

“Sinkhole” - by Brandi Self

Defuniak Springs is a dull as dishwater town, west of Ponce De Leon, Florida. They boast a population of just over five thousand and earned the nickname “Sinkhole Alley”, for good reason. One of their residents is Randy Aldean.

On the morning of his thirty seventh birthday, Randy wakes up just as he always does to his girlfriend, Frankie dodging his sexual advances and her Pomeranian peeing on his uniform while he chokes down a burnt breakfast. And, just like always, they bicker about hiring someone to fix their slanted house.

On top of it all, a broke down pick-up truck ensures that he will, once again, carpool to work with Mike, a yokel buddy who brags about his new position as the boss and getting a fancy, underground pool.

Things get worse when he discovers Frankie is unable to get pregnant. She withdraws and Randy rebels by scheduling a pool installation instead of fixing the foundation, forcing her to pack her bags and leave.

Feeling unappreciated, he decides to not be there when she comes back, but his plans are derailed when the house loses its footing, sucking him down through miles and miles of memories before spitting him out into a parallel universe in Los Angeles.

The new world of opposites promises to be everything he ever dreamed of; big busted, blonde Frankie always seems to be horny and he discovers he has a teenage son named Cooper and a sweet job as a demolition man.

On his first day at work, Randy instructs his pal, New Mike, who moonlights as a rapper, to help destroy “The Regency”, one of the oldest buildings in the city and relishes in being magically familiar with the equipment.

But, after New Frankie forces him into a liquid diet and demeaning sex acts and his son, with his wild orange hair and Emo dog collar, begins to remind him of Old Frankie’s aggressive Pomeranian, he soon becomes overwhelmed. Jumping into his fantasy pool, he drowns but regains consciousness, proving to him that his new existence is not a dream at all.

Although he gets a promotion at work, New Mike rigs the explosives for the wrong building, almost killing him and he makes the decision to flee back to Defuniak Springs.

Along the way, he encounters a manly trucker who has an infinity for cuddling, an elderly, outlaw couple that schools him on love and small-town bikers dead set on murder. He finally makes it back home where he finds Old Frankie and Old Mike don’t recognize him, but is hopeful again when he sees a new sinkhole has formed in Los Angeles.

He makes his way back, only to find that the hole is too shallow and takes him nowhere and upon meeting up with a drunken homeless man, Randy gets an idea to dig his own hole exposing the secret that Cooper is really New Mike’s son.

After a confrontation, he travels to “The Regency” and steals a bulldozer, intent on creating a sinkhole in the new hole in the bedroom, but that too fails. He throws himself on the mercy of the universe, which prompts him to sink through the ground once again, where he hopes he can finally make amends with his old love and his old life.