiga and Ruah, and we meet Kuuhra, the shaman of Anjuiga's tribe, who tells her she can heal Ruah and bring him home.

The journalist, Alex, is brought ever closer to South America and eventually to the mission, where he encounters its mysterious founder, Father Pearse, known to Anjuiga as the Sky Teacher. Desperately trying to figure out why he is there and who he is seeking, Alex's narrative winds ever closer to Anjuiga's as she tries to convince Ruah to come home. As Alex searches, it becomes clear that Father Pearse is not what he appears to be; there is something happening in the mission that could tear Anjuiga's world apart.

Beyond the Basin is an exploration of the beauty and complexity of the psychedelic experience. Exploring the social, metaphysical and spiritual implications of humanity's communion with medicinal plants, it seeks to unravel some of the mystery around these amazing substances.

About the Author: Twenty-one year old Alexander Beiner is currently studying English Literature at Trinity College, Dublin. He has spent time studying Shamanism in the Peruvian Amazon and contributed to such journals as MAPS (Multi-disciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies). *Beyond the Basin* is his first novel.

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