

STORIES FROM OUR COLORFUL HOME



Editor: Ekawati Marhaenny Dukut



A vibrant bouquet of flowers in shades of pink, purple, and red, with a central purple tag that says "home". The bouquet is wrapped in pink paper with gold accents. The flowers include large pink roses, smaller pink and purple flowers, and a ring of red and white flowers at the base.

STORIES FROM OUR COLORFUL HOME

Editor: Ekawati Marhaenny Dukut

STORIES FROM OUR COLORFUL HOME

Editor:
Ekawati Marhaenny Dukut

Illustrators:
Graphic Novels class 2016



PT Maharsa Artha Mulia

© 2016

Jl. Gabus VII No. 24, RT 23/ RW 05, Minomartani

Yogyakarta 55581

Ph.+628122710938

www.maharsa.co.id

E-mail: info@maharsa.co.id

E-mail: penerbitmaharsa@gmail.com

ISBN 978-602-0893-24-2

All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission from the publisher.

FROM THE EDITOR

Stories from our colorful home is a collection of stories written by Indonesian young adults who were inspired to write short stories based on their home surrounding. School, forest, village, and city settings are situated in the home land of Indonesia.

The young talented Indonesian writers have been challenged to use their creativity and imaginations to write stories with some effort of giving descriptive details on unique Indonesian food, herbal drink and traditional clothing as a way to elevate the colorful Indonesian culture.

Although grammatically there are limitations with the competences of the writers, the stories to share here are worthy of publication. It is with pleasure, that the following stories written by third year students from the Graphic Novels class of the English Department of the Faculty of Language & Arts, of Soegijapranata Catholic University are brought to your perusal. May each story with a total of 525 pages brings pride to the kinds of culture the Indonesian homeland has to offer to you lucky readers!

September 2016

Ekawati Marhaenny Dukut

Table of Contents

My First Day at the Faculty (Liem Kezia Debora)	1
Dream (Florencia Devina Sari)	13
The Revealing Fate (Imel Chintya Rahayu)	27
The Yin The Yang (Maria Carmelita Gunawan)	38
The Efficacious Jamu (Siek, Wihayatia S.)	52
The Canvas of Life (Andreas Setiawan S.)	65
Between Love and Friendship (Lintang Dwiana)	80
Unforgettable for Everything (Rona Cita)	107
Lovebirds (Evelyn Boentoro)	120
Believe in Love (Tan, Flowren Tania)	131
Until I Meet You Again (Anna Violita)	146
Internet Love (Susan Edelweiss)	163
I Found Love in My New World (Vania Owena)	174
Dough and Roses (Regina Marchelin)	196
Red (Imelda Apriyani)	210
The First Love (Carolina Gita Pertiwi)	224
How to Tell a Love Story (Agil Surya Pradita)	237
Psychodelic Trip (Agustinus Istianto Sudiyo)	243
In Love (Ancela J. Andiani)	250
Bloodline (Bella Arti)	256

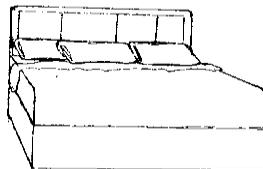
God's wonderful Plan (Bonifasius Siwe)	274
That Pen (Denny Sanjaya)	286
Secret of Love (Elsa Tamti Denasia)	298
True Friendship (Flaura Felicia A.)	315
Miracl (Friska Anggreanika)	330
The Smiling General's Treasure (Hendrikus Raka)	343
Lost (Ireneus Eki Nugroho)	352
Jasmine (Kukuh Galanag)	356
A Bench of Love (Mentari Kusumawati)	362
She's Broken (Maya Indriani)	386
Unexpected Love (Melina Agustin)	395
Come Back Home (Monica Felicia Amanda)	409
Love Hate Thing (Novriwan Felik)	420
Hello New Boy (Riyanti Eka)	424
The Roller Coaster of Friendship (RR Elsa Puspita)	442
Unexpected Love in God's Time (Selma Thayana)	461
Give Your Heart a Break (Stefi Wibisono)	466
The Clues (Tiffany Yunita)	479
A Hidden Treasure (Wendy Ravenska)	497
Burhan's "Indonesia's Vampire Hunter" (Yeremia Christiantus Sihombing)	505
An Uptown Girl (Yuvina Kuswandi)	518

MY FIRST DAY AT THE FACULTY



Liem Kezia Debora

“Good morning, world!” I rubbed my eyes and smiled. It was still 6 o’clock and I thought this was the best Monday ever. Well...today was my first day as a college student. “Whoaaa...finally I am a college student now! O ya...let me introduce myself first. My name is Jessy and I studied at Faculty of Language and Arts. “Today will be a perfect Monday!” I smiled while took my soap, shampoo, tooth paste, and towel. It took 30 minutes for me to take a bath (usually it took 1 hour). After that, I wore my green sweater and jeans. I looked at myself in the mirror and smiled. “Still 6.35 a.m...ok..now I want to put some make up”. I took my powder, eye shadow, eye liner, mascara, and lipstick. I wanted to be a perfect girl today. After I finished, I looked at my wall clock and surprised.



“What? 7 a.m?? I need to eat my breakfast now... or I will be late... I ran to my dining room and found my favorite food. Taraaaaamm.. *pecel lele*. Well well well... for me, *pecel lele* is not only an Indonesian traditional food which is consists of fried catfish with chili sauce and rice but also the most delicious food I ever tasted since I was a child. I ate my *pecel lele* while talking to my parents. Surprisingly, the clock shows that it was 7.15 a.m. So...it is time for me to go to campus with my new motorcycle. I took my helmet and hugged my parents.

On my way to college, suddenly a policeman shouted at me. He said that I need to show him my driving license. I opened my wallet BUT...o my God, I forgot to bring it!! My face turning red and I thought that I would be late today. "Sir..sorry, I forget to bring my driving license." I said to the police. He kept silent for a while..and looked at my helmet. "Miss, you do not bring your driving license and your helmet is not the standard one. If you want, you can pay 250.000 rupiahs as a fine. But if you do not want to pay it, I will take your motorcycle at the police station."

I kept silent for a moment. I know that I had 700.000 rupiahs in my wallet, but it was not an easy thing to take 250.000 rupiahs and give to this policeman. I said to the police "Could I pay 150.000 rupiahs only? I am almost late to go to campus now." I begged him. Suddenly, the policeman asked me to follow him and we talked at the corner of the road. "I know that you are in hurry...that's why I give you a choice to pay your fine and I will let you go...it's easy", he said it with higher intonation. Well..I know if I gave him 250.000 rupiahs, I could ran from him easily..but it's wrong...because I knew that we just needed to pay 50.000 rupiahs when we forgot to bring driver license. I looked at my watch.almost 7.30. I did not have any choices, so I just opened my wallet and gave him 250.000 rupiahs. He smiled at me and let me to go.

I drove my motorcycle as fast as possible. 7.37 a.m. I have already arrived at campus parking area. I opened my helmet and asked to one of the cleaning services in my faculty. "Sorry sir. Do you know where Nottingham room is?" I hope that he knew my room. "Yes..just go directly to 5th floor and Nottingham room .besides

Language Laboratory.” I thanked him and ran to 5th floor. After I found the room, I knocked the door. Everyone in the class looked at me and I tried to smile with my class mate. I saw that there was no lecturer yet, so I just sit at the back.

Everyone in the room seems strange except Lina and Anita. Well well well...they were my haters in high school and I did not that she would take the same faculty and even the same class with me. I wanted to go out from class because of them, but I thought that this is just the beginning, so I just sat at the back, took my bottle, and drink my mineral water. “Hello! What is your name?”, a girl who sat next to me tried to start a conversation. To be honest..the girl who sat next to me was beautiful because she had slim body, white skin, her eyes were big, and she had long natural curly hair. I smiled at her and said that my name is Jessy. She automatically gasped her mouth because my name was the same as her high school’s best friend. We laughed and I asked her name too. “I am Fenny and I come from Bali. How about you?”, she asked me another question. “I am from Semarang. Well, it is interesting. I remembered that 2 months ago I went to Bali for the first time. I visited Kuta Beach, *Tanah Lot*, and many more. Bali is such a wonderful island in Indonesia. By the way, how did you know about this university? And why did you choose this place?”, I asked her. Fenny put his glasses on and started to tell me a story about herself. She said to me that she did not know about the college before, but she was interested in learning English language in this college because there will be a lot of native speakers.

I looked again to Lina and Anita. I remembered that I really hate them because they made a lot of bad news

about me while I was in high school. One of the bad news that made me so angry was about my parents. They said my parents are corruptors in their company, so my family have a lot of money. Yeah this country maybe had a lot of corruptors, but they could not judge people easily. If someone had a lot of money, it did not mean that they do corruption. Someone who worked hard would get what he/she wanted. It was okay if they hate me, but they did not have any necessity to talk about my parents behind me. Until today..I still could not forgive them because of that reason. I promise that I would do the same thing to them and made them crying just like I was.

I looked at my watch, it was already 7.45 a.m. and Mr. Yanto, the lecture came to the class late. Like most Indonesians, Mr. Yanto has brown complexion skin and curly hair. He said sorry to the class because of coming late. He explained us that he had meeting with the Dean and Vice Dean from 6.00 a.m until 7.45 a.m about a competition for faculty's birthday. He said that the competition will be held in 2 months from now. After that, he started to teach his students. Fenny and I started to learn about Structure 1 and the basic grammar. He said that today's material will be about present and past tense. I enjoyed the class and also the lecture. He taught his students patiently and sometimes he said something funny that made students laughed. He also called the students' name one by one and asked them to answer his question.

Suddenly, Mr. Yanto called my name and asked me to answer a question on the whiteboard. I read the question and it was about past tense. On the whiteboard, there was a sentence "Rudi and Ani eat

their breakfast". I kept silent for a while and tried to remember about the answer. "Mr. Yanto, I think the answer is eaten." After that, I saw most of my friend looked at me with their weird face. Some of them also laughed at me and said "woo...". Lina and Anita also yelled at me. "Wooooo!!! It is an easy question, stupid girl!!", they said. I felt embarrassed. I knew that my answer was wrong. My lecturer has called me 3 times, but I could not give him the right answer yet. I wanted to cry but no tears came out. "Jessy, how about number 9? Adi and Budi do their homework or Adi and Budi does their homework together?" Mr. Yanto asked me again. I do not have idea about the answer, so I just answered that first sentence was correct. Suddenly, Mr. Yanto was standing next to me and he said that my answer was right. He encouraged me to study harder.

At the end of his course, he gave us a lot of homework. I said it "a lot" because we had to finish exercise 1 until 50. For me, it was a big problem because I thought that I could not do all the exercises correctly.

"Ok students. This is for our meeting today. If you have question, you can ask me." Every student said "Not yet, sir." After the teacher heard it, he dismissed the students from his class. However, I came in front of the class and said that I could not finish all the exercises correctly. I was afraid that I would make a lot of mistakes during this course. He said to me that this course will be challenging because almost in every meeting he would give them a lot of exercises to be practiced either at home or class. He also told me something "you do not need to be afraid of this course. If you have mistaken, you will learn from it and I hope that you can ask me whenever you feel confused."

After I talked to Mr. Yanto, I walked out from Structure Class and sat alone in front of lecturers' room. I put my head down and closed my eyes. "How could I understand Structure? It is too hard for me. Even I don't know the basic grammar in English. Present Tense? Past Tense?!" "Hello stupid girl! How are you? Why do you look so sad? Uuuhhh", Lina's voice sounded like a thunderstorm to me. "Lina Lina, why do you ask her? We all know that she is sad because of her stupidity. Am I right?", Anita laughed while saying that. My blood was boiling and I wanted to slap them. I stood up and held Lina's shoulder with all my strength. "Once you said it again, I will kill you. I am not making a joke, this is serious." I whispered to Lina. Anita and Lina just looked at me and laughed again. I did not have any choices, I would slapped them. However, Fenny saw it and she held my right hand. She knew if I got stressed because of Structure and them. "Hey guys. Do not ever make my friend gets angry. Once you make her angry, I will punch you right in your face." Fenny pointed at their faces and finally they went away.

Fenny and I sat together. "Jessy..don't be sad. I know that you are smart. Just believe in yourself. As your friend, I will help you and give my best to you.", she said that while hugged me. I did not know what should I do, I just hugged her back and cried. I told her that I joined this faculty because of my parents' desire. I was not good at English, but my parents forced me to go to university.

Fenny and I were kept silent while we were hugging each other. After I felt better, I wiped my tears. I looked at my watch..still 9.30 a.m. and I had Listening class at 1.30 p.m. I wanted to go home for a while but I just too

tired. Then, Fenny who had the same class with me, invited me to go to her boarding house. She said that I could take a rest in her room. There was Wi-Fi in her boarding house, so I could kill my time to download some movies and watched it. I put my tote bag as I followed her to the boarding house.

When I arrived at her boarding house, I told her that this place more like a hotel rather than boarding house. Fenny's room was in 2nd floor and I thought..the room was big enough for 1 person only. Next to her room, I could find kitchen and..there was a boy who was cooking there. "Fenny..is this boarding house for boys and girls?", I asked her. She turned on her television and said that 1st floor was men's room and 2nd floor for women's room. There were 15 bathrooms in this boarding house. 7 were placed in 1st floor and 8 in 2nd floor. However, there was just 1 kitchen (in 2nd floor), so the boys who wanted to cook something needed to go upstairs and cooked next to her room.

I looked at the pictures near Fenny's bed. In that pictures, I could see her family..there is his dad, younger brother, her, and her youngest sister. I felt confused because I could not find her mother. "Did her father get divorce with her mom? Or maybe she has passed away when Fenny was still a kid?" I was trying to figure it out by myself.

Fenny saw my curiosity and maybe..my weird face when I was looking at her family's picture. She said directly to me "Jessy..I know that you are confused while looking at my pictures. You will not find my mother there because she is here..." she said that while touching her heart and smiling. I still confused with her statement. "Here..where

is here? I cannot see her mother here. Only Fenny and I in this room.”

She explained to me that her mother has passed away when she was 6 years old. Fenny also said that her mother is beautiful, has black short hair and white skin, and kind-hearted person. She still remembered the last day that she laughed together with her mother. One day before she passed away, Fenny and her mother went to the zoo together; ate ice cream in the mall; and took some photos in photo studio near her house. Each moment was very precious for her. When evening came, her mother cooked a fried chicken and told a story before she slept.

When morning came, she got surprised because her younger brother and sister were crying. They did not say anything when Fenny asked them what's going on there. She walked outside her room and saw that her father was crying... and near him was her mother! She ran to the living room and hugged her mother. She did not know that her mother had a cancer in her brain. Her mother always said to her father that Fenny, her younger brother and sister did not need to know her mother's struggle.



At once, Fenny blamed her father for not letting her know about the condition of her mother when she got cancer. Fenny said to her father that he was an egoist person. If he loved her wife very

much, why did not she tell the kids that her mother got cancer? Fenny got angry with her father and did not want to talk with him for 2 months. It was hard for her and her siblings to accept the fact that her mother passed away when they were still young. Fenny who is an active and smartest girl in her class..at that time became a very passive one. During break time, she just sat in the corner of class and stared at the window blankly. Her friends and teachers always asked her to participate many events that her school held like what she did, but no respond at all. Her grades was not good and Fenny's father has been called 7 times by her teacher just to talk about Fenny's condition.

However, after 2 months she did not talk to her father, she felt guilty. She knew that her parents wanted their kids' best. Her mother maybe wanted to keep the secret because she did not want that their kids to be panic. She exactly knew that it would impact their grades in class. After 2 months of silent period, Fenny tried to talk to her father like what she did before. Fortunately, her father did not angry with Fenny at all and he was happy when his beloved daughter talked to him again.

Since that day, Fenny made a promise to herself. She would be a smartest and strongest girl in everywhere. She would also be a daughter who can make her parents proud whenever she goes later in her life.

Before she finished her story, she also explained to me about *Ngaben* in Bali. As people know, *Ngaben* is Balinese cremation ritual. This ritual is done to send the deceased to the next life. There are many steps when people do *Ngaben* ritual such as bath the body; bring the body to *Wadah* (a building that will be taken to the

grave); the body will be put into *Lembu* (symbolic embodiment of black Ox); the *Lembu* will be burned; the combustion ash will put into a coconut; and the last is the combustion ash will be brought to shore.

After all of her story was enough, she opened her wallet and showed me a photo. In that photo, I could see Fenny, her mother, and her father smiled together. Fenny said that her mother was her first love, her angel, her life. She loved her mother very much, even no word can explain her feeling. "I always put that photo in my wallet to remind me about my parents and also my promise." Fenny smiled at me.

I knew that I am not an easy person to cry... but Fenny's story touched my heart. Tears came up from my eyes. I just thought about my family and myself. I, as the only child in my family sometimes did not make my parents happy or even proud with my attitude. In high school I made friend with some naughty boys and girls and my parents were called by the headmaster because I engaged in gang fight. I remember at that time my head got serious injury and my parents took me to the hospital. Every day, they just cry and pray for me for God's healing.

After I healed from that injury, I still became a naughty student. I skipped class for 2 weeks and every night I went to night club to meet my friends and joined the party there. When my mother called my phone, I ignored it and sometimes I got angry to her and did not want to talk with her because I thought that she is too protective.

Fenny's story opened a new page in my life. I did not want to be the second Fenny and after that realized that

everything was too late. I told Fenny that I also promised to myself that I would be a good girl. I also wanted to make my parents proud. I would get high scores in classes and active in organization. And.. for Lina and Anita..I still wanted to slap their face. However, I would not slap them with my hands... but with my grades especially in Structure class.

I took some tissues and wiped my eyes which were full of tears. I learned a lot today. My first day in faculty not only gave me lesson in class... but also a good lesson in life. I thanked God for giving me chance to meet Fenny. Her existence in my life meant a lot.

I looked at my watch and it was almost 1 p.m. I asked Fenny to go out for lunch. I promised her that I would pay for our lunch. After that, we would go back to campus and continued our class. What a day! I would never forget my first day in the faculty for my whole life.



Florencia Devina Sari

“Riiinnnnggg!! Riinnngg!!” the alarm shows that it’s six o’clock. “Hooaaamm...” she yawns. A girl just wakes up. Slowly, her wide-brown eyes are opened. *She wakes up. Your sister will study in senior high school, Lisya. We need some extra money. Could you get a part-time job?*

She remembers her conversation with her mom last night. It is the first day she goes to campus after summer holiday and sixth semester is coming but Lisya is not really excited with it because her conversation with her mom, last night. “Huuuh. I have to take a shower now. I’ll think about that later.” She goes to the bathroom. The cold water makes her wake up immediately. She dresses up and combs her trimmed long light brown hair and ready to go to campus “Lisya!!” someone calls her when she walks at the corridor campus. “Hey, Yanti..” they hug each other since a long time they did not meet because summer holiday. Lisya and Yanti are best buddies. They met in the first day on OSPEK in campus. OSPEK is Student Orientation and Campus Introduction. It is an event for new students. The main purpose of the implementation OSPEK in university is to introduce the new students about the campus, academic activities and also extracurricular activities. The senior sometimes asked new students to wear unusual and weird accessories or hairstyles such as wear socks with different color, make a name tag with nick names like animals and with detailed fonts, make a bag with carton, girls’ tied based on the month of their birth, and if they don’t do it, they’ll be punished. The senior asked Lisya to wear shocks with different model and she wrote her name *arek ndeso*. Arek means people who live in Surabaya usually called and ndeso means people who come from remote area.

At that time, Yanti forgot to bring her lunch and Lisya shared her lunch to Yanti. They introduced each other and become best friend until now.



Lisya is a quite person, and a person who easily gets panic, she doesn't have many friends. She is also shy person. Lisya thinks that Yanti is a beautiful girl because she has fairer skin, she has S-line body, black-straight hair, wide eyes, she is also smarter than her and kind hearted. They can complete each other. For example, when Lisya got

panic attack, Yanti would calm her and when Yanti forgot where she put her assignment, Lisya helped her to remember it. "Uuh, it's been a long time we did not meet. Missing you so much." "Me too." After class we have to get a lunch together, okay?" said Yanti. "Sure." Lisya answers and she enters the class while Yanti goes to the upstairs and attends to a class. Lisya visits Yanti's class when her class ended. "Let's eat something." Lisya grabs Yanti's hand right after Yanti's class ends.

At the canteen, they order *soto Lamongan* for their lunch. Soto is an Indonesian chicken soup with white noodle, chicken, egg and a squirt of lime juice. It is also given some extra substances by noodles, *Lontong* (compressed rice) or potato croquettes (*Perkedel*).

two assignment and it is done at 12 pm. Lisya is the last child in her family but her parents do not spoil her much and it makes Lisya becomes an independent woman. She cleans her room, she washes her clothes, and sometimes when she is not really busy she cooks some foods. She does everything by herself as long as she can. She lies on the bed. She stares the stars that she can see from the windows. She likes to see stars. It is entertaining her and making her forget about her problems for a while.

She remembers about her life. She is in sixth semester now, after that she has to do her thesis and graduate. She wants to be a writer, but she thinks that she can't because none of stories are not publish in Style magazine and it proves that she is not competence to be a writer. Then, she thinks what she will be in the next 10 years. Will she be a popular writer? She also thinks to continue her study in magister of hospitality and tourism. But, she wants to pay the costs by herself. She has to save money from now and she has to have a part-time job. Her eyes close slowly. Lisya enter the dream's world.

It is 08.00 pm. Lisya lies on the bed. In front her, there is a laptop. She typed something and sometimes stops for a while and think is it good or not. She writes a story. She likes to write a story since she was in junior high school. The idea she wants to be a writer comes when she read a novel from Agnes Jessica and she is very impressed with the novel and it makes she wants to be a writer. She wants to be like Agnes Jessica. She is inspired Lisya a lot because the story-plot of the Agnes Jessica's novels are really interesting. Her novels are about what happened in real lives, and in some her

novels she puts some bible verses and sometimes it makes Lisya finds the answer of her problems and new encouragement by reading the bible verses. Sometimes Lisya sends her story to the some magazines and they publish it. "Knock..knock..knock.." someone knocks the door. "Come in" Lisya shouts. A sixties woman comes up. It's *mbak* Yuli, a house keeper of her boardinghouse. "What's happened, *mbak*?" Lisya walks closer to *mbak* Yuli. "There is a letter for you, Lis." *mbak* Yuli replied. "Thank you *mbak*." Lisya closes the door. She reads the sender. *Style Magazine Company* is written on the heading. She opens the letter quickly.

Congratulation, you get an interview to be a freelancer writer on Style Magazine. Please come to office on Monday, 16 May 2016 at 11 am. See you later. Thank you.

Chief Editor Style Magazine

Clara Sutedja

Lisya can't believe what she saw. She reads the letter again. She shouts "Oh my God!! Is this real?? Am I dreaming? Yeaayyy." "Knock..knock..knock. Lisya, are you okay? What happen to you?" It's Yanti. Her sound is little bit worries. "I will have an interview with Style Magazine!!! Lisya shouts and Yanti who just heard about the story is silent for a while, her mouth is open and she can't speak anything, her brain still process what Lisya just tell to her until.. "Yeaaaaayyyyy!!! Congratulation Lisya!!" Yanti also jumps and hug Lisya. They cuddle each other. Lisya shows the letter to Yanti. "Wow. Remember what I was talking to you before you

haven't got the reply. See? It happens, dear." Lisya nods, she hugs Yanti again and said "Thank you so much for supporting me, Yanti. I am so lucky to have you." Yanti replies "You're welcome Lisya. You're also my best friend." "Anyway, can you accompany me to go to Style office?" Lisya asks to Yanti. "Of course, Lis".

The day of interview is coming. Lisya wears a blue blouse and black skirt. She ties her hair like pony tail. She puts the powder in her skin, lipstick on her mouth, mascara on her eyelash and also eyeliner. She smiles in front of the mirror. "I know you can do it, Lisya. Do the best. This only happen once in your life." she talks to herself. Having an interview on the company that you have dreamt it for a long time makes her nervous. "Knock..knock..knock.." someone knocks the door. *It must be Yanti.* Lisya talks to herself and she opens the door. "Have you ready yet?" Yanti asks. "Yup." Lisya answers with certainty. She brings the map and a bag. She locks the door and says "let's go."

Lisya and Yanti enter the building. Style magazine is a famous local magazine in Indonesia. They are youth magazine that tells about fashion, foods and life style. They also publish some story and usually authors of the story that have published in Style Magazine will be famous writer because they sort the story that people sent to them carefully and it is not easy to pass the editor of the Style magazine.

Lisya approaches one of staffs in Style office. Her heart is beating fast. "Morning, can I help you?" "Yes, I want to meet Mrs. Clara, the chief editor of Style Magazine." Lisya replies. "Have you made an appointment before?"

the woman asks “Umm, I got an interview invitation before.” “Could you please wait a second? I will check.” Lisya nods. She looks over the woman. She wears a brown blazer and ripped jeans. She also wears boots and she colored her hair with red wine. *Wow, she is gorgeous. I think people who work in Style magazine must be fashionable.* Lisya talk to herself. “Oh, you are going to have an interview with Mrs. Clara, right? She is in her room. Just come in.” she smiles at Yanti and Lisya. “Thankyou” said Lisya. “Is she a secretary?” Yanti murmurs, “I think, yes.” Lisya replies. “Wow, she is very attractive.” Yanti admires and Lisya just smiles.

Lisya arrives in front of the door. “Come one girl! Show your skill. I know you can do it!” Yanti smiles to Lisya. Lisya just replies with the peace sign. Lisya knocks the door and come in when Mrs. Clara asks her to come in. The interview is so fun. Mrs. Clara asks the question like she talks with her friend. She is so friendly and not intimidates or makes Lisya afraid. Lisya is so happy. She answers the question without nervous. Lisya quits from the room with a big smile in her face. Yanti walks to her. “How’s your interview? Yanti questions Lisya. “Yeah. She is so nice. She doesn’t make me more nervous or afraid.” Yanti smiles “when you will receive the announcement?” “She said that she will phone in one week.” “I believe that the result will be good.” “I hope so. If it’s fail, it’s okay because I am just trying. I surrender it to God. If He knows that I can be the writer. It will be. If it’s not, I know that He has prepared the other one that suitable for me.” Lisya smiles and Yanti hugs Lisya. As a human, of course she is worry, anxious, and curious about the result but she tries to surrender it to God.

Two weeks later, Gaby calls Lisya and announces that Mrs. Clara has accepted her to be a freelancer writer on Style magazine and asks Lisya to go to office on Friday on 3.00 pm. Lisya calls Yanti "Once again, congratulation Lis! One step closer. Your dream will come true." Said Yanti. Lisya just silent, she still can't believe that Mrs. Clara would accept her.

The class just ended. She goes out from the class in a rush. It's 02.15 pm and she has to get to the Style office on 3.00 pm as Gaby said before. She goes to the office by herself. Yanti can't accompany her because her parents visit her. *It takes 30 minute to go there by taxi. Better I arrive there in time.* Lisya talks with herself. She goes out of the campus to get a taxi. It is cloudy and the rain is pouring down. Lisya does not bring an umbrella. She does not expect today will be rain. Luckily a taxi gets approaches to her. She gets into car. "Go to Style office, sir." She talks to the driver. "Okay miss" the driver answers. The heavy rain and gales are blown down outside. Suddenly, the taxi stops. "What happened, sir?" Lisya asks to the driver. "A traffic jam, miss because next Monday a national holiday of independence day so many people go to outside city from today." Lisya looks at her watch. It's 02.50 pm. The distance to reach the Style Office still 5 Km. It's not really far but she's not sure that she arrives in the Style office on 3.00 pm. The taxi is still not moving even in a single step. The heavy rain is still pouring down. Lisya looks at the road and her watch many times. *Okay, it is impossible to get there in 10 minutes. The only way is I run to the office.* "Just stop here, sir" said Lisya. "It is heavy rain outside. Are you sure?" the taxi driver asks to Yanti. He feels sympathetic to Lisya. "I don't have any choices, sir. I have to get there on 03.00 pm." Lisya pays the cost and go out from

the taxi. She runs as fast as she can. She doesn't care about the heavy rain that makes her cloth and her shoes wet. The traffic still over crowded. *I can't be late, what Mrs. Clara and Gaby think that I have been late even I have not worked yet?* Lisy just runs and runs. People who shelter on warung *gado-gado* and *soto* look at Lisy. They confuse why a woman is running on the sidewalk when the heavy rain is pouring down. While she is running she also checks her watch. It's 03.10 pm. The distance is not too far actually, but heavy rain makes her cannot run fast. While she is looking her watch, a man that also runs from the opposite side bangs Lisy. She falls. "Sorry" He apologizes. Lisy stands up and continues run. *There's no more time.* Lisy checks her watch again. It is 03.15. She can see the tower of the building and the logo S means Style. On 03.15 she arrives at the office. She enters the elevator and goes to 6th floor. When she arrives, she approaches Gaby soon. Gaby is so shock when she looks Lisy's condition. Her hair, bag, cloth, and shoes are wet. "Oh my God. What happen to you, girl?" Gaby leads Lisy to sit in a sofa. She call extension 010 to call the OB "*Mbak Ani*, please bring me a towel and a hot cup of tea right now. Thanks." At the moment, *mbak Ani* brings Gaby's request. "Just take a rest for a while, Lis" Gaby is trying to calm Lisy. "But, I have to see Mrs. Clara now, Gab" Lisy is trying to stand up but she feels that her head so dizzy. All things that she sees are spin around. She remembers that she had not lunch yet. She falls unconsciously.

Lisy is trying to open her eyes. She feels that she gets a stomachache. She is in a clinic with Yanti in her side. "Where am I?" Lisy asks to Yanti. "You're in a clinic

near Style Office, Lis.” When Lisya hears Style office she remembers that she has to meet Mrs. Clara. “Huh! I have to meet Mrs. Clara, Yanti.” She gasps. “It is okay, Liz. Gaby told me that you can visit her on Monday. Gaby has told you condition to Mrs. Clara and she gives you an excuse for that.” Lisya sighs “what a relief. What time is it anyway?” and then Yanti said “it’s 08.00 pm. The doctor has told me about your condition. You get a cold because you forced yourself to run on heavy rain and your gastris is relapse because you haven’t eaten yet anything today. You can tell me to buy some foods for you if you are busy. You have a chronic gastris but you still pass your lunch.” Lisya is just silent. “Sorry, today is so hectic and also I got a traffic jam and I don’t want to be late to go to Style office. I don’t want Mrs. Clara thinks that I am incompetence because I am a person who isn’t on time. So I decided to run when the heavy rain was pouring down.” Lisya tries to explain. “Next time, when you are very busy and you don’t have any time to buy some foods just call me. I can bring you some snacks or foods. And I think you can call Gaby or Mrs.Clara to inform that you will be late. Moreover, they know that it’s not possible to go there by a motorcycle because the weather. I am quite sure they will understand.” Lisya nods. Suddenly, a doctor approaches them. “How’s my friend’s condition, doctor?” Yanti asks to the doctor. “Her condition is good enough. It’s okay if she wants to go home right now.” the doctor explains to Yanti. “Thank you, Doctor.” Then the doctor asks permission to leave them. “You want to go home right now or stay here, Lis? If you’re not strong enough, you can stay here and I will accompany you.” “I want to go home, Yanti. And I think my condition is better right now.” Lisya ensures Yanti.

On Monday, Lisya goes to Style office. Gaby smiles and asks to her “how’s your condition, Lis?” Yanti also smiles and said “I am fine, Gab. Mrs. Clara is in her room, right?” “Yup. Just come in.” Gaby answers. “Thanks.” Lisya knocks the door. “Come in.” Lisya opens the door. “Oh, Lisya. Good morning. Have a sit, please.” Lisya sits in front of Mrs. Clara. She can see many papers on Mrs. Clara desk. “How are you? I heard that you got sick last Friday.” Mrs. Clara asks to Lisya. “Yes I was sick last Friday but I am fine now.” answers Lisya. “It’s good to hear about that. Okay so now are you ready to discuss our contract?” asks Mrs. Clara. Lisya nods. Then, Mrs. Clara explains about the contract and the requirements that Lisya has to oblige. “Thank you Lisya, tomorrow you can start to write your own article.” Mrs. Clara and Lisya stand up, they are shaking hands. “You’re welcome Mrs. Clara. I will give the best for this job.” Lisya said and Mrs. Clara smiles “I know, Lis. I am counting on you.”

Lisya is still typing on her laptop. Tomorrow is the deadline, so she should submit the article. She has been trying to write for 3 hours ago. She also did some research on internet but she still gets a writer’s block. The theme of this week is a transformation. She tries to write an article the changing that can help you be a better person. She has revised her first article five times from Mrs. Clara. She said that Lisya’s article is too common. *Lisya, you just write from what you read on internet even you disagree with it. I know because I can feel it. You have to be honest for yourself. Writing is honesty. If you disagree then you have to give your opinion about I and try to explain the reader the reason why you disagree.* Lisya remember what Mrs. Clara told when she revised Lisya’s article. “Phufft...” Lisya lies on

her bed. She wants to take a rest for a while. She stares at the roof of the room. Suddenly, she can see her parents smile at Lisya. She also sees Yanti, her best friend who never stop support her. And Lisya realizes that she can't give up. This is just the beginning and she knows that she has many people who love her and never give up on her. *Come on Lisya. You can do it. Try to write with honesty.* She talks to herself and she starts to write again.

The next following day, Lisya goes to Style office to submit the article. She puts the article in an envelope and gives it to Mrs. Clara. Mrs. Clara reads the article carefully. Lisya is sitting in front of her. She is waiting for Mrs. Clara's comment about the article. Her hear is beating so fast. Mrs. Clara has finished read the article. She just stares at Lisya without any comment. *Oh no! I guess Mrs. Clara still has not satisfied with my article.* Lisya talks to herself. But, the next moment Mrs. Clara smiles widely and says "Good job, Lisya. I know you can do it. Your article is so great. I can feel that you wrote it with honesty. This is exactly what I want get it from you." Lisya is so surprising. "Are you serious, Mrs. Clara?" Lisya stares at Mrs. Clara incredibly. "Of course, Lis. You can give it to Gaby. She will put your article to the layout design division. Your own article will publish on next week." Mrs. Clara gives back the article to Lisya. "Thank you Mrs. Clara. Thank you so much." Lisya holds Mrs. Clara's hands. Mrs. Clara is laughing and said "I know that you can do it well and I do not make a mistake because I have chosen you" Lisya smiles very widely.

“Lisyaaaaa!!!!” Yanti calls Lisya when she just finishes the class. *Grabb.* Yanti hugs Lisya in a sudden. “I have read your article, Lis. It’s so wonderful.” Lisya grin at Yanti and says “it’s because of you, Yanti.” Yanti stares at Lisya “hah?? Me? Why me?” “Because you never stop support me, Yanti. You know, when I have revised my article for five times, I wanted to give up actually. But, I remember that I have many people who love me and never stop support me. You, my parents, and even Mrs. Clara who has trust me to be a freelancer writer on Style Magazine.” They are hugging. Lisya’s journey to be a writer is still long. But, she is one step closer now to achieve her dream.



THE REVEALING FATE

Imel Chintya Rahayu

“Kukurruyuuuuk...” the rooster shouts out loud. I try to open my eyes but they are bloody heavy to be opened. I need a couple more minutes or, um maybe an hour to go back sleep. But, “kukuruyuuuk” that rooster continuously make the sound, seems that it really doesn’t let me to go back sleep again in peace. I pull out my coarse blanket yet really comfy, and then walk lazily to the bathroom. “Oh God, give me strength to do all of this.” I mumbled. Going to college and work at the same time is really exhausting, seriously. However, this is a big chance for me to have such opportunity going to college.

I got full scholarship from the university, what a jackpot. Meanwhile, I go to a minimarket nearby my campus to work as a clerk. I commit myself to finish all of this. People said that *no pain, no gain* and me is one of the people who truly believe that. I have to be a successful person one day within all of this hard work. I will make my mother and my father, I call them “Mbok” and “Bapak” proud of having me, I promise. Well, my family is very Javanese and my parents still maintain the culture heritage especially language. We talk in ¹*krama inggil* (polite version of Javanese language) sometimes.

Mbok and *Bapak* are the most amazing parents I have ever had. When they heard that I got scholarship, they really supported me but not with my grandma. I call her “Mbah”. Mbah is the strictest person in my family, she really adore Javanese culture and tradition. She dresses

¹In Javanese language there are 3 hierarchies of language based on politeness level; *krama inggil*, *krama madya* and *ngoko*

like an old Javanese lady in a casual ²*kebaya* with ³*jarik* as the bottom. She also does her hair herself in a simple *sanggul* (hair bun) which is common style for Javanese women. For her, women's place is in the house, taking care of house, children and husband. That is one of the old concepts of women she still holds until today and gives a bit influence to Mbok. What a very old fashioned thought! This is not an era before Kartini, I bet she has never heard about Kartini though. No wonder that she banned me to continue to college. Nevertheless, her son, a.k.a my dad or Bapak really wanted me to take this chance instead and if once Bapak say yes, the others could not do anything. That is why I love Bapak.



The sun is pretty warm in my village this morning. Mbok is cooking fried cassava for breakfast while I make tea for Bapak. We love cassava no matter what it is served. We are not pretty rich to afford fancy food for breakfast like any other people in city

do, yet sometimes I wish I would have garlic bread,

² Kebaya is traditional women clothes in Javanese Culture

³ Jarik is typical Indonesian cloth paired with Kebaya

sandwich or pancake to start my day. I do not really care because I love cassava and the most important point, always be grateful for what you have. Let's say I am on my way to get all of that.

Mbok is used to wake up at 4 o'clock in the morning when the sky is still dark and roosters haven't crowed yet. She takes some woods from small yard behind our house then places them on the furnace. *Mbok* scoops one and a half glass of rice and put it in a crock to be cleaned by water. My *Mbok* always rinse the rice three times until the water seems clear enough. After that she pours water in it and measure the height of the water until reaches half of her index finger from the surface of the rice. Then she boils it on the furnace. Actually, we have a practical rice cooker and a simple stove but *Mbok* prefer cooking with her lovely furnace as she thinks that the taste is much better when she cooks with it. She told me and Bapak that cooking rice with furnace would produce special aroma and the rice is also well cooked. Once, *Mbok* cooked rice with stove gas and rice cooker, the result was not as tasty as usual so she stopped using it. I don't really notice the different but I support my *Mbok* anything she does. I think the best cook in the world is my *Mbok's* cook.

We are used to sit together in the morning and talk about many things before we start our activities. "⁴*Nduk*, Sekar, have you seen Dara? I heard she came back to this village after high school graduation. . . It's been a year and there is no sign about her," *mbok* said curiously. "*Mbok* really miss her, Dara and you used to play around together. She is so pretty, smart, educated,

⁴ *Nduk* is an address term used by elderly for younger female women in Javanese

obedient and polite, you should learn from her, *nduk*” she continued. Bla bla bla. Oh God here she is, praising someone’s daughter in front of her own daughter. I don’t mind though, I prefer stay silent and just nod my head.

My mom always compares me with Dara since we were kids and actually, without her comparison I exactly understand that we are totally different. She is the lucky one, born in well off family, assembled her mom pretty face and has many fancy things. She is a good example of Javanese woman. Every word comes out from her mouth always smooth and polite. Every gesture she makes is a grace. She is pretty good at treating her body. She seems like a duchess. Everyone will adore her and her life. And me, I am the opposite of her. I am used to have careless talk except to my family because if do so they will kill me. I like to talk nonsense with my friends and I think it is fun. I behave like the way girls do on my age. I prefer to watch football match rather than cooking program in TV. We are totally different like sky and earth, water and fire, butterfly and fly? No, it is too much.

My parents and Dara’s parents were at the same high school. Luck comes to Dara’s parents who get success in young age. Dara’s father who is a civil servant was promoted to higher position. But then, he became arrogant and feels superior. In contrast to Dara, I have been raised in an ordinary household who live in simplicity. My parents have small rice field and small coffee field. They make a living as



farmers. However, I am grateful for what I have and try to live a life sincerely.

I walk through the narrow main street in my village everyday to go to campus. It feels like a big transition between my two different worlds, my village and my campus. I feel like I am a different person when I step out from my village. Free from norms and old fashioned rules I can express myself better. On my half way I sees Dara's house, the big one on the corner of the street.



Her house is the most glamorous among the neighborhood with super clean white paint color and tall grey metal fence. I pause for a while, looking straight to her house and bring my thought to our flashback memories when we were kids and played together. But, wait a second... Oh see! There is something different with the windowpane of Dara's bedroom! It has been couples year and finally the curtain is opened. Maybe Mbok was right. She really returns home. Then I realize I have been standing there more than 5 minutes. I carry on my step.

“Tin tiiiiin!” cars and motorbikes are honking noisily along the way. Finally, I reach the bus stop nearby. This is the beginning of the new batch student year. No wonder if

the road is really busy and traffic everywhere. Luckily, I have managed the time and went earlier from home. "Sekar!" someone calls my name. I'm quite familiar with this heavy voice. This voice always makes me calm and I do not know why. He is Bayu, runs towards me, slightly out of breath. "Hey Bayu, how's everything?" I reply. "Great. How about you? You know, I feel like an old man knowing we have new junior this semester" he smiles as we get on the same bus.

Bayu is my best friend. I met him for the first time when I entered this college in the same situation like what happen now. Yes, we always get on the same bus in the morning. Then he talked to me first and we know each other. We are in the same college but we took different major. I am an economic student and he is a psychological student. He is 1 year older than me and in sixth semester. Let's say he is my senior.

"Psssh..." the bus pull its brakes. We reach our destination, campus. It's a place where I seek for brighter future and pennies too. Everyone pushes each other impatiently to get off from the bus. I just realize that the half of the passengers is college students. I run to the class in a hurry and wave my hand to Bayu.

Thank God the class is end. I have been sitting in class for almost 4 hours. It seems like I got backache now. And plus, boring lecture with a bunch of assignments. I plan to do it later after work. I take my bag and walk to minimarket in the campus. It takes 5 minutes walking from my faculty. "Hi Bob!" "Oh, hi Sekar, feeling good?" he asked. "Pretty good Bob" I replied. I have changed my clothes now and ready to work. I place myself behind the cashier desk. Then someone put sanitary pad, bubble gum and a dozen of chips in front of me. I

automatically process the stuff under the barcode laser. I glance at the customer slightly. Wait, I think I am quite familiar with this girl but I ignore my mind and just keep wrapping those things into the plastic. "Sekar, right?" she asked. "Remember me? I am your neighbor." "Gosh! Are you? How are you doing?" I replied. "I am good, so do you work here Sekar?" she asked again. "Uh huh, after class I work here. And do you study here too?" "Yeah, I am a freshman. Just start this year because last year I have something to do" She added. We talk a lot there, change information and giggle with great nostalgia. The thing I know is that now she lives in a boarding house nearby campus and she has a boyfriend. I walk her out and there is someone waiting for her inside a dope black car with sophisticated modification here and there and they seem really like a match couple. "Bye Sekar, see you!" as she waved to me and I waved back "Bye!"

The dark has fallen. I walk along the way accompanied by the dim yellow street lamps. I feel exhaustion and sleepiness at once. I want to lay myself on bed and hide under my



lovely rough blanket. While walking, I got a quite crazy idea that comes into my mind. I want to live in a boarding house near campus. I cannot stand to do this, go back and forth, home and campus every day. It really wastes time and energy. So, it may be a good idea then.

Eventually, I reach myself home. I hurry to take a bath, even though the water could make my body frozen. I crawl into bed and let my body and mind rest.

“Are you sure, Sekar?” Mbok doubted. “Mbok worry if you could not take care of yourself, you have to promise Mbok and Bapak you won’t do bad things, alright?” she continued. “Njeh, don’t worry Mbok, Pak” I assure them. I packed my stuffs and ready to move. I know this is my decision and I have to be responsible. All is in my hands now. I have chosen the cheapest and coziest girl boarding house. The landlord is pretty kind and friendly. I like the room too. I unpack my things and clean up the room. Now everything is perfect, I am too enjoy the time and didn’t realize it is already evening.

“Tap...tap...tap” I hear someone step pass my room. It sounds like high heel shoes hits the floor. It’s already 1 p.m now and who the hell she is? Go home at this late night. This is really makes me curious so, I peep through the window to see. There she is, wearing a sexy night dress and her hand holds a little red clutch. I cannot see her face, it’s too dark. Then, she stops across my room. Try to unlock her door room. Wait, is she drunk? I guess so. She sways a little, totter and fall. She really struggle to wake up then finally come into her room.

The next day, I woke up and head to bathroom. I’m still a bit sleepy and open the door. Oh! There is someone inside. It sounds like someone is throwing up. Ooh, gross! I get away from the bathroom and go to kitchen to make a cup of coffee. Then, someone is come out from the bathroom . . . my eyes wide open seeing that she is Dara. I hide behind the wall, still surprised. She walks to her room where is across mine and I just realize that the

drunk girl I saw last night is her! Wow, I still wonder, Dara has so much changed. Where is Dara who is calm, obedient and polite?

I stand behind cashier desk this evening. I get used to spend my evening by work lately. It is really quiet then, my mind is wandering. It has been a long time not seeing Dara appears whether here, in minimart or in the boarding house. So did Bayu. I have lost contact with him since he graduated a year ago. I feel so lonely. I miss everyone, and I miss my home, where my lovely parents are. I miss everything in my village. The rooster sound, children playing on the field, narrow streets, and my favorite cassava. I have been living far away from home for almost 2 years. I just need to do my thesis so I don't need to go to campus often. I decide to return home and so excited about it.

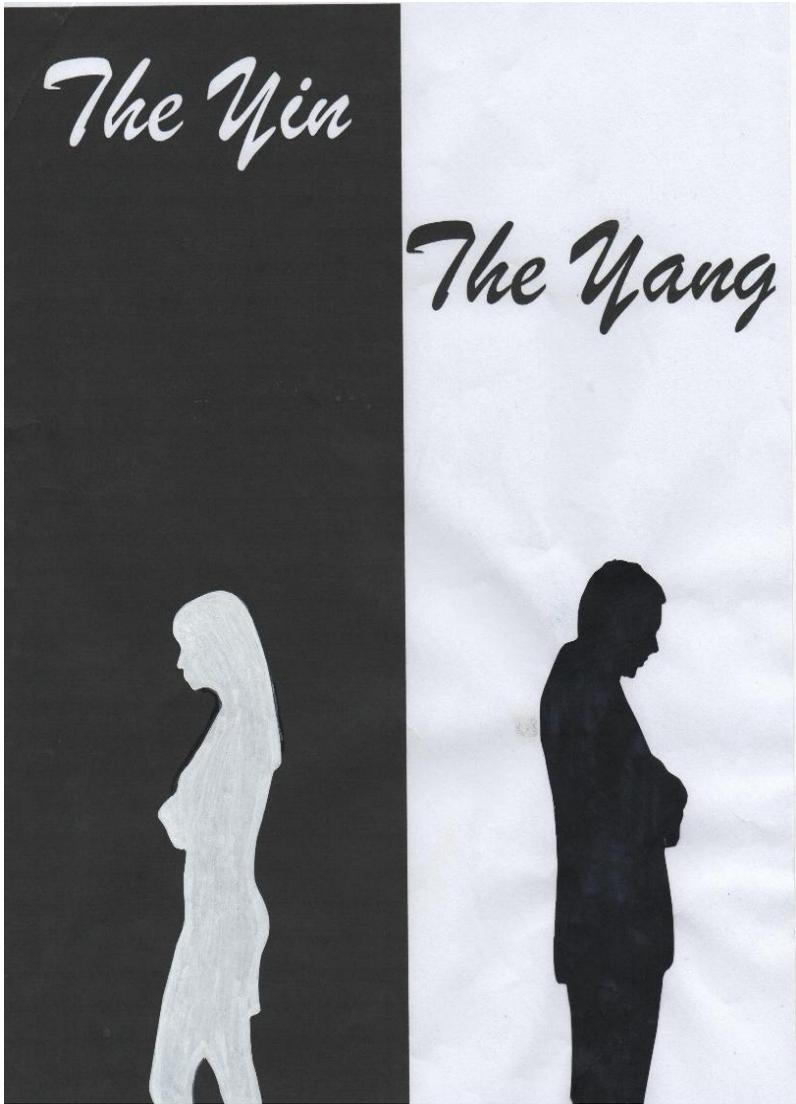
"Kukuruyuuuk." Aaah, thanks to Lord finally I can hear this sound again. Now, I am in the most comfortable place in the world, home. I have breakfast with Mbok and Bapak this morning. I am grateful they are as healthy as when I left them. "Nduk, have you heard shocking news about Dara?" Mbok asked curiously. "No I haven't, what is it Mbok?" I replied more curiously. "Mbok heard that her parents get divorced a year ago, the divorce bring about messy life to their children. There is a gossip that their son, Andra, is drug addict and now is in the rehabilitation. Then, the most surprising is their daughter, Dara. I heard she get pregnant and the boy is not responsible by run away somewhere." Mbok seems really excited to tell me. Meanwhile, Bapak is sipping his coffee and keep reading newspaper. "Really Mbok??? Oh God, what a pity...!" I said. "Come on, it is still early morning and you are already gossiping." Bapak protested to us. I keep

thinking about Dara. How does she feel and what will she do next. It is a pity that she has to get pregnant in her very young age and get dumped by an awful man. I wish the best for Dara, I hope she can go through all of this patiently.

I wake up early this morning to prepare myself for graduation. I asked my cousin to put the make-up on my face. I wear beautiful *kebaya* from Mbok. Mbok and Bapak seem ready to escort me to the graduation. Now I am already in graduation dress. Bapak drive a rental car from his friend and take us to my campus. While we are passing Dara's house, I see her. She is watering flower with a big baby bump. She still looks pretty but I can see sorrow from her face.



“Congratulation Sekar, we are proud of you!” Mbok and Bapak hug me tightly. “Thankyou Mbok, Pak! I can be who I am right now because of all your support, I love you!” I said to them. “Congratulation Sekar!” I hear a man voice. I really familiar with this voice, he must be Bayu. I don't know what I should feel. Feel happy or sad? He has disappeared without tell me something. “Will you marry me?” he bends his knee and proposes me with a tiny box of gold ring. “Yes!” I hug him. Today is the best day of my life.



Maria Carmelita Gunawan

“Nooooo!!!” Shelly screamed as hard as she could unconsciously. She was awakened by the nightmare; her heart was beating really really fast. She lost herself for a moment, feeling shocked and terrified. As she gained her consciousness, she realized that she was in Magelang, not in Jakarta; why did the nightmare keep haunting her?



She looked out of the window where the curtains left opened and realized that the sun had shone. She stepped her right foot onto the wooden floor of the resort, feeling the humidity touching her foot and started walking towards the bathroom. She decided to take a bath; well, if it could be called so; she let the warm water of the shower downpour on her body for a quiet while before she really took a bath. She dressed herself in jeans and a comfy red T-shirt which emphasized her white skin more. She let her brown-black long hair loose and forced herself to take a walk so she could breathe some fresh air. “Perhaps some fresh air would clear up my mind,” she thought. Though her mind was in a mess, Shelly’s face was not. Her model-like body was perfectly

supported by her charming face; pointed nose, wide eyes with brown pupils; she looked just like what every girl wanted to be. Shelly liked the silence in the resort; perhaps because it was uniquely designed in form of cottages. Once Shelly opened the door, she would find two different paths; one led to the reception of the resort and one led to the back gate of the resort. She randomly took a path which took her passing the naturally designed resort park. Shelly paid no attention to either the big trees or the morning cold air around her; she was busy with her thought. "I am only twenty four years old, yet..," thought Shelly. If she had not done it.. if she had not decide to do it.. if she.. if... if.. *only if...*



Shelly took herself back to the reality as she found herself in front of stairs leading to the reception. The reception building stood alone at the very front part of the resort. As she stepped her foot onto the first stair, she could hear a calming Javanese song along with the smell of the jasmines put on the right and left sides of the door. "Good morning, Ms. Is there anything I can help you with?" asked a receptionist. "Um, well.. I just want to take some walk around. Could you give me some directions to the Borobudur temple?"

asked Shelly back while slipping her soft hair to the back of her tiny ear. "There's a shortcut from this hotel to the temple, Ms. Please follow me," the woman in *kebaya* invited Shelly to follow her. They walked out of the reception and took a left turn in 100m. Along the shortcut they took which was actually full of signs saying "Borobudur" with an arrow, Shelly noticed the beautiful *batik* used by the woman as her long skirt, or what so-called as *jarik*. The receptionist, not realizing that she was noticed, introduced herself as Murti. Now that they walked side by side, Shelly also noticed that Murti was shorter than her; well, Shelly was pretty tall for a lady. Murti, wrapped in her flowery white laced top which was full of Javanese accent, looked like a pure villager. Shelly was impressed by her plain but shining face; no make up used and no single hair of hers fell on her forehead. "Well, it seems like every woman worker here has to pull up their hair and make that kind of bun," thought Shelly. Somehow, Murti's friendliness made Shelly felt glad that she had chosen this resort which she accidentally found while surfing the internet. The calming atmosphere of the area matched the resort which did not look extravagant like other usual resorts, but relatively dominated with wooden and stone nuance.

After walking for about 500m, Shelly and Murti reached a big gate guarded by two medium men in security uniform. This gate was interconnected to a side of Borobudur temple.

"Ah, here we are, Ms. Would you like to be accompanied or..," "Ah, no need. I'll enjoy myself here for some moment. Thank you, Murti," said Shelly before Murti had finished her question. Shelly smiled shortly to Murti and the two securities and directly started walking to Borobudur area.

Now that Shelly was alone, all the “if” thoughts started to peek into her mind. What if, what if, what if.. She should not had done that.. Only if.. “Ah, perhaps it’d be better if I asked Murti to accompany me, I would not be this crazy,” thought Shelly.

She tried to lose herself between the temples; taking the stair one by one until she reached almost halfway to the top. She touched almost every temple she passed.



www.pinterest.com

Shelly walked with an empty mind, touching the awesome relief, the old stones, and hoping that her soul would be as magical as the temples.

“One of the seven wonders.. Would it be able to wipe away my tears?” Shelly wondered.

All Shelly was looking for were silence and serenity which even her religion could not give; she was looking for peace after all she had gone through. When she was wandering around the temples, she saw a hut. Nobody was there, perhaps because it was not a holiday; only normal workdays though Shelly had stopped feeling “normal” since last year. Seeing the hut, she began to feel her legs’ weariness of wandering around. There she sat, cried, and fell asleep. She awoke in darkness and rushed back to the resort.

Not being familiar with the temples, she found herself lost. She could not find any signs showing the way back

to the resort. Just when she met her another despair, she saw a light. The light was coming from a young man, he's perhaps at the same age with Shelly. She froze for a moment, taking a look on the man's appearance. "Hmmm..," thought Shelly before she dared herself to talk to the well-built man. Fortunately, he was also heading to the resort.

"Ah, so you're lost? Come with me then. I know this area pretty well," smiled the man. His smile ensured Shelly that he was not a bad guy; he was just a pretty charming man; well-built, tall, wide eyes, thick cheek bones.. Shelly stopped herself from noticing the guy too much. "Well, at least he didn't look like a serial killer or any other villain," so Shelly nodded her head and began to follow him. Along the way back to the resort, they had a conversation. The man's name was Daud, a Catholic man who loved travelling and peace; that's why he came there. Daud was pretty friendly and gentle; he kept Shelly walk by her side and let Shelly walked in front of him when they have to walk in a narrow path. Daud asked where Shelly came from and found out that both of them live in the same city, Jakarta.

Daud also worked in Jakarta though unlike Shelly, he was not born there. This two-year-older-man came from Jogja, just near Borobudur, where culture and religion had been planted to him since he was little. Jogja was indeed known for its culture; a city of culture and norms. Daud asked many things about Shelly and usually she would throw the same questions; well, she thought she had the obligation to show her gratitude and politeness to the man who was helping her.

"Ah.. I see.. So you could take a vacation here because you work for yor parents. Well, that would be great, but

my life is not any less greater; I'm a photographer. I don't have to go to office; that's why I could manage to do both travelling and my job," described Daud about himself cheerfully. Daud also told stories about Jogja which - Shelly had to admit – amazed Shelly. Daud described how his family was very thick of Javanese culture; friendliness, hospitality, politeness, trust in God, etc.

They suddenly reached the gate which was guarded by the two securities Shelly saw earlier. She did not feel awkward anymore towards Daud; strangely, she felt comfortable talking with him, perhaps because he told interesting stories to Shelly. So, they were finally back to the reception of the resort. Daud's cottage was somehow next to Shelly's. "What a weird coincidence..." thought Shelly when she washed herself off. Suddenly she remembered that she did not see Murti at the reception. Perhaps they had changed shifts. It was already dark when she and Daud came back. She laid herself on the comfy spring bed and threw a glance on the clock; 7 p.m. and in a blink of an eye, she fell asleep.

The next morning, Daud approached Shelly at the restaurant while she was having breakfast. Shelly was not disturbed by Daud's presence, so she welcomed him and thus, they spent the rest days in the resort together. There, Daud knew that Shelly was lost in life; at least he knew that she didn't really have a religion. Daud then told Shelly about how Catholic his family was; that was why his family called him Daud. Daud was not his baptism name, it was his first name; his family wanted him to be able to defeat any problem in spite of how big the burden or problem he might have. They had very fun days. Shelly left a day before Daud did.

In Jakarta, they sometimes contacted each other. Daud often invited Shelly to his religious community events. They knew more about each other, but Daud still thought he only knew little things about Shelly. He wondered why Shelly often daydreamed, looking so sad, and hopeless. However, he thought that if Shelly wanted to share her burden, she would. Thus, he didn't need to worry. Though Shelly had rejected his love for several times, Daud still tried. He believed that he had felt "love at the first sight". Shelly's gentle brown eyes had enthralled him from the first time he saw Shelly with a light in his hand. Shelly, slowly but sure, found her new path: Catholic and Daud. However, for a reason, she knew she had to wipe Daud from her head; and heart.



Someday, the community held an event for public. Shelly had decided to join. This time, Daud picked her up. Just when they got out of the car, a mother and a little girl passed in front of them. The heaven seemed to have a plan. Shelly's purse slipped from her hand. The little girl took it for Shelly and they stared each other. Shelly kept staring her for a moment before she took her purse back.

"Hello, auntie," whispered the little girl with smiling. "You are so beautiful," she threw a wider smile while touching Shelly's right cheek with her little index.

“Mommy, mommy,” she quickly grabbed her mom’s hand back and waved her hand to Shelly. Just then, Shelly felt her knees were weak and in a blink of an eye, Shelly collapsed. She kept quiet though Daud kept calling her name. Daud was sitting her in the car seat when Shelly began to cry. Then she cried more and more hysterically.

After that moment, Shelly knew she could not hide everything anymore. All she had done all these times was deceiving herself and others that things would be fine. She told Daud everything; her past life. She was very metropolitan; she loved jewelry, fame, and anything hedonist. Not only metropolitan, she was drown deeply in the night world. She had gotten used to drinking beers and alcohols. She could handle the guilt of that. What she could not handle was the guilt of free sex; and abortion. Ya, abortion. That was the reason why she had looked for peace and serenity over the guilt and the nightmares that kept haunting her.

She had indeed been drown in the night life; drinking beers, night clubs, and sometimes drugs had became her habit since she was in high school. Her friends did that and her parents were too busy with their works to really care about Shelly’s activities. So, there she was, drowning herself in fake happiness. She had never wanted any relationships because she saw that relationship brought more harm than good. Her parents quarreled as much as they saw each other. However, Shelly was fine with one-night-stand. Well, for safety, of course she took some preventions. But, once, only once... Shelly was too drunk to have any prevention. Not only to have any prevention, she was even too drunk to realize that she was with her friend’s fiancée.

Luck didn't seem to take side on Shelly. She got pregnant. All of nightmares of future start haunting Shelly. On one hand, she was definitely not ready for having a baby; especially raising him without a husband. On the other hand, she could not destroy her friend's happiness. Not to mention, the man did not take his responsibility over Shelly's pregnancy; all he mentioned was to abort the baby.

Then, Shelly took that decision; to abort the baby. Right before she closed her eyes over the anaesthesia, she heard a sound of a baby crying; but that was too late. She woke up in pain, both bodily and mentally. She cried and kept crying until she was about to run out of tears. That last year crying was the first she heard; and never stop haunting her until now. The nightmares did not come up everyday in her dreams now. "Perhaps, it is because it had happened over a year ago, maybe it starts to fade," thought Shelly though she knew what the exact reason was.

Daud, shocked by all those things, took a distance from Shelly. He was a very religious man, this contradicted his values. He held tightly on Javanese and Catholic values. He could still tolerate drinking alcohol and night clubs as he saw many of his friends do that in big cities; but not free sex and abortion. This was way too far from his tolerance, logic, and mind! His tolerance was even only for his friends, not for his wife-to-be. But, Shelly was the only woman that could open his heart and awe him, even from the first time they met. But, he did really love Shelly. But, he wanted Shelly to be his wife. But, Shelly.. But... But.. But... **"Aaaaarghhhhh,"** screamed Daud in frustration everytime she thought about Shelly; which means every minute, no, every second of his

days. He could not work well, sleep well, even think well these last days.

The sorrow and the guilt that once had haunted Shelly came back to her and haunted her even worse. She heard the baby's cry again in her sleeps which awoke her. She had known that she should not be this close with Daud, she knew she did not deserve him, a man-virgin who kept himself in the right path for his future-wife-to-be; but what could she do? She had fallen in love. Again, she found herself in the darkness of life, even darker than she had been before. Even now, the little girl also haunted Shelly. "If I did not kill you, baby, would you also call me mommy?" wondered Shelly.



"Would you think that I'm beautiful? Would you hold my hand? Would you smile to me that way? How would it feel when you touch me? How would it feel when I touch you? Baby, oh... baby... Could I turn back the time?" Shelly wondered, wondered, and kept wondering. She, again, drowned herself in tears and sadness.

Daud then consulted to a father that he knew very well. Unlike his prediction, the father only said as following: "The Yin and the Yang, have you ever heard it? The black one always has something white in it, and so does the white. Aren't we all are like that?"

There, Daud took several days to think about it. He could not understand it. "So what if the black has some white?" thought Daud in confusion. Being drowned in

sorrow, Shelly's face, once again, appeared in his sight. That time, her face appeared with an answer in his heart.

After some days of confusion, she came to Shelly's house. He knew he had to take a decision; he could not just let things be uncertain. He knew what he would do. So, there he was, standing at Shelly's front door. Just after some rings of the bell, the lady he wanted to meet appeared. Shelly was really in a bad condition; she got panda's eyes, her body was very thin, and her hair is messy; she didn't look like the normal Shelly at all. Shelly was surprised to see Daud in front of her door. Daud, unpredictably, knelt to the ground and directly asked Shelly to marry him. "I can't bear living without you. Since that day, I can't do anything well. I know I've left you in frustration, but let me hold your hand once again. I promise I would never leave you anymore. I could accept all of your past as long as you are willing to be in my future. Please, Shelly, please," begged Daud.

Shelly could not hold her tears, but she didn't believe in happiness anymore. She believed that no happiness belonged to her. Every night she had been haunted by baby's cry; she did not have any chance to be happy.

Day by day passed without any significant change; Shelly was too afraid to touch the "happiness" Daud had offered. Just then, Daud had a brochure from the father he once consulted about a retreat. So, Daud made a request to Shelly: joining the retreat; an emotional-wound-healing retreat that was believed could heal the wounds in people's hearts. The retreat was held in a hermitage that took 2 hours away from Bogor, the name was Karmel Valley.

Shelly had indeed believed in Jesus, but she doubted how a retreat could wipe away her nightmares. She could not handle it for over a year, how could the sisters and fathers there -who did not even know her suffering-think they could? While Daud kept asking, Shelly finally agreed.

There, Shelly got sessions of emotional wounds and was asked to let go of them. She consulted to a sister. The sister, Sister Felita, listened to her story, sometimes put her hand on Shelly's back when she was weeping. The sister's sentence kept resound in Shelly's head: "The Yin and the Yang, have you ever heard it? The black one always has something white in it, and so does the white. Aren't we all are like that? Mistakes are mistakes that we could not change, but live your life. Your emotional wound of guilt would only add worse mistakes. Forgive yourself and begin a new life."

Shelly took several days more in Karmel Valley to heal her emotional wound completely. She was mentally and spiritually guided by Sister Felita. She tried and tried and kept trying to let go of the guilt. Everytime the nightmare appeared, she tried to reconcile with the baby whom she had never seen. She tried to accept the past and look towards the future. After 14 days, she was sure that she had accepted her past; she had forgiven herself and loved the baby she had never met.



So, Shelly went back to Jakarta with a new faith. Daud picked Shelly at the travel agent. And, as soon as Shelly saw Daud, she throw a smile to him. “**Yes**, Daud, yes..” said Shelly suddenly. “Sorry for the long-postponed answer. I said yes!” continued Shelly before Daud

cut her. Daud was surprised, not ready that he would get the answer this soon as Shelly got back. He immediately hugged Shelly, ignoring people around them who were watching. Tears started to fall off their eyes.

Thus, Daud and Shelly got married in a very simple but sacred wedding, leaving all the past in the past. This was simply because they had a new faith; just like the answer that Daud once found in his confusion; “You made mistake, but I’m not all good, I made mistake too. Perhaps your mistake is bigger, but your life is also harder. Past would not add anything to our future, but the present would.” So, there they were, standing before the altar and vowed each other in front of the almighty God. They left all the should’ve, would’ve, and could’ve behind and started a new chapter.

THE EFFICACIOUS JAMU



Siek, Wihayatia S.

“Clean the rice and drain it. Roast and then soak it in boiled water for 2 hours. Roast the ginger and galingale, remove and set it aside. Mix the soaked rice, ginger and galingale that have been toasted, fenugreek, cardamom, cubeb and a little salt, then just blend it. Boil sugar and pandan leaves in a water together until sugar dissolved and boil to make sugar water. Mix the galingale rice with sugar water, stir well and strain it,” murmurs my mom while concocting Jamu Beras Kencur.

My name is Kiranti Ratna Maheswari, a young teenage girl. I have a tanned skin and a sweet face because of twin dimples are both on my cheek. My friends usually call me with a nick name “Kiranti”. Well, I have no brother and sister, I am the only child of Mr. Trisno and Mrs. Yayuk spouse, so I am spoiled by my parents. But honestly, I am unhappy with my mom’s job. Why? Because she is a *jamu* seller. *Jamu* is a herbal medicine that totally comes from spices. Moreover, my mom sells *jamu* in Penabur Senior High School, which is my senior high school. I guess my friends will keep distance with me if they know who she is and what her job is. It makes me always feel shy and pretend not to recognize her whenever I meet her in the school. However, I love my mom so much.

“Hi mom.” I addressed my mom when I entered the kitchen.

“Hello honey. Don’t you go to school? This is seven and a half hour,” answered my mom worriedly. She is afraid

that I will come late to the school. But, then I see her making a *jamu*, suddenly I feel resentful to her.

“Mom, I have told you so many times that you should not sell *jamu* in my school. It makes me shy mom. Don’t you understand my feeling? My friends probably will leave me if they know my mother’s job is a *jamu* seller, mom.” I stated.

“What’s wrong with that honey? I work for fulfilling daily needs, for you, for us. If your friends keep a distance with you just because your mother is a *jamu* seller, they should be asked, are they is your truly friends?” She explained with a bit of emotion.

“You never understand mom, never!” I left her while sniffing.

Mrs. Yayuk feels sad and do not know what to do. In one side, she must help her husband to fulfill household needs, but in the other side, actually she knows her daughter’s feelings. However, Kiranti should not be shy with her job. In fact, it is not a job that deserves to be humiliated by other people.

“*Jamu, jamu.. Jamune mas, mbak.*” Dyah mocked me when I passed her and my friends. She uses Javanese language when doing that.

I ignore her and continue my walk. I am so bored with this. Whenever I go to school, I always hear a mockery.

“Hei you! Don’t you hear me?? Or maybe because every day you always drink *Jamu*, so you lose your ability to hear???” Dyah and some of my friends blocked my way.

“Hahahaha. I guess so. I think she drinks too much *jamu*.” Devi, one of Dyah’s friends also mocked me.

“Yes, maybe she is drunk because of it, hahahaha.” Another friend also mocked me. Well, I am a little bit confuse, should I call her friend?? My heart says no, they all are not my friend.

“You all are blocking my way. Go away.” I said to them calmly while bowing my head.

“You want to go? Just go. But lift your head up!” Said Dyah loudly.

“Dyah, don’t you know? She is too shy. She is so embarrassed that she hides her face. She is only the daughter of a *jamu* seller. Can you imagine? It is a really shamefull job. luhhhh...” Devi added. What she said just now is really making me indignant. Then I lift my head up and ready to slap their face. But suddenly, a hand pulled me away from the annoying girls. I aghast when I know the person who pulled my hand.

“Dika? What are you doing?” I said with clumsy.

“Me? Saving you from problem.” Answered him casually. I’ve just thought that what he said is right. He knows I have been very exasperated.

“Thanks. You always be my hero.” I looked him deeply. Knowing that he always saves me from precarious situations, made me grateful.

“You have to control yourself.” He said shortly.

“Hah??! Don’t you erroneously blame me? Dika, don’t you see Dyah and their stupid friends mock me almost every day?? And now you said that I have to control myself, my emotion. I think the one who should do it, is them!” I said peevedly.

“Accept your mom’s job first Kiranti.”

For a while, I am dumbfounded. Dika, he is my friend. Well, actually more than a friend. He is my hero. He is one of the people who still wants to be my friends although he knows my mom’s job. He is also my senior in Junior High School. He doesn’t care with a thing that I called “problem”. “Problem” that I mean here is my mom’s job. He doesn’t shy whenever he around me. In contrast to other friends, even though they seemed to not concern about what I call “problem”, they still look to keep distance with me.

‘Helloo...’ His voice broke my reverie.

“What?” I asked while looked him. I just realize that he has a shady face with a birthmark on his chin and a thin mustache. His skin is bright and his hairstyle is smacking. All of those characteristics make him quite handsome, at least for me.

“Are you okay Kiranti?” He asked while waved her hand right in my face.

“Oh, sorry Dika. What are you talking about?”

“Are you looking at me?” Dika asked with a raised eyebrow.

Suddenly I felt embarrassed for being caught staring at him.

“Yes. Oh, no! No, no, I just feel, hmm I have to go now. I think the first class has already begun.” I said awkwardly.

“Oh. Okay then. I think my class also has begun. See you.” He said while gone by.

When I went to my class I saw my mom. Yes, she still vends *jamu* in my school. Then I continued my step languidly to the class.

Until in the other morning, the first incident happened. Well, there are some incidents that make me wondering and this is the first one. Rani, she is one of my classmates, got a sprue on her mouth. A whole day she looks gloomy and when the recess bell rang, her seatmate, Reno, asked her what happened.

“Rani, what happen to you? Why don't you talk all the day? Are you okay? Are you angry with me?” asked Reno successively.

“Reno, please stop asking a lot of question. You know? I got a sprue in my mouth so I could not speak too much.

It is so smarting.” Rani answered shortly with grimace in pain.

“Oh sorry, I do not know about that. Well, my mom always gives me *Jamu Kunir Asam* when I have sprue. You must try it. Come on, follow me.” Reno asked Rani to buy *Jamu Kunir Asam* from Mrs. Yayuk.

Then they bought a glass of *jamu*. Not too long after it, she feels better and the next day her sprue already deflated. Rani thanked to Mrs. Yayuk and also me as a daughter of Mrs. Yayuk. I was nervous and confuse because I do not know what happened. Then Reno explained what actually happened and I was surprised at that time.

Yet the day after, I remembered it was Tuesday. Darwis, he is also one of my classmates, he needs to be taken to The School Health Unit because he got a fever at school.

“Mam, Darwis is not feeling well. His temperature is high and he feels dizzy.” Darwis’s seatmate reported Darwis’s condition to the teacher.

“Oh, please help me to carry him to The School Health Unit.” answered the teacher.

After he was carried to The School Health Unit, the teacher suggests to one of the duty officers of The School Health Unit to give him *Jamu Cabe Puyang*, because it is known to lower a high fever. *Jamu Cabe Puyang* itself is totally made from herbs and spices such as *paper retrofractum*, ginger, *temu ireng*, curcuma, *kudu*, leaf fennel, *pulosari*, turmeric, pepper, *kedawung*, *keningar*, tamarind, *kunci*, brown sugar, and also white

sugar. The way of making Jamu Cabe Puyang is quite simple. Just mash all the ingredients and put it into warm water. Wait ten till fifteen minutes so that it is permeated. Then strain it and *Jamu Cabe Puyang* is ready to serve. Its taste is actually little bit spicy and bitter.

Soon, she bought the *jamu* and gives it to Darwis.

Surprisingly, the day after it, Darwis already goes to school happily. He thanked Mrs. Yayuk and also me as Mrs. Yayuk's daughter. Again, I surprised with that incident.

And the last incident comes to Mr. Ramaniya, he is the Java Language teacher in my Senior High School. When he taught, he felt pain in his back, and he got aching from rheumatic pain. Evidently, the day before, he and his family moved their home, so he needed to work hard, hauled the goods and the house wares. But suddenly, he remembered, someone has ever said to him that there is a *jamu* which be able to heal aching rheumatic pain named *Jamu Beras Kencur*. Then he asks Shinta, one of my classmates to go and buy *Jamu Beras Kencur*.

"Mrs. Yayuk, I need a *jamu* which is able to cure an aching rheumatic pain for Mr. Ramaniya, but I forget the name of the *jamu*." Shinta tried hardly to remember.

"Let me help you to remember. It is called *Jamu Beras Kencur*. Quick, give this to him." My mom thrusts a glass of *jamu* to Shinta.

As soon as possible Shinta gives it to Mr. Ramaniya. Amazingly, a few hours later he feels really better. Mr.

Ramaniya thanked to Mrs. Yayuk and also me as Mrs. Yayuk daughter.

“Thank you so much Mrs. Yayuk. My back is getting better now. I think that is because of your efficacious *jamu*.” Mr. Ramaniya thanked.

“Oh, you are very welcome Mister. I am glad to hear that.” answered my mom.

He also said to me that I should be proud having a mother who is able to make various *jamu* and it is very effective to prevent and heal some ailments and diseases.

“You should be proud of her, Kiranti. She could make many types of *jamu* which is able to heal and prevent many sicknesses. Probably you can ask her to teach you how to make *jamu*. It could be your special skills later.” Mr. Ramaniya said to me.



Suddenly I was awoken by these three incidents and also the words spoken by Mr. Ramaniya just now. Now,

I am proud to my mom's job and I feel sorry because all this time I am not grateful with my mother's job, whereas many people have already cured by the efficacious *jamu* which is made by my mom.

"Mom, I am sorry, during this time I made you sad. I am shy with your job, so that I pretend not to recognize you in the school. I regretted it mom. Could you please forgive me?" I said guiltily.

"Oh honey. I am sorry too, for making you feel embarrassed. Of course I will forgive you. But, are you still feel shy with my job? Please answer me honestly," asked my mom earnestly.

"Mom, I am apologizing you just now. I have realized that there is nothing wrong with your job. I should not be embarrassed with *jamu* and something like that, otherwise I have to support you. Your job is impressive mom. I am sorry, I am really sorry for all this time." I explained.

"Okay, if you say you have already not embarrassed anymore, so can I use your name as my brand product?" Asked my mom that make me little bit wondered.

"Ohh, sure mom! I'm definitely proud of it." I said enthusiastically.

"Thank you honey. I love you." My mom said while hugs me.

"I am the one who should thank mommy. I love you too." I reply her hug so tightly.

"*Jamu, jamu... Jamune mas, mbak.*"

“I want a glass of *pahitan* and *curcuma*, please.” asked someone.

“Sure! Wait a minute. I will make it for you.” I said enthusiastically. Yes, me. I help my mom selling *jamu*. Even now, I am doing it at school. When the break time comes, I go to her stand and help her selling *jamu*.

”Here you are.” I gave her order.

“I want a glass of *cabe puyang*.”

“Sure! I am reckoning you have a fever or fatigue, right?” I gave the order, while looked towards the buyer.

“Dika??” I shocked when I know the buyer is him.

“Uh, uh?” He answered me while sipped quickly his *jamu*.

“You are right. I got an aching rheumatic pain. But I feel better now. By the way, I am amazed you are here now.” He said as glanced with a smile at my mom.

“Just assume, I have repented now.” I answered with laugh.

“That’s good Kiranti. Your mom always asked to me when the time comes. And I am tired answered with the words: just wait.”

‘Hahahaha. Anyway, thank you Dika. You also make me aware for my mistakes so far.’

“You’re welcome. By the way, I heard from your mother, you will promote her homemade *jamu* to be able to go

abroad. Well, that's a really good expectation. I am sure that it will happen."

"You know about that? Oh my gosh! Mom, do you tell everything to him??"

"Of course. Even, I talk to him that your name will be my brand product. You said that it is okay using your name as my brand product, isn't it?"

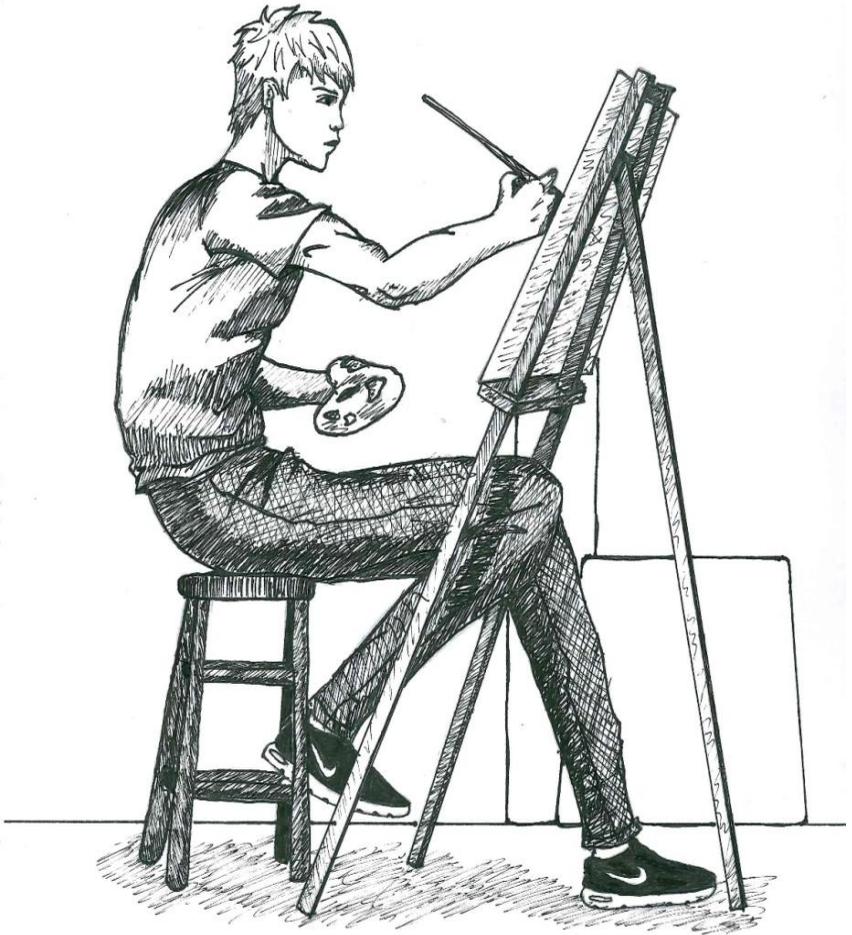
"I am imagining that your name is very suitable to be brand product of *jamu*, Kiranti. I don't know why." Dika said firmly.

"I hope so. By the way, I open recruitment for those who want to be a *jamu* reseller, from now on. Are you interested with it Dika?" I teased Dika and a few seconds later, we both laughed.



Now, my name, KIRANTI becomes one of a brand handmade *jamu* in Jakarta, which sit on the northwest coast of the island of Java. I do not need to be shy anymore, quite the opposite I have to be proud. Even, I have a dream to promote *Jamu Kiranti* to be able to go international later, when I was an adult, as Dika has said above. Because it is a very efficacious herbal medicine and yes, my mom is the seller of it.

THE CANVAS OF LIFE



Andreas Setiawan A.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

“Aryo!”

November 3, 2014. It was still early in the morning, around 5.30, but someone called Aryo from the outside of his room. Aryo quickly woke up to check who was the person calling, leaving his untidy bed and room. Well, it turned out that it was his superintendent, *bu*⁵ Arum. She is the owner of the building in which Aryo lives, or perhaps, to be accurate, the room where he lives right now.

“Aryo, where’s your rent money? You haven’t paid for three months!”

“I’m sorry, *bu*, I haven’t got the money yet. I will pay you as soon as I get the money, I promise.”

“Ha, this is the third time you’ve said it to me, I had enough! I will give you time until the end of this month, you better have the money, or you should leave! This is my final warning.”

Aryo couldn’t reply anything. He could only stood blankly near his door while watching his super left his room.

Deep down, he knows that *bu* Arum has been nice to him for letting him stay at her place eventhough he often pays late and not giving him extra charges for late payments, but patience has its own limit. This is the third time she warns Aryo, but still, he is still unable to get the money to pay her.

⁵ *Bu* is used to call older women in Indonesia. It’s English equivalent is Mrs.

Aryo is a painter who lives in Cirebon. He was born there and lived there since he was still a kid. His parents were also from Cirebon, but they've passed away because of an accident after Aryo graduated from high school. Since then, he lives alone. He always wanted to continue his study to college, but knowing the truth that his parents had passed away and had no money himself, he didn't force his desire. He became a painter instead, like his father once was, because it is his passion. He decided to be a painter because he remembered that his father once said that he should do something that he likes, for doing something that he likes would make him happy, but the truth about becoming a painter in Indonesia says otherwise.

In Indonesia, painters are considered as 'hopeless people'. Eventhough they have superb painting skills, most of the people don't really appreciate them and their works. It's true that Indonesia has some great artists, but in here, they don't really get appreciated much by the society and people rarely buy their works. Even if they do, they wanted them to be as cheap as possible. Painters here really struggled to live, for their earnings are not very decent. They often face life's hardships but they keep becoming one, mostly because of their passion, just like Aryo's.

Every morning, Aryo prepares his equipment, tools, and supplies for painting. He has a place on Kalibaru Street. Kalibaru Street is a place in Cirebon where artists and craftsmen gather. They opened up various art stores along the street, mostly paintings but there are some scuptures and wood crafts too. Usually, Aryo goes

together with *mbak*⁶ Sri, the *terasi* maker, a canteen owner, and Aryo's neighbor, to *Pasar Pagi*⁷, which is near Aryo's workplace. *Teras*⁸, or shrimp paste, is the most common food ingredient produced in Cirebon. It is made from shrimps that are crushed together and then dried, and usually made in the shape of a block. Often, Cirebon is called 'Shrimp City' due to its *terasi*-making activity and its abundant shrimp fishing.

Aryo starts his work at seven and finishes at four in the afternoon. Everyday he paints something, which could be about views, surroundings, objects, or even people or a person. He draws them with all of his heart, making it flawless. His paintings are so good that even Aryo himself is not sure whether it's his or not. Sadly, no matter how good his paintings are, people rarely buy nor look at them.

Every 12 in the afternoon, Aryo closes his store for a while. He usually closes his store for an afternoon break at *mbak* Sri's place in *Pasar Pagi*. He walks from his store on Kalibaru street to *Pasar Pagi*, passing some local foods and snacks stores in front of *Pasar Pagi*. The store sells a variety of Cirebon's authentic and unique foods and snacks, such as dried fruits (*manisan*), salted fishes, and of course, *Terasi*. It took 10 minutes for him to arrive in *Pasar Pagi* from his place. *Pasar Pagi* is one of the big traditional markets in Cirebon, but now the

⁶ *Mbak* is a word that is used to call young women in Indonesia. It's the same as 'Sis' in English.

⁷ One of the biggest traditional markets in Cirebon. The direct translation is 'Morning Market'

⁸ (EN) Shrimp paste. An Indonesian food ingredient made from crushed shrimp. Commonly used to make '*sambal terasi*' (terasi chili sauce)

building has been renovated to have a more modern and cleaner look from the outside and the owner has established a shopping center called 'PGC' or *Pusat Grosir Cirebon*⁹ on the second floor and above. PGC is a shopping center where the local sellers sell their goods such as bag, shoes, clothes, and foods in the cafeteria. The lower part of *Pasar Pagi's* building is where the traditional stores, kiosks, and traditional market are located, so it's more like modern above, traditional below. *Mbak Sri's* canteen is located on the lower part of the *Pasar Pagi's* building. She opens her store from morning until afternoon, just like Aryo. She sells *nasi rames*¹⁰ and *terasi* there. Most of the people who eat at her place are the market's coolies and pedicab drivers. Then, Aryo arrived at her place.

"*Mbak, nasi rames, as usual*", Aryo requested

"Of course, *mas*¹¹." answered *mbak Sri* with a polite manner

While waiting for his food to be ready, Aryo pulled out his cigarette and smoked it. He looked at the building's ceiling, hopeless and confused. He feels like he cannot do anything again in this life.

"Having a rough day, *mas?*", *mbak Sri* suddenly asked Aryo.

⁹ A shopping place above Pasar Pagi. Direct translation: Cirebon Wholesale Center

¹⁰ An Indonesian dish consisting of various side dishes like fermented soybean cake, chicken, egg, etc.

¹¹ A term used to call young men in Indonesia. Similar to 'Bro'

“Yes, *mbak*. I think I will quit becoming a painter and become a coolie instead.” answered Aryo expressionlessly.

“And why is that *mas*?”

“You know, *mbak*, I have not paid my rent for three months to *bu* Arum. Business is bad and I do not have any money to pay her. I still have time until this month only, or otherwise, she will kick me out from her place.”

“Just be patient, *mas*. Fortune will come to you, I am sure of that. You could borrow my money first to pay the rent, I would not mind to lend it to you. I still have some more.” Answered *mbak* Sri, with a soft voice that somewhat tried to calm Aryo’s troubled mind.

“No, *mbak*. I do not want to make you worried of me. You can keep the money, I will try to find other solution for this. Thank you *mbak* for listening to my problem, it relieves me a little”, Aryo answered, now with a more ease tone.

After the conversation, Aryo then quickly finished his food and returned to his store on Kalibaru Street. Hours passed and still, as usual, no one comes to his store. Aryo then tidies up the place, packing his belongings and equipments back from the store and preparing himself to pick up *mbak* Sri from her canteen, then going back home.

Back in his room, after saying goodbye to *mbak* Sri and putting his tools and equipments, Aryo was lost in thoughts. He really thought about what he should do next. His brain says that he should find other jobs than being a painter, because it would surely ‘give’ him

money for his needs and rent, but deep down inside his heart, he doesn't want to, for painting is his passion. He got stressed again by thinking about it, unable to think about the solution straight.

Due to his unstable state of thinking, Aryo then decided to sleep. He thought that it is the best thing to do for now, as he is tired, too. He will decide what would he choose to do with the latter part of his life tomorrow morning. Could it be a life-changing decision for him? Or could it be a worst decision of his life? What Aryo choose tomorrow will determine his own future.

The next morning, Aryo wakes up early. After some thinking, he then have decided about what should he do today. Yes, he chose to survive first. He set aside his passion for the sake of his own survival. After getting ready, Aryo then goes to *mbak* Sri's place, saying that he couldn't take her to her canteen as usual, for he wanted to seek for a job that he could find and do.

"*Mbak*, I'm sorry that I can't take you to your canteen today. I want to find a job."

"Oh, that's okay *mas*. I am glad to hear it.", says *mbak* Sri, encouraging Aryo

"Thanks *mbak*, I appreciate it. Oh, and it seems that I won't be a coolie, too, like what I said earlier, hahaha."

"Well, if you do *mas*, I wouldn't even approve it. You are better than that!", teases *mbak* Sri.

Both of them then heartfully laughs, as if there were no problems in the world.

“Well *mbak*, it seems that I have to go now. Goodbye *mbak*! I hope your canteen will be full today!”

“Okay *mas*, and thank you. I pray for your success!”

After some conversation with *mbak* Sri, Aryo then goes to jalan Karanggetas, where many stores reside. He goes from each store to store, asking if there’s a job vacancy for him. Hours passed, and he still hasn’t found a job, but Aryo isn’t a weak-hearted man. He seeks once more, believing that this time he will get a job, whatever it is.



Aryo’s taking a rest after going from stores to stores to find a job

He walks and walks again, and then he found a bookstore. Then he asked the clerk there about a job vacancy.

“Excuse me, my name is Aryo and I am looking for a job right now. Is

there any job vacancy, anything at all, in this bookstore?”

“Uhm, I am sorry *mas*, but we’re not opening any job vacancies right now, so I am afraid that there is none.”, replied the clerk.

“Please, *mas*. I would do anything that I am asked to do, I really need to get a job because I need to pay my rent,

mas. I have been looking for one since morning and I still got none,” Aryo explained with a desperate voice.

The clerk couldn't reply him, he is confused about what he should say to him because he is not the owner. He is afraid that if he gave him a job without permission, he would get fired.

“Once again, I am very sorry *mas*, we don't have any job vacancies right now. To be honest, I'm not even the owner, so I don't have the rights to give you one. I know that how hard it is *mas*, I myself have to feed my family, and it is not an easy struggle for me.”

After hearing the clerk's explanation, Aryo understood about what he said and felt. After saying thank you and goodbye, Aryo then left the bookstore, walking desperately to his house, for he has given up hope of getting a job, ready to get kicked out by Bu Arum.

“Hello *mas*, how's the store?”

“Ah, *mbak* Lia! Welcome back *mbak*! How are you?” the clerk surprised

It was *mbak* Lia, the daughter of the bookstore's owner. She is a smart and independent woman. She just recently came back and graduated from her study in Australia, majoring in Arts.

“I am fine, thank you. How are you, *mas*? Oh yes, I saw you talking with someone when I went out from my car. Who was he?” *mbak* Lia asked

“Oh, he was just an ordinary man who looked for a job, *mbak*. He seems very desperate. He said to me that he needed a job for paying his rent, but we don't have any

vacancies right now, so I said sorry to him for letting him down...”, the clerk explained sincerely

After hearing the clerk’s explanation, without hesitation, *mbak* Lia ran off towards Aryo who is still near the bookstore

“Hey, you there, wait!”

Aryo was surprised, he heard that someone was shouting at him. After making sure that it is directed to him, he stopped.

“You are Aryo, right? I have listened the clerk’s explanation about you, he said that you are looking for a job to pay your overdue rent payments. I know how it feels, so I have a job for you,” said *mbak* Lia

“Yeah, that’s right. And you are?” replied Aryo curiously

“Oh, right! I’m sorry, I haven’t introduced myself properly. My name is Lia, and I’m the daughter of the store’s owner.”

“Oh, I see. Well, my name is Aryo, *mbak*. Nice to meet you!” replied Aryo in high spirit.

“Nice to meet you, too. So how about it? Will you take it?”

“Yes, I would be glad to take it, anything will do!”, Aryo replied happily

After hearing Aryo’s response and spirit, *mbak* Lia automatically shows her glistening teeth, brightening up the mood.

“Okay, then follow me,” ask *mbak Lia*

Then Aryo followed her inside the bookstore, going upstairs, to the room where all of *mbak Lia*’s paintings is stored and displayed. As a fellow painter, Aryo is amazed with her works and he can’t help but to look at them.

“Well, Aryo, I want you to rearrange these paintings based on the numbers that I have given behind them. Is that okay?” asked *mbak Lia* suddenly

Without hesitation, Aryo accepts her request and do his job as fast and as precise as he could. Minutes passed while Aryo is arranging the painting, and eventually he finished arranging all of it. *Mbak Lia* is amazed of Aryo’s work precision and speed. Then she told him to take a rest, and excused herself because she has something to do downstairs.

Aryo then kicks back and relax in the sofa-like chair near the gallery. He is very glad that fortune is with him today. He can’t stop to smile and thanking God for this chance.

After a few minutes of sitting back, he saw a blank canvas and some oil paints. Those things make his desire to paint risen up from his heart, and without hesitation, he started to paint it and got an idea about what he is going to paint.

He starts his painting by making stroke by stroke, layer by layer, and then the detailings for the finishing touch. It was a painting about a mother that waits for her son to come home from war, and the son comes back home. He entitled the painting ‘Faith’, because he believed that

his faith has taken him to this point of his life, both good and bad, but gives the best results for him. It was based on his own struggle in life. Not long after he finished his painting, *mbak* Lia came back upstairs, with some foods and drinks, and also, with a surprised feeling from noticing Aryo's painting.

"Aryo, is that your painting?", asked *mbak* Lia curiously

"Wha—eh, *mbak* Lia?! Yes *mbak*, it is. I am very sorry! I just can't hold my desire to paint. I would do anything that you ask me to do for the compensation of my behavior then *mbak*... I am very sorry..." replied Aryo, surprised and regretfully

"No, that's okay, Aryo. I am not angry at you. In fact, I am very surprised that your painting is very flawless. The motion of your brushwork, tone of colors, and other details is like the ones of the master painters'. Aryo, would you like to come to art exhibition in Australia with me?"

"Eh, seriously *mbak*?!" Aryo shocked

Aryo is dazed by her statement. His feelings were mixed between happy and confused. It feels like he doesn't believe what he just heard and saw, but he knew that it was real and really happened. Without much hesitation, Aryo said 'yes' to her.

"Great! Then please be prepared for the trip. We will go in two days, and this painting of yours... I will keep it for now. We will take it to be displayed in the exhibition as your painting.", explained *mbak* Lia

Then after he finished his work, Aryo went back home. He met *mbak* Sri and told her about what happened today.

“Hello *mas*, how’s today?”

“Today is very great *mbak*! I finally got a job in a bookstore on Karanggetas street!”

“Congratulations *mas*!” cheers *mbak* Sri in joy

“But, I will be leaving to Australia in two days, *mbak*. When I took a break after my work’s done, I painted something and when the owner, *mbak* Lia, came back, she was surprised and wanted to take it to an exhibition in Australia, with me as the painter.”

“Then go for it, *mas*. I am sure that this is your once-in-a-lifetime chance. You always told me about how you love painting so much, so don’t ever think about bailing on this one!” cheered *mbak* Sri, supporting Aryo

“Yes *mbak*! I will! I will tell you all about it when I came back to Indonesia!”

After having a brief conversation with her and giving his goodbye to her, Aryo prepared everything for the trip and said goodbyes for a while to other people that he knew.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

“Who is it?”

“This is Aryo, *bu*.”

Yes, Aryo decided to inform about what happened to him today to *bu* Arum, and he also wants to explain some things to her.

“Oh, Aryo. It’s very rare indeed for you to come over to my place. Do you want to pay your rent? Have you got the money?”

“No, *bu*. I haven’t got the money. But I promise you that I will pay you, now that I’ve gotten a job. Also, I want to excuse myself for a while *bu*, maybe for 4-5 days, for I have to go to Australia, to the art exhibition. I am going to be the representative for the painting that I’ve made while I was working today. Please wait a little longer *bu*, I will surely pay all of my rent to you.”

Bu Arum is shocked to hear Aryo’s statement. She stared at him for a little while, thinking that maybe she has been harsh to him for some time. Then, she replied him

“That’s okay, Aryo. I trust you. I hope you a safe trip. Please return here safely. May God be with you”.

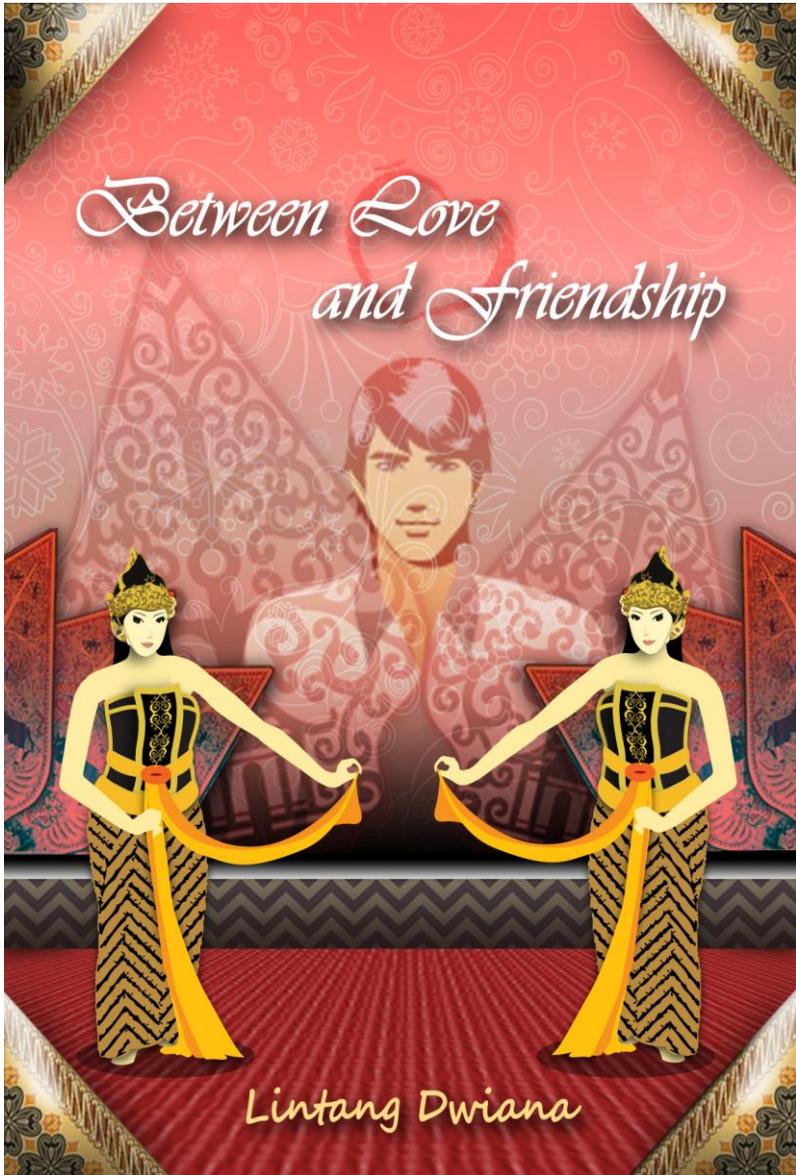
Aryo is somewhat sad to hear her statement, and at the same time, he is happy. He is very glad to know that *bu* Arum is actually care about him. Aryo thought that perhaps, his life isn’t so bad at all, for he is surrounded by good people around him, like *bu* Arum and *mbak* Sri, and even *mbak* Lia.

Days passed and finally Aryo arrived in Australia’s art exhibition with *mbak* Lia. There are many paintings displayed, and those are made by famous artists from all over the world.

Suddenly, a man comes to Aryo and *mbak* Lia. He asks whether it is his painting or not. Aryo confirms, says that it is his painting. The man looks happy, and he straightforwardly asks him to buy his work of art. He offered him \$100.000 for his painting. Aryo and *mbak* Lia are shocked, but the man is serious. Aryo accepts his offer right away.

After the exhibition, Aryo suddenly becomes a rich man. He then quickly returned to Indonesia to pay all of his debts. He paid *bu* Arum more than his debts are, saying that he was very thankful for her kindness and then he packed all of his belongings from his old room. He said goodbye too to *mbak* Sri, also thanking her for her kindness and care. He also gave her some money for her canteen business, then he left the place.

Now, Aryo owns his own house and gallery, and he continued to follow his passion to be a painter. His works got well known since then and he became a very successful painter. After spending some time together with *mbak* Lia, Aryo then decided to marry her, for both of them loves each other and they eventually have two children, who surprisingly loves art too, like their parents. He is also known as a philanthropist. He created a foundation for the artists and painters to help them to develop their skill and passion. Until today, he believed that 'Faith' has led him to his success and future.



“Ran, finally we finished our three years in this school”.

“Yeah, absolutely, Dell. Finally, we will not meet “Tata Boga” course, if I think about the course, I really feel that I really trapped.” Rani has answered with her smile that shows her happiness,

“Hahaha, I am remember that you have gotten 45 in making a desert and 50 in making an appetizer”. Della answered with her wide laugh.

“Della, do not say about that. I’m really embarrassed”. Rani said.

“HAHAHA... you are really proud to having me as your partner.” Della said with her satisfied face.

They are talking about any memories in the past whether about the course or anything else. Then, they remember about one of their memories in “Tata Boga” course. “Tata Boga” is a course that learns about cooking and Rani is really bad this course but Della is good one. Rani always fail in this course and she really like if she get Della as her partner because Della can helps her to slip away from the bad score. Actually, they are really different in characteristic but they have the same interest in dancing, Della more like modern dance and Rani like traditional dancing. However, both of them are really like in dancing.

Today is their graduation day. Della and Rani have finished their junior high school. They are really happy with their result. Truly, it is the day that they really wait

for and they are also commemorating their friendship that has been together in four years. They meet each other, when their parents have attended in a reunion event. At first, they only know about their names and interests but after that they become closer and closer. However, for one year they realized that they are connected with each other.

Truly, Della and Rani are two different people with one heart and one promise. Della and Rani have been together for over four years. They really feel that they are like one person with two different characteristics, one has sense in fashion and another has not sense in fashion. Nadella Auriar Gitanjali called as Della is the one who really care about her fashion and makeup. She really has sense in fashion. She knows what she wear and how mixed it. She wants to be a designer someday. Every day she will match her clothes with the accessories. She really likes pink-milk color. A lot of her stuff are pink starting from bed, wall in her room, wardrobe. Truly the pink color is really matching her because she is a warm person, romantic person, and also has a bright smile as beautiful as a pink rose. The other friend, Mahesa Rani Zah ratusika is usually called by Rani. She really has no sense in fashion. She will wear anything that she wants to wear. She does not care about her fashion at all including mix and match. She really loves natural color like black and white. Because she is a brave woman like man that is represented in black color and she is also as pure as white-blue sky and she also a natural person that this

side represented in white color. Her room also all in white, but some of things are in blue. Someday, she wants to become a traditional dancer because her mother is also a traditional dancer.

One day, Rani found information about traditional dancing class in the internet [Why is she using internet? Because nowadays is a technology era that gadget and internet as being a primer for many people]. She thinks that it is a good idea and the place also not far from their school, so Rani thinks that she can go to traditional dance class after the school ended. Tomorrow, Rani will tell Della about it. She thinks Della will agree about her decision.

"Morning, pinkers!" said Rani. Sometimes Rani called Della pinkers whenever she wears pink suits. "Morning, Miss flat!" Della said with a laugh. Sometimes Della also called Rani Miss flat because Rani like black and white that is a flat color for Della. Today, they will go to SMA Negeri 65 Semarang that will become their next school. They have already filled up the registration form in the internet and now they will look at the announcement that shows up the result of their registration. Yeah! They feel really excited after look at the announcement. They always have their luckiness because they always have same class again and again.

"Della, I have something that to tell you about a traditional dance class." Rani began to tell about what she found yesterday.

"Traditional dance class?" Della answered with curious faced.

"Yesterday, I found information about the traditional dance class. In there, we can learn any traditional dance like "*Jaipong*", "*Yapong*", and "*Gambyong*". The place is also close from our school. I really want to take the class; do you want to join me, please?" Rani said.

"What are Jaipong, Yapong and Gambyong? What is the difference between them? Those three words sound similar." Della asks to Rani about the dance because Della only knows about modern dance.

"Oh my God, Della. Jaipong and Yapong are traditional dances from West Java. Jaipong itself is a "*sinden*" [a singer that sing traditional song that accompanied by gamelan] dance. Yapong is similar to Jaipong but Yapong more likely an entertaining dance because the dance is full with variation movements. Gambyong is a traditional dance from Central Java. Gambyong is a combined from folk dance and court dance." Rani explained it.

"Ahh, yeah yeah I understand now,"

"Umm, okay! I will join you. I think it will be fun if we could learn our culture" said Della with smile.

"Really? You really want to go with me to take the class? Oh my God, thank you Della. You are really my best friend" said Rani with full of her happiness.

Today is their first day in school and also their first day to go to the traditional dance class. Both of them are really excited.

"Rani, come on! We will late if we are not going now!" said Della with the panic-faced.

"Okay Okay Pinkers. I'm ready!" Rani gets out from her house with the bag in her left hand and bread in her right hand.

"Miss flat, are you really difficult to wake up early? Why always become like this, everyday?" Della said with annoyed feels.

"I'm sorry, Della the beautiful pinkers. I promise that I will wake up earlier tomorrow" said Rani with bright smile. Actually, a promise just a promise. Rani still cannot wake up early and Della will feel annoyed every morning but they always go to school together. In the afternoon after the ending of the school they will go to the traditional dance class. They have been attended the class four times by now. They are still learning about the basic movements in traditional dance like foot movement or how to be flexible. Their teacher said that tomorrow they will meet a dancer from Yogyakarta, she said that the dancer is a man and have the same age

like them. The dancer has been learned traditional dance for three years that means he really has a lot of experiences in dancing. Rani and Della really curious about that man and they cannot wait till tomorrow.

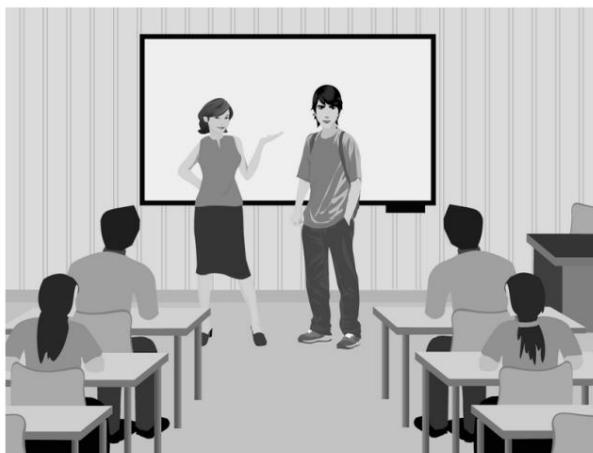
“Ran, can you imagine how the face of the man?” Della said.

“I do not know, just wait until tomorrow and we will see him.” Rani answered with flat faced.

“Okay Okay .. Please tomorrow please... **arrghh** .. Why the times are moving really slow?” Della said. Actually, she just talks to herself because Rani was not listen to Della. Because of Rani was serious with her gadget that is opened a social media called instagram [one of social media that for sharing moments by photo], she has been stalked a handsome man, with bright smile that has dimples in his cheeks and he is a dancer. Rani really likes that boy and she hopes that she can meet with him in real life.

Today is d-day which has been waited for the two girls because today, they will meet their new dancer in their traditional dance class. Della is really prepared all of the clothes until the accessories. She really worried if she is not look good in the first sight. Another one, Rani just wears as usual. She also worried about then but she only prepared on her smile, talk, and greet. Yeah, we know that she is a simple person.

Finally, they arrived at school. Today morning their class is really like a market that is full of chit chat and really noisy. They do not know what is it going? What happened today? They are really full of questions. Until one of their friends come and tell what is going about? She said that today a new student will come and he is the one of popular student in his past school. The gossip of him already spread out and all of the students have been talk about him.



“Good morning, students. Today, as all of you know that we have a new classmate. This is good news for the girls because the new classmate is a boy.” Said Ms. Arina.

“Hello. Good morning. My name is Mahendra Duta Aruna and usually called as Duta. I came from Yogyakarta.”

“Ran, do you think that Duta is handsome, right?” Della said to Rani with the bright and clear eyes.

“Yeah, I think so,” Rani answered without focusing on Della. She already known him because he is the man who stolen her heart from a long time. He is the handsome man in instagram that Rani has become his stalker for a long time. Her wish already happens and she cannot believe it. She always pointed at him when he talks in front of the class, she fall and fall in love again. She did not recognize that Della also like him, now she only focuses on him and nobody can change her focus.

“Ran, do you think this is the person who will become our new friend in traditional dance class? Because Miss Putri said that the new member is a boy from Yogyakarta.” Della said with really interested face.

At first, Rani thinks that it is impossible. A boy from Yogyakarta is not only Duta, maybe anyone else. As she knows from Duta’s instagram, he never uploaded any traditional dance video of him. Duta always upload about drum because he is a drummer and really likes music.

The end of the school is coming, Rani and Della is going to the traditional dance class. Duta, for the first time is greeting them.

“Hello, are you Rani and Della?”

“Yes, we are,” Della answered with her happiness in her face.

“Ahh, are you joining the traditional dance class that the class are not far from the school, right?” Duta was asking to two girls.

“Absolutely, are you the one who Miss Putri said as a new member?” Rani ask with her curiosity.

“Yes, I am. I know you from Miss Putri and she said that I should go there with you.”

“Really? Okay, let’s go!” Della answered with full of her spirit.

Rani has been looking at him with her deep and deep feeling of love. She really feels fall in him, really love him, and anything about him makes her happy. Besides that, Della also feels same but she feels that this is the first sight love. Before she knows anything about him, she already falls in love with him.

The two girls do not know that they are falling in love with the same boy. Until after the traditional dance class end, Della tells to Rani that she already falling in love with Duta, she said that she really like him, anything about him. Della also said that Duta is her ideal type for boyfriend. Because of Della really likes a boy who is good in arts and Duta is a dancer and drummer.

After Rani hears about Della’s feels about Duta, she becomes frozen at same time. She really confuses

because she also going to talk about her feeling about Duta to Della, but after she heard it, she cannot tell her the truth that Rani has been like Duta for a long time even she also becomes his stalker.

Day by day has passed and Rani still does not tell Della about her feels to Duta. All of the time she only become listener for Della's story about Duta, she only smile, say yes, and give some comments. Della and Duta become closer and closer, they like has been faith to be together. Della's personality is like a woman ideal type, she is really feminim, romantic, and she also can cook. Duta also like a man ideal type, he has body that every man wants to be [tall, handsome face and has dimples, can fight, athletic], he also has sense in music [he can dances, plays drum, guitar, keyboard, and he also can sing].

Besides that Rani fells so sad. She is happy seeing Della happy but Rani will more happy if the man is not Duta. Rani always asks to herself to forget anything about her feels to Duta but she cannot do it. Every night, every day, she always try to do that but after seeing Duta with Della, she will mellow again and said that she cannot do it, anymore.

Day by day, Rani's feels to Duta become deep and deeper. But

"Rani, Miss Flattt !!!" Della has shouted.

Rani with shocked face, "Yeah, what's going della? Any problem do you want to talk?"

"No... No ... it is not a problem, it is really amazing news." Della said with her ear to ear smile.

"What is that? Please tell me about that"

"Do you know that I go to movies with Duta last night, right? I have been told you before"

"Yeah....." Rani answered with her bad feeling.

"Okay ... and then... do you know that Duta is really romantic person?"

"Yeah, Yeah, Yeah ... I know about that, and then, what? Tell me quickly." Rani becomes more curious while her heart has been falling down.

"We were not to go to movies but to the musical. And then, after all of show that has been appeared, he was singing on the stage and giving flower to me."

"Really? And then, he said any word or just gives the flower?" Rani has been feels pain and pain, she becomes cold and cold.

"He was not said a word but he read a poem that is "I Love You, Della. I love you more and more. I love anything about you, from your hair until your foot, from the moon to the back. I remember how you greet me for the first time, how your first sight to me, how your smile

to me in any moments, how your laugh, your anger, your sadness and anything that you did, I really remember about that, I really loved all of that. This song titled one and only that has been made by me. The titled is for you, when I arranged this song, I only thinking of you. The lyric is anything that I want to tell you that mean I love you.”

“He is really tells about that?”

“Absolutely, Ran. I also cannot imagine that he also likes me and he can do that special thing to me.”

“So, are you dating, now?” Rani has been hurt by any word that Della said, but she said for herself to not crying at that time.

Della will answer Rani’s question but at that time Duta came and say,

“Yes, Della and I are dating, Ran. Tonight, we plans some party, Will you go?” Duta said with his sweet smile.

Rani become happier because seeing Duta, “Yes absolutely, I will go.”

THAT NIGHT...

Della and Duta arranged mini-party to celebrate their dating. Both of them are falling in love with each other.

Della and Duta also wear couple clothes. They also prepared a cake that their photos in the top of the cake.

Rani come with wearing white dress and she also put a makeup. She looks like different person and truly, she become prettier. Duta also become a person that said Rani become prettier tonight and she really fits in her dress.

Many guests have attended and the party becomes lively. Shortly, the party start and Duta give little speech to all of the guests that can attend in here. While the party getting loud, a beautiful woman with red dress comes to the party, she is tall and slim, she also has long hair, her eyes are sparkling and perfect.

“Hi, Duta. It has been a long time not seeing you.” She said.

“Why can you be here, Zeta?” Duta has been shocked in a while after seeing her.

She is Duta’s ex-girlfriend, her name is Odelia Zeta Najja Anindya and called as Zeta. When Duta and Zeta was dating and falling in love with each other, both of them called ideal couples, they also become dance partner; they also become a partner in music. They are like a perfect match.

“I have moved to your school, Duta.” Zeta said with her sweet smile.

“Why?”

“I ... I ... I just want to be with you, again. Is it wrong, Duta?”

“**Arrrgghhhh**... What do you mean? Want to be with me, again? Hah ... it’s really impossible.” Duta said with his angry eyes.

“Why? Why it is impossible? Because of this woman, right?”

“I think you are crazy, Zeta. Whether it is because of Della or not, it is still impossible!”

“Because of I cheated on you in the past? And you still cannot forgive me? Please give me one more chance, Duta. I will show you how I like you very much, how I really regret what I do in the past. I know you still love me, I know and really know.” Zeta said with her regretful and sadness.

“Whatever what you say, Zeta.” Duta said and then hold Della’s hand and leave Zeta.

2 DAYS AFTER...

“Hoammm Morning, Zeta. I hope today is a good day.” Zeta said for herself in front of the mirror with her sweet smile.

Today is the first day for Zeta to go to her new school. She feels excited and excited, she cannot imagine that

she will go into the same school as Duta. She hopes that Duta will accept her as his girlfriend again.

“Good morning all, My name is Odelia Zeta Najja Anindya and usually called as Zeta.”

“Okay, this is Zeta. She is from Yogyakarta. I hope all of you can accept her and treat her in a good way.” Said Miss Nani.

“Waw ... she really beautiful, perfect!” said the one student.

“She is really perfect, beautiful eyes, body, and even smile also perfect.” Said another one.

The other students are busy for looking at Zeta. They are really fall in Zeta. Yeah, it is true that Zeta is really perfect, she has sparkling eyes, dimples and sweet smile, tall and slim, and she also a dancer, and it is really a perfect match.

Della who is seat behind her, really feels nauseate in Zeta. She thinks that Zeta is really a good actress, she feels like she is watching a drama who the character has two side. In the other side, Rani, she also feels nauseate but even she feels nauseate, she feels that something will be happen between Della, Zeta, Duta, and her.

“Ran... I really scare if Duta will back to Zeta. I really love him, really.” Della said with sadness eyes.

“It’s okay, Della. Duta is still in your side.” Actually, Rani answered without any doubt at all but she feels really hurt inside her heart. She always try to pretend that everything is okay to her, but day by day seeing Duta and Della become closer and happier and also full with love, she really feels pain and hurt. Her feeling like thousand stones are came to her and hit her heart.

Zeta always does anything to persuade Duta. She still believe that Duta has a same feels to each other.

Until

“Hey, new student. Please seat.” Said Rani.

“Oh, you are Rani, right?”

“Yeah ... it is Rani ... what do you mean by always send give to Duta. Do you think that keep the entire letter? No more give, and if you want to persuade him in the real situation.” Said Rani in a bad mood.

“I just want to show my loves to him, do you also like Duta?”

“What are you say? I love Duta?”

“Yes, your eyes are saying that. It is okay to like a man even it is their best friend.”

“What? It is okay? Hoahhh You are really a crazy woman.”

Day by day are left, without any believable reason, Duta is giving response to one of Zeta's letter. He read one sentences by one sentences. Then, he knows why she cheats him. Duta knows that Zeta is not an evil person; she is the person that has warm-hearted. However, Duta begins to accept Zeta, again. In other side, Della has known that Duta begins to accept Zeta and start to meet Zeta personally. Even though she knows about that, she pretends that she does not know anything. She always motivated herself to think in positive ways, "I believe Duta, I believe Duta" she always said that in her heart.

In the traditional dance class, their teacher said those two weeks later, they have a Serimpi dance performance in front of many people. Do you know about Serimpi dance? Serimpi dance is a dance that comes from Yogyakarta. The dancers wear a Yogyakarta palace wedding dress with "*dodotan*" and "*gelung bokor*" as a motive in the head ornament. But as the time flow, the costume changed to seredan cloth and armless dress with frilled headdress of cassowary feathers and a bracelet with ceplok flower ornament and jebehan. Serimpi dance actually perform with four people who are all women. The four women will represent four elements in the world; there are grama (fire), toya (water), wind (air), and Earth (ground). But now their dance teacher wants to arrangement it. She puts Duta as the center and represents grama or fire.

Today, the teacher will choose who will become main character in the dance performance. She chooses Duta as the man and for the woman, she chooses Zeta. It is really unbelievable result, Della and Rani is shocked. Actually for Della, she really becomes dropped and dropped. She feels like this is the end of her ideal relationship with Duta. She feels that Zeta will use this opportunity to become closer again with Duta, and then Duta will accept her again as a girlfriend and throw her.

Moments by moments are happened between Zeta and Duta. Both of them are closer now because they meet every day to practice the dance. Della becomes more jealous and she decided to meet Duta to say about her feels but, before she said about her feels to Duta, she has seen Duta hugs Zeta and they smile together. Della really shock about that and she runs quickly as she can with crying a lot. She does not know that her ideal relationship become worse and tragic. Rani that did not know anything just hugs Della and said "It's okay."

ONE WEEK LATER...

"Duta, I think I need times to think about our relationship." Said Della.

"Do you mean, break up?"

"Yeah, something like that. I think we should introspection ourselves."

“What’s wrong Della? Hmm okay, if you want it, I will do.”

After heard Duta’s answer, Della just leaves him without any word.

“Heah They are broke up and it will become a chance for me.” Said Rani.

As we know that Rani also really likes Duta and she want him become her boyfriend. Since Della becomes Duta’s girlfriend, she does not have any chance to meet and talk to him.

“My plans are doing well, yeahh ... very very well, thank you Zeta for your help!” Rani said with tricky smile.

“Yeah ... it is okay .. Thanks for you because I also have a chance to regret what I do in the past so what should I do for the next?” said Zeta.

“Just do as usual, and don’t forget to talk about me, okay?”

“Don’t worry about it!”

Yeah ... between them are really like a puzzle and now the puzzle is already solved. The one who invite Zeta is Rani, the one who tricky is Rani and the one who managed all of the things that happened is Rani.

Rani is really good in acting, she really pretends that she did not know anything, she is pure but in fact that she is the worst.

All of her plans are doing well, thanks to Zeta who helps her. Now, Rani become closer to Duta, she really loves it. Della that does not know anything just acts as usual until one day before the performance. She is seeing Rani talks to Zeta, they look closer and they also laugh together. At first, Della does not care about it because maybe Rani just greets her. But, she becomes curious about both of them and she decided to listen about their chit chat.

“Okay, it is d-day of our plans, Zeta. Don’t forget about it!” Said Rani.

“Don’t worry, babe”

“What are they talking about?” it is the question that comes in Della’s mind.

“I cannot imagine how Duta will hugs me later on... I really happy, woahhh ... it’s really my day.” Said Rani with her smile that shown happiness.

“Yeah .. One step closer ... and don’t forget to keep our secret from Della, okay!”

“I know .. I really know it, Zeta.”

Della shocked at all, she did not believe that her best friend was betrayed her only because of a man. She really hurt, hurt and hurt again. She does not know if her best friend become like that, become a tricky person. Della holds back her tears and then come out from her hiding place and clapping.

“Woahh ... it’s really like a drama. Both of you are really good actress. Woahh ... I can’t believe it, actually you, Rani!” Said Della with her anger.

“Wait .. Wait, Della .. It is not like that. Please let me explain, please”

“What? Explain? About what, Ran?”

“Please, Dell.” Rani said with step closer to Della.

“Don’t come to me !!! I said don’t come to me !!!! I never know you, you are not my best friend, you really ... aghhhhh !!” Della said with hit her head and cries and then leaves Rani.

After that situation, Della and Rani never talk to each other. Della decides to does not attend the traditional dance club and also change the seatmate. Della becomes an introvert person. Besides that, Rani still does not know how talk and explain anything to Della, she feels bad to her. She really regret about all of the foolish things that happened in the past.

What happened to Duta? Back to the previous situation, After Della knows about all of Rani’s plans, Duta heard

the things that happened from Zeta, she told about anything include the reason why Rani doing that. Duta is shocked because of him, a relationship between two girls are broke up, only because of him. Then, Duta decided to arrange a plan for Rani and Della. He promised to himself will make them become a best friend again. Zeta also helps him. Actually, Zeta is not a weird person, she only misunderstand about the situation because she thinks that Della is the one who tricky and stole Duta from Rani.

The plan is moving and become better. At first, Duta is having hard time to talk with Della, because she always disappear when he want to talk to her. But, he is smart, he send letter to her and explain all of his feeling to her,

Dear Della,

How are you? I hope that you are in good situation.

I just want to ask and tell you about something,

First, why do you always avoid me? I do something wrong? Just let me know, Della.

You never want to talk with me and I also having a hard time because of that.

The second is, I know you are angry with Rani about the things that happened in the past. I just let you know that I never like Rani, I only like you, Della. It was my fault because at the past, before I met you, I have been known Rani from Instagram, she always likes my photos and also always comment on it. I respect for her like and sometimes, I also like her photos and reply her comment. I did not know that because of that Rani becomes more and more like me. I think this happened because there is a misunderstanding. For Zeta, yeah it is true that she is my ex-girlfriend and I have bad memories about her, but now we decide to accept each other as a friend, and also forgive about all of that happened in the past.

Della, I hope you understand about this and I hope you become a true Della. Truly, now I really does not know who you are, Della. You really become a different person. I hope that you forgive Rani, Zeta and me. I hope.

Duta.

Della read with blow up her tears, she does not know that she become a weird person. She really does not know if she becomes an unidentified person. Yeah, after she read the whole of the letter, she decides to meet Duta, at first.

“Long time no see, Duta.”

“I think you already read my letter.”

“Yeah, I already finished read it and I really sorry about my word that want to break up our relationship without hear any reason from you.”



“It’s okay, Della.”

“But, I think it will be better if we only become friend because I didn’t want have any misunderstand

again.”

“Yeah, I know that you will ask about that. The important thing is you should meet Rani, she really regret about what she did in the past.”

“Absolutely, I will meet her. Thanks Duta, and please tell Zeta about my apologize, bye.”

As soon as after Della meets Duta, she comes to Rani’s house.....

“Ran Ranii ... Miss Flat “

“Della? Is it really you, Della?”

“Yeah, it is me, I have been heard the entire story about you and Duta in the past. I regret that I never ask you

about Duta, I never ask you about your feel to Duta, I'm sorry Rani, I know that this is the biggest fault and I know that I'm a selfish person." Della said with crying.

"Don't cry Miss Pink, it's okay. I also regret about what I did to you in the past, I broke your relationship and become a loser, I'm sorry"

Both of them are cry and cry as they can. After that, Della, Rani, Zeta, and Duta become best friends and they also make a group band and also traditional dance group. In the dance group, finally they perform well with Duta and Rani as a couple. They are performing Serimpi dance in the theatre in front of many people, their performed was really we



II. They were performing for 15 minutes with their slow and soft movements and also with highly stylized hands positions. Finally after they solved their problem, they know that if you want and wish your friendship goes well, you should be open to each other. Then, Della

chooses her friendship rather than love, it means that Della broke up with Duta and she chooses Rani. She thinks that she never meet a friendship like Rani, but she will meet a better person than Duta. Love is beautiful but friendship is more beautiful

Unforgettable for Everything



Rona Cita

**Illustrators:
Gabriela K.S & Jessica Rissa**

“Rudi, watch out the mud hole!” **SRRRRRRAAAAPP** the sounds of the water full of dirt from the mud hole splashing on their clothes, it's too late. “HAHAHAHAHAH AHA” Matej and Rudi are laughing. Matej and Rudi are riding a Kepik motorcycle (an old motorcycle made in 1980's by Honda company which is very popular in that era) through the



forest. They are going to fishing in the lake in the middle of forest. This is the daily activities they do after school. Matej and Rudi are school mates and they are 17 years old. Matej is a Czech, but he grew up in Yogyakarta, Indonesia because of his parents has business a western restaurant in Yogyakarta, which is quite well-known and successful because the restaurant serves the Czech cuisine which fully cheese mix with Indonesian Cuisine which have really strong herbs and also spicy stuff.

Matej is a silent, smart, diligent and discipline person while Rudi is naughty, trouble maker, lazy, always have a crazy idea but he is clever. Besides that, he also has a part time job as a waiter in pizza café at Jalan Prawirotaman. They are so famous in the school because both of them are good looking. Matej who is

originally from Czech makes a lot of girls are admiring him; Matej is tall guy around 175 cm, his eyes is green like the leaves fissure on the spring, and he has brown wavy hair, the way he walks so manly, he typically of girls dream man. As Indonesian Rudi is considered tall; he is 170 cm, he has Indonesian exotic skin with the straight black hair and dark brown eye color. They are best friend since childhood and always in the same school also hanging out together. Every weekend they always have plan to do some activities like chilling in Angkringan (Angkringan is the street café which is selling small portion of foods), discover every Warung (Warung is a name of typical street restaurant in Indonesia which sells foods cheaper rather than normal restaurant), go to party, do dirty stuff, travel to different cities, and go to the beaches or hiking mountains. They almost travel all places around Java Island. Matej is really falling in love with Indonesia especially Yogyakarta because Yogyakarta as known as Jogja is one of the nice places in Indonesia that Matej really loves. In addition, he loves Yogyakarta because this city is full of arts. Yogyakarta is home for many independent film maker communities, musicians, performance artists and visual artists. What he loves the most are the people, the people who live in Yogyakarta most population is Javanese. Javanese people who live in Yogyakarta they are still stick on the tradition, friendly, helpful, and very respect to elderly. Yogyakarta also being a student city, there are also significant populations of people from other ethnics in Indonesia. Hence, it makes Yogyakarta as one of the most heterogeneous city in terms of ethnicity in Indonesia. The special thing is even though their official national language is Indonesian, but Matej love to learn Javanese because Javanese are widely used as daily

spoken languages in Yogyakarta, especially by the Javanese. Yogyakarta is also known as a culture city because it has a lot of wonderful cultures. The culture is diverse, the nature also very beautiful such as Merapi, Kalibiru, the beaches, Temples, and many things which he cannot find in Europe such as Warung, Bakpia (traditional food originally from Yogyakarta made from green beans and flour), eating rice with barehand, take an Angkot (a name of a public transportation in Indonesia) by hanging on the door, he literary loves everything.



By the time Matej and Rudi have to continue their study in different place. Matej's father decided to open new restaurant in Czech Republic and his Mother is the one who will taking care of the restaurant in Czech Republic. So Matej is following his mother to settle in Czech Republic and continue his study there. Matej is really sad to leave Indonesia, he will miss everything. He does not hate Czech Republic in fact Czech Republic has better infrastructure rather than Indonesia, every street is clean, no body hanging in public transportation door, even though Czech people also as friendly as Indonesian but still he prefer to be in Indonesia. Matej is moving to Prague, which is the capital city of Czech Republic and he is studying economic business in Charles University in Prague. Matej is doing great with his study, he always get a

higher result among his friends. He spends all his days with his new friends. Till a couple of years Matej meet a beautiful girl named Lenka. Lenka is a medical student; she also studies in Charles University. He loves her for the first sight when he saw her in the canteen. Canteen was totally full in the day when he saw Lenka, but there is one space free exactly in front of Lenka. After Matej ordered the food he comes closer to the free place in front of Lenka. “Hi sorry does anyone seat here?” asked Matej to Lenka. She is smiling to Matej and said “Nobody is sitting there, you can take it”. Then both of them are starting to talk till they feel comfortable to each other and go for date.



In another part of the world after the graduation from high school Rudi is still working in Pizza Café. He decided to continue study in university after break for a year and take the evening class; he took accounting subject in Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta. Rudi never get bored to work at pizza place, he still work while studying as always because for him that place is very special and another reason he already know the owner very well including the people who are working there. Then one day, his boss is decided to recruit him become a manager of Pizza café, year by year the café

is getting bigger and success. Rudi is a trusted worker in the café his boss is already knows him since long time,so the boss asked him to be a manager of the café, of course without any doubt Rudi is happy to say yes.

Rudi and Matej do not see each other for fifth teen years. After Matej is graduated from Charles University with excellent grade, he decided to propose Lenka and continue his father business. He becomes a successful entrepreneur. He open many branches of his restaurants in Czech Republic while his parents also still running the business in Indonesia, his life is totally perfect because he also get married with a beautiful doctor, Lenka. But after his settle in Czech Republic Matej is totally changed he becomes so introvert, he even never tell any story of his friends in Indonesia including about Rudi to his wife. The only thing Lenka knows that Matej's parent is also run a business in Indonesia.

Matej has a birthday on 25th of May. His wife is preparing a surprise for him. His wife is looking for something in the warehouse and she found a box full of pictures and also videos from Matej's childhood. The picture when they are chilling in the Angkringan and drinking Es Teh (ice tea), the picture of them when they are hiking mountain also others crazy selfie pictures, and the video when they are riding motorbike also fishing. Lenka is actually shocked of what she found in the warehouse because Matej never told her about his friends and detail of his life in Indonesia. Matej doesn't care about it anymore, he has no time to think of that,his study, business and new chapter of life are take over his full time and mind. Deep inside of Lenka's heart appear the jealousy and curiosity about the story behind the box that she has found. But then she put aside of her

negative thinking, he probably has reason why he never tell her about it. It will be a special day for Matej so Lenka is preparing Matej's birthday surprise very well, she also prepared the gift for her husband that is a motorbike because after she watched the video she discover that Matej loves to riding motorbike which is the new thing that she knows, she also invites Matej's colleagues including his closest friends from University to come at their house. Lenka is thinking to play the video that she found on the box in his birthday surprise.

Lenka is prepared really well all of Matej's friends already standby at the house before Matej arrives home. Matej never expect that he will get such a surprise. After he came back from work with tiredness, he is sitting on the sofa at the living room and suddenly the video is started and it shows Rudi and Matej were riding Kepik motorcycle through the forest, their favorite activity that usually they had done after school. He flashes back all the memories on his head. All the activities they usually don't together, he remembers Rudi's joke, their travelling experience, and he suddenly remember everything.



He is smiling while watching the video. Everyone is behind Matej in a few second they are together say **“SURPRISE!!! HAPPY BIRTHDAY MATEJ!”**

After the party finished, Matej find the box in the corner of living room that his wife found before. He looking at the box and starting to open the pictures, videos also the stuff inside the box one by one. Then he realizes it's been long time he lost contact with his friends in Indonesia. He suddenly misses Indonesia so much. Three days after Matej birthday party, on Sunday

morning he was sitting with his wife in the living room while watching television, enjoying the chill weekend. "Dear, I want to ask you something?" said Lenka. "Yes baby go on, what do you want to ask my love?" answered Matej. Lenka is silent for a while she is not really sure of the thing that she wants to ask about, she wants to ask the story related of the box that she found but she has to ask, then she decided to ask because of her curiosity. "Remember the video that I played for you on your birthday surprise? To be honest I was shocked when I found that box. You never tell me about your life in Indonesia, not at all." Suddenly Matej is silent, and then he looks at deep Lenka's eyes and said "I'm sorry, I know it's my fault, I never tell you about my life in Indonesia, during my living in Czech Republic all my activity take over my memories for a while, and after I met you that the only thing I'm focused about." Lenka cannot say anything she hugs her husband. "Baby, thank you so much for giving me such a meaningful surprise, you remind me of my best friend. The guy on the video is my best friend in Indonesia. His name is Rudi. I miss every single thing about Indonesia now; it was one of the best things in my life." Matej continues his words. "I'm happy that you tell me about it, dear" said Lenka. "How about this summer we go to holiday in Indonesia? I will introduce you to my best friend." Asked Matej. "Really? Yes I want to!" answered Lenka is very excited.

Matej is looking for Rudi contact; he takes the box and checks the postcards that Rudi ever sent him. There is one postcard from Rudi when he told Matej that he has a new number and he wrote on the postcard. Matej is really hoped if Rudi number is still active. Matej is decided to call Rudi. Matej is very happy that Rudi's phone number is still active. In few second after the

sounds of the call connection someone is answering the call. "Hello? Who the hell is this calling in the middle of the night?" said someone angry from the other side. Matej is smiling still remember Rudi voice but he still not saying anything. "**HELLO?!** Ah whatever" Rudi again ask with angry sounds. "Hi wait! How are you? Do you still remember me?" asked Matej in hurry, he worried if Rudi end the call.

Rudi is half sleeping when he answered the call, but the sounds of someone who talk in the other side is really catch his attention he really know this voice, and he recognize this voice. Suddenly he wildly open his eyes, his sleepiness is gone together with his happy feeling. "Matej... Is that you?" asked Rudi to make sure yet curious. "Hahaha, you know me so well." said Matej. Rudi is very excited yet unbelievable that he finally talk again with Matej after ages. Rudi even forgot about his sleep anymore and how late the time in Indonesia. Matej asked Rudi if he has time on summer because he will come to Indonesia for holiday. This is very great news for Rudi. Rudi told Matej he will skip every single activity to welcome Matej.

The day is coming. Matej comes to Indonesia with his wife. Rudi is picked them up in International Airport Adisutjipto, Yogyakarta. The happy atmosphere is surrounding in the airport especially when the first time after ages they see each other and hug for long time. Matej is introduced Lenka to Rudi. "Matej is lucky, he really has a good type of a girl." Said Rudi to Lenka. Lenka is just smiling to Rudi. Rudi take them to Matej's parent's house.

There is nothing changed in Rudi's life. Rudi is still working in Pizza Café but as a manager not a waiter, he same crazy as before. They are talking about every

single thing they had experienced in childhood, such a nostalgic moment. Rudi and Matej were thinking to make a reunion for their high school friends. Unfortunately nobody is expected if this reunion plan makes something bad happen. Matej shows everything to Lenka such as favorite places that usually Rudi and Matej go, or Angkringan that usually they were chilling and many more.

One night, Rudi, Matej and Lenka are sitting in one of the pub in Yogyakarta; they are talking about how they make the reunion. It was such a long plan and conversation, they decided to done the reunion in 3 months at Matej's parent's house. Rudi and Matej started to contact one by one of their friends whom they still have their contact. They stay in the pub till really late night. After they are finished and feel enough for today discussion they decided to go home. Rudi is little bit drunk, he is too excited of

this reunion plans till he couldn't control his drink. They are walking together to parking lot. Matej offers Rudi to go home with him "come to my place, stay at my home, you are drunk is not good to drive when you are in this condition" said Matej. "ha ha ha You are just like my mom, I'm fine don't worry, I'll be fine." Answered Rudi.

Rudi is rejected Matej's offers. Matej is a little bit worry of him but he can't say anything, he just trusts Rudi. So then both of them are driving home separately, Rudi is riding a motorcycle, the one and only Kepik motorcycle since high school which he never sold. When everyone



asked him “why don't you just sell your motorcycle? it is too old even older than your grandparents.” Rudi just say “too much memories and he is a silent witness from the past.”

That night was really quit, Rudi is riding in empty road with the happy feeling while imagining how cool the reunion will could be. He turn on the left in the corner of the street suddenly there is a big truck with high speed come to the Rudi side. Rudi is shocked and panic but he couldn't get out of that way. **BAAAMMMMMMM!!!**The sounds of the truck hit Rudi is very loud, till waking up the people who lives nearby. People are going out from the house to see what happened. Rudi body is trail five meters away, he passed away on the spot. Police is coming soon to the accident scene. **“WIU WIUWIUWIU”** the sounds of ambulance siren is heard clearly around the incident happen. Police is rescued Rudi's body.

Matej is driving home with anxious feeling, Lenka is staring at him and asked, “Dear, are you ok? You look so worry, what happen?”

“I don't know why, but I feel something bad” said he. Matej never expect it will be his last night to see Rudi. Police finds Rudi phone and try to find a contact who they can call. The police are decided to

call Matej, because Matej number is the first contact they found on outgoing call.



Matej and Lenka are arrived home, when they want to enter home, suddenly someone call him. Matej is shocked there is a thunder hit his head. His phone is fall down from his hand, he couldn't even feel their bones on his body he sit down on the floor and start crying. Lenka was confused of what happened to her husband. She found out of what happened, she hug her husband tight to calm his down. The police tell everything to Matej about what happened to Rudi. Matej and Lenka drive to hospital as soon as possible. Matej is still crying when he sees Rudi's dead body in the hospital. Next to him, Lenka is keeping him calm.

Matej: "Rudi..., I shouldn't let you to drive home alone it's my fault" said Matej to dead body of Rudi.

Lenka: "Baby, God has planned everything, there must be a reason why God took his life, it is not your fault dear" said Lenka.

Matej: "If we didn't let him drive alone, it won't be happen like this." Answered him

Lenka: "Rudi was rejected our over, I know if we force him to go with us, this accident won't 118 be happen to him, but we also can't deny the thing that already happened, let him go he will rest in peace there my love." Replied Lenka to calm him down.

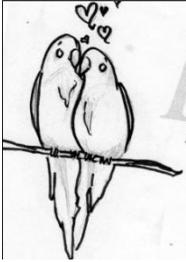
Matej: "I don't believe tonight



is my last night to meet him.” Said Matej, he can’t hold his tears from his eyes and started to cry, Matej is hugging Lenka he is too sad of what happened tonight.

In the morning after the incident, Matej comes to the Rudi funeral in Yogyakarta. He still can’t believe of what happened to Rudi, he should just force Rudi to go home with him last night. Everyone is leaving the cemetery. There are only Lenka and Matej left. Matej is crying while Lenka is keeping calm him down. Matej is staring at Rudi funeral and he said “everything is unforgettable buddy, all the memories about Indonesia and you will always be in my heart, rest in peace my best friend.”





LOVEBIRDS



Evelyn Vania Boentoro

(*sniff.. sniff..*) “Whooh.. Yeahh..”. Everybody could feel the scent of fresh grass as they inhaled on a sunny morning. Also, the fresh air could be felt by all senior high school students, especially Bambang and Hayati. Hayati thought that Bambang was the most charming guy among his classmates and also his soccer team. She admired Bambang’s not-really-slanted eyes and his pointed nose. Besides, Bambang had fair skin and he was not too tall. So, he was like other normal Indonesian guy. Significantly, Hayati really adored his great muscles because Bambang always worked out. Everyday, he went to the gym near his house just to lift weights for maintaining his great muscles. Moreover, his arm muscles moved manly as Bambang was walking until almost all girls at school stared straight at him.

Besides, Bambang was very popular because he was the leader of soccer player at school. Every girl would shout “Whoa.. Bambang.. Go Bambang Go Bambang Go Bambang Go Go!!” loudly when Bambang was entering the soccer arena. As if all eyes were on Bambang only, people could recognize Bambang easily in the arena by seeing his unique outfit. Indeed, all soccer players wore the same outfit, red t-shirt and white pants. Yet, Bambang added something or patched 10 cm x 10 cm cloth with a picture of the flag of Indonesia (red and white) and the words “I am Proud to be Indonesian” on the back side of his red t-shirt. Therefore, people would recognize Bambang easily. Even though all girls at school admired him, Bambang’s eyes were only on Hayati. A girl whom Bambang liked, Hayati, was his classmate who had sweet smile. Bambang always visualized Hayati with her long black hair. He surely remembered a moment that made him adored Hayati at first time when Hayati loosened her

ponytail beautifully. In addition, Hayati was good at making people laugh with her craziness. Bambang viewed her as a lovely girl and she was easy to be loved. Also, every girl knew that Hayati was really fashionable. The fact that she always wore various bags and shoes in school. It could be said that she had around thirty to forty pairs of shoes and excessive bags. The thing that Bambang loved the most about Hayati was although Hayati was rich, she was still humble and kind to everyone. She always respected everyone, no matter who and what social class that she interacted with. She never particularly chose in making friends. She could be friends to everyone. Hayati loved to greet her friends with her sweet smile or she would rather hugged her best friends tightly when they met.

No wonder people felt happy to be friend with her. Well, no wonder Bambang only liked her although he could get any beautiful girls he wanted. Moreover, Hayati was a member of beautiful traditional dancers at school. Hayati would rather choose to dance with traditional dance team than with modern dance team. The reason why Hayati chose to dance in traditional dance team was because she had a dream that she could travel around the world through her traditional dance. Firstly, Hayati really loved to dance since she was a kid. Secondly, Hayati wanted this Indonesian traditional dance could be an International dance that all people around the world had a desire to learn the beautiful Indonesian traditional dance. Thirdly, Hayati hoped that before she died, she had traveled at least 40 countries through introducing the traditional dance of Indonesia. To shorten, Hayati wanted to introduce Indonesian traditional dance to people around world. This year, it's Hayati's turn to learn Balinese dance. Balinese dance

was considered as a difficult dance to learn because the movement was very complex. It was complex because it was a part of religious and artistic expression among the Balinese people in Indonesia. Balinese dancers needed to express or show the stories through their body gestures, for instance the gestures of the fingers, hands, head, and also eyes had to be in rhythm with each other. As a good Balinese dancer, Hayati should always remember to bend her knees, her back, and keep her shoulders wide open, while she showed off her beautiful hand and finger movements. That's why, the costume for this Balinese dance was *kemben* so that it would be nice when the dancer moved her shoulders. Also, because of its fit, people could see clearly when the dancer moved her body. All of which must synchronize together with the eyes movements also. Everybody knew that not everyone could do the Balinese dance. There were some movements which Hayati should memorize. For example, the leg movements of Balinese dance were *tampak sirang pada* meant foot angled to each other. *Ngumbang* meant to walk. When Hayati was practicing Balinese dance, she saw that Bambang was surreptitious viewing her. Then, while Hayati did *ngumbang* toward him, their eyes finally met. Indeed, they must feel something strange, really strange that they never felt like that before.

Their heart beat became faster than before. "Pump. Pump. Pump." They smiled at each other nervously. Until, Hayati did a wrong movement. She did *tayog* movement instead of *ngumbang*. *Tayog* meant shaky walking. To be honest, Hayati could not control her leg well because she could not think of other things rather than Bambang. It's like her brain was full of the smiley face of Bambang. Then, Hayati had to learn the hands

movements. It's called *Luk nagasatru* meant to twist hands inward. Next, *Nepuk kampuh* which meant hand touches the attire on the chest, and *Ngaweh* meant to wave the hands.

Balinese dance had its difficulties, such as in the eyes movement called *seledet*. The eyes should be glanced right or left which was also accompanied by the chin. The most important of all was that the eyes must be wide opened and must not be blinked. Hayati started to feel nervous just to imagine it. She was worried that she couldn't do the dance well. When there was a break time, Hayati met Bambang and told everything about her feeling toward the dance. She did not have her confidence to dance the Balinese dance because it's too hard for her to do the complicated movements and memorized them. However, there was always Bambang who supported her. Bambang always told "if other people can do it, you can do it. Try first, at least you have tried your best". Those words strongly made Hayati got back her confidence. Bambang and Hayati was really closed friends.

Everyday at school, Bambang and Hayati always teased each other but actually they cared each other. Honestly, Hayati was attracted by Bambang more and more. Yet, she didn't know that Bambang also liked her. Also, some of their classmates had a feeling that there was something special between Bambang and Hayati. Unsurprisingly, Bambang and Hayati became the sweetest couple in school. They were unlike other couples. Bambang and Hayati were still teasing each other but they also looked really sweet in doing that. They did really care to each other indeed. Until, most students were envy with the love bird.

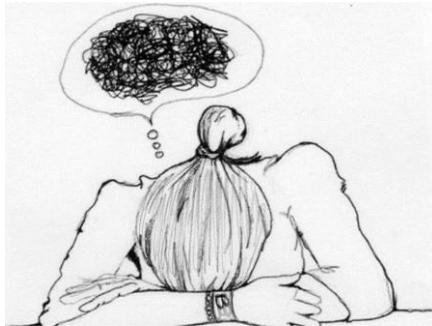
One day, Bambang decided to quit from his soccer team. The only reason was because he wanted to have more time with Hayati. Bambang preferred to spend time with his girlfriend, Hayati, than playing football. Although he seemed like to love playing soccer so much. On the other hand, Hayati still kept dancing. She had a strong desire to be a traditional dancer who could introduce Indonesia as well. As usual, she spent her time just to practice dancing with her friends. When Bambang wanted to meet Hayati, she often could not be what Bambang wanted. In fact, she practiced dance a lot. The reason was because she considered that Balinese dance was difficult enough for her so she needed to practice more.

Therefore, Bambang got angry easily at Hayati because he thought that he had sacrificed everything, especially his hobby, in order to be more with Hayati. Yet, Hayati didn't want to leave her hobby for Bambang. She really couldn't accept that because she loved to dance real much. Besides, Bambang also knew from the very start that Hayati wanted to be a well-known traditional dancer who could introduce the dance to the world. Hayati felt confused with the situation. Honestly, she loved Bambang as her first love. In another side, she also had loved dancing so much since she was little long before having Bambang in her life. They began to argue a lot in every single thing.

Hayati was not allowed to dance because it might break Bambang's heart. Therefore, it made Hayati didn't know what to do and just kept questioning in her mind.

“Should I quit the dance?”

“Or.. should I just break up with him?”



Those questions were on her mind whenever Bambang and Hayati argued. Almost everyday, they had quarrel of the unimportant thing like when Bambang asked Hayati to accompany him at break time in the canteen. Yet, Hayati couldn't do it because she had to practice dancing. Bambang felt like he's not Hayati's priority and angry at her often. Moreover, when Bambang was really mad at her, he asked with loud voice

“So, which one will you choose.. dancing with your friends or hanging out with me?”

Hayati stay silent, she couldn't say a thing.

Bambang said with angrily eyes, Okay! That silence means you choose to dance.” He walked away and left Hayati alone.

The next day they met each other in front of science class. They were both surprised and their eyes couldn't lie that they were both sad about their recent relation.

Hayati started to talk first, “I'm sorry that I can't be the one you want, but trust me I've tried my best.”

Bambang couldn't be angry anymore, he directly stared at her deeply and said, "It's okay. I know we have to understand each other more. I love you Hayati."

The lovebirds got back to the loving and caring scene. They always did things together, such as eating, laughing and also studying together. All things looked so fine.

Until... one day...

"Prrrkkk.. up to you. Just do whatever you want."

Two movie tickets were thrown on the floor. Hayati ran directly trying to catch up Bambang who had left her. She said

"Please understand me. Today is the last rehearsal for tomorrow's competition. This competition is so important to me because it is a step to chase my dream to be a well-known professional traditional dancer. So.. please."

She was trying to explain what actually happened. In fact, Bambang wanted to watch movie with his beloved girlfriend. He wanted to surprise her that he had bought two tickets for watching Hayati's favorite movie. He thought that it was the day which Hayati waited for. Bambang was so disappointed when he knew that Hayati couldn't go with him because she needed to practice. She really couldn't watch movie with him because it was the day of the last rehearsal. Hayati begged him to not be angry again at her.

"Don't do this to me. Don't make me to choose. You know you are important to me."

“Am I that important to you?” Bambang hopelessly replied.

“I love you. I really do. Please understand me. I don’t like us being in the situation like this. Tomorrow is an important day for me and.. I really need your support.”

Hiks..

Hikss..

Hikss.. hikkss..

Tears started to flow.



“I don’t care anymore. Just go dancing with your friends. Go..”

Bambang replied angrily.

“It shouldn’t be like this! I have danced since I was little and..... It was before I knew you! And one thing, my parents always support me. Why can’t you do?”

... silence (krkk.. krkk..)

“Okay. I can’t stand anymore if you are still like this. / want to **break up!**”

They were both mad. They argued. Until.. Hayati said that she wanted to break up with him because she couldn’t stand anymore.

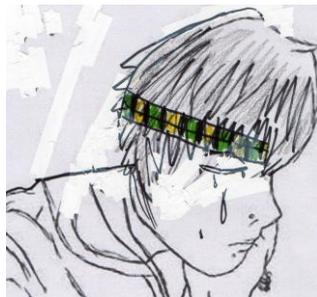
...One week later

Bambang always thought about Hayati and did really regret about what he did to Hayati. He had realised that he was too childish and selfish. He just wanted to be Hayati all the time, he



never thought about Hayati’s feeling. He also thought that if he had sacrificed all things he liked just to be with Hayati, she had to do the same thing as he did. But now.. he knew that love couldn’t restrain each other. He loved her so much.. He often looked at photos of her inside his pocket.

He missed her so much...



The next day, Bambang braved himself to meet Hayati. He pulled Hayati's hand as she was passing by.

"Hayati. I think we need to talk."

"O.. Ok.. Okay"

Hayati replied surprisedly because honestly she missed him so much that she really wanted to hug him right after she looked at Bambang's face. Bambang started to talk..

"I know I am a fool if I loose you. I don't want to loose you anymore. I want to be with you. I want to understand you more I promise. I promise you to be a better person for you. I realise that I don't have any rights to stop you doing something you like. So please forgive me."

Hayati just nodded her head and they hugged each other showing their love. From that day on, they became such a great couple. They understood each other and became closer... and closer.

They were both glad that every problem made their relationship became stronger.



BELIEVE IN LOVE



Tan Flowren Tania

I sipped a little bit of my soda, while standing in my beautiful black dress, in the middle of the crowd in my cousin's wedding party. Yup, another wedding party that I have to attend all alone by myself. Oh God, here it goes, my aunt approached me, and yeah, I got a bad feeling about this.

"Hello Joanna! It's been a long time since the last time I see your pretty face. Look at you! You look so classy in this dress" she said.

"Oh, yeah, I missed you, too, auntie, thank you. Actually this is my old dress that I redecorate again, and, there it is, it becomes this new dress" I replied cheerfully

"You are a very smart and attractive woman, honey. When will I receive an invitation to your wedding party? Come on honey, I bet your mother really wants to see her new grandchildren very soon".

"Oh, well, I'm working on it aunt Ami. I actually have a boyfriend right now, but I just don't want to hurry to get married," I replied.

"Oh, really? Why don't you bring your boyfriend here? Introduce him to your big family, don't just keep him for yourself" she demanded.

"He's just busy Aunt, and he is currently outside of the town right now".

Thank Goodness, a friend of aunt Ami suddenly approached her, and they had conversation, so I didn't have to talk to her any longer.

Well, here it is my life. It is just like full of terror whenever there is a family, or friends gathering. They will always interrogate me, like I had done a crime or something just because I haven't got married at my age now, 25 years old, well, alright, actually that number, plus ummm... 4 more years. Yeah. I know it's a bit embarrassing, I still haven't found the one.

You might wonder, how about the boyfriend that I mentioned to my aunt previously? Yes, his name is Surya. No, he is definitely not just my imaginary boyfriend. He is a real man, human being. I've been in a relationship with Surya for a year . We met at the Gym when I was running on my treadmill, and (well, this a bit embarrassing) I tripped, and fell off from the treadmill. Surya helped me to stand, and we started dating.

Somehow I thought that his love for me is true, it's because that moment, when Surya went to England 3 months ago for a business trip, he called me when it was 2.00 am in here, and I could hear his voice in the middle of crowded noises, and he told me that he had arrived in England, and he was sitting in a Deli. Still, with my eyes closed I told him to get my favorite Ghirardelli Chocolate. He just answered that he didn't want to get it because the weather was so cold and the store that has my Ghirardelli is a bit far from his hotel. But, when I met him at the airport after he's back from England, he

pulled out my favorite Ghirardelli out of from his pocket. Well, at that time, what I thought was if this wasn't love, then I don't know what it was.

I really like this guy, but, he is often rude to me when he is upset. Just like one day, when he had to wait for me, for our date, and I was late for about 40 minutes, because there was a problem with the oven when I was teaching my bakery course. When I arrived at the restaurant, he was yelling at me, and called me a lazy girl for not coming there on time. It was so embarrassing. Everyone in the restaurant stared at me like I was a dirty woman or something. Looks like his bad side is a lot more than his good side. I know that he was so sweet that one time, but, it turns out that he is not that good, because he could not control his emotion and treated me badly.

Dear Joanna, why do you still want to be with a rude man like Surya? Well, as a typical Indonesian lady who is in her late twenties, the conversation that happened between me and aunt Amy, also happened everywhere I go, whenever I met my relatives. I am so annoyed by their questions, that I feel like I am going to be an old virgin forever. So, to avoid being ashamed, and feel humiliated, I keep my relationship with Surya, eventough my bestfriends always remind me that Surya is not a good man for me. They suggest me to break up with him. However, the social pressure here is much depressing than my relationship with Surya. So, I stayed with Surya.

If there is no social pressure around me that kept on nagging me about when will I get married, I will not stay in a relationship with Surya. Maybe we're just friends. I am actually content with my own life. Not to brag, but I am considered as a successful woman. I am very smart at baking, and make some great creations from bread. I own a bakery shop, and also I teach bakery courses in my hometown, Surabaya. I can make my own money and I do not want to depend my life on a man like Surya.

My parent is also quite wealthy. So, I come from a wealthy family, and I have never known how it feels like being miserable for not having money. We always have money to spend. Even if Surya is not as wealthy as I am, he is financially settled. He worked in a big food company, and he already has his own house and car. Surya is actually a decent man, and I know that he loves me. He just doesn't know how to control his emotion when he is upset, or just having a bad day.

My grandmother was a smart and creative woman. She was the one who inherited our family the secret recipe of delicious traditional Surabaya cake called "*Kue Lapis*". Our family product is called "*Kue Lapis SPAKOE*". The main ingredients to make this delicious *kue lapis* are rice flour and coconut milk. I was lucky enough that when I was 13, I often helped my Grandmother, God rest her, to bake *kue lapis*. Making *kue lapis* is not easy, because you have to be patient enough to make the layers from the dough. Every five minutes, you have to add 50ml layer of the *kue lapis* dough, then close the steaming pot

lid, and you have to repeat it again until all of the dough is inside. It wasn't easy for me back then to help my Grandma, but this sure is worth it now, because I become competent enough to continue my Grandmother's bakery.

I love the smell of the burned lumber that my Grandma used back then to bake *kue lapis*. I know that most people hate it, but I don't know why I love it. Since there was no modern kitchen stove, microwave or



oven 20 years ago, we were still using traditional utensils to bake and cook. We used a simple steaming pot that is made from the material like tin cans, I don't know what that's called. We also used lumber to cook, and the lumber will be put into a thing called *anglo*, which is very commonly used in Indonesia, and it worked just like a small gas stove. Only, the difference is that it would take about 5-6 times longer to cook the meals.

Besides my business in SPAKOE Bakery Shop, now my family suggested me to open SPAKOE Bakery Course. I was not that confident to teach the course, however, my family made me believe that I can do it, and so I do it

anyway, and thank Godness, I made it. Now I have 15 students who want to learn to bake traditional and modern bread. I teach the course once every week. Every Wednesday evening, at 6.00 – 9.00 pm.

Since today is the 21st century, we don't use any traditional utensils for baking anymore. The modern oven, and electric stove really make everything easier. Even if the utensils that we use are all modern, we still kept the original traditional *kue lapis* secret recipe from my Grandmother.

I also have a brother called Rudi, he is now 27 years old, and the bad news is that he will get married next year, which means that my little brother will be married before me. That is very embarrassing for a woman like me. I did even try not to think about the people's opinion about me. But, it is sooo hard when you are living in a country where everyone always gossip about someone around them. I just wish that they could just mind their own business and could stop sticking their nose into other people's business. But it is indeed impossible, unless you move away to another country where everyone else doesn't recognize you.

One Monday afternoon, I sat on my desk in my Bakery Course office, and I saw a letter on my desk, and apparently it was from someone, called Jose Lautner who wanted to sign up for my traditional bakery course. I was surprised that he is a foreigner, from Manchester. It is very rare that a man from another country wants to learn to bake an Indonesian traditional cake. I saw in his profile that he is 34 years old. Quite a young man.

On Wednesday, I finally met that foreigner called Jose Lautner. He is so tall and handsome as hell. He is in Indonesia because his company assigned him to watch

their new company that has just opened in Indonesia. I couldn't even think clearly when I was beside him. I kept on reminding myself that I already had Surya, and that it is difficult to be in a relationship with a foreigner because we have different cultures. I taught him to mix the flour and the eggs, and it looked like he had already learn how to bake before because I could see that he could use the mixer very well, and use it like a pro.

After that course end, suddenly Jose asked me to hangout if I have time tomorrow, because he just arrived in Surabaya a month ago, and he wanted me to accompany him to see beautiful places in Surabaya. I was shocked because I couldn't believe that a gorgeous man like him wants me to hang out with him, then without thinking twice, I nodded my head in agreement.

After hanging out with Jose for 2 weeks, I could feel that Jose really likes me. He treated me like I am a Princess or something. That moment, when we were at the restaurant, Jose pulled out my chair and let me sit. When we went shopping, he opened the door for me, and he won't let me brought my own groceries. For my whole life, I have never been treated so sweet like that by a man. He was so different from Surya.

One night, after I have dated Jose for a month, he called me to plan our date tomorrow at Hemingway's Rum Bar in Surabaya. Before he hung up the phone, he said "I love you Joanna". I was speechless, and I just giggled, and hung up the phone. I was shocked because Jose said love, while I feel I'm still in a relationship with Surya. That very night, I called Surya and told him to break up. The conversation goes like this

"Hey baby, it's been a long time I didn't hear you calling"
he answered.

“Yeah I know. And why didn’t you call me first? You didn’t care about me, do you?”

“Oh, sorry, I was so busy with my…”

“Job? Yeah, I knew it, I understand Surya. From now on, I’m not your baby anymore,” I interrupted him before he finished his sentence.

“What do you mean?” he sounded confused.

“We’re done. I know that you don’t care about me anymore, and you always say bad things to me. I just can’t stand it. You also never make time for me”

“Well, I’m sorry about that Joanna. And I respect your decision that you want to break up with me. I am not a good man for you”.

“Good night, Surya, and don’t bother to contact me again!” I hung up the phone immediately.

I feel relieved that I already broke up with Surya. I knew it is very bad to break up on the phone like that, but I was just so mad at him, that I didn’t even want to see his face. All the time when I’m dating with Jose, he never even contacted me once! Not even a single text. I didn’t know what happened to him, but he really doesn’t seem interested in me anymore. I’d rather be with someone who wants me so badly, like Jose.

Tonight, I brush my hair and I’m wearing a blue satin dress that I bought the other day in a boutique. I’m so excited that now I’m getting ready to meet my lovely Jose. 5 minutes later, I heard a car arrived in front of my house. I looked out of the window, and there he is! Jose’s car is here. I wonder if he brings me flowers or chocolate tonight, as he used to do. I opened up my door, and I was surprised, because a man who is

standing in front of me is not Jose! He is an Indonesian man with tall, but skinny figure, and his skin is as dark as an ebony. I was so scared, the first thing that comes up to my mind is that, maybe this man killed or robbed Jose or something. Before I can say anything, he spoke "Good evening, miss Joanna, I am Slamet, Mr. Jose's driver. I am here to bring you this package from Mr. Lautner. He said that he is very sorry for he can not have dinner with you tonight. I have to go now, miss. Thank you".

"Oh yes, thank you very much, Slamet" I replied.

My heart beats so fast. What happened to Jose? Why did he send me this package? I run into my room quickly, then I opened Jose's package, there is a Silver Queen, Cadbury, and various chocolates inside, and... there was a letter. I quickly ripped off the envelope and I opened his letter and this is what he had to say,

Dear Joanna,

I am sorry that I cannot fulfill my promise tonight, to take you to go to dinner with me to Hemingway's Rum Bar. I got a situation here, which is very complicated to explain, that makes me have to go back to Manchester, tonight. I really love you Joanna, I hope you feel the same way as me. But for now, we can't be together. I don't know if I am ever go back to Indonesia again. I'm sorry Joanna. I do hope that I can see you again someday.

Love,

Jose Lautner

I just can't hold my tears anymore and I cried. Oh my God, how could this happen to me? Once I found the one who loves me so much, and I feel the same way, but he should go so far away. I cried and sobbed, until I could see that my eyeliner is running down on my cheek.

I woke up in the morning, and I thought it was just a dream. But no. it's real. I could see the chocolates from Jose are on the table. I fell asleep last night because I was too tired crying. Well, I said to myself that I have to accept this reality. I had lost Surya, and now I lost Jose. It's alright, there's still plenty other fish in the sea, I tried to cheer up myself, reader. But I failed. I am not a strong woman. I know that. Tears are running down on my face again. I was so sad and broken hearted.

Since that day, I do not have any intention to do my usual job in the bakery. My mother is the one who took care of our business; because she understood that I was just need some rest after what happened to me. I said to myself that I should not mourn like this forever, and I have to stand up for myself. Jose and I was just in a relationship for 1 month. It's not a big deal to forget him.

One year has passed by, and I'm happy that someone had married. Yes, my brother had married a couple months ago to the love of his life. Here I am still single, but I never lose faith. I just woke up this morning and I looked at the trees through my window outside of my bedroom. Suddenly, someone rang my door, and my mother called me from the living room.

With my sleepy eyes, I walked there. Then, I just can't believe what I see in front of me. There, I see a tall,

handsome man. Jose is standing right in front of me. This feeling is just like you see all of the fairy tales that you read is now coming true. My prince is now here and he will take me away. Wait, I just can't let my delusion destroy me again. I keep my cool, and asked calmly "Jose, what are you doing here?"

"Hello, Joanna how are you? I come here to apologize to you because I disappeared so suddenly a year ago." he replied

I just couldn't hold my feelings. Without I realizing myself, my arms are around his shoulder, hugging him. I was so happy, because Jose is back for me. After that day, we continued our beautiful romantic life.

Despite my happy romantic life, I had one question that kept lingering in my head. I was wondering why did Jose disappear for one year, then come back again to me. But, I thought that asking about it might be a bad idea because I just don't want to look back, and I just tried to ignore the past.

Tonight, Jose took me to Jatim Park. We played roller coaster, and buy a lot of food there. Suddenly, when we wanted to go back home, Jose screamed and hold his head. I asked him, "what's wrong? Are you alright?".

"yes, it's fine, I don't know what was that. Maybe I'm just too tired" he replied.

"Alright then, let's just go home"

From that day on, Jose's headache is getting worse and he often had a severe headache. Then, I decided to accompany him to Singapore for checking up. The Doctor in Singapore told me that he had a brain tumor. I was so shocked and I felt like there was a lightning just hit me, and I feel like dying. The Doctor said that the

tumor is benign, and he predicted that Jose could survive only for 5 years.

On the way back to Surabaya, I decided not to tell Jose if he had a brain tumor. I just said that he only had a minor head problem due to lack of sleep. All I can do now is just to keep him happy, so that he will spend the rest of his life happily by my side. I will make his last five years become the most wonderful life he has ever had.

Every single night, I closed my eyes, kneeling in my room, and I prayed to God to heal Jose. Please God, I believe that you can give us miracle, and I believe that miracles are always there, if only we believe it.

Months passed....

This early August, Jose and I went swimming and we had a really good time. I splashed the water to him and we both laughed. After that, I dared him to eat as many pecel as he can in 10 minutes. We were laughing so hard until my stomach hurts. I never thought that Jose can spend 12 plates of pecel in just 10 minutes. We really are happy today.

Today is my birthday, September 21st, Jose and I were having dinner in my house, and we had *sayur asem* and *sop buntut* on the table. You might wonder why I don't have a tart on my birthday, well, I just hate tarts. I don't know why, but that large cake just make me sick. So, I just have a typical daily food on my table. There on our dining table, my mother, father, and Jose is there. Unfortunately, my brother couldn't be here because he is very busy with his job.

Suddenly, Jose kneeled down, and held my hand, and said "You are the most beautiful lady with the purest heart I have ever met. Will you marry me, Joanna?" I

was shocked until I can't even speak. I saw him drew a little red box out of his pocket, and opened it. It was a big diamond ring. So beautiful, until I was not sure if it would fit my finger. I said YES, and Jose put the ring on my finger, and I hugged and kissed him.

December 25th, will be our wedding day. I know that the doctor said that Jose has a tumor, and will only survive for 5 years. But I don't care anyway. I will still love him and I do want to marry him no matter what the future's going to be. Today, finally our happy day is here. I dressed in a white wedding gown, and I walked down the aisle. I see Jose keep smiling at me. I couldn't even feel happier anymore.

I can't believe it's been a year since we're married. We haven't had a child yet. But it does not matter as long as Jose is still beside me, smiling at me. Readers, from the moment of our wedding, you will never see Jose even just a single day, without his sweetest smile. I really love him and so does he.

One morning, when I was making poached eggs for our breakfast, suddenly Jose said that he felt so dizzy, and his head was spinning. I felt like struck by a thunderstorm. Oh God, is his tumor attacking him again? Will this be my last day I can be together with my beloved husband? Then, I took the car out of the garage and drive Jose to the hospital.

I keep on fidgeting my fingers while waiting for the Doctor who is examining Jose in his room. When the door opened, the doctor said to me that Jose is fine, he was just having a minor headache because he's got too much work in the previous night. There is nothing to worry about, I was shocked. He had tumor in his head, and the doctor said he's fine?

Then, I make the doctor talked privately with me. I asked Jose to buy some snack in the Hospital's cantina. I asked the doctor, "Doctor, are you serious that Jose is okay? Because when we were in Singapore, the Doctor said that he had a tumor in his brain."

"Well, we did an X-ray to him and here you can see the result here, and everything is fine"

I look at the X-ray and I see no tumor just like what I saw when we were in Singapore.

"So, are you saying that my husband is perfectly healthy?"

"Yes, ma'am. You should be very happy to hear that. I think that God is giving a miracle to your husband. It is very rare, to get that brain tumor healed by itself. Most people couldn't even make it through the second year after diagnosed with tumor like that".



On the way home, I was still shocked and could not believe what I was just heard. After I arrived at the house and Jose went to his office, I am alone in my house. Suddenly, I cry, and I feel very grateful for God has given me the greatest miracle to my family. I know that our love can make even the impossible things can happen. Thank you God for your greatest gift!

UNTIL I MEET YOU AGAIN



Anna Violita

27 December 2006

Vina:

“Tanah airku tidak ku lupakan. Kan terkenang selama hidupku. Biarpun saya pergi jauh. Tidakkan hilang dari kalbu. Tanahku yang kucintai, Engkau ku hargai...”

I could clearly hear the song in the t-sunami disaster barrack which was crowded with injured people. The people sang that song while they were hearing the radio. I was crying when I heard their voices but I was also happy because I could be here to help them although I only cooked food for them. Yaa, I was a volunteer here with tens of my friends. We were from Semarang and the only reason why we came here was to help the victims because of the T-sunami yesterday. I was eager to be here although I was afraid and worried enough with the situation here, in Aceh, after T-sunami. When I was watching the people in the barracks and busy with my reverie, I felt a big cold hand touched my shoulder. I was surprised and turned my head behind. I saw a dashing soldier standing behind me. He shook my shoulder and awoke me from my reverie again.

“Can you give me some food? My team is hungry. I think because you are wearing the vest, you can help me” said the soldier.

Then I answered with a quivered voice, *“Yes, sure. Follow me and I will give you food”*. We walked together to the barrack for cooking the food. He was walking behind me. I thought I was fool enough because I still stunned with the soldier. I was worried with my face turning red. After arriving to the barrack, I cooked corn

soup quickly. Fortunately, my friends and I had cut the vegetables so I could cook it faster. While I was cooking for the soldier and his friends, I knew that he was also looking at me.

Then, he asked my name. I introduced my name, I said, *“I am Maria Alvina Dewi Subadrani but you can call me Vina.”*

He looked surprised when I told him my name, but then he smiled and said, *“It is funny. My name is Yosef Maria Arjuna Bagaskara and you can call me Juna. Do you know that Arjuna and Dewi Subadrani are a spouse? I think we are supposed to be a spouse too. Hahhahaaa.”*

He was laughing and suddenly I was being not concentrate with my cooking because of his joke. We also talked about many things until I finished my cooking and put the soup into some bowls. He was tasted my soup in my spoon with holding my hand. It made my heart beat faster. After that, he called his friends. He and his friends ate the soup there, around the barrack. Juna also ate the soup and he was sitting beside me. I was looking at him and smiling because he was really cute when he was eating the soup. I was enchanted with his perfect body. He is tall, well-built body, tanned skin, navy hair cut, and his face was beautiful with his deep-dark brown eyes, pointed nose, thin lips, and his strong facial line. He said that I am such a good wife because my food tasted like a home food. I was glad to hear that.

After finishing their soup, Juna and his soldier friends said thank you to me and back to his work. Before Juna walked to go, he said to me to meet him at 7 in the evening in the barrack 7. I was agreed it. Then, he walked away and I still looked at his back. I was smiling and suddenly my friend, Ina, slapped my face slowly. I

was surprised. She knew that I was looking at one of the soldiers that ate in here before. Then we walked into our barrack to prepare another food for tonight.

My friends and I was happy because there were many people as the volunteers here to help the victims. However, the food supplies were limited. There were to many people who had to eat and the supplies were not as many as them. Then, we had a meeting for the people in cooking division. I was the leader there. They had pointed me as the leader to command them and coordinate all of the things related to cooking and serving consumption activity. Several hours later the meeting has done and I looked at my watch, I was surprised that It was already at seven o'clock. Then, I ran to the Barrack 7 without taking a bath first. When I arrived there, I saw Juna was standing beside the tent. I walked closer to him and greeted him. I said, "Hi..." then he was looking at me and smiling. I said sorry for being late because of the meeting and he was understood. Then, he asked my permission for walking around the place here with me. We were walking for almost two hours and talking about many things. I asked him about why he wanted to become a soldier. And, he said that it was his dream. He wanted to save his country and help people. He thought that soldier was cool and wearing uniform was also cool. Then, he laughed. I also laughed hearing his answer. Juna was an interesting man for me. He was handsome, cute and funny, and... mature. And again, I thought I like him.

It was already at nine o'clock and Juna said that he had to do night absent in his soldier barrack. He accompanied me to my barrack and he backed to his barrack. Before he walked away, I said thank you to him for tonight and he said that he was happy today.

Suddenly the earth was shaking and people were screaming. I could see Juna was running into my place and then I saw all in black.

Juna:

As a member of Indonesian Soldiers, I had to do evacuation in Aceh because of the t-sunami and the earthquake event. My activity was really exhausting but I loved it. It had become my choice to be a soldier of Indonesia. Besides, I thought becoming a soldier was so manly and I love to become a manly person. Although my family's background was a businessman, I do not want to be a businessman either. There was almost no one in my family who supported me as a soldier except of my grandpa. He knew me well and he knew what I really wanted. When I was in my reverie, I heard someone called my name and he said,

“Juna, can you ask the people in the kitchen to serve us some foods? We are really hungry.”

“Yes, sure. Wait for a while.” I answered. Then, I walked to the kitchen barrack. On my way to the barrack, I saw a beautiful girl standing beside the barrack and she looked at the people inside the victims' barrack. In her reverie, I was impressed with his natural beauty. Then I walked closer to her and I realized that she did not put any make-up on her face but her face still beautiful. I loved her brown eyes with curly eyelashes, her small pointed nose, her sexy red lips and her cubby face. She was not really tall and I thought her height was about 160 cm. she had a long dark-brown hair. I was looking at her for a while before I touched her shoulder. She was surprised and she turned her head behind. She looked speechless. I thought she was quite cute with her

expression. I shake her shoulder for awaking her from her reverie.

“Can you give me some food. My team is hungry. I think because you are wearing the vest, you can help me” I said.

And she answered, *“Yes, sure. Follow me and I will give you food”*.

Then, I walked behind her to get some foods. She did not need much time to serve a delicious soup for my friends and I. We were doing a little conversation while we were waiting for the food got ready. I was quite surprised when I knew her name was a spouse from my name in *‘Pewayangan Jawi’*. When she held a spoon on her hand, I held her hand and tasted the soup with the spoon on her hand. She looked so surprised and embarrassed but I loved her expressions by the way. After the food got ready, I called my friends and we ate together there. My friends said that the soup was



amazing. The taste was delicious and they made some jokes too. Few minutes later, we had finished our soup and we thanked to Vina then we backed to our duties. Before I walked away, I said to Vina to meet me at

Barrack 7 at 7 p.m. tonight. I did not know why I was dare enough to ask her but she agreed it. I was really glad and I could not wait for the time.

I felt my body was really tired. Evacuation was not an easy thing to do. There were so many things that supposed to do carefully. We had to find the lost victims as fast as we could. Then, I looked at the clock and smiled. I still had 30 minutes before seeing Vina again. I took a bath and got ready few minutes later. I walked to Barrack 7 and waited for her. When I was waiting, I heard people talked about diminishing food supplies in kitchen barrack. I though Vina would be busy and got some difficulties because of it. 15 minutes later, Vina came to Barrack 7 and she said sorry many times because she was late. I just smiled and said that it was okay. I knew that she was quite busy in the kitchen barrack. We walked around the barrack in this place and we talked about many things. When I looked at my watch, I did not expect that we had been walking for almost two hours. Vina asked me about why I wanted to become a soldier. I said that it was my dream. I wanted to save this country and helped people. I also said that a soldier was cool and wearing uniform was also cool as a joke, and I laughed. She was a curious woman. She asked a lot but I liked it.

It was already at nine o'clock and I said that I had to do night absent in the soldier barrack. Before I went to the barrack, I accompanied Vina to her barrack. Then, I walked away and I heard Vina said thank you for tonight. I turned my body and said that I was happy for today with her.

Suddenly the earth was shaking and people are screaming. I run to Vina because a lamp was hit her head and she was fainted. I took her body and brought her inside the barrack. After having her safe inside the barrack, I joined my group to do the evacuation again.

28 December 2006

It was a big-scale of earthquake, 6.3 scale Richter. It ruined many things again. Fortunately, Vina was fine and Juna could do his job well. Vina did not injured seriously and she still helped people with serving the food for the victims and others. Juna was also busy so they were rarely met each other. Today, there were also many helps which came from anywhere, both from Indonesia or other countries. Vina was glad because the food supplies and the volunteers were increased. For dinner tonight, Vina cooked one of Javanese's traditional food that she liked so much. It was botok. Vina made 2 kinds of botok, one was shrimp combined with tofu botok and another one is *mlinjo* botok. Everyone liked Vina's cooking and they asked Vina to explain them botok's recipe. Then, Vina shared the recipe. They laughed

together when there were some jokes for flattering Vina. Vina could bring happiness at that time with her food, including Juna. He saw Vina from a far and he smiled. Juna realized that at that



time Vina was really beautiful although she only wore short, t-shirt and also a pink apron. Juna liked her when she wore the pink apron because it made her cute. After finishing their dinner, the people started to sleep, but Vina walked outside her tent to see the night sky. She sat alone on the big stone near the tent. Suddenly, Juna came to her and it made her surprised.

"Hi, you are great today. Especially with your food. So delicious... Who teach you to cook botok?" said Juna.

Then, Vina answered with pouting spoiled expression, "You make me get heart attack tonight! Don't show up suddenly. I know you are a soldier. You can show undetected."

Juna laughed hearing Vina's answer. Her tone was so cute. Then, he made her hair in messy with his hand softly. *"You have not answered my question yet, Vina"* added Juna.

"You are so naughty. I don't want to answer your question. It's a secret!" said Vina and she tried to run from Juna. But, Juna caught her and it made him accidentally hugged her. They saw each other and they fell in love again. For a second, Juna did not release her but then Vina said sorry and she wanted to back to her tent. Juna accompanied her to back to her tent and he also backed to his tent.

At that night, both Vina and Juna could not sleep well. They were still thinking about that moment before.

29 December 2006

Today, people in that place also still busy like before. Vina did not see Juna today because Juna's group went to another area to do evacuation. She also busy in the kitchen barrack. Preparing all of the things for cooking today. At night, Vina realized that she missed him just because she did not see him today and because she was really tired today, she slept earlier.

30 December 2006

Vina woke up late. She did not feel well today. After visiting the doctor there, she back to her tent to sleep again. Her friend, Ina, asked Vina to take a rest today. She would replace her in kitchen, so she had not to be worry. Then, she began to sleep again after eating her breakfast and her medicines.

Juna heard that Vina was sick. He went to her tent to see Vina, but looking at Vina's face while she was sleeping, Juna did not want to wake her up so he took a paper and write, "*Cepat Sembuh, Vina, my beautiful chef ☺*" then, he put it on the table beside her bed and he backed to his work.

Along this day, Vina and Juna did not meet again. In the afternoon, Juna's group went to the other areas again and Vina still in her sleeping because of the effect of the medicine. In the evening, Vina woke up and found Juna's letter. She smiled and kept it carefully as it was a precious one.

31 December 2006

There would be a small celebration tonight for celebrating New Year in the evacuation barrack. Vina felt better for today and she also helped the people there to prepare food for tonight. Vina and her friends cooked Javanese noodles with chicken and vegetables. There were many people who helped her. She was really happy today. Juna also helped her because he did not on his duty. They spent much time together. Vina's friends were teasing her because they always be together.

At night, Vina dressed up beautifully. She wore a pink floral dress and she also asked her friend to make-up her hair. She looked beautiful with the dress and her long wavy hair. She also put some make-up on her face. When Juna picked-up her, he was amazed with Vina's appearance. Juna only wore his soldier uniform as usual but it was more sweet-smelling. He held her hand warmly and they went to the celebration together. At the party, everyone was happy. They danced and sang together. When the time is coming, they counted together and they yelled happily. Vina and Juna also did either. They had made their wishes to be able to be together for the coming years. After that, the music was playing and they danced together. While they were dancing, Vina said that for the next day she would be back to her city, Semarang. Her parents asked her to go home. Juna was sad but he did not show it. He knew that he could not hold her now. After the new year celebration, Juna gave her a necklace. It was his necklace. Juna asked Vina to save it until they met again. Juna promised that he would meet her again when there was a good chance. He also said that he would not prohibit her to have another man. But, he promised that he would make Vina his own someday. He realized that he could not force her to become his mine because he was a soldier and he would not be beside her anytime.

The next day, Vina backed to Semarang with her friends. Vina was also sad but she believed that she would meet him again.

EIGHT MONTHS LATER...

“Vinaaaa.....” her friends shouted.

“Ina! Please believe me. I can hear your voice even without you shout like that.” Vina said.

“Hey!! Listen carefully first. Then, you may angry with me if the reason why I shout is not important for you.” Ina answered.

“What?” Vina said calmly.

“Juna is in our faculty now!” Ina said with beaming face.

Then, Vina shouted, “WHATTTTTT????!!!!!!” She shouted harder than Ina before. “Where is he?” added her but not with shouting.

“Just go out from the class now.” Ina said calmly.

Vina ran outside of the class and she stopped suddenly when she saw the one whom she missed lately standing in front of her class at the moment.

Juna smiled and walked into Vina and said hello. Vina could not believe it. Then, she asked Juna to pinch her cheeks. He did it and Vina could feel it. It was not a dream. Juna was for real now, standing in front of her. He looked different without her soldier uniform. He still looked handsome with the same haircut and the same boots. But now, he wore jeans and white t-shirt. He asked Vina for a date today. Vina agreed it directly because she really wanted it. They went to some places in Semarang, such as *Klenteng Sam Po Kong*, *Lawang Sewu*, and many other places. They also took many pictures together in every place and moment. Juna did not know Semarang well because he was originally from Jogjakarta, but he lived in Jakarta since he was young until he continued his military. They were really happy today. They drank and ate many foods such *wedang*

ronde, dawet ayu, lumpia, wingko babat. At night, they had dinner in Selera Nusantara Restaurant. They ate *garang asem*. After having dinner together,



they went to Simpang Lima and they talked. Juna said the reason why he came Semarang was because of Vina but he said that he also had a bad news. He said that he would go to overseas because of his duty. He said sorry and he asked one wish for Vina to do. If he did not come back in three years, Vina might leave him. Juna asked for her promise to keep their love for three years. Juna promised to get a better chance to have Vina in his side forever. Juna expressed her love directly and kissed her. Vina agreed it. She also fell in love with Juna. She would be more patient for waiting Juna. She promised. They had made a vow. Then, Juna brought her back home and since that time they were relying their love to the destiny.

ONE YEAR LATER...

Vina could not forget that day. The day when Juna expressed her love and they made a vow together. After a year passed, she never had a day without thinking about Juna. She always be patient until one day her parents came to her to stop doing it. Her parents asked Vina to not continue her relationship with a soldier, named Juna. Her parents had known about it. They want her daughter married with a businessman like them. Vina did not agree with her parents. She said that she had her own decision and she would not change it.

One day, there was a man who dressed nicely came to Vina's house. His name was Bagus Yudasena and he came to her house because her parents asked him to have a dinner together with them. Vina was surprised. She did not expect that her parents would do this kind of thing without her permission. Vina was angry but she would not want to show her anger to her parents. She hoped that everything would be easier for her. She joined the dinner and ate with the man. Although Bagus was handsome and rich, she did not interest at all. She only interested with Juna. However, she also respected Bagus as her parents' guest.

After the dinner, Bagus started to do a lot of things to attract Vina's attention but Vina still not attracted. He bought her chocolate, flowers and some expensive presents. Vina was resentful. She told everything to her best friend, Ina. Ina was the one who knew the situation well. She was also a good listener and adviser. She was lucky because she already had a fiancé. She had a good fate than Vina (thought Vina), but when Vina said it, Ina would slap her. That's way Vina liked Ina so much.

When Bagus's efforts became more intense, Vina's parents also became more enthusiastic to make Bagus as their fiancé. Vina felt like her world would be destroyed because of Bagus and her parents. Also, there was not any news about Juna but Vina still believed that Juna still held his promise too for loving Vina. Sometimes, Vina got frustrated because of these conditions but Ina, her friend, always supported her and gave good advices for being more patient. Ina knew that Juna was a good man. That's why she was also the one who was really support Vina's relationship with Juna.

One night, when Vina was busy doing her thesis on her laptop, she received an e-mail from someone whom she missed so much. She opened it carefully then she read the message. It told her that Juna would come back to Indonesia next week and he promised to meet Vina in Semarang. Juna told her that he already had a better chance to have Vina in his side forever. He got a promotion. Therefore, because of the promotion he would be in Indonesia for a long term and they would be able to get married. Vina was happy. She replied Juna's e-mail and called Ina to inform the news.

The next day after she got Juna's e-mail, Vina was so cheerful. She could not wait the day when she would meet Juna again. However, there was a bad news coming to Vina. Her father was sick and she asked Vina to have Bagus as her fiancé as soon as possible. Vina's father wanted her daughter married with one of his friend's son, Bagus. Her mother also agreed with Vina's father. They believed that Bagus was the one who was suitable with their daughter. Vina was sad and she asked Ina to accompany her. Vina loved her parents but she could not agree with their decision to make Bagus as her fiancé. She did not love Bagus although he was also a good man. Finally, Vina agreed with their parents for her unwilling engagement. Vina wanted to tell Juna about this but she could not do that. She asked Ina to do it for her, telling Juna that Vina had to marry another man.

Before she did the engagement, she came to Bagus and said what she really wanted.

Vina said "Before we do this, I want to tell you something. I already have someone whom I love. He is a soldier and I am still waiting for him. I am willing to do

this engagement because of my parents. Especially because of my father's condition. He is sick and I don't want to make him more suffering so I accept his request. I am able to be a good wife soon, but I am not able to love you as a wife who loves her husband. I cannot do that. I am sorry for saying this truth. I hope you understand."

However, Bagus answered, "I know exactly what happen to you but I hope you also understand that I have tried to love you and I hope you will try to do so."

Vina did not believe that Bagus could not understand what she really wanted. "Bagus, please, can you understand?" she begged. She hoped that he would understand before, but why he acted like this. It was so disappointed for Vina. Then, Bagus just walked away. Vina is started to cry.



On the engagement day, Vina looked beautiful with the long pink dress but her face was gloomy. She could not cover her sadness. When the event started to begin, Juna came with Ina and her fiancé. Evidently, Ina's fiancé and Juna are best friend. Vina was so surprised that Juna would come in this time. Vina almost cried and suddenly Juna came forward and replaced Bagus position. Vina looked confused with the condition. The guests were confused too. Juna just said that the event should be continued. Suddenly, Vina's father came forward and said to Vina

that Bagus already told him the day before the engagement that Vina did not love him and Bagus could not accept it. Vina only loves a soldier named Juna and actually Juna is Bagus's friend! Bagus knew Juna well because their parents are best friends and Bagus said that Juna was really a good man like his name Arjuna. Juna's parents were also a businessman but Juna more like to become a soldier rather than a businessman. The truth that Juna was a good man was the strongest reason why Vina's father accepted Juna as his daughter's fiancé.

Finally, Juna was the one who did the engagement. Vina was glad and relieved because she still held her promise and the one whom she would marry with was Juna, not another man.

Vina and Juna could not hide their happiness. After the engagement procession, Juna hugged Vina and kissed her. Everyone on that place was smiling and they are happy for them too.

INTERNET LOVE



Susan Edelweiss

174 It is the first week of March. School just started this week. The new semester is coming up. Everyone is busy preparing for the new semester, including Tita. She is an architecture student. She is studying in University of Indonesia. It was a long journey to be accepted in that university. Tita has to maintain her grade. Keep her grade up high. She has to submit all the assignments, have good grades on tests. University of Indonesia is the best university in Indonesia. A lot of students want to study there. It is not easy. Tita has to study hard and have to maintain her grade while in High school. She studied day and night, she barely have a free time to hang out with her friends. Now, all of her effort is worth it. She is studying in the best university in Indonesia. She really enjoying her time in that university, she has a lot of friends and having a good grade so far.

The day after tomorrow, school will start. Tita and her friend, Gani will go to the mall to buy school supplies and watch a movie at the cinema. Tita is calling Gani for a confirmation.

“Hello Gan, what are you up to? Are we still going to go to the mall later for movie and stationary?” asked Tita. “Yes sure. What time do you want to go?” asked Gani. “Hold on, let me check the movie schedule on my computer. Ummm well, do you want to go around 1pm? The movie will start at 2pm”. “Sounds good! See you later at the mall! Bye, gorgeous!” “Bye!”

“Where is Tita? It’s almost 12pm.” Gani worried because Tita hasn’t arrived at her house. After waiting for an hour Tita finally showed up at her house. “Oh my Gosh Titaaaaa, where have you been?! I’ve been waiting for you for an hour. I think I already got some mold in my feet while waiting for you!” “Sorry Gina, I was Skype-ing

with my boyfriend.” “Wow, you got a boyfriend now?! Why didn't i know about that?” “Well yes. I met him in a dating application. I never told anyone before. I know him for a year now” “What? So you haven't met this guy before?” “Well yes.” “How could you do that? Oh my God” “I will tell you later haha”. “Ok, now go to the stationary.” “Sure!”

“So, what do you need?” asked Tita. “I need a lot of things like pencils, pen, sketch book, drawing pen, eraser, and also I need to buy paper tube for my sketch. “What about you?” “I just need a book and a pen.” “Are you sure?” “Yes I am sure. I will come back if I forget something.” “Alright, I got all what I need. Let's go to the checkout. Let's go to the cinema! The Jungle Book sounds good isn't it? Want to watch it or Civil War: Captain America vs Iron Man?” “let's watch the Jungle Book!”. “ok Gan” “so tell me about your boyfriend now.” “so, i met Connor a year ago in a dating application.” They liked each other profile and voila the keeps talking till now. Connor is a guy from New York. He is 20 years old, same like us. He is studying aerospace craft engineering. He is studying in a very prestigious university, Columbia University. Connor is a very smart guy, nearly genius to be honest. I don't even know why Connor could fall for me. In contrast, you know i just a very simple girl. Not very stand out in my class, not too bad though but yeah I just an average girl. We only communicate via Skype, Line, WhatsApp. Sometimes, you know it feels so hard for me because every time i need him around me, he is not here, only with pictures and voices. I need his arms around me but i got none haha. But somehow he convinces me to be patient and he told me that he will visit me this summer. It will be in July. He will be here for two and a half month. I'm so

excited about to meet him this summer. Finally, the entire struggle has been paid off. The movie is starting, let's watch it now and i will continue my story at school haha." "Ok Tita!" "After this I have to go home. My boyfriend is waiting for me." "Oh yes sure hahaha. Ok we can go home."



Tita is home now. She goes to her room and opens her laptop immediately. "Finally I'm home. I can see my boy again!!!. Wait what time is it? Oh damn it's nearly 10pm. He must be at school. Maybe I will call him tomorrow." said Tita.

Tita decided to text Connor via Line

Hey, babe sorry i just got home from hanging out with Gani. We bought some stuff for

school. Are you in school now? I probably will fall asleep in a min. Text me back soon.

Love, Tita.

No longer from that, Tita fell asleep.

Its 5am, time for Tita to get ready for school. She checked her phone immediately and she got one sweet message from Connor.

Good night baby, I'm sorry i was in class i couldn't open my phone. I have something to say to you babe.

I never thought i could love someone as much as i love you. I never knew i could be loved by someone as much as you love me. You make me feel things i never even knew existed. I love every minute of every day that i spend with you because it's reminds me over and over again just how much in love with you i am. I love our crazy little life because it's ours. You are the love of my life and i never going to leave you and let you go. I love you with all my heart and you have my heart baby. Every day you are running through my mind 24/7 and i love it!! I cannot wait to see you babe. I love you pumpkin 😊

Oh my gosh it was the sweetest text, somebody ever send it for me. I'm going to call him now.

She opens her laptop and open Skype immediately. She tries to call him several times but he didn't respond it. "Is he die or something? Why he didn't pick up the phone?" she tried and tried but she got none. He suddenly missing after she received that sweet text and suddenly he disappeared. She feels like he flaked on her or something. She really pisses with Connor. She tried to call his phone number but he didn't pick it up. She was giving up. She gets herself ready for school.

She was checking her phone all day, but she got nothing. He keeps trying to reach him until the next two days. She got a very surprising text from her boyfriend.

Baby, i know this is so fast but I'm here in the airport. I'm in Jakarta Baby!!! Can you come over to pick me up after you wake up? I will stay in here and try to get some sleep and dealing with my jetlag ha-ha. I am sorry i didn't tell you that i am coming to you right now.

p.s pick me up real quick please. I cannot wait to hold you in my arms. Love you baby 😊

She was thrilled. She didn't expect that he will do this for her. It shows that he committed to this relationship and trying to make this work. She get ready right away and heading to the airport.

Tita always love this airport. Soekarno – Hatta airport is the biggest airport in Indonesia. Soekarno-Hatta International Airport has 150 check-in counters, 30 baggage carousels and 42 gates. Each sub-terminal has 25 check-in counters, 5 baggage carousels and 7 gates. What makes this airport different from any other airport in Indonesia is the diversity of the vendors that sells souvenirs from Indonesia. Like Batik, Sarong, even Food like *Bakpia, Bandeng Presto*, etc.



They are representing every island in Indonesia. And the airport have and iconic spot. There is an elevator area with a barong's face as the gate

She was looking all over the lounge to see if her boyfriend was there. She keeps looking and finally she sees a tall guy with a backpack and a suitcase in his hand. Finally she sees him in a real life not in a phone or computer screen. She was so happy. She run right away to Connor and cry in his arms. They didn't talk anything, they just cherishing this moment. They are together for the first time. Tita was really happy, she cried. After all these years finally it all paid off. They can finally feel each other's skin and smell each other's smells.

"Hey baby girl." "Hey baby, finally you are here." "Yes baby I'm here now." "Why you didn't tell me if you come here now? I thought you will come on August." "No baby, i tried to come early for you. I was looking in my calendar and i think this is will be a good idea to come earlier. I wanted to give you a surprise. Did you got surprised?" "Oh my gosh. Are you kidding me?! Of Course!! I thought you will come on July." "I am sorry my love!. But i am here now." "Ok baby, do you want to eat something before we go home?" "Yes sure. I am starving. You know that airplane's food is the worst?" "I know baby, that's why i asked if you want to grab something to eat. Let's go!"

They are going to one of Tita's favorite place to eat in downtown. They cannot get off each other. They were holding hands all the time. They always have smile on their face. And Connor pooped this question up "Anyway, why people in here using sweater in very hot weather like this? Aren't they will get really hot?" asked Connor. "hahaha they wear that because they don't want to get sun burn and getting darker. You know for many Indonesians, beautiful is having a fair skin. They will think that you are not attractive enough if you had

dark skin.” Explained Tita. “oh I see, I hope you didn’t like them, because I like you just the way you are baby.” Said Connor. “Thank you baby ☺” said Tita.

After they got lunch, they are going to Tita’s house immediately. She cannot wait to introduce Connor to her family. “Babe I cannot wait to introduce you to my mom. She’s been dying to meet you too!” “Really?” “Yes! Remember when we did a video call? She always wants to talk you right?” “Oh my gosh yes she does haha. Do you think she will be happy that I am finally here?” “Yes of course. I am glad my family is an open minded family, they can embrace differences. Imagine what if they are close minded people. We will not be together right now baby.” “Yes babe I am glad. I cannot wait to introduce you to my parents too!”

When they got home, everybody was waiting for them; Mom, Dad, Jules – Tita’s sister and Rangga - Tita’s brother. Tita introduce Connor to her family. “So guys, this is Connor, my boyfriend. The one that I’ve always told you about, he is finally here and I was so surprised because he told me he will come on august and now he is here!” “Hello guys, it’s nice to finally being here and able to know each one of you! I hope you accept me guys.” Said Connor while holding Tita. “We are happy to have you here Connor! Welcome to Jakarta! Please come in.” said Tita’s father.

“So Connor, where are you come from?” asked Tita’s mother. “I am from New York. I am 20 years old and I am studying aerospace craft engineering in Columbia University.” said Connor. “So do you want to work with NASA in the future?” asked Tita’s father. “Yes. I really like space and rocket, so I choose to study aerospace craft engineering.” said Connor. “Oh I see. Good luck on

your study Connor!” said Tita’s Father. “What are you going to do tomorrow Tita?” asked Tita’s mother. “We will go to *Dufan* tomorrow mom and going to *Kota Tua* after. We probably are going to have dinner outside. What do you think Connor?” said Tita. “I am down for anything that you’ve planned for us😊” said Connor.

The next day, Tita wakes Connor up “KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK!! WAKE UP BABYYYYY GOOD MORNING” said Tita. “Hey baby good morning. How was your sleep?” asked Connor. “It was ok baby, what about you?” asked Tita. “Same babe. Let’s get ready! Cannot wait to spend the day with you.” said Connor. “I’ll wait you downstairs babe.” said Tita.

They really enjoyed their day at *Dufan* and *Kota Tua*. They spent their whole day together. They knew their personality better. Tita knew how fussy Connor can be when he is hungry and Connor knew how angry Tita can be when she didn’t get what she wants. They could know each other flaws when they are together. It is good to know each other’s flaws if they want to this relationship to works.

They enjoyed their time, every seconds of it and Tita feels that it is the time to tell Gani about Connor. She decided to send her text to meet tomorrow.

“Hey baby girl. I miss youuuuuuu. Do you have free time tomorrow? Let’s hang! I have someone to introduce to you tomorrow! I hope you will like this Person!.

*Love,
Tita.*

“Oh my God. Who is this person? Is it her boyfriend?” asked Gani.

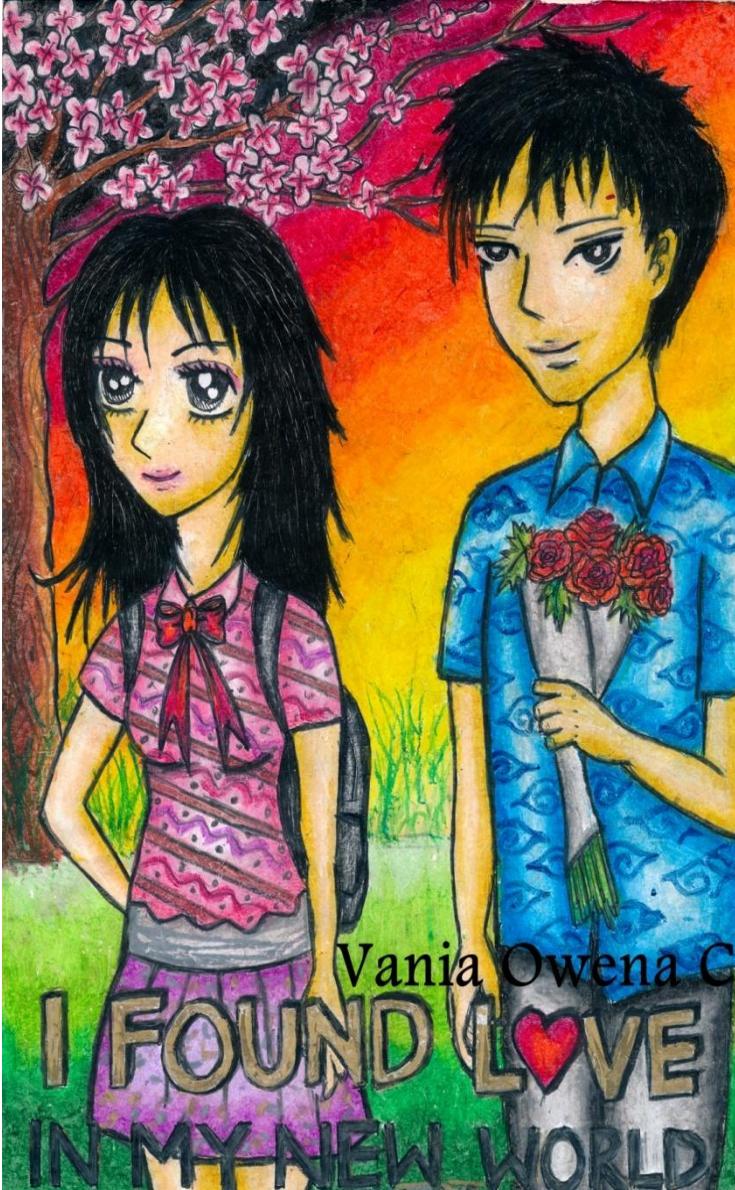
The next day they meet in a beer garden. It is a really nice place, very good ambience. That beer garden is their favorite place. When Tita and Connor got there Gani is already there. Tita and Connor come to Gani's table. "Hi Gani, how are you?" asked Tita. "I am good, you? Anyway who is this?" asked Gani. "Gani, this is Connor, My boyfriend. Connor, this is Gani my best friend." said Tita. "Nice to meet you Gani." said Connor. "Nice to meet you too." said Gani.

The meeting not went really well. Gani seems didn't like Connor. Tita don't know what to do. She loves them both but Gani make her to choose between her and Connor. Of course Tita cannot choose. "What was Gani thinking? Can she just see me being happy? I can't do this. I need to talk to Gani." said Tita. She decided to call Gani. "Hello Gani, why can't you see me happy with Connor?" asked Tita. "Hey Tita, I don't like Connor. He doesn't look like a nice guy, I am afraid he will hurt you. Moreover, our culture is different from his. Can he adapt with ours? Can you adapt with his? Don't you think this is wrong?" asked Gani. "What do you mean this is wrong? This is not wrong! This is my life and I know what best for me! You don't know Connor so don't judge him! You have no right to do it!" Tita dropped the call. That was their hardest argument.

Today is the day for Connor to go back to US. His vacation time is over. Tita and her family take Connor to the airport to send him home. Tita is really sad. But she knows they will be together soon. A week before Tita applied to study in Connor's university and taking the same major as she takes now. She will go next month. Everything is ready, she just wait for her Visa to be

delivered at her home. Her family fully supportive of what she did. Because they know that she knows what best for her and her parents fully support her decision.

Tita living her life in US, she have a lot of new friends, new family. Connor's family really accepts her. In fact they are thinking to get engaged next year. Everything is gone really well for them. Who knew someone who are you meeting from the internet could be the one for you and use distraction as your milestone. Do what you want to do and fight for it.



“Wait a minute mom”, I said. It is a habit that my mom and I are always doing in the morning. As soon as I woke up, my mom has a habit of doing something in the morning and she usually does it in a way that I have no choice but to wake up. Actually, I do not like her voice because her voice makes me disturbed. On the other hand without her voice, maybe I will always come late to the school. “Do not forget to eat your lunch that I bring to you”, said my mom every day before I go to school. “Ok, do not worry mom, I will eat all until the last spoon”, said me with kiss her check.

Then, I will continue my activity with my activity of going to school with my best friend, Viona. Viona always ready in front of her house to go to school together with me. “Hay Lena, are you ready to go to school today or you wanted to go to shopping with me?” hahaha, Viona laugh very loudly. She always jokes every morning to make me cheer up. “Actually I want to go shopping Vi, I do not like to go to school”, I answer her question and my answer make her laugh again. “Today is our last day in the Senior High School, so you should be happy”, said Viona again. “I will miss all the memories that we have been through when we were still in High School”, said me again to her. We always go to school together because our houses are close. “Vi, I think that after we graduated we will separate far away because I will study in Semarang and you will study in Yogyakarta”, said me to her. “Do not worry, Lena I will always by you side even though we will separate by the distance”, said Viona with a bright smile. Today is our last day in our Senior High School because today is graduation day. Half of me feel happy because latter I will be college student and half of me feel sad because I should leave my old friend and I should adapt with new people again.

I graduate with a good score, my mom and dad so proud of me. "You are lucky Lena because you have good score and you can choose the university that you want, said Viona to me. "You should be grateful Vi, because you can graduate and your score is good enough, I replied her.

My name is Magdalena Nugroho and you can call me Lena. I am 18 years old. Now, I am a college student. I have two big eyes that look like my mother. I have a sharp nose and haggard cheek like my father. Then I have black long hair. People said that my body is not too big and not too small or people usually said that I have proportional body. I really like batik. Almost every day I used batik everywhere. I am a girl who really loves many things about Indonesia, especially batik. Batik is a technique of wax-resist dyeing applied to whole cloth, or cloth made using this technique. Batik is made either by drawing dots and lines of the resist with a spouted tool called a *canting*, or by printing the resist with a copper stamp called a *cap*. The applied wax resists dyes and therefore allows the artisan to color selectively by soaking the cloth in one color, removing the wax with boiling water, and repeating if multiple colors are desired. Batik is one of the heritages in Indonesia. So as a young generation we should protect our heritages. I love many things about Indonesia because I come from Javanese family and since I was child my parents teach me to love Indonesian culture. Usually, I always speak Javanese language or Indonesian languages to my daily communication. I have a very congruence family. My mom name is Vira Nugroho and she is 43 years old. She still looks beautiful in her age and she looks more beautiful when she smile. She will very talkative when I am late to wake up in the morning, breakfast or doing

something wrong. Even though she is fussy, but I really love her because she is fussy for my goodness. My dad name is HeriNugroho and he is 45 years old. He work in a big company that selling instant foods as manager. The company that my dad worked is selling instant noodle, cereal, and mineral water. Compared to my mommy, my daddy is quieter. He is a good daddy too because he really loves me and try the best to make me happy. I feel that my family is so complete. I have very special mom and dad because they still like a young couple. It makes me very happy and sometimes I feel jealous (I still do not have a boyfriend). I can learn many things from my parents especially long lasting love and how my parents protect the Javanese and Indonesian culture well. My parents teach me to love our culture with talk with *Krama Inggil* or *krama* (it is a kinds of Javanese language) to talk to older people in our family, I try to use *ngoko* if I speak to people who have same age with me or very close with me, and try to use Indonesian language to other people around me. The example of using *krama inggil*, and *ngoko* in Javanese Language is when we have word **name** in *ngoko* it becomes *aran*, and in *krama inggil* it become *asma*.

In my entire lived, I am experiences many thing. Since I was in kindergarten until now, where I am in college. I am a forgetful person because I often forget many things, even I leave the things everywhere. One day I forget to bring my assignment when I am in Senior High School and it makes my mom bring my assignment to school. Actually, I feel boring with all of my activity everyday because nothing special about my live. Luckily, I have a best friend who always listens about all of my problems, we were best friend since we were in kindergarten. Our parents are known each other well

and it makes us more comfortable each other. We often spend the night together in my house or her house. My best friend named Viona. I think that she is a good girl and friendly people. Viona is a beautiful girl and she is good to use make up, she is a stylish girl because she likes to use dress and it makes her more beautiful. She has two big brown eyes, sharp nose, white skin and proportional body. She is tall to and it makes her looks more perfect. She has many ex boyfriend. In the other side, people say that I am a beautiful girl too but the difference between I and Viona is I do not like to use make up and she likes to wear simple clothes like batik and jeans. And, the important point is I never have a boy friend or I never falling in love in my entire live. Actually, we have so many differences in many things but it precisely makes our relationship more colorful. We can handle almost all of our problems together. Viona likes to hear all of my problems and sometimes she tells about her problems too. We sharing everything that happened in our daily live. We are often gossiping about our friends, boy or other people around us in Javanese Language because many people around us cannot understand about Javanese language well. And sometimes it is funny to look the reaction from other people who watch me and Viona. They look at us like we are from isolated village because we talk in Javanese language especially in *ngoko* (it is part of Javanese language but it used for people who have same age with us). When I should enter college in Semarang and Viona should enter college in Yogyakarta, we should separate. But, we still communicate each other via phone or bbm. Usually in holiday they meet in each other house or go hang out together. I tell to her about my new friend and about my new world.

The story begins when I enter college, because I face a new world. I found new friends and new lives. Actually, since I was kindergarten until I was in Senior High School, I never live away from home. And it becomes worse because I should separate with her best friend too. It is difficult for her to live alone and should found new friends. At first, I think that life as a university student will be very pleasant, but in reality it makes me really stress. Because of my college were far away from my home, I choose to live in boarding house. I should adapt with new situation. I think that I will be alone and cannot adapt with new people around me and the biggest problem is I far away from my parents. I have more difficult lesson that very different from the lesson in Senior High School. The first day in the college I met a girl names Nadia. She is a very funny girl, and I feel really grateful because I can meet her. It makes me not feels so lonely again. The other thing that makes me happy is Nadia live in the boarding house near my boarding house. It makes us closer because we often spend time together. We were not too difficult to blend, because of we have same hobby as listening to the pop music and we often hear the pop songs together, we have favorite food as fried noodle and fried chicken so it is make us like to eat together and we have same style too chose what we wear every day. Both of us like to use simple clothes like jeans and t-shirt. Because we have so many similarity, both of us can close easier .Nadia does not make me forget my old friends. I still keep in touch with Viona.

One day, when I walk to college in the morning alone because Nadia has the different class with me, I get an accident, I hit a boy in front of me. I have tried to forgive to the boy, but the boy is does not wanted to forgive me and abuse me with coarse word. It makes me became

angry too and started to abuse him back. One thing that makes me angrier is he does not speak in Indonesia but he speaks in English whereas his face is so Indonesian. His face is oval with pointed nose. He has slanted eyes with double eyelid but it makes him more handsome, he is so tall with very good body. Maybe it that makes many girls like him because he looks like model. Even though he is so handsome but I really hate the boy because he is not polite and he is really rude. I am really shocked when I know that the boy is a student transfer from USA and we will be in a same class. His name is Jonathan but his nickname is John. He looks so arrogant and it makes me hate him more. I think that "why he acts like Western whereas he lives in Indonesia?" .Actually, it not a problem if he can speaks other languages but I think that it will be better if we speak in Indonesian language to our daily communication because we lives in Indonesia. All girls around her said that he is so handsome and really cool," but for me he so annoying", said me to them. Even, Nadia my close friend said the same. I do not know about why they like John, because for me he like coward. I felt very bad luck because I should to see him again. Strangely, I often met him accidentally. Like two days ago, I saw him again when I went to the mini market near my college. First, I did not realize that he is John. I take same snack that he chose. Like usual he will not budge on girl. He grabbed the snack quickly and it makes me fell ankle. The other accident is when I wait Nadia in the park near my campus. When I still looking for the empty sit, suddenly he comes from my back and try to grabbed the chair in front of me. This time, I did not want to succumb to the John and I pushed him before he sat down. Finally, I win this sit. He looks mad, but I do not care about it. The

more that I want is to far away from John instead we are increasingly being met.

One thing that makes me happy is recently I meet boy named Revan in Javanese club. Revan have two sharp eyes that make every girl who see him will melting. He has a muscular body and it makes him looks more masculine. I join this club because I really like many things about Javanese culture. This Javanese club offered many kinds of Javanese cultures like dances, song or music. We can choose what we really interested in. Revan is the chairman of this club. Revan is a really nice boy. I think that he is so gentle and it makes me comfort in beside him. He is really polite when talk to a girl, he is really different from John. For me, John is like an evil and Revan is like an angel. Revan is very polite especially when he talks to a girl and older people. He likes to help other people in difficulty and he is very nice person and it makes many people like him. In the other side John is impolite because he often say rant. He is an arrogant and it makes him just has a few of friend. He always want to be a number one even to a girl, he will not budge. The only similarity between them is they are smart. It is the first time for me to have a close friend in this club. Revan recommends me to be secretary in that club and I agree about that. I agree to become a secretary not because I want to close to him, but I wanted to know this club more. He really care of me, he always help me when I was in difficulty. In this club I can feel calm and forget unpleasant accident that happened between me and John. Revan can understand me very well. Because of that, we were being good friends. But I still confused of my feelings because I feel so comfortable when I am with Revan, but I still do not know about my feeling to Revan. Am I just considering

him as a friend or I really falling in love with him? I never fall in love before so I do not know what love is.

I do know what happened to me because today I have very bad luck. Today, I go to the toilets but I do not know that this door of this toilet is damaged. I locked in this toilet for one hours because all of my friend still in the class and they did not realize that I locked in there even I left my phone in the class so I can call Nadia or other friends to help me out of there. I almost give up scream to people outside, now I am crying alone in there. Suddenly, I hear the voice of someone who asked, "are you okay? Calm down I will help you, just wait for minute I will open this door from outside". Okay, said me. Actually I feel that the voice is so familiar for me. But, I did not care about that, now I just want to out from there. I think that God is very good in this time because He send his angel to help me. I feel so grateful because of that. Finally, the door was opened and I am really shocked because the angels who help me from my difficult time is the one that I really hate. Yes, he is JOHN. He just smiles and says, "Do not be confident, I help you because I do not like noisy". Then, he left me alone. For a moment, I cannot say anything because I think why I should be help with an evil like him. He is so annoying. In the other side, I still feel thanks because if he did not come maybe I will lock in the toilet for more long time. When I come back to class, Nadia looks so worried because I disappear for a long time. I tell her about what happened to me in the toilet. Nadia said that we have divided into a group and I belong to John's group. I feel that this day is very bad and it make me feel so stress. Nadia said that I have good luck because I belong to John's group but I said to her that it is not good luck but very bad luck. She feels confuse why I

and John often fight each other. I think that my bad luck will continue again.

The group that I included in is consisting of four people. They are Vina, Rino, I, and John. I feel like in a hell when I work in this group because we do not know each other well. Vina is a taciturn and Rino is very talkative. It makes this group not going well. We will be very quiet and just talk about the assignment, not like any other group that can joke about everything. And the thing that really makes me feel like in the hell is John. I should see him almost every day because we have a lot of assignment to do. One day, we should do some assignments in a group but Vina and Rino cannot come to do the assignment because they have other thing to do. My bad luck comes again because it means that I should do the assignment only with John. Like usual, he just quiet and look at me like I am his enemy. I just want this day to end soon. But, the assignment is so hard and it makes me and John do it in a long time. When we will go home we used the same lift because both of them want to back home quickly. Unfortunately, the lift damaged and stopped. Both of us were pleasantly surprised. One thing that makes me more surprised is suddenly John hugged me very tightly. I tried to release his arms but he just held me tighter. I look that John is very different with John that I know. He looks very pale and frightened. He took a lot of sweat. At first I do not really care about him. After, I see his condition I started to feel worry and try to push the emergency button in the lift but it do not work properly. I am trying to make him calm but his condition getting worse. I am tried to call Nadia to help me but my hand phone is low bat and I do not know what I should do. Why I should trap in here with him? I am not realize that he holds me for 15

minutes and I also do not know why I let him hug me. Actually, now my heart beat so fast. Maybe I feel hopeless or I feel worry of him. Suddenly, the lift was opened and there are so many people outside whom looking at us with a strange look. They look at us like we are couples who are making out in the lift. I immediately ran out and left him alone. I feel so ashamed because of the incident. Suddenly, there is a hand that pulled me from behind. When I look back I see John. "Sorry because last I hold you suddenly, and I hope that you do not say what happened to me to other people", said John. Then, he just walks and leaves me. Actually, now I really confused what just happened to me. Why in the difficult moments I was always with him?

In the way when I went to home, I still think what I was experienced with John in the lift. My heart still beat so fast. I think that now I am crazy. While I still walking, suddenly there is a car stopped in front of me. Revan turn out from the car and asked me, "Hay Lena, why are you walking alone? It is not good for a women to keep waking n the night, let me give you a lodging". "It is okay for me to keep walking because my boarding house is near from here". But, in few minute later I already inside of the Revan's car because he still want to bring me. We always have a nice conversation when we are together because I feel comfort to tell everything with him except what I have experienced with John in the lift a while ago. Finally I arrive at my boarding house and say thank you to the Revan. I really need to rest tonight because I really tired today. Even, I feel so sleepy but I cannot sleep because still could not forget what was happened today with me. In the other side I think about Revan too. And it makes me cannot sleep until midnight.

“Lena, why you look so listless today?” asked Nadia this morning. “Because I cannot sleep last night, said me to her. The effect of I cannot sleep last night, now I feel so sleepy. I cannot concentration of the courses and I sit in the last row so the lecturer cannot see me clearly. Nadia woke me when the courses already finished. I just realized that today John is not come to the campus because his bench is empty. I did not know why I think about him. I decided to forget it and go to the canteen. Today, I will go out with Revan. I promise to accompany him to buy a gift for her sister. I feel really happy because of that. After we bought the gift, we go to the food court to lunch. He asked everything about me, like what is my hobby, my favorite food, my family and so on. I shocked, when he asked why whether I already have a boyfriend. I said no, even I never have a boyfriend before. He looks so happy and I did not know what it means. Then, he asked me to watch a movie. I accept his offer. We choose romantic movie. After Revan bought some snack and drink we entered the cinema. The film is so romantic and it makes me crying, suddenly Revan’s hand holds my hand, and it makes me shocked. I did not brave to look into his face. And, now I can concentrate to the film because of his hand. “Lena, I want to ask something to you, Revan asked me with gently sound. “Yes, what do you want to ask?” He places my hand into his chest. “Can you feel that now because of you my heart beat so fast, since I first meet you I already falling in love with you, I love all about you”. “Do you want to be my girlfriend?” asked him. “Can you give me more time to answer your question”? Because I need to think about it again, said me to him. “Okay I will wait you patiently, you can think about it carefully. In the way he brings me back, the situation become awkward because of what happened in the

cinema. I think that tonight I will get insomnia again. Now I confused of my heart. Half of my heart feels happy because of Revan but half of my heart still not sure about my feeling. Then, I call Nadia to tell about what happened today and what should I do. She tells me to follow my heart.

The next morning, I am ready to answer the Revan's question. I see that John still did not come today. I started to think whether the accident in the lift that makes him did not come. I become worried because of that. After the class, I have a promised to Revan to meet him in front of the Language lab. "Are you really sure to answer me today, do you need more time to answer me? Asked him. "I am really sure about my felling". "You are a good man, you always in my side when I need you and I am sure that you will be a good boyfriend for me, so I want to be your girlfriend. He looks so happy and hugs me very tight. "I promise to make you be the happiest girl and the only one girl in my heart", said him with a bright smile. I choose to accept Revan to be my boyfriend because he is a good boy and the important thing is I feel comfort beside him. Nadia looks so happy because finally I have boyfriend and she said that I am a lucky because I get a good boyfriend. In the other side I still did not understand why my heart still feels hesitant...

It has been three days and John still did not come to the campus today. No one in the class knows what the reason why he did not come is. I started to feel curious why he still did not come to the campus. But, I did not want to know more about him because it not my responsible if he did not come to campus. Today after the class, I have a promise to meet him but because he

has other matters, so I choose to go first. In the way to back to my boarding house I saw the black sedan in front of my motorcycle. I have ever seen this car before, I tried to remember. Finally, I remembered that the car is John's car. Whereas he did not come to the campus but the car is exit from parking lot in the campus. Because of the curiosity, I followed the car. The car is stopped in a café near my campus. Then, I stopped in there too. I saw that John is exit from his car with a beautiful woman. They look know each other but I can see that they have awkward condition. I sit behind John's table so I can clearly see them and try to listen what they are talking about. But, I still cannot listen of their conversation clearly because the condition of this café is crowded. I closed my face with a menu so they cannot see me. After for a while they ended up their conversation and back to the car. I think that the condition is more saved and I come to my motorcycle. I did not realize that John is still in front of the café. "What are you doing in there?" asked him straightly. I feel so shocked because of that. "Are you followed me?" Asked him again .I could not reply his answer because I still shocked. "Do you have time for talk for a while?" Asked him for three times. I just nodded my head. Then, I entered to his car. To make the condition become better I tried to ask him, "Why you did not come to the campus? First, he just shut and he tells that he has a little problem so he could not go to the campus. Then, we have a long conversation about him and why he came back to Indonesia after a long time. Now, I think that I have a wrong perception about him. Actually he is a nice guy if we have known him well. He is a good listener too. He apologizes to me if he always disturbed me. Actually, he wants to be my friend but I looked hate him very much, so he makes me annoyed. I apologize to

him too. I explained that I hate him because he acts like western whereas he lives in Indonesia and I did not like the way he acts to me. I think that today the problem between me and John is clear and now we can be a friend not an enemy like before. After we talk for a long time, he invited me to the book store because he wants to buy some books. I agree to accompany him to the book store. I do know why my heart beat so fast beside John whereas beside Revan I did not feel like that. After, we find the book, we continue to the food court after the book store. I look that John is really different from the John that I know before. After that he brings me back. I spend this day with John and I did not realize that I did not check my phone. There are 20 messages from Revan that asked why I did not answer my phone. I feel sorry for him, I should know that I already have a boyfriend and I spend a day with other man. I said that that I do the assignment with my classmates and I left my phone in my boarding house. I lied to him but I just want to protect our relationship.

Actually today I do not want to meet Revan because I still feel guilty to him. Actually he wants to pick me to the campus together but I said that I want to go to the campus with Nadia. Luckily, he believes me and allows me. Revan said that we cannot meet each other within three days because he follows Javanese Language contest in Bandung. In the way of the campus I tell everything to Nadia. She said that I should not cheat because Revan is a good boy. I said to Nadia that I did not cheat, I just confused with what I feel. In the class I see that John is already come and he smiles to me. Today we have an assignment that we should do in a group. It means that I will in a group with John again because the group is still same like before. I sit next to

John. Because we have a lot of assignment, our group chooses to do it after the class in the library. Vina and Rino are already done their job and decided to go home early because they have another assignment tomorrow. I and John still do our parts from the assignment together, sometimes we discuss about the difficult part from the assignment. The clock is show 7 p.m when finally our assignment was done. I think that just only me and John who were still in the library. I want to borrow some English Novel and John wants to accompany me. After I found the novels, John picks me to my boarding house. In the John's car before I get down, I say thank you to him but suddenly he looks into my eyes so deep and his face go closer to my eyes. Now I can feel his breath in my face, I do not know why I closed my eyes and I can feel his lips touch my lips slowly. My heart beat so fast even I cannot refuse his kiss. This time I



forget all about Revan and in my mind I just think about John. I enjoyed every touch of his lips until the last. It is my first kiss and I did not do it with my boyfriend but I do it with John. After I realized that I did was wrong, I quickly excused and went out from his car. I did not know what I should do if I meet

John tomorrow. I had cheated but why I feel glad. I think that I have insane. I think that tonight I cannot sleep again because of this incident.

Kring.. kring... my alarm was ringing again, I still sleepy and I choose to turn off the alarm. After a few minutes when I see the clock I really startled when the clock is already show 6.45 a.m. I take a bath and go to the campus quickly because I have morning class at 7.30 this morning. Fortunately, when I arrive at the class the class is not begins yet. I know that John look at me along the class, but I try my best to avoid him. After the class, I go to the canteen with Nadia and some other friends and I quickly to avoid meet John. I get a bad headache and I choose to go to clinic in the campus. Nadia cannot accompany me because she has assignment that should she do. I choose to sleep for a while and skip the class. In my sleep I have a strange dream. I walked in the beautiful garden, I felt so happy in that time. In front of me I see a man who looks at me and smile. I could not see clearly the face of the man. But I could see that he brings a big red heart in his hand. He offered the heart for me. When I wanted to accept the heart suddenly I woke up. Suddenly, I see that John is already sitting in the edge of my bed. "Are you okay"? Do you want some food or drink? I will buy it for you, said John to me. "I am okay and I will back to class now", said me without see at his face because I still feel embarrassed because of the accident last night. "I am sorry about what happened last night. It is my fault that kisses you sudden", replied him again. I close his mouth with my hand. "Do not talk about in there. I do not want someone hear you", said me quickly. Then I and John talk in the garden at the back of the clinic. John is look so serious and I do not know what I should do. I

want to tell him honestly that I already have a boyfriend and I think that is exact time to tell him. "I want to tell you something John, it is very important, said John opened the conversation." "I want to talk about something important too, said me. "Do you know that when a man kisses a girl, it means that the man like the girl said him again. "John, actually I already have a boyfriend, said me straightly. John looks very shocked. "Why you do not tell me before? Why you tell me when I already love you?" asked him. "I am sorry John I do not know if it will become like this, I think that you just regard me as your friend no more, said me. I do not know what I should say again because I can see that John feels so disappointed. "I just want to say thank you for the times that we have been through together, and I want to say sorry to because I has been offend you", said him again. After he said that, he leaves me alone. I do not realize that my tear fall apart. I do not why my heart feels so hurt. Whereas, tomorrow Revan will come back from Surabaya, I do not know whether I brave enough to see his face because I love other man. I never falling in love before, but why when I already found my love it become so complicated. I want to tell all of my problems to Viona, I really miss her. I have to plan to meet her in this weekend.

"Good morning dear, how are you? I think that I really want to meet you. I will pick you this morning". It is a message from Revan that I have read in 15 minutes ago. I confused what I should say to reply his massages. I did not want to see him now. I still feel upset because of John. In the other side I did not want to make Revan hurt too. Finally, want to go to the campus together with him. He looks so handsome this morning. He looks very enthusiasm. His smile is so

bright. Then, he holds me very tight and said that he missed me. I am trying my best to not crying in front of him. When I see his face I feel so guilty. I feel that he is too good to me but I betrayed him with other man. I want that this day will end soon. When I come to class I did not see John again, I hear from Nadia that he will back to US. It makes me really shocked but I think that it will be better if we are not seeing each other anymore. I want to cry so I go to the bathroom to crying alone so no one can see me. After I feel better I wash my face and I will turn back to the class but there was a girl I did not know before was waiting outside the bathroom. She said that she wants to talk with me for a while. Then, we choose to go to the canteen talk more intense. "Hay, my name is Anna. You may wonder why I came suddenly. I will talk straight to the point. I was John's girlfriend. I want you to forget everything about John. I hope you will never contact him again. As a woman you must know what I feel. I hope this will be our first and last meeting". After she said very long word that make me shocked and make my heat feel so hurt, she leaves me alone. Even, I have not said a word yet. It is like I hear lightening in daylight. I think that I am the one who lied to him but now I know that he is a big liar. Now, I really hate him. He was a hypocrite. Now, I do not want to see his face again. I feel sorry that I have fallen in love with him. Now, I will forget everything about him and started new live.

TWO YEARS LATER....

In this beautiful morning I started a new life by becoming an office worker in an insurance company. I am lucky because I already have a work whereas I freshly graduated. I feel so happy because it is my first day to

work. I want to work harder to reach my dream as a manager in this company. When I walk, I accidentally hit the person in front of me. I apologize to him and help him to stand up. I was really surprised because it was John. He looks surprised to.

“Hay Lena, long times no see”. I think that we would often meet because we work at the same company, see you later, he said with big smile. Why I should meet him again after three years even we work at the same company. My bad luck comes again after long time. But now as an adult I just care about my career and I do not want to look back. As a new employee I have much tasks but I enjoyed my work. Furthermore my job is handed an important document to the director. Because I am a new employee so I never meet the director. I have heard that the director is new and he come from abroad. I knocked the door and I was surprised again because the new director is John. He smiles at me and accept the document that I bring before. “I think this is fate because we could meet again after long time. “Do you have time this afternoon? Because I want to talk many things with you, asked him. I just nodded my head because I feel so nervous right now. I do not why I cannot reject his invitation even I know that I still hate him. We choose the cafeteria near our office to meet. “How are you Lena? You look more beautiful and feminine”, John trying to break the ice. “I am very good. You look more handsome too. How about your beautiful girlfriend that I meet before? Please convey my greetings to her”. I replied him.

“What do you mean? I do not have a girlfriend yet, he looks so confused with my question. ”Do not pretend you do not know about the girl. Her name is Anna, she

said that she is your girlfriend and ask me to forget everything about you. Whereas you angry to me because I already have a boyfriend but it turns out you also already have a girlfriend too, you are a big liar". My heart still feels hurt when I remember that. "It seems to be a misunderstanding here". I will explain about her clearly so please listen carefully. "Do you remember the incident in café few years ago? You see me with a girl right? The girl who you see is Anna. Anna is the girl who is matched by my parents because we came from same high class family. I refused the arranged marriage because I do not love her and I do not like her attitude. So I choose to come back to US and forget everything in Indonesia. The most difficult thing I forget is my memories with you. I go and came back because of you. He looks very serious when explains what is really happened. I can not say anything because I feel so glad and relieved.

"Do you still have a relationship with Revan? He looks into my eyes very deep when ask the question.



"No, we have been separated so long since you choose to come back to US, because I think that actually I do not love him, I feel more comfort if we just become a friend. And I think that he can get someone that better

than me”, I explained to him. His eyes looks sparkled and he smile so bright. Then, he holds my hand and asked” do you want to start all over again? I promise to never leave you again. From now onwards I will continue clutching your hands. Do you want to give me second chance to be your boyfriend again?” he asked me hopefully. “I think that I cannot lose you again”, said me to him. He holds me very tight. He will be my first love and my last love. Maybe our love will not be like a fairytale that will be happily ever after but at least we will try our best to keep our love till the end.

DOUGH & ROSES



Regina Marchelin

The story starts with a devastating scene where Heni and Rara were weeping over their father's dying bed. Mr. Akbar left his wife a widower with two teenage daughters. Everyone knows that he is a good father and husband, a man who would work hard to make a living for his family. Mrs. Akbar is only a waitress and a helper in a small Maduranese restaurant and her payment was only enough to feed the family but not for paying both of her daughters' school fee. Although Mrs. Akbar wasn't highly educated and only finished junior high school in her youth, she always prays for a better education for her children. With the help of her husband who was working as a teacher and editor in school bulletin, they have made wonderful parents and were capable of providing the needs of their children and give proper education for their children. And now with the death of Mr. Akbar, things had gotten really hard with their welfare.

It has been five days since their father's funeral ceremony. It was a funeral where people could eat and talk afterwards. It was very short and simple. And Mrs. Akbar knows that there wasn't any much money left to provide further education for the girls. She could only weep and think and let people see it was her grief for the loss of her husband. Heni was a type of psychic girl. People don't have to tell her or describe in words about their feeling or what was going on with something or somewhere, she seems to be able to read their thoughts and figure out what was happening at that time. It wasn't a gift or anything. People believe that her intelligence is

the cause of her being able to read people's mind. But Heni denies it and told everyone she was only guessing instead. And she didn't believe that she possesses such ability. For her these things exist only in children book and fairy tales. While Heni is a fast learner and exceed in almost every class she were in, Rara needs to try harder and study very hard to get keep her grades from falling even worse. She always gets average mark. Be it 75 or 69, she was already grateful. The highest score she has ever got was 83. For Rara, it was such a blessing from God and that helps her to make it up all this way. Rara's academics performance and result may not that satisfying enough. But in terms of sport and cooking class, no one could ever surpass her. She is a real 'thinker' and was very athletic. She always gets highest score for these two subjects. Rara is surprisingly doing fine in music class, her score wasn't that high in comparison with her sports and cooking class but she managed to get above average scores. Seeing this two teenage girl grow up as normal children always brought happiness to Mrs. Akbar. Their daughters' needs and education always comes first in the family. She doesn't want to see her daughter living a hard life of uneducated people where they couldn't find a proper job and earn much money only to feed them. She then decided to apply Heni for scholar ship for she is always and has been the brightest student. By doing so, Mrs. Akbar wouldn't have to worry about her expenses to pay for both girl school fees and will only have to think for Rara's.

On a rainy night, Rara wept for her father. For both of the girls, Mr. Akbar wasn't only a father but also a close friend, a mentor, a guardian and also a protector. Rara was weeping silently and buried her face in the pillow. Heni, who was passing in front of her little sister room, could sense something wasn't right. Heni is four years apart from her little sister but she could read the situation perfectly well and sense the emotion that her sister was emitting, just like mother-daughter connection.

"I miss you, Father. Without you in my arms, I feel an emptiness in my soul. I find myself searching the crowds for your face—I know it's an impossibility, but I cannot help myself."

Rara raised her head as Heni was approaching her. Heni sat right next to her and helped her to wake up and tidy up her blanket. She patted her head gently and spoke to her kindly. "You should be happy so Father can be happy too, Ra. Don't stop loving him. If the people we love are stolen from us, the way to have them live on is to never stop loving them."

Rara wasn't shy of expressing any kinds of feeling or emotions to anyone even in front of everyone in her class. Heni wouldn't be so open to anyone about her personal matters and feelings and would cover her sadness and grief after her father's death in front of everyone and acting tough. She thought that was a mature thing to do and wise enough not to worsen the grieved atmosphere in the house. Heni encourages her

sister to apply for the scholarship instead. “Why don’t you try to apply for scholarship, Ra?” She said to her one day.

Heni knows and aware of her mother’s expectation of her taking this scholarship and enroll to one of the recommended best universities in the city and get a good job soon after she graduates. She saw a flier of a scholarship that covers up 60% of tuition fee. It is such once in a life-time opportunity that gives you better quality of education. And Heni has decided to give it to her little sister. She is soon going to be graduated from high school and Rara would have to continue her education in high school. Heni suggested Rara to follow her passion in cooking and encourages her to study in the best vocational school which is able to prepare her to get her desired future job and it would be wonderful if she could do so.

“You should try to get in this one. You don’t have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great. Maybe this can change your future. Who knows.”

Rara was really surprised and speechless. She never thought of applying for a scholarship and she knows that she wouldn’t make it because of her unqualified grades. “You know I can’t do it, Sis. You know that it is impossible.”

Heni wouldn’t take this baby cry her sister was making; it was only discouraging her even more instead of starting a spark of fire for the enthusiasm.

“Scholarship is not a matter of being qualified or not but it is a matter of competition and being able to prove yourself that you are able to earn one and deserves to have it. Many people are dying to have one and being offered for a scholarship was such a blessing.”

Heni told Rara that her father connections and position in his office was the reason why a scholarship is offered to one of his daughter. The school/institution where Mr. Akbar has worked before took a pity on his children and gives one of them a financial support for 40% of the tuition fee because the 60% of it would be covered by charitable foundations that care for better education for the young generation. And again, Heni told Rara not to let go of this opportunity because by doing so it would be an insult for their father’s efforts and restless hard work all this time. Rara has come to her understanding and was reminded by her father’s kindness that he would do anything even risking his life to ride motor bike in rain storm to get into a camping ground that was located 15 km away from their town just to picking her up after scouts’ training. She had a flashback when her father



rushed down to the street and held her up on his shoulder after Rara fall from her bike and got bruises as the result. Rara wouldn't let all of her father's hard work and efforts become in vain. She later on asked for Heni's guidance to mentor her and help her study.

"Sis, there's many that I don't understand. Could you help me out with these please?"

She knows that she wasn't a type of fast learner and intelligent student like her sister, therefore having her around to support her would be more than enough. Rara then wished for her luck and success in having a scholarship within her grasp.

It wasn't easy for Rara to keep pushing herself to study and surpass her limit. There were ups and down as she keep going forward. She almost gave up when she failed many times to solve math problems that she copy from school library. She found a math tests compilation book that could help her improve her academic performance. Other subjects were as smooth as silk exception for Javanese lesson and Math. She couldn't possibly think how come that in Javanese people could address furniture and other nouns as male/female nouns. It was way more complicated than Chemistry. In English, she only needed to memorize as much vocabularies as she could and do exercises gradually. She has taken a liking in English ever since she saw a TV show of black-and-white film strip that tells a story of a cowboy fighting for injustice. It was called The Lone Ranger. An old movie that shows heroism and a

courage to ride a horse and chasing after a train from roof top and jumped down to a crowded street. Rara might not understand what is going on in that show and what the actors are saying. There wasn't any Indonesian subtitle that could help her understand the story. All that she could think of is to be able to understand English and to speak the language. So the next time she watch English TV shows being broadcasted in Indonesian TV channels, she wouldn't need to worry about not being able to understand the plot. But her expectation was interrupted by Javanese lesson and was told to learn Javanese instead of English. Heni tried to explain that in high school (perhaps in vocational school as well) students are given options for their language course: French, Javanese, English, Japanese and Latin (if the students happen to take Pharmacy school) and it's good for Rara to prepare for the worst if she couldn't take English course.

After days of restless work and less sleep, it was a day everyone has been waiting for. Rara has applied for scholarship and was told to wait for an approval from the foundations. She and other students could only receive a statement letter without any approval at all. She could only pray for the best and wish for God to answer her prayers. When she was cooking *Bubur Manado* (Manadonese Porridge) in the kitchen and making a rich peanut sauce with perfect thickness for *sayur urap*, there was a post man stopping by her house and gave the letter to her mother. She thanked him and went inside to open it. While Rara was pouring down her

peanut sauce into an empty bowl and arranging boiled vegetables in order to look appetizing, her mother ran to her and was very cheerful. It even shocked Heni who was concentrating and giving corrections to Rara's messy problem solving answers in her text book. Rara was looking calm and tried not to spill her precious peanut sauce and took the letter from her mother's hand. Heni was waiting for Rara's reaction and expecting for good news. Five minutes of silence broke into happy tears and everyone was happy for Rara because she has got the answer to all of her prayers. She has earned that scholarship to continue her study in a vocational high school and her parent doesn't even have to pay a single coin for that. Her dream of having a decent job after graduating from vocational high school was only several steps closer.

"I know that I can do this. Father, do you see this? I hope that you are happy right now."

Heni was lucky enough to be accepted to work in a company run by an entrepreneur. Yanto is fifteen years older than her. Was it a matter of luck or prosperity that they have had differently to distinguish their social classes? Yanto was born rich but his success was originally made of the result of his every hard work and his own money. He is very strong headed and wise in running his own business.

While working for Yanto's company as a worker, Heni feels dissatisfaction with her salary and wanted for more. She wanted to get better position, too. As an

ambitious girl, she doesn't want to live a poor life any longer. She is planning to rise up and live a good life surrounded with luxury. It is very human to want for a good life and it is very understandable why she wants that so bad. Poverty has never been people's best friend. Only those who want a steady life that will be able to free themselves from such bound. Heni decided to talk to Yanto straight away and asked for that position.

"It has never been easy to sacrifice your precious things which you value the most but what choices do I have?" she said to no one in particular.

At first, she is tormented with the idea of giving up her virginity to her boss and was aware of the consequence afterwards. She made a very risky decision which has no turning back and it was a disgrace, too. But Heni has decided not to think of morale way too much and focus on her goal in life. Live a prosperous life surrounded by luxuries.

The night when she allows that risk to happen was the night of her new identity. She is no longer an innocent good-hearted girl everyone knows about. She has become an independent woman who has a cunning thought. Talk harshly and explicitly was her new means of communication; she doesn't hesitate to use sarcasm and straight-forward kind of talk. Exception is made when she is positioned in a meeting with other high-ranking positions people such as CEOs and co-founders from other companies. Being quick at the taking and

smart, she uses her brain capacity to the fullest and does every job well. Everything seems to be going fine and her life has turned so much brighter with her speedy romance with Yanto. No one knows how that romance goes but it is the right thing to do for Yanto to marry a woman who carries his babe. They managed to keep everything done in secret and natural that everyone in the office really thought that it wasn't a one night stand and was really relationship. Other colleagues envy for Heni because she could excel that fast and was wondering how she did that. And again, everyone was convinced that her intelligence was the key for her success.

At the very first time when she knows that Yanto has given her a child, she told him secretly right away. Heni was expecting for a cold and heartless answer that might come up as a



reply. Heni was surprised to see that Yanto was thrilled by the news and felt responsible for her state.

He said to her “That’s great, Sweetheart. Can you believe this? I will become a father!”

“I was very sick of being asked for hundreds of time by his fussy family members when I was going to look for a wife and marry.” He continued. It was really offensive for

them to encourage him to marry soon before he gets too old for that. Heni didn't know either this open statement sounds desperate or determined. He wanted to marry her for two reasons. First one, Heni is carrying his child. Second one; he is 35 years-old single who was tired of the fuss that drives him crazy. Heni doubt that Yanto was in love with her. Indeed, they shared bed together and conceived a child. But would it be possible for Yanto to eventually fall for her? Love and marriage are always going along together. And love was the key of happy marriage life every couple deserves. Marriage without love and simply done because of MBA is likely not to last long. Heni told Yanto,

“I am willing to live by her side and be loyal to you and ask nothing but your love and trust.”

She told him that she would take him in just the way he is. This statement somehow has started something in him. He realized that Heni was actually a good girl who has taken a hasty risky decision for her better life and future. He used to judge her to be 'cheap' and materialistic but after this open statement he sees her completely different and was determined to take her as his wife.

The fact behind Heni and Yanto's plan to get married shocked Rara to her disbelief. She always sees her older sister as a good example and a role model for her. Rara's jealousy of her sister intelligence was always a reason for her to keep her hard work and strive for the best. Heni tries to make her understand of her doing and

ambition to free her from the poverty. She knows that Rara wouldn't respect her the way she always does and things wouldn't be the same any more. Rara just couldn't simply acknowledge her and was disgusted by her sister's doing. No matter how much effort and money that she always sends to their Mom to buy a better new house in suburb and move from their old slum environment, Rara was still upset of Heni.

At the first time when she saw Yanto stepping down his feet in their new house, Rara thinks that he must be a good guy and was respected by some people. Rara could feel his charisma and aura that portrays a wise leader of high position and was charmed by his strong manly feature. She even fantasized that it was her who are going to marry him instead of Heni. But all of those girlish fantasies have come to an end after knowing for the truth. Whenever Yanto comes over or walk around in the house, she become very stiff and keep a sharp eye for any suspicious movement that he made. She thought that Yanto has violated her sister although she was told the otherwise. It was Heni who wanted *it* to happen as a part of her deal to get her desired position. Rara always keep her best to concentrate on whatever she is doing whenever she caught Yanto was looking at her with curiosity. The smell of her cooking was always inviting and the warmth it gives to feed a soul always wins Yanto's attention. He likes to be around Rara whenever she cooks. It was a delight to see a good cook preparing food. What a talented chef she is! He is always glad and eager to devour every single dish being offered to him

whenever he visits Mrs. Akbar and Rara. Mrs. Akbar was very welcoming and kind. She has already treated him as her own son and always invited him for lunch and dinner. She even convinced him that Rara's cooking is unlike any other that is often found in Jakarta. He was always amused by Rara's unfriendly and confused behavior towards him. He thinks she is cute that way. Although he maintains to be friendly towards her, he just couldn't understand why she is acting so cold towards him. What a funny sister-in-law-going-to-be. Yanto always look at Rara with the affection and love of an older brother and his smiles surprisingly warm and kind. Rara was often driven confused and wondering either she needs to stop acting unfriendly and unwelcoming to him as a form of disrespect or starting to take him in as brother-in-law. She likes his polite attitude though. But still couldn't decide what's best to be done about him. All that she could do right now is to keep her best in cooking class and excel in every subject given at her vocational school.

R E D



Imelda Aprilia W.

"Knock... Knock...Knock... Tiwi, can I come in?"

"Wait a sec Aska, I am almost done."

Just like any other morning, Aska came to the small house in his backyard to pick Pertiwi to school. He sat on the brownish wooden bench in front of Pertiwi's house laid his head back, closed his eyes listening to the sparrows who is perching and feeding in his backyard.

"Den Aska, why are you sleep here? Are you waiting for Pertiwi?"

"Haha..Nah Mbok. I'm just relaxing here. What's on your hands Mbok?"

"Oh, yeah! I forget it. This lunch box is for you and PertiwiDen. I'm sorry to make you wait for Pertiwi Den."

"It's okay Mbok. My pleasure. Anyway, thanks Mbok for the food."

Mbok Fatmawati nodded and smiled to Aska. Not long after, Pertiwi opened the door while set her tie on the proper place. Aska straightly stood up and threw a big smile to Pertiwi. She gave a petite smirk to Aska, and pointing at her own tie.

"Haha... I was forgot about it. I'll come back right away. Wait me outside okay?"

Pertiwi smiled and Aska rushed away back to his house. Mbok Fatmawati handed the blue and red lunch boxes to Pertiwi.

"Tiwi, the blue one is for Aska and the red one is for you. Next time prepare yourself earlier. Don't make Den Aska wait too long. Okay, honey?"

Pertiwi held the boxes and smiled. Her mother gently caressing Pertiwi's head and patted her shoulder.

"Okay now ask Pak Bahri to start the engine for Aska."

"Yes, Bu."

Pertiwi kissed her mother's hand, and waved. She is trotted toward the garage passed down the wet white lilies on the ground with the boxes on her hand. Her red shoulder bag swang along with her steps. She made her way to the front yard seeing Bu Indri kiss Pak Bambang goodbye at the door. She stopped to give bow and smile towards Bu Indri and Pak Bambang. Exactly at the same time Aska showed up at the door with his tie hung under his left collar while it is also hung upper his right collar.

"Duh, honey, put it right just like Pertiwi did."

"I'm sorry Ma, I'm on a rush"

"Pak, please turn on Aska's engine. Thanks."

"Okay, Wi."

Bu Indri fixed Aska's tie while Pak Bambang walking towards Pertiwi.

"Why are you guys not going together with me?"

"Oh, last night Aska said that he will have a soccer match today Pak. So he will be home late. That's why Ibu makes this lunch for him."

"Oh okay... I'm leaving. See you at school."

"Yes, Pak. See you. Take care."

She nodded politely while Pak Bambang came inside his white Toyota Alphard. After Pak Bahri, the driver turned Aska's silver Innova he ran back to the driver seat in which Pak Bambang had already sat on the back playing with his gadget. MbokWati was already at the door to open up the gates. Aska kissed his mother hand and saying goodbye. Then Aska and Pertiwi also left.

Inside Aska's car, Pertiwi is busy with her phone. Aska look at her and then smiled while he look back to the street to hide his smile.

"Smells good, you use a new parfume?" Aska turn his head off the street and look at Pertiwi with innocent look.

"You notice? Thanks." She turned her screen off then also looked at Aska.

"Anyway, at what time will your soccer match start?"

"Around 2.30 p.m. I guess. Come and give me some support lah.."

"Uhhmm.. Interesting. I would like to see you fall again. Just like yesterday. Haha.."

"How dare you! Give me your nose, let me pinch it! Haha..."

"No... Haha..."

Their conversation went intimate until they reached the school's parking lot. They got off the car and laughed, poked each other arm and chatted all their way to class.

At his office Pak Bambang stood up from his chair left his papers on the table. He stalked from the window and locked his eye on Aska and Pertiwi. He heard their giggles in the midst of the crowd of students who went to class. On that occasion Aska patted Pertiwi's top of the head while laughing and so did Pertiwi. He could not hear them clearly, but something changes in his expression. His eyebrows lifted and he sighed and get back to his brown big leather chair. He jolted his chair a bit with his feet and checked on his phone.

"Aska, if you're free please come to my office. I would like to talk to you personally. Thanks."

Pak Bambang looked at what he typed. but then he deleted it. He stared blankly on the phone, and begin to type another message. He changed his mind one more time and he put his phone in the drawer. On the silent, he gazed at nothing while took off his glasses. He reached his left pocket in his dark green uniform and pulled out a white handkerchief to wipe his glasses. There is no single dust or dirt on the glasses before and after he wipe it, but he still did that. He put back the handkerchief and choose to continued his work on the paper.

Ting.. Tong... Ting... Tong... Ting... Tong... .

The clock at the class pointed at 2.03 p.m. seemed like the bell or the clock is wrong. The teacher stopped her lesson and closed her module and put it on her black one handed bag. One of the male student stood up and the others included Pertiwi followed him. He then stood in front of the class and begin to wrap his hands.

"Let's pray. Dear God"

While everyone is praying pertiwi turn her screen on and start typing. She then put her phone on the pocket. She moved her left hand slowly to prevent any noises and reached her bag on her chair. Seemed like looking for something inside of the bag, then she stopped. She found what she has been looking for but she keep it inside. She put her bag on the same place as the leader of the class ended his prayer.

"Give greeting!"

"Thank you, Miss. God Bless You."

Then slowly but sure the crowds on every class from the 1st until 5th floor get out from the place who made them sat for 6 hours a day from monday to friday. Some straightly went to the parking lot left the school, some chose to walked to the front gate to buy some street food, some hang around the basketball and the soccer court and many more.

"Wik, let's go out. I'm gonna buy some seblak."

"Ahhhh.. I see! You want to buy it as your ransom to watch the soccer match right?"

"You know me so well Babe! Haha.. C'mon then."

"Later.. I will meet you on the futsal court. Okay? I need to go to the toilet"

"What do you do?"

"I'm gonna kill someone there.Duhhhh... Ofcourse I need to pee, Sissy."

"Ohhhh.. Obviously... Haha.. Sorry, your friend could not think straight because I'm gonna passed out after this."

"I know, because you are about to see the seniors on sweat right! You pervert! Haha...."

"Haha... 100 for you.. Okay then see you there. Be hurry or I will make all of the seniors fall in love with me!

"As you wish, hunchback! Bye....."

Sissy looked at her blue watch and grumped while eat her last scoop of her seblak. Pertiwi hug her back and tickled Sissy's belly.

"Where have you been?It's 2.45 p.m. look I ran out of seblak. Uhhh.. Is that lipstick stain on your cheek?"

"Uhm? What? Ah.... Nothing. Look.... what I bring."

Pertiwi tried to wipe his cheek with her back of the hand.

"Yasss. Cimol. Thanks."

"Don't eat that all! Give me some. How's the match going?"

"Okay, Sir! You've just missed Aska's 2nd point. He will beat all my handsome seniors."

On the court there is Aska full of sweat and notice Pertiwi's appearance. Pertiwi waved at Aska and he smiled to her and missed a guy who took the ball from his feet. Pertiwi laughed and Aska scratch his unitchy head.

Aska ask Pertiwi to celebrate his victory by eat at a Cargo Cafe, near his house.

"That's a cool game, but you could add one more point if you are focus. Haha.."

"It's because of you... "

"So, I am the distraction? Huh?"

"Yas! Ofcourse! You distract my heart!"

"Huh? Wha.."

Pertiwi and her poker face interrupted by the appearance of the waitress. Asked about their orders.

Pak Bambang sat on the couch without wearing any shirt. He stood up and walk toward the counter and take one cigarette out of its box and reached the leather lighter next to it. He placed the cigar on his mouth while

sliding the glass door to the balcony. He lit the cigar and was staring aimlessly to the busy street on the ground. The cars, motorcycles, offices, people, and the street made harmonious light movement in this dark night.

"Don't get too close to Aska."

There's Pertiwi laying on the bed, only covered with the hotel's white thick blanket. She grabbed the blanket to cover her own body and walk toward Pak Bambang with her messy hair. She hug Pak Bambang topless body while kissed his neck.

"What's your problem honey? Did you forget that I'm yours?"

"No, I'm just affraid that he will figure this out and tell his mother."

"So you are not affraid to loose me?"

He turned his body and looked Pertiwi on her eyes. He threw out the cigarette on his hand and put his palm on pertiwi left cheek. Which greated with pertiwi's palm on Pak Bambang's hand. Then they kissed each other. Pak bambang held Pertiwi's hand and guide her to the bed.



"Put on your spell."

"Another session? We've done it twice today."

"Yes Tiwi. But I want more. You did a great job on my office this afternoon. So be hurry and get back here as soon as possible."

She then left Pak Bambang who start jumping on the bed and took off his pants. She went to the bathroom and take the red lipstick out from her bag. On the mirror she put the red lipstick above the faded color on her lips. Which caused by Pak Bambang's lips. She came back from the bathroom and stand infront of the bed. She dropped the blanket on the floor that cover her and start crawling on the bed to reach Pak Bambang.

"Wi, before we go home let's meet somewhere."

"Okay, how about Cafe du Choco your fav?"

"C'mon! But I can't pick you up. Can we meet there at 4 pm?"

"Sure. "

"Hey, What's up?"

"Nothing, I just want to eat with you. That's all. And,,, This is for you."

"Hahaha.. what is inside this box? can I open it now?"

"Nooo.. Hurry up! Order your food. I'm hungry."

After they finished their meal, Aska paid the bill and they left with Aska's Car.

"I wanna bring you to a very special place. You will be flattered. And you could open that package there."

"Haha.. Try me!

They went to Puncak and stop in a hill. Aska turned off his car and sit at the edge of the hill followed by Pertiwi.

"You plan a murder for me? This place is so quite."

"Hahaha.. No, look at the sky. There are thousands of stars. I would like to take one for you if I could."

"Ugh.. Sweet talker."

"Hahaha... I really mean it."

"Ah... Let's see your prize."

Pertiwi shocked when she saw a red lipstick inside the package. Her heartbeat pounding she turned pale in second.

"What is this? Did he know my obsession?"

Looked at pertiwi's expression Aska tap Pertiwi's shoulder.

"You could try it. I chose it myself."

"Okay. But what is this?"

"It's a gift from me. because I would like to see you use red lipstick. I think you will look gorgeous."

Pertiwi swipe the lipstick on her tiny lips.

"You look amazing."

Then Aska leaned his body towards Pertiwi and start to kiss her lips. Pertiwi shocked but she did not refuse it either. Pertiwi could hear Aska's heavy breath on her ear while he fondle her neck. Aska started put his hand under Pertiwi shirt. Pertiwi held Aska's hand and stop.

"No. Aska No. What are you doing?"

"Shhh.. Enjoy it."

"No. I don't wanna do this. I can't"

"What do you mean? I know you also have feeling for me. Don't you?"

"I can't. I just..... Can't. Please drive me home."

Pertiwi stood up and run to the car. Aska stared at Pertiwi confusedly, but after several minute of his confusion he go to the car.

"Sigh..... If this is what you want. Okay. I'll wait."

Aska and Pertiwi arrived at home arround 8.21 pm.

"I understand you Tiwi. Don't be shy. Now go to your room. We need to go to sleep."

Aska then kissed Pertiwi's forehad, smiled, and went into the house.

"Pa... What's wrong?"

Bu Indri who was reading a Magazine on the bed asked his husband after seeing him standing in front of the window.

"Ahhh... Nothing. I'm just thirsty." Pak Bambang left his room normally but when he closed the door, he sprinted to the garage which connected to the backyard. The garage was dark because there are only a dim light from the backyard's lamps.

He met Pertiwi on the garage who was in her way to the small house. He then gripped Pertiwi's arms and push her to the wall.

"What do you mean? Huh?"



"Aww.. My arms hurt."

"Answer me! Tell me that you are mine."

"I'm yours. Ah... Please let me go."

"What are you doing with Aska? Huh? Answer me!"

"Please calm down. All of people in this house will hear your voice."

"No. Answer me. Wait... Why there is a red lipstick in your lips? HUH!"

CLICK

The garage's lights turned on. Aska stood on the garage door with his hand on the lamp's button. All of them just stood still on their possision

"I know everything.... But I couldn't hold my feeling. I love her. Let her choose pa. "

THE FIRST LOVE



Carolina Gita Pratiwi

Kring.. kring.. an old postman with wearing an orange uniform by driving his old bicycle comes to Putri's house!

Putri is very excited she directly opens the door to get her letter. It is the fifth letter from boyfriend, Pandu. They have been dating since they were as Senior High school students and after graduate Pandu continued his study becomes a cadet on Military Academy in Magelang, Magelang is one of the city that located in Central Java, sometimes when Pandu gets off Putri comes to meet him. Putri is really happy when come to Magelang, a green peaceful that city make her comfort to stay longer, she really enjoy when spending time together with Pandu because they can go around by walking everywhere. She really enjoy it!

While she opens her letter:

“Hi Honey, how’s your day? I hope you always as happy as when we meet, this the fifth letter that I send to you I just wanna say thank you for always support, motivate, and pray for me. I will come back 3 months later, I miss you.”

While Putri reads this letter she starts to cry, she just imagine that her relationship become harder than before with no communication.

Day by day, month by month Putri waiting for Pandu. She believe that the distance means so little when someone means so much.

THREE MONTHS LATER...

Kring! kring!....

Kring! kring!.....

Putri suddenly startled she directly opens the door and receives some letter from Pandu. "This is your letter Miss, undersigned here please." Said the postman. "alright, thank you so much mas." Putri replied him. She is really enthusiastic hoping that pandu will give a good news, she opens the letter then....

"Honey, I know its really hard for us, 3 month being separated no communication, just this letter that can tell what I feel now, Baby I'm so sorry I can not come back on this month because there are so many problems in here, I hope you can understand it. I do really miss you, Putri."

In deeply her heart she actually really sad, but she starts to think positively when she gets sad she let it all out for a minute then with the peak of her sadness comes another emotion: Proud. She try to write a letter to replying the Pandu's letter.

"Dear Pandu I have accepted your last letter, I have a mixed feeling between sad and happy, but actually I just wanna tell you 3 months of being separated, it is not prefect, not easy but I am thankful for all those miles and monts have taught us, I'm processing and ready for new adventure, experience and for whatever will come next for us.. Please do your best in there, God leads you there, love."

After receive that letter Pandu is really happy knowing that Putri understands his condition, by motivating and supporting him. He feeling so a lucky man that has a



woman like
Putri, he
promise to his
self that he will
make Putri
and his family
proud of him.

Day by day
Putri still hope
Pandu can back as soon as possible, week by week
Pandu also pray to get off.

Three weeks later Pandu walks happily, finally what he
have been waiting comes, he gets off for christmas.
Pandu packed up and ready to go home, he is not
intentionally tell it to Putri because he plans to give a
surprise for her.

Kring Kring Kring...

Kring Kring Kring....

The telephone is ringing but no body answer it, Putri is
sleeping and her family are not in home, so she tries to
wakes up and answers because it make feel her
disturbed.

“Haloo..”

“Hi, is that you? I know you are.” Pandu try to flirting her.

“who are you?” Putri starts to curious she know exactly
that sound but she think that Pandu has not come back.

“Oh please, dont you know me? I am that person who always in your mind... hehehe”

“Oh really? So please tell what do you want? I do not have enough time to listen your boast.” Putri was really pique.

“come on don’t be angry baby, If you want to know me please open your door.”

Suddenly Putri is shock she leaps walk to door, opens the curtain and peeps who is coming..

1.. 2.. 3.... Putri Opens the door....

SURPRISEEEE! thats is Pandu with bring some flowers and teddy bear he stands up in front of the door, she really can not believe it that Pandu really has already back.

“How come??” Putri seems really startled, she close her mouth with her hands she can not say anything.

“Hi Honey, I has already come back, right?” says Pandu while he stretched his hand and hugs Putri. Putri still does not believe it, the one who always she wait, she prays and she always support has already come. Three half months has being separated make Pandu become a different person. He looked sweeter, wiser, tougher, smarter than Putri could ever imagine. There are many days they feel so defeated and many days they feel they have accomplished so much.

“I know you will come..” Putri starts sobbed in Pandu’s arm. “Finally We can celebrate this christmas together.”

Sparkling beautiful moment on Christmas describing what a happily couple who is enjoying after separated with times and distance.

TWO WEEKS LATER...

Pandu comes to the Putri's home he wants to spend his holiday with her, before he goes. He asks her to have dinner together tonight.

"Baby, can we go hang out tonight? I want to spend the time for dinner" he ask her through message.

"Sure honey, what time we will go? Putri replied.

"alright, I will pick you up at 7 p.m."

"Okay I will be ready for it, See you."

At 7 o.m Pandu ready to pick Putri up, he can not wait to meet with her. A cadet uniform which he wears make him look more mature and charming, after he arrives Putri has been waiting for him, she look very beautiful with a blue navy dress, with smiling she welcome Pandu.

"So where will we go then?" Putri asks to Pandu

"just be quite I have a something special tonight." Pandu answer with smiling.

*After they arrived in a restaurant

"please close your eyes beb.." he close her eyes with his hand and he leads her to walk into restaurant.

“hey what are you doing Pandu, I can not see anything..” Putri tried to open her eyes but she could not.

“just trust me beb we almost close with it.... now you can open your eyes... 1...2...3... here we go!”

Suprisee! Pandu give a romantic beautiful dinner for Putri, she could ever describing what she is feeling to him, she just hug him and give thanks for whatever he has already done.

During Dinner there is girl who approach him..

“Hi Pandu did you still remember me?” she suddenly ask him and try to be close with him, but Pandu still could not remember anything of her.

“I am Della your class mate on Junior High School.” She introduce her self

“Oh yeah I know you..” Pandu replied her

“OMG! Where have you been? you really look more different than before, as a army soon to be yeah?” she flirting him.

“Yeah before you say of course you have know..” Pandu start to feel uncomfortable. “O yeah this is my girl friend, Putri.” He introduces Putri for Della.

“Oh this is your girl friend? Oh hi Im Della.” She smiling with a wry smile.

Putri was really dejected, she thinks that Della is annoying person by trying to flirting her boyfriend. “I dont like her.” She telling her feeling to Pandu.

“Its okay honey, she just my old friend. Lets continue our dinner..” with jokes laughter they really enjoy the time.

Two days later Pandu has to go back to Magelang, he ask Putri to keep fight for their relationship although they have to separated for a while.

“Honey today its time I have to go back, please promise that you always waiting for me, and I will back on may 5 months later, I always send a letter. Dont anything strike us, ok?” he hugs Putri for a while.



“I make sure anything is fine, tell me everything,

write it all down in a letter because that way we will be with each other all the time, even if we are not with each other at all.” Putri let him to go.

Day by day month by month Putri still waiting her letter.

Tok tok tok.... someone is knocking the door.. Putri opened it but no body comes, but he left a letter as written “My lovely Putri” that is the letter from Pandu. Putri opened it with dazzling smiling.

“Hi honey it has been 2 months we do not meet, I really miss you so much, You are just like a blue sky to me, I may not see you anytime I want, but Putri you are charm that should be seen. No matter how many months go by, I know one thing to be as true as ever was. I’ll see you soon baby.”

Putri tries to reply his letter than, she describe and tell what she is feeling.

“Dear my Pandu it such kind of waiting the rain, sometimes I feel hurt knowing you have not come back home yet but I know that you are struggling in there, the step you take may be rough the sun may be cruel to you, your legs maybe weary, courageous, but dont give up on it God with leads you to come back if you have finished it. Be gratefully and live passionately. I always pray for you.”

After couple months later Putri really bussy, so she did not have time to write a letter. Pandu really miss her he couldn’t do anything no cell phone no internet, he just waiting and expecting a letter from Putri. A day by day Pandu still waiting.

One day Pandu and his friend cruise on Bandung, Bandung is one of the favorite place which located on West Java most people who live in Jakarta usually tend to spend their weekend on Bandung.

During Pandu and his friend stay on Bandung, they need someone who can help to guide during he live on there.

“Putra do you know somebody who live in here? We need someone to guide us.” Pandu ask his friend.

“Yeah I know, I have a friend who live in Bandung, tomorrow we can meet with her.” He replied

The next day Pandu and his friends plan to hang out in a restaurant to lunch, after get the restaurant, someone patted Pandu’s shoulder.

“Enjoy your day” Putra speaks while whispering to him

“Oh thats you! Come on join for the lunch..” Pandu invite him

“thanks Ndu and oya this is my friend Sonya..” Putra introduce Sonya “well she will accompany us and as the tour guide during we live in Bandung.” He make a joke.

Starting from that introduction, Pandu and Sonya often to spend the time together, they often to tell about their problem and their story. Over time it was, Sonya feel falling in love with Pandu, she try expresses her feeling by giving attention to him, giving support to him. Until Pandu realize that he also has the same feeling. He thinks that Putri has already changed, and he thinks that there is a girl who support him, then Pandu cheating with Sonya.

Two weeks after that Pandu back to Magelang, Dara (is Putri’s Friend) tell her that when in Bandung she look Pandu with someone else, she want to approach him but Pandu has already gone. Putri heard that news feel really upset and dissapointed she could not believe that Pandu cheat on her. She cries becasue she can not do anything, she just try to be patient.

Not long after that Pandu send some messages to ask Putri's condition, but Putri does not want to reply, it was really painful when knew she had to be betrayed. In other side Pandu still waiting her reply although he does not think what he have already done with Sonya. One month left Putri still does not write a letter for Pandu.

TWO MONTHS LATER....

Pandu gets allow to go home, when he arrives in Semarang he directly want to meet with Putri.



Tok... tok...
tokk.....

Tok... tok...
tokk.....

Pandu
waiting long
enough in
terrace, Putri

realize that is guest who coming after she took bath, and dreeded up she opens the door.. what a shock her knowing that Pandu is coming.

“what are you doing in here?” Putri ask cruelly

“Honey I'm back” Pandu stretched his hand with smiling. Putri try to hold her sad feeling, but unfortunately her tears dripped. “hey baby what's going on?” Pandu try calm her.

“what are ask me? Dont you think I do not know what you have done in Bandung, you were cheat on me, you go with someone else.” Putri tell her dissapointed. Pandu just muse he really regret for what he have done. That’s his fault.

“oh baby Im so sorry I didn’t mean to hurt you, oh honey please I know my mistake and I promise I will never repeat it! I swear!” Pandu try to apologise.

“No Pandu, I can not give you a second chance its really hurts me. Please go away from me.. we have done!” Putri bang the door and left Pandu alone. Pandu was really regret, he try to get the second chance but its too late. He learn from his mistake.

THREE YEARS LATER...

Pandu graduates from Military Academy, he become an army, in his deeply heart he still thinking about Putri he hope that he can get the second chance to fix his mistake and prove that he really love her.

Pandu try to apologise by coming to Putri’s house, he don’t give up on her. When he has arrived on putri’s house he look putri is watering palnts. Putri shocked she really knows who is coming.

“Putri!” Pandu called her

“what are you doing? Come in” Putri let him come

“Putri I do apology for my mistake.. I promise that I will fix it, please give me the second chance to start the new beginning with you..”

Then Putri give the second chance for him.

1 year later while Putri have birthday Pandu propose Putri to become his wife, he asks all of their friend to give surprise for her, and the time when Pandu he kneel in front of her and give a ring, he propose her

“Putri, Will you marry me?” he asked her.

Putri feels doubt suddenly, her feeling says that Pandu will do his mistake by cheating on her again, then she ignore him she thinks she cannot live with Pandu as the Husband and wife, she still has trauma.

“I’m sorry Pandu but I can’t..” a merry and happy celebration change immediately. Putri left Pandu with all their friend then they break up.

**HOW TO
TELL**



**A LOVE
STORY**

Agil Surya Pradita

Click...Clock...Click....Clock....Tig...Tog....Tig....Tog.....!!!!

Time was run.....!!!! braaaacccckkkk... I'm comming.....!!!!

Once upon a time.... Wait....waiitttt.....!!!! It is not fairy tale. My story is not Pinocchio, Cinderella, Power Ranger...of course NO!! Ahahaha... Ok...let's start the story. This story is about me. Yaaa.... this story about me. Do you still want to read my story? Really??? You will feel bored guys...What????? You still read my story????? Hahahaha. Ok... I will start it. When I was in Junior High School, I love someone. People say "Cinta Monyet" but people say "Cinta Pada Pandangan Pertama" it's a real love. Hmmmmmm..What the hell it is..!!! What is the truth? Hahahaha... I don't care. I was felt nervous when I meet her, because she always smile when meet me and she always call my name. Yeaaaahhh my name...but when she call my name, I can't say everything.

After 2 months, I can have her phone number, wait...in my past.. we don't have (ting..tong) BBM,(LINEEE...) LINE, or etc. NO one I have. I only have friendster. Hmmmmmm... It's so old. O.K. continued the story.



Every day, I always text her anytime and anyplace. But at one moment, she has relationship with my friend. I think.. Why? How you can do that? I try to find different girl. And finally I have a new girlfriend in different class.

When I have girlfriend, she was jealous. I don't know why, I think she had boyfriend and I have girlfriend, It's fair. But she only has 2 months with her boyfriend and end.

Until the final exam was came. I still with my girlfriend. I love my girlfriend.

She and I didn't had a relationship. In final exam we had a same question. We was tag team in final exam. If I can't answer, I ask her and her too.

Finally, final exam was done. We had a free time and very long time for graduate. I always go to school for meet with friends especially for meet her. I want to be her boyfrind, but I can't say that to her. And one day She had a boyfriend, wait wait waiiiiiitttttt!!!! Not with me, with who????? Ehmmmm.. I don't care. Sorry, I care about that. Her boyfriend is my friend in different class. My heart was broke. In this era many people say "Lebay", If my heart broke, I can't live. Hahaha..!!! Ok enough. You still want I continue my story. What???????? Really????? Come on guys!! Ok..Ok ...I wil continue my story.

I was not text her again until I was graduate. And I meet her in the last time. I think that is a last moment. And I can say good bye for her. After I graduate, I move to Tegal. I was school in SMA PIUS TEGAL. That was my first time in catholic school.

After 6 months, She text me again. I was very happy when she text me. Every day I text her anytime and anyplace, but I search information about her in Facebook and the result is she has a boyfriend and her boyfriend is not my friend. She had different boyfriend in new school. Wooowww.. I was skip my moment again.

Ok...You know guys, I make this story now and I remember and I am crying, hahahaha. No, just kidding.

After I graduate in Senior High School. I move to Semarang. And I have new information about her. I contact her again. She is learning Japanese Language in Bandung and she has plan to go to Japan. She want to go to Japan because she has skill in secretary. And me still in university. When I have holiday, I always back to Solo and I hope I can meet her. And every day when I go back to my junior high school playing basketball, I always chat her and I hope can meet her. Finally, she came to school and I can talk everything about us memories. We laugh together about the story. When we have holiday, we always meet at school. And in the 2nd semester, I have holiday. I chat her to meet, but she can't. Because she must go to Singapore. She has a job in Singapore 3 months. I always wait her until go back to Indonesia. Every day I chat her, give a spirit for her, and her too.



Finally, she is back to Indonesia. But I can't chat her again. I am lost contact with her. Of course, I miss her. I want to forget everything about her. I should move on. I promise with myself.

IN 3RD SEMESTER.....

(tiiiinnngggg.....tiiiinnngggg.....tiiiinnngggg) Open my whatsApp.

She chat me again. Wowwww.... She ask about me, everything. I think she is missing me. She want meet with me again. I watch her profile picture. She use

islamic style. She looks beautiful, very beautiful. I can't move on.....!!!! But, I always think she want married with her boyfriend. Because she loves him. I know that, and I know, I can't be her boyfriend. I think that. I always think her boyfriend is my enemy. I hate her boyfriend, but who am I.

We are chatting every day, every time. After 2 weeks and she went back to Solo for take her letter. I and she go to Solo by motorcycle. On the road, I have conversation with her. I am very happy can meet again with her and can see her face.

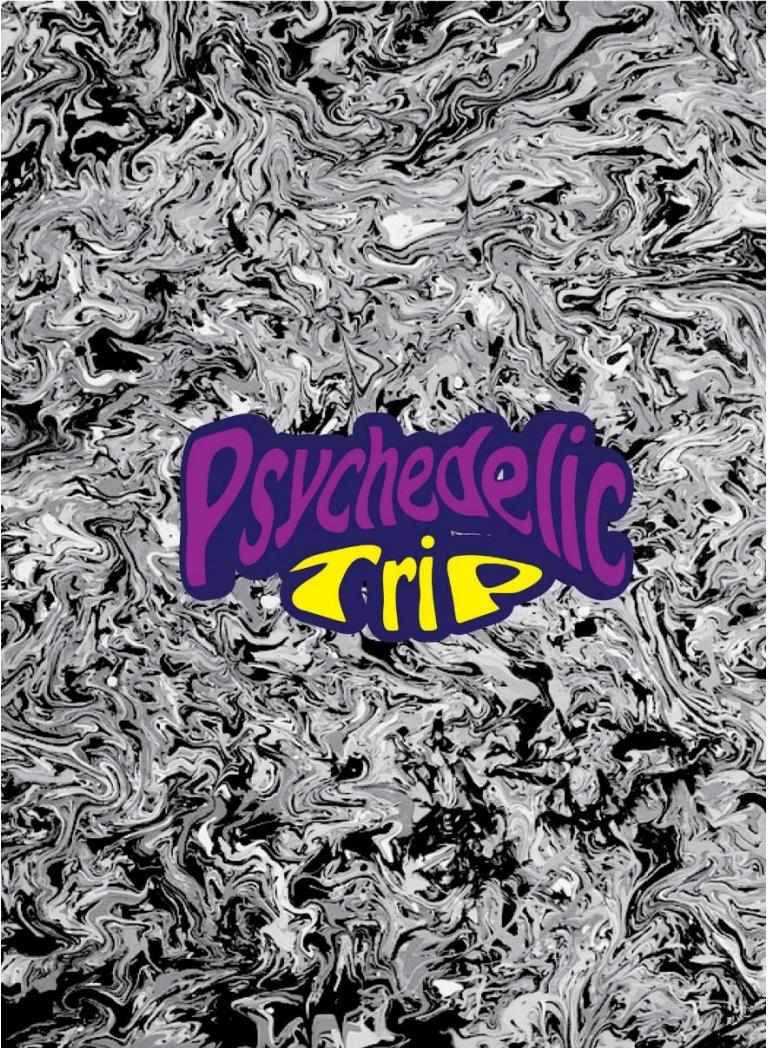
She told me, she has a new boyfriend from Demak. They are learning Japanese together at them school in Bandungan.

(Jediiiiiaaaaaaaarrrrrrrrrrr.....Dieeeeeeeeerrrr)

no no no...It's not my motorcycle. But, I feel my hearth broke. And I continue my trip to Solo. She say, she want to go to Japan with him. And she hope, her boyfriend is the last boyfriend and get married. I only can pray that the best for her, and she can happy with her choice.

After this, I back to Semarang. I can't think everything. I was shocked about her statement. But, no problem..... Live is same with a show. I only the actor, but God is my producer. When I have a problem, I should go. Show must go on....!!!!

Now, she go to Japan with a new boyfriend (again). And okeee friend this is my love story..HAH???? Happy ending??? Hahahahaha... This story is my life. I am happy with my life. Of course, this is happy ending for me.



Agustinus Istianto Sudiyo

They frequently had to pull Greg back from the brink of the death by punching his chest to restart his heart and calling his name with a loud voice. She found Greg lying on his hospital bed in a peculiar way. She tried to talk to him and make him awake but there was no reply. Then, she realized that Greg was unconscious with blood spot on his shirts. She confused in that dark messy hospital room.

This is Cekeber, 13 hours to the south from Jakarta by car. It is a big city, if compared to Jakarta this city is much bigger than Jakarta, has bigger office affairs, and has bigger population. This is a beautiful city for a drug addict and alcoholic. When you go to this city you could find drug and alcohol easily. Moreover, in Cekeber you can find marijuana plantation in the suburbs. The difference between Cekeber and another cities in Indonesia is Cekeber has their own rules and police, they legalized marijuana and alcohol. The police always busy to work in avoid the drunk people making trouble in this city. The most popular entertain in Cekeber is a Camden Bar. This bar is a must for young people in Cekeber. Electronic dance music (EDM), rock n roll, reggae, and many musicians played there every weekend. Great musicians in Indonesia came from this bar such as Speed, Rush!, and Fuzs!!!. This is why this place is so special for the young people. Another reason people came to Cekeber is a beach row in this southeast java island. It has a blue-green salty water with a many great rock on the beach like another south beach in Indonesia. It also a good place for surfer from abroad because it has a big wave to explore and so many obstacle to pass.

In the central of this city there are big office affairs with their great buildings. We could not avoid the traffic jam

in morning when people go to work and in the evening when people go back from work. This city also recorded in a third place as the biggest population of motorcycle and car after Jakarta and Bandung.

This is a dark side of this city. It is called AIDS. This city record as a highest number of AIDS patient in Indonesia. In 2001 there were almost a thousand case of AIDS which is make a decreasing number of tourist both from abroad and Indonesia. This city could not control free sex to avoid the AIDS. Furthermore, people in this city tend to having sex with more than one couple. It is the main cause this virus could quickly spread to the whole city. This year is also a year of arrival of Nancy and Cherie, young beautiful hippie lady from the UK who had became a big story in Cekeber and Indonesia.

Nancy is a tpytical UK girl, a loud voice and nice accent. She wore a sun glasses, jeans, and bandana on her forehead. She is a lovely skinny tall girl with a black straight hair. Nancy love to do drugs, there are many injection scars on his hand. She got a pale skin because of her habbit. She is a emotional girl, too easy to get angry however, she like to help people who are in trouble. Her friend, Cherie, is another UK girl however, she had born and raised in the US. Cherie went to the UK to study. She had been study in the UK for 2 years and met Nancy. She love nature and drugs like Nancy. Cherie is a lovely short girl with a nice body shape like a porn stars. She wore a white printed flower skirt which showed her body shape. She got a couple of big boobs and big butt.

Nancy came to Cekeber to enjoy the drugs and beach. She came along with another young beautiful lady from the UK. Nancy and Cherie planned two weeks holiday in

Cekeber. They went straight to marijuana store near the airport in the first day she stepped in Cekeber. They lighted it up while walking to Camden bar with dark glasses, mini skirt, and loud laugh. In Camden bar they wanted to meet Greg as a deal with their tour organizer before. When they arrived in that bar there was a man playing his guitar with with messy hair and broken blue jeans singing Jimmi Hendrix song with his band. They opened their glasses and amezed with his guitar playing. They enjoyed the show and forgot to find Greg. They had been watching the show for almost an hour, they sat on the bar table, a glass of vodka and definitely love the guy. After the show, the guy came to Nancy's group and asked them

“Are you the tourist from the UK?”

“.....”

They did not answer anything, they just stared deep in his his eye, and look one another. The guy took his phone and read a note from his phone and asked them again

“Are you Nancy and Cherie?”

“Yes, it is us” Nancy replied clearly

“okay, Hallo I'm Greg your guide. How's your flight guys?”

“It was a nice flight, Greg. Nice perform by the way. Nancy answered and smile at him.

“Thanks, Nancy. You must be tired. Where do you want to go?”

“Yes we are tired, Greg. Take us to our hotel, I want to sleep all day”

“Let’s go”

Greg was a Cekeber local youth. He worked as a tourist guide in Cekeber. In addition, he was an innocent young black guy with a guitar in his and when he first met Nancy and her friend in Camden Bar. He was clear at that time, did not used any drugs and alcohol. However, his coolness on the stage and his stage act make many girls looked at him in the whole show and made him get so many girls easily.

On the third day of their holiday, they wanted to learn to ride an automatic scooter because they saw so many scooter automatic in Indonesia and they wanted to learn about Indonesian Culture. They asked Greg to do it. But, there was a thing behind the door. They wanted to get around with Greg. Both of the girls liked Greg but they did not know if their friend also liked the same guy. They did all the things together, smoke weed every day, going around the city by riding motorcycle, and share hotel room.

Things were going well in the beginning until Nancy jealous to Cherie because Greg kissed Cherie on her forehead. That was a sunny afternoon in the beach. Nancy choose to lying on the beach, smoking weed and reading novel. Cherie were enjoying the sun while talking to each other and dirty jokes. Cherie had been interted to Greg since the first time she met in the bar.

“Greg, may I kiss you?”

“Yes of course.....”

They kissed each other and that kissed gone wrong. They went to the toilet for a long time. Suddenly, when they opened the toilet, there was Nancy standing in front the door and said

“What the f*** are you doing?”

“no...Nancy. It is just for fun.” Cherie answered with her scare face

“Did he just kiss you?” Nancy asked to Cherie

“It was surprising, Nancy. He is so hot. I want to sleep with him tonight.” Cherie answered with a big smile on his face and turned down her voice, walking away from Greg

“Ohh good luck” Nancy answered. Then she walked out from them.

“Hei....where are you going, mate?”

Nancy went back to her hotel. Greg and Cherie got along leaving the angry jelous Nancy in the hotel. They went to the beach and doing anything they want.

On the next day, Nancy came to Greg’s house and invite her to went out to the beach. However, her friend stopped her because that day they had planned to go to traditionnal dance festival in town. Nancy did not care with Cherie and insisted to go to the beach with Greg. Greg accepted Nancy’s invitation, they went to the beach by their scooter. On that beach, Nancy talked to Greg

“I’m in a bad mood, Greg. Heal me!”

“What could I do for you, Nancy?” Greg answered with his mercy face.

“Could you inject me with this?” Nancy took the shring fron her bag.

“I could not took that bad things came to me for the second time. I’m sorry. I have been quit from that for a

year, love. I'm so sorry. You should quit too! It is a very very bad." Greg took the shrink and put it back in Nancy's bag. Greg hug her and kissed her in her forehead and said.

"I'm with you, Nancy. Tell me your story."

"Ohh...Greg. You are such a lovely guy. I feel comfort when you standing by my side."

"No worries"

It is been almost two weeks it means that their holidays almost done. But, li was not the same when they first came in Cekeber. They fought one another. They have had already knew that they love the same guy. Love had tear them apart. Nancy moved to another hotel to separate her from Cherie. They did not talk to each other since then. Greg just confused with their situation. He tried to reconcile them but, they still in fight. Moreover, Nancy was a bad-tempered girl so, when Greg tried to calm her down she became angry. It was complicated from Greg. In addition, when they had a schedule to visit some Indonesia cultural event with Greg, one of them had to go alternately.

On the last two days in Cekeber, Nancy met her friend from UK named Kate. She had been stayed in the city for almost 3 years. They met in the gamelan fest, Nancy came alone on that day and Kate was one of the performer. After the show, Nancy came to Kate and told them her story. She told the story with passion. Moreover, she almost cried when she talked about Cherie making love with Greg on the beach. In the middle of the story, Kate interrupt Nancy. "Wait....Did you said Greg?"

"Yes...Why?" Nancy answered

“Greg the one who had lovely hair and nice guitar playing?”

“Why do you know him?”

“Yeaa....He was my guide in the first year. It had stop when I knew that her ex-girlfriend had infected AIDS virus”

“Whaaat the.....” Nancy shocked and scared about what she heard

“Stay away from that boy, mate. I was his ex too, by the way. I had to go. Go check yourself very soon. I will call you later” Kate walked out from sad and confused Nancy.

After she knew that story, Nancy talked to Cherie and told them the AIDS story. Both of them cried and hug each other. They decided to go to Greg house and talked to him. They wanted to know about the truth. When they arrived in Greg’s house, they knocked the door, calling his name. But, Greg did not appear. Bruno, his brother asked them to go to hospital because Greg was in the hospital and positive of AIDS injection. Both of them looked each other and hurry went to hospital. In the hospital they frequently had to pull Greg back from the brink of the death by punching his chest to restart his heart and calling his name with a loud voice. She found Greg lying on his hospital bed in a peculiar way. She tried to talk to him and make him awake but there was no reply. Then, she realized that Greg was unconscious with blood spot on his shirts. She confused in that dark messy hospital room. Nancy and Cherie wanted a AIDS test. The result of their test was the negative from that virus. They thank Greg because he did a safety relationship with them and they thank for making their friendship back again.

♥♥ IN LOVE



Ancela J. Andiani

I ran through the rain fallen swift. On my mind I just thought that my life will change after I met him. After 10 minutes, I was still on the way and I was afraid that I will come late. My city had many ways, I meant to arrive at my house, and there is 3 ways. One way was so far and it was possible to follow that way in that situation. Two was near from my house but that way was quite, and as a girl, I was afraid to get home with that way. The only one way I have to follow was saving than the others because that was a common way. I felt my body shackled because of the cold rain. All my clothes were wet, it made I felt my jacket so heavy. Weather in my town is very cold in the night, and the numbers of trees couples with wind that blows. The weather was randomly. Sometimes it was too hot in the night, people there said to know the weather in the night just saw the sun in the morning, so you can prepare your “mystery” night. May be what will you do, what kind of clothes that you will use. It was unique right?

I was nervous to get there, it made I could felt my hand. At least, I stood in front of the fence, it large, stand longer than my body, just faced it and nothing to do. I thought that I have stood for a long time. What will I say if he asked me, what I will do if he asked me to do something I won't? Suddenly, I felt that my brain full of my expectations, my heartbeat faster. Felt like the rain mixed with my sweat, even I didn't know that the rain became high heat on my body.

I dared myself to step in and escaped that large and long fence I knew that I have taken a big risk and I have to face him, whom waited me behind the door. He is not too tall, with a straight saucer hair. His thinly moustache and beard; when I was in elementary school, he always

asked me to wax his beard and tidied up his moustache. Sometime my sister and I were fight to do that thing, but I always won. He knows I do it better than my sister. Another thing I remember is he liked to kiss me and my sister not only with his lip but with the moustache and made some awkward voice. It was funny and memorable. Back to the reality, then I walked slowly, I felt that my feet so heavy. Sound of the rain helped me to minimize my stepped sound and muffle my heartbeat which went faster, yeah it was better. Again, I just faced the big white door next to me and hope that everything will be okay.

(knock...knock...knock) “*Good night.*” I said softly.

(braaang...) “*Wait !!*” Someone voice from behind the door.

For a while, my heartbeat was stop. He threw away something; made a noisy sound in a silence night. I was shocked, my body shackled. I knew that he really mad at me.

“Oh no, this is the end!” I said.

I almost left that place, I wanted to run out, but it was impossible. Suddenly, the fence was far, yeah far like my favorite place that was beach. I liked to spend my time there. Sometimes I walked on the sand and felt the water on my feet. I really liked the wave sound; I even didn't know why it was so calmed. I sat on the sand looked around me, how I loved that place so much. Meanwhile, there are so many beautiful beaches with the white sand and blue sea, but those beaches can't compare my feeling when I was here. Oh yeah, for that

time I can went there, absolutely. My mine back home, he will mad at me more. Some tears went down on my cheek. I felt so bad, I couldn't handle it. Can I improve this? Will he apologize?

Suddenly.....

"Why do you come late?" His big eyes faced on me.

"Em,,em... I.... em,, because..." Haltingly.

"Why? What are you doing out there? You said that just hang out with some friend and after that where are you going? It is too late; you know that I really don't like it. Just tell me if you have another event" He asked me.

"Hem,,, I... I just go with my some friends; I didn't go to another place. I went out and it is raining out there. So,,, I just wait for a while"

"Then why you didn't tell me, you can call me right? Tell me, so I would not worry."

"Ye,,,yeah I know. But my cell phone was off. I am sorry." With a sad faced.

"Let come in, I have cooked water to you. Just clean up yourself, change your clothes and meet me after you finish." He said softly, and embraced my arms into the house.

I couldn't imagine what just happened. Everything was out of my expectations. He treated me nice; it was not look that he was mad. I thought that it may just a beginning. He treated me nice and when I meet him, he

will..... Oh I didn't know what will happen exactly. As long as I live, I can count how much times he mad at his girls. If he angry, he advised and done. He never angry for a long time, because he knew how to create a comfort zone in home, and it was successes. He was humorous; he can make us smile when crying. I even don't know how he can do that kind thing.

After I took a shower and changed all my wet clothes, I prepared myself and of course my mental to met him. During in my room, I talked to myself that I have to apologize to him.

"Hi.. I'm done. Thank you for cook me water. I don't feel cold again. I think you mad at me, so why you cooked water for me?" My very nervous sound came out.

"Yeah, you look better. Just to the point, why are you come late?" He looked calm.

"I'm very sorry for tonight. First because I come home late and did not tell you what happen outside there because my cell phone off. I know that it is my mistake, I promise you to never do that again. I promise."

"Girl,,, you know,,, I am not mad at you, I am worry about you. I asked myself why she not comes yet. I try to call you but it can't connect to you. I want to pick you up but I do not know where I have to go. You know that I can't sleep until you home, so I wait you. And know you with me, and I have known what is happening to you."

"I am sorry dad.. I am very sorry to make you worry" My tears came out.

Then he hugged me and cherished my hair. Felt loved, safe, and pleasant in that time. No man had ever made me felt that feeling. I wished one day, I will have someone like him.

“I love you my girl. I want only the best for you I’ll keep you with all of mine”

I couldn’t talk anything. I really love him.

“Thanks God, You give a best Daddy in this world to me.” I thought

BLOODLINE

ВГООДГІНЕ



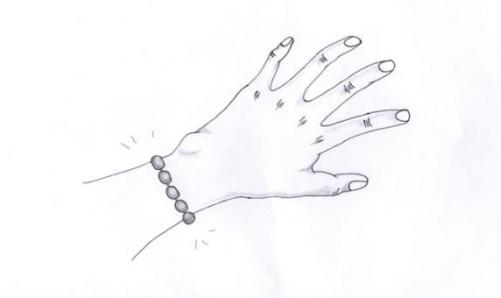
“I have doubts...” said the girl in black sheath of cloth wrapped around her thin body while crossing her hands because of the wind chill starts to breeze.

“Trust me, no one will know.” Whisper the guy standing next to her who also wears the same outfit like her, pushing his face towards the girl’s ear so no one could hear what they are talking about.

The girl starts to worry as she reaches for the guy’s hand to seek for safety and warmth. They entered the circle, just like everyone else there, in an empty field which surrounded by thick woods. She takes a little look to the moon in a bluish night sky, it reflects the sun in its optimal force, entering the girl’s brown eyes iris. She breathes slowly, yet still trembling. She cannot wash away the nervousness inside her away, and every time she is nervous, she touches her black gemstone bracelet on her left hand. Counting it to eighteen, then she smiled, remembering that today she is turning eighteen. The bracelet was a gift from her parents since the day she was born and every time she had birthday, one black gemstone will be added to the string. The memories start to fade in, it was her twelfth birthday, where her parents decided to tell her something she never expected.

Three people standing in a large Javanese decorated living room, there was a *kusen*¹²¹ window where the wind breezed through. Two people standing and facing towards the little girl. The little girl seemed happy, she smiled from cheek to cheek, ready to receive her present excitedly.

¹² *Kusen*: A wood crafted by artists, usually made from Jati tree, a hardwood tree from Indonesia.



“Astina, my daughter...” He said as he adds a black akik¹³² stone to her daughter’s left hand.

“Yes, father?” replied the girl in wonder.

A woman then stepped toward her just like the father then held his arm before the father said, “We are going to tell you about something, we’ve decided that this is a right moment to...” just before he finished, the woman continued, “Uh... Remember the story that I always read to you when you were younger? You used to like that story, and you can’t sleep before I read it.”

“That story about werewolf family? What about it, mother?” questioned the girl in confusion.

“We are one of them. We are one of the werewolves’ family.” Said the mother in convincing voice.

The girl squinted her black thick eyebrows and said, “What do you guys mean? Is this a prank? Or are you going to give me a book about them? Because I won’t like it, werewolves don’t exist. That’s why I do not like the story anymore, which is also why I told you to stop reading me the story.” She smirked, acting in the most sarcastic and childish way.

¹³ *Akik*: Indonesian various types of gemstone, very popular in 2015.

“It exist, and we are one of them.” Said the father in a flat face and voice.

“I do not understand. And I don’t believe you.” Said the girl.



The father then held the daughter’s hand softly, “Come, and I will let you see.” He said as he led her to the middle of the room where there is a giant space. He let the little girl’s hand go, where the mother then caught it. The father walked further in several steps then turned back. The mother hugged her from behind as the father’s dark yellow skin changed into dark, pitch black fur. His eyes were glowering and... “Oowooooo!!!”, A sound of wild beast came from his mouthful of sharp teeth. He turned into a wolf, unlike a regular wolf, he was bigger and he was standing with his two feet. The girl was so

scared that she turned her face towards her mother belly, panting. The tears ran down from both of her eyes to the sides of her cheeks. She trembled and her mother

soothed her with her hands patting her daughter's head and long black hair.



“Do not be scared, he is your father...” Said the mother. Little Astina then came facing towards her mother's eyes while the mother continued, “... Look.” She pointed at the beast in front of her. “That is your father. He is a werewolf...” The little girl then turned around looking at

what was her father. “And so am I, and so are you, soon.” She said.

The father then changed back to human and both of them hugged the little Astina.

A year has gone by, another birthday, this time it was her thirteenth, Astina's parents brought eleven boys around her age to her birthday celebration at home and started to introduce them to their precious daughter. She was wondering why her parents bother to bring her boys, she did not think that she needed any boys around to her life, and that was when she met Gilang. A

tall figure that smiled widely to her, a sincere smile, unlike the others.

“Hi, I am Gilang.” Said the boy in white, lovely clean shirt. His hair was styled to spikey, that it seemed like he dressed in purpose to impress someone.

He let out his hand from his brown khaki pants’ pocket to shake her hands but Astina refused it. She looked so unhappy because her parents kept doing something without telling Astina first



“Okay then.” He said as he moved to her side where they both stood by the wall.

Astina kept on silence, she morosely stared at her parents shaking hands to the guests’ parents.

“You want to know something? I should not tell you this... but...” Gilang said in sudden.

Astina stopped staring at her parents and turned to the left where Gilang was standing then said, “What?” in a flat sarcastic voice.

“But don’t tell anyone that I tell you this.” He said in a convincing face.

She just raised one of her eyebrows and did not say anything back to Gilang. The spikey haired boy grabbed Astina’s hand in sudden and rushed her to the backyard, where there are no one, only stars and moon.

“Ughhh... Let go off my hand!!” she said in anger.

“Shhhhh... they will know that we are here!” he said in a lower volume. Astina silenced her mouth and crossed her hands by her stomach, waiting Gilang to explain his actions. Gilang noticed, calmed himself down and said “You know, my parents told me this but I assumed yours did not tell this to you.”

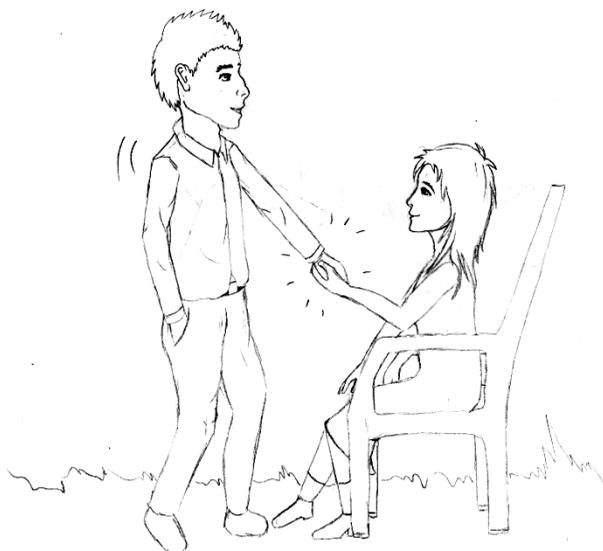
“Cut it out and just be straight to the point.” She said.

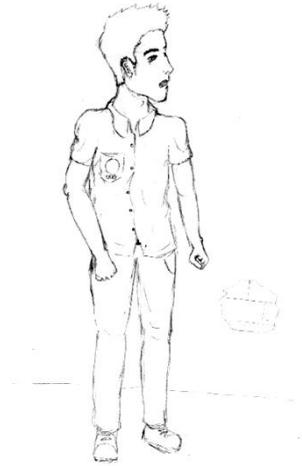
Gilang inhaled big air to his lungs and let it out, “Umm... Then be prepared, you, you actually are the last descendant of female werewolf, which means...”. Astina looked shocked, that she thought, just being a werewolf was tough. Surprise, surprise, just then she found out

that she is the last female werewolf. After a long break of pause he continued, "...which means that you have to pick one of us here, because we are all male werewolves. We came all a long way down here just to be picked by you. Then if you had picked one of us, you will have to get married at nineteen. Then they said about continuing the bloodline or something."

Astina cried crumbled down in an old chair near her, wiping her tears as if her freedom had taken away. "Why me? I do not want to get married. I can't." she said while crying.

"I know." He stepped closer to Astina, staring at her crying face then said, "Don't cry. We can do something about it, right? There is always a way."





“What way?” She said, trying to stop crying.

“Pick me. You’ll see.” He smiled then continued, “Stop crying now...”

Astina smiled and Gilang said, “That’s it, that’s the smile, let’s go in now, shall we?” he said to the girl who had just crumbled apart. He put out his hand to Astina, they stared down at each other’s eyes just before Astina started to take Gilang’s hand stood up. They both walked in to

the hardwood back door, going inside to a living room full of people.

Since then, they both covered up for anything towards each other. Pretended to be couples in front of the parents, and just being best friends in school. That was what Gilang had planned all along in the first place. Only that within the length of time they had been together, years by years growing up together heart cannot lie. Gilang fell in love, to a girl he wishes not to fall in love to, his best friend. Four years had gone by, they are seventeen now, grade eleven and no one noticed their game. Astina had real boyfriend, a regular human who gone to the same school as Gilang and her, Matahari Harapan High School, so did Gilang, who played the game along, to fake his feelings for someone else. Astina dated Gilang’s soccer team partner named Ega, a captain and Gilang dated a girl named Lina who had been his biggest fans to his soccer play, he played as a keeper. Ega was a basic jock, living a nice life because

his father was a wealthy businessman. His life was only about sports, never passed the academic tests, but he wouldn't care about that because anything could be handled by his father's money. He got a nicer body than Gilang and drove a car. Girls went crazy for him and that was why Astina fell in love to Ega, because she kept wondering why she picked her instead of other girls in school. Knowing that there was a tough competition, Gilang knew that it was impossible for him to impress Astina no matter what effort he had. So he thought that he'd better to date someone else. Someone who was easier to get, at least to lessen the feeling of hurting inside his chest. There was a girl who always cheered the football team sitting on bench with the loudest voice, always cheering to Gilang. Eventually, Gilang notice, but not as sincere as when he came towards Astina. This time, he was insincere. Approaching a girl who liked him a lot with one intention, to accompany him when there was Ega and Astina around. Like in the cafeteria, he played the game along... sitting, watching his crush and a guy on his football team getting intimate in public, copying what they did to Lina, almost everyday.

That was not last for so long when one day, a day before the National Exam, Astina looked so gloomy and had to tell Gilang something bad. She looks really messy, looking like she had not taken care of herself well lately that he had been watching her for few days, waiting for her to say something, instead of asking her what happened. Lately, Gilang never saw her hanging out around with Ega. He thought that probably they broke up and this is the right moment for him to confess his feelings too. They both gone to the corner of the school, where they usually hung out when there's bad time.

“I need to tell you this. I am so doomed.” She said while sobbing.

Gilang looked at her eyes, noticing that there was something really bad, must be worse than anything she said for so long. Her eyes are hollow, her hair was messy and her gray and white uniform looked so untidy. He brushed her hair with his hand, trying to make it tidy. “What is it? Tell me.” He said.

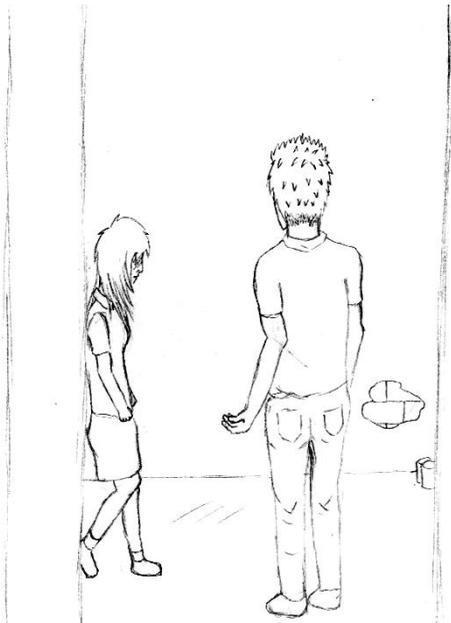
“It was just one time, one painful time that I wished I never had done it.” She said unclearly.

“What is it?” he said curiously and in a sad, pity voice at the same time.

She hugged Gilang which was much

taller than her, so her face was buried on his chest, and then she said something really disturbing, “It’s been two months since I got my last period.”

Gilang lost his strength to hold Astina, he let go off her hug in shock. His eyes saying that he was really mad. “What?! Are you saying that you’re...”, he did not even



finish his words because he already knew what it was meant and his face started to get redder than ever. He clenched his hands in rage and sadness, he cried, not trying to confess again.

“Why are you crying?” she said then continued, “Don’t cry, Gilang.”

“No, you don’t know anything, Astina, you’re pregnant with a human. It will cause you to doom. What... what do you think you’re parents would do to you if they found out that this entire time, we are not dating?” He said only by taking one breath.

She answered, “You said that there is always a way. There’s always a way right?”

“No, there is no way out of this, Ega needs to be punished.” He said in rage, intending to see Ega and punch him in the face.

“No, you can’t! Can you just... exclude him from this problem?” she said.

“What?! You think he’d get away from this easily?! No, Astina.” He started to walk away to find Ega, the guy who impregnated Astina.

“Stop!” she held his hand, “Stop, Gilang. Please don’t.”

“What? Do you have something in mind to deal with this?” He said furiously.

“I will be still going to marry you, and I will have to have an abortion.” She said without having caring about the presence of the living fetus of her own blood inside her stomach.

Gilang feelings was messed up, knowing that committed to help what Astina chose is a crime, sin and also if their parents knew, the possibility of them becoming the new Alpha will be gone forever. Becoming an Alpha is such a big deal to the werewolf world, but the nature will call out who ever worth of becoming it. If in the ceremony of change occur and one of the teenage werewolves' eyes changed to red, he, mostly and or she which is very rare, will be the next Alpha, in instant.

Gilang knew the consequences ahead, but that was also the only chance for him to own Astina. To finally steal her heart.

They decided to abort the baby and continue to live without any guilty feelings, especially to Astina. The only thing that changed was that Astina broke Ega up, so did Gilang to his girlfriend. They started to get more focus to the future, about what University they should pick together, marriage and so on.

Memories are gone, it is now the present that they are dealing with. Where the ceremony of the change is occurring. The Alpha, Mr. Yahya spells the last encrypted text on the book and the wind starts to breeze below the shades of Merbabu Mountain¹⁴, in a forest near Salatiga City, a tiny little city which hides a lot of secrets. Above on the dark sky, there is a round moon and its light is phosphorescent. The new turning to eighteen girl starts to shiver, the candles are blown off. She holds Gilang's hand tighter. Slowly, she feels dizzy,

¹⁴ Merbabu Mountain: A famous mountain located in Central Java, near Salatiga City.

she blinks her eyes many times trying to recover. Seeing greenish shade of everything but only sharper, even sharper than usual, she can even see a group of red ants roaming on an old bamboo tree from ten meters away. Touching her teeth with her tongue, she felt her teeth are growing sharper.

It is getting wilder when the circle breaks into pieces. One of them even flee off to the depth of the woods as his teeth turns into fangs, two of them screaming yet howling at the same time, black fur comes out from Gilang hands in sudden so he stops holding Astina's hand and starting to scratch them. Everything is chaotic and so noisy, unlike any other ceremonies before. Mr. Yahya runs off to the woods to search off one of the werewolves and everyone does not even notice Astina. She falls down to the soil ground, in convulsion. She looks so much in pain. Her glowering eyes change in to golden, then red, then blue in repetition. She touches her stomach, her head and even grabs her own long black hair until it comes off. Screaming in a terrible pain. That's when her parents inside the bamboo hut notice that there is something unusual occurring to Astina's transformation.



They come out and howl loudly together to call the Alpha, “Oowoooooooo!!!”,

It is not so long for the Alpha to come back in rush, while bringing a half changed male werewolf between his teeth without hurting him.

“What happened?” he asks.

“Astina, I do not know.” The mother says, before the father continues, ‘Please help our daughter.’”

They bring Astina to the hut. While Gilang’s father controlling every other one that is changing in the circle. They lay Astina down to some kind of traditional wide bench made of bamboo.

“This is not what usually happen.” Mr. Yahya says after observing Astina for a while.

“What do you mean?” the father says.

Mr. Yahya replies in anger and pity, “This had never occurred before, look...” he points to Astina’s eyeballs that change their colors. “... Red means she could be the next Alpha, gold means she could be the follower, and blue...”

Just before Mr. Yahya finishes his words, the father continues, “She had killed an innocent life.”

“My dear daughter had killed someone?! How?!” the mother says in unconscious acts of



shock. “We never taught her to kill someone, even before the change ritual. She has not even changed yet. We don’t even eat human.”

Mr. Yahya then turns around to see what Gilang’s condition before he said, “We might need an information from that boy over there.”

The mother says, “When Astina could be healed?”

“After she marry Gilang and confessing what he had done then conduct another ceremony. Redemption Ceremony.” He says in a flat face, where he seems to have known what happens to Astina, and what causes it.

It takes a week to let Astina buries in the pain after all those ceremonies where she has to get married a year sooner. She heals, and for the punishment, her secret is exposed, everyone know that she killed an innocent life, her baby to a human where she should be the next Alpha. No one wanted to approach Astina, no one, except Gilang. Another punishment which the pack agrees to is that Astina and Gilang will be secluded by the pack to live just both of them in a peak of Merbabu mountain. Where there are high concrete walls around the house, where they cannot go anywhere outside the walls. Only Mr.

Yahya, who is still the Alpha can come and go, delivering their needs. They never will see their parents and family again. Gilang and Astina continue their journey of life to



keep each other's back while they still have to also continue the bloodline soon, real soon like Mr. Yahya said.

Nevertheless of what Astina had done, Gilang will still love and adore her as much as the first time he saw her standing by the walls.

Months and months of living together, Astina finally accept and realize that the only thing she needs and the only one who is always beside her is Gilang. Everyday is filled with kisses and hugs. They even cook food together before eating.

"I love you, you stupid guy... who always... cling to me." Says Astina while shoving a spoonful of gado – gado¹⁵ and raw lamb inside her mouth, an ordinary food of werewolf.

"Hahaha... I love you too, even when you are eating so much lately" says Gilang happily.



¹⁵ gado – gado: A traditional vegetable salad with tofu and lontong which poured with grilled peanut sauce

Suddenly, she stops chewing, feeling a pulse of nausea. She swallows the food slowly and drinks water. “I think... I’m...”, she says before covering her mouth with her hands.

“Are you okay?” says Gilang in panic. Astina does not answer and just runs off to the bathroom to puke in the wash basin. Gilang follows her then hold the girl’s hair while massaging her neck. “What? Is there something nasty on the food?” he asks.

“No... I might be...”, she says before throwing up again.

“Might what?” asks Gilang again.

Just before she answers, there is a sudden energy boost inside her body, flowing to her eyes. “Mmhh...”, she’s holding in the energy while one of her hands grabs Gilang’s hand on her neck and the other clenches to the basin. She looks to the mirror realizing that her eyes was no longer brown, but red, as red as blood.





Bonifasius Siwe

You know, there are so many bad things that you imagine, but when you undertaken, it is not as bad as that. And there are also so many wonderful things you can imagine, but when undertaken, it is not as beautiful as that.

Most people live in their mind, so do I. Many of the things make me worry and fear, many things that make me jealous and pessimistic on myself. And it all started from my reverie about tomorrow. How if... what happened if... what will... and so on. Just remember, probably the lowest point in my life came when my dad died. At that time, I knew he was very ill, it never comes into my mind that my dad will have gone soon.

I am a child who comes from one of the area in Flores, Nusa Tenggara Timur. The name of my hometown is Bajawa. It looks like a frying pan. Why? Because it surrounded by a mountains and hills and my city is in the middle. The climate in my city is very cold at night and hot during the day. The scenery was still natural. All the people in my city are very friendly. Yes, they are friendly. The country has the population about 5000 people and spread everywhere in the whole area in my city. Yeah!!!! It's a small country. Many people in my country worked as a farmer, labor, civil servants, private employees, teacher, street sweeper, and carpenter.

As a farmer, they worked in paddy field, coffee plantations, banana plantations, chili plantations, cocoa plantations, and much more. As a labor, they worked in coffee factory, sand mining, and etc. As a civil servants

and private employees, they worked in an office and sometimes called as an office man or office woman. As a teacher, they worked in school and university. As a street sweeper, they worked in street as a street cleaner. Actually they are civil servants because after they worked in five years they will be appointed as civil servants. As a carpenter, they worked in a houses as a house builder.

I am the third child of five children in my family. We are all boys. I was the only one beloved son in my family. All the mistakes I do was always be the truth for my mom and dad. I think, I was the truth in my family at that time. But it does not a matter for all my brothers. They loved me, too. We lived in peace. All of the things we need is enough. Our life was stay on top. Yeah, we were a happy family at that time. As time passed, my father become a smoker and drunkard. My mother was only a traditional handicraft weaver. The income was not sufficient for our family. My mother was a hero at that time when my father still stays in his dark side. My mother fed us. All of it does not last a long time. Our family become poor. No pay because my father has no work. It has been a culture for him to judge my mother as a lazy people. Yes, he does that. Every day, every month, every year still the same.

But you know what? Every people in this world has the good side in their mind. Yes, self-awareness. My father realized that his sons have grown up and he realized that he has to change his mind and the behavior. He makes it real. It was the best thing, the best moving for my father. All the thing become easier and bright. My mom got happy of him. The story began here. ****

FEBRUARY, 2012

My dad was a carpenter. For information, the carpenter in my village consider as middle social statues. The pay was very low. Because of economic condition people have to work for their family. My father does that. He worked to feed us. At that time, I know, he worked in bad condition. One day, when my dad came home from workplace in the afternoon, he complained of feeling pain all over his body. My dad also directly went to bed without dinner. Suddenly, something came into my mind and asked my mom a question.

"Mom, why dad often sick lately??" I asked innocently. "That's because he works too much. Why don't you asked him?"

"Is he"

"Shut up, it's already night, dear. I'm very tired." Only 18 years old boy, I expected just want a vacation with my dad and mom and brothers and my younger brothers. But at that time, I was faced with a very unpleasant situation in my family.

I woke up at midnight, I met my dad in the bedroom. Only a few prayer books and candles are probably already tired of watching me crying every night. I could not continue like this. I love both my parents. I do not want any of them to leave me. I thought at the time.

The next day, as usual, early in the morning, my dad went to work with my cousin because the place where they work is so far. They have to go to work early in the morning so they would not be late.

END OF MARCH, 2012

One day I did not expect it to come.
tok tok tok (somebody knocking on the door) ...

"Hallo, Us. Is mama here?" Came a voice from outside.

"Yes she is."

When I opened the door. I look my cousin. He came alone. His face looked pale. But at that time, I did not catch what really happened. While he walked to meet my mom, "You want to come out?"

"I prefer at home. I have to studied for my national exam"

"All right."

After met my mom, my cousin was immediately taking her to his house, and I still do not know what really happened.

"we'll leave, please take care of your younger brothers."

"Sure." I said excitedly.

EARLY IN MAY 2012,

The next day when my mom back home. I and my two younger brothers began to asking why she did not come home last night. "Mom, why you did not come home last night?"

"I was take care of your dad." He said flatly.

"Is dad sick?"

"Yes. Right. Could not sleep all night."

"Heart attack? Lungs? Kidney disease? Or "

"Complications."

"What pain is that, Mom?" I asked curiously.

"Never mind, I am tired."

It comes to my mind that my father was seriously ill. But I let my mind go away.

I just studied for my national exam because I am a 3rd senior high school and in my school there was a national exam for 3rd senior high school.

END OF MAY 2012,

Early in the morning, the dawn was not show the sunshine. My mom woke me and my younger brothers with sobbing voice. Yes. My mom was crying. I can only hug her without asking why. Then she asked me to go to my cousin's house. At that time, I have to go to school to take the envelope of high school graduation.

"Where would we go, mom?"

"We're going to bring your dad to the shaman."

"Shaman? Does his illness is badly enough?"

My mom didn't answered my questions.

"Mom, we have to take the envelope of high school graduation."

"Sure. But after we bring your dad to the shaman. After that you can go to receive the envelope at school." Said my mom.

After that, we packed up and immediately went to my cousin. When we arrived at my cousin's home, we immediately took my dad to one of the famous shaman in my village. After we arrived at the shaman's house, my dad was directly prayed by the shaman for fast recover.

"This will take about 1 or 2 months for a full recovery. Your husband had to endure here until he is cured." Said the shaman.

"Whatever it is, the important thing is my uncle could be cured." Said my cousin.

"All of you may go home, but one or two of you have to stay here to help me take care of your uncle. The shaman said to my cousin.



My cousin and I went home while my mom and my younger brother stayed at shaman's home. At 12:00, I and my cousin went to school to receive the envelope. And yes, I am graduated. I was happy because I will be

a university student but in the other side I was also sad because of my father. After back home, I call my mom that I am graduated and she was happy at that time but it dissappeared in a minutes. We often visited my dad about 2-3 times a week.

EARLY IN JUNE 2012,

I have a call from my friend that UNIKA SOEGIJAPRANATA has the scholarships from the VDMS for those people who can not afford. I was dilemma. Took it or leave it. I was very confused. I told my mom about it and she gave me a good response.

“You should study there.” My mom said. “Don’t think about your dad’s conditions because he will be fine. This is your big chance. You took it now or never. We will support you and your dad too.”

“How about my brother? Are they agree?”

At that time, behind me was my second brother.

“I recommend you to study next year when our dad healed. It more better than you study when our dad was sick. It seems like you are rebellious child.” My second brother said.

I do not know what to say. Because I was confused. But my mom told him that I have to study for family background.

The next day, my mom told what I told to her to all of my family. Do you know what? Most families agree and others disagree. But my mom really agree. At that time, I throw my ego to study in UNIKA and I decided to study in the next year but,

“No. You have to study this year. I support you. Believe in God, he will be fine.” Said my mom.

“All right. I’ll follow you, mom.” I said.

END OF JUNE, 2012

On June 28, all my big family has a meeting in big house (rumah pokok/ rumah adat) to talk about my future. At that time, I was asked by them a lot of questions.

“Do you know what happen with your dad? Why you become an ego like this? Do you love your dad? Do you care with him?” My aunt said.

“Yes, I do. But I do not know what to do. Can I heal my dad if I stay here? Can I? And if I go for study, do you think that I am a rebellious child?” I shouted.

“Yes, you are. Why didn’t you take the study next year? You have enough time for your future, but do you have no time just a minutes for your dad?” My aunt pushed me to the wall. “Look at me. He is sick. If he is fine, you can study whenever you want and wherever you expected. But now, he is sick. I just want you as the beloved son to take care of him. Just it”

“Okay. I’ll study next year. I shouted while crying.

When I went home, I was very confused. I told to my mom that I do not want to study because of my dad gone sick. But, my mom always says that I have to study no matter what.

EARLY IN JULY, 2012

I remember, it date was July 04 night where our big family gathered in big house to talked about my departure to Semarang. All my family came. My dad did not join us but he just lied in the bedroom. After have a dinner, my big uncle from my old aunt's husband started to talk about my departure. At the beginning, everything goes smoothly. But then my brother and my uncle from my mom's younger brother interrupted.

"Why you go now? Your dad is sick. Don't you have any compassion on your dad?" My uncle said.

"I think that it is better to go next year when dad healed." My brother said.

"No. He will go tomorrow. He will take the study this year. You all have to let him go." My mom said.

After a long talking, all my family agreed. I just bowed sluggish. And all my family gave me an advice. All of them do that. My dad heard that I would go to Semarang. He called me to the bedroom and hug me while crying. I was cried and cried.

In the morning on July 5, all my family, they fetched me to the airport. My dad called me and gave me a prayer book.

"Take care of yourself. I can't give you money. Only a prayer book and I want you keep it for me. Pray for me to get better soon." My dad hugged me while crying.

I was cried too. I hug him and then he said to me,

"Go now. The plane is waiting for you."

I cried and cried. And also my mom, she cried and hug me.

“You have to study harder. Do it for your dad, for me, your brother and our family. God bless you.” My mom said while crying too.

After that, all my family fetched me to the airport except my dad and my mom. On July 5 night, I arrived at Semarang.

ON JULY 10,

At that time, I was walking around with my friends. We were looking for batik to wear in our first day of campus. When we were in Java mall, my uncle calls me and I did not answer him. He calls again and again. And the same, I did not answer. Then a message came to my hand phone. I remember how my uncle wrote. “My son, your dad had passed away. He passed at 15:25. Study harder to make him happy.”

Suddenly, I felt all my happiness gone. I felt my bone was broken. My friends did not know. Then, Boni, my close friend took my hand phone and read the message. He just hugged me and tried to entertained me. But it did not work. When I back to my cost, I called my mom but she did not talk only my sister talked to me. I was cried so loud.

At that moment, I tried to understand the meaning of 'sincerity', accepted that everything that ever happened and haven't had happened in my life is the best part that I can have today. As long as I live my life by choosing to be the best man I can afford. As long as I keep trying, praying, and hoping wisely. God will never close His eyes. He always heard my expectations. I believe it.

Even you are waiting for the things that you have not been own until today. The dreams that often makes heart congested, because not yet succeeded to accomplish.

I finally realized that there was so much prayer and hope, that even I forget if I ever wanted, it really happened. Perhaps it was not happening at the time I wanted, but obviously occurred at the most appropriate time. Because maybe, if I have or undergo hopes that in the past, my life is not as good as this.

God is really wise. Provide everything you need, not what you want. Dropping off and picking everything, just in time.

Believe me He is really wise. He knows things are still secret. He takes care of you, as well as you take care of yourself in the prayers and good things you've done so far. Trust me.

THAT PEN...



Denny Sanjaya

“I don’t know what you mean, Cahyani...!

She looked at me like a tiger found its rival and ready to war, but in one side, I saw her and listened to what she said. The way she said that has made me feel empty and thrown from the world.

“I just bullying you as I did every day, but now you’re angry?” I just shocked when I was bullying her as usually but now she looked very angry.... I think it’s not like Cahyani that I know...

“When you bully me everyday, I just close my mouth, but now you touch my precious pen, I will never silent. I will never forgive you.... Raka!!”

That memories never disappear from my brain, it was 3 days after I took her pen and throwed it into the trash and she was very angry to me. When I just arrived at class on 6.50 AM, I looked to her chair, she didn’t looked at school for 3 days. I started to panic and afraid what happened to her, is she drunk Baygon or cut her artery? I don’t know.

“Cahyani never seen since you bullied her 3 days ago, Raka...” Budi just standing in beside me, looked to Cahyani’s chair too.

“I don’t know what are you talking about, Budi, I just shock if she is very ‘alay’ just took her pen, and now she didn’t appear in school...”

Budi looked at me now, his eyes looked to me so deep like he said “Are you don’t know that you’re doing wrong”

I looked to him back, looked to his eyes to and whispered “when you don’t know the problem, just close your mouth...”

Budi looked shocked after I whispered that words, his eyes now looked like disappointed and he left me, went to his chair and sat. I went to my chair, placed on the last line in 3rd row in the class, and sat, and slept too.

When class begun, I still in slept position, put my head on table and cross my hand as a pillow to my head. I still thinking about Cahyani, is she still alive? “Don’t die, stupid girl” I said that on my mind. Cahyani is a unique girl, she always, never forget to wears Selendang batik as a scarf in her neck. She has long-dark red hair with face like an elf (ellipse face). Her skin really like elf too, bright-snow skin without fleck in whole body.

Her body is the ideal-slim body, the body that all women want to have. But one of her deficiency is on her fingers in left hand, the finger was rough. I know it when I was hold her left hand to bullying her, some of her friend ever told me that it because she is a guitarist. A good guitarist. She usually exercise her skill in playing guitar 2-3 hours a day, what a discipline woman...

“Raka, why did you sleep in the class, better when you get out from here!” Shouted Bu Eka in the class.



I woke up and with little angry in my chest put out the book and tried to follows the study.

Now let me tell myself first before the story was continue, I am Raka Subarna Putra, second son in my family. I have grey –

short hair with hair-style like Shawn Mendes hairstyle, a beautiful and interesting color of hair which no one has. My face similar to Charlie Puth, the singer of One Call Away song, but I very shame when people said that. I am is tall, just about 173 cm and my body like a basketball player, with ideal chest and big hand, but with all of my physical condition which very compatible to be athlete I love to sing.

I have good and melodious voice, the voice that similar to Mikha Angelo, the vocalist of The Overtunes band in Indonesia. But I never show my voice to other people except to my keyboard. Only my keyboard that ever listen to my voice, everyday...

“Can you buy me sauce to our dinner, sweetie?” asked my mom, her hand bring Rp. 10,000 (Rp. 10,000 almost same with \$1= Rp. 13,800) and appointed its money to me.

“I’ll be back as soon as possible mom...” I answered her whisper to make her doesn’t listen what I just speak.

When I just arrived in the Indomaret, I saw a haircut of women that I ever know, but she covered by many product in Indomaret, so I just saw once, and forget it. I just found sauce and go back home.

But, I got shock when I met her, the girl that disappear in school for 3 days, the girl that haircut style that I knew. Cahyani.

When she saw me (we are in the same area, food area in Indomaret) she got shock too, it’s looked from her expression.

“So, you buy something in here, yea?” I asked her madly

“Isn’t your business if I am here, Bast*rd” she answered me with smile drawn on her lips.

“Hahahaha....” I laughed loudly, she looked to me and annoyed.

She smiled and answered my laugh “I know that you’re really crazy”

“It’s just the beginning, Cahyani...”

“Berada di pelukanmu menyadarkanku apa artinya kenyamanan kesempurnaan cinta...” a song played covered my conversation with Cahyani, we stop for a moment when we heard that song

I accompany her ‘till she enter to her house. Suddenly she spoke “Thank you Raka, I never know if you’re kind”

“You’re welcome bast*rd” I answered her with little smile scratched by my lips.

She looked to me for a while with confuse expression shown in her face, and she turned around and entered to her house, closed the door and disappear from my eyes.

I can’t slept. Her face haunted my mind in a half my day and I felt something that burn and warm appear in my heart. What it that?

I woke up from my bed, checked my mobile phone and found no one sent me message, so I set up the alarm and turned it on at 6.00 AM.

“Triiiinnngggggggg..... trrrriiiiiinnngggggg.....!!!”

“Oh shut up...!!!” I reached my mobile phone and turned the alarm off. I took it back to left side of my pillow and woke up.

“kangmas Raka, you must wake up early today.” My mother opened the door and she entered to my bedroom with smell of *Melati Kraton* covered her body

“Mom, why you use Kebaya this morning, what happened?” I asked her when I looked her using green Kebaya as her clothes.

“Don’t you know if this day is a great day kangmas Raka? This is *first Suro*” replied her.

“Oh noooo.... I don’t want to leave this class today, mom” I asked her like a children asked her mother to bought to him a delicious snack. I know that usually my family in the First Suro will bring Sesajen to Mount Kawi, so it’s mean I and all of my family will leaves daily acitivity and go to the Mount Kawi. This tradition was established since a long long time ago.

“Oh what happened with you, why you don’t want to leaves today’s class, it’s not like kangmas Raka as usually. Usually you will very happy if you leave the class....” Said her with unbelief expression shown in her face.

“Today I felt unwell to go, better when I still in Jogja and go to school, mom” I asked and gave to her my statement.

“I know, Kangmas Raka” said her, and she sweep my brow with her hand, a symbol of love from mother to her son.

I stood and walked to bathroom, left my mom in my bedroom alone.

I walked slowly cause I want arrived late, because I know that today is Mid Test day, so I just want to sat at back (When you were late you will got back side chair). My school itself has unique position, it placed near of Malioboro street, the famous street that being Jogjakarta symbol to tourism. I just walked at sidewalk of Malioboro and saw that the street is so crowded by foreign and visitor from another city.

The cold that covered this city today like gave me a sign that today will being a day that change all whole of my life, so I ran quickly, crossed many tourist, and I almost fell because one of the souvenir, that is flowers took at middle of sidewalk and I almost hit it. I arrived in School at 07.05AM, I was late, so I ran to my class, opened the door and got shock..... Cahyani stood before me, her face looked if she got shock too.

“Cahyani....”

“r-Ra-Raka....?” Said her

“I must enter the class, go away from my face!” I asked her with insisted tone in my voice.

“F*ck you, Raka...” she answered me whispery.

I felt unworthy, she is being my good friend, but now I’m killing her by myself, I made her being my enemy because of my Ego.

When this event was a story, I sure that the Antagonist is my Ego. That's true.

So I ran outside of class, chased her.

"What are you doing dude? Are you trying to kill her?"

"No, umm, I don't know"

"Fix everything right now! Do not be such a coward! You are gentleman, prove it!

"What should I do?"

"Ask your heart! What a stupid boy! Can you think about the other?"

"..."

"No, you can't. You hurt my friends, if there is something happen with her, never call my name! I will slap you, hit you, and worse than that!"

Suddenly, Cahyani's friend came toward me, and got angry. Yeah, they thought I hurt their friend. And seriously, I know nothing.

"Cahyani! Wait for me!"

I ran toward her, I want to say something.

"Cahyani, please stop, let me explain everything. Give me more chance!"

Finally, she stopped and began to cry.

"Cahyani, please don't be like this, I can't see you crying"

"No..."

"Cahyani, I don't really know what happened right now, seriously. But I feel something different"

“...”

“Can you speak something?”

“Proceed”

“I always...”

“Always what?”

“Ummm”

“Do not waste my time”

“Wait, I need time”

“But, I don’t have many time here”

“Okay, I always think about you, even though I always bully you everyday, everytime, but I can’t let you go out of my mind”

“So?”

“Yeah, I... I... I don’t know what is this”

“So?”

“Would you forgive me?”

“As long as you don’t do the same thing, over and over again”

“Promise!”

“Alright then! Let me go”

“Umm, I still have something to say”

“What is that?”

“I think, I like you”

“You aren’t daydreaming, are you?”

“No, I’m not”

“Please be serious dude!”

“I am serious! I love you!”

And people around me stared at us, because of my words. I ran to the class, took my bag. Left the class and ran out, I felt a hand touch my shoulder.

“If you want to go, ask me”

“What?”

“Come on”

“Where will we go?”

“Why do you ask me?”

“I don’t know, what do you think?”

“Do you have guitar?”

“Yes, I do”

“Pick it up, and go to the park”

“Ah...”

She pulled my hand, and we ran to my house. After that, we went to the park.

“Let’s sing a song”

“Ah, I’m shy”

“Don’t be such a coward, come on!”

“Hey! I’m not that coward. I can sing”

“Do you have your own song?”

“I’ve ever made a song, but I haven’t complete it yet”

“I have mine too, let’s make it complete. You bring notebook, don’t you?”

“Yeah, but I don’t bring the pen”

“Use mine”

She gave me her precious pen, I was surprised. After we tried to make our own song, we wanted to write the chord.

“Oops, look at this”

“What?”

“Your pen, I can’t use it”

“Ah..”

“I’m sorry, I don’t want to break yours. But”

“No problem, don’t feel that guilty”

“Seriously? This is your precious pen, right? Let me buy you the new one”

“No need to do that”

“What?”

“Yeah, this pen is not mine anymore, I have the new one”

“...”

“I have you, you can write many stories for my life. Me too, I can write for you”

“Cahyani? Are you?”

“Hmmm. I am”

I moved near her, hug her by my hand, she got shock, its looked from her face, but I know she wants me did this.

“Can I ask you to do something ‘lil for me?”

“Yeah, Raka?”

“Close your eyes....”

“What do you mean?...”

“Just do it”

So she closed her eyes slowly, frightened to know what happened next.

“I love you with all of my heart” so I kissed her by my lips to her lips, I hold her hand we were sank by love.



Elsa Tamti Denasia

There is a love story beginning in a Senior High School. The love story always began when they were in Senior High School. There is a very cute girl in this school, has its own identity with the front hair bangs, wearing a long skirt and shirt uniform, long socks, and flats shoes. The girl named Eni. This girl is very friendly as well known every morning always gives a sweet smile and greeting for everyone in the school. She is one of students who is very clever and had a friend who was also studying in the same school with her. Tika is Eni's friend who knew others when Junior High School and until recently they were together on the same school as well. They always shared, joys and sorrows about their live with full of happiness. Although they took different majors in the school, but everyday they always together because her house is also close to each other. Share knowledge and time, that's their daily lives.

When Eni goes to school gate..Tika is running towards Eni and calling out her.

“Eni..Eni..Eni..Eniiiiiii!” (while struggling)

“What happen with you tika? What's wrong with your breath? Why do you call me with hysteria expression?”

“Hah..ckckck..i only to say WAIT me, i want go to class together, you didn't my voice, it's so annoying!”

“I'm sorry sist, i'm sorry i can't hear your voice. Let's go there..” (go to class together)

“Okay..Let's go!!!”

After a long time they are chatting, they came into their respective classes.

“Bye Tika..”

“Bye Eni..see you again at the break time.”

“Okay..”

Time after time they passed in their respective classes. Mrs. Lina is the Eni’s classroom teacher. She gifts surprised for her students.

“Good morning my lovely students...” (with the fresh face in the morning)

“Good morning Ms. Lina...”

“Attention please... today I have good news for us, actually for the girl students. Could you want to know about that girls??”

“What is that mam?”

“Wait and patient dear, I want to ask for us.”

“Asking now mom, what do you want to say mom?”
(curious feeling)

“Today... will be there a new student in this class, which the new student had been recently moved from others school.”

“Boys or girl mom?”, asks Ucok.

“Whether it’s a boy, mom?”, asks Leli.

“Hahaha... the new student is the boy dear. This boy is very handsome, mature, and also good-natured. Arif, that’s the name of the new students who now attend school here.”

“Wow...it’s a good idea!!!!” (cheerful face seemed to shine), says Leli.

“Arif come here...Let’s join us Arif...” (With the steps were not sure, Arif, the new student comes to class...)

“Hi...my friend. Introduce my self, my name is Arif Arianto. You can call me Arif. I’m living at the Dago street, i comes from Sint Louis Senior High School Jakarta. I hope you can be accept my coming in this class. Thanks.”

“Yeay...give applause for him!”

“Welcome here Arif, nice to meet you,” cheers the class.

“Thankyou guys, nice to meet you to.”

“Arif...you can sit in the back corner of the cute girl next door, the girl’s named Eni..” (Pointing Eni)

“Okay mam...thankyou”

“Sit down please,..”

“Thank you, nice to meet you.”

“Nice to meet you too.”

Unexpected hour of the break times had already sounded. Arif confused to go everywhere because he

didn't understand about the new school. He just sat in the corner and reading a novel. And then Eni is offered Arif to join together go to the cafeteria.

"Kring..kring..kring..kring.."

"Arif...where do you want to spend your break time?"

"I don't know Eni...hehe"

"Do you want to join us go to the cafeteria?"

"I think Yes, may I join us?"

"Let's join Arif. Keep calm..."

AT THE CANTEEN.

"Tika...Tika.Tik...Tikaa...", shouted out Eny to call her best friend)

"Whats'up dear?"

"Come here, i want to ask something with you!"

"What happen sist?"

"Tika...I have a new friend, this name is Arif. (Pointing Arif)

"Oh...yay, hi Arif."

“Rif...this is my best friend. You must be know.”
(Pointing Tika)

“I see...hi Tika, i’m Arif...nice to meet you.”

“You too.”

“I hope, we could go together...” Eni then says.

“Yes, i also hope like that,” says Arif.

“That’s a good idea. Wait guys i want to order some food and drink for us”, responds Tika.

“Okay Tika”, says Eni

“Thanks Tika”, says Arif.

“Yes alright”, says Tika.

“Eni..i’m not strange with your face, sorry to say that”,
Arif suddenly makes a comment.

“What? Where do you ever meet me maybe? In some place?” asks Eni.

“I saw you in the morning, you say hello with the everyone if you came at the school. Is it you?” Arif asks.

“Hahaha...lol...yes it’s me. My hobby is always say helo with the everyone i saw everyday. I’m sorry if it’s annoying for you.” Explains Eni.

“No...no...no...matter Eni. I like your style,” Arif smiles.

“Thankyou”, Eni says.

“Teeet...teeeet..ttttteeeeeeeeeeeeeetttttttttttt...”

“Let’s go guys, the break time is over, “ Tika says.

“Okay,” Eni and Arif says together.

Time by time is passed, they are closed and intimate. Their habit is always together live when the break time arrived. Arif always together in everywhere, everytime, and every situation with Eni, for example are make a group decision, teamwork, and make a homework, they always together. Everyday they always go to school and back to their home together. They always have time together in every situation who they encounter.

WHEN ARIF AT HIS HOME...

“Cute, pretty, good looking, clever, hmm it’s so perfect.”
(Dreamily)

Arif is confused to chat Eni, but he felt so missed her. He began to fidget with what he felts. Arif’s heartbeat is beating very fast. More thinking...thinking...and thinking, he tried to do what he wants to do. Finally he sent a message for Eni, and this message contains of chit chat as usually about their study. The admiration Arif towards Eni strong approached. Sometimes we are ashamed to express what we feel with others.

SUNNY MORNING

The sky was blue and the fresh morning air was decorated with birds singing a very melodious. Immediately He picked up and the passion for beautiful girls to go to school with him.

(After arrived in Eni's house.)

"Tok..tok..tok..." Arif Knocks on the door.

"Yes, coming..", answers Eni's mom.

"Excuse me, whether there are Eni in home, mom?", Arif asks.

"Yes there is..Please sit down and wait for a while."

"Okay mom."

(Every few minutes she out onto the porch of her house..)

"Hi arif..i'm sorry if i late to preparation go to school." Eni finally comes out.

"No matter dear, i always patient to waiting you", Arif syas.

"Hahaa..lol,thankyou Arif. Let's go now"

Okay, where is your mom Eni? I want to ask for leave."

"Mom..mom..mom". Shout out Eni with calling her mom.

“Yes dear, what happen?”

“Mom, i want to ask to go to school”, asks Arif.

“Okay, takecare dear”, says Mom.

“Bye mom.”, Eni says.

After to school, Arif looked at Eni when removing her helmet. Sharp gaze from his eyes said that he greatly admired Eni. She also responded to gaze eyesat the face of a very confused.Finally they go to class and follow the lessons vigorously morning.

Suddenly when lessons is walked, Arif stared in amazement of Eni.Arif seriously calling Eni who are copying the writing on the chalkboard.

“Eni...Eni...you look so beautiful.” Exclaims Arif.

Sorry, i don't understand what you mean?“,. Eni responds.

“Fine...poor you. May i say something for you?”

“Please say..”

“Not now, maybe later i will say. Wait the right time.”
(sweet smile)

“What do you want to say? I don’t understand what you mean? Don’t be crazy, please Rif.” (confuse face)

“I care with you!” (while blinking eyes coquettishly)

“Arrrgghh...you’re crazy, please don’t disturb i want to serious!!!!”(go away from Arif)

After coming home from school, Eni wondered to herself. She always felt strange. She called Tika to pour out her heart. She tell about everything that had happened. Tika understand the feelings of her friend, and she said “never mind, i felt that he is hiding something felt with you”. Eni was very confused by the behavior of Arif.

In the evening, the air is so cool and the breeze today. Tika sat alone in the garden while looking at the surrounding circumstances. Many food traders also enliven in the park. The sound of birds chirping with a tunable made her more comfortable to sit on it. While looking at her mobile phone, She tries to think for a moment about her feelings. Feeling increasingly accused haunt her, should she persist with her feelings or have to move over for her bestfriend? But she still always lying her feelings to Arif. The time was evening, Tika finally coming home and thinking about Arif. Arriving home, Tika immediately entered the room and daydreaming in her room. Finally She fell asleep until morning.

“na..na..naa..na..naa..na..” (while song lyrics while sleeping in her bedroom).

When lying while thumbing her instagram, she's always been an observer instagram of her friends (while

following the development of the era). She was still confused by his feelings.

After a few minutes there was a message (via Line) sign and reads: "Hi..I'm Eko (Arif's Friend).. Can be ur friends?". She immediately got up and wondered who the Eko (while replying to chat it). Eventually Tika preoccupied with her new friend until late night, they still communicate via Line. A girl definitely has curiosity is very strong when meeting with new friends, especially a guy. Too long chat via Line, She was looking through Facebook, Instagram, and venture out to all the guys sosmed to find more information about this new friend.

"Kukuruyuk petok..petok..kukuruyuk..petok..petok..." (show time is morning).

Tika hurried ready for going to school. Without breakfast and said goodbye to her parents she immediately hurried off to school. After arriving at school, Arif called her when they passed through the lobby of the school.

"Tika...tikaaa....tik..tikaaa..waaaaiitttt!!!!!!!", says Arif while followed her.

"Arif... I want to talk with you, when you have the time?"

"I also want to say Tik... I can go home with you later? How we dropped first to a shop across from the school?"

"Okay... See you later. I wait you in the parking Rif."

"Okay..., Tika"

The heat of the sun so oppressive that afternoon. However hour lesson continues to run as usual. Hours passed and the time breaks spins so fast. Bell rang and the children out one by one meets motorcycle parking and the lobby of the school. Tika is waiting Arif in lobby while playing gadget. She was a hobby spend their time playing gadget. Suddenly Arif came up and they immediately along the road towards the parking lot. Arif stopped across a shop near the school (haunts children each school). After the message of food and drinks, Arif started to speak first.

“Tika... what you want to say?”

“You once wrote Rif... relaxing right here we are still a long time.”

“Ladies first, please.”

“My story is not very important Rif, you first.”

“Already you first Tika..i’m waiting.”

“Okay.. Rif, It's actually how you have the same feeling with Eni?”

“Huh..i like her Tik, I want to approach her Tik, but you know right she did not respond to me. What should i do Tik?”

“If you seriously at her, I will unite you. How to agree or did not?It seems she also has the same feeling as you feel Rif ..”

"I like her Tik, but if you look at the response he's like that. I hesitated to approach her. Know where you are on Eni's feelings?"

"No need her story, her movements showed she likes you!"

"So, what should i do Tik?"

"You continue to approach it, I will slowly help.How?"

"Okay I will tried it Tik.. can you promise to help me??"

"Always Rif, relax and let it flow."

"Alright, next how about my story, Tika?."

"Let's go, Arif..."

"I want to say sorry, yesterday I gave ur number to my best friend unbeknownst to you, I want you approaching him Tika. Did you receive a chat from him? "

"Oh..Eko? I've received a message from him, but I'm sorry I did not really Respon chat of new people. If you've told me I'll apologize to him. Sorry before it, Rif"

"Okay Tik, never mind..."

While engrossed in telling stories and enjoying the food they order, they lose track of time if it is already late. Soon they rushed home and came home each of them, they rest and prepare for the next day to school.Tika trying to eliminate feelings for the sake of Arif for Eni. She wants to see her friend happy together with loved ones, even though it was difficult but she tried to give

the best to her friend. Tika want to open your heart to Eko.

THE NEXT DAY AT SCHOOL. ...

Arif and Eni greet and joke together in their class. Eni increasingly responding to Arif and they have started to sit the bench during class. Eni looks more fresh and unusual. Eni took Arif to the cafeteria together if later break. And Arif want to be invited to the cafeteria together.

From a distance Tika see the two of them walked together toward the cafeteria. And Tika followed them and after arriving at the cafeteria, joined them in the cafeteriabench.

Tika tells his new special friend to Eni and respond with her story... Arif was very happy to see the joy of Eni. The three of them are so nice and cozy in storytelling, joking and joking together.



Class bell rang, they were forced to have to split up and go into their respective classes. The three of them walked towards their respective classes. Suddenly after entering the next school hours, Eni sat dreamily staring and smiling unclear. Arif pinch Eni and Eni is shocked when Arif revive her when she was daydreaming. Eni whispered to Arif and said "You are handsome today", Arif more confused and wondering what was wrong with Eni. He just replied to a whisper, saying "You're beautiful today, thank you". They both smiled and stare unclear. Does not feel the school day was over and they had to split up to go home each.

As he headed toward the parking lot, Arif took Eni dinner later that evening and Eni accepted his invitation. When Eni and Arif walked together and they both saw Tika tandem with a boy and then Eni running and holding Tika and Tika only embarrassed to introduce the boy to Eni.



“he...he...he...he” (smiling shyly)

“Why not you tell me?”

“Later if officially be the story.”

“Ehem...ehem...Tika...” (cute smiling)

“Arif...” (shyly)

“Rif...how about our plan for tonight?”

“I see...what time you want, Tika?”

“Where will you go, Arif?”

“May i joined?”, asks Eni.

“Ssstttt....it’s secret of boys, Eni” (cute smile)

“At 7 o’clock Rif in special place who you mention yesterday, don’t forget Rif, see you...”, says Eko.

“Okay...bye...see u tomorrow”, Tika says.

“Take care guys...”, Saya Arif and Eni together.

After the ride home. Eni took a break and should be ready again at 6 for Arif would pick her up for dinner together. Eni opened a cabinet and are confused about what to wear tonight. After you set up and find a dress for tonight, Eni quickly showered and prepared for her appearance later met with Arif.

Show time is at 6 pm, after a bath Eni still mirror while combing her hair and standing in front of the glass. Suddenly there was the sound of the motor is stopped in front of the house Eni and he immediately came out and said goodbye to her mother in the family room. Arif surprised with the appearance of Eni which look a very beautiful and elegant. After arriving in a cafe, they both entered into and Eni surprised because inside there Tika and Eko were already sitting bench cafe with candle lit atmosphere, and the dim lights that lit up. Tika also surprised to see Eni and Arif came into the cafe. Turns Eko and Arif had a pact to double date in this cafe. The men prepare for something romantic to the girls that they carry.

Not long lamp cafe was dead and the two girls hugged each other in shock and their bench (lined). Suddenly a voice shouted "Please facing backward for a while, there's something dangerous behind you!!!!". Turns Eni and Tika surprised because there were candles lit and formed the words "I LOVE YOU". Finally, the cafe lights the flame back later Arif approached Eni, Eko approached Tika.

The man holding the hand of the girl and reveal their true feelings.

That night was a very romantic evening and can not be forgotten. Finally, two couples were officially dating in the day and in the same place. Inside the cafe it created a romantic atmosphere and harmonious because of the arrival of the happiness of the two couples.



Flaura Felicia A.

Love, Sony, Tasya, Roger and Dinda are five best friends who studied in one of the most popular University in Semarang, sitting together in the round table. They talk about Semawis market because last night they have been in there. Semawis market also known as Waroeng Semawis is a market in the Chinatown Semarang. Semawis market starts with deeds of the Lunar Semawis Market in 2004, following launching of the Lunar New Year as a National holiday in Indonesia. Semawis market open every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night at all Gang Warung street, Chinatown Semarang.

Semawis market presenting varied traditional food and Chinese food like fried rice, various satay, pisang planet, nasi ayam, es puter, kue serabi, lumpia, gudeg, nasi pindang, etc, and varied foods of pork are pulled to enjoy. The longest center of snacks in Semarang is open from 18.00 PM until midnight. Then they continued with sang and occasionally laughing together, bully each others. It was such a harmonious friendship.

Feeling jealous, Lena , and Tina who do not have many friends came to disrupt them. With the insult face Lena say, "Ouchh...!! Your voice is like a broken radio, I think your throat have some problems! Better for you to shut up." "Hey.... How dare you say like that?! Your voice is also like a broken radio too and hurting my ears!" Said Roger.

All of children in that place was laughing, except for Lena, and Tina Her face turned into red. Roger and his companions continued their conversation again regardless of Lena and Tina. " Hmm.. sorry friend, I was the second huh? No promises for training, would be

advised there is a small benefit concert so... " said Roger and then he left the place with a pouted face.

Dinda say, " Uh, busy! Yes already hunted departed, be careful." "Wow.. nature calls ya, I will go to the toilet first." Said Tasya.

Love shaking her head and then says, "Hmm, as usual, never changes... haha..." . "Hahaha, so there will be no Tasya." Said Dinda.

Love says "Uuh, ya thirsty it is not a bad time to drink cold beverage.. huh?? " . "Yeah... Okay, so I will buy ice if you want, wait here together with Dinda." Sony said and leaving Love.

Dinda say "Hmm.... actually these couple love months there have been a changes on me, I can not hide it anymore and I think you are the only person who can keep a secret." "The secret? oohh, we are best friends, so you can told me. Anyway, I have been prepared for to be a good listener." Said Love. Without them knowing, Sony stood at a distance with a few packs of ice on his hand. Sony saw Love and she is so busy telling her stories, and thought better to approach them.

And when he snapped out of his reverie, he headed for Love and Tasya, and he was shocked when he hear the words from Love.

"I.. I am happy to have friends like you" said Love.

Sony whispered to Love "Huh..?! Are you serious, Love???"

Incidentally, Dinda also already come.

Dinda suddenly come and heard what they say and made her more blushed and said "heheee..."

"Hey, you are already on the back!" Said Love and smiling with subtle greeting.

Tasya says to Dinda "Din.. seriously, are you happy to have a friends like Sony??" "What the hell are you talking about? Yes, of course, just like you all" Said Dinda and she pretending not to know.

Dinda say to Love with a rather high tone "Hah.. !! Do not be a liar.. I hear that too!" Love answers and she trying to mediate "what are you heard is wrong!"

ON ANOTHER DAY...

"Din, I think you are also have to know too! I already hate Tasya for a long time ago!! Like nobody else?!" Love is grumpy.

Roger says and try to compete with the high tones and Love "Hey... Just shut up all of you!!" Tasya says "Hey, so you are like that huh??! I do not bring your name when I'm telling my secret to Love! Why you meddled in other people's business?!" She turning angry and the situation are getting worse because no one wants to yield.



Love says and tried to intervene " Enough, enough!! Do not fight just because of the same task!"

Roger say "We have been together as a friendship from long time and do not break our friendship just because of a problem like this!" Then Tasya left his friends.

On the other hand, the parents of Love was hit by a big fight. Her father always grumpy, be hard, and hit Love. Meanwhile Adrian, her sister just silent without knowing what really happened.

"You just have a husband that usually makes you in trouble!!" Said Father Robin and shouting to Mother Reni. Mother Reni say "I have done wrong?? "

Father Robin says "Oh my God, you just shopping everyday, social gathering, hangout together with your friends and never at home. Your children not neglected and you never pay attention to your children".

Mother Reni says "But you also busy with your clients in the office and you do not care about your wife and kids!!"

Father Robin was angry and he slap Mother Reni's face.

Adrian asking with full of innocence "Dad, why did you slap mommy? "

By the way, in Indonesia there are assume those men have a higher position and its existence more valuable than women. Men are considered to be more powerful, more able to be a leader, and while women is have to submit or submissive to men. In many ways, men more get a chance to develop than the women. This culture is called Patriarchial culture, the culture that men are more important and have a higher position than women.

Then, mother Reni crying at that moment, Love came and was shocked o see what happened.

Love come to embraced her mother and she shout "Mom, are you ok?!"

IN THE MORNING...

Sony tells everything what happened yesterday between Love and Tasya. Roger's heartbeat alarmed to hear all that. Sony says "I think you have in a hurry to make a decision. I do not want them to fight for too long." Roger says "Okay, okay! I'd tried everything and explain though they did not fight in vain, ". Roger was trying to see Love and that same day. But unfortunately, only Tasya would accept Roger's decision, while Love would prefer to avoid. "Ta, Sony already told all to me about that yesterday." Said Roger.

"Ta, I apologize in advance. Because of my fault you are so quarreled with Tasya. Instead of nothing, but for the near future I do not want to thinking about a girl again. I want to serious on music." Roger adding and he explained wisely. Love says "Okay. I understand. I just think about Tasya now. She is already been intimidated at Lena." Tasya, Lena, and Tina walking past Roger and Love, but totally they be a different people.

Roger asking "Tasya?" But Tasya go on endlessly.

Sony say "Hello, Love? Your brother in the hospital. He runs hit by a vehicle, you to the hospital Hurry - hmmm, RS. Elizabeth Semarang," Love panic and say "Hah, now how is the situation?!"

Sony say "I just can calm, which is important to you now Hurry here! Do not forget to tell your mother and father!" And shortly thereafter Love comes and running in a hurry.

Love see Adrian and say "Geez Adrian!! "

Sony try to calm down Love and say "The doctor already check him, he said the head wound was not too bad, really, bytheway, Hmm.. I will go to the toilet first, okay? You just here and take care of Adrian while waiting your parents coming."

Love answers " Yes, but do not stay long. I'm afraid to be alone here."

" Okay" said Sonny.

When Sony was in the toilet, he remembers his friends who surely also be informed about this. Without waiting longer, Sony immediately called Love and Roger. Once finished telling them, Sony came out of the toilet and was about to walk back to the ward. As he walks, his shoulders suddenly get hit by someone's shoulder. Sony's amazement when he saw that the shoulder is a shoulder hit Tasya.

Tasya shouting "Oouuch...!"

Sony say "Oh, sorry, sorry.. Not accidentally, again hastily."

"Yes, yes. It is okay," said Tasya.

"Do you know? Tasya ?? What are you doing here ..?"
Ask Sonny.

"Eh, Sony.. Yes, I'm exhausted with my mother to check-up, but I was needed, so my mother go home first. Keep on your own.. what are you doing in here?"
Tasya answered.

"Love's brother, Adrian, now again treated in room 555 because accident. And now I am waiting for Roger and Love's mother coming," Said Sonny.

" Ooooh ..." said Tasya.

Sony ask to Tasya, " Do you still angry at Love? I mean me and Love?"

"Well... not really. Rather resentful wrote. We've why?"
Said Tasya.

Sony say "I just want to report something, Lena was not a good person. She use our circumstances again cracked by inciting you. Remember, we have a long friendship. We all know who wrote that deserve to be invited truly. And Lena did not fall into that category. He was just going to broke what we wrote.. " Tasya answers him "But, is Love know?"

"Roger already explain to Love and she is understand. Can you understand the period??" said Sonny.

Tasya say "mmmh.. how yea?? Yeah, I think that Lena was not good. Hmm.."

Sony awaiting Tasya with the sharp eyes staring.

Tasya say "Maybe I should apologize to Love?"

"Good...! Fine, you come with me Adrian wrote to his room. We'll wait for Love's mother and Roger coming, said Sonny.

Tasya adding "Fine.... but I should go to the toilet first. You go there first, I will catch up anyway.

Sony say "Okay, yes Hurry!"



MEANWHILE ...

Mother Reni say "Adrian!! My boy."

"You!! This is your fault! You do not care with your children and not incompetent as a wife!!" Father Robin said and blaming to Mother Reni for what happened.

Mother Reni say "This is your fault too! Always busy and do not have time to accompany Adrian!"

Love say "Just stop it!! Mother and father just have a same behave! Adrian is stil sick, tired Love, so please listen!! The problem will not end if both of you still mocking. Please father and mother do not fight everyday, Pleaseeee...!" And then she is crying.

Adrian awake from fainting and say "Mom.. Dad ... Sister..."

Father Robin say "Mom... Adrian.. Love.. I am sorry ... I promised to taking time for all of you. I realised that I am very busy latety in the office,"

Adrian say "Ok.. we all apologized Daddy, but you must promise don't slap mommy again!

Father Robin say with an embrace face "Okay".

Then, Sony has returned from the toilet, along with Love and Roger to come. Shortly thereafter , knocking on the door.. Tasya

Tasya say with a little doubt " Um .. I could get in, right?"

Adrian says " Eh, Tasya. Just enter."

Tasya enter and say "Actually.. besides going to look Adrian, I also come to apologize to all of you during this same mistake. Sony already explained all to me. What do you want, right, forgive me ..?"

Love say "I'm sorry, because already talk rudely to you. Forgive me, too, ok?" Roger adding "Well, this is better, right, Fren??"

Sony says and smiling "I am also happy if we all get along anymore like they used to."And then all of them laugh together.

Tina suddenly says "Hmmm, sorry if disturbed. Earlier I want to apologize to each of you. During this time I had the wrong friends. I realized Lena using this situation.

What do you want, is not it, so I accept your friend??"

All of them answers " Yes !! "

Interwoven stories of true friendship, of course, mutual understanding and mutual support between friends is preferred for the sustainability of future friendship. Although often joke or quip together, we are required to help a friend when he was slow, and vice versa. And I think that's an example of a good friend and worthy that

you maintain in the long term or even lifetime. One of the saddest things is when we must be separated by time and distance with a friend .

It was time to complete graduation, graduation marks, and each meeting will have goodbye. All these five best friends, after having various problems, now they separated to face their real life.

Love says "hooray we graduated.... Praise Thanksgiving!!!" Then Sonny say and screaming "horray, We Pass ...!" "Lord your love..... Real!!! We Pass."Said Tasya.

Roger say "Thank God.. We pass Buddy!!!" Dinda answer him "Yess.. we pass!"

These five friends rejoice expression of graduation. The story of our friendship is not always white, was also not met by identical dark black color. If it can be represented with one color, only gray was right. Given the gray is a mixture of black and white.

Similarly with our friendship. Sometimes there is a 'white' which most people regard as happiness, sometimes also 'black' where debate can not be avoided. Once we are an individual. In the past, we knew each other, even before we did not expect to be together until now. But now, we are united in friendship for the Lord, happy tears and sadness includes the five of friendship and mutual counsel respectively,so all of them have a compassion feeling.

Dinda says "Experiences are the teacher that very valuable in many ways, including in a human friendly relations with other human beings. Everyone always made a mistake, because we are all just an ordinary

humans and all of us are not perfect person. In addition, the existence of a very good friend to cover the shortage that we have to support each other and create a positive energy. Creating a relationship with another human being does not always run smoothly, there are always have a dissent, disagreement, and so forth. Our friendship there are happy times and bad times. But friendship never ends and still continued, we greeted each other and brothers wherever we are. Hug my friend. Forgive me if there are any words or deeds for us to be friends. Love you all. Success us all. Lasting friendships because of God.”

Sony says “Friendship are eternal because, God is like a star that not always visible, but there are always in our hearts.”

“My friend whom I love in joy and sorrow... so sad that we are should be apart, but life goes on, wherever we are, we still everlasting friendship forever. Hug us all. Companionship are never wraps with a blow of kiss, but what is very painful states with the aim friend willing to change. What we experienced for the sake of friends sometimes tiring and annoying , but that is what makes having the best value. Thank you for beautiful friendship and love you able to make the rainbow in my life.” said Tasya.

Roger say “I do not want just because of love, our friendship should be end. Believe me, not a betrayal that would end us, but enduring friendship that will accompany us until the end of life. The process from friends to friends should be up and down that we pass. My happiness is have a best friends like all of you. Love, Sony, Dinda, and Luna, we are the light of the Lord, surely we will reach a happy life and see the full blessing of God.”

Love adding “Love, like my name because God we met and be best friends, now we have to say goodbye, but this is not the end of everything, just beginning to achieve happiness. I remind my friend, that I will only ordinary human being, but nothing is better again, I'm sure you are the best man in my life. Like a walk with a friend in the darkness, more meaningful than walking alone in a place that has a bright light. The bright light is the light of the world, because you are a friend of God. God which unites us to be friends. Thank you my friend, Thanks God.”

True friendship that exists between Love, Sony, Tasya, Roger, Dinda is the power of God that makes a lasting friends in joy and sorrow, parting and attendance. No account of endless, but the friendship will not be over died.

Friendships are who approached us when the whole world away from us and does not appear just when we needed. Because friendship is like a hand with eye, when hands get hurt the eyes and then the eyes will cry. When the eyes crying, eyes will delete friendship will last forever if among us to understand each other and understand each other strengths and weaknesses... But do not forbid our personal rights could therefore undermine the friendship... If our friends are in a happy situation, we will feel that happy feelings too, but when they are in a sad situation, we also feel that feeling too.

When friendship got new friends and feel more close to him probably will arise envy or even hate, but not to happen like that, because you should know he is not ours or even forbid him to do this and real friends will

understand when you say "I forgot ", real friends will be faithful waiting.

When you say "wait a minute", real friends will remain bound to you, when you said "leave me alone and when you said "to leave", maybe he will go off shortly giving yourself time to contemplate. But at that moment his heart will never leave and when he is far away from you, he will always pray for you. Have you ever catch teardrop that hide after a long prayer, whose name he tucked her true friend. Did you ever find a figure of friends that always hold all of your story when winds bring bad news about you? Have you ever encountered "Someone who is always faithful to your side, when you fell and lost hope? Friends simple word that is not easily found in the fact.

Friends are a friend who means in the lives of all of us, who always encourage us when we fall or rise that would accompany in times of joy and sorrow, and a friendship are always willing to if we needed. Friendship does never looked at the status of their friends in the poor or the rich position, but friendship must be based on a feeling of sincere and honest. We can of course be friends with anyone, without regard to race, ethnicity and religion because it all does not become a prohibitive factor for us to be friends with anyone too.

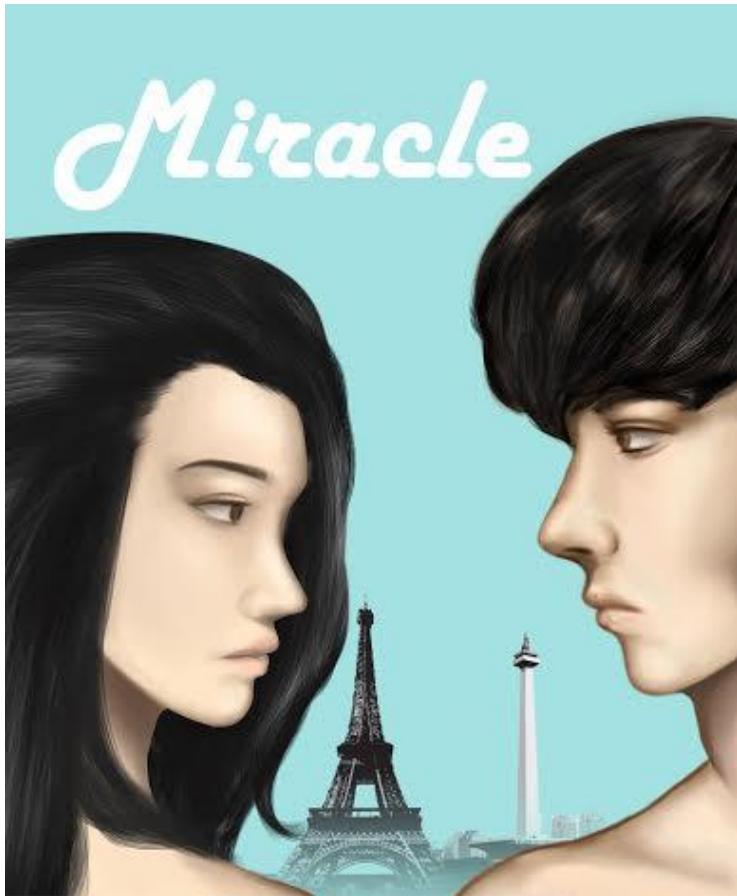
Friendship should give priority to honesty, mutual trust among friends so that no separate friendships just because little things. In true friendship should help each other if one of our companions in distress. Friends of the family to the two who are able to accompany and encourage us, without our friend did not know what the real meaning of friendship! Let you go without saying

goodbye friend, because you who tells what they mean
real friend..... Thank you my friends.

Actually, the world is filled with darkness that are difficult to penetrate, and we need someone will lead to split it. He is a friend, who will give meaning to themselves that they blind face of all reality. The role of a friend no less important in the dynamics of life that we're climbing. A sample can be downloaded from the Prophet that he was always surrounded by his friends who is always faithful to his death.

True friendship never wrong. Because we are unable to stand without feet, we are also unable to eat without hands, we are weak, not even able to treat his own wounds. Then who took the role of it all, if not a friend? Best friends indeed forever. A friend indeed someday be gone, but afterwards there will definitely replace it. The friend went course, after making us become better than the previous one.

"A true friend never leaves us, better than he finds us".



Friska Anggreanika

“You will never make it. Just give up!! Why you make it so far?” These words have been ringing in my ears since I was a child. “Of course I can make it.” I usually cheer up myself in order to have a brighter future. But, somehow I am back to my childhood and rethinking again. Humans are so complicated right? They just jump to conclusion when they never have an effort to try. I can say that I am not clever, genius or so on and so on. But as a human, I believe that my live is worth fighting for. I don't believe in success, rather than that, I believe in my effort and passion. The most important thing is I will kill them with success and burry them with my big smile.

Wonosari, a small village at the edge of Malang, is the place where I open my eyes and see the world for the first time. It is the place that you can find tea plantation easily too. Moreover, while I was there I can easily find apples too, my favorite fruit, but I don't want to tell you about the apple, but *keripik apel*, the most delicious snack ever. *Kripik* or *keripik apel* is a bite-size sweet cracker made from apple. To make it, you have to undergone it into deep frying process in hot vegetable oil. Maybe you will find *keripik apel* in other cities like Cirebon, Bandung or Surabaya, but it's totally different. You know what? That is my favorite snack. When I was child, my mom always brings me that. I can eat 2 until 3 packs just in a half of hour. Well, that's embarrassing story to tell, right?

Everything gets worse when my father died. I still remember with the ringing of ambulance which took home my dad. With my own eyes, I saw him covered by white shroud. He even doesn't say goodbye for me. He left me when I was thirteen. For the first time, it was so hard for us. My mom is a housewife and never has an

experience in a workplace. Then everything has changed. My mom work as dustman in the morning and also sell a very delicious food, *tempe mendoan*. It was slice very thin but wide and mixed by flour, all ground ingredients, water and green onion. My mom always take out the *tempe*¹⁶ from the warm oil and let the oil drip from it so there is not much oil in it. So, can you imagine how its taste looks like?

I also still have a little sister named Kartika and as an oldest, I help my mom to sell *tempe mendoan* everyday at the afternoon. People always like *mendoan* that made by my mother. With a tempting and tentalize smell of it, I can sell 2 baskets just in one hour. People always say that its taste is yummy. My mom is not educated person, but she always says to me to have a high education, so Kartika and I will not have a lowly job like her. But, for me she is the best mom ever.

Senior High School, it was a time that I never ever forget about. It was a time when I just have I pair of shoes and 1 bag, and those things are from my first day in Senior High School. My converse shoes, especially not the original one, are shabby and dim. When in a sport-time, I was afraid of it, how if it is broken? How if people know that it has a big hole? When Mr. Hendra, my sport teacher asked us to have athletic run, I know that I never become the first one, although I am good at running, and it was because of my shoes that almost broken-down. I was too afraid if asked about new shoes to my mother, it is not because my mom will get angry or mad, but I know that our economic condition was so

¹⁶ *tempe*: traditional soy product from Indonesia. It is made by a natural culturing and controlled fermentation process that binds soybeans into a cake form.

sad. It's enough for me if I can continue my Senior High School, so I'm chuffed of bits.

One day in a rainy and big storm day in my school, I found a box wrapped by a white plastic in my *sepeda onthe*¹⁷. I opened that. It was shoes, a pair of running shoes. I was shocked. But who is put that in my *sepeda onthe*? And a small piece of paper has attracted me.

Dear Linda.

I hope that these shoes will comfort your feet. Please walk and run faster as fast as you can with these shoes. Same like Cinderella with her glass shoes, so you too.



I was wondering, who gives me that? Cinderella? What does it means? It seems like in a fairytales right? Is that Mr. Hendra? Is that he wants me to run faster when in the sport time. But I guess that it is totally NO. It is easy for me to do the calculus, algebra, or matrix, but when I think about that it makes my head seems like blow up. At that night I couldn't sleep because of that shoe. Just because of that.

After I graduated from High School, I got scholarship in a state University in Jakarta that's University of Indonesia. The scholarship was given by government until I graduate, but with the prerequisite that my minimum GPA in every semester is 3,5. Can you imagine that? But, I have to step up my game in here because I realized that I didn't get the scholarship

¹⁷ *sepeda onthe*: an old bicycle and usually used by old man. It was popular in 1970's.

easily. I think that *Bidikmisi* is like want me to don't have a sleep. But I take it. I know that the chance will not come twice in my live. I never expect that I can continue my college at there. Jakarta is a metropolitan city with big and tall buildings, traffic jam, and high criminal. It is very different with Wonosari, the place when I can smell the rain and I can run with my barefoot in the flabby land. I know it's gonna be hard for me to live in there. I was so happy but also sad. It is like a bittersweet. But, maybe this is my first step journey to my bright future.

And that's it, this is my first day I enter the University. Last night I couldn't sleep. I imagine how my faculty looks like? How about people in there? Am I will get friends in there? And so on, and so on that mixing in my head. And that's it, my journey has begun. I can see that university is really like in a film that I always see, I mean Hollywood movie. Exactly, it's like in a fashion show, with expensive bag, luxurious clothes and branded shoes. Is that modeling University or college for wealthy people? Well, I don't have *Gosh*, *New Balance*, *Nike*, or *Adidas* shoes. Oh, for the first day I can learn branded products for shoes. Oh God, is that really University? The place that where people should study and learn. In their forehead seem like written "I AM RICH". But let the chips fall where they may. I'd better to think about my dream and my future rather than think about the shoes or bag like *Gucci*, *Insight* or *Hermes* or whatever.

"Do you know where the place for *ospek*¹⁸?"

Somebody asks me. "Oh, you can go straight on, and you will see a toilet. After you see toilet you will find a big building and that's it." I said. But, suddenly there is someone comes to me and he seems so familiar. Who

¹⁸ *ospek* : activity for new student in University for orientation

is that guy? And with his athletic and branded things that cover his body I know that is Daniel. Daniel Iranata.

“Daniel. Daniel. Is that you?” I come closer to him, make sure that I am not wrong. “Hi Linda, that’s that’s so great to see you in here.

You continue your college in here right?” Daniel asked me. “Yes, and you?” “Me too. I take psychology.” He answered. I was so happy that I can meet Daniel in here. “What!! You gotta be kidding me, right? Psychology? I thought that you will continue in Singapore.” I said. “No. I am not kidding. I am serious. I continue my college in here. *Tenan*. I am serious” He convinced me. “I know that you come from Tegal. Your Javanese pronunciation is too strong, you know? Alright, let’s go inside for *ospek*.” We both laugh.

“Can I go with you guys? I also take psychology. Can we become friend? It seems like I am invisible” Somebody makes us laugh. I almost forget that I have been talking with someone before Daniel comes. “I am sorry, I am, I didn’t mean to ...” Before I finished my words suddenly Daniel spoke to her. “Hello, I am Daniel. What’s your name?” He asked. “I am Ratna. So I look invisible for you two guys, right? I am not ghost, huh?” She said. We both laugh, and this is my first time in my college. I meet Ratna, and also Daniel.

Daniel is handsome and I can see that he is from wealth family. But one thing that I like from him is his humbleness. He makes friend with everyone, and the ridiculous thing is when I see girls when Daniel passing through the faculty, and especially Ratna. They shout and say that “Oh my God, he is so handsome, like Korean actor. Can you see his eyes? There is a sparkle in his eyes, and his body, I guess that he does gym

everyday. With his 185-cm-height he seems like Shawn Mendes, right? Oh my God. I can't stop my eyes to look at him." Ratna said. But one thing that comes in my mind is I don't care with that because I don't have a time to think about boy. I am too busy to think about that. I am not a feminist or the representation of modern woman, but really, I don't have time for that.

"Please give me more sugar." "Alright Sir, wait a minute." I answered and make sure that he is not waiting for sugar too long. At about 3 months I have been worked in here. Starbuck Coffee. I have 24 hours per day, but in my everyday live, I feel like 24 hours is not enough because time flies so fast. For me, everyday is a challenge in my life. Wake up before the sun rises, work while everybody sleep, learn while everybody parties and save while everybody spend. Instead of give up, I prefer to fight. I have to go to college in the morning until afternoon, work in the evening and I realized that I arrived at my boarding house in 10 or sometimes 11 p.m. With my tired body, I still have to study very hard, doing my never ending assignments and so on and so on. I force my eyes to still awake and sometimes I think that God is so good because He gives me a very good health with my full dying activities in my everyday lives, and I am okay with that.

*Do you have freetime tomorrow? I
wanna meet you.☺☺*

I just realized that Daniel has sent me a message since morning.

Tomorrow is a holiday. You can come. I replied.

I heard my message ringtone again but my eyes are too tired same like my legs, so I don't open his message and just close my eyes and then sleep.

Knock. Knock Knock. I heard someone knocked my door and this sound successfully wake me up from my dream. I opened my eyes, see the sunlight from a tiny space of my window. Its shine made me realized that the night was over and the morning has come. "Oh my God, I have slept too long" I said to my self. Then I force my leg to walk, like a baby for the first time learns to walk with my super tired heel. It's so heavy. It seems like there is a big rock in my ankles too. With my slowly

moves, finally I am at the door. I think that the distance between my bed and the door is too far, but I just realized that my room is just 4x4m.



Then I see Daniel, and maybe he was so surprised because of my blur face,

panda eyes and I am look like comes from another space outside of earth, and 1 thing is I didn't take a bath yesterday night. He looks at me, smiles and seems like

hold up his laugh. "Good morning. You look like come from an earthquake." He greets me. "Ok, thank for your compliment. Good morning Dan. I am sorry I forgot to set my ala.... What? What is in your hand? Is that *keripik apel*? Oh my God, *keripik apel*, oh...." I was so surprised because of delicious and yummy snack that I haven't eat for so long. "Oh, look at your eyes. They are shining likes a star when you see this." Daniel smiled to me. "Yes I love that so much." I answered with big smile in my face. "My mom came yesterday and she brought me that. I remember that you like it so I bring this to you." He said. "So, is that because of this you want to talk with me?" I asked. "Uh huh." He answered. Then he left me. I guess that he doesn't want to bother me because he knows that I'm tired. I see he walks

"Linda, Linda, please open the door." Then I heard someone is knocking my door. So I think that sleeping is impossible thing for me. "Ratna. Oh your voice is really annoying." I said. "Oh, really?" She answered with his flat face. "It's just an expression you know?" I answered and tweak her chubby cheek. Ratna is very close to me. She is the one that understand me well. "I saw Daniel, he comes to visit you right?" Her nice plum face makes me smile. "No, he didn't visit me. I just woke up." I answered. "You lied." "No, I am not lying." I smiled. "I saw that and you look so match when you are with him, oh my God" She smiled. "Really? I think he is match with you, not with me" I said, "I will find someone more handsome than him, but..." "But, what?" I asked. "I think that Daniel is the most handsome I've I ever met. What do you think? Do I have to move to Korea to find a handsome man?" She said. "Do you like *keripikapel*?" I answered. "Hey, you haven't answered my question babe. But, what did you said before. *Keripik apel*? Well,

that's oke. Please *gimme* that. *Lemme* finish it all" She answered. "Well, well, well, hahaha." I smiled.

Sometimes, when I am alone, I just can get my head around the fact who is someone who gives me the shoes is. I am still thinking about that until now. My mind is like go back to many years ago. I was thinking about that, about the shoes. When I see Daniel, I always remember about that. Shoes? Cinderella? It's driving me crazy. And I still save these shoes and never wear it too. About the letter, I also still keep that. Then I open this box, seeing that and hug those shoes. I said to my self that I never wear that until he or maybe she comes to me.

With my super hectic day that I have been through, at least I can prove that I can be the best student. I got perfect GPA in every semester. When other students have their time to watch movie, drink coffee and playing gadget, I am working and studying with my tired body. But I love that. I know that nothing is easy because easy is nothing. And today is my graduation day. I can see the smile in my mom's face. When I am at podium, doing my speech I can see that the tears drop from her eyes. Surprisingly, I got scholarship to continue my master degree in Paris, France. I never expect that. Wow, thank God.

"Congratulations." Daniel said. "Oh hello Dan, congratulations too, finally we can get S.Psi." I smiled. "That's for you." He gives me a beautiful booket of rose. "Well, thankyou. But I don't have something for you actually." "That's ok. I don't want that." He said. "I have something for you, but you have to read when you arrive in Paris." He said again. "Ow, what's that?" I asked surprisingly. Before he answered my question, Ratna is coming with her sad face. "Please don't leave me in

here. Why you both graduate too soon?" She said. "Goodbye Ratna." Daniel said with his shining eyes. "Your eyes look like evil, but, congratulations to you both, especially you Linda, I mean Linda Mariana S.Psi. I am so proud of you dear." She looks so happy then she hugs me.

"That guy is so handsome." My mom said. "Which guy Mom?" I asked although I know who that guy that my mom has said is. "Someone that gives you flower." Kartika answered. "You still a child, why you say that? I said to Kartika. It was the last night before I went to Paris, and we have talked to each other about everything. It was a beautiful night ever in my life. I can see the stars are shining brighter than usual. The surprising fact is my mom told me that Daniel has met her, greet her and my mom like him. I don't know what they have talked about, my mom or Daniel never told me that. But I remembered about something. Letter.

Dear Linda

Hello, I think that I will miss u so much. You left me, huh? I was wondering, why you never use those shoes? You don't like it, huh? Please hold your tongue and hear me out. I LOVE YOU. YES. I LOVE YOU. I never have a brave to say that to you face to face. I am sorry, I look like not a gentleman. It seems like we are back to ancient time right? In a modern era like that I stil use the power of letter. I have asked pigeon to deliver it to you, but I can't, hahaha. One thing that you have to know is that I adore you in everything you do. You are a though girl. You also don't care if you don't use make up. For the first time I see you with keripikapel in my hand, I was so happy. Your face, your smile, made me so much happy. Do I have to send keripik apel rom Wonosari to Paris every month? Hahaha...

But I always hope that you don't meet handsome guy in there. r when you meet him, just close your eyes and remember me 😊😊. I will be waiting for you because I also will continue my Master Degree. Maybe I will feel bored 'cause I continue in Jakarta again. But, meet me at about 3 years later, when we both already become what we want. I think that time will be the best time in our lives, when I can express everything. I hope that God always bless u wherever you are, and one thing to remember that if can't find miracle, can I be a miracle for you? Would you want to be my Cinderella?

Daniel Iranata 😊😊

Well. I am crying. That's the first time I am crying just because a guy. Why am I so stupid? Am I ignoring him? I remember when in a rainy day he comes to me to bring an umbrella, giving me coffee when he knows that I am sleepy, telling me a joke, and so on. I am not sure with my feeling but I can say that I am happy when I am with him. Is that love? Or it is just a temporary feeling?

Everything makes sense in the end. The shoes, love and everything that come in my mind now, but one thing that I have to pursuit that is my dream and I add one important thing too, that is love. I can not hide my happiness from my face. I am crying, but my heart is bloom like a flower. I can say that I am so happy with

that. Daniel, maybe he is someone that God has sent to me to complete my dream, and complete my live too. I know that I am not a little girl with many dreams



anymore, because I didn't dream, I worked for it, and I will complete all with love. He is a miracle for me and I hope that I can be miracle for him, too.



Hendrikus Raka Yudistira

"I have good news from Mbah Prawiro!" Said Tono to Joko.

"What is that?" Asked Jumadi.

"There are huge treasures of Pak Harto on Mount Merapi valley! But there is bad news, the bad news is the treasures are guarded by a strong supernatural power."

Pak Harto, the second president of the Republic of Indonesia was believed to have magic power. Because of that rumour, now appears a big rumour that say if Mr. President has a huge treasures that buried on Mount Merapi valley. That rumour was stated by a spiritualist named Mbah Prawiro to Tono. Tono is leader of a well-known treasure hunter group from Semarang. The group members are Tono, Joko, and Jumadi. Eventhough there is a myth that says "never walk in group that contains people in odd numbers if you don't want something invisible makes your grup even", obviously they can get almost all the treasure that they want to get. They are expert in treasure hunting because they have succeeded solve many puzzle that guide them to get treasures. Mbah Prawiro himself has been investigating this treasure from three months ago. After hearing this rumour, Tono associates his team to do preparation. They prepare the hunting in 47 days because before they hunt, they have to do white-fasting (fasting with only eat white rice) for 40 days to make them invulnerable from "invisible attacks" which are coming from supernatural things or from their rivals, other treasure hunter groups. "You should solve all puzzles to get the treasure such as: Mr. President left a sign on his painting in Ronggowarsito Museum Semarang, after that you follow the sign that appears on it." Says Mbah Prawiro.

"What kind of sign is it?" Asks Joko.

"You should find it by yourself." Says Mbah Prawiro again.

In other side, there is another group that has information about the treasure. This group is led by Ki Topan, he was actually the member of Tono's group but he betrayed them by told them fake information so he could get the Lawang Sewu treasure for himself. He pays 3 people to accompany him in this hunting because there is nobody that respects him because of his behavior. Ki Topan got the information about Pak Harto's treasure because once he hacked Jumadi's phone so he can get any information from there. Ki Topan keep monitoring Tono's group activities because he knows that he has nothing especially the details information about the treasure. After 47 days preparation, Tono and friends start the hunting, so do Ki Topan and team.

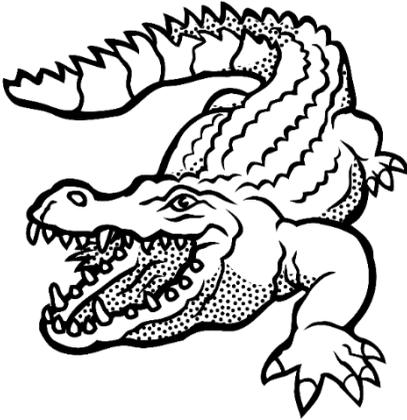
"Mbah, would you please to join us?", asks Jumadi to Mbah Prawiro.

"I will not join you but I will be monitoring you from here."

Jumadi invites Mbah Prawiro to join because he knows that this is an impossible mission because there will be a lot of horrible creatures and strong-power supernatural things in the other hand, Mbah Prawiro feels guilty because he knows that this is a suicide mission, he knows that the treasure is guarded by an invisible strong white crocodile that can't be defeated by Mbah Prawiro but he knows how to defeat this crocodile.

"You should solve all the puzzle and it will lead you to the treasure because when all the puzzle solved, the

power of the crocodile will decrease." Says Mbah Prawiro.



"What crocodile, Mbah?" Asked Joko.

"Relax, you will not get any problems with this crocodile if you follow the sign." Says Mbah Prawiro to make Joko calm.

In the following day, Tono and friends go to Ronggowarsito Museum to find the sign of Mr. President. At the same time Ki Topan and team arrive at Ronggowarsito Museum but Tono finds the sign just before Ki Topan find the painting. Tono take pictures of the sign on the painting by his cellphone. The sign is a map of the village near Mount Merapi, there is a red home on the map and a drawing of the white crocodile that Mbah Prawiro said. On the map also written Kinahrejo Village, it is Mbah Marijan village! Mbah Marijan is well-known as the caretaker of Mount Merapi. Back to Ki Topan team, because they don't know about the sign on the painting, they decide to steal the painting. Their action is supported with the situation because Ronggowarsito Museum is minimum with lighting and that day is a work day so there only some people that are going to the museum. Ki Topan team succeed steal the painting by back door. They bring the painting to their station to analyze. After they stuck with

the painting, they decide to go to Mbah Prawiro's house to interrogate him to tell the information about the treasure. Mbah Prawiro is threatened with a gun on his head so he tell the fake information about the treasure to them. Luckily they trust him! They don't know if Mbah Prawiro tell them lies. Mbah Prawiro tell them the wrong place, tell them if Kinahrejo Village is forbidden to visit because there is a red house. Mbah Prawiro tell them to go to the treasure place that guarded by the white crocodile. Mbah Prawiro tries to protect Tono's group from them so he told Ki Topan team to go to treasure place so they will be killed by the white crocodile. When Tono's group arrive at Kinahrejo Village, they visit Mbah Marijan resting place to pray for him and they want Mbah Marijan give blessings for them so they can get the treasure that they hunt. It works, they can find the red house that appears on the map. They ask villagers about the house, the villagers know if they are treasure



hunter because a lot of people before Tono's group was also looking for the treasure in that house but they found nothing because the house is just intermediatory and the treasure is in Mount Merapi valley. Then they go to that red house, after they arrive at that house they are surprised! This is an empty old haunted house.

On that day, they decide to take shelter and continue the hunting in the following day. Because Ki Topan has a lot of informant and he has a lot of money to pay people, he and his group arrive on the valley, they decide to go on the same day because they don't want that Tono's group arrive earlier than them because he knows that Tono's group have a much better preparation than them. They find nothing, they are frustrated and almost give up with troubles that come from supernatural things. One member of the Ki Topan's group is possessed by the white crocodile that orders Ki Topan's group to go from the valley and never come back. It also reminds them that only people with good behavior that can get and solve the puzzle of the treasure. After that, Ki Topan thinks why don't they search where Tono's group take shelter. In Semarang, Mbah Prawiro keep meditating to keep Tono's group safe from the bad power of the treasure and from Ki Topan's behavior. Ki Topan is looking for Tono's group using GPS because he once hacked Jumadi's phone.

"Damn! Mbah Prawiro wants us to die! He told us lies so we faced many troubles there!" Said Ki Topan.

"They go to another place! We should go to them! I have their coordinate now. They stop in one place, they must be in an important place." He adds.

"It must be the red house that appears on the map! I will kill that old man when I'm on Semarang."

Ki Topan and friends immediately go to the red house to find Tono's group. After that, they are frightening Tono's group with guns to interrogate them. Tono's group is only invulnerable with invisible things or magic things and they can't be invulnerable with real things, they can

be killed with guns so they tell their plans to get the treasure.

After that, they are forced by Ki Topan's group to find the clue in that red house. Again, they find nothing. Tono's group is pushed by Ki Topan's group because Ki Topan's group know that they have nothing, they only depend on Tono's group. After that they decide to take a rest before investigating the valley for the second time.

While they sleep, Tono is dreaming that an old man says "Invite a woman that you see at the first time when you exit from this house to join your hunting, whoever, if you want to get that treasure.".



When Tono wakes up, he immediately runs out to look for a woman to accompany them for hunting. He sees a beautiful young woman named Sari, then he asks her to join their hunting. Sari says yes. Sari actually has sixth sense but she hides it from the treasure hunters. Then, they continue the hunting as soon as possible when the sun is young. After they arrive on the valley, Sari gives them clue of the place of the treasure. After that the two teams decide to cooperate looking for the treasure. After three hours of searching, they finally find a chest that contains gold and gems. One question appears in the two teams minds, why the white crocodile doesn't appear anymore, then Sari tells them that she was sent by Mbah Prawiro to lead them in finding the treasure. Finally they arrive in Semarang and share the treasure based on Tono's group will.



Ireneus Eki Nugroho

“Noooooo” Dalijo screamed as his father told him to go to College. Dalijo do not want to go there because he will see alot of people as he hate it from bottom of his heart to stands in crowd of people. He become angry and do not want to talk with his father. As the days goes by, Dalijo finally make up his mind. He agrees to his father to go to college but with one condition. If he can not adapt in the college he could freely go back to the place where he belongs. The university is far away from his house. So he should live in boarding house with monthly payment. Later on, he finally arrived in Rumah Panggung University. He is so depressed because there are alot of people. He confuses how to react in this situation. He could not understand what he going to do after he sees crowd of people.



He walks to his boarding house to unpack his stuff. Sky turn to red when he done with his stuff. “Take a nap is a good thing to do after a hard day” Dalijo said to himself. Feeling at ease, he falls asleep

and realizing that it was 10 pm. He thinks “Could I survive this stage of living?” while showering. A cold night surrounding his boarding house while he stare outside the window as he falls asleep again.

“I am going to have a miserable life” Dalijo murmured when he reach the entrance of Rumah Panggung University.

Step by step he walks toward his faculty. He feels uncomfortable while entering the room of his first class in college life. Dalijo stay quiet as possible so the lecturer does not notice him. But it was only appers oin his thoughts. The lecturer want the students introduce he/she to the whole class, so they would make friend and feel comfortable as it is the first semester in the first year of their college life.

After Dalijo dealing with himself a big fear of his thoughts. He finally introduces himself infront of his lecturer and friends. Later on his notice a boy named Paiman. He really intersted with Paiman and want make a friend with him.

“Hi! I am Dalijo” Dalijo said to Paiman.

“Hi! I am Paiman” replied Paiman.

It was a beginning of a good bestfriend. They hang out, do assignment, flirting together. They feel nothing can stop us now!

Everyone in the faculty knew that Dalijo and Paiman is bestfriend who are like to do crazy things.

“Look at these new freshmen pal!” said paiman as he sees freshmen entering his faculty. Dalijo and Paiman is on second year. Both of them are feeling superior toward freshmen.



One day Paiman attracted to a girl named Murni the first year student. Dalijo does not know that Paiman had



relationship with Murni. Later on while they are hanging out at their favorite place. Paiman tells that he likes a girl named Murni.

“She is kindhearted person and beautiful” said Paiman to Dalijo.

“Really?” replied Dalijo.

“Yes she is brooo” smiling face of Paiman said to Dalijo.

“Well, well” Dalijo murmured.

Dalijo shocked with the news from his bestfriend. He become upset and angry with Paiman. But he does not show his feeling to Paiman. Dalijo become a person that hard to be contacted. Paiman does not understand why Dalijo dissapears. Paiman come to Dalijo’s boarding house but Dalijo is not there. It is happen everytime Paiman visits Dalijo Boarding house. Dalijo is at it finest when it comes to hide and seek.



“I do not understand why this is happened to me” Dalijo asks to himself. Everyday Dalijo grow with hatred. One day on sunny day, Dalijo goes to favorite places where he likes to hang out with Paiman. Later on Paiman come with his girlfriend.

“Hey mate!” said Paiman

“Hi” replied Dalijo with flat face

“Why are you gone in the last days?” asks Paiman.

“I am here” replied Dalijo.

“Are you in trouble?” asks Paiman.

“No, I’m fine” replied Dalijo.

“Then why are you never contact me?” asks Paiman

“I am just want to be alone, need some space” replied Dalijo.

Dalijo got very angry with Paiman. He plans to kill Paiman. With envious controlling his thoughts, he prepares any possible strategy. He waits until the day comes and carrying out the plan to the success one.

“No one can stop me now!” Dalijo said.

“Finally, the day has come!” Dalijo smiles at the mirror.

He contacts Paiman to come to his boarding house. Paiman come with happiness because it is the first time after long time no contact between them.

“Hi!” Said Dalijo

“Whats up mate?” asks Paiman.

“Nothing, just want to meet you mate” replied Dalijo

“Oh ok, wanna go out?” asks Paiman

“Sure, with my pleasure” replied Dalijo as the plans come as expected.

While walking, Paiman carrying out his plan. He kills



Paiman without any hesitation. Paiman just feels that everything turn into black and silence. Dalijo brings Paiman body in plastic bag and goes to his village where he want to hides Paiman body. In the Dalijo village there is a place where it was Dalijo favorite place to hide, nobody knew this place but only Dalijo.

Next three days, Paiman become a missing person. Police was asked to find Paiman by Paiman’s Family. This case happens when Dalijo already back to the city where he go to college.

Police can not find Paiman anywhere, even Police officer had asked Dalijo’ aliby because Paiman was lost while go out with Dalijo.

But Police can not find anything suspicious about Paiman’s case in Dalijo’ aliby.

“No one can stop me!” Dalijo said in his thoughts.

In the end no one knows where is Paiman even police. But there is one person who knows everything.



Kukuh Galang

Cuckoo... Cuckoo... Cuckoo... my alarm phone disturbing me in this cold morning. A class in the morning is killing my pleasure on bed. I hate morning class like average student that sometime miss their breakfast for fucking morning class. Yeah it's my time to prepare for my fucking morning class.

Before we go let me introduce myself. My name is Jasmine. I was born in Jakarta and now I'm studying Psychology at Catholic University in Semarang. I came from rich and harmonic family, until my parents decided to divorce. It happens when I was 16 years old and I feel like lost everything because I am only child they have. It's okay they still care about me, but they didn't stay with me. I stay with two maids at apartment. My mom visit me twice per week while my dad just once per week because both of them works as businessman. Since then my broken life begins.

My life in Semarang is so suck. I stay at executive boarding house in Kelud Semarang. My parents give me a car so I can go to campus and go around freely. As I said before, my life so suck and broken because I spend my money almost every night to drunk at bar or club with my friends. Yeah I am rich and I'm not worried about the money that I spent. My Dad gives me money transfers twice than my mom gave every month. Yeah they give me a lot of money but they never come visit me except for academic purpose at campus.

When I came to campus I feel like a model in catwalk. Many of my college campus said that I am so hot and sexy like Hollywood artist Megan Fox. My long black curly hair and slim tall body makes my beauties are unbeatable. There are so many boys who loves me but I just play with them then leave. I am not interest with boys at my campus. They just a piece of retards that

always show off their wealth and overbearing. I don't need that and I just need affection and that's not easy to give it to me considering that I am broken home.

Sometimes I go for drunk alone because my college friends have their own time. Many times I go alone then I have some friends at bar or club. I know that they are not good girl, same as me, even worse than me. But I don't care with that and I just fill my emptiness with many friends. My friends in here are amazing, crazy, and chummy. I loved them but I still play with my college friends.

As many as I socialize at bar, I have one best friend. Her name is Nisa. She is very hot, loyal, and sexy like me. She stays at executive boarding house in Lamper Semarang. Unlike me, she has parents that stay in Semarang, too. We almost spent our time together except when I am on campus.

As long as we are best friends, finally we tell our own privacy and truth.

"I don't have whole family again Nisa." I said.

"Why, Jasmine?" Nisa answered.

"My parents was divorced, not as people know about me, I feel so empty Nisa, my life sucks and I always dreaming that I can live like many years ago when I was in Jakarta, but it just a dream." I told all to her.

"I came from nice family, nice life, but now I'm not better than you Jasmine." She said.

"Why?" I ask her.

"The boy that I love so much leaves me by marrying another girl. He is so bastard boy!" She answered.

“He makes a scar in my heart that I can’t forget it, his promise to always with me was a lie!” She is adding it.

“It’s not bad as you think baby, I hope you have a good ones later.” I said.

“I work at prostitution Jasmine, I can reach lot money and now I never use my parent’s money again, it’s just for solace.” She told me an unexpected statement.

“I can reach about 2-5 million rupiah per night Jasmine.” She is adding it.

“Wow that amazing, it will be nice if I can join with you Nisa, just for pleasure and some experience.” I said to her.

“Okay I will let u to join my best friend.” She accepted.

Then I join to the prostitution. We have work under famous pimp in Semarang named Jonny. He has handled of this elite prostitution and he doing well until now. He got 25% of our payment as his salary. Yeah I got awesome payment at my first time and it’s above that Nisa reach. I got 7 million rupiah from boss in Kalimantan. Jonny said that I am the most precious bitch in his list.

After having class in campus I came for visit Nisa. We decided to go to the bar together at night. We are going to the salon before we go. Every woman need to be beauty and glamorous before go for hangout, right?

We are on the famous bar in Anjasmara Semarang. I saw a boy stay alone on the corner of the table bar. Yeah I feel my instinct as a woman getting overheat. He is so cool with fine beard and athletic body. His aura so strong but I know he have some hard problem through his pale face. I tell to Nisa that I am interesting with that

boy. I try to come over him and say hallo. And then I'm on his table and make a conversation.

"Hallo, can I sit here?" I said.

"Sure, why not?" He answered.

"So you go here alone? I think you have some problem, did you?" I ask.

"Um, I can't tell my problem at here lady, can I know your name before?" he ask me my name.

"My name is Jasmine, you handsome?" I ask him too,

"I'm Levi, nice to meet you sweet." He answered flirty.

"Nice to meet you too, can I have your contact phone for another meeting?" I ask him again.

"Sure, here is it, it will be nice if we can meet again Jasmine." He said.

"I promise handsome, see you again, my friend are waiting there, bye." I said at him.

"Okay see you." He answered.

I'm back to my table with Nisa and tell about him. Yeah Nisa feel happy too but she warns me to be aware with boys. As a Nisa often said, boys are bastard, never trust them. But I feel that he is a good boy and I want to know him closer.

Day by day passed by, we are closer and closer until one day we share our own privacy.

"Hi, Honey?" Levi said.

"Yes darling?" I answered.

"Did you remember at our first meet? Now I will tell you the truth." He said seriously.

“Sure, honestly I still keep my question about that.” I said.

“My parents were divorced 10 years ago, I hope they can be together again but I think it’s impossible.” He told.

“Me too darling, it’s our fate, let our parents choose their destiny, honestly their separation makes me a bad girl.” I said.

“Sometimes I think about our togetherness, I still love them as my parents and make them proud of me I promise.” He said clearly.

“I ever be a bitch in prostitution, I want to tell you but I afraid you will leave me, since I know you, I feel the real love that I can’t have before, I love you so much darling!” I said with tears.

“I still here honey, I appreciate your honesty, that’s will be my risk to know girl in bar with gloomy experience, hug me now honey.” He said wisely.

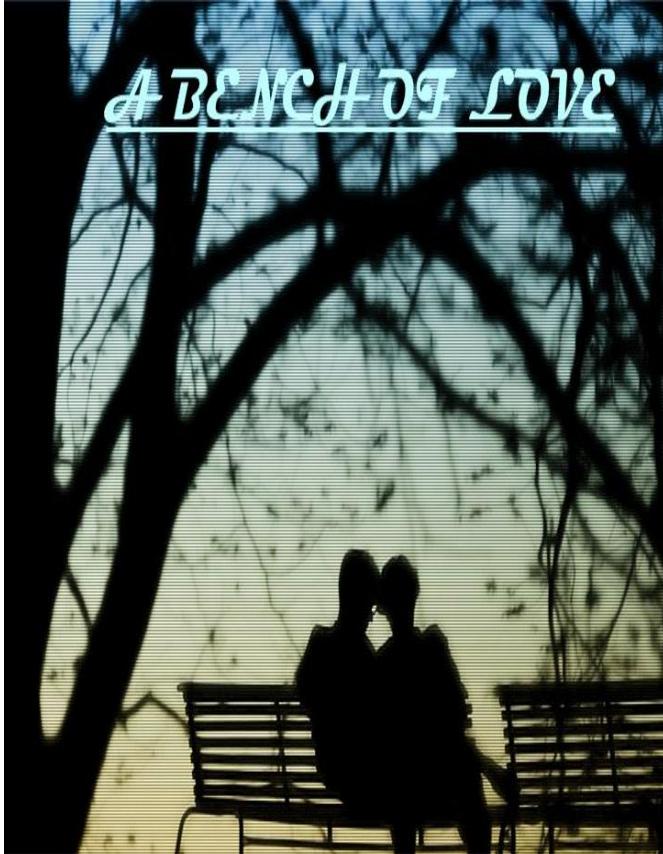
“I’m very sorry darling.” I said still with tears.

“I love you honey, promise me if you will be a good girl and I will support you into a good one.” He said.

“I promise.” I answered.

“I trust you honey.” He said and kissed me.

Now he knows me as a better girl. Soon he became my hero who has changed me into a good girl. I hope he will become my husband later and we can live together until the end of our age unlike our parents that deciding to divorce for some reason.



Mentari Kusumawati



"Ah! It's so fresh in here. It's wonderful, isn't?" Henri says to his brother, Dimas.

His brother just nodded because he admires the sunrise.

This time, Henri and his family is on vacation in Bandung, West Java. They stay at The Sapu Lidi Resort, a resort located in Lembang has a quiet atmosphere of a typical rural environment that is still to treat the delicious sensation and pleasure of food and beverages as well as exotic art gallery. Lembang has some resort like Green forest Resort, Sapu Lidi Resort, Sari Ater Resort, and many more. But they decide to stay in The Sapu Lidi Resort, because it looks very beautiful and peaceful, and is very suitable for holiday with family. Likewise with Henri, he has a hobby of traveling. Since he was child, he has always encouraged by his father around Indonesia, and even the world. But for now, he wants to do travelling with his family. He wants to refresh the mind and soul of his mother, father, his two brothers and a nephew of dense routines in which they live. They have just arrived a night before, then in this morning they get around the resort.

"Uncle, I want to drink some milk. I forgot to bring my own milk. Can we go to the minimarket on the outside?" Asks Asta. "Of course, dear. Only milk do you want hm? Maybe we can buy some bread." Reply Henri softly to Asta. "Yes Uncle ... We buy bread as well. Besides, I have not eaten from last night." Asta said with pouted lips. Henri stroked Asta's hair ruffled with exasperation.

His nephew is very adorable and obedient. Asta is the son of Henri's first big brother named Angga. Angga's wife died when Asta was 1 years old because cervical cancer disease which she suffered. Angga's wife, Rasti, already had this disease before she met Angga. After they married, Rasti wanted to have baby, but Angga ban it. However, Rasti still forced him and she survived until Asta in 1 year age. Asta is 6 years old now and he becomes a smart boy, obedient, cheerful, and very friendly to everyone. Angga's reason about he didn't want to marry again because he just wants to live for them, his baby with Rasti, a woman who will always be loved.

Back to the uncle and his nephew, they arrive at the minimarket that located not far from where they're staying. They buy two slices of bread with 2 boxes of vanilla and chocolate milk. After they paid, actually Henri paid them, they continue their outings around the resort this morning.

Let describe the appearance 2 of this man: Henri is using a dark brown shirt with a picture of an animated duck in the middle, short gray jeans, and use yellow Converse shoes. His hair is brown milk, white skin, and has a handsome face with stern expression that attracted the attention of people, especially women. Asta appearance at this time can be regarded as another 6 year old boy who has innocent face but handsome that makes people attach him. For women who are walking in this morning, they are additional to freshener in the morning, plus Henri gives his smile on anyone who sees it. Understandably, Henri is 21 years young singles. 'I'm not in vain for this vacation' thought the woman after seeing Henri and Asta.

After they are walking around, they return to the inn. This afternoon they will visit De Ranch. De Ranch is a cowboy tour of the USA and has a very wide horse ranch. This tourist spot also has a central dining and souvenirs. Henri and his family are now having breakfast in the dining room at the inn. Since today is Wednesday, not many visitors who spend their holiday here. The dining room looks spare is warm by this family. They breakfast time is filled by Asta's chatter about what he did this morning.

"I'm out riding. May I play, mom?" Asks Henri to his mother, Raya. Although he is a handsome, authoritative, and decisive, but he will be pampered with his parents. His mother does not give a response that is not desirable, then, he switches begged his father, Prabu, to play in the sights which they will visit later. Before the father replied, his mother suddenly replied "I am the queen here! So obey all my commands!" The mother said in a flat voice and flat face anyway. "And you've grown up! Be an example for your nephew! I do not want my grandchild have become spoiled and filthy man like you!" His mother continues. Err ... her expression is same, flatly, as she does not matter if Henri is her son. Henri's brothers, Angga and Dimas, as well as his father and Asta just laugh quietly. It is already common in their family. Raya is a mother who is very pretty, kind, smiling, and likes to bully her children, such as the incident just now.

At 11:00 AM, they go to De Ranch using their rented car. Just 16 minutes to get there. On arrival at De Ranch, they buy a ticket and enjoy the atmospheres that are served directly in this sight. "Uncle Henri, look at me! I ride my horse alone ~ "Asta said Henri mock whose fate is as good as his himself. "Moom~ you are old ...

why you ride this great horse?" Henri complained to her mother. "You as a child should accompany this old mother. Understand?", reply the mother calmly. The current situation is the mother and Henri rode the same horse, Dimas is riding alone, and Asta riding ponies. Of course there are faithful to accompany the handler. Lastly, the father and his first child caring for their families in the seating provided.

"Maybe if your little brother, if he has a life companion, he will be a real man." Said Prabu at Angga, and makes his first child was choking when drinking. "Uhuuk! Daaad! Please do not say weird words!" said Angga to his father. Prabu just shows his grin. 'I think I agree with Henri. They are the evil couple.' Add Angga. Mother and father is indeed a mate, unified in bullying, and said weird like that about their children. "You see, right? Your brother is already 21 years old, a Handsome and assertive, authoritative in front of others, childish in behind. When I asked about a girlfriend, or a candidate, or a life partner, or a soul mate, or his rib, he only said one sentence short. You want to know what the answer?" Then the father whispers the answer in Angga's ear with softly tone," I am. Not. Interest.With.Woman.My dear father~" Whispers Prabu, exactly what Henri said to him. Angga's expression immediately turned pale upon hearing the words from his father, and Angga started to think if his youngest brother is gay. He even imagined it. 'I will take away my son from that filthy!' says Angga on himself. That afternoon they spend playing in De Ranch with a full chatter of the little guy Asta and quarrels of Henri and his mother. Having tired of playing, they have lunch at the restaurant which is located in De Ranch.

After they are satisfied visited De Ranch, they return to the inn. During the return trip, Angga has driving, and Henri accompanies the side. The distance from De Ranch to the inn is not far away, as they departed earlier. Arriving at the inn, they back to the room and get cleaned up and rest. It's still showed 05:00 PM, Henri get up from his nap. He walks to the garden that not far from the inn, and sit on a bench near the lake. Suddenly someone sitting next to Henri and said, "Please do not be angry, let me take breathe for a while, and I'm sorry." Someone said, panting. "Want a drink?" asks Henri to that person. Henri is still in shock because of who sits next to him is a beautiful girl. "No need. Thanks. I-I have to go." Said the girl and fled again when someone else is coming closer. Henri still silent about her, and others who followed her to apologize to Henri, may represent the girl who casually sitting next to him earlier. "SEE YOU AGAIN, KIDDO!" She screams from a distance. "Kid? She even called me a kid?" said Henri to himself. "I DO NOT WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!" screams Henri equally loud.

Dinner is come up, Henri and his family dined at the inn room. The dinner menu is seafood, with cooked in various specialties throughout Indonesia. Their dinner tranquil atmospheres destroy by a silly question from Henri. "Umm ... Do I look like a kiddo?" a question that make the whole family laugh. And the father replied, "You're still a kid, my dear." Suddenly makes Henri pouting his lips, "Right! I agree with dad." Said Dimas and Angga at the same time. "Asta also agree with grandpa!" Asta was grinning after saying that. "YOUUU!ISH!" Said Henri with a very upset and keep eating his food with sullen faces. Once more dinner time with warm and pleasant.

After the 'rousing' dinner, the mother, father, Dimas and Asta back to their rooms. Angga and Henri walk in the park same as Henri attended this afternoon. "This afternoon I met a witch here." Henri said when they walk around the garden. "A witch?" asks Angga with an expression of wonder. They sit a bench that Henri used this afternoon. Some people are still in the park.

In the morning, Henri and his brothers walk in the garden. Many visitors also walk in the garden. They sit in a bench. "Hah~ I want to move here." Say Dimas. Angga and Henri are rolling their eyes. It is already 10 times they heard Dimas's gripe. Then, Angga decides to ask a question that always reminds him since yesterday. "Err...Henri.... Are you gay?" Asks Angga to Henri carefully. "HA? WHAT? GAY? NO!!!" Henri answers in yelled. "WHAT? HENRI IS GAY? WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON?" continues Dimas makes Henri and Angga speechless and shames. The people in around them directly look at them. Angga who already peeved slaps Dimas's head, Henri who sits between them just laughing hard. Then Henri says "I'm not gay, bro. I don't find my types yet. Dad is too over!" Angga and Dimas are nodding their head. They understand Henri's conditions. He is too busy with his painting, and he is popular.

"So, when will you get wife if you are so fastidious." Dimas says.

"I'm not fastidious, brother! I told you that....." Henri's answer cut by a woman who he didn't want to meet.

“Hey... Can I sit in here?” asks that lady.

“Of course / Sure.” Angga and Dimas allow her. The lady sits beside Henri. Instantly Henri’s face turns to sour face. The lady knows that the man who is sit beside her is dislike with her coming, then she smile to Henri. Henri sees it and blushed, but he covers it with grim face.

“You can sit in another bench. I feel crowded!” Henri says in an angry tone. Angga who listen it slap Henri’s head again.

“Forgive him, eum miss...” “Eulis. Just called me Eulis. Nice to meet you all.”

“Ah, Eulis... I’m Angga, in that corner is my first little brother, Dimas, and a boy with ugly face beside you in our little brother, Henri.” Pronounce Angga with messing Henri’s hair. Henri pouts his lips.

“So, I’m not wrong to called you kiddo. Hahaha~” says Eulis also messing Henri’s hair. His both brothers heard that remembered what Henri said last night. ‘So, this is the girl who makes Henri confused last night? You very lucky, my bro.’ inner Henri’s big brothers.

“It’s better if I go. I feel reluctant if I still sits near this old girl like you.” Then Henri get up of his sit. When he will leave that bench, Eulis’s hand stops him to go. The 3 men shock with this girl’s action. “I want ask a help to

you to be my boyfriend. So, please back to your sit and I will explain everything to you.” Eulis declaration immediately makes Henri and his brothers stare on the lady with their shock face. Then, Henri sit again on the bench, he falls silent and stare on this lady who he knows today.

The garden which is too noisy, changes silently between that 4 people. They are still quite. Eulis stares that 3 men with her innocent. “Okay, Gentleman, I will explain what I say a while ago.” Says Eulis breaks this silents between them.

“So umm..I will be betrothed with someone I didn’t know by my father, and all I know he is just targeting my family’s property. I refused it, but my dad keep going to be betrothed me with that man. After that, I fled here. After I met Henri yesterday, I planned to make him be my fake boyfriend. I know this is like the ftv on TV, but I really need your help guys especially Henri, because I know he can help me to prove that he is guilty. I also realized that we have just met, but I really need your help, Henri.”

That long explanation from Eulis makes these 3 men still fall silent and just contemplate her. Henri stares on Eulis with unbelievable expression. Henri feel God give him a hard hurdle in his life. But Henri also feel he must help this lady, he don’t know it is a premonition or a liability, his inner vision still blur.

“After listen your story, you say that you can prove the man who will be you fiancé is guilty? Can you tell us what happened? I didn’t want help people with a trivial problem.” Henri says to Eulis, still with curtly tone. Angga and Dimas laughed silently. Sometimes their brother is very mysterious, and Henri is an unpredictable person. It seems like Angga and Dimas are interested with this problem.

“That man is Surya. He is a 6 rich man in Indonesia, and my dad is 3. Surya is notorious with his colleagues. I knew him before my father introduced him to me. Since the beginning of our met, me and Surya aren’t really close, but he obey my father’s request to pick me up in my office. I know if Surya is a handsome and rich that desirable all of the women, but not with me. I feel that Surya is a threat for my family. You know, it is too hard to be firstling. My brother can’t help it, whereas he was already worked hard to convince dad if Surya is not a right man to be my husband. My father still insists if Surya is a suitor who can make me happy and can help my father’s business. I got information if Surya will strike down my dad through me, and I can’t against Surya with my power. So, I decided to ask help Henri to against Surya with me.” Henri is smirking after heard Eulis’s story, signed that he will help Eulis until clear. Angga who saw his brother’s smirk also do same. “Me and Dimas will also help you, Eulis, and you aren’t choose the wrong partner.” Angga says with happily. Dimas actually didn’t want joining in this problem, but after he heard his brother promises, he will punch him after this.

“Thank you Angga, Dimas. Umm.. How about you, Henri?” asks Eulis, staring Henri’s face with hoping expression. Henri nods that means he agree. Eulis smiles brightly. “This is my number. Just easy, only you are known my number, and thank you very mch. I know you are good people.” Eulis says with giving her number to these 3 men.

Henri receives her number and test it to make sure that this is Eulis number. “That’s my number. Keep it carefully. It’s rarely that women get a number from a handsome man like me.” Eulis, Angga and Dimas are rolling their eyes. ‘It’s enough, dude.’ They think. “Eumm... What if you join lunch with us? Our parents will be happy to know their suitor.” Dimas bargaining to Eulis, and Eulis agree. “Dimas!! You will die after lunch! Wait for it!” Henri says in irritated sound. Then, they back to the inn for getting the lunch.

They immediately go to the dining room. The father, mother, and Asta already sit in one of the tables. Prabu, Raya, and Asta look at Eulis and look at their boys. Henri who is realize these 3 people expression, then he explains to them. “Mom, Dad, Asta, this is Eulis. Eulis these are my mom, dad, and my nephew, Asta. Eulis will get lunch with us, can she, mom?” asks Henri to his mom. Then, Raya smiles, she is allow Eulis to join them. Eulis sits beside Henri again. They eat and do chit-chat.

“Eulis, are you from Bandung? How do you know with these 3 labile men?” The father starts to interview Eulis. Angga, Dimas, and Henri only see it in helplessly.

“I am from Bandung, Sir. I’m original. Hahaha...I came here just for refreshing. We were been acquainted this morning in the park, and restrain them until noon. But I’ve been acquainted with Henri since yesterday, also in that park. We became acquainted with unethical that time. Hahaha.” Says Eulis with laughed silently. Henri is listening to what Eulis said and eats his dessert.

“Oh, Sir, Ma’am, I’m Henri’s girlfriend, count since yesterday. I glad to meet you and eat lunch together.” Henri choking, Angga and Dimas goggling, his mom and dad smiling brightly, and Asta who busy with his chocolate cake are the answer of Eulis declaration. When Henri will deny it, his foot has already trampled by Eulis.

“With who are you come here, Eulis? If you don’t mind, you can join us to dinner at Kampung Daun. Our schedule today only visits there.” Raya asks Eulis. Eulis is glance to Henri then answers, “I’m here with my 2 cousins, Ma’am. I will come.” “Alright. Henri will pick you up this evening, okay?” Raya continues. Again, Henri looks at Eulis like need more explanation.

After lunch, Henri ushers Eulis to her room, 4 pavilions from his place. You owe me an explanation, Miss.” Understand what Henri mean, Eulis sigh and says, “I

told to them to make it easy, dude. Then you get tormented by the temptations of your parents, I'd better go ahead first." Henri deep sigh after heard the explanation. Maybe this problem will be hold in long episodes. 'I hate drama.' Inner Henri.

Arriving in Eulis's room, Henri meets the bodyguard when he met Eulis yesterday. That bodyguard looks worry, but Eulis just grins when meets with her guard. "Bayu, this is Henri, my boyfriend. You are not allowed to tell this to my dad or Egi or anyone, just let me tell them. Tonight you will go dinner with me and Henri's family. You will be my cousin at there." After Henri heard that command for Bayu, he thinks that the lady who will be his fake girlfriend is a great lady. It is hard to describe what part of her greatest, but for Henri, Eulis is a great person. "Please take care of my girlfriend. Do not let her get scratched at all. I will pick you two at 5. Take a rest." Commands Henri to Bayu, then Henri kissed Eulis's forehead. Eulis blink her eyes, looks shock. Eulis hugs Henri and whispers, "If you dare to kiss me again, your asset will disappear. So, be careful." Henri replies, "I'm your boyfriend, *kak*. So, be a good girlfriend, okay~" Henri takes off his hug and leave Eulis room. 'I'm an actor now. Ckck.' Henri thinks.

Eulis enters to her room, lay down on the bed. "So tired~ Bayu, where is Diana? I didn't see her since morning." Asks Eulis and checking her phone. She left her phone along her go. "Ms. Diana left a message this morning, if she will back at 3. Mr. Surya was came in this resort

alone, and Ms. Diana will handle him. So, Ms. Eulis no need to worry.” Explains Bayu. Diana is Eulis’s cousin from her father. She has known everything about Eulis and Surya. Diana wants to protect her uncle’s family.

Drrtt...Drrttt

‘Are you ready for LDR?’

‘LDR? What do you mean?’

‘I will back to Semarang 2 days left. So, is this relationship still valid if I go back home?’

‘Oh... It’s no problem to me. In condition you will not cheating on me. You still a boy, still labile.’

‘Tch. You witch! Pedophile! Thanks to me because you have a good looking boyfriend like me.’

‘Fake boyfriend, kid!’

‘I don’t care! This time I’m dating with weird old lady. Take some rest, I will pick you up at 5, my dear grandma~’

Eulis is busy with replying Henri’s messages until don’t realize if Diana has already came back. When she knows that her cousin didn’t realize of her coming, she gives a surprise to Eulis.”Boo!” Diana shouts loudly in Eulis’s ear. “DIANAA! YOU WANT TO MAKE ME DEAF, HAH?” Eulis shouts and hit Diana using the pillow. Diana laughs out loud. “Don’t sulk, beautiful. So, who is your new boyfriend hmm? Bayu told me.” Says Diana

still laughs silently. Afterwards, Eulis tells her plans to Diana. Diana is laughing along Eulis recounts about Henri and his family. "Henri's family invites us to dinner in Kampung Daun. Henri will come here at 5. You can meet him." Says Eulis. "I will bathe first." Says Diana immediately enters to bathroom. Eulis shakes her head. Diana's habit is never loses, have to look perfect at dinner.

At 5 PM, Henri arrives in front of Eulis's room. He already sent a message to Eulis that he has already arrived. Eulis, Diana, and Bayu come out from the room. "So this is Eulis's boyfriend? He's handsome. Please take me to be the second." Flirt Diana to Henri. Henri who sees Diana like that feels scared of her. Eulis slaps Diana's head. Sometimes Diana can't be normal if meets good looking guy, whereas she has a fiancé. "Ignore her. Let's go!" Eulis is holding Henri's arm and ignoring Diana who is getting sulk behind them, while Bayu is still giggling because of them. They go to the parking lot.

"Good evening. Sir, Ma'am, this is Diana and Bayu, my cousins. Diana, Bayu, these are Henri's parents, brothers, and nephew." Eulis introduces Henri's family to Diana and Bayu. They shake hands each other. Then, they leave to Kampung Daun.

They arrive at Kampung Daun, they sit in a cottage for *lesehan*. They order 6 *Nasi Bakar Sambal Belut*, 4 *Nasi Liwet Parahyangan*, 8 *Sop Buntut*, 3 big teapots of hot

tea, 10 Goyobod ice, and *Surabi*. while waiting for their orders come, they are talking about their lives. They are laughing again when Henri tells the early incidence of he met with Eulis. 'It's a great family. *Nona* was not the wrong choice.' Thinks Bayu.

At 9 they arrive in the inn, when the mother tells Henri to accompany Eulis and her 'cousins' to their room, Eulis refuses it with the reason that Henri must be tired. Raya gives up and they back to their rooms. It's still 12 PM and Henri still awake. He muses, thinking how he can be relied by a rich old girl to against someone who he has never met before. Tired of muses, he send a message to Eulis.

'Still awake?'

*'Yes. Why you still awake too?
Thinking of me?'*

*'In your dream! I'm thinking why I
want to help you. That's it.'*

*'Maybe it's destiny. I'm sleepy now.
Sweet dream, my darling.'*

'Heish. Sweet dream too, grandma.'

*They fall to sleep and didn't know
what's happened next.*

2 days later, Henri and his family are getting ready for come back to Semarang. They will flight from Soekarno-Hatta Airport, Tangerang. Eulis is willing to accompany Henri on the way to the airport. Eulis and Henri are

sitting on the back. Diana and Bayu follow them in behind with a car. Bayu is willing to return Henri's rental car. Henri and Eulis dwells only see the road from the window. They agreed to LDR. Eulis plan is still running, if it's time, Henri will emerge as heroes. When arriving at the airport, Henri and Eulis hugged tightly. "Take care of yourself. I don't even bother to come to Bandung in order to see you get blisters." The words ambiguous of Henri makes Eulis laughed softly. Though they have only pretended, perhaps they will soon be rewarded Actor and Best Actress in Indonesia. Having said goodbye, Henri and his family returned to Semarang.

2 months Henri and Eulis establish a 'relationship' via phone, messaging, and social media. Eulis also always gives news about Surya. At the beginning of their relationship as friends, recently Henri's feeling has changed to feel like to have, and protect her. One night, Eulis is calling Henri when he was painting.

"Hello." Henri says.

"He-hello? Henri? I-I need your help! Can you come here now? I-I really need you!" Eulis speaks with trembled tone. Instantly makes Henri shocked.

"Eulis! What happened to you? You're fine, right?"
"Asked Henri panic.

"D-Dad, Henri ... My daddy ... Surya... He's ... come on here quickly!!" shouted Eulis, and the connection is disconnected unilaterally.

Without thinking, he immediately booked a plane ticket to Jakarta. He packs in hurry. He gets last flight at 09:00

at night. "Dimas, please take me to the airport!" Henri demands on Dimas, who is watching TV in the living room. "Where are you going, dear? It's late," said his mom. "Eulis in trouble, mom and she needs me right now. Come on brother!" Replies Henri.

Dimas directly take the car key and they both said goodbye. At 8 right they arrive at the airport. "Dimas, thank you. I go! Take care of yourself okay. I'll let you guys after I got here." Henri hugging his brother for a while and then go in for check-in. Dimas sees Henri's departure in silence, hoping his brother is fine.

10:00 PM, Henri arrives at the Soekarno-Hatta. At the exit of the arrival, Diana and her fiancé have been waiting for Henri. Henri who sees them directly approached. "What happened to Eulis, Diana?" Asks Henri to Diana. "Better we go to Bandung, we've been waiting helicopter." Says Diana. Diana and her fiancé, Diaz, Henri pulled toward the car. Henri mind filled with Eulis, Surya, and helicopter. The car carrying the three people is silent. Henri busy with his mind, Diaz who focus drive, and Diana is checking her phone, waiting for information from Bandung. They are heading Sheraton Airport Hotel is located not far from the Soekarno-Hatta Airport.

"Ahem ... what's happened actually?" Asks Henri. Instantly the couple has tense expression, better answer or not.

"Actually, we want to tell the details, but Eulis's young brother didn't allow it. We will explain the point." Before Henri respond, Diana continue immediately.

"The point is Surya moves quickly. He already dropped my uncle and today is a threat to the entire household. The good news, he confines Eulis his room, his father and Egi are hold in different places. Why we are not go to the police? Because Surya has authority of everything." explains Diana calmly. Henri who heard Diana's explanation is silent with a shocked face. Henri prayed silently that lover and his family are fine.

Around 10 minutes they arrive at the hotel. Diaz, Diana, and Henri go to the hotel's rooftop for boarding helicopter that waiting for them to go to Bandung. Diana and Diaz deliberately using the helicopter in order to quickly get in Bandung, because if you use a car, they will take for 2 hours.

The helicopter that belongs to Eulis's family is landing at a private airfield in their property that are not far away from Batununggal Residence. After they came down from the helicopter, they walk to the Eulis's house. The house has already on guarded by bodyguards belonging to Surya. Henri who can't stand again, eventually he is attacking the guards. Diana and Diaz slap their forehead because seeing Henri's ridiculous action. Actually they both have a plan, but because Henri impatient, so the plan failed.

One by one Henri againsts the 10 guards who are guarding around the house. Henri holds a black belt in Tae Kwon Do in high school. After his opponent sprawling, Henri rushes into the house. "Seems like finished. Let's get one after him." Diaz and Diana who watch Henri's action is over follow entry into the mansion. The three of them was surprised when seeing the condition of Eulis, and Egi. They are both firmly

anchored at the wrists and feet. Surya is behind them both with his evil face.

Proook ... Prookk..Proook

"You're a little bit late ... hmm ... but no problem. Welcome to the party." Surya welcomes condescendingly to them.

"What do you want from them? Why in this way?"Asks Henri quietly.

"What I want? Tch ... I WANT MY DAD LOOK AT ME!!" Surya yells. His declaration makes everyone getting shock. Eulis looks surprised after heard that word. But Henri is still calm.

"So, you want your dad to look at you after you killing people? That's stupid!"

"Who are you? Oh ... I know ... You must be my fiancé's boyfriend, am I right? Ah ... so, is it called destiny?" Said Surya mockingly but describe the disappointment on his face.

Surya Mediran Santosa is the second son of three siblings. He has one older brother and one young sister. Surya's father, Mr. Prima Santosa, is a respected man in Bandung, you cansay he is Eulis's father business colleague, Mr. Egea Dolinija. Surya who has a distance of 2 years older than Eulis has already familiar with Eulis since they were child. But when Surya was 8 years old, he and his family moved to Bali for business affairs. Since then both of them have never communicated, only their parents were still communicating. Surya is a good

boy, polite and jovial when he was small. But since his mother was sick and his father in a relationship with another woman, his attitude changed. He became a loner, grumpy, selfish and cold, plus his father was more pampering his brother and his half sister. He seemed to not be considered again by the father since his half sister was born. Surya's biological mother is living of the house with them. She was lying weakly in a room adjacent to Surya. He took care of the mother well and affectionate. His mother who suffered paralytic disease and lung wet could only lay and waited for his son to come and tell much story to her.

Surya nature will change when he along with his mother. Surya elder brother, Lori, is the favorite son of his father are very similar because they are both physically and their nature. Therefore Lori became a rampart, no mercy to the opponent, and very selfish. Lori and Surya were very close to when they were kids until before his father remarried. Surya nature change is caused by the father who is only concerned with wealth, power and the development of his brother and half-sister than to see his development, because he was very much like his mother. His father once said to him, "If you want me to see, make Dolinija suffer." Hearing his father's commands that sound so cruel that makes him shock. He wondered why his father would drop his own bestfriend? Surya knows if his father friend is known as a kind and generous person. Surya then could not resist his father, his father's command is absolute.

Henri who look past the Surya is surprised. He does not think that there is still life who like in the tv show that often watched by his friends. Actually, Henri has the ability to see a person's past, only he is the one who

knows. Henri then approached towards Eulis and Surya and said to Surya, "Better you against your father. In a sense, make your father to see you in your own way, your efforts alone. If you hurt someone else just to ask his attention, you'll hurt yourself and also your mother." All the people who are around they are surprised to hear that. "You!! Who are you?! You..You no need to interfere in my affairs!" Surya replies in an angry tone, but looked at Henri with a look of fear. Fear will be all in vain. He just want to be noticed his father, made his father proud of him, and that hope will gone if Henri said all of his past in front of everyone, including Dolinija family.

"I will not tell anyone, but please release them! They do not deserve undergo something like this. We can help you. You're entitled to tell other people." Says Henri to Surya. Surya falls silently and walks to one of the rooms, Eulis's father is not on there. Surya only gives Mr. Egea a motioned to follow him, and they run into living room, where everyone gathered. Eulis's father hugs his two children. Suddenly, Surya has kneeling in front of Mr. Egea. Everyone who see it seemed to have the same thought 'What is he doing?'. For a moment the atmospheres become quiet. Mr. Surya Dolinija stared pityingly. He already knew the plan Surya's father dropped, but he was not able to resist the power of his friend even though he attacked with his son.

Mr. Dolinija takes Surya to stand up and hug him, "I know. I forgive you because you are the real victims." Whispered Mr. Dolinija on Surya. Surya cry in silence. He know he was wrong. He hurt the family of the woman he loves. That's right, he loves Eulis since their first meeting last year at the inauguration of a building belonging to Mr. Dolinija. Then, embrace it regardless.

Surya was still silent and hugged Eulis that are no longer bound. "I'm sorry, Eulis. I'm sorry that has been hurt you, and I'm sorry because I love you. But Henri is deserved your love. Henri who see both smiled. This problem already completed. The police come and ambushed Surya. It should not happen, Henri does not intend police intervene in matters of this family. Before Solar get into the police car, he said to Henri "Take care of my father's family. The police leave the residence of Mr. Dolinija. Henri Eulis hugged and kissed her forehead. "Ahem." Mr. Dolinija interrupted and make the intimate embrace it regardless. Henri just grinned innocently. He forgot to greet and introduce yourself to this future in-laws. Future in-laws eh?

Henri holds Eulis's hand, looked into her eyes and said, "I want to protect you, not as a fake girlfriend or a friend, but as a real girlfriend. I love you, Eulis. Would you be my real girlfriend?" Eulis hugs Henri tightly and nodded his head. It turns out some affection is not unrequited.

Everyone in the house breathe freely. Henri who is acquainted with Eulis's father and Egi, also purposes Eulis to be his wife. But it seems Eulis's father still not willing to remove his daughter, and intends to gives another exam on Henri. That night was the beginning of a love story and Eulis actual Henri.

5 YEARS LATER.

"Waaah~ Hey my beautiful cousin~ please grow up fast and play with me, okay?" one hard slap Asta get from Dimas. "I'm not sure Shinta will safe if playing with you." Dimas teases Asta. Asta pouts his lips. The others are

just laughing silently after remembering if they still in the hospital.



4 years of dating and married one year ago. She decided to moves after they were getting

married. They live in Candi residence, Semarang. Eulis also decided to help her mother-in-law in her boutique. She really likes design the clothes. Henri is very happy if his 2 beloved women are close. Yoshinta Salsa Amalia is born to completing Henri and Eulis. She is born as a princess and adorable that beloved entire people.

Shinta finally comes out of St. Elizabeth Hospital towards the palace with his parents. Henri had been close with Surya which is currently still in custody. He is also to visit the mother of Surya in his house. Father, brother, sister, stepmother and Surya left the country after the arrest of Surya.

"Papa hopes you will grow up to be strong and wise woman, dear. Papa will never leave you and Mama. Papa loves Shinta." Henri kissed her daughter's cheek. The moment was not passed Eulis and directly photographed two people dearest to be a memory that must be maintained.

**She's
Broken**

It's okay.
I don't care anyway.



Maya Indriyani

“Tik,tik,tik,tik” The sound of rain at that night, describing what Sekar feel that was sad. In quiet night, the wind blowing so fast. She was sat in a wood bench In the Alun-alun. Because, she disappointed again and again.

Sekar comes from a royal family in Yogyakarta was looking for true love. However, she got much sadness. She was very rich, has many things but was not happy with her love. She was school in *Padi High School*, she was very smart, attractive and easy to socialize with her friend. In her school, she was well known as smartstudent, she was excellent in English. She has pure heart as water, very kind with other people and humble. Even she rich, she never want to pick up with a car and she just using motorcycle, although her family very rich in the Yogyakarta. She was like an angel, beauty, smart, kind and humble. She was very lucky born in a royal family because many people honor with her family. But not with her love story, she tried to find someone who really loves her without looking who was she.

DECEMBER 2012

When she was 17 years old there was a man who loves her, named Bayu. He was her neighbor and lived near from her house. Bayu was poor man who has good personality that attracts her.

They also in the same school and same class, Bayu can enter into Padi high school because she got scholarship

and he was very smart, especially in mathematic while Sekar very poor in mathematic academic.

One day, in the class there was mathematic small test, then the next day the teacher was divide the result of mathematic small test.

“Sekar ...” The teacher called Sekar.

“Yes, ma’am.” replied Sekar.

“Your score is too poor, you should work harder.”

“Yes ma’am, I will study harder.”

Bayu heard the conversation between Sekar and the teacher about her grade.

Then, after return from school he asked to Sekar to studying together. Day by day they more close. Sekar felt comfort when she closes to him. A few months later, they were dated. She loves him without looking at the background of Bayu. She was love him because her personality. They dated for two years, Bayu was not the first love of Sekar. But, he was the first man who makes her understand what love is. Sekar may arguably too much to love someone because she was very depending on Bayu and willing to do anything to him. Bayu was very protect her and very compassionate.

THE TERRIBLE DAY

One day Bayu wanted to meet Sekar, without thought Sekar met him at the park. (Alun- alun Yogyakarta)

“Why suddenly you want meet with me, *mas*? asked Sekar.

"There is important thing that should talk to you, *dek*." answered Bayu.

"What is it, *mas*? "asked Sekar.

"I thinks we cannot be together again, let's ended! You can find a better person than I am." replied Bayu.

"Whattttttttt...!!! "

(Sekar shouted, and Shocked)

"Did I have fault with you, why you suddenly want ended our relationship?"(Replied Sekar, with a sob)

"Nothing, you are the best women I ever had," said Bayu.

Sekar stared to Bayu, she still didn't believe what he said.

"So, why you wants broke me,"replied Sekar.

"I'm sorry I have to go now,"said Bayu.

At that time, Sekar cried and begged him not to leave her because she loved him so much and could not live without him. They had been dating two years, calling and texting every day, it was not something easy to forget all. A few days after that, Sekar still kept trying to call him, and there was no response. At that time, she didn't care about her pride again because she loves Bayu so much.

One night, Sekar wanted to meet him, she sent a message to him.

"I'm waiting in usual place now, I want to talk with you mas."

Sekar was waiting more than 30 minutes. She was alone in a quiet place, Bayu has not come. Finally, Sekar called her best friend named Ratih to accompany her. Ratih was her best friend and Sekar always told everything to Ratih and she was very trust to Sekar.

Five minutes later, Ratih came and hugged Sekar, they waited on a wooden chair under dim lights. Finally, after one hour Bayu had come. After he came, Sekar was very angry and said to him:

"Why did you bear with me? I love you sincerely, but you left me without a logical reason, isn't quite appropriate with you? Said Sekar.

Bayu replied "We cannot be together, we are different. You are from rich family and me from poor family."

"We are equally as human who created by God, which distinguishes us, only gender, you are a men and I am a women." replied Sekar.

TWO WEEKS LATER

Sekar heard that Bayu has a new girlfriend. Turned out, his girlfriend was her own best friend and she was Ratih. She was crushed, devastated, crying all the night, because it was not thought at all before. She was shocked because her best friend bears with people she really loved. Then, Sekar went to Ratih house.

"*Tok, tok, tok* Ratih" Sekar knock at the door of Ratih house's.

“What brings you here Sekar? ” said Ratih while open the door.

“Let’s to the point. Ratih, we are friends since childhood, you’re my best friend, you are the only person that I attended when I was hurt, but now you make that hurts, then where am I now? ”Replied Sekar.

What do you mean Sekar? Is it about Bayu! Ratih listen to me!

I loved him before he was with you, he was my first love but I never show my feel to him when I want to reveal my feeling, you has already with him. You know, at that time I really hurt and I trying harder to forget him but I can’t. I know this is going to be hurt for you, but I love him? “Said Ratih



“Is Bayu broke up with me because he wanted to be with you?” asked Sekar.

“Not at all? ”replied Ratih.

“I really disappointed with you Sekar.” said her

Then sekar went home, she was sholat with crying. After she sholat she said:

“God this is so hurts, why the person who I loved betrayed me.”

A FEW DAYS LATER

Her father was sick and had to be rushed to the hospital. The next day, her grandmother also sick and had to be taken in the hospital. That was weeks that many thing happened and such a horrible moment For Sekar. She had so much pressure, she was also sick and had to go clinic. Sekar treated at home and lying in her bed, his body was very cold and very dizzy head.

“Now, I believe that many people closest to me are not good at all. From my experience, I learned don't love people too much, because in the end I also badly hit. Loved naturally, do not want to be slaves of love.”

Few months later, Sekar tried to open her heart. Sekar was dated with someone because she was lonely, his named Aryo. But, after a week they dating many conflicts happen.

Aryo was very indifferent, do not care about Sekar. One day, a friend of her boyfriend met Sekar and said to her that he really loves Sekar. She was shocked and said to him:

“How can a friend loves girlfriend of his friend, it should not be.”

Then, Sekar told all to Aryo, but unexpected words spoken.

Aryo said "Sekar I let you with him, if you with him you will be happy.”

Sekar slight smile and said “ Ok! Thank you for everything, let's end up here.”

Sekar was extremely shocked, and asked to herself how a boyfriend could allow his girlfriend with other people.

After that, they broke up. Then, Sekar alone again, she was not too sad because did not really loved Aryo .While she single, Aji or friend of ex-boyfriend continued to approach Sekar, he really care to Sekar, and attention to her. After two months later, Sekar felt grow sense of love to Aji.

One day when Sekar on the street, she met someone and said:

"Confounding other people relationship, stay away from my boyfriend, stay away from Aji."

"What do you mean?" replied Sekar.

"I am Aji's girlfriend? The woman said.

"Please don't disturb our relationship, okay".

"I did not have any relationship with your boyfriend, he kept disturbing me?" replied Sekar.

"I don't care, just stay away from my boyfriend."

After she left, Sekar silent and sat in the beach.

IN THE RAIN AND QUIET NIGHT

Sekar shouted:

"Oh god I really tired."

"Is there no love at all for me oh God?"

Sekar did not know if Aji has a girlfriend, hit her back but luckily they were not dating. At that time, Sekar very tired, at the point already tired with love.

6 WEEKS LATER

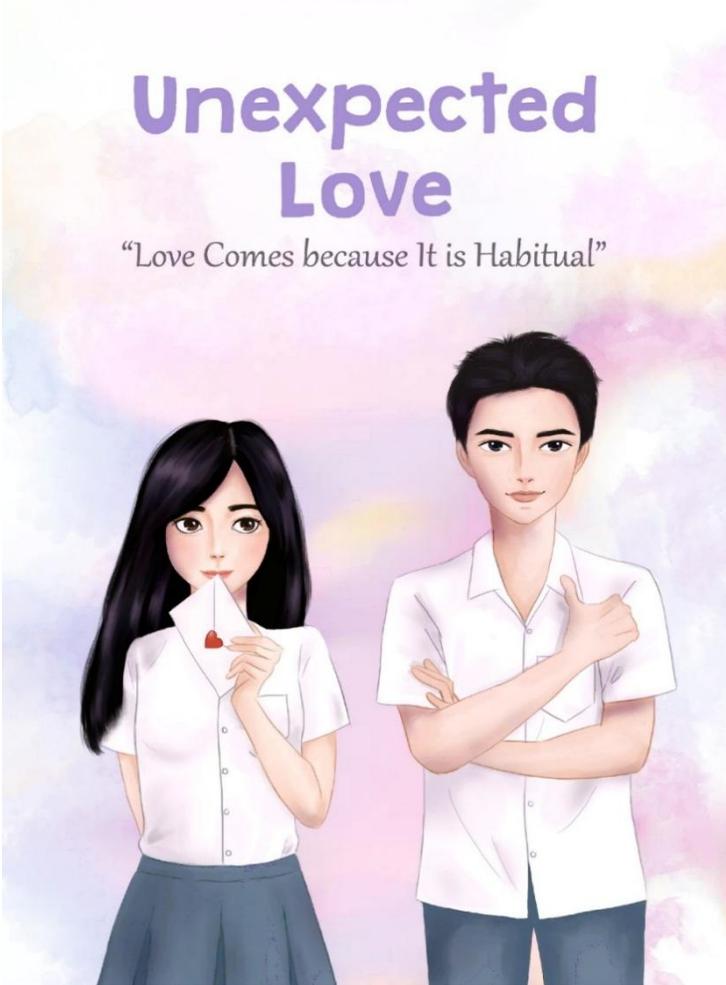
While Sekar wanted alone, there was a man named Abimanyu the handsome, kind and from royal family in Yogyakarta. Abimanyu was from rich family and he has clothing line business, he was hard worker person even he from rich family, he started her business with her own money without depend on his family. He was a youngest success entrepreneur in Yogyakarta, 20 years old same with Sekar. Abimanyu was old friend of Sekar, he was her friend in elementary school and they met again in Petra University in 2016. Sekar was very happy met him, at the first time she met Abimanyu in university she never mind he will fallen in love with him because she has already fed up with love.

But, Abimanyu gave full attention to Sekar and she also felt comfort with him. She closed herself from love, but the feeling was growing bigger and Sekar began to love. Then, Sekar open her hearts and she hopes he was the last one and without any pain again because she just want happiness. Finally, Sekar married to that man and live happily.

*True love will come on time. God
separated you with a person who
doesn't good, and at the end god
will send you a prince on your
dreams.*

Unexpected Love

“Love Comes because It is Habitual”



Melina Augustin

In Jakarta city, there is a teenager. She has good appearance. She has big brown eyes, flat nose, red cheeks, flat upper lips, medium skin and the shape of her face is oval. She also has long straight black hair. She belongs to the girl who has an ideal body because her height is 165 centimeter and her weight is only 55 kilograms.

She is a cheerful girl. She always greets and really likes to smile to her friends or new people. Hence, many people was amazed by her sweetest smile because she has dimples.

Her friends often say to her,

“How lucky you are having that perfect appearance. Sometimes we are feel envy of you and want to be like you.”



Because of her appearance, she really looks beautiful and become a famous girl in her school. Many boys want to get closer with her. Her friends also often give compliments to her and she always smile to them. Even though she is a perfect girl, she never conceited with her friends and still greets them.

That perfect girl is named Shinta. She is also a smart student. She always gets best mark in all subjects. Unfortunately, she does not come from a rich family. Her father works as an administration staff in bank and her mother is not working and stay at home. She is the first child of the family and has two brothers. Hence, she wants to relieve her parents from the cost of school. So, she always tries her best to get the scholarship.

One day, she applied a scholarship to the famous school and she hopes that can be accepted in that school. Because of her determination and hard-working, she finally got full scholarship for three years. She is really proud to study at Pelita Nusantara Senior High School that has International standard.

Most students who are studying in that school are the students whose parents have their own companies. So, that school is included in the category of famous and prestigious school. She will not waste this scholarship. Therefore, she promises to her parents that she will study hard and graduate with good marks in order to make her parents proud of her.

She has hobbies. She likes reading and dancing. She likes reading books, especially books about art and culture of Indonesia because she really loves Indonesia. Shinta has a desire to learn more about the culture of Indonesia through the college that she chooses later. She really likes to read books about *Punakawan*, story of *Mahabharata*, story of *Rama* and *Shinta*, and etc. She also loves to watch 'wayang' performance and sing about region songs such as: 'Gundul-Gundul Pacul', 'Lir-Iilir', 'Suwe Ora Jamu', and many more.

Out of all mentioned Shinta really loves the story of Rama and Shinta. Story of Rama and Shinta is about

Rama, prince of Ayodhya, won the hand of the beautiful princess Shinta, but was exiled with Shinta and his brother Laksmana for 15 years through the plotting of his stepmother. In the forest Sita was abducted by Rahwana, and Rama gathered an army of monkeys and bears to search for her. The allies attacked Alengka, killed Rahwana, and rescued Shinta. After successfully rescuing Shinta, Rama, Sinta, Laksamana and the entire army (including the monkey army) went to Ayodya. Arriving in Ayodya, Rama was crowned as king.

Shinta is very talented. She can also dance a number Indonesia traditional dance, such as: '*Tari Saman*' from Aceh, '*Tari Merak*' from West Java, and '*Tari Kecak*' from Bali. Because of her hobbies, she already has a lot of knowledge about Indonesian culture. It also makes her to be smart because she likes reading many books included book lesson. On the other side, she is a friendly and easygoing person because she had been accustomed to meet and communicate with many people and joining the Indonesian culture communities. Consequently, she has many friends in school and communities.

After three months studying at that school, she sees a boy who moves to her school. Firstly, when Shinta looks that boy, she is amazed by his appearance. He really looks handsome and cool. So, she asks her friend, when she goes through the administration room to go cafeteria.

Shinta says,

"Woowww..."

"His appearance makes my heart melted, guys."

"Who is he? I had never met him before."

Shinta's friend replies,

"He is a new students here, who moves from another senior high school. We are in the same grade with him, but not in the same class. He is in the class A and we are in the class B."

Shinta is amazed by his perfect appearance. He also has the sweetest smile that makes Shinta feel amazed. After that, she really wants to know more and be acquainted with him.

The new boy student's named Arya. Arya has good appearance. He is a handsome boy because he has slanted brown eyes, pointed nose, fair skin, oval face, and his hair is blonde. He has the sweetest smile with dimples in his cheeks. Hence, the girls in his school really impressed and idolized him. He also has an ideal body. His height is 175 centimeter and his weight is 65 kilograms. He has an athletic body because he loves playing basketball and ever join the basketball team in his previous college. Therefore, he always maintain his body and control his healthy meal. But he has a weakness, he really looks arrogant because of his perfect appearance that makes girls really loves him like an idol.

Arya was moved from Harapan Bangsa Senior High School in Semarang city. He joined his parents that the place of work was moved to Jakarta. He felt that Semarang and Jakarta are very different. Semarang has peaceful situation. Cars and motorcycle not as much as in Jakarta. Jakarta was really crowded with so many cars and motorcycle. If Arya will go to school, he should wake up at 4 a.m. and go to school at 5 a.m. Jakarta also had a huge pollution from factories and vehicles.

So, if Arya can choose his desire, he will choose to stay in Semarang rather than in Jakarta.

Arya belongs to the rich family. His father is working at his own company in mining field. His mother is working in the hotel as a general manager. Arya is the only child in this family. Therefore, his parents really love him and give anything that Arya want to have. That is the reason that his appearance looks luxurious. He is wearing the branded stuff, such as shoes, watch, and bag. He also goes to school by his own sport car every day.

Arya is not a smart student. It can be seen in the first semester of 10th grade, he cannot follow the lessons well. He is too lazy to read and learn all the courses which already explain by the teachers. He also often not listen to the teacher's explanation and rarely do the homework. Consequently, he often gives some advices and punishment to run the field 3 times by the teacher, but it is still not working. He was still repeating that mistakes again and again. So, the teachers are decided to call his parents to come in school and talk about Arya's attitude which rarely do the homework and also never pay-attention to the teachers' explanation and advices.

On the other side, he has non-academic skill that he can be proud of. He is a basketball player and already joined the basketball team in his school. His team always win the Basketball Match Competition. His team has already won several trophies and awards from that competition. He is one of the player that looks cool when playing basketball. His name is become famous among the girls in his school. Therefore, many girls want to approach him to be boyfriend.

One day, Shinta looks Arya who were talking with his basketball team in the cafeteria. She really likes the way Arya smile. Therefore, Shinta wants to be acquainted with Arya. So, she is looking for more information about Arya. She asks some of his friends how Arya looks like. She tries to find Arya in her Facebook and she finally got his account. She also gets his private number from his profile information from Facebook. She tries to contact Arya firstly using Facebook messenger. Shinta sends the first greeting to his Facebook messenger and he replied it. Shinta says to Arya that she cannot play basketball. Shinta wants to learn how to play basketball and decides to use it as a reason to get closer with him. So, she wants him to teach her playing basketball privately. But, Shinta's desire cannot become reality because Arya refused the request from Shinta. It makes Shinta's feeling becoming sad. She should find another reason in order to know and be closer each other.

Shinta always tries to find a reason to get closer to Arya, but the results are always unsuccessful. Arya is rejected all the requests from Shinta. Arya's attitude really looks arrogant and do not think about the girl's feeling that already hurting by him. It is almost one year, Shinta has struggled her feeling to Arya by looking for various reasons to get closer with him. Even though all of her struggled is useless, she still tries and do not give up.

Apparently, besides Shinta, there is a girl who also trying to get closer with Arya. Her name is Olivia. Olivia is a girl who more beautiful than Shinta. She has slanted blue eyes, pointed nose, red cheeks, fair skin, and the shape of her face is oval. She also has long curly blonde hair. She has an ideal body because her height is 170 centimeter and her weight is 60 kilograms. Her

appearance is very different from Shinta because she was born and grown up in America.

Olivia is different because she is an American-Indonesian child. Her father is American while her mother is Indonesian. Therefore, her face and her appearance is like her father. She comes to Indonesia because her parents has a work project from their company to open the branch company firstly in Indonesia, especially in Jakarta. She joins his parents to come Indonesia and studies at Pelita Nusantara Senior High School.

In her school, she has many friends. She likes hanging out with her friends. Sometimes go to lunch and shopping together. On the other side, there are many boys who like to greet Olivia and try to be acquainted with her. But Olivia only smile to them and not respond it. One day, when she walks towards the cafeteria, she looks Arya. He is playing basketball with his team.

She says to her friends,

“How cool that boy!”

“I really want to be acquainted with him.”

Her friends replies her,

“Yes, you are right.

He makes us amazed by his cutest face.

Waaaaa... he also melted our hearts.”

After Arya finished his exercise, Olivia greets him and tries to ask his phone number. And apparently, Arya gives his phone number to her. After that, they are send messages each other.

One day, Olivia's friend tells her, besides Olivia, there is a girl who loves Arya. Her name is Shinta. She also has a perfect appearance that amazed the boys in her school. Shinta is also the smartest student in her school.

Olivia says directly to her friends,

"Who is Shinta?"

"How does she look like?"

"Is she more beautiful than me?"

"Is she brave enough to compete with me in order to get Arya's heart?"

Olivia really angry and jealous after heard that news. She really hates Shinta and has some plans to disturb Shinta in order to make Shinta go away from Arya.

Olivia really feels jealous of Shinta. When she meets Shinta, she looked at Shinta sarcastically showing if Olivia does not like Shinta's existence. Olivia did all her plans with the help from her friends. Olivia puts the cockroach in Shinta's bag in order to make Shinta to be fear. But, apparently Shinta is not fear of cockroach, she only put it from her bag into the floor. Olivia tries another plan. She wants to make Shinta to be hurt, so she pushes Shinta's body into the floor and makes Shinta felt down. And then Olivia is also grabbed Shinta's hair, when she looks Shinta trying to communicate and seeking attention to Arya.

Olivia has another idea. She wants to trap Shinta and makes Shinta to feel ashamed and disappointed with her feeling to Arya. Hence, Olivia tries to find Shinta's phone number helped by her friends. And then, she buys a new phone number and send a message to

Shinta's number. She writes a messages claiming to be Arya.

This message said that,

"Please meet me Shinta, because I have something important to talk to you. Come to Sweet Moment Cafe near school at 6 p.m. tonight. I really waiting for your coming.

Signed Arya."

After Shinta received that message, Shinta really happy, smile continuously, and does not believe that Arya wants to meet her.

There are some words that comes up to Shinta's mind.

"Why does Arya want to meet me in Sweet Moment Cafe?"

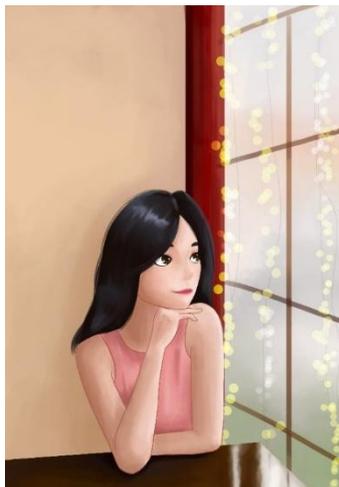
"Do Arya has a feeling to me?"

"Is Arya would say that he loves me and wants me to be his girlfriend?"

"Ahhh... It is still become a mystery. Let's wait tonight", she said in her heart.

She feels really nervous. She cannot wait to meet Arya personally. Hence, she is preparing herself in order to look beautiful. She chooses to wear soft pink dress and white casual shoes. She also put a little makeup in her face. After she finished preparing herself, she sees her watch and shows 5.45 p.m. So, she goes to the cafe around 15 minutes. She arrives to the Sweet Moment Cafe 6 p.m. on time, but she could not find Arya in this cafe. So, she is decided to wait him.

Apparently, Olivia and her friends also come to this cafe in order to check Shinta is come or not. Then, Olivia sees Shinta is sitting alone and looks waiting Arya in the corner table. Olivia and her friends are laugh together when looking Shinta in that cafe. Olivia really happy after trapped Shinta.



Olivia said to her friends with laughing,

“How stupid she is!”

“How can an idol school like Arya, wants to meet a girl like her. Ha...ha...ha...”

After waiting Arya around one hour, Shinta decided to go home with all her mix feeling. After that day, Shinta never wants to know more about Arya. She feels really upset with Arya’s attitude that already played her feeling and made Shinta waiting him alone without any message to tell that he cannot come and meet her. Because of that she never tries to greet him again and ignored him when they are meet each other.

In the 11th grade, Arya and Shinta are in the same class, but they will not meet Olivia again. Olivia follows her parents and moves to another city because her parents’ work project to open another branch company in Surabaya.

Actually, Shinta does not want to meet and greet Arya again because she still feels upset with Arya's bad attitude. But the circumstances of the class makes her should begin to communicate with him directly. In this 11th grade, there are many assignments that should be done in a group. Shinta is really unlucky because she had to be in one group with Arya. Shinta was forced to be cooperated with that 'arrogant person', Arya.

Arya and Shinta are often doing group homework together. They almost meet each other every day. They also always go to home together after doing the assignment. Arya is accompany Shinta into her home.

Almost a year, they often go to home and spend the time together, Arya begins having a feeling in love to Shinta. His feeling comes because the habitual. Arya really loves the way Shinta smile because she has the sweetest smile with dimples in her cheeks. Arya was also amazed by her intelligence in all of the courses. She always gets best score and diligent when following all the lessons well.

Time by time has passed. Now, Shinta and Arya are in 12th grade of high school. When the school divided the class, Shinta and Arya got the same classroom again. Arya really happy after heard it. In this grade, Arya tried to be closer with Shinta because he thinks that Shinta could help him to learn all of the courses that will be done in the examination. He also wants to get her attention and her feeling.

Besides Arya asked about the courses, Arya finds another topic to talk about their hobbies. Apparently, they have same hobbies. Hence, they are sharing each other about Indonesia's culture, such as "*Batik*", "*Wayang Kulit*", "*Wayang Golek*", and also shared the

beautiful place in Indonesia, such as “*Kepulauan Seribu*”, “*Rajaampat*”, and etc. The same hobby already makes them become closer, and also makes them become friend. They often joke each other in break time of school. They still lend their Indonesia’s culture books each other to improve and develop their knowledge more about culture and art.

On the other side, Shinta begins to feel comfortable with Arya because he always accompanies and makes her happy in all condition. Actually, Arya really loves Shinta more than friend since he firstly communicate in the 11th grade, when they were divided in the same group’s assignment. At that time, Shinta do not realize Arya’s feeling and caring.

The remaining time towards graduation is three months. They should prepare their National exam, so they have to study hard in order to get best mark of the exam. They are learning together by doing some exercises and also asking the teacher about the material that is difficult to be understand. After they passed the examination, they prepare the graduation party with all their friends. They share with their friends about their dream. They have the same purpose to continue their study, but in different major. Shinta wants to gain more knowledge about culture in Gadjah Mada University, by majoring in Indonesian literature, while Arya wants to study in Gadjah Mada University, majoring in medical science.

When graduation is going on, Arya sees Shinta’s face continuously because Shinta really looks beautiful with her “*Kebaya*” and “*Kain Batik*”. Shinta loves to wear “*Kebaya*” and “*Kain Batik*” because she wants to look different from others who wear the glamour party dress.

According to her, Kebaya is one of the art of fashion from Indonesia which become Indonesian national dress. Kebaya is not just an ordinary blouse. Kebaya became the pride of Indonesia because of its beauty and its originality in design. The materials of Kebaya generally are thin material of various kinds of fabrics such as Brocade, tulle, silk or satin, which are embroidered with flowers pattern, and decorated by lace and beautiful beading. *Kebaya* is used by pairing it with a Sarong or Batik cloth which is being folded to wrapped body in such a way without using any stitches to make alluring effect on the body, and usually wear with special styling of hair.



Arya does not want to go far away from Shinta. He really wants accompany Shinta till the end of time. Hence, Arya expresses his feeling to Shinta after the graduation party is over. Shinta listens to Arya's expression. Shinta feels sad because she never realizes Arya's feeling to her. Finally, she knows his feeling and accepts him to be her boyfriend. They live happily and promise to live together until the end.

COME BACK HOME



MONICA FELICIA AMANDA

It's always good to be back.

I leaned my back on the backseat, felt so tired after two hours the hell of flight from Melbourne to Jakarta. I looked at the left window in this taxi and breathe heavily. It was raining outside, made the window a bit blurry, but I didn't really mind, I missed this kind of view; those cars that were trapped in this kind of hours, the sound of horns were heard everywhere, and the skyscraper building that started to show its light. Jakarta, it's been a long time. Nice to see you again, I said in sarcastic tone, softly.

Jakarta in the evening always bring some twisted mood for me, anyway. Don't get me wrong, it doesn't mean that I hate this city. In fact, I love this so much, eventhough the environment should have made me feel otherwise. I looked outside the window, there was a Transjakarta bus passing through the taxi. I smiled, oh how I missed that kind of public transportation, and I missed metromini too! The thoughts of the traffic around me made me exhale my breath.

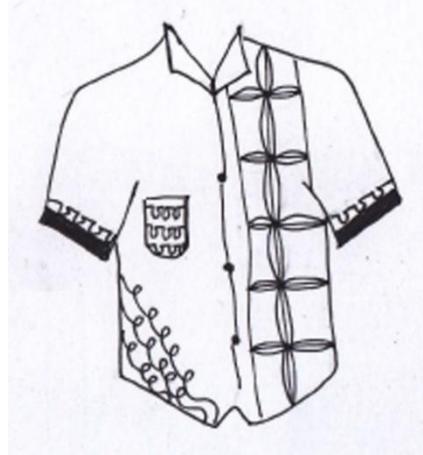
We passed Sudirman Street and I saw '*Selamat Datang*' statue—one of Jakarta's iconic statue located on Bundaran Hotel Indonesia—near my taxi.

"Go straight to Central Park, Sir." I said to the taxi driver, just to make sure he knows where would we go. The taxi driver smiled and nodded. After we arrived at Central Park and I paid the fare, I walked in a rush to a little cafe near the fishpool, at the rooftop, wished that I wasn't too late.

I looked around that 3rd floor, and there, I found him, in a little cafe at the corner, a place that we used to visit everytime I spent time in this city. He sit on the outside area, I can see those buildings from where he sit. What

a perfect scenery! He really remembered that I love that spot so much.

He wore a short sleeve batik shirt and super sleek hair – ah he cut her majestic long hair, sat with a cup of his favourite liquid in his hand. “Hi, sorry i’m late.” I greeted him. He looked at me and smiled. I was quickscanning him. Well, in fact, we were quickscanning eachother. After all these times, many had change from him. Eventhough his long hair had already cut, but one still remained; his smile. I could not even tell of how much I miss that smile.



“Where have you been? You seem so busy.” I said to him while looking at his batik shirt. I gighed, the thought of Galang and batik would never, ever crossed my mind before. In fact, I never saw him in any cultural thing like batik before, which was very strange, because Galang came from a family with very thick Javanese blood.

“You’re not too late, though. It’s okay. I just got back from my friend’s wedding, So, I’m, wearing this shirt. Do I look good in it?” He asked me when he stood up and showed more of his part of his batik. It was so awkward, I felt like I could not do anything but smiled, awkwardly. I checked him out from his top to toe, of course he looked good in it. The truth is, he looked extremely gorgeous in

that batik. I shook my head slowly, never thought that a batik shirt could turn somebody into this gorgeous.

“ I miss you.” He said in a sudden.

I smiled, but instead of answered his words, I looked at him deeply. “Why did you cut your hair? Too bad, Galang, you long hair was incredible!”

He stroke his own hair. “Ah, is that so? At first I didn’t want to cut it, but Nataya asked me to, because she said that she was bored to see my long hair and short hair would look good on me.” He smiled. Unlike him, I smiled bittery, whenever Galang mentioned his Girlfriend’s name made me feel like ’Im forced to eat something acid.

“Oh, how’s Nataya doing then?” I asked softly, unnecessary question tough.

Galang lifted his head from his cup. “Nataya is doing well, Ki. She always asked me why Kirana never go back to Jakarta again these past two years. Hahaha.” He laughed while stroking my hair softly.

I chose to took my eyes around and avoided Galang’s eyes. In this kind of height, the top of skyscrapper buildings a far seen from where I sat. It was a beautiful scenery, by the way. Seeing this kind of scenery made me feel calm without reason. It calmed me from all the things that I wanted to left at my hometown, it calmed my from my hectic schedule, and more importantly, it calmed my from my own feeling.

“Hei, are you okay? You haven’t said anything. May I order you some beer?” he asked in concern, checked me carefully, wondered if he found something wrong with my sudden silent.

I burst into laugh. "I'm fine. I'm fine. You can order me anything you think I would like, though."

He was about to call the waitress when I looked at him. "...and really, I do miss this place. I miss this city. I miss this kind of time... with you." I lit my cigarette and added, "Which I never got at my hometown."

He smiled, again. "I know." He said. "You always miss this city, eh? I know how much you love it."

"It's weird, when many people hate this city while I feel otherwise. The traffic sucks, they said. The noise, the pollution, the crowd, and so on, and so on.... dude, I even miss going by Metromini! Could you imagine that?" I laughed and shook my head. "But strangely, I didn't feel disturbed with all of those at all." I explained to him. "And you know what? when you are away for a while from a place that used to be your life, coming back is always a wonderful feeling."

He looked at me for a long time. "You really love this place, don't you? I still don't get it, why, though? I thought you have a wonderful life in Melbourne, but it feels like i'm wrong."

My cigarette almost hit its end, so I smashed it on the ashtray. "I did have a wonderful life there, Lang." I answered him, still avoided to saw his eyes.

"You did? What happened in Melbourne, Ki? Why did you come back to Jakarta in a sudden like this? There must be something wrong happened there."

I lit another new cigarette and Galang looked at me with frown. "... And would you like to tell me why you smoke again? I thought you had quit before you went to Melbourne two years ago?"

“Kirana.....what happened?” He asked to me in a softer tone. He looked so concern to me.

I laughed again. Galang could be my father if he wanted to, he sound like my father already. But for now I don't think it would be a good idea to even think about it.”

“I did have a good life there.” I started to explain. “...and then I met a guy. A very attractive guy, though. He is a photographer. At the first time I met him, he look so professional, and I was at the same place with him because I attended some photograph workshop. I'm still a newbie that time, Lang, and he was my senior. He taught me many things about photography an so on, and so on, until I became a magazine photographer like this, like what I always wanted.

I sipped my drink before continuing, “After that, we became closer to each other. We were in a relationship for about a year, it was a good year, though, until I found him slept with another girl—my best friend in Melbourne at that time, unfortunately.” I give pressure in the word 'best' just to make sure that I really hate that girl right now after that accident in Joseph—my boyfriend—apartment. I took a breath for a while and continued explaining. “Well, then life getting sucks after that, he kept calling me every time even if I ignored him, he – well, indirectly terrored me with many abusive short messages, and bla and bla and bla. Life sucks, huh?” I smiled to end up my story to Galang.

Suddenly a short message appeared on my phone screen. It showed only a number but I knew exactly who was it. I smirked and looked at Galang.

“See? I just talked about him and now he just sent me a message. I don't know what else to do to avoid this guy and his abusive behaviour. Ckckck.”

“Well, maybe that’s just for temporary.” He answered, eventhough he looked unsure.

I sighed. “Yeah maybe. I hope so. This guy is getting more and more annoying. If I had to, I want him to get out of my whole life, even of this world...if necessary!”

Galang burst into laugh. “You wish him dead?”

“Yeah. If I could. My world seems better without this guy.” I mumbled. “I thank God I still have you in my life, Lang.”

Galang only smiled, and he drank his coffe again before continuing, “Kirana, trust me. It’s just temporary. And even if it’s not temporary, I will be there to fight him...so he won’t disturb you anymore. So you can smile again. How’s that? Deal?” he giggled.

I smiled, again. Seems like I only able to smile everytime I faced Galang. Well yeah, that’s not temporary as long as I’m still afraid to reveal my feeling to you, and you still with Nataya, I added that words in my head.

“You know I’m still here, Kirana. And I promise I’ll be here for you whenever you need me. You have my word.” He smiled while showing his pinky finger, as a form of his promise.

I nodded slowly, to avoid another topic about my trashy ex –boyfriend, or even about Nataya. Don’t get me wrong, Nataya was definetely a good girl, but realizing she was with Galang made my heart in such disdain.

“Look around you.” I replied in a sudden. “How can you don’t love it, eh? These lights, these crowds...even the smell after the rain, Jakarta really look so pretty after rain like this. All of these, I don’t know why and I don’t

know how, successfully made me love this place even more. Something about Jakarta makes me feel like I'm home, makes me comfort. " *And maybe, because I spent my time with you everytime I went here,* I added silently.

"Can't you find it in Melbourne? Well, Melbourne is more civilized, right? And of course, you won't find any stupid traffic jam there. It's kind of better—way better version of Jakarta." He said in a grumpy tone.



"Maybe," I answered while drinking my beer for the very first time since the waiter delivered in to me. "But Melbourne is such a hell for me right now. I just want to come back here,

enjoy this scenery and whatever, Jakarta is always being nice to me. And even if I found something like this in Melbourne, then I won't be here, sitting and talking to you like this right now. What for?" I laughed softly.

Galang also laughed after he heard my sentence. "So...when will you go back to Melbourne? I thought you still have your job there? So you cannot just escape to Jakarta as long as you want like this, huh?" He giggled.

"Of course I have to go back there. My boss will definitely mad at me if he knows I'm in Jakarta right now." I answered with laugh. "...but well.. I don't know.

Maybe I want to enjoy my precious time in Jakarta for a little bit more.” I added with softer tone.

For a long time, we were busy with our own drink, and thoughts. “Well, okay. You can always go back here, though. I know you can always do.” He swallowed the rest of his drink and fixed his left sleeve that accidentally fold. “This place is your home, you know, and you can always go back here though. I know you can always do.” He added softly, with his smile. The kind of sweetest smile in the whole galaxies. “So for now, it’s better for us to get back to our home eh?”

I’m unconsciously grabbed Glang’s arm when he started to stand and want to pay the bill.

“Would you mind to accompany me this night, Lang?”

“Welcome to my apartment!” Said Galang when we arrived in her apartment. “please do enjoy, take it as your own house, okay?” and after that Galang entered the pantry and brought some beers back.

“Galang, beer is not good for our health!” I said. “...but I won’t mind drink one some more.”

Galang only giggled when he heard my saying. Not long after that, we sat in the couch in the living room, pretended to watch TV but no interesting channel were found.

“You know it’s been a long time since the last time I come to your apartment. I remember I was taking your girlfriend back here because she was completely drunk. Hahaha.”

Galang and I smiled when we tried to remember the pieces of the memories we left here two years ago, before I went to Melbourne.

"I miss you, Lang. Like....really." I said softly, yet Galang seemed to be able to heard it.

"I always miss you too." Answered Galang. "When I heard your story about your ex, it hurts me, somehow."

I didn't know it's all about the beer or just another melancholy strike, but I started to cry. Galang was such a bestfriend and a brother that willing to protect me anytime. He was a special friend, honestly.

"I must be out of my mind having a relationship with that guy," I said softly, In regret.

"But you did." Answered Galang, with soft voice too.

"...and I already belonged to Nataya. This situaton is so funny, don't you think?"

I sobbed, I don't know why. And Galang decided to hug me. Tight. "...but you know you can always have me by your side, Kirana." He added, whispered in my left ear.

So it will be completely because of the beers we drank, because after that, the last thing that I remembered was Galang grabbed my arm softly and we walked together entering his bedroom.

"Good morning,"

Galang laid beside me and greet me. I smiled, remembering why I'm here and why Galang laid next to me.

“Good morning to you too, Lang.” I stretch my arms and started to look at him again. “What a great night we had. Thank you.”

Galang gave me one sad smile while he was looking at me after I finished my sentence. “you are welcome.” He answered without voice.

We decided to get up and end this. I wore my clothes—that scattered around the floor—and and looked at Galang for once again. “Really, thank you. You’ve been a great friend for me after all of this time, Lang. But I think this should be the last time we did something like what we did last night. We have our own life, aren’t we? And like what you said, you already have Nataya by your side, so.....I think we have to do what a normal friend do, though. Thank you. Am I still be your friend?”

Galang smiled and shook his head slowly before he finally gave me warm look. “Of course you are, Kirana. And I’ve said to you that I will always be by your side everytime you need me, right? I think that’s what a friend do, though. You’re home, Ki, you have to know that. And I will always make you feel like you’re home whenever you are here.”

I smiled, the most sincere since I arrived. I finally looked at his eyes with all my heart, hoping that I was able to give my deepest feeling into him. “For me, ‘home’ is not a place. ‘Home’ is the moments. And every moment I spend with you in this city, it feels like home to me.”



Novriwan Felik

These stories begin one year ago. Me and Merry didn't know each other. Before I am falling in love with woman that have been my girl, but my relationship cannot be hold because we already know that both of us can't be together. I am a Christian and my girlfriend is Muslim that is our problems that can't be make us together until the end. After that, we make a decision to separate for endure life by own and make a path to get our life better by find another people who can be friend in our life. Then time by time already past by but I can't find woman who can be my girlfriend. I am made a move to find my girlfriend on social media like Facebook. This is my story start when I am searching some woman and find someone named Merry, she is doesn't have any of relation with someone at all. Me didn't cast this opportunity, I am decide to add her become a friend in Facebook so I can make a conversation from messenger if she accept me. Not long enough she already accept my Facebook account without me realize it, I am feel very happy with that and I not take long enough to make conversation with Merry to know more about her. After that, I know that she is a college in ASM Semarang. Again I am very happy to know that her have same religion with me, I know where she live and I already know he face. In the afternoon I am done my study in my university and want to find some food in area where Merry live, but what I can see is made me shock she is with another guy in a car. It is make feel disappointed and my heart feel broke and still can't understand what I see. He didn't sure how he got here. He thinks he should be angry, but with the warmth of the sun-heated car at his back, Merry can't bring himself to mind. It is summer after all. He doesn't have anything better to do, and Ashton unplanned road trip serves as a

useful distraction from the uncertainty that consumes his life.

But there it is, that nagging doubt as he wonders if this road trip isn't as unplanned as Merry claims. Because Merry doesn't do random, never acts without a goal. Even now, as she flirts with the young man who has pumped their gas, Felix knows she wants something.

He also knows she will get it. Sighing, he turns his face up to the sun. He doesn't want to watch the curling knife blade glint of Merry smile or the precise way she lays her hand on the man's arm, each slim finger a suggestion and a lie. It's not that he's jealous. Most people are nothing to Merry, and a stranger is just a means to an end.

He looks again, watches the way the man smiles, the way Merry steps closer. Her head tilts, inky hair slipping free from behind her ear and the man pushes it back. Felix can tell the man's fingers are gentle, reverent.

Lifting a hand to his face, he shields his eyes from the harsh glare of the sun on faded, cracked pavement, from the shine of it in Merry dark hair, from the man's bright eyed wonder. He means nothing to her. Felix knows it, but the man doesn't, and Felix thinks he hates him just a little.

He is, after all, just as taken with Merry as this stranger is, just as sucked in by her slow curving smiles and dark eyes. She says she loves him, but he will always doubt her sincerity when he knows she lies so well. He wonders even now if he—like the random road trip that isn't random at all, like the poor stranger—is simply a name on a meticulous list, waiting to be checked off.

“Hey.”

She is standing in front of him now, and when he looks at her he can't tell by her expression if she got what she wanted or not. He also knows that she did regardless.

"Hey," he says, because having her near has robbed him of anything more articulate.

She grins, and he wishes he could hate her for her smug certainty, but the wish is gone a moment later when she touches his wrist with a brief brush of fingertips. The gesture is familiar and secret, and in that second he is absolutely sure of everything, even Merry. And then she is moving past him, getting into the car, and the feeling is lost.

He climbs into the passenger seat, and they head toward a destination Felix doesn't know, but one he is sure Ashton has mapped out in exact lines and distances.

"So, Free gas?" he said.

She looks at him, raises an eyebrow. "What do you think?"

He thinks a lot of things but says nothing, and the gas station disappears behind them in silence.

HELLO NEW BOY



RIYANTI EKA LARASATI

“Arrrrrrgh!!! . . . !!! When this misery will end?”

Nathan was grumbling around and sprawling while listening to Mr. Joko’s explanation. His body does not allow him to stand sturdily because of algebra’s formula that Mr. Joko wrote should be memorized in 10 minutes.

Some of the boys also do the same things, they are sprawling, slumping, and mumbling on their seat like the joy of their life has already finished that time. Meanwhile the girls are busy taking note from the dusty blackboard in front of the class and memorizing the formula written there.

“How could he do that?” Nathan asked while staring at the boy who is sitting on the second row on his left.

“Who? Rio? You mean Mario?” Annisa answered, her eyes also staring at Rio who’s wearing a blue jacket. With his undercut hair which has been growing, Rio looks so charming and gorgeous. His uniform also neat and tidy, he looks different with all of the boys in his class. He is just like an actor in Korean drama.

“Yup! Can’t you see? Every boy in this class is sick of Mr. Joko but, look at him! He loves to have this class I think”. Nathan wondered with Rio’s willingness to participate in Mr. Joko’s class because he thought it is not normal.

Annisa who is still trying to complete her goal to memorize all the algebra’s formula is stop for a while from what she is doing. She pulls Nathan’s back collar that make him sit properly like what Rio did and said “Do you think it is necessary to criticize other when you are the ugly ones? Sit down nicely Hersinanda Nathaniel Pratama, do what other student does!” Annisa feel

irritated with Nathan's lamentation which disturb her concentration so much.

Nathan rolled his eyes and tease Nisa "well, well, well, my god of justice. As your wish, as your saying".

Mr. Joko ended his class with a group project. This time, it's not about algebra or the other formula of mathematics. It is about Mr. Joko's science experiment class. Mr. Joko has already divided the students into four and they must do a mini project of soil and rocks. This early semester of grade 2 students in this senior high school feels so hard and challenging. Students should have higher understanding and richer knowledge in every subject. So does in Mr. Joko's science class; students will have more knowledge and experiences about nature, environment and universe.

Unfortunately, Nisa and Nathan are in one group with Rio. This time, Mr. Joko is the one who choose the member of the groups by himself. "How lucky I am!! Mr. Joko knows us well right Nisa? Hhahhaaaa" Nathan started boasting to tease Nisa.

"How can he know that we are an unbreakable couple? I think he spies on us Nisa. Watch out when you go to bath room, maybe Mr. Joko is there watching on you" Nathan scared Nisa who is feeding herself a full spoon of meatball at the cafeteria after their class is dismiss. They always sits on the back seat of Mas Tono's stall, Mas Tono's meatball is like a heaven rumbling in your mouth. There are various kinds of meatballs like original, spicy, cheese, egg, and many other kinds of filled wonton. Nisa cannot eat peacefully because of Nathan's story. She put her spoon, chewed up her meatball, and saying:

“Oh really? Should I be scared? Or should I scream? Running? Or slap his face directly? What do you think?” Nisa’s words mean nothing. She just wants to make her best friend boasting more. “yeaah! You should slap his face, punch him, and don’t forget to step on his foot hardly” Nathan replied.

“Ok. I’ll do that, but how about you? How if Mr. Joko suddenly appear on your room....checking all your underwear....and then he take off your clothes while you are sleeping.... and.”

“Oh come on! Stop it! It’s so disgusting Nis. Yeaach !!! I can’t imagine if that really happen”

“Hahaha!! See...? My jokes still better than you Nat. Do not start something that you are not competence in. Hahaha” Nisa cannot hold her laugh.

“I will make you pay for this. Just wait and see. Huh.” Nathan fold his arm, and make a fish face.

“Ok. I will. Hahhaa ...!”

The canteen always full in break time. All of the students go there to have their lunch. So do Nathan and Nisa. This two best friend has started their friendship still they were born. Nathan’s mother is Nisa’s mother best friend since they were in Elementary School. Nisa and Nathan’s house also near to each other. They just need 10 steps to go. Nathan and Nisa always support each other. They go to the same school, grow in the same environment and even they have the same hobby. Both of Nisa and Nathan like to go hiking and traveling. Their biggest dream is to go to France and climb up the Eiffel

tower. They more look like brother and sister, not as a lovey dovey couple.

“Wooaaaah !! I’m the giant meatball!! Hahahahaha !” Nisa groaned with his bass voice, her hands make a scary movement to Nathan’s face.

“Are you okay?” Nathan answered with a poker face expression.

“You need to go to doctor now. Immediately! As soon as possible! With the speed of light! COME ON Nis!! I’m afraid you are turning into zombie later.” he grasped Nisa’s hand panicky.

“Ok. I got it. It’s not funny at all.” Nisa doesn’t want to talk about her fail joke.

“Hahaha ! No Nis, it’s an epic joke!! Hahaha !!” Nathan thumbs up to Nisa’s face.

“Whatever!! This monster meatball is going home because she can’t stay any longer with her evil friend. Bye Mas Tono. I will leave my bill to take with him. He will pay for me. Bye zombieeee !!!” as soon as light, Nisa left Nathan who is finishing his meatball.

“WHAAT ?! NO .. No No No Mas, Nisa will pay hers tomorrow.” Nathan’s words trembled.

“Oh really? But tomorrow I’ll close due to my daughter’s birthday. So, you must and you HAVE TO pay hers and yours TODAY !” Mas Tono said clearly while holding a fork in his hand.

“Hhehee . . I’m just kidding mas, I will pay today. Don’t worry. Hehhehe . . .” said Nathan gently who doesn’t want his face got scratched by mas Tono’s fork.

THE STORY BEGINS

The fan is moving to the left and right, the brownish curtain is flying slowly by the wind from the fan, some photos are stuck on the blue painted wall messily, the room is not as cute as the other girl room. A grey Persian cat is sleeping on the bed, guarded by its owner who is also sleeping in the daylight. The short hand of the clock pointed at 3 and the long hand of clock pointed at 4. It is the best time to sleep, but a knock on the door destroy it at a glance.

“Knock ... Knock ...” the knock isn’t too loud to make them awake.

”Knock Knock KNOCK !!! Nisa Wake UP !!” the sound getting louder, a voice of a little boy also heard by the sleepy head inside the room.

“Oh!! Come on !! Wake UPPPPP !! Your Boyfriend is downstairs!! Why don’t you tell me that you have a boyfriend?” this time, a statement of BOYFRIEND wakens up Nisa. She jumped up from the bed and immediately open the door.

“What did you say before?” Nisa make sure what Ega said before.

“YOUR BOYFRIEND is WAITING FOR YOU DOWNSTAIR. Do you got what I mean princess Nisa?” said Ega with full of expression on his face.

“Why you did not tell me that you have a new boyfriend? Is he your classmate?”

Nisa ignored his brother who is keep talking nonsense. She walked passed him, breached his barricade and go downstairs as fast as she can. She is so curious who is downstairs. It couldn't be Nathan, because Ega will not saying nonsense statement. She walked slowly passing the stairs, as she arrived in the living room she can see a boy with a white long sleeve shirt and blue jeans is sitting there. A boy with a smell of Axe chocolate body spray and eyes as sharp as the arrow of Katnis Everdeen.

"Rio, is that you?" Nisa asked the boy.

"Oh, hi Nisa. Sorry I did not tell you that I will come today. I was going near this area before and I thought it will be good if I stop by here to discuss our project." Said Rio.

Nisa who still could not believe what she saw is stupefied like a sculpture.

"Nisa, are you okay?" Rio waves his palm in front of Nisa's face.

"Oh, yeah sure. Hahaha . I am fine." Nisa replied with her poker face.

"Good then. Hmmm How if we started the discussion now? Do you mind if I use your laptop to search some articles? I think it's better if we start from looking the samples and data in the internet before we discuss it together. What do you think?" Rio tries to start the group work that looks like a couple work because there are no other members of their group there.

"Okay. Do whatever you want as long as it can help our group. Hm, I'm going to take my laptop and try to contact Nathan. He supposed to be in one group with us right?"

“Oh, I think he could not be here today. I’ve contacted him and he said they could not join us today.” Rio explained.

“Oh really?! Hahahhahahahaa. Okay then. ” Nisa tries to calm down herself.

Nisa has no idea about what happen in front of her right now. How come Rio knows her house? How come he contacted Nathan and Sari? Nisa has hundreds questions in her head that time, but he tries to be chill and enjoy her discussion with Rio. Rio is not as talkative as Nathan, he speaks when it is needed. Rio also a good listener, he can accept Nisa’s ideas and give a great feedback to her. Nisa feels that Rio is a good partner rather than a fussy Nathan.

Nisa and Rio finish their discussion that evening with 2 glasses of orange juice and a plate of French fries from mbak Minah. They had spent a lot of energy during the discussion.

“Where is your house Rio? Is it okay for you to go home this late? I am afraid you will be lost on the way back home.”

“Hahha, don’t worry Nis. I know this area better than our school. Hahahha. ”

Nisa confused about Rio’s statement.

“What do you mean by that?” Nisa chuckles.

“Hehe. My grandmother’s house is only 2 blocks from your house Nis. On the block E”

“Oh, really? But, I do not know that someone live in that house.”

“Yup, because oma only stay for 2 days in a week. She needs to manage her company in Surabaya. So, as you can see. . . . The house is more like a haunted house. Hahahahaha”

“Oh . . .Ok. I got it. Hahaha . . .”

THE PUZZLES OF YOUR MISTERY

“Hey sleepy head! Are you doing something bad last night? What happen with your face?” said Nisa waken up Nathan who is sleeping on his table. His head can not be straighten anymore.

“Go away Nis. I am not in a good mood.” Nathan looks different that day. He is not as cheerful as usual. His eyes look like the eyes of a giant panda.

“Are you sick? We need to go to doctor now then” Nisa worries about the condition of her friend.

“No I am not sick. I’m just tired and feel burden with Mr. Joko’s assignments. And also, I have to complete some task that Rio gave to me last night. That’s why I could not sleep well. I just slept for 3 hours this morning.” Nathan explained weakly with eyes half closed. He tries to speak as loud as he can.

“Whaaat? Assignments? From Rio? When did he ask you to do that?” Nisa start to interrogates Nathan.

“Hm Last evening, when I was going to my father’s shop with my mom, he called me. He said to me he will go to your house to discuss our project, but he asked me no need to come because he can handle it.”

“Then, Why are you did not contact me that time? I said I am busy with the task that Rio gave to me. Moreover, i

think it's nice if I followed him not to come." Hundreds of questions pop up in Nisa's head after hearing Nathan's explanation. It doesn't feel right at all. How come Rio asked Nathan did not come to her house and gave Nathan tasks to do. There is something wrong about this boy. Said Nisa inside her mind.

Nisa really want to confirm this to Rio, but starting from that day, Rio always avoids Nisa. He makes a boundary and does not talk both with Nathan or Nisa. Until one day, Nisa makes a plan to trap Rio. She just want to ask him what is happen actually. She is waiting outside the boy's restroom to talk with Rio.

"There you are!" Said Nisa when Rio is passing the door. Rio looks discouraged when he saw Nisa there. He tries to turn around, but Nathan was there also waiting at the other side.

"Where re you going Rio? I am waiting for you here. Why do you want to escape from me? I won't do something bad. Chill out Rio!" Nisa said with her best fake smile ever.

"Mmm . . .No ... I'm not going anywhere. What's up Nis? Are you going to discuss about our project?" said Rio without any hesitation.

"Yup! I'm gonna ask you about that. The first point, why are you lying to me about Nathan? He said to me last day that he wanted to join us that time, but you ignored him." The first question from Nisa is strong enough to make Rio panick.

"Hm, No. I'm not lying. Nathan said that he was still at his father's store, that's why I asked him no need to come to your house" Rio explained briefly.

“Hm, okay. It’s make sense. Now, the second question. Why were you asked Nathan to do a bunch of tasks that supposed to be done in group?” this time, Nisa is sure that Rio can’t make any ascuse.

“Well, as you know. Our beloved Nathan is still need moe practice in this subject. I want to make him as samrt as the other student in this subject. Am I wrong?”

“I do not know what to say. But, next time I won’t make this thing happen again. Please Mario, let me know if you decide something in this group. We are team, aren’t we?” Nisa begged to Mario. She has no idea about what happen that time. She realised that time that Rio isn’s as good as people think.

“As your wish Nis. By the way, two of you do not need to do this group work. I’ve done it by myself, so Nisa you can focus on your science competition and Nathan now you can help your mother in her shop. Don’t worry, I won’t tell Mr. Joko about this” Rio walked passing Nisa and Nathan who still stuck in front of the toilet’s wall. They still shocked with this unbelievable moment.

During the break under the shiny and stingy sunlight, Nisa and Nathan still arguing about Rio, the misterious boy who have his own life. In the end, Nisa and Nathan come with a conclusion that they will forget this confusion and back to focus on their live. Nisa is studying hard to join science competition next month and Nathan is already busy with his job in his own shop. His parents run a culinary bussiness.

Days pass, Nisa has forgot about Rio and everything about him. She is now focus on preparing herself for the competition. Nisa also still in good relationship with Rio. Sometimes Rio is helping Nisa to memorising science materials. It is because it has been 3 days Nathan did

not popped up his face in school. His cellphone is off and Nisa couldn't contact him. After the class, Nisa decided to go to his house. She is really worried about her best friend even though he is quite annoying.

Nathan's house looks empty, there is no sound of people talking or chatting like the usual. It's so strange and creepy. Nathan's house usually full of crowd from Nathan's mom and dad, his older brother also yelling to Nathan because Nathan always teasing her brother. Nisa encourage herself to knock the door and peep from the window.

"Knock . . . Knock. . . Nathan. . . Are you there?" Nisa does not make a loud voice, she feels uncertain to knock loudly.

"Knock . . . Knock . . . Nath, Yud, Mr. Pratama, Mrs. Pratama. Are you there? Is anybody inside?" Nisa called the host one by one, but no one open the door. After trying her best but seems she doesn't get any reply, Nisa decided to go home and back next day. But, when Nisa go there everyday and knocked the door; there is no people who open the door or even reply her. Until that time, when Nisa is given up and turn back from the door, a voice of someone opening the door makes her feel eerie.

"Kriaaaaaak . . ." the door opens slowly and it doesn't fully open.

Suddenly, Nisa turn her back again and step forward in front of the door. Someone is peeping behind the door. Nisa is familiar with that person. With his thick eyeglasses, a brownish short hair, an old faded green dress and a tired face; she is Mrs. Pratama, Nathan's mom.

THE PUZZLE WILL COMPLETE

“sluuuuuurrp” Nisa drinks his tea while sitting on the dirty old redish sofa in the Pratama’s living room after the host let her in. Her eyes are focusing on Mrs. Pratama who looks different like a caked with dirt. The other member of the family are not there with her. Nisa gulp her tea.

“I am sorry Mrs. Pratama, I am coming here in the wrong situation.”

“It’s okay Nisa” Mrs. Pratama nods and reply with a very slow voice.

“I am sorry for this, but I could not hold it anymore Mrs. Pratama. Actually, what happen here? What happen with this familiy? Where is Nathan? I could not contacted him and he did not come to school for more than one week.” Nisa is full of curiosity. She shoots Nathan’s mom with a bunch of questions without any hesitation.

“I do not know Nisa , why it is happen to our family? Why is should be us? I DO NOT KNOW” Nathan’s mom starts crying, its like she has hold her tears for years. Nisa move next to her and hugs her. Slowly, the tears gone and Mrs. Pratama explains everything.

“Last 2 week on Wednesday, Nathan said he will go to meet his friend to do a science project together. At the first, I did not allow him to go because it was already late but he said his friend will be mad if he did not go there.”

“Science project? Mad?” Nisa looks familiar with that statement.

“And then, did you know who is his friend? Is he mentioned something before he went?”

“No, nothing. He only said that his friend’s house isn’t far from here, it’s only 2 block from our house. But he did not mentioned what block is it.” Mrs. Pratama who still in a blue and tears tries to memorise what did Nathan say that time.



“2 block from here? . . . Hm .. okay, but then, why you didn’t call the police? And where is Yudha and Mr. Pratama?”

“I really want to do it Nis, but after Nathan’s missing, our family got terroor from a stranger. He said he will killed all of us if we called police to find Nathan. We got letters, calss, and even this man has been showed up in our rooms. He wears a black jumper and a black mask. Mr. Pratama and Yudha got hitted by him and now they are in the hospital. I could not call the police Nis, it is too dangerous.” Mrs. Pratama’s explanation shocked Nisa. She could not accept the reality that her bestfriend is missing and his family is in danger now. Nisa leave the house and ask Mrs. Pratama to stay on her house and locked all the doors and windows.

Nisa starts her investigation. There are some clues that she had. Science project, a house 2 block from her house and also a man with a black jumper. And all the clues that she got is pointed on one person, Mario.

BETTER LIFE

“Whooooossh!!” The wind blows hardly her long thick black hair, the dim of the sky covers the road, the light shines on the corner of the three junction 400

meters ahead. The short hand of red Furla watch on her hand is pointed on 8. Nisa hold her flashlight tightly as she pass the road. She counts on every step she takes, her eyes scanning every house she pass.

“I have to find you !” Nisa mumbling to herself and convinces herself that she will meet her bestfriend soon.

After 15 minutes walking under the cold night, Nisa’s feet stops when she found a blue eyeglasses in front of an old house. She taked the eyeglasses and realize that blue eyeglasses is Nathan’s. She turns her head to the house on her left. The house is very old. The oldest house on that block. There are no lamps, no plants, no life. The old black wooden door with some Javanese ornaments on it makes Nisa’s spirit getting small. But when she hold the eyeglasses on her right hand, she sure that Nathan is there.

Nisa walks slowly approaching the front door. She can feels fears on every step she takes. The only light that she has is the light from her yellow flashlight on her hand. Slowly. . . . and slowly without hesitation. Finally, she is right in front of the door. Without knocking, Nisa hold the handle of the door and open it slowly.

“Bissmillahirrohmannirrohim.... ” She strenghten herself with basmallah. Slowly and carefully Nisa opens the door.

“Kraaaack... !!” The door is not easy to be opened by her. It is so heavy and hard to open. Smells of dirt, dust, and rotten wood mixed together and go inside Nisa’s nose. She covers his nose and light the house with his flashlight. Inside the house, some furniture are covered with a with clothes and dust. Four Javanese wooden

carved chairs and a big brownish wooden table placed in the living room.

Some Javanese decorations and arts are placed on the wall. Wayang Kulit, small reog and Hanacaraka written build a magis cicumstances on that house. Nisa whose walking pass the living room feels her fear come back again. She fasten her step to find Nathan.

“Nathaaaaaan . . . ! Nath ! Where are you?” Nisa almost yelling at that room. She sure that Nathan will answer her.

“NATHAN !! WHERE ARE YOU ?!” this time, Nisa fully yells Nathan’s name. She walks in entering every rooms, but Nathan isn’t there. She walks to the second floor to find him, but he isn’t there either.

“Nathan please answer me ! Where are you ?”

“Baaaaaaaang !!! ” A loud voice surprised her. She go downstair to check what happen there. But again, no one there. Nisa is very scared that she could not find her bestfriend. She has trying her best but she has nothing in that house. But then,

“Hai Nisa.” The voice of a boy from her back sounds familiar to her eras. She turn his back to find out. A boy with a black jumper is standing on the stairs behind her.

“Rio what are you doin here? Where is Nathan?”

“Hello my princess. Why are you looking for that loser? You are with me right now”

“What are you saying about? Princess? Are you crazy? And I said, where is Nathan?!” Nisa lose her temper. She could not hold her anger anymore.

“Aren’t you understand that I AM SO JEALOUS of NATHAN !!! I WANT YOU to be MINE. Do you ot what I mean honey?”

“Are you losing your mind? Nathan is more like my brother! WE are grown up together and we had spent most our time together!”

“That’s why I am jealous! I could not spent my time with you like Nathan’s did with you.”

“Excuse me, you are nothing Rio. I have nothing special with you.”

“No . . . No . . . NO ! You are mine Nisa, You are Mine !” this time Rio is not looks like him. He looks very mad and full of anger.

“No one has me. The one who has me is only me. Do not saying something nonsense. Now, answer my question. Where is Nathan Rio?? I know that you are the one who makes Nathan missing”

“Me?? Hahahaha . . . ! I did not make him missng honey, I made him dissapear from your life ! Hahahaha !” Rio throw a picture to Nisa. In the picture, Nathan’s corpse is floating on the ocean. Nisa know this by Nathan’s jacket and jeans.

“WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?? CRAZY BASTARD??! TEL ME ! WHAT DID YOU DO?” Nisa yelling with full of tears, looking at the picture of her bestfriend that is already dead.

“Oh sweetheart, do not crying for that loser ! I do nothing. I just stabled him with my knife and I throw him to the ocean. So that, his body can be eaten by some hungry sharks. Hahahaha !” said Rio full of laugh while walking down the stairs. He walks approaching Nisa.

“You CRAZY BASTARD !! Go AWAY FROM ME !!! ”
Nisa Runs away from Rio and find the way to get out from that house but every door and window is locked. Nisa could not find the way to get out from there.

“No need to go away from me darling, I will be very kind to you. I will be the nicest guy you ever seen in your live! Come on, do not hide from me.” Rio’s sounds can be heard by Nisa who is hiding inside the wooden cupboard in the kitchen. She knows that Rio will find her. All the thing that she can do is praying. But, when Nisa is hiding inside the cupboard, she grab a knife palced in that cupboard and she has a plan.

“Rio, please let me out if you are care about me.”

“There you are, I found you everywhere. You want to go out? No honey, can not. You have to stay with me. Love me and we will happily ever after.”

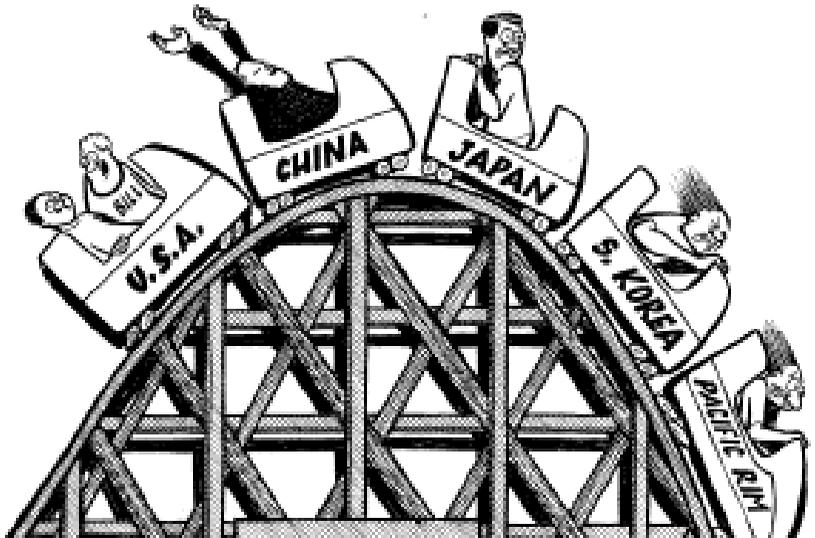
“If you did not let me out, I will kill myself.” Said Nisa withot hesitation.

“Oh NO !!! NO NO NO ! It’s dangerous honey. Do not do that ! I can not live without you ! But I can not let you go out to.”

“Okay if that is what you want. Bye mom, dad, Dio, see you soon in a better life.”

“NO Nisa Nooooooooooooo !!!!!”

THE ROLLER COASTER OF FRIENDSHIP



RR. ELSA PUSPITA

“Kinari!!!!” Kirana stands suddenly and screams out when Kinari walks closer. Today Kinari has an appointment with her best friends in a Joglo cafe. Joglo cafe is one of the well-known cafe in Semarang. The architecture of this cafe is so adorable, lots of Javanese stuffs there. The seat inside is so ancient which is made by wood and created in the 1990’s, the table is white and round with the dark brown old batik tablecloth embellish it. The opposite between dark brown and white is also good-looking, it makes a wonderful combination. In order to create more perfect combination, the owner of Joglo cafe has coloured the wall in milk chocolate, very soft atmosphere, isn’t it? Seems like very girly stuffs surround this cafe, or perhaps the owner of this cafe is a feminist? No one knows for sure apparently. Nevertheless, the owner wants to make it more manly, so he adds the brick expose in the corner of the milk chocolate wall. A very contrasting combination has appeared among the softness atmosphere, while it’s so perfect actually. In this cafe has many old cameras that can be seen in the right side after the welcoming door. The old cameras are bought by the owner when he lived in Holland for probably 10 years ago. Seriously, inside the cafe is very cosy so, it makes everybody who visit this cafe don’t want to leave.

Maitra and Genta are coming after. The situation is being warmer when they two come with a big smile on their face.

“Hi guys... I’m so sorry I was late... arrrggghhh you know, now Semarang is very hot and everywhere there is a traffic jam” Genta said with his face flat.

“It’s okay, Ta. We understand. Don’t worry about that.” Kinari tries to calm him down.

During their quality time, they talk lots of shits, ridiculous words, what they have done during the last 6 years, and make a joke. Seems like lots of fun over there. They don't care that their laughters and jokes are interrupting other visitors. The visitors always look at them curiously. What actually are they talking about?

There are lots of interesting topic. However, one of the most fantastic topic is their memory when they were in college. They start to explore the flashback where the college has been a witness for their friendship. Soegijapranta Catholic University has been a memorable place for them.

"Hey, guys. Did you remember about our memory in college?" Kirana begins to go to her flashback.

"Yeah It was an incredible memory in our life, wasn't it?" Genta replied

"For sure, it was wonderful memories for the rest of my life. And thank you so much guys. You have been my best ever friend until this time. I am so grateful how lucky I am to have you." Kinari said it truly from her deepest heart.

Yeah, Kinari says that word because she is really glad to have friends like them. The real story began when it was 10 years earlier exactly in 2006, Kinari was a freshman in Soegijapranata Catholic University. At that time, she was too shy to interact with others. Kinari always took her head down and never looked around. No one wanted to be her friend, they assumed that Kinari was so weird and an introvert person. Her fashion was so old, she always wore a classic pink dress, flat shoes, back pack and round glasses. She liked to tie her hair with ponytail style. However, she was so clever because her GPA was almost perfect. Sadly, her friends

in English Department just took an advantages from her. They would come to her if the assignment was so difficult, and they would leave if all of it was done. Alone, empty, and bleakness are three words that represented her feeling when she should come to college.

“Why? Why no one wants to be my friend? I am always there to help them, but they always left after they got what they want. It’s not fair!” Kinari couldn’t fight back the tears in her eyes when she was sitting alone in college’s park. The park is so quiet many pine trees had been standing strongly around the park made everybody who came relax because of pine smell which was dancing freely surround the people who were enjoying this park. Nonetheless, this evening not much people through it. That’s a good idea as well. Kinari was able to sit on the seat under the biggest pine tree on the right side of the park with no one interrupting. Seemed like the tree draped out her small body and tried to protect her from the bleakness or the emptiness. The breeze blew her ponytail made the same melody with the dried leaves which flight around becoming her friend right now. The smell of pine at least could relax her mind for a while and the breeze was able to take the agony flied away in the twilight, no one knew where the agony go, but the most important thing was her pain was healed by all of those stuffs in college’s park. This place would be the most favourite one.

During her solitude, no one cared about her. No one except Kirana. Kirana just came in that park looked for someone then saw Kinari with her bloody tears in her chubby cheeks. She was curious about what Kinari was doing in the park, alone. Kirana walked closer to her as though forgetting what was her goal to come to the park. Then, he sat next to Kirana.

“Hey, what’s wrong with you? Are you okay?” Kirana held her arm suddenly

“Hi.. ohh hmm yes, I am okay.” Kinari was lying and wiping her tears hurriedly.

“No, you are not okay. If you were okay, it is not possible for you to be crying.”

“I am fine. Sorry Kirana I have to go now” Kinari was standing and leaving Kirana alone. Kirana was staring her back and wondering what exactly happened to Kinari.

A week after Kirana tried to know more about Kinari. Her curiosity was getting stronger, since she saw Kiinari crying a lot. Nevertheless, every time Kirana wanted to get closer, Kinari always ran away. No matter what, Kirana still wanted to get closer with her. Even though many people say that to be close with Kinari was impossible, she did not really care at all. In her mind Kinari was a special girl, she was excellent and beautiful.

In one morning, Kirana sat down next to Kinari because there was no empty chair anymore except the chair next to Kinari. As well, Kirana was so happy, eventually she was able to be closer with Kinari. But, again Kinari seemed like didn’t really care about Kirana at all. During the class, Kirana tried to talk to her, but there was no respond. Kinari was still quite and drown off on her own mind alone. When the class was over, Kirana still sat next to Kinari and waited for her one more time. Once again, Kirana greeted her with the warmest smile she had. Show off her white teeth as good as possible. But, she got the same way.

BRAAAAK!!!! Kirana was unable to handle her upset any longer. So, she hit the table hardly.

“Arghhh... Kinari!! What happened to you? Why are you so quite?” Kirana screamed out loud to her, when her efforts did not work at all.

“Hmmm... sorry Kirana.. I.. I... I just...” Kinari replied slowly and stop for a while at the word “just” and looked like she was confused what she should say next.

“You?? What?? Why didn’t you continue your babble?” Kirana changed her position. She sat on the table and look at her eyes deeply.

“I just..... need to go” Kinari was standing up then walked out.

“Wait....!!!” When Kinari walked away, Kirana shouted at her and held her hands as quick as possible but, Kirana got Kinari’s hand off, then ran away.

“Kinariiiii..... wait for me!!!” Kirana tried to reach her, but useless. Kinari’s speed was very great. She could not reach her in a bit anyway. Then, she walked slowly to the cafeteria grumbling and bought a bottle of water.

“Hey..!! Sweetheart...! What are you doing, here? you look very exhausted.” Someone surprised her and held her arm.

“Oh gosh! You suprised me! How dare you! yeah.. I am tired. Very! I just ran to reach my friend, but she suddenly disappearing like a ghost.” Kirana reported angrily to her boyfriend, Dennis.

“Sorry, I suprised you, baby. Well, who is she? Kinari???, your nerdy friend?” Asked he curiously

“She is not a nerd!! Why does everyone notice her as a weird person?”

“Okay... okay... I’m so sorry...”

“Well, yes. She is Kinari. You know, I’m just curious about her. Why is she so introvert? Does she have friend? What is she doing so far?” Kirana said by pointing her finger on her chin and trying to imagine what actually happened to Kinari.

“Hmmm... okay... but now, do you realize that we are closing the way for others to buy something here. We better find a good place to talk.”

Dennis is right. Eventually, they walked to the park behind the college. They found a good place to talk about Kinari’s problem, on the left side beside the biggest pine tree that they could find.

“Okay, Sweetie pie. You can tell me your problem, now. Let’s continue your babble here and I will listen up to you.” Dennis sat facing his beloved girl.

“So, I have told you about Kinari, right? I guess there is something wrong with her. Her eyes speak her personality. When I catch on her eyes, there is a lot of thought in my mind. I know she is not happy, she is alone, she is on sadness. That’s why I want to help her. I want to be her friend. At least, she should have a friend to share her life with. Do you agree with me?” She looked at Dennis’s eyes.

“Hmm.. sorry baby, I don’t know her yet. How can I give my opinion? But, from your story I conclude that you are right to be her friend. Probably, right now she has a very big deal. So, she doesn’t want everyone to know about it.” Dennis gave his opinion seriously.

“Yes... perhaps you are true. By the way, you want to know her? See her face right?”

“Yes.. is she here?” asked Dennis then he looked around to find the target.

“Hmm.. She is over there... under the tree, alone with tears as always.” Kirana pointed out to her. Dennis turned around looked at her.

“Aaa~~ I see.. so She is Kinari. She is such a beautiful girl.” Dennis tried to complement her girl

“Oo’oo what?? What did you say? She is... what?” Kirana was ready to punch him up for saying it as through he wants to seduce Kinari, but Dennis ran away laughing at Kirani.

“She is very cute though... why? You jealous?” Dennis was laughed, seeing his girl mad with his words.

“Hey Dennis! Come here!!! I wanna punch you up! Hey!” Kirana ran into Dennis. They were laughing together through as the world just belonged to them. No one else could have it. Otherwise, Kinari saw her happiness sadly. There was an opposite in college’s park. On the left, there was a happiness draped around but in the other way, on the right side there was a deep pain such as white and black in between. Kinari could not lie, she wanted to be one of them and feel the happiness, laughed every time she wanted, share the problem with. However, she didn’t have any chance to get all of it. No friend, no boyfriend, no family that she could tell the problem. Actually, she did not want to keep these grudges. She wanted to take them away and get alive as human being. But, this deep pain couldn’t disappear like the wind. She was angry to people who have happiness. She blamed everyone who hated her,

who ignore her like a rubbish and got rid of her as a disease. While on the contrary, if she wanted to open her eyes, she would have the happiness like her friends had. She could have many friends, her life would be happier and colourful. The world would like to have her.

One morning in the sociolinguistics class, Prof Budi gave the students an assignment and this was a group assignment. Prof Budi began to divide the group. Luckily, Kirana and Kinari were in one group. Finally, after a long time waiting Kirana's hope came true. She was very interested in that group not only Kirana but also Maitra and Genta. This was a good opportunity for her because she could get closer to Kinari. For sure, because of this assignment, the four became closer each other. Before this project, the four were not close to each other. For the first, they just knew the name not the story of life or anything inside each of them. This amazing project had brought them to the real friendship.

For the first time, it was really hard for Maitra and genta to be friend with Kinari. Kinari was very passive when they did their assignment. She did not talk too much, just listening then doing her job. Nothing else only it. However, Kirana could not stop to talk with her even just for asking her condition.

At that time, Kirana walked around the park with her beloved one, Dennis. At the same too, Kinari was sitting there under the pine trees, her favourite spot. Kirana stared at her deeply, her mind came up with many questions. What actually happened to Kinari.

"Hey.. baby.. can you sit on the that seat first? I wanna meet Kinari for a minute." Kirana was pointing out the seat near Kinari spot. The seat was exactly in Kinari's left. It was about 30 metre from Kinari. The view in front

of the seat is exquisite. There were 2 big trees and not really big lake.

“What will you do?” Dennis asked curiously.

“I just wanna say something to her. Wait the minute, okay?” Kirana ran to Kinari without paying attention to her boyfriend.

Dennis walked closer to the seat and sat there. He got out her earphone and plugged it on his i-phone, played some music and enjoyed the evening sky on the park. The sky was very awesome, the colour is orange with white cloud surround it. Seemed like the sun wanted to conceal its self from the earth. Just a couple of minute Dennis closed his eyes feel the breeze flight down her messy hair. On the other side, Kirana walked closer to Kinari and sat down next to Kinari.

“Hi.. Kinari, what have you been up to?” Kirana held her arms and looked at her eyes.

“Oh Hello.. Kirana. I’m fine.” She smiled but bitter smiled. Kirana knew that it was not sincerely smile. Kinari’s eyes spoke her bleakness.

“Well, do you have time on Saturday?” Kirana asked.

“Saturday? I guess so. What’s up?” answered Kinari curiously.

“How if we hang out together? Just two of us? It will be nice.”

“Haah? Are you serious?” Kinari’s eyes was bigger when Kirana wanted to hang out with her.

“Yes seriously. In Joglo cafe. This cafe is very nice and cosy.”

“But, Kirana. I don’t know where it is furthermore I don’t have motor to get there”

“Don’t worry I’ll pick you up. Send me your address later. Okay?”

Kinari agreed to hang out with Kirana in Joglo cafe. After the quick chatting with Kinari, Kirana went back to Dennis and sat next to Dennis. Dennis was sleeping when Kirana came and Kirana just grambled. Kirana looked at Dennis deeply. The more she looked at him, the more she loved him so much. She loved his eyes, his smile, his nose, his dumb behaviour, and his love. When Kirana held his cheeks softly and accidentally wake Dennis up.

“Hey.. Baby girl. You are her? Sorry I fell asleep.” Dennis wake up and wiped his eyes.

“Sorry,, did I woke you up?” Kirana still held his cheeks

“Nope, you didn’t. How about Kinari? Is she okay?” Dennis improved his seat posture and looked at his girlfriend eyes.

“Yeah, she is fine. This Saturday, I will hang out with her. I am so excited.” Kirana said it with a big smile on her smile.

“What? This Saturday? How about our dinner? Did you forget it?”

“Jesus.. !! I’m so sorry, I forgot about our dinner. I’m so sorry baby boy.” Kirana’s face looked sad.

“Don’t show me your faschinating face. I can’t handle it. It’s okay babe. You can go with your girl. We can reschedule our dinner. Okay?” Dennis tried to calm her down and held her head with his whole heart.

“Are you okay with that? I feel guilty. I’m so sorry” Asked Kirana slowly.

“It’s okay babe. Don’t blame yourself. I love you.” Dennis smiled when he looked at her girl. Then, suddenly he kissed Kirana’s forehead. Kirana was always happy when Dennis kissed her forehead or her lips suddenly. It was very romantic and very sexy though. After kissing her girl, Denis continue his sleep with the earphone on. Next to Dennis, Kirana lay down on her arms and enjoyed the breeze. Nevertheless, in the other hand there was a painfull heart staring at Dennis and Kirana. Her heart was empty, broken, and no one cared about it at all.

Saturday evening, Kirana was ready to pick Kinari up. She left home at 3 pm, so she had enough time to look for Kinari’s address. With her lovely motorcycle, Kirana began to ride it down. Blimbing raya street number 45 was Kinari’s address. Kirana seemed like so hard to find it out. She had to get the wrong way many times, she lost the way, even she came to the wrong home. After a half our, Kirana found the home eventually. Kinari was ready to hang out with Kirana. Kinari wore the pink dress, white blue shoes, and brown mini bag. Such an contrast combination among those colours. However, she looked so beautiful, her hair was loose, her make up was natural with a soft pink lipstick on her lips.

“Hey... Kinari, you are so beautiful with your dress” Kirana flatter Kinari.

“Thanks Kirana.” Kinari smiled while answer Kinari’s words.

Both of them ready to go to Joglo cafe. It was not really faar from Kinari’s home just around 15 minutes. The atmosphere of Joglo Cafe was very awesome. Lots of

Javanese stuffs on there and many ancient ornaments surround this cafe. The food was also adorable, there were 2 types of food, Javanese food and Western food. Kirana and Kinari sat on the outside in a small gazebo. It was the best spot for them because it had a little privacy. No one could hear what they were saying.

“*Sugeng sore..* What can I do for you?” The waitress spoke in polite Javanese. Because of this is Joglo cafe which is very Javanese, the waitress also wore Kebaya with batik skirt, and used headband which is like an ancient Javanese people

“Oh.. wait. I have to read the menu first.” Said Kirana while took the menu.

“Hmm... I want to order fried rice and ice tea, please?” Kinari ordered her meal.

“Hmmm I wanna order salad with peanut sauce and lemon tea.” Kirana began to order.

“Okay, I’ll repeat 1 fried rice, 1 salad with peanut sauce, 1 ice tea, and 1 lemon tea. Are those right?” The waitress repeat their order one by one.

“Yes.. Oh.. I want one rujak.” Kirana added her meal.

“Okay, and 1 rujak. Anything else?”

“I guess no. It’s enough.” Kirana replied.

“Okay.. your meal will served in about 15-20 minutes. If you need something else, you can call me.” The waitress took the menu and left them.

This is awkward moment for Kinari because it was her first time to hang out with someone she called “friend”. Kinari didn’t know how to kill this hush, she was too shy to talk to Kirana. In the other hand, Kirana tried to break

this ice berg with talking her experience life, she also talked about her childhood, her annoying brother, and of course her beloved boyfriend, Dennis. It took 10 minutes Kirana was babbling and Kirana as always just listened up everything Kirana said.

“Okay Kinari, I have told you everything about me and I guess you know me more now. Hehehe. Well, now is your turn.” Kirana smiled and looked at her eyes with both of Kirana’s hand on her cheeks.

“What? My turn?” Kinari seemed confused.

“Yeah, tell me about you. How was your childhood, do you have bad experience, or anything you want to share, I am ready to listen up. Come on, tell me something about you.” Kirana couldn’t wait to hear everything about Kirana.

“Oh, Nothing special. I am just ordinary girl with two little brother and one older sister.” Kinari stopped talking.

“Then? Just it? Continue your saying, please?”

“Why you want to know about me? Is it important for you. I don’t think so.” Kinari asked the question to Kirana.

“Because I can see your sadness on your eyes, Kinari. Everytime, I see you I feel you have many problems in life. Am I right?” Kirana tried to answer.

“No, I am fine.” Kinari concealed her bleakness.

“No, you are not. You can trust me. You can share your life with.” Kirana tried to held Kinari’s hand.

“I’m fine Kirana. Don’t you understand?!” Kinari scream out to Kirana and got rid off Kirana’s hand. But, then her

tears began to come out. Kirana paused for a while and held Kinari's hand once again.

"Okay.. I'm so sorry. Are you okay? Your tears just fell down."

"Can I trust you to share my problem with?" Kinari wipe her tears

"Of course you can." Kirana helped her to wipe the tears.

"Okay, Actually....." Kinari began to tell her painful story.

In the past, Kinari was a cheerfull girl. She enjoyed her perfect life, she had the best family. Her dad and mom always gave her anything she wanted, her older sister and her two little brother made her smile everytime. Such an awesome life. But, sudddenly one by one problems came to her little family. Sissy, her older sister began to be a naughty girl because of her boyfriend, Raka. Raka influenced Sissy to be a damn girl. Even she drunk and smoked while she was bad mood. Sissy always came home late in intoxicated. Her virginity had been broken by Raka, many times she had sex with her boyfriend until she was pregnant. Nevertheless, Raka did not want to be a dad for the baby. He did not believe that the baby was his son. Raka assumed that Sissy had been having sex with many men not only with him, but Sissy only had sex with Raka no other men, then Raka left her with bloody tears on Sissy's cheeks. She had to sacrifice her study to look after the baby, alone. For the first after she want to have abortion but she was afraid in God. So, she wanted to raise her son by herself. The parents did not know about this big problem, they always busy with their stuffs. The 2 little brother were two young to know this, they had not

understand yet. There was only Kinari who cared about her Sister, Kinari always support her whatever the conditions were. She strengthened Sissy with love.

One day, in the Sunday morning after the breakfast, Sissy brave herself to say to the parents about the pregnancy.

“Hey... Mom, dad. I wanna tell you something.” Sissy talked to her mom and dad in the living room. At that time, her dad was reading a newspaper and mom was reading a fashion magazine.

“Okay, What’s going on?” Dad still read the newspaper.

“I am pregnant...” Her parents stopped reading suddenly and look at Sissy deeply.

Hearing that her parents was very angry. They chased away Sissy and didn’t Sissy to come back home. They were really disappointed with her. After, Sissy was gone, Kinari’s family was broken too. The atmosphere was really horrible, almost everyday her mom and dad quarrel each other. They blamed each other because couldn’t treat the children well. Dad assumed that mom always hanged out with her friends, so she ignored the kids. In the other hand, mom thought that Dad was always busy with business stuffs, so he couldn’t give enough love to the family. The peak of this problem is when dad was very angry to mom then he screamed out loud the prohibited word. It’s called talak he repeated that word three times, so in Islamic rules it meant they have been divorce. After that huge wrangle mom ran away to home and back to her parent in Jakarta while dad still lived with Kinari and her two little brother. Dad sangat menyesal to say that word. Honestly, he still loved mom so much.

That big trouble made Kinari afraid of loving each other. She thought that loving each other just hurting each other in the end of the relationship. Moreover, when she needed support from her friends, her friends left her at the same time. Kinari tried to text and call them, but they reply nothing. It made her afraid of having friend too. Kinari didn't trust anyone. She kept her grudges for long time. Friend, family, and love marely just a bullshit for her. Kinari hated all about friendship, love even family. Until this time, she even didn't know anything about her mom, whather she had married again, or she was dead instead. She didn't know and didn't want to know. Her dad as always was busy with his business stuffs, never get attention to his child. He just worked to hard to earn the money as high as. Actually, money was not everything, more than that Kinari didn't need much money, she just needed her dad always be here with her know, give her some kisses before go to bed, hug her when she was sad, and tell everything to him.

That's why Kinari always took her head down and never show up her ability. She was not confident enough to meet new people. After hearing her explanation, Kirana felt really guilty to her. She had no idea if there are lots of big trouble in her life and she was strong enough to through all of this pain. She tried to calm her down and wipe her tears. Kirana listened up Kinari's story very carefully, she could feel her pathetic.

It was about 2 hours Kinari told her story life and it had been 08.00 pm already. Kinari never thought that share her problem with Kinari would be really nice. Kirana was very happy because Kinari wanted to share her trouble with. At 08.30 pm both of them went home.

It had been 09.30 Kirana was home. She was really tired and wanted to go to bed. But, when she wanted to fell down her tiny body, her phone was ringing...

“Hello... sweetheart.. are you home now?” Dennis’s voice was there.

“Hi..babe.. yes, I’m home.. What’s going on? Do you miss me? Haha” Kirana tries to tease his beloved one.

“Hahaha.. Yes, I miss you. How about your dinner with Kinari by the way? find some fun?” Dennis was curious.

“Lots of fun!! You know what? Eventually, Kinari wants to share her problem with me. It’s such a miracle she wants to talk to me. Hehe”

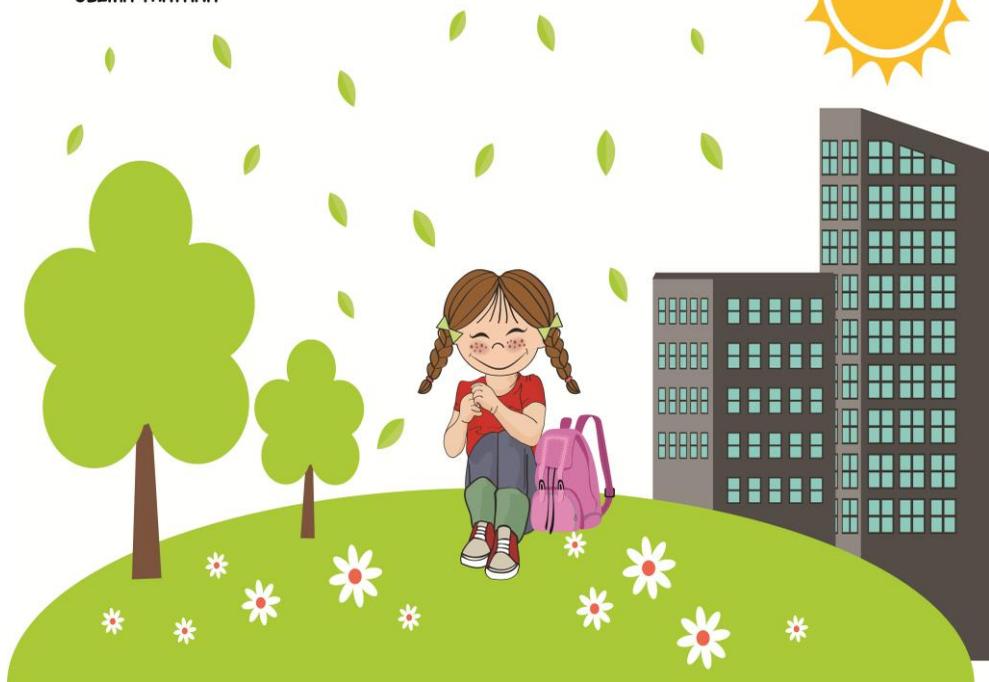
“Good one then! I’m happy to you. So, what is the problem then?”

Kirana started to tell him everything about Kirana. Dennis was suprised that Kirana had that kind of problem. Dennis listened up all things Kirana told him. Such an adult man Dennis gave Kirana some tips to make Kinari happy again.

In the next day, Kirana greeted Kinari with all of her smile. Kinari reply it with all of her smile, too. When the break time, Kirana met with her bestfriend Genta and Maitra. She told them everythig about Kinari’s problem. She wanted Genta and Maitra to help Kinari to bring back Kinari’s happiness again. So, since then Kirana, Genta and Maitra always be in Kinari’s side, hang out together and always listened up all about Kinari’s feeling. Kinari was really lucky to meet Kirana, Maitra and Genta. Eventually, Kinari has friend for herlife. Her faith in friendship waas gone because of her bestfriends now. She never felt like a rubbish anymore, she was more confident and her smile had been back.

UN EXPECTED LOVE IN THE GOD'S TIME

- SELMA THAYANA -



Selma Thayana

In the afternoon after the class is over, Kusti doesn't know where to go. Home is not her destination at that time. She decided to hang out with her old friend, Wati. Unfortunately, Kusti loose the contact of Wati. Feeling so lonely, she just rolling around her phone while sitting under the tree at the campus park.

Suddenly, somehow, she reread the unread message inbox in her Facebook after she didn't open it for very long time. She finds old message from Yoyok, her old friend also, a friend of Wati too.

"Alright then, I asked the wrong person indeed," Kusti said.

"Haha ... Hey, I'm not that useless for you. It will be a good idea if we meet up rather than you just daydreaming with nowhere to go," Yoyok replied.

"I'm too lazy to meet you, Yoyok, dude. Haha."

"Hmm don't lie to me, pretty, Kusti. Just wait, I'll be there in the 10 minutes from my campus."

"Thanks for make me laughing, Yoyok, but I'm must be a hundred girl you called pretty."

Therefore, because of that thing, Campus Park is the place that could see Yoyok and Kusti meet again after very long time they didn't. Just because Kusti wants to ask about Wati's phone, that's all with no other intensions. Silly reason of meeting, very ordinary friendship begins again.

Her chat messenger becomes so noisy, full of notification from Yoyok.

"BUZZ"

“BUZZ”

“BUZZ”

Kusti is just reading Yoyok’s message with no response.

“BUZZ”

“BUZZ”

“BUZZ”

Kusti just reading again.

“BUZZ”

“BUZZ”

“BUZZ”

“Dude please stops this spamming, I’m busy,” Kusti finally replies.

“Pretty, don’t be too busy. Today is Sunday, I’ll beside you at 17:30 at the church.”

“What do you mean?”

“I know you have time for God, let me just accompany you toward it.”

Heart attack is coming, her lip is melt smiling, and her ear is hearing the encouragement angel.

The day has been ended with peacefulness inside. She doesn’t know what’s going on, it just like strange

feelings surrounded her mind and soul. It never happens as emotionally as nowadays.

Unexpected relationship happens. Who knows that it will be so many obstacles in front of them to starting build their relationship. So many people disagree if Kusti has special relation with Yoyok because of different intercommunication. A strong faithful from the bottom of her heart defeats those people judgments, and so Yoyok.

A year is passed already. Time by time they feel obstacles and problems come over and over again. In that evening, Yoyok and Kusti are in the seriously conversation. They are arguing about their campus training projects which will takes 6 months. Both of them stay with their each argument.

“Dear Yoyok, please do understand. I really desire to go to Jakarta as my campus training project. You should know my main reason, if I still stay in Semarang, I won’t be able to develop my ability.”

“I’m too worry to let you, Kusti. You don’t need to go far away because Semarang is still being a good place for your career. And you should understand too, why I choose Papua as my campus training project destination. Could you please just throw out your ego? I’m a man and I have a big responsibility about what I do for living. Please do understand, this is not only about my self. This is for us. For build our marriage.

“I have no idea why are you so stuck with your decision that I should stay for training here. Just get out from me, now, Yoyok!

“Honey, don’t you know that I really love you, more than I love my self, Kusti. So please memorize what I’ve said,

why I decided to go far away from you for a while, and why I don't want let you as your desire.

Three hours they have been fought, counter the argument to each other. Eventually, they make a decision that they both will stay in Semarang, no one will leave each other. They will learn and grow up together.

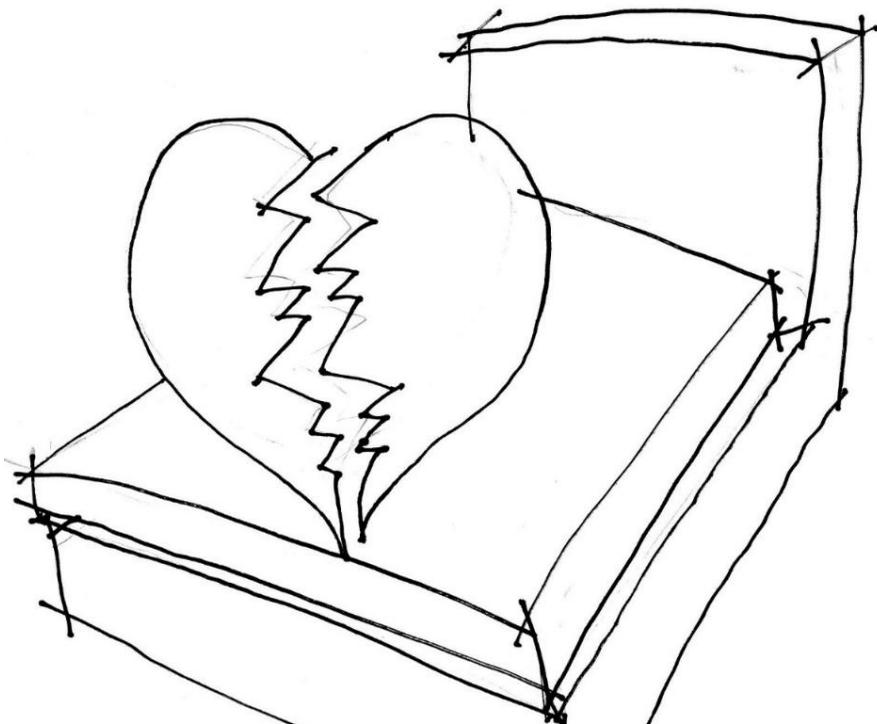
The day after tomorrow, Yoyok comes to Kusti. He ask her to go to Pasar Malam Dugderan to hang out and refreshing. Kusti feels really happy at that time just like their first dating. She feels the same falling in love for a second time with Yoyok.

One unforgettable thing of Yoyok is "I can make all those people smile with their wrong judgments of us. You will see sooner or later, just calm, and trust me." No one else ever convince Kusti from impossible thing turns around. The power of love faith is real, it is exist as Kusti's whole life. After several years search for a true love, Yoyok is the one. The one that seems far away but actually he is on her surroundings. They just feel find their other soul to each other.

Our time is not God's time.

-

Give Your Heart A Break



Stefi Wibisono

THE MISCONCEPTION



I didn't meet my girlfriend for 2 weeks already. The last time I met her was when we were fighting because of Ria's misconception about Karin.

"Baby, look at this! Karin must just have plastic surgery done." Said Ria.

"So?" I asked.

"How the heck you are! She looks so weird, duh." She said.

"So?" I asked again.

"I wonder how come a moment ago you were dating a girl as ugly as that." Said Ria again.

"Let her be. The important one I had already broken up with her." I said.

"Oh. So, you defend her?" Asked Ria sarcastically.

“Heck! No, Babe.” Said me; tried to straighten it out.

Suddenly, the traffic lights changed into red, so I stopped as the others road users did.

“Now, I have got you, right?” I said.

I kissed her cheek gently and patted her soft hair.

AT HELLO KITTY CAFÉ

After driving for 2 hours from Ria’s home to Hello Kitty Café, we finally arrived. I actually a little bit tired of driving, but I was happy to see Ria happy when we arrived here.

“Need seating for how many people, Sir?” The receptionist asked.

“Just two” I showed the body language of number 2.

Shortly after the receptionist called someone through her gadget and a waitress immediately came.

“Please, follow this waitress.” The receptionist said.

We were escorted to the 2nd floor which place is still quiet by the waitress. We got table 9. The table and the chair are shaped Hello Kitty. Then, the waitress gave us the menu which turns out that the shape is Hello Kitty too and she was patiently waiting for us to order.

“What is the favorite menu here, Mbak?” Asked Ria.

“Japanese Cheese Cake” The waitress answered.

“Okay. I want a Japanese Cheese Cake and hot ocha.” Ordered Ria.

“What do you want to order, Babe?” Asked Ria.

"I'd like to order the same menus with her." I said to the waitress.

"Ah! You're a copycat." Said Ria.

"I did it in order to match you, you know?" I said.

The waitress pretended to clear her throat to get attention from these two lovebirds.

"So, you ordered 2 Japanese Cheese Cake and 2 hot ocha. Is it correct?" The waitress asked the order once again to make sure.

"Yes." Answered Ria and I almost together.

"Okay, we will be immediately processed your orders. Please, wait patiently. If you want to call the waitress, you could press the pink bell in the table, the waitress would come." The waitress said.

"Okay" I said.

Then, she left.

"Babe, I go to the rest room first, okay?" I asked for Ria's permission.

When I came back from the rest room, my smartphone had already in Ria's hand.

"When were you hanging out with Karin?" Asked Ria.

"Babe, I can explain. We were not hanging out together, we were doing a group assignment." I clarified.

"Lie!" Said Ria. "How come you are one group with her, if you didn't approach her??"

“Bagus invited her to our group, because he likes her. Bagus is my bestfriend, so I couldn’t ignore his request.” I answered.

“But, you expected her to be in your group, right?”
Asked Ria.

“No, Babe.” I said.

“I don’t believe you!” Said Ria.

Suddenly, the waitress came to deliver the orders.

“Excuse me, Mas, Mbak, here are your orders.” The waitress said.

Ria immediately took the hot ocha and splashed it to my clothes.

I shouted in shock. The waitress shouted as well.

“Now, drive me home!” Asked Ria.

“But, Babe, we haven’t eaten the cakes yet.” I said.

“Just leave them there! I lost my appetite.” Said Ria.

I looked at those foods that had not even eaten at all. I felt like I had wasted my money for vain.

“Okay.” I said.

Since that time Ria never replied my texts and we never met until now. Since she rarely came home, Mom often asked about her and I confused what to answer her, so I tried to contact Ria.

To: My Baby

Babe, mom started to ask about you often and I confused what to answer. Let us just make it clear. Let’s meet!

From: My Baby

K

To: My Baby

Meet me at Starbucks, 12 AM, okay?

From: My Baby

K

At Starbucks, 1 PM

I have been waiting for her for an hour, but she didn't appear yet.

Finally, shortly after a beautiful girl with white mini dress came and patted my shoulder.

"Hey!" She said

"Have you been here for so long?" She asked.

"No, Babe." I lied.

"Sorry, I had just finished my meeting." Apologized Ria.

I felt quite heart-broken, because she didn't claim me as her priority.

"So, I want to make it clear now." She said.

I am waiting. I am propping my chin.

"I think I had enough with you." She said.

"Okay" I said.

“Bye.” Ria said.

“Bye.” I answered.

Actually, my heart felt so hurt, but I am a man, I have to save my image anyway. Since that time Ria and I never met anymore.

THE MATCHMAKING PLAN



THE NEXT DAY

Knock! Knock! Knock!

Early morning at 9:45 AM, there is someone who knocked Dion's door. But, he did not open the door for that person. Instead, he shut his face with a pillow.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

"Yon??" Called that voice from the outside

Dion still did not open the door for that person. Instead, he shut his face with a pillow tighter. That person tried to open the door. It turns out that Dion did not lock the door. So, that person decided to just come in. She sat on Dion's bed. She poked Dion's shoulder.

"Yon, please drive me to my arisan place!" Asked her.

"Mom! Why don't you go with Pak Trsina?!" Asked Dion.
"It's still early morning."

"Pak Trisna does not present today. That's why I ask you to drive me to my arisan place." Answered Dion's mom.

"Okay... Okay..." Answered Dion. "Then, I'll take a bath first."

Dion finally got up and headed for the bathroom.

"Don't be so long, Swetie! Mom will be waiting down stairs, okay?" Remind Dion's mom.

"Okay, Mom..." Answered Dion; annoyed.

Soon he was out of his shower. Then, he took random clothes from his closet and brushed his hair. After that, he immediately go down stairs.

“Let’s go!” Said Dion.

Dion and his mom headed to the garage where Dion’s black Kijang Innova car laid. After started his car engine, Dion and his mom go to his mom arisan place.

“Mom, where’s your arisan place?” Asked Dion.

“Ikan Bakar Cianjur.” Answered his mom.

“Ikan Bakar Cianjur. Okay.” Said Dion.

AT IKAN BAKAR CIANJUR

“Arrived!” Said Dion. “So, I have to pick you at what time?”

“Um..... Dion, can you accompany mom?” Asked his mom.

“Mom! What for??” Asked Dion. “What exist here are just aunties.”

“Not true!” Answered Dion’s mom with her hand movement. “Here are foods too.”

“Okay. Foods and aunties.” Said Dion.

“So, the point, are you going to accompany me or not?” Asked Dion’s mom again.

“No!” Said Dion.

“If you didn’t accompany mom, you wouldn’t have any lunch, you know?” Threatend Dion’s mom.

“How come?” Asked Dion.

“Mbak Sumi just returned to her kampong this morning.” Said Dion’s mom.

“Okay.. I accompany you.” Answered Dion finally.

Dion’s mom smiled.

“That’s my son!” Appreciated Dion’s mom while messing her son’s hair.

“But, I’m going to park my car first. I’ll catch up, okay?”
Said Dion.

“Okay.”

After a little bargaining with his son, Dion's mom got into the restaurant.

After finished parking his car, Dion got into the restaurant to catch up his mom. Inside the restaurant, he saw a curly haired plump woman wearing a loose black casual dress that he recognized as his mom talking to her friend. Thus, he approached.

“Hello, Auntie!” Greeted Dion while shaking his mom’s friend’s hand.

“Eh, Dion! You have grown up, huh?” Said her.

“Yes, Aunt. I’ve been to college now.” Answered Dion.

“What semester?” Asked her.

“6th semester.” Said Dion.

“Oh, will be graduated soon, huh?” Said her.

“Yes, right, Auntie.” Answered Dion.

“By the way, do you still remember Dewi?” Asked her.

“Still, Auntie.” Answered Dion.

“Auntie’s daughter who used to be fat and chubby, right?” Said Dion again while remembering his childhood.

“Eh, Dewi is not fat anymore, you know?” Said her.

“So, mom had discussed with Bu Atiek. Do you want to be paired with Dewi?” Interrupted Dion’s mom.

“Um.....” Hummed Dion.

“Eh, don’t rush! Just think about it first!” Said Bu Atiek.

“Cannot be that way, Bu Atiek. He’s already 21 and hasn’t even had girlfriend at all.” Said Dion’s mom.

“Mom!” Shouted Dion. “I actually ever had a girlfriend, but we just broke up yesterday.” Argued Dion.

“Then, how come you never introduce her to mom?” Asked Dion’s mom.

“Cause I wasn’t sure with her. We were just in relationship for a month. I was afraid, if we would break up later on when I had already introduced her to mom.” Argued Dion again. “Turned out, it happened.”

Bu Atiek secretly looked confuse with a pair of mother and son who is clashing right now.

“So, the conclusion, you want to be paired with Dewi or not?” Asked Dion’s mom.

Dion directly looked at Bu Atiek.

“Like this, Auntie.. How if I meet Dewi first?” Asked Dion politely.

Bu Atiek exhaled. She smiled in relief.

“Yes, you can.” Answered Bu Atiek. “For the information of the blind date, auntie will inform you through your mom later, okay?”

Dion exhaled. He also smiled in relief.

“Okay.” Answered Dion; agreed.

“So, that was the deal, Bu Atiek.” Said Dion’s mom.
“Inform me later about the blind date, okay?”

“Okay, Bu.” Answered Bu Atiek.

“Attention, Ladies! Attention! Let’s start the arisan! You may continue the chat later.” Shouted the host through her mic.

So, the ladies began their arisan.

6 PM, AT DION’S HOME

“Yon, tomorrow the blind date will be on 12 PM at Miam Miam Café.” Shouted Dion’s mom from behind Dion’s room door.

“Yon??”

“Okay, Mom.” Answered Dion, finally.

“Okay, what?” Asked her.

“Tomorrow, blind date, 12 PM, Miam Miam Café.” Answered Dion.

“Good!” Praised Dion’s mom.

Then, she left her son’s bedroom.

AT MIAM-MIAM CAFE, 12 PM

Mom said that Bu Atiek’s daughter, Dewi will come at 12. I’m still waiting for her.

Suddenly, there is a girl with black T shirt and ripped jeans. She looks tomboy, but still beautiful.

“Hey, Kak, do you remember me?” That tomboy girl asked.

“Are you Dewi?” I asked.

“Yes, I am.” She answered.

“Wow! You’re getting pretty now.” I appreciated.

“Really?” Dewi asked.

“Yes. You’re really pretty.” I said once again.

“Thank you, Kak!” Dewi said.

“By the way, have you had a girlfriend, Kak?” Dewi asked.

“Um, Dewi.. About that....” I said awkwardly.

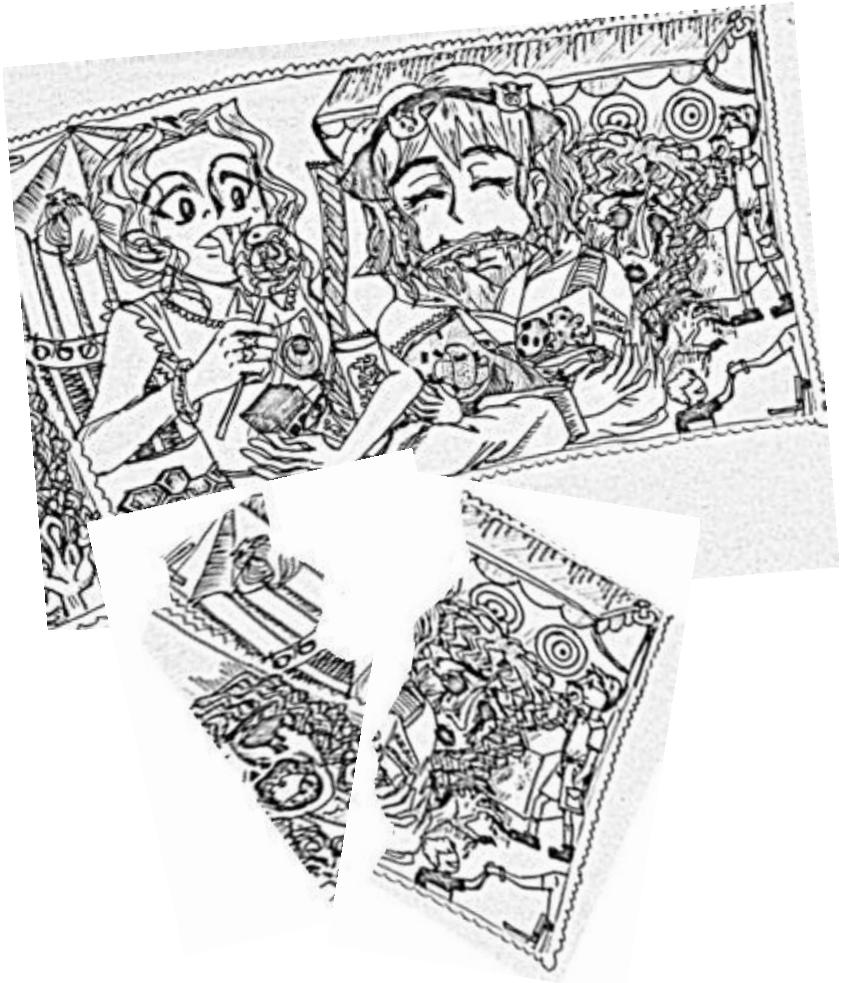
“I know you just broke up, right?” Dewi asked.

I nodded.

“It’s okay. I understood. I’ll give your heart a break.” Dewi said.

“Thanks for your understanding, De!” I said.

THE CLUES



TIFFANY YUNITA

NOT YOU THEN WHO?

“Clickk, vrrrrr” “let’s just get faster or we will be late” she rode faster “okay I already be faster than usual you know...” They rode a car uncontrollably...“Screeecch, bummp, crasshh”

“Are you sure you didn’t see Laras where she was going? You knew that she was passed away soon after she talked to you. The leaps of time you talked to her and the accident was only 15 minutes!” Asked Kristo when interrogating Yanti.

She kept looking at the ground and biting her nails, their eyes did not even meet since Kristo had asked her about Laras.

“Answer me Yanti! You can not just remain silent like this. It makes us suspecting you as the culprit” Yanti as the last witness of Laras’s death was being interrogated by Kristo, the detective who was responsible for Laras’s strange car accident. No evidence and no trace, it was so hard to capture the culprit. Police believe that everything would be easy if there are some CCTV around there. “Nooo, no, that is not me! I’m just... No, that is not me” said Yanti worried and scared. Kristo asked again “Then who? Could you proof that it is not you? Just tell me what happened and what did you do before the accident!” All the questions were coming



and fulfill Yanti mind; where, why, when, who. It made Yanti recall all her last memories with Laras.

Yanti was sitting and just studying when other students went out on break time. Her black shinning hair was little bit messed up because the wind blew. She look at the basketball court from the class and enjoyed her solitude. Most of student were went out from the class, they were laughing and some playing basketball. Yanti just sat down in the class, the class which was mess up because a lot of students moved the table and chair became some group.

In Yanti class students were separated into big three group; first was queens and the followers, the queen in this group are Lisa, Diana and Laras, the perfect sisterhood and their followers which was always having style that looked like the queens, bullying other girls, gossiping and gave news to the queens.

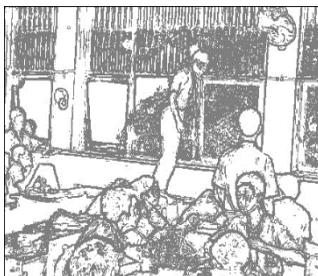
Second was boys group which was doing experiment like mixing up drinks and bet on it, teasing all girls or morons and doing foolish thing together. They always bring stuff like pilox¹⁹ and tipe-X²⁰, this boys group will go outside the school in the night and paint all town wall, bridge



¹⁹Aerosol paint, Pilox is one of famous aerosol paint in Indonesia and Indonesian used Piloxreferred to the aerosol paint.

even in the backyard or wall of Mawarmelati school. It's not enough for them, when they can not express their "art" wannabe inside the school the they will used their tipe-X to express their "poetry" wannabe on the table and chair in the class. Although they were not as evil the first group but they quite annoying for the third group.

And the third group was moron group, some are girls and some are boys which are not as cool as them; first group and second group. Yanti was absolutely count into this group, the loner. Some of



other boys and girls in this group was sometimes not totally antisocial but they just unluckily different from appearance or life style.

When a teacher absent and left students with some task to do in the class, all people in the class will formed their group and start did their own business. The moron group who tried to do the task, in the end they will get bullied or annoyed by other groups and could not do the task properly. But, Laras the queens group recently got closed to Yanti from the moron group. After one moment where Yanti helped Laras got the copy of science book she lose, Laras started see Yanti in different way from their friends. From then Laras know that there was nothing wrong with Yanti who was judge as psychopath because of her father jailed.

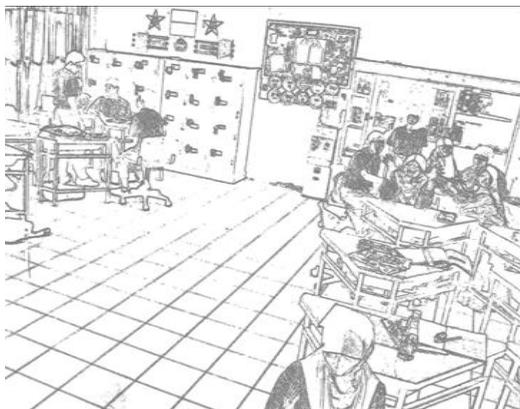
²⁰Correction pen, Indonesian people usually called it as Tipe-X, the word come from type as typing and X means wrong; correction the wrong type.

Suddenly she heard somebody called her, she turned her head around. A girl's voice that it sounds familiar called her but she could not see it clearly, to make sure who is she then she grabbed her glasses on the table and saw who was there. "Hey Yanti, what are you doing? Just get down" It was Laras her only true friend that tried to talk and get close to Yanti recently even they had known each other a long time before.

Yanti just shook her head, she said to herself

"I do not want to get too closed to you Laras because there are a lot of people don't like us to get close, sorry..."

Laras shout to Yanti again and said, "Okay, I'll go there then!"



Realized what Laras said, Yanti felt uncomfortable because there were a lot of Laras's friends looking at her sharply.

"Oh God, come on, just let me alone Laras!" She said to herself. Laras came to her. As usual Laras asked her to go home together and do some assignment before going home. All what Yanti do just nod and agree with her not because Yanti afraid of her, it just because she thanks to Laras, the only person who asked her to be friend. Actually she wanted to refuse Laras offer, for Yanti, Laras was a good friend but Yanti dislike when

she should be centered of people' eyes that full of hate and jealousy.

“Yanti, you just need to say what did you do before but, you just beat around the bushes” said Kristo. The very last time Yanti and Laras were together was when the sun was going down and they still at the school. Almost everyday since Laras got close to Yanti were doing homework together in the classroom. They did not only do their homework but Laras always talked about her life and her feeling about the school life.

“Hey Yan, I think I gotta go, I had an appointment, sorry...” Said Laras to Yanti.

“O-Okay, should we go home together?”

“Uhhh, I'm sorry again Yanti but, I should go first today. Is it okay?”

“Uhm-hm, okay, bye then.” Said Yanti and just saw Laras run hastily.

“It was the last day I saw Laras, I thought she was going to meet her friends or something and I was little bit regret for that thing because I should not let her go by herself... hastily.” Said Yanti when tried to answer Kristo question.

“Still Yanti, you can not give me a proof, there are no one saw you stay in the class, your way home and the accidents was in one way and you still say you don't know anything?” Said Kristo

“I can not do this anymore, pl-please I only know that sir! Everybody know that I just a coward that get close to Laras!” Said Yanti tried to get out from the situation.

Diana and Lisa are Laras' best friends they always hang out with Laras everyday. They are was the three stars from heaven in the school. All of them was join in traditional dance club in the school and Mawarmelati school became leading school because three of them winning a lot of competition. Not only winning but they also joining in big government event. People were getting more admire them because they were pretty, talented, and around them got jealous with their sweet sisterhood. Laras who was naturally as The Miss Popular with the hair, legs and her whole body, was talked to Yanti, the clumsy, nerd, psyco and all the bad things people had judge her. It was ecstatic for Yanti but also her nightmare. None of people in the school like what Yanti did with Laras especially Diana and Lisa. Diana and Lisa dragged Yanti and brought her to the backyard in the school. They asked many things about Yanti and Laras, they warned Yanti to just step back or Laras' pride and reputation will broke down.

"I don't know why they did it to me. I'm just help Laras to do her assignment" said Laras.

A police officer come inside the room, Surya officer and said to Kristo "That is enough Kris, she is neither the culprit nor the suspect yet. The time is time up anyway"

"But, she could be the suspect because she is the last witness" said Kristo tried to extend the interrogation.

"It just about time it is already more than 6 hours you could be blamed if she sue you because you did this. Please..."

"Bwah... Okay then but I won't against this" Kristo left the room and the police officer accompanied Yanti out and said "I'm sorry but he always be like that it it is hard time for both of you. He did this because he is tried do

the best.” Yanti just keep silent walking away from the room without any word.

Diana and Lisa were also interrogated by Kristo. First was Diana, she little bit shock because of Laras’s death, her best friend. “What did you do at 5pm?” Asked Kristo.

“I-I’m just at Lisa house.” Answered Diana,

“Is there anybody could proof it?”

“Ye-Yeah of course, Lisa was the witness we were together, I had said before was at Lisa house”

“What I meant is, is there another people could proof it?”

“Maybe Lisa family... Uhhh, no there is no one at Lisa’s house, no no one, just us”

“Why you said maybe?”

“Uhhh , it is because.. Because I’m in the outside of the house, I don’t know either, I forgot.”

Kristo just kept asking Diana but got any clue. Kristo who doubt what Diana had said, then he interrogating and confirm all diana had said to Lisa.

“What did you do at 5pm?”

“I went back from school at 4 and stay at home with Diana until 6 pm. So, of course I was at at home at 5 pm” Answer Lisa

Lisa was different from Diana she full of confidence answered all the questions and it made all the police officer confused which one was lying is it Diana and Lisa or Yanti. Both of Diana and Yanti was not clear in stated their testimony.

Kristo tried to collect all the puzzle and just the clues he got was aim at Yanti the last and only one witness, the possibilities Laras killed by Yanti was big.

“Hey, Kris! What are you doing here on rooftop?” Asked Surya officer to Kristo who tried to refresh his mind from the case problem.

“Is it because of Laras’s case?”

“As what you guess”

“Hmm, I know that you are so perfectionist in every case but, I wonder why are you so fierce in this case so much?”

“This case was so typical with my little sister case when I was only an intern, I could not do anything to capture the culprit. The case closed as a cold-case²¹. I don't want this kind of case end up like my sister case.”

“But still Kristo, you can not mix up your feeling into this case and catch an innocent people”

Kristo was sighing and smiling to Surya officer and said “Thanks for your advice! You always be my real Surya²², hahahahaha.”

“Whahaha stop it... It chills me!”

THAT IS LARAS, ISN'T IT?

“Click, click, click. This one is the best picture, see how I look slim in this picture”

²¹Unsolved case which could be re-opened if there is a new evidence.

²²Surya mean sun in Indonesia.

“No, no, it is only you that look good not me just put this one in instapound because both of us look better”

“Just edit it the nif you look ugly use your Cam720 or something, bwahahahahaha”

Diana and Lisa a few week later after Laras’s death was taking went to party, amusement park, and every place without any mourn day anymore.

“What the hell are they doing? They acted like there is nothing wrong after Laras gone! That quite annoyed me!” Said Hendro to his friend.

“Both of them should keep their beauty image after Laras accident or they will get down to the earth and have terrible accident like Laras. Laras the poor girl died in her down to earth friend, brrr.. Eerie Yanti!” Said Hendro’s friend.

“Bwaaakk..! Slapp! Watch your mouth! Or I will hit you again, I warn you...” Hendro walked away

“**Ouch...!** What the fun are you doing to me? Am I wrong? Everybody know it even the police, you didn't heard that police just lack of evidence to captured Yanti?”

Hendro suddenly turn his head and said “I've warn you... Once again you talk nonsense you'll end”

“Hell! He is the one who talking nonsense. Is he want to kill me? Geezz, now he is the one who are so scary!”

Police officers which still got around Mawar melati school, were monitoring and interrogating almost all people around there. Yanti, the possible suspect was being monitored the most. It made the issue about Yanti as a psychopath’s daughter seems became true and mess students’ atmosphere into spine-chilling vibe.

Everybody seems run away when Yanti walked through the school corridors. Eyes of jealousy and hate we're change into scared and frighten eyes when they looked at Yanti pass in the front of them.

Yanti was the one who blamed in the accident, she the last person who met Laras in the school. The day was getting harder for Yanti, even for breath was annoyed them. Those cynical eyes looking at Yanti in every stepped Yanti make when she around the school. They wonder why police not captured Yanti yet. "What the police wait? Yanti absolutely the culprit she is crminal's daughter, absolutely she is a psycotic."But, something was wrong with Diana and Lisa they not even said anything or bullied Yanti anymore when the whole school balmed on her.

"Hello! This is police office is there anything we could help? Oh,.. Okay wait. Detective Kristo a call for you!"
Hand the phone to Kristo

"Here detective Kristo speak, yes? Really? Okay I'll be there soon."

Detective Kristo went to Mawarmelati school because there was a problem arise in the Mawarmelati school.

"So this pictures are the problem?" Asked Kristo

"Yes, it is. You could see that there was Laras's ghost inside this picture, she exactly look like Laras with her long curly black hair and student said it was the dress she used to wear outside school.

"But, who are this both girls? It is Diana and Lisa isn't it?"

Those viral picture became more wide and it was so hard to keep it down from Internet. People around was

gossiping and the school's situation become uncomfortable after the Laras's ghost issue come out. The school reputation getting worse and it made Kristo who has duty to solved this case got more pressure from school party. He did not get any further clue to solve this case.

Kristo with cool headed finished his investigation in Mawarmelati school and started to investigation Diana and Lisa. Their picture which was handed to Kristo and will be examine by an expert to check either it was edited or not. Kristo believe that it was edited by someone who know something about Laras's death.

"By the way, are you not afraid of this case I think this case getting more worse and Laras wanted something from us. Did you dreaming about Laras? Asked Surya

"What are you talking about?"

"Maybe Laras come to your dream and say something?"

"Stop to that nonsense questions, Slr.."

"Just tell me have see her?"

"Oh hell no Surya, no I'm not and I don't care."

"Really?! Just tell me then if you see her, I will open my Primbon²³ book and read what is the message behind your dream, okay?"

"Just stop it."

"Just say okay to me, Okay?"

²³Primbon is Javanese philosophy is basically based on sincretismbetween Hindu and Islamic, and its like guidance for Javanese people to calculations successful, read people dream and other daily guidance.

“Okay, okay, now stop”

Kristo who doesn't believe in supernatural things denied that it was real ghost inside the picture.



Kristo back to the police office and asked Indra as a telematics expert to analyzed the picture. Kristo also prepared to get more information from Diana and Lisa as people who show up on the picture up, they interrogated in separate rooms.

“Is it true that person in this picture is you?”

“Yes, I am. This is so ridiculous right? Somebody was make fun of me!” Answered Lisa

“Who do you think did this action?”

“I don't know but I guess they jealous of me”

“Are you sure you did not involve in any problem, miss? Those blurry picture just look like Laras anyway” Asked Kristo sarcastically

“Wh-what are you talking about, detective? I am the victim here! What do you concern about actually?”

“I am just mention about Laras.. She is your friend isn't it? Why are you so mad? Here I am as the detective want to solve the case.”

Lisa denied that Laras was her friend and said that she didn't know anything about Laras.

A PIECE OF JIGSAW

“So, all what I guess was true? Then, have you track the IP where the picture had been uploaded for the first time? Okay, send the location to me. What?!”

Kristo found out that the first time this picture uploaded was in Mawarmelati school, he end up inspection Mawarmelati school with other police officer because the uploader was exactly from Mawarmelati.

Usually after Yanti finish her school she goes to work as chauffeur drive but on that day she couldn't make it because every students should be interrogated to catch the uploader of Diana and Lisa edited photos.

“If in an hour no one admit that she or he the uploader then we will not allowed all of you back to your home until tomorrow.” Warn Kristo to all students there.

“Two hours have passed, what are waiting guys?”

Unexpectedly somebody raise his hand and said “Detectives! Let's talk to me outside...”

“Whats your name?”

“My name is Hendro from 12 grade social one class.”

“What did you want to say?”

“Let’s talk outside, sir?”

“Okay.”

Hendro in silence was observing Yanti, he pitied her because of people who misjudged her as a psychopath’s daughter. Hendro was lived in Yanti neighborhood know what was the truth behind Yanti which was so hard. Yanti who lived in the middle of rural and urban area always passing by Hendro house in the town. Herero was secretly liking Yanti because of her kindness.

“Hello Yanti!” Hendro waving his hand

“H-hello”

“How’s your part time job?”

“Ugh, who are you? How could you..”

“My name is Hendro,” shake Yanti hand

“Aha, yes.”

Then they known each other and Hendro usually helped Yanti even Yanti tried to stop him.

“I’m the one who upload the picture!” said Hendro admitted to Kristo.

“Really? Why you did that?”

“Because I hate both of them, Laras friend that never feel sad about their friend death!”

“Did you know something about Laras’s death?”

“No, I don’t know. I did it because I hate them.”

“Ah.. Could you edit more picture like that again?”

“Wh-wh what?”

“I have notebook here, I want you to help me edit more photos, could you?”

“Mmm-hm I guess so...”

“Okay let's start!”

Hendro was editing some photos and finished but, when Kristo see the result Kristo knew that the picture was not as good as Diana and Lisa picture.

“Are you tried to covering someone?”

“What do you mean?”

“We police could not be tricked with this kind of bullshit! Who is she? Tell us!”

“Believe me detective it was me who upload it!!!

“The who made this picture? You are the one who upload but, you are not the one who made it! Tell us Hendro!”

“No it was me, sir!”

“Hendro listen to me carefully, you are a good guy please be cooperate with us to solve all the things. Are you not felt pity of Laras who died unjustified?”

“But could you do me a favor?”

Hendro said that the picture was made by Yanti, he uploaded it because Yanti not dare enough to upload it then Hendro secretly took it from Yanti and uploaded it but, Hendro doesn't know why she made those kind of picture.

IT AIN'T OVER TILL ITS OVER

“Tick, tock, tick, tock” Yanti was in interrogation room and then Kristo came in. Kristo tried so hard to made Yanti spilled the beans because he found out that Yanti was the key of this case.

“Yanti.. I know everything what happened but, we need your statement to captured the culprit. Please Yanti we need you to arrest them!”

“Would you believe what I say? People will hate and doubt what I say because I am the one who acceptable as a killer.”

“No Yanti, what ever you said we will believe it and we will try our best to protect you as the witness.”

Afterward Yanti gave statement, she said that on the last day she spent time with Laras she saw Lisa’s car went away left Laras laid on the street. Yanti tried to helped Laras by calling 911 but she run away because she too afraid.

“Though we got Yanti statement but it would be better if we could made her admit her crime!”

Diana and Lisa was interrogated in separated room again both of them was interrogated using lie detector. Even though this lie detector working for Diana but this lie detector was not working for Lisa. Kristo could not settle Diana as the accomplice because Lisa had not settle as the culprit yet.

“I guess I know what is wrong with this case, from what I have watched all the videos record, I think she have psychology disorder. Said Kristo

From all the interrogation recorded, Lisa showed weird statement like she believed that she didn't recognize Laras as her friend.

"I have examine the recording and I considered her has pathologically lying disorder." Said Bayu, the police psychologist.

"What was that?" Asked Kristo wondering.

"It just like habitual behavior to lying, this kind of people will create their own fantasies to lied other people. In some cases people who suffer this disorder will not realize or believe in their own lie. People who has this will hard to be caught if we only depend on lie detector. That is why the lie detector is useless for her because she suffer this mental illness.

The case had been closed not as a cold-case, all the crime will always left a trace but sometimes we just can not see it because it was covered with a lie. One lie will never enough because other lie tried to cover up the first lie and sometimes this lie was taste better than the truth and we trapped inside those sweet lie.

A Hidden



Treasure

WENDY RAVENSKA

Clip...clap...clip...clap goes the wood carving tool of my father's. It is a sound that is heard almost every morning. I never needed any clock to wake me up. It is clip clap sound that always wake me up.

Inside the forest there lived a family, there were three young boys with their father. Their father was a slave in the village called Seraton, and three of the boys in their state. Their name were Sahid, Fahri, and Abdul. Sahid was the older brother and Abdul was the younger. They didn't work every day, sometimes they helped their father work in village as a carpenter. When sun go down they go back to their home together with their father. Their father was so old and looked pale every time.



On sunny day, they all together went out to the village to meet their father, because at night Sahid dreamt that his father was died inside the forest because a disease, he was shocked and take a glass of water from kendi beside his bed and he tell that to both of his brother about his dream. They went to visit his father and hope that dream was not really happen to their father. After they got there, they breathe relieved because their father was in good health.

On the other day, their father Santosa was not look as usual. He looked pale and weak. When Santosa was on the way to the village where he works, he suddenly got a heart attack and immediately fell in the middle of the forest. It was getting dark, and they were waiting for their father come back home, but until nightfall their father still not in home. They were worried and looked for their father immediately in the forest.

“Pak!!! Pak!! Can you hear me?” Sahid said it out loud.

“If you hear me, just yell!!!” said Abdul.

After an hour later they found their father who was unconscious.

Finally they took him to their house. Fortunately, their father still alive, they were relieved know that their father still alive.

In tomorrow morning Santosa called all of his boy to his room. They were curious, what did father want to say.

“What’s going on pak? Is there something important?” asked Fahri curiously.

“Just tell us what’s going on pak.” Said Abdul.

“I just want to tell all of you that I have a secret treasure inside this forest, and that is for all of my lovely son” Said their father slowly.

“Is it something that can make us be a rich people pak?” asked Abdul.

“You will know what is the treasure after you find it, but promise me if you find that thing you need to use it together no mattter what, ok?” Said Santosa.

“But can’t you tell me what exactly that treasure is?” asked Fahri again.

Just find it first son, I know all of you can find that special treasure.

After Santosa said that word, he took a deep breath for the last time. They were shocked and sad because their only father was died.

Time is running, they were still live in humility after their father passed away. when they 're thinking about how to find the hidden treasure that whatever it was , suddenly something occurred to Sahid, Sahid initiate to steps out, to know what treasure that his father kept in somewhere by himself.

Sun was shinning brightly he kept looking for the treasure inside the forest, once he felt tired, he was sitting on the bank in the middle of the forest to drink water from that river. After he didn't felt tired anymore he continued his search. There was a sound of bird singing that accompanied him during his search.

While in their house, Fahri and Abdul just lying down on their mattress and listening the radio.

"Where's bang Sahid go? Did you know where he is?"
Asked Abdul to Fahri.

"I didn't know where's he."Fahri answered

"Why dont we get some food bang, I'm hungry now".
Asked Abdul.

"Just wait in here,maybe bang Sahid go out to get some food for us. Just wait for a while until he come back".
Said Fahri as he walked out to look around.

Day become night and Sahid finaly found an old shack to rest before he got home. In that place there was a beautiful young girl named Salma. She was a kind girl,

she offered Sahid to have some food at her house, they talked a long time till late night come.

“Sorry mbak, this already late night, thank you for gave me some food and a place for rest, better if I come back home now”. Said Sahid thankfully.

“It’s ok mas, thank you because you also want to have a talked with me and want to be my friend”. Said Salma with shame.

Finally he was home and tell about Salma to his brother Fahri and Abdul. Both of them were curious about that girl, they decided to visiting her house tomorrow morning.

Morning comes and three of them were ready to see that girl. They went eagerly together.

After they arrived at her shack, he was dissapointed because they cant see her, they decided to wait her until she was home.

The day was changed, that girl still not home, because they also tired, they finally come back home, and about that girl, they want to go to her house tomorrow.

On the day after that, they go to her house again tomorrow. After they got there, they was shocked because it was the first time they meet such a beautiful girl inside the forest. And that girl was happy because she got new friends. They were helped her carrying some basket of flowers she’d picked yesterday.

“Thank you for helping me Abdul and Fahri”. She said happily.

They were shocked because she already know their name.

“Bang, did you tell her our name?” asked Fahri to his brother.

“No, I didn’t tell our name when I was met her, I also didn’t know her name, but how can she know our name?” Said Sahid curiously.

“Are you surprised I already know your name?” Said Salma.

“Yes who exactly are you? Did I know you when I was child?” asked Abdul with full of curiosity.

“I will tell you all the story about your father treasure.” Said Salma.

“How did you know about our father, too?! And the treasure?” Asked Sahid once again.

“Just let me tell you first, ok?” Asked Salma.

“When I was kid, I lived with my grandma, but she was passed away in few years ago when your dad was in here because he was had rest in our old shack and I was helped him. Your father thanked to me and said that I was the treasure that he met inside the forest, because I helped him, he promised want to bring his boys to me, but he never came back.” Tell Salma sadly.

“I was wait your father all day and hope he will come back here and take his boys here, but ya... He never come back again”.

“I was so excited to see three of you, but you know your father never come back again until now”.

“I know your father was died because of disaster, my grandma tell me that and also tell me a short message from your father.” Salma continued the story.

“Your father message was when there were three boys that can find you lived in your house, they finally met my hidden treasure, that it was me your father treasure that you were looking for now. If they can find you, they need to making you become happy wife no matter what.” Tell Salma clearly.

“So the treasure that we were looking for was you?!”
Asked Sahid

“Ya... you’re right”. Said Salma

“It doesn’t make sense right!” Said Abdul

“Impossible, and we need to share it together?!” Fahri said

“It was a human right, not such a thing that we can share and use it together! It was crazy!” Said Fahri.

Salma said “ It was your father’s last request you have to live it.”

“But... “Said Abdul

After they were thinking about their father message finally Salma said something.

“I want to become your wife, not only one of you but all of you.” Said Salma clearly.

“What were you talking about?! Are you crazy?!” Asked Sahid

Sahid did not agree with that decision, and he just leave all of them into somewhere. When he was sitting alone in the middle of the forest, suddenly he saw a shade of his father.

“Pak?!Pak?! Is that you Pak?” Asked Sahid curiously.

“Sahid don’t be affraid, just remember what I said before, I already prepare your future with that girl. Eventhough she will have three husband, but she will make your live happier than before you live with me”. Said the shade of his father.

“But pak... you know that Salma is a human that can’t be shared by three of us”. Said Sahid.

“Just ok Sahid, just remember what did I said before”.

After the shade of his father said that, the shaade was gone. Sahid looked for that shade and it was lost.

Sahid finally go back to Salma house and finally they agreed with Salma decision because of their father’s last message. After a few month Sahid, Fahri and Abdul got married with Salma the hidden treasure from thier father.

BURHAN “INDONESIA’S VAMPIRE HUNTER”



Yeremia Christiantus Sihombing

The boy had been crouched so long that his legs had fallen asleep beneath him, but he dared not move now. For here, in a small clearing in the frostbitten forest, were the creatures he had waited so long to see. The creatures he'd been sent to kill. He bit down on his lip to keep his teeth from chattering, and aimed his father's flintlock rifle exactly as he'd been taught. The body, he remembered. The body, not the neck. Quietly, carefully he pulled the hammer back and pointed the barrel at his target, a large male who'd fallen behind the others. Decades later, the boy would recall what happened next. I hesitated. Not out of a conflict of conscience, but for the fear that my rifle had gotten too wet, and thus wouldn't fire. However, this fear proved unfounded, for when I pulled the trigger, the stock hit my shoulder with such force as to knock me clean onto my back. Turkeys scattered in every direction as Burhan Perkasa, seven years old, picked himself off the snow-covered ground.

Rising to his feet, he brought his fingers to the strange warmth he felt on his chin. "I'd bitten my lip clean through," he wrote. "But I hardly gave a holler. I was desperate to know if I had hit the poor devil or not." He had. The large male flapped its wings wildly, pushing itself through the snow in small circles. Burhan watched from a distance, "afraid it might somehow rise up and tear me to pieces." The flapping of wings; the dragging of feathers through snow. These were the only sounds in the world. They were joined by the crunching beneath Burhan's feet as he found his nerve and approached. The wings beat less forcefully now. It was dying. He had shot it clean through the neck. The head hung at an unnatural angle dragged across the ground as the bird continued to thrash.

The body, not the neck. With every beat of its heart, blood poured from the wound and onto the snow, where it mixed with the dark droplets from Burhan's bleeding lip and the tears that had already begun to fall down his face. It gasped for breath, but could draw none, and its eyes wore a kind of fear I had never seen. I stood over the miserable bird for what seemed a twelvemonth, pleading with God to make its wings fall silent. Begging His forgiveness for so injuring a creature that had shown me no malice; presented no threat to my person or prosperity.

Finally it was still, and, plucking up my courage, I dragged it through a mile of forest and laid it at my mother's feet my head hung low so as to hide my tears. Burhan Perkasa would never take another life. And yet he would become one of the greatest killers of the nineteenth century. The grieving boy didn't sleep a wink that night. "I could think only of the injustice I had done another living thing, and the fear I had seen in its eyes as the promise of life slipped away." Burhan refused to eat any part of his kill, and lived on little more than bread as his mother, father, and older sister picked the carcass clean over the next two weeks. There is no record of their reaction to this hunger strike, but it must have been seen as eccentric. After all, to willingly go without food, as a matter of principle, was a remarkable choice for anyone in those days particularly a boy who had been born and raised on Indonesia's frontier. But then, Burhan Perkasa had always been different.

Indonesia was still in its infancy when the future president was Soekarno a mere three years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Many of the giants of the Indonesia Revolution; Pattimura, Sudirman, and Diponegoro were still alive. Ahmad Yani and Hatta

wouldn't resume their tumultuous friendship for another three years, and wouldn't die for another seventeen incredibly, on the same day. The Fourth of July. Those first Indonesia decades were ones of seemingly limitless growth and opportunity. By the time Burhan Perkasa was born, residents of Semarang had seen their cities double in size in less than twenty years. Central Java's population had tripled in the same amount of time. The cities were becoming livelier, more prosperous.

There was also the occasional murder. Before the Revolutionary War, homicides had been exceedingly rare in Indonesia's cities (between 1955 and 1969). Most of these were so-called honor killings, such as duels or family squabbles. In most cases, no charges were brought. The laws of the early nineteenth century were vague and, with no regular police force to speak of, loosely enforced. It's worth noting that killing a slave was not considered murder, no matter the circumstances. It was merely "destruction of property." Immediately after Indonesia won its independence, something strange began to happen. The murder rate in its cities started to rise dramatically, almost overnight.

Unlike the honor killings of years past, these murders seemed random; senseless. Homicides with no witnesses, no motive, and often no discernible cause of death. Because the investigators (most of whom were untrained volunteers) kept no records, the only surviving clues come from a handful of faded newspaper articles. One in particular, from the Central Java Spectator, captures the panic that had enveloped the city by July of 1956. Women and Children are urg'd to walk with a Gentleman companion, and Gentlemen are urg'd to walk in pairs after dark. The scene was eerily similar to a dozen others reported that summer. No trauma. No

blood. Open eyes and rigid body. The face a mask of terror. A pattern emerged among the victims: they were free blacks, vagrants, prostitutes, travelers, and the mentally impaired people with little or no connection to the city, no family, and whose murders were unlikely to incite angry mobs seeking justice. And Central Java was hardly alone in its troubles. Similar articles filled the papers of Semarang and Salatiga, and similar rumors filled the mouths of their panicked populations.

Burhan was fifty-two years old. And while he remained remarkably agile for his age, he was a far cry from the young hunter who could split a log from fifty yards. He needed backup. I have sent word to Speed to meet me in Springfield at once, and after a great deal of consideration I have brought Umar to the truth, as well. He thought me either “round the bend or a damned, lying fool” when first I revealed the story of vampires and their evil designs on man, and very nearly lost his temper until I prevailed upon one of the trinity to confirm my story which he did in dramatic fashion. There are few men who can be trusted in this war, and though Umar and I disagree on a great many things, he has proven himself a loyal friend. With Ahmad gone, enlisting a man of his size seems prudent particularly when Speed is so slight, and I am getting on in years. My God... I feel rather like Pangeran Diponegoro at Merbabu.

In July, the three hunters traveled by train to Medan, Sumatera Utara, where, Burhan had been told, A.H Nasution was recovering after undergoing eye surgery. Concealed in their luggage was a traveling armory of revolvers, knives, crossbows, and Burhan’s newly sharpened, glistening once again. He’d retreated to the woods with his ax and practiced throwing it into tree trunks ten, then twenty yards distant. He’d even dusted

off his old martyr recipe and prepared a new batch. I insisted that the trinity remain in Springfield to look after my family. It was a simple errand, I told them. Our target was merely a living man, after all one rendered infirm and halfblind by surgery. Speed, Umar, and I were more than capable of dispensing with Ahmad and his vampire minders. The hunters tied up their horses on the edge of A.H. Nasution's property just after one o'clock in the morning on Monday, July 30th. They kept their distance from the main house, lying in the surrounding woods for a watchful half hour, whispering occasionally, waiting in the faint light of a cloud-covered moon. Burhan had received a second letter from Budi before they'd departed Sidikalang, a letter bearing new intelligence. The Union's spies had learned that A.H. Nasution was confined to a bedroom on the west side of the second floor. Intent on giving him peace while he healed, his wife, Diana, had taken to sleeping in an adjacent room with their two infant sons and five-year-old daughter. At night, Nasution's two minders took turns patrolling the grounds while the other remained in the house. I thought it strange, therefore, that we saw no sign of such patrols, or lights burning in any of the windows. Budi's instructions, however, were precise, and we had traveled a long way. There could be no thoughts of turning back.

Satisfied that we had waited long enough, we readied our weapons and crept into the clearing around the two-story house. It was white, with a raised front porch and first story, as these parts were often deluged when the Sidikalang swelled beyond its banks. I half expected to see a vampire waiting at the front door, long since alerted to our presence by the distant whinnying of our horses, the scent of the martyrs in my coat. But there was nothing. Only stillness. Doubts flooded my mind as

we climbed the steps to the porch. Did I still possess the strength to best a vampire? Had I prepared Umar to face an opponent of such speed and strength? Was Speed still equal to the task at hand? Indeed, the ax in my hands felt heavier than it had since I was a child. Burhan slowly nudged the front door as Ahmad took aim, ready to shoot the vampire that was almost certainly going to leap out of the shadows the moment it was opened. None did. We entered I with my ax held high; Speed looking down the barrel of his rifle; Nasution with a revolver in each hand. We searched the dark, sparsely furnished first floor, our every step announced by creaking floorboards as we went. If indeed there was a vampire guarding Nasution above, he knew we were here now. Finding no sign of the dead below, we returned to the front of the house and its narrow staircase.

Burhan led the way up. There were vampires here he could feel it. I could see the next several moments unfold in my mind as I climbed the stairs. Upon reaching the top, one of the vampires would spring from hiding and strike from my right side. I would turn my ax in his direction and lodge it in his chest as we met, but in doing so, I would be knocked backward and the two of us would be sent tumbling down the stairs. As we wrestled, the second vampire would strike Speed and Umar above. Umar would panic (this being his first hunt) and empty his revolvers wildly, but his bullets would miss the mark. It would therefore fall to Speed and his rifle to silence the creature, which he would do by shooting it cleanly through the heart and head. The noise would rouse Mrs. Nasution and the children from sleep, and they would scurry into the hall at precisely the moment I freed my ax from the first vampire's chest and took his head at the base of the staircase. Their

screams would bring the frail, half-blind A.H. Nasution stumbling out of his own bedroom, upon which Speed and Ahmad would shoot him to death. With our sincere apologies to his family, we would then run off into the night. But on reaching the top of the stairs, Burhan found nothing. Every door was open. Every room empty. Could we be in the wrong place? Could Nasution have suddenly and inexplicably risen from his bed and departed for Medan? No—no, Budi’s instructions had been meticulous. This was the house. This was the intended date and time of our strike. It was all wrong.

There are vampires here... I can feel it. The truth now formed in my mind. Oh, that I had ignored my instincts! That I had come at all! Damn Budi’s rippling water! How could I have been so reckless? How could I have ventured my life with three sons at home? A wife who was already fragile from grief? No... I would not die tonight. I refused. “Out,” whispered Burhan. “Out at once and make ready your weapons... we are betrayed.” We bounded down the stairs toward the front door, but on reaching it found it locked from the outside. The clapping of wood against wood now surrounded us as storm shutters were slammed shut over every window, and a chorus of hammers pounded nails into the house, ensuring they could not be opened. “Upstairs!” I cried. But here, too, the shutters had been closed and fastened. “They’ve trapped us!” said Umar. “Yes,” said Ahmad. “However, all things being equal, I’d rather be in here with us than out there with them.” Burhan said nothing. He knew it wouldn’t be long before they smelled the smoke; before they felt the heat of the fire as it ate through the walls and floorboards.

As if answering this thought, Umar exclaimed, “Look!” and pointed to the flickering orange light coming through

the crack beneath the front door. They had no choice. Whatever horrors waited outside, they couldn't be worse than certain death by burning. The flames were now visible all around them through the slats in the storm shutters. I had a plan. Once through the door, we would remain shoulder to shoulder, three across, and charge straight ahead until we reached the tree line. I would take the center, using my axe to cut down whatever came at us from the front. Ahmad and Umar would be on my right and left, shooting whatever came at us from the sides. It was a plan almost certain to fail (based on how quickly the shutters had closed around us, there were at least a dozen men, vampires, or some combination of the two outside), but it was the only one we had. I lifted my ax and steadied myself. "Gentlemen," I said. The front door flew open with a single blow of Burhan's ax, sending smoke and hot ash flying away from the porch. The heat was immediate. It drove us back at first, blistering our skin and very nearly setting our clothes alight. When my eyes adjusted to the flames on the front porch (by now fully engulfed), I saw that the fallen door had provided a narrow path across. I held my breath and led the way, hurrying over the door, down the front steps and onto the grass below.

No sooner had my feet touched the ground than I realized the hopelessness of our effort. For in the light of the burning house behind us, I discerned no fewer than twenty figures ahead some aiming rifles, others wearing dark glasses to shield their eyes from the flames. Living men and vampires conspiring to cut off all hope of escape. One of the living, an older gentleman, stepped forward and stood but ten feet from me. "Mr. Perkasa, I presume," he said. "Mr. Nasution," said Burhan. "I'd be much obliged," said Nasution, "if your companions would put those irons down. I'd hate for one of my men

to startle and fill the three of you with holes.” Burhan turned to Umar and Ahmad and gave a nod. Both dropped their guns. “The big one is concealing another pistol,” said one of the vampires behind Nasution. “He’s thinking about reaching for it right now.” “Well, if he does,” said Nasution, “then I suggest you kill him.” Nasutions turned back to Burhane. “Your ax as well, if you please.” “If it’s all the same, Mr. Nasution,” said Burhan, “I don’t expect to live but a few moments longer, and I would very much like to die holding the ax my daddy gave me as a boy. Surely one of your men will shoot me if I raise it in anger.” Nasution smiled. “I like you, Mr. Pamungkas, I do. Semarang born, same as me. Self-made. As fine an orator as ever lived and dedicated, my Lord! Coming all the way down here just to kill a man! Leaving your family alone and unprotected in Springfield... no, sir, let no man speak ill of your convictions. I could sing your praises till morning, sir but some of my associates are rather sensitive to sunlight, and... well, I’m afraid we just don’t have that long. “Tell me,” said Nasution, “with your many fine qualities and famous mind, how is it that you’ve arrived on the wrong side of this fight?” “I?” asked Burhan. “I must Pamungkas, vampires are superior to man, just as man is superior to the Negro. It’s the natural order of things, you see. Surely we agree on this much, at least?” “I agree that some vampires are superior to some men.”

“Am I wrong, therefore, to recognize the inevitability of their rule? Am I wrong to side with the greater power in the coming war? Sir, it brings me no pleasure to think of white men in cages. But if it must come to pass if vampires are to be the kings of men then let us work with them while time remains. Let us regulate the thing limit it to the Batak people, and to the undesirables of our own race.” “Ah,” said Burhan. “And when the blood

of people is no longer sufficient; when the 'undesirables' of our race have been exhausted tell me, Mr. Nasution... who then shall your 'kings' feed upon?"

Davis said nothing.hern counterparts. One of them, however, remembered that the job of my execution remained unfinished. He leapt at me from twenty yards distant, fangs and claws extended, eyes black behind his dark glasses. I let my ax fly, and the blade found its target but my strength not being what it once was, it failed to sink more than an inch or two into his middle. He fell back briefly and looked at the dark ribbons pouring from the gash in his belly. They were of no concern. He picked my ax off the ground and came at me again.

I trust a hand into my coat, looking for a knife Umar aimed over my shoulder and fired, forever diminishing the hearing in my left ear, but silencing the creature with a bullet through the face. As the smoke from Umar's revolver hung in the air around his head, Burhan became aware of a sharp pain coming from his chin. I pressed my hand to it.

[The vampire] had come close enough to open a gash with the tip of my ax. Blood dripped from the wound and down the front of my shirt as vampires clashed before us in the light of the flames jumping impossible distances, crashing into each other with enough force to shake the ground beneath our feet. Here, for the first time, I saw Budi Pekerti in battle. I watched him run headlong into a Java vampire and drive the devil into a tree the result being that its trunk split in two. Yet Budi's opponent was hardly affected, for he pushed back and began to swing wildly with his hands, as if holding a sword in each. Budi defended each of these strikes with his own clawed hands, until, being the better

swordsman of the two, he saw an opportunity and ran his opponent through the middle forcing five straightened fingers into the vampire's belly and out his back, snapping his spine in the process. Budi withdrew his hand, and his opponent fell to the ground, unable to move. I watched him twist the vampire's head backward and rip it from his shoulders. The living men unfortunate enough to find themselves in the middle of this melee were torn apart, their limbs taken by errant claws, their bones crushed by the force of the vampires colliding around them. Realizing that the numbers were not in their favor, the remaining Java vampires made a hasty retreat.

Several Union vampires gave chase the others, including Budi, hurried to meet us where we stood. "Burhan," he said. "I'm pleased to see you alive, old friend." "And I to see you dead." Budi smiled. He tore a sleeve from his shirt and held it to Burhan's chin to slow the bleeding, while his companions attended to Umar and Ahmad (who were shaken up but otherwise unharmed). The Union had been given false information by a traitorous spy information meant to lure me to my death. Budi and his allies did not learn of this treachery until after we left Springfield. With no means of getting word to us (for we traveled under false names), they rode for two days and nights to head us off, while sending word to the trinity to have Diana and the boys placed in hiding. "And you're sure they're safe?" asked Burhan.

"I'm sure they're in hiding, and protected by three of my most cunning, most vicious allies," said Henry. It would suffice. Burhan knew that the trinity took their work seriously. "Budi," he said after a long pause, "I was certain that I was going to—" "I told you, Burhan... it

wasn't your time." It would be the last hunt of Burhan's life. On November 6th, 1860, Burhan sat in a cramped telegraph office in Sidikalang. The tide of well-wishers and appointment seekers had risen to unbearable levels as the election approached. When the 6th came at last, I declared that I wished to see no one until all the votes were in. My only company was to be the young [telegraph] operator. If the outcome was the one I and my supporters expected, there would be few peaceful days in the coming years.

AN UPTOWN GIRL



Yuvina Kuswandi

“Srrraaakkk...”, the sound of a bicycle’s brake was heard in the middle of the crowd noise in an afternoon. ‘*She must have just arrived*’, said Mbok Darmi in her heart while she overwhelmed to serve the buyers in her stall (or in Indonesia usually called as ‘warung’). Mbok Darmi sold Indonesian cuisines in her stall such as *Nasi Rames*, *Nasi Pindang*, *Soto*, etc. The most wanted dish on “*Warung Makan Mbok Darmi*” (the name of Mbok Darmi stall) was *Nasi Rames* – it was a dish consisted of white rice accompanied by small portion of meats, vegetables, peanuts, eggs, and fried-shrimp *krupuk*. Mariatun, Mbok Darmi’s daughter, was a Javanese girl from Tegal and she was so well-known in her village because of her intelligence and hospitality to other people. Her skin was tan, her eyes were wide and she wore glasses. Each day she helped Mbok Darmi in the stall after went to school. She served the customers very well there. Sometimes there were some buyers who always wanted to be firstly served and quickly served. The buyer over there wanted to has a glass of iced tea, and the buyer over here asked additional *krupuk* (deep fried crackers made from starch and other ingredients that serve as flavouring) to Mbok Darmi and many other requests.

In weekday mornings, she was ready with her white-blue uniform. First, Mariatun took her mother to the stall and then she rode her bicycle to go to her school and when it was over, she went straight to her mother’s stall again. When she arrived there, she immediately helped her mother deftly and quickly. It took 10 minutes from Mariatun’s school to *Warung Makan Mbok Darmi*. She lived in Sukamaju Village, Tegal Municipality, Central Java. She lived only with her parents because she was the only child in her family. Everybody in the village must known who Mariatun was.



<http://akumassa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08>

Mr. Darmono, Mariatun's father was a corn farmer. He worked in the field every day. Mr. Darmono went to the field by walking because it was not really far from their house. Anyway, their house was located in the very top of her village and it was made from wood, bamboo and zinc. It was a very simple house, however, Atun (Mariatun's nick name) never complained or worried about this. She knew how her family's financial condition was and she could only do her best to help her parents.

Atun was a very smart and talented girl. From the beginning of her elementary school, her performance could be looked by her academic score. She always got the first rank in her class and sometimes she also joined some contests on drawing and came out as the winner.

She liked drawing very much. Even though she was popular enough in her school, she was not arrogant and still stayed humble to everyone she met. When some of her friends asked her to give them tutorial on courses, she didn't mind and she helped them with a pleasure.

One day, after she had just graduated from her Junior High School in Dharma Bhakti Junior High School Tegal, she got a special gift! The Principal of her school invited her to his room and then he gave her an envelope. When she opened it, she became really surprised.

“Ohh Wow!”, exclaimed Atun.

“Is this real, Sir??”, asked her to the Headmaster.

“Yes, this is really real. Two weeks ago I got a phone from Tunas Harapan Senior High School in Jakarta and they offered me a scholarship to our school. They will give full of free charge for three years study on their senior high school only for maximum 2 students who can meet the qualifications they gave. After some considerations from all of the teachers, this school has agreed to choose you as the only one who is possible to get this great chance. My advice for you, Atun, you have to take this! You have to!” explained the Headmaster.

Atun went home with a very very pleased mood. She sculled her bike quickly as she could not be patient to tell her mother that she got a scholarship to continue her study in Jakarta. When she arrived at her mother stall, she directly opened her bag and got the envelope to give it to her mother.

“Atun, what do you mean by giving me this envelope?” asked Mbok Darmi.

“It is a very special thing mom, come on, open it and read it”, Atun answered.

“You are not kidding me, are you? Do you forget that your mother is illiterate?” she replied.

“Ups! I’m sorry Mom. I’ll read it for you then”, said her.

After Atun finished reading the letter, her mom also got very happy, and when she told her father at home, Mr. Darmono also found it cheerful. However, Mr. Darmono and Mbok Darmi only thought about where Atun should stay if she will go to Jakarta.

“If I am not mistaken, was Bulik Sum ever worked in Jakarta?” inquired Atun.

“Oh, yeah, I also remember that she works in Jakarta, but I wonder if she is still working there or not. I’ll call her now. If she still there, perhaps you can live with her there”, Mr. Darmono responded.

Aunty Sum or Bulik Sum (Indonesian predicate for mother/father’s younger sister) was Mr. Darmono’s younger sister, and she went to Jakarta in 2014 to work there as a housemaid. And Bingo! Bulik Sum still works in Jakarta until now. The place where she is working is near Tunas Harapan Senior High School, in West Jakarta, at Grogol Petamburan district. Bulik Sum said that it only took 15 minutes by walking from her work’s place to Tunas Harapan Senior High School.

The next day, Atun went to her school to confirm and ask what kind of files that should be collected and when she would go to Jakarta.

“Okay, this is the list of files you should submit, and after they are all complete please hand them all to me not later than next Tuesday, May 17th, 2016. Okay? Good

luck!", said Ms. Ningsihwati, the administrative staff in Atun's school.

"Okay, Thank you very much Miss!" Atun replied.

Well, Atun never thought as she could get this precious chance. This was a big opportunity for her to reciprocate her parents. She promised to her parents and also herself that she would do her best and would never disappointed anyone.

A MONTH LATER...

The time for Atun went Jakarta had already come. Atun had had her preparation done and today, the new journey had begun. Atun went to Jakarta from Tegal by train. Since her going to Jakarta for 6 hours, finally she stepped in Jakarta city for her first time. She acted like a bit dazed there because Jakarta was so crowded and populous city. Luckily, Bulik Sum could pick her up at the railway station, so she didn't need to worry.

"Ndukkk, how do you do?! Long time no see you!!!"

Aunt Sum yelled to Atun and hugged her.

"I'm very well Bulik, and how about you?? Haha that was 3 years ago, right?" answered Atun to her Bulik.

That was their first meeting after 3 years didn't see each other. They were really happy and charmed. Then they went to the house of Bulik Sum's employer. When they arrived, Atun was surprised because the house was so big and luxurious! She had never seen a house like a palace. What a beautiful palace was this! Aunty Sum's employers are welcome to Atun and they permitted her to stay with her Aunt there.

“hmm, I’m cannot wait for tomorrow Bulik!”, exclaim Atun to her Bulik.

“Haha that is a good signal, nduk! I hope you can study well there.” replied Bulik.

She was so excited and happy to welcome the day when she will become a Senior High School student. On that night, Atun has already prepared everything well before she got to school tomorrow.

Tadaaaa!!! The day has come! Atun woke up and dressed well with her new uniform and then went to her school. It was a very big school. However, on the first day on her school was not so good. Atun had just known that Jakarta people always judge other people by only their appearance. Atun got an odd feeling on her first day to Senior High School there. It was felt like being alienated by other students because her appearance was not just the same as them.

“Hey, you look like an uptown girl, don’t you?” said Jennifer.

“Yeah, I came from Tegal. My name is Mariatun. Just call me Atun”, Atun smiled while extended her hand to shake hand.

“Hah? Mariatun? What is that? Is it a kind of traditional food from Tegal? Hahaha”, Jen (her nick name) laughed after she made a fun of Atun’s name, and even she refused Atun’s hand then just went away.

Atun was bullied by almost all her classmates because they only know that Atun came from Tegal, and her appearance was geeky. She always wears glasses and got her hair like a ponytail.

Jen was the daughter Mr. Setiawan, one of the founders on Tunas Harapan School. She was so well-known because of her father and also she was a smart student. Jen felt that she deserved to have the popularity on her school. Maybe that was why she liked to ridiculed other people.

However, there was a student who behaved well and welcome to Atun, Her name was Janice. Even though Janice was a Jakarta girl, but she has got different perception to other students there. Janice felt that it was not fair just to judge people as whatever we want only based on their appearance. From that time, Atun and Janice became closer and closer to each other. They often did their assignments together and having lunch together in the canteen. Janice told Atun to not being worry a lot on Jen's mocking although she and her friends never stopped to sneer and quip her.

Time flew so fast. Atun was being in Jakarta for a year, and now Atun was already on second grade of Senior High School. When Bulik Sum took her study report, she was really excited because Atun was on the second place in her class and the first rank was Jen. Yeah, Jen was smart, but she did not have good attitude enough. Nonetheless Atun did not have any revenge in her heart to Jen.

One day, Atun got a phone from her mother. She said that now her father could not work again because his asthma often relapses recently and he had to hospitalize. Atun worried so much about her father and she thought about to have a job for help her mother to pay for her father's cost treatment.

Now Atun had to manage her time well because she has to preserve her mark good while doing her part-time job

as a private tutor of an elementary school student. She taught three times per week and the salary she got was not enough to help her parents. Atun shared with her Bulik and Janice, her best friend in school. They gave Atun advice to make her stronger, always do the best and never give up. But Atun still felt that she must work harder for her father and mother in Tegal.

A lot of things she had considered and finally she got a final choice. Then she decided to pull out herself from Tunas Harapan School and looked some other jobs to finance the treatment of her father. Became a Sales Promotion Girl (SPG) was Atun's choice on that time. One time, Atun saw an announcement about party gown designing contest and the winner will get ten million rupiah and also have a chance to publish her creation on Wedding Avenue Magazine. She joined the competition and tried her best to win the contest, and what an awesome! She did it! Atun won it as the winner and suddenly she became a famous young designer. People like her design so much. From that moment, Atun started to know make up and body treatment because she was a on her way to become a public figure.

“Atunnn! Hi!, holloed Janice.

“Hi Janice! How are you?” asked Atun.

“I'm good. Do you know that I felt so lonely since you quitted the school? Huft... anyway, how is your daddy?” replied Janice.

Atun and Janice met after several months they had not seen each other. They had many things to talk about. Now Atun's father was getting better and Atun herself could pay for his father's treatment. Her parents and Bulk Sum were so proud of her.

Surprisingly, Jen, Atun's friend who always mock at her came at Atun's Press Conference and she apologized for what she had done to Atun. Last time they met when Atun was still looked like a geeky girl, yet now Atun was became a pretty famous talented girl. The uptown girl, who came from Tegal, now became a personable successful girl.



Have you ever thought how unique stories can be if certain local cultural facts are inserted into our creative writing?

*This collection of **STORIES FROM OUR COLORFUL HOME** did just that. The writers are young adults, who want to express how life may experience the happiness and sadness of being in a relationship with others.*

Read how colorful the expressions and responses are the characters in the story.

It is a “no-miss out” collection of 41 short stories from talented 41 writers. Who knows, some of the imagined stories here are similar to yours... Who knows, the solutions offered here can be a solution to your own life problems and life mysteries.

Happy reading!

