

## ABSTRACT

### FREEDOM AT ANY COST

These stories were not written with any unifying theme in mind, but as I look at them now, I see they all deal with the quest for freedom. Whether it's political freedom, freedom from responsibility, a temporary freedom from a marriage that's gone stale, freedom from personal demons, or freedom from an abusive relationship, the common theme is evident. And since freedom isn't free, the characters in these stories come face to face with something the rest of us already know -- that the cost of freedom can sometimes be higher than we bargained for.

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