

Miami Beach 2120

Looking back on your life from the stories that were passed down to me, Miami Beach was the highlight of your day, you had a routine. You had places that marked you with memories, if only you were here then you would be flooded with them. Mama's house, small, cozy, always seemed to make you feel relaxed. Boys and Girls Club, a representation of your childhood summers, always so energetic... wish it was like that more often... Lincoln Road was fun, a hangout spot, perfect for going to the movies, eating lunch, and struggling to find your perfect outfit for your birthday. You used the trolley, SOBE Loop B was for school, but SOBE Loop A was for "trying to get to Mami's job before Papi gets there," even though he would never leave you behind, but the rush, even I feel it. But everything changes, either in a good way or a bad way. Miami Beach, compared to your life and experiences, doesn't radiate that energetic and beautiful energy now. Why? Because Miami Beach is flooded now, it has always been flooding, yet not many people seemed to care that our world, our climate, was changing.

Remember that apartment complex your *Mama* lived in, yea that too. It's flooded and broken-down, you know concrete only lasts so long. Oh and your school, you know the place you went to mostly every day, seems to be one of the only places in Miami Beach to be on ground. Found out just a few weeks ago that it's still standing because of your class, they helped... they knew the situation of the future of this city and they knew how to solve it... Mangroves. Mangroves reduce coastal erosion and protect coastal areas from storm surges, tides, and waves. If only more people through these years could have realized the importance of these plants. They help us now; they allow for the land to stay *the land*.

Now, Miami Beach doesn't shine with a million specs of light from afar. It doesn't have the movement of people with energy more radiant than the sun. It doesn't have the waves, the destructible waves, crashing the shore... but, instead it seems as though the waves have

swallowed the city. Everything... just gone... not one single radiant soul in the distance. Instead there is water, EVERYWHERE! Wherever you turn "BOOM," there it is, it just touched your knees... You lived this life in what you called "an energetic and beautiful city, both day and night," but now its halfway gone into the ocean.

If I could somehow time travel, then I would tell you to make sure that the people of Miami Beach know that the dark future of their city is approaching and there is only one solution... Mangroves.

Sincerely,

Your great grandchild from the future...