

YOU ARE A MIRROR TO ME, ELLIOT BURCH

by Lyn Roewade

"Machiavelli wrote, '*A wise prince knows it's better to be feared than to be loved*'.... All these tombstones, all these wasted possibilities."

In half of Elliot Burch's life, Gabriel's eerie speech rings true.

Emotional life is Vincent's strength, and maybe Elliot's weakness. It was Catherine's love that sparked Vincent's heart to life; yet it was the same love that Elliot so wished for.

Eventually, this longing for emotion enabled Gabriel to have power over the once-great Mr. Burch.

Was Vincent's request to become involved in his dangerous adventure unfair to Elliot? Vincent's sacrifices were rewarded and motivated by Catherine's love for him. Elliot was motivated by his human heart that remembered the feelings he experienced in knowing Catherine.

The two men respected each other; Vincent respecting Elliot for his upper-world nobility, whilst Elliot returns the feeling by honouring his being the man that Catherine loved, also his charisma and his wisdom.

Did Elliot lose Catherine to Vincent, or to the half of Burch's upper-world power part of the mind? Is the fulfillment and happiness felt from one emotion worth so much? This is a question we have all asked ourselves in times of pain and betrayal. Yet the answer burns deep inside of everyone with a heart - yes, it is what makes us human.

I respect Elliot's elaborate business mind (*e.g. The Burch Tower*) and his climb to reach his goal. It seems that the only efforts from which he suffered a loss were his efforts in trying to win back Catherine. I, too, am familiar with the feelings Elliot felt after Catherine put permanent barriers within their relationship.

I also know what it's like to sacrifice everything you've built to help a friend, and then to have it crumble into nothing. Choosing love over my own goals has made me suffer great losses too. Seeing another make similar mistakes in principle, has enabled me to put much of my life into perspective.

If you are dead, Elliot Burch, may you rest in peace and may your comet fly forever. As for you Edward Albert, thank you for portraying a character in such a way that I can see much of myself; as a man torn between two passions - the love of his dream, and the dream of being loved.