



THE
RED-LETTER DAYS
(Short Story)

By

Wilma Sharon F

DEDICATION

Dedicated to the author of "Fault in Our Stars"

*John Green who inspired me and to my elder brother Alan Francis who
motivated me to read novels.*

PREFACE

This is a story about a girl who lives and works by herself in Hamilton, Canada; she really misses her family but never intended to visit. After a very long time, she gets a chance to visit them who were in Cumbria, England to attend her sister's marriage, she decided to stay there for a little long days.

Chapter 1

Everywhere silence and looks like no one is home. “Hey! Chloe there you are, you little one come to me sweetie”. Chloe is a dog, Labrador variety, golden colored shiny short furred skin, like velvet cushion.

I cuddled her into my arms she licked all over my face and looked at me. Where is everyone I wondered myself I searched all over the place in the house (the attic, the basement, the backyard almost everywhere). Chloe followed me.

I left my luggage out in the veranda seeking they’ll come to me and give a warm hug but that all didn’t happened so far. I went to the veranda where these lovely lilies bloomed. Lily, Arena blooms at early august and we have calla, little horn shaped white colored, at the center of calla a small stem of yellow colored pollen shows up.

“Hah!” With delightful sigh, I raised my shoulders and inhaled the smell deeply that kindled my childhood memories. It’s the roses over the edge of the veranda. Edward, light pinkish small roses bloomed all over the bushy, thorny herb of its. I went near it “Lovely!” my lips widened with a smile. I didn’t touched them just watched how beautiful they are.

With all this, I picked up my luggage, Chloe started rounding my feet. I am so much stressed out and tired of my long journey I planned to take a warm bath. Before that I chained Chloe to my room. “Chloe stay put, I’ll be back after the shower”. She winked her eyes as if she responded me

I went to the bath room it was like all clean and looked like it has not been used for so long but I somehow managed to turn on the geyser.

The shower, I wanted it to be checked, for its working condition. So I stood out of the bath tub and once I turned on the faucet, water stammered to come out of it so once again I closed the faucet and turned on. Then the flow was good. I took a good, relaxed, long bath.

I soaked my body completely in the warm water filled in the bath tub with lavender scented shower gel makes me feel wonderful, I made up some froth over me and I closed my eye awhile. My phone ringed and it stopped after two rings.

Hearing this she barked once and kept quiet. I’m done with my bath and dressed up, flesh colored button down shirt tucked in loosely and a blue ripped pepe jeans up to my ankle. I feel comfortable on them.

Actually I’m starving. It’s been a long journey almost 3000 miles and 5000 kilometers. It’s growling in my stomach so we moved to the kitchen, Chloe too,

I unchained her. Opened the refrigerator and stretched my arm. I took a milk carton gulped a little and pour some for Chloe into her bowl; she licked out the milk so fast as if she is hungry as I am. “Go on you hungry girl!” I smiled looking at her.

Then I went to the stove lit it, topped it with a pan heated up some bacon sprinkled some olive oil over it, seasoned it with salt n pepper. I toasted some bread in the toaster near by the coffee maker with the coffee stain left over in the jar.

The bacon is almost done and the bread too and placed it over a piece of bread, added up with mustard sauce, lettuce and with a spoon full of mayonnaise, finally I covered it with the other bread piece. So the sandwich is done gloriously.

I went for a bite. Mmmhmmmm yummy!! It’s like heavens.

Fetchd a bottle of orange juice poured half a glass. I took another bite and started walking out of the kitchen to the veranda where I can see a swing chair made of wood, a two seated type [a sofa or a sofa without a leg] hanging from the ceiling by chain connected throughout the length of the swing’s arm. It looked as a perfect place to sit and enjoy my sandwich. So I stepped towards the swing with the creaky noise and hopped in to it, I swung a little by kicking my leg against the wooden floor.

I could smell some rose scent and watched the hedges along the pathway from the veranda to the outer gate. It was cold outside but not that cold, sun rays scattered here and there over the roof top and all over the shrubs, it's the morning with a chilling breeze.

I got some fresh air and I folded my leg inside the swing chair and lay back my body over the swing and rested myself closing my eyes with a deep thoughts.

After a while Chloe came from nowhere and started making sounds. So I suddenly stretched out my legs and landed them on the floor then she licked my foot. She sniffed all over the floor for something and I understood her way of signing I took her out to the gate. At once she pooped.

“Haaaa, Thank God!” I felt good coz she didn't poop inside. Of course she won't, coz she is a well-mannered girl. Why she sniffed the floor is that she is signing me to help her open the door that's all like “Hey! You girl help me I wanna poop”.

While she was pooping, I wandered in the streets not too far from my home looking for the neighbors but I couldn't find one. All were inside their house enjoying themselves with their family members; it's the thanks giving day for them. They threw parties and loads of fun activities, eating, drinking, and dancing.

I could hear them doing all these stuffs. I'm quiet relieved from the terror of lonely. Though I like being lonely doesn't mean that, no living beings around me. (1)

(1) *Like all people in the city evacuated for a reason of some kind a disease is spreading or a giant monster attack or a zombies has took over the city. Its kind a creepy.*

I went to my bed. Im still wondering where these people gone and what's taking them so long to reach home. They knew I'll be home by now. In all this thought I was on my rolling chair swirling myself, Chloe looked with "a puppy face" (2) seeing this I melt down, "Hey sweetie! Come here" took him and make him sit on my lap. She cuddled into my arms.

(2) *Like a black grapes shiny eyes, tilted her head to left and the left ear is half folded down and the other upright.*

For the sake of my mom, I tried calling her. But the line was all busy so I threw my phone to the bed. I got up from chair and just lied down on the bed. I rolled over and stared at the ceiling where I could see a little chandelier hanging, I don't think it will glow because it's not in use since I left home for my higher studies. I can see some things which I left here was still there, where I left (some, actually not all).

I felt something strange in my tummy and my shoulder started shivering, I muttered “I saw something” to Chloe. She sat upright raising her head and turned her ears like an antenna dish towards the sound for listening; she turned her head all over the sides and started barking at the window. I tried to shut her up but I can’t handle her so I dragged her from the room,

Holding her brown colored collar belt and closed the door of my room. We both panicked but I didn’t showed to her “Please don’t afraid, calm down Chloe” softly touching her head with a smooth patting. I was thrilled by the time, kind of startled by the shadow that I saw at the window.

All of a sudden a door at the back next to kitchen shut too fast and with loud creaky noise, this time I didn’t went anywhere but towards the back of the house, I chained Chloe in the living room as she started barking again, it was annoying but ignoring that and stealthily tried to know the thing that makes us panicked.

Chapter 2

With the knife in my hand, a safety precaution I always have pepper sprays now I have better and bigger one, I took it from the kitchen knife set. It looked little stupid to me coz I'm not gonna kill anybody and pepper spray is the best, from a distance we can spray it to the enemy's eyes.

Moving towards the back door, I stretched my hand to the door knob slowly in one hand in the other I positioned my weapon in the direction of the enemy could possibly attack. With all guts I opened it and swayed my hand forward like stabbing a person, as I expected nobody is there.

The back yard is full of dried leaves and twigs from the pine tree and maple leaves all over the ground. I heard Chloe barking so went around the house entered the living room and unchained her. I again went to the back to double-check the place. I locked the front door before leaving the living room to the back yard with her. Behind the yard it's woods, that area is prohibited to go all people. (3)

[3] Don't worry it's not any kind of a movie to be scared of its just a woods, they restrict it to avoid kids get lost inside the vast wood land and they get bite by some kind a poisonous insects or lizards. It's a usual common reason. No big deal.

There's nothing I found so far; I was suspicious since I entered home (no one is home, strange noises, strange shadows appeared over the window glass, sudden shutting of a back door but no one is there).

All of a sudden a guy of my age or maybe elder to me showed up from the fences around my back yard. I almost freaked out.

He looked me in surprise. "Hi! Are you new here?"

"Sort of". I smiled back, "I am Ervine Miller".

"Pleased to meet you miller I'm.....", He interrupted me "just Ervine is fine".

"Okay", "I'm Jessica Turner" and greeted him with a hand shake.

"So you are that Twittie girl of Jane". I felt embarrassed. I nodded my head. He knew me already but I'm not that aware about my parent's neighborhood.

Good looking beard and slight mustache both were trimmed regularly it seems as per his name he is handsome. He has warm skin tone, a turquoise eyes sparkling in the shiny sun rays, chestnut colored hair. He looked genuinely a nice guy. (4). He was wearing a white round necked t-shirt Denim, American

flag painted in it which is circled by tiny stars, with a faded jean, cool snickers with one hand tucked inside his pocket.

[4] Good to all, no tricking anyone, enjoy helping others and stays in good books of others.

He invited me for the party that has been arranged. It's a house party.

I felt like joining him but something blocked me at that moment I couldn't decide so I nodded my head like a YES, but I should think over it.

He petted Chloe lightly by rubbing and scratching her head smoothly, she too waved her tail and the back here and there with a tail in a horizontal position when we are conversing. So I guess he is a friend from a neighborhood and we as a family know him and his parents (known person and looked harmless). I know him by myself, when we were kids but there's been a break or a gap. I went Canada to do my studies and for my career meanwhile everything changed. His face gets mature and totally handsome.

He waved his hands towards me. "Be there by 10:00 P.M" and left.

It's almost evening it started chilling though the sun is still lurking from the horizon. "Chloe get in" She was crouching for the squirrel on the ground. As I

called her she turned her head and ran towards me and entered into the back door of the kitchen.

I served her some dog food in her bowl and I went to the refrigerator opened it, scanned all over the door and I found something interesting to eat I made some salsa and got some dry bread at the store room. I treated myself good.

Suddenly, I remembered about my phone call. So I went upstairs to my room and saw my undone bed, I found it. I forgot what happened in the morning, I sat in the working table pulled the chair closed to the table opened my Toshiba (grey shaded sleek laptop) to check mails and messages. None I received just bunch of bullshit ads and sales offer mails.

I cleared all the unwanted mails opened some picture folder from my drives and started looking them. I went back to my high school fun filled memories. I'm missing my friends and the fun we had.

It's too cold out and it entered into my room and filled through the open window. The window remained open but I feared to go near the window to shut it, I can't leave it open all night.

I slowly kept myself together and picked all my luggage and gadgets from there and left the room rushing through the door, locked it and dragged a heavy table from the side of my room and set it straight to the door.

I settled down in a canopy chair (modern canopy chair hood above our head little cozy to relax) near by the heater, the cold started filling everywhere I turned on the heater. I kept my luggage in the living room and planned to stay in the couch.

The couch is going to be my bed tonight; I sniffed like I got a running nose its bcoz of the cold. It stuck my finger I stretched my palms near the heater some inches away from it.

Chloe too sat near my foot on the floor, she sniffed my hand her snout was cold; she rubbed it in the rug and sat quietly, raising her brows looked at me sitting on the floor. Its evening 8:00 P.M. I remembered the party which he (Ervin) asked me to join.

I don't know what kind of party (5) it is so I didn't stressed myself much in choosing what to wear. But I need to go presentable. I can't wear too formal or too casual; I don't know who are all invited i.e. elders or our age people. But I finalized with a conclusion as it must be our age party.

[5] Usually people throw different kind of parties like costumes party, Halloween party, farewell party, birthday parties, bachelor's party etc.

I went to my luggage opened my travel suitcase trolley type purple colored with the airport tags on them. I scanned all the dresses, I drew them out of the bag and it was strewed, Chloe watching all this stuffs. "I don't know what to wear for the party, Chloe" as she heard her name, she raised her head a little and gave a look, at once she backed to her position.

At last I decided to wear a pepe jean ankle length but not ripped, with reddish - pink top black buttons down collared.

I went to the bathroom in my mom's room kept the door open I took a quick bath. Wearing the throb, I dried my hair with the hair dryer, combing it will help to set; I roughly combed and left it loosely. I went to the living room where my outfits are, I sat a while in the couch relaxing myself.

Then I'm all dressed up, hair is done it's up to shoulder golden beige blonde, combing it once again and curled them at the bottom a little and left some scattered fringes on the fore head it touched my eye brows, sprinkled some perfume on the sides of my neck and to my wrist, wore a pair star shaped grey Bakelite stud, glossed my lips a little, went on snickers. Everything's done, neat and clean.

I was almost ready, except one thing I can't go empty handed so grabbed some beer case from the refrigerator and was ready to leave. When I reached the door

step Chloe came along. “Sweetie! Stay home until I return” petted her scratched a little near her ears and left the home.

When I was at my house door step I heard people’s noise of oohing and aahing. I reached his house door step, ringed his door bell and waited.

Chapter3

“Hey! Jessica. Come on in” with a slight hug he welcomed me.

“Hi” He’s wearing green n ivory color checked shirt along with a black leather jacket, a black - grey mixed jean and usual snickers, and two buttons from the collar was undone, the flow n comb type of hair, he looked handsome. “You look nice, Jess”. I felt like blushing but I didn’t showed it, just bolted it inside by a gesture of pushing my hair into my ear.

I handed him the beer case and nobody is there in the living room, they were parting on the basement I guess, “Party is in the basement” he took my jean jacket and scarf from me and hung them on the coat rack (Ikea), dark brown wooden made with some many claws to hang the overcoats, scarf, jackets or whatever.

There was a fireplace what I love always; half burnt wooden logs caved with a frame of rectangular bricks, painted white transparently where we can see the brick red. Above that a row of photo frames of his childhood and some summer camp clicks, trophies and shields. A decorative Egyptian vase wide mouthed oval, clay material covered over by a black painting of pharaohs, scarabs.

To the opposite, there was a tapestry hanging from the wall. It's the colorful tapestry shows three trees on hilltops. Whether they convey meaning or not, the beautiful forms, tones and colors will compliment and highlights the interior of the house beautifully.

"It's called Trinitary tapestry".

"Lovely". I moved towards the tapestry to touch it. I felt woollen weft with silk, cotton and linen. Classy, with adorable colors.

Next to the fireplace there was a door which leads to basement. When he opened, a bang of sound rushed into living room. He gesture me to go first and I did. All were dancing, sort of enjoying the party on their own way.

The lighting and the disco ball are fixed over the ceiling, usual. Low alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, snacks, etc. colored liquid in a long cylindrical glass, air bubbles bubbling around. I don't know why, I didn't feel like enjoying the party but I managed not to hurt him anyway so I mingled with the group talking over the couch, I took a seat near a girl.

Ervin came to me, "Would you like to drink?" It's too loud and noisy so he closed his ears bend down to me and asked. "Yes, of course" with a loud voice.

"What will be your choice?"

“That’s up to you, anything” with the okay gesture he passed, I was looking him all the way long till he returns. Oh my God! I can’t stop looking at him. He is cute and adorable.

As he handed me the drink I got up from the couch and walked through the crowd to find a quiet place. Finally I found the place and stood slantingly with a support of the wooden pillar. He after 5 more minute came to me and gave a strange cute smile. Oh! There I saw a dimple in his left cheeks.

Smiling back, “where were your parents? Ervin. It looks like you have been enjoying yourself for so long huh?”

“Then what about you Jess Sailing on the same boat. Aren’t we?” I burst out in laughter. He too laughed.

I didn’t ask anything further about his family and parents. A guy came towards us. He was a good looking nerd just as “big foot” in X-men but Skinny, white complexion, blond hair with dark brown eyes.

Ervin introduced him to me. “He is a friend of mine, Josh Winkler” and to him “She is Jessica Turner, the girl next door”. And gave a smiled and winked at me.

We had a handshake as a responds he was asking all about my origin (my absence so far, where I was doing my high school n all). I was answering but I'm not totally concentrated him my eyes were on Ervine. He was shimmering in the dark, I forgot where I was, what I was doing, what time it is, everything faded away except him.

I felt "oh no! This is not happening to me", someone is calling me in a fainted voice and later I heard it loud and clear. It's Josh.

"I'm sorry. I have to leave now, it's already late". Without a stop. I tried to leave the basement by crossing the large crowd of people dancing .But Ervin's hawking eyes caught me.

I went upstairs; he followed me to the living room. "Why so early?" dubiously. "I never stayed out at late night, this may seem funny but that's the truth, I know this is awkward but....."

"No.... it's okay" he was satisfied with my answer and helped me with my jacket and scarf. "Can I walk you home?" without reluctance "sure. Is it fine to leave a party?" I don't know why I didn't hesitate, that came out spontaneously. I felt embarrassed at that moment what he would think about my sudden reply.

"Yeah, Josh will take care and it's not gonna take more time to walk you home", "just next door" he shrugged his shoulder and tucked his hand inside his pocket.

I'm done with the jacket and scarf. Opened the door for me and we left his house. We were walking through the street though it's a short distance I enjoyed in the manner of speaking, yes I was.

We are at the door step of my house, "Okay, here we are". He blew his breath rubbing his palms as it was cold.

"Yeah, we are". I smiled and pressed my lips. I opened the door and went in. He waved good bye and stepped down to the pathway to the outer gate.

Suddenly I opened the door "Ervy?"

He stopped near the outer gate "yes!" he turned at once and stepped towards me. "Yeah. Forgot something there?"

I chuckled looking down" no, no. I need a favor from you". Bowing down like humble servant to queen "It's my pleasure to help you, what is it, mam?" So flirty but loved the way he did.

"Come in". I unchained Chloe. She was crouching at him and me, she really felt my absence.

“Chloe” he called we both were petting her. He smiled and started petting and scratching her ears and belly smoothly bending down to her.

“So what’s the favor?”

“Yeah, come upstairs, I want you to shut the window in my room”. He gave a look like is this all?

I showed the room, the door is blocked heavily by a table. Looking at it, he laughed. “What’s this all about?”

“Stop it, Im already freaked out, don’t make fun out of me” he said “Zipped it”. and I laughed. “I suspect that someone is peeking through the window. Following that I met you at the back yard this afternoon”

He moved the table, went in standing at the center he looked around. I nudge him and pointed the window. He went close to it and shut it but I want him to check for any intruders.

“Check outside once please”. He opened the window and scanned but none was suspicious to him so he gave a sign of trust.

“All checked mam. It’s clear” smiled at me.

I was relieved from the terrific feel of fear. “You can stay at my home, until you feel better” raises his eye brows.

At that time, we heard a sudden shutting of a back door again like it happened in the afternoon.

I was startled and I stood close to him, hold his arms around. He scurried to the ground floor and stepped towards the kitchen back door.

I turned the light for the back yard and we went through the door. We couldn't find anybody or anything. He came back inside and made a double lock and bolted it tightly. “Don't get scared, it must be the wind”. Checked the door locks once again.

“It really scared me to death”. worry lines over my fore head.

I started shivering in fear, he saw me and holding my palms, “Do you want me to stay tonight with you” just for the protection he asked. I can see the caring in his eyes. I didn't deny it.

“You can sleep inside your room, I'll sleep in the couch” said continuously.

“NO! I sleep in the couch and you take another portable couch from the basement”. He hid his lips behind his palms and laughed.

“Alright”. We went to the basement, found the couch, groomed it, carried it to the living room and placed it opposite to my couch.

I almost forgot to turn on the heater, “No fireplace”. Rubbing his hand and stretched it towards the heater.

“Yes”. I watched Chloe scratching her shoulders on the rug. He called Josh to know the status of the party and informed everything that happened here briefly.

It's 1:00 midnight. “Are you hungry?” .While he was on the phone I changed my dress and was wearing pajamas. Light blue t-shirt with a large pink butterfly and blue checkered shorts above my knees.

He was staring at me. “Ervy! Do you want something to eat?” waving his hand before him. “Desperately I need some. I'm Starving”

“You can use my nephew's night wears if you want to”. I walked towards the kitchen.

At once, “It's alright I'm good wearing these”. He followed me to the kitchen.

“Serve yourself, Eryv. Feel like home”. I preferred to have readymade food, he too had the same. We didn’t spend more than 10 minutes in the kitchen.

I went to mom’s room to pick some blankets for him and me. I gave him the woolen blanket to him. I sat on the couch and lied covering myself with the blanket except my head.

He did the same but didn’t cover fully just up to his waist before that he removed his jacket and hanged it the coat rack. I watched him doing all this.

I felt weird and strange but I have no choice. Actually I know him from my childhood as I shifted place I forgot him complete. He was all grown up, physical appearance changed and his entire childish attitude has changed. But by the time at the party before I leave, I recognized him that’s why i left his house.

But I know he was here for my safety. It’s like a childhood bondage I guess. Coming to the present state, I looked for Chloe. She was near his couch walking and sneaking through the glass. “Chloe, settle down girl”.

We three settled to our places. My eyes started irritating I rubbed it lightly and gave it a rest. Eryv too slept.

Fortnight passed. Ervy and Josh used to come home. We play video games and used go out for dinner lunch and also cook here or sometimes in Ervy's place. It's so full of fun and enjoyment. I totally forgot about my parents and Jane.

Meanwhile I was so much attracted to Ervy but I don't know how he feels about me. I never showed any of these; it's nice to be around him and having fun with him.

I don't know the attraction on him maybe due to his lovely character or maybe for his fun filled talks. I can't say its love and I like to be his friend.

Chapter 4

It's a chill cloudy morning. I woke up from my couch. Stepping into my flip-flops went to the bathroom for brushing and refreshment. I fastened into my throb. Watching for Chloe, I went veranda but she was not there.

I felt like having a coffee, so I directed myself to the kitchen. Brew some coffee. Holding my coffee mug I opened the back door.

Chloe was there crouching here and there for the birds, butterflies and squirrels who were actively searching for their foods.

I stood by the doorstep and watched them playing lovely. Probably an hour or more than an hour passed.

“Chloe come here” showing the dog bowl filled with food. She had her breakfast.

I was so much obsessed of Ervine I guess coz my thoughts are fall upon him. He's kind a cute.

Everybody have such feelings over a person who impresses them by some means. Suddenly I went to my room opened the window. Yeah I did opened it for him to see him from there into his house like what was he doing.

What I saw was he is sleeping in his couch on his brick red lowers. I couldn't see him properly but I somehow tried watching and loved watching him secretly. It looked awkward to watch someone sleeping but come on! How could someone stop watching him? Ervy is like "Not fit to hold a candle".

That was strange and odd which I never felt before. But I know that was not the "magical thing". It's just he is all over my brain. The solid and strong feeling is that all I want from him is a very good friendly affection that never ends like a platonic. Bcoz other than that won't work for me. Not only that I don't know what he got on his pretty mind and who is in his pretty heart too.

"Oh My God! Chloe I'm growing fond of him". I'm not gonna deny saying that. That's the truth. Blushed, smiled and hugged her neck. We were sitting near the big window.

The doorbell ringed. I startled a little and went to answer the door, it was Josh.

"Hey Josh. Good Morning. Get in. Why so early?" holding my coffee hug. Suddenly Chloe sniffed all around him and bounced over his shoulder, he was nervous that she would bite him. I laughed for the gesture he did.

"Good Morning Jess. Stop laughing and ask her to retreat". I laughed even harder "Retreat?"

Then I hold her belt. "Have a seat"

“Josh, she is Chloe. Chloe, he is a friend of a friend, Josh” Introduced Chloe like a person to him. I made her to shake hands with him. He started like her and petted her by grabbing her fore limbs.

He came home but didn't say why he was here. Think he almost forgot bcoz of Chloe. “Would you like some coffee?”

“It's alright. I'm fine”. His eyes were scanning my house like I did in Ervine's.

Everyone do that. We don't have anything interesting in our home just a bunch of photo frames of me and my sister, some family clicks.

“Yeah so, here it is. We have planned to go for a trip to the nearby shore and a mount ride. Hope you would join us”.

“We?” pretended like I don't know who he was mentioning.

“Ervy and I” I'm little excited but didn't show.

“Okay. We'll meet for lunch in Sundae's Restaurant at 2:00 pm. There we'll discuss the schedule for the week trip”. He left “I like you, Chloe”. She impressed him.

It's awesome, I don't wanna negate, and I like to join them.

But, How? I'm too irresponsible even though no one is here and don't even know where they are. I attended a party, asked a guy to stay with me all night, and now planning to go for a week trip? I'm insane.

This is ridiculous. I pity myself for this behavior. But this is me “JESSICA” .That is how I do or handle things. Cool headed girl this doesn't include the ghost or some strange shadows (I do fear ghosts and I do believe they exist like I believe the existence of GOD. If there is a Good, then there will be an Evil).

Never strained to pursue something or someone unless and until I rely or love them.

JANE. My sister she is straight opposite to my character too responsible, fallen in love more sincere, too superstitious, blah, blah, blah.....I didn't disrespect these qualities or her, I just hate to act like her or do like her. It doesn't mean that I hate her. But I like the way she is. Jane being Jane and Jessica being Jessica is just fine.

She is getting married by next week, She's gonna be a Jane Cooper. Michel Cooper her fiancé. A good guy, I know him from the day she was into him, helping, genuine, loving, caring. Nothing more is there to say about him. She treats me like her little girl (she is 4 years elder to me).

We used to be in touch, not like I do with my parents. We are more like friends. It's all like a beautiful song.

She is not here coz they were out for their wedding purchase. They will be home soon before the night falls. Coming to the point, I don't know whether to believe and make a friendship or to stay back. Trusting people, that's like Achilles heel to me.

Sitting in the pavement near the window, I saw the murky weather but I liked it. I so relaxed from my work stress and tension, It's surprising that, there is time for me to sit and enjoy the weather.

My phone ringed, "Hello Jess?" It's Ervy I got him in the first hello.

"Yeah Ervy". MY O MY, he sounds great.

"Josh came home, Jess?"

"Yeah he said that we have a discussion meeting in restaurant by 2".

"Are you available now or else you have some work to do?" with a sudden rush I said "No no I'm available".

Within a minute he came, "It's a bad weather".

"But I do like it Ervy until its lethal" I chuckled.

He dropped himself on the couch where he slept last night. He sprawled over the couch. "I feel comfortable when I'm around you" he said unnoticeably.

Fortunately it's noticeable to me, "Really?" asked dubiously. I know he is an affable guy. I want him to confirm what he said or he mean, what he said.

"Yeah Jess I mean it" he said casually watching for Chloe to come but when he said he meant it he looked me in the eyes and said.

I was happy coz I earned a good friend. “So do I”. His turquoise eyes penetrated into mine. I felt a scowl on my spinal cord.

It’s chilly out and the heavy rain with a dusty wind started blowing. Josh couldn’t make it to his home so he returned to my home. We turned on the TV to know about the weather and we came to know that a bad cyclone has been created nearby the shore.

“Not know”. Josh was in anger that we can’t go for a trip. He is such an annoying pool of bedlam. Ervy tried calming him down.

I went to the kitchen and got some coffee stain over the coffer maker. Handed over the coffee mugs to them.

“We can discuss the trip in here coz the weather is not good to go out” Josh didn’t listen what I said,

Ervy said “not now” in a low voice. Coz already Josh is upset.

Ervy and I went to the kitchen to make some breakfast; they both didn’t have anything yet so.

“The weather is not good; a bad cyclone has created near the coast so it’s not safe to go to the coastal area”. He was peeking into the refrigerator with one hand at the door of the fridge.

“Josh is priggish kind of a guy. Convincing and making him to agree a decision what we make, is hard, Jess”.

“I’m not offending him, it’s his nature”

“Let me try” with the hope. We started making some omelet, bread and peanut butter for all of us.

“Its being fun with you” I smiled at him. “Thanks, I’m pleased” he used to say something funny all the time.

Chapter 5

I love people who are fun filled, crazy going just like Ervy and Josh. They are more like me (Attitude). I'm not sure about Josh but Ervy is, I don't know maybe he is also different I feel he is like me coz I like him more.

We have been watching TV more than an hour. My phone ringed I picked it up. It's Jane.

"Hey, Twittie" She sounded excited.

"Jane?" I'm happy too.

"Where were you guys?"

"Yeah, we stuck here in the airport but reached. Everything is over. We will reach home somehow, so stay safe twit". The phone signal is feeble.

"Don't worry. I'm safe home. I have been accompanied by our neighbor guy Ervine". The call broke before I complete.

Ervy was eagerly waiting to know who was it this is what I thought but he was not, so I volunteered to give the information to him coz he could help if possible or give some kind of idea to my sister and cooper to reach home safe.

"Okay. It's safe to come after the cyclone calms down" he couldn't come up with any ideas I guess.

Josh looked better know. So I slowly took the topic and suggested him about how dangerous it is to go out to shore for a trip. Surprisingly he's convinced.

"Alright, Alright". Josh stood up and went to Chloe; from there he looked weird at me. I don't understand what he was up to.

"Jess did you see that" he laughed.

"Yeah I did" I'm irritated already. "He is onto you" Ervy irritated me again.

"SHUT UP Ervy" I went to my mom's room. Ervy didn't follow me there. I thought he would.

Usually we start hating people with whom (Josh) we get teased especially when our loved one does that, we get mad on them (Josh). Actually Josh and I are not in bad books of each other bcoz of this "sweet-pie" Ervy I'm afraid that I'll start hating him (Josh).

I got another call from Jane. She said she got a taxi at the airport and it's quite safe to ride home. Within half an hour she'll reach home. I'm too excited or overjoyed. Seriously it's been a very long time. Now I'm gonna see her, why am I not excited, bcoz of Ervy?

We were chatting, chatting and chatting until my sister reach home. I just said about Jane and cooper. He said about his friends and about him. Bcoz I don't wanna hear about anybody else.

It felt like heavens with him talking, talking and talking. My eyes were fixed on his crystal turquoise sparkling eyes and I was listening to him. Josh slept when we were conversing. I can simple say Ervy have a look of Ryan Reynolds in Green lantern.

An hour later Jane and Cooper entered, they were shocked seeing these guys with me, I gave an expression to her “I’ll explain”. “You hung up the phone before I complete” they gave me a hug and she kissed my cheeks. She was cold and shivering, cooper too. Chloe seeing them jumped over them. She missed them.

“Hi, Twit you look great, kid”. Cooper gave me a hug and went near the heater and hanged the wet coats in the coat rack.

I’m not kid!

I went kitchen to make some Soup which help them to get warm and Ervy helped me. They both went to her room and changed cloths and Jane cover herself with a thick blanket. She couldn’t tolerate the cold such a Cold Catcher like me. She gets cold too easy.

I went with the two bowls of soup to their room and served them. Ervy accompanied me there too. Her room changed a lot. There was a big picture of her and Cooper with Chloe and also our picture hanging.

She was on her bed sitting with Cooper. We both sat over the chair there. Cooper and Jane were talking. Jane in between interacted with me. We said all

the things happened from the day one I entered. She was quite upset with the party I attended on Ervy's house, but after a while she's okay with Ervy.

They looked tired; Ervy nudged me to leave them alone to have a rest. So we went out, passed the door and turned and looked them Jane was cuddling herself into Cooper's arms it looked warm and lovely. He is such a nice man, I know him for the past 6 years.

Ervy smacked slightly over my shoulder, I gave a sudden turn. I smiled "I'm sorry". They started kissing.

"It's alright, I saw that too" Ervy.

"You did?" me

"Yeah, they look awesome" Ervy.

After two three hours, Jane woke up and looked healthy and made us some lunch. Ervy left. He said he feels like taking bath and he is not comfortable taking bath in here. Josh too left with him.

Jane made food for them too, so I phoned Ervy to come home for lunch. They came late as we are done already. He said they were playing video games there.

It's almost evening, the weather slowed down. It's just raining heavy, the wild wind and lightening stopped.

Cooper called his colleagues for the party. It's a bachelor's Party for him and Jane. We three gonna spend time separately. Jane is too excited coz Cooper is gonna introduce her to his colleagues; his friends know Jane but not the colleagues.

“Party starts by 10 Pm” Jane said excitedly she is overwhelmed with joy.

She dressed up herself so beautifully. At the moment I saw she looked pretty on her knee length flesh colored dress, wavy long dark hair. She looked gorgeous.

I’m dressed up too. A gown knee length grey colored with a black colored slim belt around the waist, the sleeves are laced black with flowers transparent surely fits my skin tone. Top knot loosely tied with some short hairs falling at the back of my neck, fringes at my fore head. I perfumed myself puffed it in my wrist and sides of my neck. I didn’t wear any jewel around my neck I left it free but I was wearing a Bakelite black stoned earring. I didn’t wear any dark lip colors; just a flesh color kind a mild pinkish covered that with a shiny gloss and took my black purse.

Ervine came home and stunned looking at me, I felt embarrassed and blushed everyone saw me blushing.

I’m too stunned looking at him. “Jessica, you look beautiful”.

“Thanks, Ervy”. I couldn’t hold back my blushing and my heart started pounding faster. “You turned pink” he said.

“I’ll be back” I rushed to the bathroom and closed the door. I looked myself in the mirror. “Jess, Calm down. You look pink don’t blush too much” I said to myself. “He is perfect tonight”. My heart rate slowed down.

I applied some lipstick and glosses and went out.

“Can we leave now?” Cooper called everybody to be there and said he would give me a ride in his car with Jane. I didn’t say anything but to my surprise.

“Humm!!. Cooper, I’ll take jess with me, we three will reach there in my car”.

“Okay sure but drive safe”. He left with Jane. Josh still didn’t come. I was sitting patiently in the dining table. Ervy came to me.

“Jess,” I turned over to him. He came close to me. He touched my face with his warm fingers and I was looking at his chest coz I can’t see his eyes this time. I felt like it’s too mesmerizing to look in them. My eyes were spontaneously blinking in anxiety or some kind of feeling I don’t know what.

“There is a smudge on your cheeks”. He wiped it with his fingers.

I relaxed; my whole system calmed down finally it’s just a smudge. “Oh, thanks Ervy”. I smiled and eyes stopped blinking fast.

“Chloe is sleeping” he scratched her ears. “Make a call to Josh” I said.

“He left a message that he couldn’t make it. He has to catch up with her girlfriend coz she looked little troubled” he snarled

“It’s okay, It’s important for him” he agreed with what I said bcoz everybody knows how important to be with our loved ones when they feel depressed or in any kind of trouble.

It's raining out. He helped me to get in the car. I took my jerkin with me.

"Nice car" he smiled at me.

"Nice car, nice guy and a nice girl". I rolled my eyes and laughed. "Don't act too smart, Ervy"

Chapter 6

We are in the pub partying. We joined with Jane and Cooper and said Josh couldn't make it. Pub was not much crowded. It's easy for us to move and enjoy.

"I have a surprise for you" Ervy said.

"A what?" doubtfully.

"I have a person to introduce you; you know the person by name but never met". A girl showed up looked like a super model. It's her Natalie the buttercup.

"She is Jessica Turner". She smiled, twisted her body and was holding Ervine's arms.

"Hey, Natalie" I greeted by waving my hand. I went the bar corner and had some champagne.

"Ervy, she is good" I said casually.

"She was one of my good friends and she is my colleague too. She is more concerned about me".

"Oh, how sweet" I said plainly.

“Yeah she is”. My heart rate increased this time with anger and rage in abound. He asked me to dance with him but I refused “No I don’t dance”.

“Okay, but you can give it a try”. “No, Ervy please I don’t wanna look like a clown here”.

He nodded and went to dance with her. I watched them dancing from the bar corner. They were rolling around each other and holding hands. Slowly coming closer and closer. I abhor her totally. She touched his face and put her arms around his shoulders. I couldn’t take my eyes off coz I wanna know what she’s up to. As I afraid she kissed him. He did too. I’m at the acme of grief.

I moved from the sight of Ervine and sat on the couch nearby. I was raged in anger and my lips started muttering, I’m not the only one to him in his life. There can be anyone who he loves and I should not take advantages over him for the helps he did to me. It doesn’t mean that I’m important person to him. I have to let him go and letting go someone we love is the scariest a n hardest thing. He is dancing with her like a slug in the swamp. I finally decided to leave him to Natalie coz if I’m around him, I’ll hurt him and that will hurt me more. I tried to get down from the bar stool but I slipped and got hurt a little in my ankle.

A bartender saw me upset and came to me. “Is everything alright, mam?”

“Yeah, I can’t breathe need some air”. I turned away.

“There is the Exit, I’ll help you to the door, mam” it’s the nadir in my life time.

“Thanks. I’ll go from here”, I said grateful.

The Hawk-Guy (Ervy) saw me leaving. I put on my jacket and opened the Exit door. He came from the dance floor and shut it from my back in one hand. I turned to him.

“Jess, are you alright?” caringly.

“I’m fine, I wanna leave” I said harshly.

“You don’t look good, you are defaced. What happened?” he can’t sense my anger. What do I do? I felt like I’m gonna assail him but I controlled.

“It’s nothing Ervine. I’m fine. I wanna go home”.my face went black bcoz of my eye liner smudge all over.

“Okay stay, I’ll drop you in my car”. He turned to take the keys.

“No, I’ll take taxi” me.

“Jess, are you out of your mind. The weather is bad you’ll get hurt” Ervy.

“That bad weather is not gonna hurt me Ervy and that’s none of your concern” me.

He understood that I’m upset of something. But he opened his mouth to say something before that I said “Leave me, I can go”.

I left the pub it's so painful. He watched me from behind. I walked in the rain it's not heavy, just drizzling.

I took taxi after a walk, I didn't go home. I went to the library.

My mind is blocked and my heart heavy. I can't think anything clearly. Everything in my mind is him and Natalie kissing.

I saw a small booklet named as "Shakespeare's Quotes". I started reading but I can't concentrate much but some quotes are lovely.

*"You say that you love the rain, but you open your
umbrella when it rains*

*You say that you love the sun, but you find a
shadow spot when the sun shines*

*You say that you love the wind, but you close your
windows when the wind blows*

This is why I am afraid; you say that you love me too"

--- Shakespeare--

I'm afraid too.

I read some more quotes and my phone vibrated many times. It must be Eryv or Jane. I went out of the library and took my phone out from the purse and saw its Josh and Jane. Josh left me a voice message says "please pick up my call, its important".

I called back him. He said that Ervine didn't return home yet and didn't leave me any messages. I plainly said "he must be with Natalie, Josh".

"Who?" He asked in shock. I repeated "Natalie"

"It's not possible" he irritated me again. I'm already in great pain.

"Josh, I know alright, I saw what they did in there. He was so passionate towards her. He is just fine, so stop worrying about him".

"Jess, he is not fine, she is such a pain in his neck, he'll never do that and he'll never go anywhere without informing me"

"He is with Natalie, Josh. Well come on!! open up your eyes you dumb head, he is not our Ervy anymore". I hung up the call.

I got a text from Josh as "look for him near the stone bridge". Why I should see him that's not my work, but I went, drenched fully in rain. It got heavier than before.

I took a taxi and got there. I saw him sitting in the rain like a mad man.

I coughed from behind to draw his attention. He turned his head lightly, he knew it was me.

"What are you doing here?" I sat beside him in the pavement there.

“Why are you asking, it’s none ofI interrupted “sorry for what happened back there in the pub. I’m such a dapper”.

“Now come let’s go” me

“I’m sorry too” Ervine. “What for your sorry?” I asked.

“For Nat” his voice was so feeble and low, he really meant it.

“I don’t understand. Did she ditched you?” me.

“No” Ervy.

“Alright Ervy let’s go home it’s so cold and we are already drenched much. Don’t lose hope pull yourself together; she will come to you soon”.

I dragged him up by pulling his arms. We reached the car parked nearby and got in; he gave a towel to dry the wet.

“I’ll drive” I said.

“No I’m good I can make it”. Don’t you allow me to drive your car, Ervy?” I said roughly. He allowed me to drive then I started the engine and he turned on the heater inside the car, it’s better now.

My hair is wet and my fingers turned cold. He played a song of Rihanna called stay. After a few minutes he asked me to pull over the car.

“Why? Did you forget something? He stubbornly said it again without giving any reason. So I pulled over the car.

He looked me straight I can see him staring at me but I didn't see his face. I was staring out of the front window. He didn't say a word, I couldn't hold so I turned to him and asked. “What is it?” My eyes fixed on his dazzling eyes; I told you already how mesmerizing his eyes were. I started talking without my control.

“Why are you doing this to me?” he came close to me. But I tried to stay at a distance. He took my hands and was holding and said that he was sorry for what he did but he didn't tell what for he feels sorry. He doesn't know that I'm so much fond of him. The song changed in the list to “stay with me” of Sam Smith.

“What for your sorry, Ervy?” I asked. “I love you, Jess”. I looked him in shock he said “yes, I'm in love with you”.

I'm unable to speak a word nothing came out of my mouth. He came closer, I closed my eyes and he kissed me in the lips and I kissed him back. I felt warm thing running over my cheeks from my eyes, I was crying.

I opened my eyes and stopped kissing. I was close to him now so I wanted to touch his face and lips softly and the important thing I admire in him is his eyes. I looked them so closely I loved it and I kept my forehead over his and said “I don't wanna get hurt, Ervy”

He said “I'm not gonna hurt you, Jess. I promise”.

“I have a problem in trusting people, it won’t work for me and I’m not good at that”.

“No, it’s just me”. I hugged him and put my arms around him. My mind is clear and storm in my thoughts where calmed down.

We kissed for a while and then started the car. He explained me that it’s all a play to know that I’m interested in him or not. Why Natalie did that is, she loves him more of course everybody likes him bcoz he is a nice kind of guy. That’s why he apologized for.

We reached home.

He came to my home. Jane and Cooper slept. We went to my room and changed our clothes and he kissed me, hugged me and I sat on his laps and kissed him. We were talking about happened after I left the pub. He said that after I left he walked inside and took the keys. The bartender talked to him that I went sick of watching them dancing “I saw mam getting upset seeing both of you. Think she is disturbed by you, sir”.

Ervy said nothing and left the pub, took his car to find me. He said that he liked me when he saw me in the house party. But he is so nervous to ask me out and that’s why they arranged a trip. Unfortunately it gets cancelled.

Natalie tried to stop him but he said “Nat, I love Jessica”. But he couldn’t find me anywhere and tried calling me but I didn’t pick his calls. And now it all ended up in here like this. He cuddled me into his arms and he is balmy. He fell asleep. I’m happy I wanted to feel him near me so I kept awake and my lovely

thoughts showed up like a rainbow. There is no rainbow without a rain, lightening or a thunder.

It's so wonderful to be with the loved one. I was scared to be in love with him. I have no idea how it feels to be in love but I felt it in the pub last night and I kissed him in the cheeks, he smiled in his sleep slightly and hugged me tight. I started thinking again. Loving someone and being loved by someone is so hard. It makes us to break so many hearts and break ours too that's what I'm afraid bcoz letting go is even tougher than being in love. My wrong assumption over love is gone now but still I wanted him to love me forever and I wanted to be in love with him forever.

I couldn't sleep I'm overwhelmed with joy like my Jane did.

I had a problem in trusting people but I understand that trust people isn't so hard for the persons like Ervy. I learned so many things from him.

Morning he was not there. He left a voice message that he wants me at his house by 9 am. Oh, it's already 8:30. I got ready and came out Jane was sitting in the couch having coffee. I went to her and hugged her and smiled.

“Good Mornin” both of them wished me back.

“Are you alright, Twittie? You look too happy” I laughed and said “I'm prefect Jane”.

“We need to talk” she said in a weird look.

“Yeah, we have to” and left the house.

“Going out, leave me a message if there is a need, Jane”.

I went to Ervy’s home we planned to surprise my sister on her wedding. She loved to have a pet like Chloe there in Scotland coz after she get married she’ll shift to Scotland.

We bought a little Chloe named “Autumn”. I guess she loves it.

My mom and dad arrived before the wedding starts. The wedding went well all parties over celebration done. I’m so happy to see them. I introduced Ervine to them as my boyfriend not as a neighbor guy. As they know him from his childhood they didn’t have any refusals to make.

We surprised her by giving Jane “Autumn”. She’s happy and hugged us. She left to Scotland by the next day. After some years passed, she gave birth to a little boy-angel named, “Gabriel Cooper”. We call him “Gabe”.

We (ERVY and I) fight a lot; we love a lot. We meet very often; usually he come Canada to my place.

One fine day, Ervy took me too a fabulous place, it’s so beautiful, calm and lovely. We had a delicious dinner and some champagne then we left the restaurant. We passed by a shore wonderfully decorated with the lights. Suddenly he knelt down before; I felt embarrassed and asked him to get up. “You are embarrassing me, Ervy”.

“Jessica Turner, I Ervine Miller asking you, Will You Marry Me?” and got a ring on his hands.

I can't hold on my tears it started running out, I kissed him and said “Yes I Will, I Will Marry You, Ervine”

And then he put on the ring and kissed it. We kissed in there, when I said yes all shouted and clicked some pictures of ours. We framed one for us and fixed that to the wall.

That night I called Jane and said what everything happened, she and Cooper were so happy. So many days passed we got married.

HAPPYILY EVER AFTER.....