

The
Black Cat's
Letter
and Other Stories

English Literature 2018

The Black Cat's Letter and Other Stories

An Anthology of Short Stories

Written by Students of English Literature 2018
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Preface

First of all, thanks to Allah SWT, because of His help, short stories team can finish "The Black Cat's and Other Stories" in the right time.

The purpose of arranging this anthology is to fulfill the final assignment from Mrs. Witriani as Creative Writing lecturer.

On process to arrange this anthology, the team get lot of challenges, but the team can through it with a good teamwork. The team realized that there are still many mistakes in process of arranging this anthology. So, the team say thanks to all who was helping the process. The team also say thanks to all writers (Creative writing Class A) for submiting the short story. Hopefully we always get bless from Allah SWT. The team realized that this anthology is not perfect, so we hope the readers can help to give criticism to be a perfect the anthology. Last but not least, the team hope this anthology can entertain the readers.

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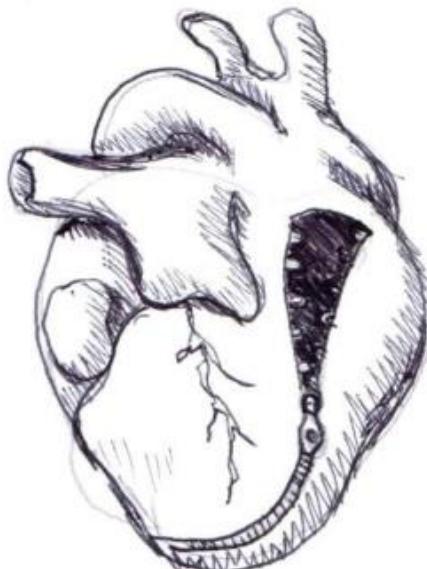
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ROMANCE

Heart of Ours

By Mitha Nurdinia



Jakarta will always be the busiest city since dusk until dawn even night as well. Full of people working so hard just to fulfil their needs. In every corner of the city, you will find those people with any different kind of job they have. Jakarta will always be this busy as the capital city of Indonesia. Many people from another islands are live in Jakarta, either for

school importance or their work obligation. They believe that Jakarta is the best choice for their job opportunities. Although sometimes they realize Jakarta is not that easy to conquest. They should face the fierce competition among a thousand job applicants. For those who cannot survive their financial condition in Jakarta, they will prefer go back to their hometown rather than stay.

One of that lucky people who still survive in Jakarta and passed those fierce competitions is Clara Zalyna. She lives in Jakarta with her family almost for 10 years. She is actually from Kalimantan, but her father once decided to move to Jakarta because of work reason. Clara is incredibly beautiful and smart women, she got her bachelor degree in one of the famous university in Jakarta with a scholarship. But unfortunately, now her family is living in a difficult financial condition because his father was already retired from his job. Her parents are unemployed and now they are getting old as time went by. She also has two little sisters who really need her, therefore as the eldest she should be the family's backbone.

Clara works at a company called Heather Bakery as the assistant marketing for about two years now. She used to work from 07.00 am. until 05.00 pm. for five days in a week. She is a hard-worker and always trying her best to do all her works and job on time. Because all she cares about is her family, and she will do anything to lighten her family's burden. In this company, Clara has one best friend, her name is Kenny Azela. They are best friend since they were in college, and now they work in the same company but in different position. They are a

great partner and also good friend for each other because they always help each other in every hard situation.

Another important person that should not be forgotten at this company is Henry Zane. He is the most-wanted person in this company because he is so diligent, responsible, smart, and also good-looking as hell. He is really kind toward another. He also holds the crucial part as the manager of the company. Henry is not that type of guy who likes to take advantages from his popularity to easily playing with woman's heart. He is a reticent person yet not ignorant if anyone needs help. He only knows that he has so many important things to be done rather than just having fun or wasting time. Almost all of the girls in the company are having crush on him, including Clara as well. The only one who knows about her feeling is Kenny, her best friend. She doesn't want if any other people know about that secret, so Kenny is the one she trusts the most to keep it.

Heather Bakery is one of the famous and big company in Jakarta. They are the most successful company, and already have 20 subsidiaries all around Jakarta. As a big company, it has a strict regulations and rules that should be obeyed by all of the employees and staffs. One of the shitty rules is, all the employees are extremely prohibited for having a special relationship between one and another especially man and woman. This rule is the hardest part for all the employees because they cannot flirt toward the one they love. All those rules are applied as a purpose to make the employees stay focus on their job and always responsible with their obligation, it also to show how strong their commitment for the company itself.

The chief of the company, Mr. George, will always supervise all his staffs and employees. If he gets a news or discovered any of the employees are having a special relationship between each other, they will automatically redundant from the company without any consideration. It makes all the staffs are scared to break the rules. They realize that looking for a new job will be much harder for them. So, the most important thing for them now is how to fulfil their family needs and focus to their works.

Clara and Henry are already known as a great partner in this company. They have handled many projects together and most of them were succeed. They are really responsible to all the works that given to them. The chief of the company also amazed with their good job in everything. Their creativity, cooperation skill, new thoughts, and also their problem solving are really great. They can find the exact way to solve any problem in the company.

After all those great things about their job, now the big problem is coming to the surface. Some of the other staffs are suspicious that they are actually having a special relationship. Some rumors about them also spreading over the company, but Clara and Henry still do not give any clarification yet. This is really a tough situation for both of them. They feel worry if their boss will hear about this rumor although they actually do not have any special relationship between each other. Clara and Henry already heard about that rumor actually, but they choose to keep silent and quiet because they don't want to make the condition worst until they will meet the chief of the company.

They sure that Mr. George will call them soon to ask about this rumor because it's already spreading around, and almost all the staffs know about it.

Finally, Mr. George heard about those rumors from another's staffs of the company. He was totally surprised because that rumor is actually from his best employees, and it is unbelievable for him. However, he should be emphatic towards all the staffs because rule is rule that should be obeyed. Then he immediately calls Clara and Henry to meet him at the office for asking their clarification whether that is true or not. Clara knows this situation is really difficult for her. She is afraid, she begins to overthinking about it, what if the chief will take a decision to expel her from the company. All she can do is crying her eyes out, but fortunately her best friend Kenny always there beside her.

Clara and Henry go to the office directly to meet Mr. George, but Kenny and Shaka are following them too as the instruction from the chief. Maybe I haven't told you about Shaka before, so let me describe who is he first. Shaka is Henry's best friend, same as Clara and Kenny. Shaka is the only one who knows about Henry's life. They are a good friend too. Different with Clara and Kenny, Henry and Shaka met for the first time at this company, and since then they became best friend.

Mr. George finally asks them to tell him what was actually happened. Because he strongly believes that his best employees would not betray him and break the company's rule.

Clara who still trying so hard to handle her tears ventured to give her statements and clarify all the problems to Mr. George. She convinces Mr. George to believe her that those rumors were totally wrong. She admits that she doesn't have any special relationship with Henry. They are just partner who did their responsibilities for the company.

“Clara, Henry, I really trust both of you guys. I believe you’re not going to betray me and also the company’s rules, right. So, now I just want to hear your explanation, what was actually happen and please tell me the truth” Mr. George asked. “Before I give my explanation, I really do apologize for all the rumors that spreading around, Sir. That was out of our control, and we didn’t know what we supposed to do.” Clara tried to explain although her tears can’t stop falling, but she still continuing her clarification. “I am really sorry if I disappoint you this time. But here is the truth, me and Henry, we are just friends and job partner. Nothing special between us, honestly. We had no idea why those rumors are suddenly appeared. That was make me so shocked and confused, but I didn’t know how to face this problem.” She ends her speak because she couldn’t handle it anymore.

Then, now it’s time for Kenny, she wants to give her support for her friends. Kenny actually could feel the sadness in Clara’s heart. She tries to convince Mr. George, and tells everything she knows as best as she could although she is little bit afraid too. “Mr. George, sorry for interrupting, but please let me say some words to defend my friend. We are really sorry for all the chaos that occurred in last few days. As Clara said

before, we all are confused about what actually happened. we do apologize if we make you disappointed, but trust me they are nothing more than friends. We are all friends. We never had any thought to betray you, Sir. I hope you can understand this situation. Maybe this rumor just a sign that some people want to impose Clara and Henry because they were envy with them.” Kenny stated all her thoughts to Mr. George with a hope that he will understand.

All people in that room now keep on silent. Mr. George still lost in his mind, maybe he is also confused and doesn't know what is the best way for this problem. Clara still crying, but Kenny always there to comfort her. While in the other chair, Henry just moped and bowed. Nobody knows what he is actually thinking about. He doesn't give any statement or even say a word yet. From the first time they entered the room, Henry is the one who looked so calm but seemed confused too. His best friend, Shaka, he already knows that Henry is hiding something, but he still doubts to say it. After several minutes, Shaka decides to disturb henry from his unconsciousness. Henry is a little bit surprised, but then he realizes that he was lost in his mind.

“Do you want to say something, Hen?” Shaka asked him carefully. “If you have anything to say just say it now, before it's too late and you will regret it for the rest of your life. Trust me, everything will be okay, Bro.” He continued and ask him to tell the truth. Kenny, Clara and Mr. George are more confuse now, they do not understand what was Shaka talking about. “What do you mean? What are you guys talking about?

It sounds so serious, we don't understand." Kenny asked. "Well, I cannot say anything, Ken, let Henry explain it to you if he finally changes his mind." Shaka answered with a hopeless expression.

Henry suddenly takes a deep breath, and he looks at the faces of all people in the room. He sees Clara's face still with her tears. He doesn't know whether he takes the right decision or not. He has no idea about what will happen after this. He is trying so hard to tell Mr. George and all people in the room especially Clara about the things that he had been thinking of. Then he really said what he wanted to say after all this time. He said, he is tired for hiding his feeling and his pain for so long. He thinks today is the right time to reveal the secret.

"Firstly, I do apologize to you, Sir. I know that I make you disappointed this time. I am really sorry for that. You are the kindest person I have ever met. You always encourage me to be better every day, and I cannot thank you enough for that." He really feels sorry for the chaos he made. He knows this rumor should not happen. "But I have to say one thing to you because it's already stuck in my mind since two years ago. I know, you will be more disappointed to me because of this, but I think I cannot hide it from you anymore." He talks with a really husky voice and also little bit shaky.

Shaka tries to pacify him and convince him that everything will be okay by rubbing his shoulder. Henry then raises his head and start to talk. "Mr. George, I'm sorry that I

need to tell you this now. And Clara, I'm sorry if you will be pissed off if I have to say this, but I think you should know this too." He looked to Clara's eyes and confess his feeling through her. "Clara, I love you. I loved you since we first met, two years ago. I was trying my best to hide this feeling and keep it to myself until now. But.... I give up today. If you hate me with this, I'm really sorry. This is my real confession for you, I love you so much Cla." All people in the room are freeze and shocked, except Shaka because he already knew it.

Clara couldn't take her eyes off of Henry. She couldn't believe what she had heard few minutes ago. She doesn't know how she should react to it. She is no longer crying, but stay silent and confused instead. She just got surprised, and she has no idea why Henry really said that in front of Mr. George and others, whereas he knows it will bring him into trouble. "Henry, what were you saying? Are you sure with that?" Asked Mr. George in wonder. "Sir, I know you won't believe this. I know you will be totally mad at me. But how could I keep my feeling hurts every single day, and it's just because our company's rule that doesn't let us to love someone who we truly love?" Henry was emotionally not fine.

Mr. George just keep on silent listened to Henry's words. He looks guilty and restless at the same time. Maybe he is trying to understand the situation. As the chief of the company, he holds all the decisions. Meanwhile, Clara still try to figure out all those words. She feels sad and afraid because she knows Henry will face a big trouble after saying those things. But in the other side, she couldn't hide her happiness because

Henry actually loves her too. She cannot handle those feelings anymore. She wanted to cried, but that was an impossible moment for doing that stupid thing. After all this time only Kenny that knows her feeling to Henry, and now she heard it by herself that Henry loves her. Kenny didn't know what to do in that awkward moment. They all were lost on their mind.

Clara still doesn't give any words as a respond. Kenny asked her to talk even just one sentence. She knows Clara still confuse with what was happened. However, she has the right to talk and express her feeling too.

"Henry, I don't know what should I respond to it. I am literally confused. I didn't expect you would say those kind of things in this awkward situation. Did you realize what were you saying just now? you know the consequences, right?" Clara starts to talk. "You already put yourself into trouble, Hen. Well, I am trying to understand your feeling, but I don't want you to lose this job too. You are important for this company, yes you really are. But, Hen..." She continued.

Clara still didn't finish her words, but Henry directly says "Cla, if I didn't let myself to say all the truth now, then I never know when it will happen. I know this job is important for me, for you, and for all of us. But, the most important thing that I can't deny anymore is my heart. How can I still let myself hurts day by day?" Henry tries to explain. "If you didn't have the same feeling for me, I will patiently accept it. I know I can't force you to love me back, never. If I am finally the one who should leave this company, then yes, I will."

“Henry, I didn’t even finish my sentences yet. You know what? I love you too and more.”

Everyone in the room keep on silence. Mr. George is the one who feel so surprise. He can’t imagine, two of his employees are already fall in love to each other. Now, he is trapped in a very hard situation and difficult decision. However, Clara and Henry are living their best time and suddenly forget about the consequences they will receive later. Kenny and Shaka also feel so happy to know that their friends are actually have the same feeling on each other. Everyone stay in their position and now they are just waiting for the decision from Mr. George. They have no idea what will happen to them after this. They are done.

“Well, guys, honestly I was so shocked and still can’t believe what I have heard from both of you. Now I know, and we all know that you guys are actually falling to each other. I have no right to deny it. Your feeling and your heart are yours. However, I will say that our rules still the rules to obey and no one can change it. I am totally confused, but here is the thing. You guys have to decide, sadly one of you forcibly should leave this company.” Mr. George gave them a really hard choice.

Without thinking twice, Henry directly says “If we have to decide who should leave this company, then I am the person who will leave.” He said that without any doubt on his eyes. “Henry? Are you joking? I know you need this job, right? You should not do this!” Clara immediately answers. “Cla, I know you need this job more than me. You still have a family

as your responsibility. Your family needs you.” He holds her hand and continue “Clara, please trust me, I will find another job for myself as soon as possible. I am sure. You don’t have to worry.” Henry tried to convinced her.

After all that serious conversation, at the end of the time, Mr. George should take his decision. Under compulsion, Henry should leave the company and Clara still stay to continue her job. Henry finally feels relieved. Although he should lose his job, but his happiness already removed his sadness. Now he knows that Clara loves him too, and that is more than anything else for him. After the problem was clear, they decided to go out from that room. They ask permission from Mr. George first, then leave. Henry is the last person who still stay. He wants to have a deep talk to Mr. George before finally he should resign from the company. He still asks for apologize to him because he understands that his decision already broke Mr. George’s trust and disappoint him after two years of working at the company.

Before he leaves, Mr. George asks him to manage and finish all the files needed for his suspension. He needs to sign all the files and stuffs first. In the middle of their conversation, Mr. George suddenly say “Henry, it’s not your fault or Clara’s fault. The only one who knows your feeling is yourself only. That’s your right, and nobody can blame you with the feeling you have. I am actually disappointed to myself because I have to witness this kind of situation, which is really hard for me honestly. However, these rules cannot be removed because for

the sake of the continuity of this company, we should maintain them. Once again, I am really sorry Henry.”

After 2 years working with Mr. George and Clara at the Heather Bakery, finally Henry leaves that company. Now, it's time for him to make up his new life, and make other plans for the future. He starts to build his own business. It's not a big one, but he believes one day he will develop it to a higher level. Besides, he is not alone or single anymore, there is Clara on his side as his support system and motivator. They are really good as a partner although they are not in the same company like they used to. They always motivate each other any time. Clara still focuses on her job, while Henry is developing his business. He feels so happy with his new life. His love once is always there to accompany him, and his business is going well too. They both are really meant to be together.

They really prove their true love and always believe in the power of love. When someone find their soulmate, then nothing in the universe can obstruct them. They may be found some troubles along the story, but they will always find the way to finally come and stay to create the memory. Although something seems really hard at the beginning, but the happy ending is there, still waiting. When you really love someone, nobody can drag you down. As long as you always try your best to prove the one you love.

Justice

By Fitri Yuliana

The first month of new year always becomes a month which is full of people's expectations, because they have their new spirit to reach their dreams.

Feni, the student of a famous university joined some organizations. She lived in a boarding house and studied seriously because she wanted to make her parents, Dona and Naufal proud of her. Her neighbour, Kevin, also took university in the same university, and they were very close to each other. Feni and Kevin's family were not rich family. They were farmers, and they had to try hard to get much money.

Drt drt drt

Feni's phone was ringing, and she took it.

"Hello Mom, how are you?" Feni asked when she heard her mother's voice whom she loved so much.

"Hello, I am fine, but our family has a problem." Her mother answered and tried to hide her sadness.

"What is the problem Mom?" Feni asked anxiously and asked for her mother to tell all the problems, but her mother did not want to worry her daughter.

Feni ended her phone, because she was annoyed at his mother for not telling the truth. After that, Feni called Kevin and asked him to meet in a coffee house.

Kevin heard Feni's story, and he began to think about his family's condition. A few years ago, Kevin's family also called him and told him about the same problem.

"I want to work." Feni said as she looked at Kevin focusing on his food.

"What work?" Kevin asked and looked at Feni in front of him.

Studying at a famous college is not easy especially for Feni and Kevin whose parents are just farmers until they had to save money.

As time went by, the family of Feni and Kevin were still working as usual. They went to the fields and planted crops to survive, and they tried to get much money. Dona and Noval as Feni's parents told her not to work because they told her to focus on her studies.

Village life is indeed different from city life. Everyone had no right to tell their opinions except the priest, police, headman, or other place men.

"Kevin called me yesterday." Sanah, Kevin's mother said to her husband, Feri, when they were in the field.

"What did he say?" Feri asked as he picked up his mug and walked away from his wife.

"He said that his money was spent for paying his books, whereas we are difficult to get much money." Sanah answered.

"The police is coming, the police is coming." Sanah's neighbours said and ran to their own houses.

"What happened Feri?" Noval asked, and he was also in the fields.

"I don't know, but they suddenly ran away and were afraid of the police." Sanah answered.

"Good morning." The police said, and he is accompanied by other polices.

"Morning sir. What happened?" Noval asked with courage.

"We want to inform you that we are ordered by the minister to ask you for stopping your works outside and work from your home because of a dangerous virus." The police answered.

Because Noval, Feri, Dona, and Sarah do not want to argue in the field, they decided to come back to their houses.

"I am sure that it is their deceptions, and they want to take an advantage from this condition." Noval said and tried to hold his anger.

Drt drt drt

Noval's phone was ringing, and he took it.

"Feni, Mom and Dad could not work because we were forbidden by the police and also minister. They said that it's because the dangerous virus. Is there a virus in your environment?" Noval asked and told about the dangerous virus to his daughter whom he loved so much.

"Mom, Dad, there is also an announcement that the school will be shut down because of the virus." Feni answered honestly.

Exactly, Feni and Kevin were angry because they dislike holidays and used to study outside. They also felt sorry for their families who were struggling to get money because they must work from their homes.

"My father said that it's just the government's deception." Feni said and she thought about how to get money.

"Don't think about it because our God knows the best!" Kevin said and comforted his best friend.

Feni didn't know that Kevin was in love with her because Feni is a hardworking woman and never showed her

anger. Exactly, Kevin wanted to say his love, but he was afraid that Feni would avoid him. Their parents were very close to each other, but their parents especially Kevin's parents didn't know about his feeling.

"Feni, don't be afraid because I will always protect you." Kevin comforted Feni who still thought about the conditions in their country that were getting worse because of the virus.

"Why are you so kind to me?" Feni asked.

Kevin just shut up and smiled because he was afraid if he could not control his feeling.

"How is your study?" Feni changed her question.

"I really enjoy my study in university because I can meet with my lecturers, new friends, and they are so kind." Kevin answered after he drank his tea.

"Me too. I am very happy because I can understand the lesson." Feni said and tried to believe that everything is going to be okay.

There were many people were envious of their friendship because they were very compacted when they walked and studied together. Feni never realized about the man who loved her because she just thought about how to get her dreams.

Kevin and Feni's family became confused and worried because the government especially the police and some ministers forbade them to go and work outside.

"Don't you feel bored because I saw you just stay at home." Balum asked when he looked at Berli, his partner in ministry.

They were very close to each other and also a minister. They used to ask the society to stay at home although they themselves did not believe about that virus.

"I feel so bored. Therefore, I plan to arrange my son's wedding party." Berli answered, and he believed that Balum understood his feeling so much.

"But, how to do it? We ordered the society to stay at their homes." Balum asked again.

"Don't worry Balum! I can convince people especially my family to come to my house on the day of the party." Berli answered, and he smiled.

Berli began to prepare all his son's wedding preparations in great luxury. In another place, Ferli and Kevin were increasingly confused about whether they would return to their homes or stay in their boarding house. They also tried to save their money because their parents could not word because of the virus.

"Kevin, do you want to exercise with me tomorrow?" Feni asked when she saw Kevin.

Kevin just nodded lazily because he felt jealous of seeing Feni with the other man. Kevin did not know that the man is Feni's classmate. After Feni did her homework with her classmate, she left the cafe early because she wanted to continue her writing and send it to the publisher.

Feni checked her phone that given by her mother before she continued her study to the university. Feni was shocked when she read bad news that the society in her village could not work outside because of the virus and it was getting worse than before. Exactly, Feni also got an announcement to keep her distance with other people, but they could work as usual.



"What happened to you Kevin?" Feni asked her best friend who looked like she was upset.

"I just feel sleepy." Kevin answered without seeing Feni.

"Please tell me if you feel angry because of me and do not make me confuse with your personality changes. I feel tired too and thought about my family's condition. Do not be selfish please." Feni said and tried to avoid him, but Kevin hugged her.

"We must be patient with this condition. Forgive me because I was selfish and didn't think about your feeling." Kevin said

"They are just my classmates, and you will be my best friend although I have some new friends." Feni said trying to make Kevin believe in her.

Kevin realized that Feni just regarded him as her best friend, and he hoped that Feni would get a better man for her future.

"My Mom called me yesterday and told that the condition in our village is worse than before." Kevin said and Feni just smiled. Feni was confused about the police and Minister's purpose and tried to stay calm.

The society knew about the minister's planning, that is Balum and Berli to arrange a wedding party, and they were angry because of the minister's behavior. All the farmers especially Sanah, Dona, Feri, and Noval started going to the field, and the police came again.

"What are you doing here?" the police asked, and Balum stood beside him.

"We don't want to be fooled by you." The society answered together.

"What do you mean?" Balum asked

"You ordered us to work from home, but your friend, Berli, will arrange a wedding party. Don't you feel afraid because of the virus?" Sanah said because she could not hold her anger anymore.

"We have children, and they need money. If we work from home, how to get much money? Will you give us money?" Dona asked.

The society threw pebbles to the police and ministers until Balum and Berli apologized for their mistake and promised that they would cancel the wedding party. On that day, Balum as the minister decided to let the society went to the field as long as they could keep themselves from the virus.

Dona, Feri, Noval, and Sanah started to work again and looked for much money. Before leaving the society, Balum and Berli gave them some foods until the society could forgive them.

Rosehill

By Anisa Khoirun Fauziah

Sastra telah membuatku menelan mentah-mentah rasa candu yang disajikan setiap lembar buku yang kubuka. Aku menemukan kembali buku legenda lama yang dulu sering kubaca bersama ayah sebagai dongeng sebelum tidur. Legenda Rosehill.

... Tetapi sang ratu mulai sekarat karena racun yang tidak sengaja ia minum itu. Lambat laun kesadarannya pun hilang dan pada akhirnya Sang Ratu dijemput oleh kematian. Seluruh kerajaan merasa kehilangan yang teramat sangat atas meninggalnya sang ratu. Tak dapat dipungkiri Sang Raja jua, ia mulai mengurung diri di dalam kamar dan merenung dalam kesendirian. Tak ada yang tahu apa yang menghantuiinya pada malam-malam yang panjang. Ia berteriak dalam gelap malam yang hening membangunkan seluruh isi kastil. Dalam hitungan hari, Sang Raja pun menyusul Ratu menuju alam keabadian.

Seluruh anggota kerajaan gempar karena berita tersebut. Memang sudah rahasia umum kalau sang Raja mencintai Sang Ratu

dengan teramat sangat. Semua anggota pejabat teratas kerajaan mulai kebingungan dengan kekosongan tahta saat itu. Satu-satunya keturunan yang tersisa hanyalah putri mereka yang masih berumur 17 tahun. Walaupun cukup berumur dan cukup dewasa untuk ukuran usia pada masa itu, banyak orang yang meragukannya jika harus naik tahta di usia semuda itu, apalagi ia terkenal sebagai gadis yang tidak terlalu ramah untuk seusianya. Namun tidak ada pilihan lain, tahta adalah tahta. Dan Gadis itu harus menerima tanggung jawab yang besar itu selama sisa hidupnya....

Aku membalik beberapa halaman untuk melihat ending dari cerita ini ketika menemukan kata yang menarik perhatianku, "mawar". Aku pun mulai membaca bagian itu.

... Salah satu daerah yang memiliki banyak jenis mawar adalah perbukitan Rosehill. Satu bukit penuh dengan mawar berbagai jenis dan indah. Banyak orang yang datang hanya sekedar ingin melihatnya secara langsung. Di saat yang sama, Ratu juga mulai membuka taman bunga kerajaan untuk umum. Namun tempat itu tidak terlalu diminati oleh masyarakat karena tidak secantik Rosehill. Sang Ratu marah dan mengutus para pengawalnya untuk menghancurkan Rosehill. Pada akhirnya semua tanaman di sana hancur tak tersisa, termasuk mawar langka yang dirawat oleh masyarakat setempat. Mawar itu berwarna salem dengan aroma yang dapat tercium dari kejauhan...

Ayahku selalu bercerita, waktu aku masih kecil, bahwa jika aku mendapat mawar itu dari seorang lelaki, ia mungkin menjadi jodohku untuk selamanya. Aku menutup buku segera begitu menyadari jarum jam di tanganku menunjukkan pukul 5

sore. Aku mulai berlari kembali ke rumah untuk membantu ayah mengeluarkan roti dari oven. Di sepanjang jalan, kalimat-kalimat dari legenda itu masih bergaung di kepalamku. Aku sama sekali tidak percaya dengan mitos apa pun yang didengungkan orang-orang mengenai mawar itu, segelas madu di musim semi, atau apa pun. Sama seperti cerita tentang legenda asal usul kota kecilku Rosehill ini, aku hanya menganggapnya sebagai hiburan saja. Karena nyatanya, tidak ada bukti sejarah mana pun yang menuliskan tentang taman bunga mawar di bukit Rosehill ini. Aku hanya menyukai keindahan bahasa yang terdapat dalam buku itu dan menikmati setiap alunan cerita yang bergaung lembut di kepalamku.

Aku menelusuri jalan menuju rumahku yang sekaligus toko roti di pusat kota. Jalanan mulai ramai ketika senja tiba. Orang-orang berjalan berpasangan maupun beramai-ramai.

Namaku RennetJobsky. Sekarang berada di tingkat akhir di SMA. Kotaku ini, Rosehill, kecil dan damai. Semua orang ramah dan lingkungan masih sangat hijau melihat letaknya di daerah perbukitan. Tetapi fasilitas tempat umum masih belum memadai. Sebagai contoh tidak ada kampus di kota Rosehill. Anak-anak sebaya denganku lebih memilih untuk pergi ke luar kota dan kuliah di kota-kota besar. Banyak di antara mereka yang bahkan tidak kembali lagi kesitu karena sudah memiliki penghidupan yang menyenangkan.

Aku kembali ke rumah dan mendapati ayahku telah selesai mengeluarkan semua roti dari panggangan bersama adikku, Jeane. Kuputuskan untuk menyusup ke dapur dan

membantu ibu membuat makan malam. Keluargaku memiliki toko roti terlezat di seluruh Rosehill. Kami punya banyak pelanggan tetap.

“Kau memancing di tepi sungai lagi kali ini?” Tanya Jeane, adikku. Jeane menggunakan kata ‘memancing’ untuk menggambarkan kebiasaanku membacabuku di tepi kanal pinggiran kota dan menikmati senja.

“Ya, aku menemukan tempat yang lebih nyaman kali ini.” Kataku riang.

“Biar kutebak..” Jeane berpura-pura berpikir dan menempelkan jarinya ke dagu, “...Emmm... Di dekat rumah James?” katanya setengah berteriak.

Tanganku dengan refleks menutup mulutnya dengan serbet yang kupegang. Dia memberontak dan menarik lepas tanganku. Jeane menyemburkan serbet yang masuk ke mulutnya.

“Diam kau!” Kataku setengah berbisik dan melotot ke arahnya. Tangan kananku mengacungkan kepalan di depan muka Jeane.

“Apaaa??.. Itu benar?” Katanya menutup mulut. “Aku hanya menebak.” Ia tertawa.

“Apa?.. Tidak. Tentu saja tidak.” Jawabku.

“Lalu kenapa kau memalingkan muka?”

“Diam!”

“Kembali...”

“Pergi kau!”

“Kemari.. atau aku akan berteriak pada ibu..” Dia terkikik.

Aku setengah jalan menuju ruang makan, menoleh ke arah Jeane, dan melotot ke arahnya sekali lagi. Tatapanku mengisyaratkan kepadanya untuk diam. Ia masih terkikik bahkan begitu duduk di meja makan.

James Hodray adalah salah satu pelanggan tetap di toko kami. Dia satu angkatan denganku di sekolah. Aku mulai menyukainya sejak pertama kali ia pindah ke sini, setahun yang lalu. Sejak saat itu aku selalu mengambil semua kesempatan yang kupunya untuk melayaninya di toko. Dia selalu membeli kue pada malam hari ketika pulang dari les. Ia sering membeli kue coklat dengan taburan almonduntuknya dan taburan kismis untuk ibunya.

Selesai makan malam, aku kembali ke toko untuk berjaga. Sekarang akhir pekan, yang berarti akan banyak pelanggan yang datang. Dan benar saja, begitu aku duduk untuk mengantikan ayahku, segerombolan anak muda masuk dan memesan kue. Aku dan ibuku kewalahan karenanya. Ditambah lagi dengan adanya pertunjukan orkes jalanan yang sering tampil di pinggir jalanan di depan toko kami membuat semakin banyak orang yang berkerumun.

Setelah malam yang berat, waktu menunjukkan pukul 10 malam, pengunjung mulai berkurang. Akhirnya kami bisa beristirahat sejenak. Aku duduk melamun di meja kasir setelah memberikan pesanan terakhir. Mataku terpaku ke jendela besar

yang mengarah langsung ke jalanan. Satu dua orang nampak berjalan santai pulang. Imajinasiku membawaku ke suatu kondisi yang kudambakan selama ini. Kulihat James baru saja pulang menggendong tas ransel abu-abunya. Ia melihatku di balik jendela, tersenyum lebar dan melambaikan tangan ke arahku. Aku berdiri seketika. Jantungku berdegup kencang. Rasa bahagia dan hangat menyeruak ke seluruh tubuhku. Ia memasuki pintu dengan pelan tapi tegap. Wajahnya tertutup dibalik topinya. Ia mendekat ke arahku. Namun ketika ia mengangkat topinya, senyum di wajahku mulai memudar. Perlahan tapi pasti kenyataan yang tadinya kabur mulai terlihat jelas. Fakta bahwa orang di depanku ternyata bukan James telah memberikan pukulan keras di dadaku. Pria ini tersenyum lebar ke arahku. Begitu aku mendekatinya, matanya menyiratkan kebingungan.

“Apa?” Tanyanya bingung.

“Kenapa kau disini, John?” Tanyaku.

“Memangnya kenapa kalau aku kesini?” Tanya JohnathanCardew, sahabatku sejak kecil.

Aku mengambil topinya dari tangannya dan memukul lengannya dengan topi itu. Karena tubuhnya yang jangkung, akan membuatku kesulitan untuk memukul ujung kepalanya.

Aku duduk disalah satu kursi pelanggan yang kosong. Cemberut.

“Kukira kau James.” Kataku. John menghela nafas.

“Berhenti memikirkannya. Ayo ikut aku. Ini malam Minggu, jangan hanya cemberut di sini.” Sebelum aku membalaucapannya, tanganku sudah ditarik olehnya.

“Bibi, anakmu ikut denganku yaa?” Teriak John kepada Ibuku yang sedang menghitung uang hari ini. Ibu hanya mengangguk tanpa menoleh karena sudah mengenal John sejak kecil. Aku menanggalkan celemekku dan mengikuti John.

John membawaku ke pusat kota untuk melihat pertunjukkan kembang api.

“Ada acara apa hari ini?” Tanyaku.

“Peresmian Museum Pusat di Weelingston.” Jawabnya singkat sambil membaringkan badan di atas rumput taman. Wajahnya terlihat amat bahagia di bawah Cahaya bulan dan kembang api di langit. Mereka menyalaikan kembang api berbagai jenis hingga tengah malam.

Kami segera pulang begitu pertunjukkan kembang api selesai. Aku berjingkak di atas trotoar tepi jalan. Kedua tanganku terlentang. Di belakangku, John berceloteh tentang hasil panen jagung hari ini yang melimpah. Itulah sebabnya ia sangat bahagia waktu di taman tadi. John satu tahun lebih tua dariku, ia memilih membantu ayahnya di ladang dibanding pergi untuk kuliah walaupun ia mampu. Karena hanya ayahnyalah satu-satunya keluarga yang John miliki.

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Keesokan harinya, aku duduk di belakang rumah masih membaca buku yang sama, Legenda Rosehill. Secangkir teh

hangat menemani pagiku yang indah. Karena hari libur, banyak orang yang memilih melanjutkan tidur mereka, sehingga jalanan di sekitar rumah masih begitu sepi. Aku membuka-buka halaman-halaman buku secara sekilas. Sesekali mengamati gambar ilustrasi yang sangat detail dan estetik. Bunga yang digambarkan berwarna salem itu terlihat memiliki kelopak lebih banyak dan lebar daripada mawar kebanyakan. Kelopak terluar terlihat memiliki lekuk-lekuk kecil. Daunnya pun terlihat lebih besar dibandingkan mawar kebanyakan jika dilihat dari perbandingan tangan sang Ratu yang memegang bunga mawar terakhir itu. Aku kembali merenungkan tentang mitos mawar itu.

“DOOORR!!!”

Aku terlonjak dari kursiku. Buku di tanganku jatuh tergeletak.

“WOII..” Teriakkku pada John yang berteriak di belakang telingaku. Dia tertawa terbahak-bahak. Aku membungkuk mengambil buku.

“Bibi ada?” Tanyanya masih setengah tertawa.

“Mau apa kau?” Tanyaku ketus. Ia mengedikkan kepala pada kotak telur di tangannya.

“Di dapur. Masuklah.” Jawabku berpaling darinya. Aku melanjutkan membuka halaman-halaman usang buku ini. Beberapa saat kemudian, John duduk di depanku selesai mengantarkan telur.

“Kau suka cerita itu?” Ia melihat judul pada sampul buku.

“Mmm.. tentu. Bahasanya indah dan mudah dimengerti.”

“Kau juga tahu mitos tentang mawar langka itu?”

“Ya..” Jawabku singkat. “Tapi aku tidak percaya mitos itu. Mana ada mawar yang bisa membuat sepasang kekasih langgeng.” Lanjutku.

“Aku pernah melihat mawar itu di hutan.” Kata John. “Bunganya benar-benar harum, tapi tidak seperti yang digambarkan dalam legenda itu. Bunga yang kutemukan ini tidak dapat tercium pada jarak yang amat jauh.” Lanjutnya.

“Kau membual.” Kataku

“Tidak. Sungguh. Bunga ini sangat harum. Mau kucarikan besok?” tanyanya.

“Tidak, terima kasih.” Aku berhenti sesaat. “Tetapi jika James yang memberikannya kepadaku maka akan kuterima dengan senang hati.” Jawabku dengan tersenyum lebar.

“Katamu kau tidak percaya mitos itu?”

“Memang tidak. Tapi jika mawar itu sebagai lambang komitmen maka akan kuterima dengan senang hati.” John hanya menatapku tidak percaya. Beberapa saat kemudian John membuka mulut untuk bertanya.

“Kau sudah yakin ingin kuliah di bidang sastra?” Tanya John memperhatikan bukuku.



“Tentu saja. Kau tahu sendiri aku suka buku.” Aku mengangkat bukuku. “Kenapa?”

“Tii.. tidak.. maksudku.. ehmm.” John berpikir sejenak. “Itu berarti kau harus pergi ke luar kota bukan?” Tanyanya dengan suara rendah penuh keraguan.

“Ya. Ayahku sudah mengizinkanku.” Jawabku. John mengangguk pelan.

John terdiam cukup lama dan memandangi sampul bukuku.

“Kau tidak ada pekerjaan hari ini?” Tanyaku beberapa saat kemudian untuk mengalihkan pandangannya yang menggangguku.

“Tidak. Semua sudah selesai pagi ini.” Tapi John tidak mengalihkan pandangannya.

“Oh iya,” Kata John tiba-tiba, “Tadi ibumu sempat menyebut Tuan Hodray, bukankah itu ayah James?” Tanya John.

“Emm.. Iya. Tuan Hodray pemilik bangunan di blok ini. Mereka menaikkan harga sewa toko kami.” Kataku. John terbelalak. “Orang tuaku sedang kebingungan bagaimana cara membayarnya tahun ini.”

“Tentu saja mereka bingung, harga bahan produksi mulai naik drastis akhir-akhir ini, dan hasil penjualan pun tidak menentu. Ayahku juga sering mengeluhkan hal ini di rumah.”

“Iya. Hasil penjualan ke kami bahkan belum bisa menutup seluruhnya.” Kataku.

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Keesokan harinya aku bangun lebih pagi untuk mengejar James di jalan dan bersama berangkat ke sekolah. Kebiasaanku mulai berubah menjadi lebih baik semenjak menyukai James. Aku menjadi lebih banyak pergi ke perpustakaan, belajar bersamanya, bertukar buku dengannya, dan berangkat lebih pagi seperti saat ini.

Aku menyusuri jalanan pagi yang belum terlalu ramai oleh hiruk-pikuk kesibukan. Matahari mulai menyapa di balik bukit. Kabut yang menyelimuti pagi mulai memudar seiring berlalunya waktu. Kupercepat langkahku dan berbelok di tikungan. Aku melihat James yang berjalan santai di depan. Kedua tangannya berada di saku. Tas abu-abunya tersampir di bahunya. Aku memanggilnya.

“James!” Ia berbalik dan tersenyum lebar kepadaku. Langkahnya terhenti untuk menunggu lariku yang tidak seberapa cepat. Aku berjalan di sisi mengiringi langkah kakinya.

“Kau terlihat senang, Re. Ada apa hari ini?” Tanyanya.

“Hmm?.. Tidak. Tidak ada.” Aku tersenyum dalam diam. Tentu saja aku terlihat senang, berjalan di sisinya merupakan kebahagiaan bagiku.

Kami akhir-akhir ini menjadi lebih dekat semenjak James sering datang ke tokoku. Hal ini menjadi pertanyaan bagi banyak orang mengingat banyaknya perempuan di sekolahku yang menyukainya. Bagaimana tidak? James adalah definisi dari kesempurnaan itu sendiri. Ia secara tampilan fisik sungguh mempesona, kecerdasannya sudah tidak perlu diragukan lagi, dan sikapnya yang ramah membuatnya disukai banyak orang.

Kami mulai menghabiskan waktu bersama lebih sering daripada sebelumnya. Ia mengajariku matematika transformasi dan logaritma di perpustakaan hari ini. James dapat menjelaskan materi lebih jelas daripada guru mana pun. Semua yang keluar dari mulutnya terdengar dua kali lebih

mudah. Selalu berada di sampingnya terasa hangat dan nyaman. Beberapa temanku bahkan berbisik-bisik di belakang kami berdua.

Disisi lain, Jeane semakin menggodaku saat di rumah. Sahabatku John malah mengolokku dengan mengatakan bahwa James tidak cocok denganku.

“Kau tidak cocok bersamanya. Dia hanya akan mengganggu fokusmu dalam belajar karena terlalu memikirkannya.” Begitu katanya pada suatu malam di tokoku.

“Kau hanya iri karena tidak punya seseorang yang disukai.” Ejekku.

“Tentu saja aku punya.” Ia berpaling.

“Benarkah? Siapa?” Tapi dia tidak menjawab.

Hari demi hari berlalu, semua bisikan di belakang punggungku sudah kucoba untuk abaikan. Tetapi semakin aku berusaha mengabaikan mereka, semakin keras pula hinaan yang mereka lontarkan kepadaku. Tak ada satu orang pun yang bahkan bisa percaya bagaimana aku dekat dengan James. Dinilai dari segi mana pun, aku memang tidak setara dengannya. Nilai-nilaiku di sekolah, terutama matematika, pun serendah tinggi badanku. Dilihat dari sudut mana pun, wajahku tak bisa dikatakan agak cantik ataupun menarik. Oleh karenanya lah, teman-temanku di sekolah bahkan tidak percaya bahwa James mau bergaul denganku.

“Hei, Re. kau bisa bergaul dengan James pakai mantra apa?” Tanya salah satu anak di koridor sekolah.

“Hei.. Re. Apa kau sudah bercermin pagi ini?”

“Kalau tidak bawa cermin, ini pakai punyaku.”

“Kau tidak pantas bersama James. Menjauhlah!” Kata salah satu anak dengan keras.

Dan berbagai cemooh serta sindiran lain. Aku mencoba menutup telingaku dan menjauh. Walaupun tak bisa dipungkiri, dadaku terasa tersayat karena ucapan mereka. Semakin sakit dengan kenyataan bahwa teman dekatku di kelas, Thiffane dan Joana, juga mulai menjauhiku dan berhenti berbicara denganku. Mereka bahkan tidak ingin melihat ke arahku.

Beberapa hari berlalu, rasa sesak di dadaku tak tertahankan lagi. Air mata selalu mengalir di saat-saat yang melelahkan. Cacian mereka tak serta merta berhenti walaupun aku melawan. Satu-satunya temanku yang tersisa hanyalah James disini.

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Berada di tingkat akhir masa sekolah membuat kami sibuk dengan ujian dan les-les tambahan. Waktu senggang kami sangat sedikit, dan jika ada pun harus kami gunakan untuk beristirahat total. Belum lagi dengan tekanan dari persaingan yang ada dan persiapan untuk masuk perguruan tinggi yang tak mudah.

Dengan semua tekanan yang ada, James selalu ada di sampingku untuk mensupportku dan membantuku. Ia selalu

membantuku dalam belajar dan mempersiapkan diri untuk ujian kelulusan dan ujian masuk perguruan tinggi.

Aku tetap tidak boleh selalu mengandalkan James untuk membantuku. Ia juga punya kesibukan sendiri. Ujian pun sudah di depan mata, orang tua James menyuruhnya untuk fokus belajar demi ujian kelulusan dan ujian masuk perguruan tinggi. Karenanya akan sangat sulit menemui James akhir-akhir ini kecuali dia sedang belajar di perpustakaan atau di kelas.

Beberapa minggu sebelum ujian akhir, aku mendapatkan James sedang belajar di sudut Perpustakaan kota. Aku mendatanginya untuk menemaninya.

“James.” Panggilku pelan ketika mendekati meja.

“Ya?” Ia menengok ke arahku, sedikit terkejut. “Oh kau Re. Mau belajar?”

“Ya...” Aku duduk di depannya dan membuka buku bahasa Inggris yang kubawa. Aku mengamati wajah James. Ia terlihat lebih penat daripada biasanya. Lingkaran hitam tipis mulai terlihat di sekitar kedua matanya. Sorot matanya pun menyiratkan keletihan yang ia rasakan. Aku memutuskan untuk tidak mengganggunya. Ia telah berusaha begitu keras.

Setelah beberapa saat, ia menyadari sesuatu dan bangun dari kursinya.

“Ada apa?” Tanyaku

“Ahh.. sudah jam 5 lebih. Aku harus pulang kali ini.” Katanya sambil melihat arloji di pergelangan tangannya.

“Ohh.. Umm.. Oke.” Kataku. Kami membereskan buku-buku kami dan berjalan keluar bersama. Sebuah mobil sedan mewah berhenti di depan kami. Seorang wanita yang sepertinya Ibu James mengamatiku dari ujung kaki hingga ujung rambut. Ia melempariku tatapan sinis ketika James berpamitan denganku dan masuk ke mobil.

Sikap James mendadak berubah drastis keesokan paginya. Ia tidak menyapa balik ketika kupanggil. Senyumannya yang ramah pun mulai pudar. Ia meninggalkanku sendirian di koridor bersama tawa cemoohan dari orang-orang di sekitarku. Semua orang mulai tertawa puas ketika melihat, yang pada akhirnya James menyadari siapa dia dan siapa diriku, serta jurang dalam yang terbentang diantara kita berdua.

Tak berhenti sampai disitu, amarah ayahku menggema di ruang makan ketika aku menginjakkan kaki masuk. Ibuku dan adikku tak bisa berbuat banyak.

“Kau anak yang tak tahu diri! Apa yang sudah kau lakukan di luar sana, heh?” Sembur ayahku. Suaranya memenuhi seluruh rumah. Pisau dapur teracung di tangannya. Tubuhku terpaku diam tak bisa bergerak. Ketakutan menjalar di seluruh tubuh.

“Tuan Hodray baru saja kemari.” Ayah berhenti sejenak. “Dan mengatakan bahwa kau telah membuat anaknya kacau.” Kata Ayah yang sedang menahan amarah.

“A-Apa?” Aku mencoba membuka mulut.

“Apa yang kau lakukan padanya, eh? Dia mengancam akan mengancam akan mengusir kita jika kau masih mengacau anak itu.” Kata ayahku. Wajahnya memerah karena amarah yang memuncak.

“Tapi aku tidak mengacau. A-akuu..” Kata-kataku terputus.

“Menjauh darinya, oke? Keluarga ini sudah sangat kesulitan tanpa kau membuat masalah lagi.” Ayahku mencoba mengendalikan amarahnya dan berbalik masuk.

Ibu dan adikku yang berada di ruangan yang sama, terdiam. Terlalu takut untuk berbicara. Ucapan ayahku merupakan tamparan keras bagiku. Air mataku tak kuasa terbendung lagi, mengalir deras di pipiku. Aku berlari keluar.

Jalanan sore yang sedang ramai kuterobos begitu saja, membabi buta, tanpa melihat apa yang kutabrak. Tanpa berhenti untuk meminta maaf. Diriku dipenuhi emosi yang selama ini sedang coba kutahan. Tak ada lagi kekuatan untuk membendung air mata ini. Berlari tanpa tujuan, kakiku memilih jalannya sendiri. Sepanjang jalan menangis tanpa henti. Meratapi kesalahan dan cobaan-cobaan yang sepertinya terus dihantamkan ke arahku. Kakiku membawaku sampai di sudut kota yang cukup sepi. Jembatan di dekat tempatku membaca sebelumnya. Matahari sore menggantung di ufuk barat garis cakrawala. Aku menangis sejadi-jadinya. Meratapi semua cobaan yang menimpaku akhir-akhir ini. Tak ada lagi tempat bagiku untuk pulang. Tak ada teman yang mau bersamaku lagi. Orang tuaku mengira aku telah mengganggu

James. James bahkan mulai menjauhiku. Semua yang kualami membawaku kepada titik terendah dalam hidup.

Beberapa saat kemudian, terlintas di pikiranku untuk menemui John. Mungkin dia bisa membantuku. Aku melangkah gontai menuju rumah John. Perjalanan ke sana terasa amat panjang dan lama. Tak terhitung lagi sudah berapa banyak langkah yang kuambil. Tenagaku terasa terkuras habis sore ini. Sesampainya di rumah John, ia sedang menaikkan karung jagung terakhir ke dalam truk dan duduk setelah truk itu pergi. Aku melangkahkan kaki ke arahnya. John menyadari keberadaanku, melambaikan tangan. Senyum yang merekah di wajahnya menghilang seketika begitu aku masuk ke lingkaran cahaya lampu neon di atasnya.

“Rennet, Apa yang terjadi?” Ia bertanya, mengguncangkan bahu yang lemas. “Duduklah. Kuambilkan minum.” Ia kembali dengan segelas teh hangat di tangannya.

“Kau kenapa? Pucat sekali. Kau menangis?” Ia mengamati wajahku lebih dekat.

Aku menceritakan semua kejadian yang selama ini kualami sesingkat mungkin. Mulai dari teman-temanku yang menjauhiku karena aku dekat dengan James, hinaan yang kuterima sepanjang hari, orang tuaku yang hampir diusir karena aku dituduh telah mengganggu anak Tuan Hodray, amarah ayahku, bahkan James yang mulai mengabaikanku. John mendengarkanku dengan tenang dan saksama walaupun di tengah tangis dan sesenggukanku yang tak bisa berhenti.

John menenangkanku. Setelah beberapa saat ia menyuruhku minum dan mulai berkata,

“Itu semua sungguh sangat berat, Re. Kau hebat bisa melaluinya selama ini.” Aku terharu mendengarnya berkata seperti itu padaku. Aku menyesap teh ku dan dia melanjutkan.

“Tolong jangan tersinggung dulu. Tapi kau memang tidak pantas untuk bersama James.” Sebuah petir baru saja menyambarku. Aku menatapnya tajam.

“Apa maksudmu berkata seperti itu?” Kataku.

“Tolong duduk dulu, biar kujelaskan.” Tetapi aku menyambar tasku lebih cepat dari gapaian tangannya.

“Re.. Rennet! Re..!!” Aku berlari menjauh. Aku tidak mengerti jalan pikirannya. Apa yang dia pikirkan? Agar semakin membuatku terpuruk?

Aku berjalan menuju taman kota. Satu-satunya tempat yang tersisa dimana aku dapat merasa tenang. Aku duduk di salah satu bangku dan menatap bintang. Aku tidak ingin pulang ke rumah. Semakin aku memikirkan tentang ucapan ayahku, semakin sakit pula kata-kata itu berdering di kepalamku.

“Ree?” sebuah suara memanggilku dari belakang punggung. Aku berbalik dan menemukan James dengan kemeja biru cerah dan kantong plastik di tangannya.

“J-James?” Kataku. Kuseka air mata di pipi. Aku tidak bisa mempercayai mataku sendiri. Ia duduk di sampingku dengan tenang. Sesekali melihat sekitar.

“Sorry.” Katanya singkat. Aku menunggunya dalam kebingungan. “Karena telah mengabaikanmu pagi tadi. Aku tak punya pilihan lain. Ayahku mengancam akan mengusir keluarga kalian jika aku masih bergaul denganmu.” Kata-kata itu mengalir pelan dalam telingaku dan diikuti pemahamanku yang lambat.

“Apa?” Kata itu mengalir keluar begitu saja. Aku segera menutup mulut.

“Ayahku kemarin juga bilang bahwa ia sudah mengingatkan ayahmu akan hal ini. Tapi sepertinya bukan peringatan yang halus, bukan?” Ia menatapku dan mengamati wajahku yang letih dan mata nanar.

“Oh.. Emm.” Aku kehilangan kata-kata.

“Maaf, mungkin kita tidak bisa sering bertemu saat ini. Akan berdampak buruk bagimu.” Lanjutnya. Kelegaan yang luar biasa kurasakan dalam hati. Semua rasa bersalah, berat, dan sedih mulai terangkat. Segalanya terasa ringan dan indah. Aku tidak memercayai apa yang kudengar. Selama ini kukira James membenciku. Ia berdiri untuk berpamitan denganku.

“Baiklah.. Jangan lama-lama sedihnya. Ini.” Dia memberikan sebatang coklat kepadaku. “Aku membelinya terlalu banyak tadi.” Senyum merekah di wajahnya. Senyum yang selama ini kurindukan, kudambakan, dan terasa hampir seabad lamanya aku tidak melihat senyuman itu.

“Aku pergi dulu.” Ia melambai dan berlalu. Perasaanku tak lagi sama. Sebuah rasa cinta yang lebih besar meluap tak

terkendali untuk orang yang baru saja berbelok di tikungan itu. Rasa haru dan terima kasih yang tak bisa kujelaskan muncul dan mengangkat semua beban berat yang selama ini hinggap di hatiku. Senyuman yang tulus itu masih tergambar jelas dalam benakku.

Aku pulang dengan langkah ringan dan penuh semangat lagi. Sudah kuputuskan untuk belajar lebih keras lagi agar bisa diterima oleh keluarga James. Akan kupatahkan pendapat John, bahwa aku pantas untuk bersama James, aku pantas untuk bersanding dengannya. Akan kusumpali mulut-mulut teman-teman sekolahku dengan bukti nyata prestasiku.

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Hasil belajar kerasku selama berminggu-minggu membawa hasil. Tidak pernah kubayangkan aku dapat memperoleh hasil yang cukup memuaskan dalam ujian akhir ini. Nilai rata-rata 8,8 adalah pencapaian tertinggi dalam sejarah hidupku, mengingat sulitnya untuk mendapatkan nilai yang sempurna dalam ujian. Aku juga masuk peringkat sepuluh besar. Keluargaku tidak menyangka sekaligus sangat bangga. Teman-temanku hanya terbelalak dengan hasil nilai yang keluar. James juga sangat bangga dengan hasil pencapaianku yang hebat tanpa bantuan siapa pun. Kami masih sering menyapa melalui tatapan mata setiap kali bertemu, untuk menghindari siapa pun mengetahui kedekatan kami berdua dan mengadu kepada orang tua James.

Dengan ini, beberapa hal yang perlu kulalui hanyalah upacara kelulusan dan ujian masuk perguruan tinggi. Dengan

euphoria yang ada, semua itu berjalan dengan cepat. Upacara kelulusan tepat berada di depan mata. James, yang tentu saja mendapatkan nilai tertinggi 9,8, menyusun naskah untuk pidatonya.

Di sisi lain, John hingga saat ini masih mencoba untuk menemuiku. Namun aku menolak mentah-mentah permintaannya, walaupun ia memohon pada ibuku.

“Tidak.” kataku tegas, ketika ibu memintaku untuk memikirkannya lagi.

“John sudah beberapa hari datang kesini.” Ibuku melanjutkan. Namun keputusanku tak mudah digugat.

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Tibalah hari yang ditunggu-tunggu, upacara kelulusan. Aku berangkat ke sekolah dengan wajah berbinar. Orang tuaku dan adikku juga datang. Mereka duduk di kursi yang disediakan, sedangkan aku duduk di kursi siswa di depan panggung. Mataku berkeliling mencari sosok James yang belum juga terlihat.

Beberapa saat duduk menunggu, aku melihat James datang bersama kedua orang tuanya. Salah satu hal yang menarik perhatianku adalah seorang gadis cantik yang merangkul tangan James. Aku bertanya-tanya, apakah James selama ini punya adik? Sepertinya iya, karena ia sangat akrab dengan ibu James. Senyum tulus ibu James yang selama ini tidak pernah kulihat, merekah di wajahnya.

James duduk hanya beberapa baris di depanku. Aku mendekatinya dan bertanya, “Dia adikmu?” tanyaku dalam bisikan tepat di telinganya.

“Hai Re. Kau sudah datang?” Aku hanya mengangguk, “Oh bukan, dia pacarku yang baru saja pulang dari sekolahnya California.” Lanjutnya.

Dadaku terasa seperti ditonjok oleh sesuatu yang keras. Aku hanya bisa tersenyum dan kembali ke tempat dudukku. Sisa acara yang seharusnya dibanjiri oleh perasaan bahagia hanya bisa kuraskan rasa perih dan hampa. Aku harus melalui masa berat, perasaan dibanting, sekali lagi.

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Itu merupakan pukulan terhebat yang kudapatkan selama ini. Menangis berhari-hari karena cinta yang ternyata selama ini bertepuk sebelah tangan tak dapat dipungkiri kutelan mentah-mentah. Tentang harapan konyol yang kudambakan. Tentang suatu kemungkinan yang sangat mustahil. Aku tak lagi bernafsu pada dunia. Diriku saat ini terasa hampa, kosong. Tatapan nanar selalu tampak di setiap harinya. Air mataku sudah tak bisa lagi keluar betapa pun sakitnya hatiku.

Aku merasa bodoh terhadap apa yang selama ini aku lakukan selama ini. Benar-benar bodoh. Aku tidak bisa melihat dimana titik terang dari masalahku kali ini. Perasaan malu dan menyesal sekaligus tersayat belati benar-benar nyata terasa. Aku membenturkan kepalaiku pada genggaman tanganku sendiri berkali-kali pada malam harinya.

Putus asa dengan semua usaha yang kulakukan, aku berjalan di tengah dinginnya malam. Kakiku membawaku lebih jauh daripada biasanya, suatu tempat dari masa laluku. Tempat bermain favoritku semasa kecil, bukit Rosehill. Tetapi di bukit ini hanya ada rumput hijau segar sejauh mata memandang, tidak ada satu pun tumbuhan bunga mawar seperti yang diceritakan dalam buku. Kenangan akan tempat ini mengingatkanku pada John. Kata-kata terakhir John masih tertera jelas dalam anganku. “Kau memang tidak pantas untuk bersama James”. Setelah kupikir-pikir, ia ada benarnya juga. Mungkin sejak awal John sudah mengetahui ujung ceritaku ini.

Aku menarik nafas dalam berusaha menguatkan diri. Mencoba menghirup sebanyak mungkin kedamaian yang mungkin disediakan oleh udara segar di sekitarku. Aku mulai memahami mengenai fakta bahwa pada akhirnya satu-satunya orang yang dapat ku andalkan di dunia ini hanyalah diriku sendiri. Ayah dan ibuku jelas menolak mentah-mentah hubunganku dengan James. Orang tua James juga sangat membenciku. Dan yang paling parah ternyata, James tidak memiliki rasa apa pun terhadapku. Ia bahkan sudah memiliki Pacar. Aku tak punya kesempatan apa pun. Selama ini aku memperjuangkan apa? Tersesat. Itulah satu-satunya kata yang dapat mewakiliku kali ini. Aku tak lagi mampu untuk melihat jalan hidup yang sudah digariskan Tuhan. Tak ada lagi harapan. Semuanya gelap.

Wajahku terbenam diantara kedua kakiku saat aku mendengar ada seseorang yang mendekat. Ketakutan mulai menguasai. Aku memberanikan diri menoleh ke belakang.

Siapa tau dia ternyata seorang penjahat. Sosoknya hitam dan tinggi di bawah bayang- bayang rimbunnya pepohonan. Ia semakin mendekat. Aku mencoba bangun dan menjauh. Namun kakiku gemetar hebat. Jantungku berdegup kencang. Ia semakin mendekat.

“Re.” Suaranya yang rendah dan dalam terdengar familiar di telingaku.

Aku mengamati sosok itu. Ia kemudian masuk dalam pencahayaan bulan. John. Nafas lega segera memenuhi paru-paruku. “Astaga.. Kau membuatku ketakutan setengah mati.”

Ia mendekat, berhenti tetapi tidak duduk. Ia hanya menatapku. Wajahnya yang tertunduk tertutup bayang tak bisa kutafsirkan sebagai senang, sedih, ataupun terkejut.

“Bagaimana kau tahu aku disini?” Tanyaku.

“Aku kebetulan melihatmu berjalan lemas kemari tadi.” Ia mulai duduk disampingku. “Jadi aku mengikutimu.”

“Aku ingin pergi saja.Jauuuuh... Takkan kembali lagi.” Kataku menatap kosong pemandangan kota yang gemerlap di bawah bukit.

“Apa?” John tidak memahami ucapanku. “APA?!” serunya sedetik kemudian. “Kau mau bunuh diri? Kau sudah gila ya?”

“Apa aku masih nampak waras bagimu?” Kataku menatap matanya. Ia tak bisa berkata apapun. Nampaknya ia sudah mengetahui tentang James dan pacarnya dari Jeane.

“Kau hanya mengalami masa yang sulit. Jangan bodoh dengan berpikir pendek seperti itu. Semuanya tak bisa kau selesaikan hanya dengan bunuh diri. Selama ini kau terlalu terpaku pada James. Itulah yang membuatmu buta. Bukalah matamu, carilah orang yang baru. Kau juga berhak bahagia.”

Semua ucapannya hanya mengalun lambat dalam telingaku. Perlahan aku mencoba memahami kata-katanya.

“Ayo kuantar kau pulang.” Aku hanya berjalan pongah seadanya. Namun John dengan sabar mendekapku agar aku tidak melakukan hal-hal yang tidak wajar.

Beberapa minggu berlalu, waktu yang kulalui dengan mengurung diri di dalam rumah dan tak bernyawa sudah mulai lepas. Aku mencoba menerima keadaan yang ada. Aku mencoba mencintai diriku sendiri dan membawa diriku pada kebebasan seperti sedia kala. Berjalan di bukit Rosehill membuatku merasa lebih tenang. Dengan semua hembusan angin, rimbun pepohonan, dan melodi alam yang mengalun di sekitarku membawa efek yang dramatis. Ditambah dengan semua kenangan dan legenda ataupun histori yang tertanam di balik akar-akar rerumputan disini, tak pelak membuatku merasa spesial.

Aku duduk di salah satu batu besar menghadap langsung ke arah kota di bawah. Memejamkan mata dan tersenyum. Tak ada alasan khusus apa yang membuatku tersenyum, rasa syukur bahwa aku memiliki diriku dan orang yang mensupport kumungkin jadi salah satunya.

Aroma harum dan menyegarkan terasa asing tetapi nyaman terlintas di depanku. Kubuka mata dan menemukan setangkai bunga mawar berwarna salem teracungdidepan wajah. Daunnya masih segar dan lebat, kelopak bunganya penuh dan lebat membuat bunga ini lebih mempesona.

“Semoga bunga ini bukan hanya mitos.” Ucap John yang tiba-tiba duduk di sampingku.

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The Equal of Relationship

By Iga Razani K.

“Kita nanti nikahnya mau gimana Ben?” tanya Anya kepada Beno,

Pria yang telah menjadi tunangannya selama satu tahun dan pacarnya selama hamper 10 tahun. Sebenarnya Anya dan Beno sudah saling kenal hampir 14 tahun. Mereka duduk dibangku yang sama ketika SMP dan ketika SMA memutuskan untuk berpacaran. Selama satu tahun belakangan ini Anya harus puas hanya bisa bertatap muka dengan Beno lewat video call karena dirinya mendapat tugas kerja ke New York selama hampir setahun, padahal tahun depan mereka sudah merencanakan pernikahan.

“Gimana Ben, jawab dong, yang nikah kan kita berdua?” Tanya Anya lagi. Beno yang sifatnya memang penurut hanya bisa mengangguk – ngangguk bingung.

“Hmm, gimana ya yang, kan udah tahun 2019 udahlah kita nyewa WO aja” kata Beno dengan pasrah.

“Yahh Ben, WO sekarang tuh mahal banget, kita nyusun sendiri aja biar agak murah, nanti kan uang sisanya bisa dibuat bikin rumah.” Jawab Anya.

Anya itu walaupun penghasilannya diatas rata – rata tetap saja hemat, pemikirannya kedepan jadi semuannya udah di wanti – wanti sama Anya . Sedangkan Beno, dia praktis, jadi kalau ada yang mudah kenapa dibuat susah.

“Gini lo Anya sayang, kalau kita nyusun sendiri tuh nanti kamunya pusing, marah – marah, akunya juga ikut bingung. Makanya, kita sewa wedding organizer aja yang udah pasti. Kita tinggal bayar, nunggu dan jadi deh. Masalah uangtenang aja, aku udah siapin semuanya kok.” Jawab Beno dengan tegas.

Anya hanya bisa tersenyum pasrah. “Iya deh.”

Jam menunjukan pukul enam pagi, sedangkan di New York pukul enam sore, perbedaan waktu kadang membuat mereka susah berkomunikasi, tapi Beno selalu memastikan kalau mereka berdua setiap hari harus bisa saling memberi kabar atau video call seperti sekarang ini.

Beno terlihat sedang berdiri memakai kemejanya, terlihat rapi tanda kalau dia akan berangkat kerja.

“Aku sebentar lagi mau berangkat kerja, udah dulu ya yang. Nanti sore lanjut lagi ya”

“Bye, drive safely and be careful, love you Ben” Anya tersenyum dengan melambaikan tangannya sambil menutup video call mereka.

“Love you too Nya”

Macet. Macet di Jakarta, apalagi hari senin selalu diwarnai dengan kemacetan yang panjang. Yang bisa Beno lakukan hanyalah mendengarkan Podcast untuk menambah mood agar terhindar dari kebosanan dikala macet ini. Beno bekerja di Perusahaan Star-up dibidang IT, bidangnya sebagai design grafis padahal dia lulusan Teknik sipil. Hobi menggambarnya lebih membuatnya senang daripada harus bersusah payah dengan proyek bangunan sesuai dengan kuliahnya.

Kegiatan rutin Beno hanya seputar pekerjaan dan Anya, tunangannya. Tinggal lima bulan lagi Anya pulang dan mereka akan menggelar pernikahan pada bulan Juni 2020, tidak ada hal semenyenangkan yang bisa Beno pikirkan saat ini selain kenyataan bahwa mereka akan menikah. Beno jadi ingat masa – masa SMP dan SMAnya yang hanya diwarnai tugas sekolah dan Anya. Beno dan Anya sangat berbeda. Beno hanya pemuda biasa yang rajin dan pintar yang kehidupannya hanya berputar tentang lomba matematika, menggambar dan belajar. Bertolak belakang dengan Beno, Kehidupan Anya sangatlah bervariasi, dia merupakan salah satu murid yang aktif di organisasi sekolah, dia juga aktif dalam olahraga, terutama olahraga renang. Anya juga merupakan anggota cheerleader yang mana

membuatnya terkenal di sekolah. Hal inilah yang kadang membuat orang heran dan kagum dengan hubungan Anya dan Beno yang awet hingga 10 tahun ini.

Lamunan Beno buyar ketika mobilnya memasuki halaman parkir gedung perusahaannya. Beno memasuki gedung dengan santai, dia memikirkan schedulenya yang padat hari ini, seperti menyelesaikan design untuk kliennya lalu rapat dengan klien baru yang lain. Dari semua hal itu, yang paling ditunggu adalah menelfon Anya lagi.

“Pagi Ben” sapa Rio teman sejawatnya dari masa SMA sampai kerja saat ini.

“Pagi juga, eh kemaren gimana rapat sama klien? Mereka fix tanda tangan kontrak sama kita? Tanya Beno penasaran.

Klien yang satu ini sangatlah berharga untuk perusahaan star-up tempat Beno kerja, karena mereka akan bekerja sama full untuk design dan iklan perusahaan mereka.

“Alhamdulillah, beres” sontak keduanya berhigh-five ria sambil tertawa bersama. Kabar baik untuk mengawali hari di senin yang suram ini.

Sebagai seorang design grafis, Beno harus memastikan kliennya puas dengan hasil yang ia kerjakan. Beno harus memastikan setiap detail dari design yang dibuat harus sesuai dengan permintaan klien. Hal ini lah yang menjadi salah satu

kesuksesan Beno. Dia pekerja keras dan selalu teliti dalam mengambil tindakan.

“Eh Ben, gimana kabar Anya? Kapan balik? Lo jadi married kan sama dia? Tanya Rio sambil mengaduk makan siangnya di kantin bersama Beno.

“Baik dia, biasa sibuk accounting, rencanannya sih balik awal April kalau enggak akhir maret.” Beno menjawab sambil menyeruput kopi panasnya.

Rio mengangguk – angguk mendengar jawaban Beno

“Terus gimana marriednya?”

“Ya gak gimana – mana, kita pake WO jadi si Anya tinggal pilih – pilih.”

“Wah, gak nyangka bentar lagi Beno Subiantoro bakalan married.” Jawab Rio sambil tertawa mengejek Beno.

Pasalnya Rio adalah salah satu teman Beno dan Anya yang melihat sejarah percintaan mereka berdua dari SMA sampai mereka tunangan dan Rio sangat mengenal bagaimana sifat Beno yang sangat tidak peka, akhirnya melamar Anya setelah 10 tahun berpacaran.

Bunyi dering telfon menghentikan aktifitas Beno, tertera nama si penelepon, Anya.

“Eh bentar, Anya telfon” Rio hanya mengacungkan jempolnya.

“Hai Nya, kok tumben jam segini telfon” Sapa Beno dengan mengerutkan dahinya.

Pasalnya Anya ini selalu tidur tepat waktu apalagi ketika hari kerja, dan saat ini jam menunjukan pukul satu siang yang mana di New York saat ini pukul satu pagi.

“Aku gak bisa tidur, jadi aku mutusin buat cari WO, dan aku barusan telfon mama. Katanya, dia punya referensi WO yang bagus, ini aku barusan lihat – lihat katalognya di website mereka, aku suka sama WO ini deh, coba kamu liat deh yang, aku udah ngirim lewat whatsapp” Jawab Anya dengan menggebu – gebu.

“Oke, nanti malam aku check ya, aku habis ini ada rapat sama klien, eh tapi Nya, *if you like that WO that's okay, I will agree with you.*”

Dari seberang sana Anya menghebuskan nafas panjang. Kebiasaan memang Beno ini, maunnya ikut saja, harusnya kan pasangan saling memberikan masukan tentang acara besar mereka. Tapi, karena Anya memang sudah sangat mengerti sifat Beno ini, jadi dia akan maklum saja.

“*No, you should check that's website and you will give your opinion about it. Oke Ben?*” jawab Anya dengan tegas.

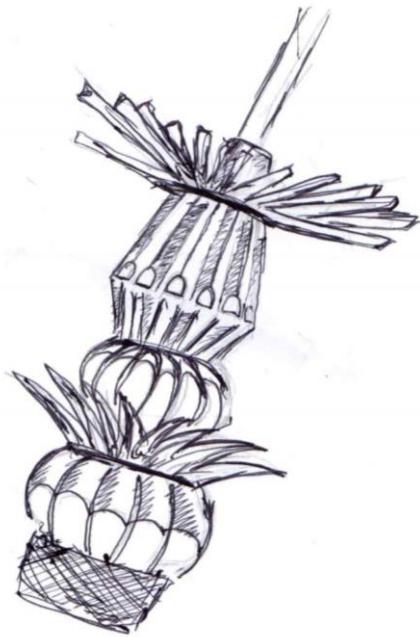
“Oh ya, tiga minggu lagi kan mau tahun baru, kamu gak mau nyusul aku kesini nih? Lanjut Anya.

“Oke – oke, soal tahun baru ya, nanti aku pikirin lagi deh, sekarang perusahaan lagi banyak klien, kalau aku tolak eman banget, lumayan feenya bisa tambah – tambah buat wedding kita”

“Hmm, Oke deh, don’t work too hard sayang, ada aku juga yang bakal kontribusi untuk dana wedding kita, oke?” Perhatian kecil Anya ini yang membuat Beno sangat sayang kepada Anya.

“*Thankyou*, udah gih kamu tidur, nanti kerja kan” perintah Beno.

“Ay, ay, siap kapten” kata Anya lalu mematikan sambungan telfon mereka.



Tak terasa sudah bulan januari 2020, Beno memutuskan tidak merayakan tahun baru bersama Anya di New York dan untungnya Anya tidak marah akan hal itu. Anya mengabari bahwa awal bulan maret dia bisa pulang ke Indonesia dan mulai mempersiapkan acara nikahan mereka. Banyak hal yang sudah terjadi di awal tahun 2020 ini. Salah satunya di Indonesia, Kota Jakarta seperti tahun - tahun sebelumnya selalu mengalami kebanjiran yang sangat parah, untungnya apartemen milik Beno tidak termasuk wilayah yang kebanjiran. Hal yang paling menjadi kekhawatiran semua orang di dunia ini termasuk Beno adalah munculnya Virus Corona. Anya yang berada di New York menjadi kekhawatiran Beno, karena pertengahan Januari pemerintah America membuat pernyataan resmi bahwa salah satu warga negaranya sudah terinfeksi virus corona atau Covid-19.

Seperti sudah kebiasaan mereka berdua sepanjang hampir satu tahun ini, mereka akan memberi kabar dengan saling menelfon atau video call seperti saat ini.

“Gimana Nya, kamu tetep bisa pulang kan awal maret?” tanya beno dengan penuh kekhawatiran.

Anya yang sedang makan, berhenti lalu menatap Beno. “Bisa kok, kalau aku gak terinfeksi ya bisa, nanti waktu pulang ke indo aku harus karantina dulu selama dua minggu, gitu sih katanya.”

“Ya jangan sampai keinfeksi dong yang, Pake masker kemana - mana, cuci tangan, gak usah ke cafe atau ke tempat

yang rame. Intinya jaga kesehatan, oke Anya?” Perintah Beno dengan penuh perhatian.

Dia sebenarnya sangat takut jika Anya terinfeksi, seperti artikel tentang covid yang dia sudah baca, disana dijelaskan kalau virus ini sangat mudah terlular lewat udara, walaupun sekarang hanya menyerang yang berada diusia 60an, tapi tetap saja hal ini membuat khawatir Beno.

“Beno sayang, calm down oke? I’ll be alright. Di Indonesia belum ada kasus ya?” Anya yang tidak mudah panik dan selalu menanggapi sesuatu hal dengan tenang, hal ini sebenarnya membuat Beno lebih tenang.

“Di sini malah aneh yang, pemerintah malah kayak gak ada waspadanya gitu sama virus ini, padahal banyak dokter yang udah protes juga” keluhan Beno ini sebenarnya sudah banyak disuarakan oleh orang – orang, tetapi pemerintah menanggapinya dengan sepele.

“Hah namanya juga Indonesia, eh iya kamu udah ngeconfirmsama Wonya kemaren? Harganya udah pas kan ya sama budget kita?”

Anya dan Beno memutuskan untuk menyewa *wedding organizer* yang dipilih mamanya Anya karena sesuai dengan budget yang dimiliki mereka berdua, juga sesuai dengan selera mereka.

“Iya aman Anya sayang, kamu kalau udah selesai sama urusan disana, cepet pulang ya”

“Kangen ya?” goda Anya dengan tawa renyahnya.

Beno hanya bisa tersenyum kalem, wajah yang dia rindukan sebentar lagi akan dia lihat lagi. Walaupun harus menunggu dua bulan lagi, tapi tak apa, dua bulan bukanlah waktu yang lama. Saat ini hal yang dia pentingkan yaitu masalah persiapan pernikahan mereka.

Awal bulan maret di Indonesia diawali dengan kasus covid-19 pertama di Indonesia. Beno dan teman - teman kantornya sudah memulai segala aktifitas dengan protokol kesehatan yang ketat. Beno sebisa mungkin menghindari kerumunan dan memilih untuk rapat online dengan para kliennya. Dari semua yang terjadi, kabar yang paling menyenangkan adalah Anya akan pulang ke Indonesia bulan maret ini. Walaupun tidak bisa bertemu langsung karena Anya harus menjalani karantina mandiri selama dua minggu, tetapi beno sudah merasa aman karena dia dan Anya sudah berada di bawah langit yang sama.

Setelah dua minggu penantian Beno akhirnya dia bisa bertemu dengan Anya setelah hampir satu tahun dia hanya bisa melihat wajah kekasihnya dibalik layar kaca. Kini, dia sedang bersiap - siap untuk pergi kerumah Anya dikawasan menteng. Dia sudah menyiapkan kue blackforest coklat kesukaan Anya dan taklupa dia jugamembawa bunga tulip favorit Anya. Perjalanan kerumah Anya dari apartement Beno memakan waktu 15 menit kalau tidak macet.

Hal pertama yang Beno lihat adalah Anya sedang menunggu kedatangannya di teras rumahnya. Terlihat cantik

dengan baju warna orange dan rambut hitam yang tergerai. Senyumnya masih sama, dengan mata indah dan fox-eyes miliknya membuat dia lebih menawan. Beno tidak bisa berhenti untuk tidak tersenyum melihat pujaan hatinya.

“Hai Beno sayang” sapa Anya dengan riang sambil merentangkan tangannya tanda ingin dipeluk.

“Bentar, cuci tangan dulu” Beno dengan isengnya lebih memilih ke taman sebelah rumah Anya yang sudah disediakan wastafel. Bagaimanapun dia tetap dari luar, jadi Beno lebih memilih mencuci tangannya dulu baru menghampiri kekasihnya.

“Ih Beno!” keluh Anya.

“Hahaha, Iya sini – sini, *Ohmygod, its been a long time ya yang. I miss you so much.*” peluk Beno dengan sayang kepada Anya,

Rasanya sudah lama sekali dia tidak mencium aroma Anya, wangi floral khas chery blossom yang lembut, membuatnya betah untuk memeluk Anya seharian.

“*Mee too ben, masuk yuk.*”

“Mama sama papah kemana? Kok sepi banget dirumah?” tanya Beno, pasalnya dia juga tidak melihat mobil kedua orang tua Anya.

“Itu, pergi ke tempat tante, Ohiya, kamu bawa apa tuh? Yaampun sweet banget sih bawain bunga segala, Thankyou ben.”

Hal selanjutnya yang terjadi adalah pembicaraan Anya dan Beno yang terus berlanjut hingga malam hari. Mereka membicarakan banyak hal, dari kegiatan Anya selama karantina hingga persiapan pernikahan mereka, walaupun kadang kala terjadi perdebatan kecil tetapi hal ini sangat menyenangkan bagi mereka berdua daripada harus tersiksa rindu hanya melihat wajah masing – masing dari balik layar. Tidak ada yang lebih menyenangkan dari melihat orang yang kita sayang berada didekat kita.

Jakarta memulai PSBB dua minggu setelah pertemuan Anya dan Beno. Mereka berdua sama – sama menjalani WFH atau work from home. Perusahaan tempat Beno bekerja mulai merasakan dampak dari adanya Covid ini, Klien jadi lebih berkurang bahkan klien utama yang di gadang – gadang memberikan dampak yang besar bagi perusahaannya, juga ikut terkena dan mengurai permintaan kerjaan mereka.

Beno yang sudah melihat banyak perusahaan lain yang gulung tikar, bahkan perusahaan sekelas adidas mem-PHK karyawan sebanyak 2.500 pekerja. Hal ini, menjadi kerisauan Beno. Kehilangan pekerjaan pada saat dia butuh uang untuk membina kehidupan yang baru bukanlah hal yang ia inginkan.

Bulan mei menjadi awal yang buruk untuk Beno. Perusahaan tempat Beno bekerja memberi pengumuman bahwa mereka hanya bisa menggaji 30% dari gaji yang seharusnya didapat. Bahkan, beberapa karyawan yang baru dan officeboy tempat perusahaan Beno terpaksa di PHK. Sedangkan

karyawan lain hanya bisa pasrah dan menanti agar ada klien baru yang mau diajak kerja sama. Hal ini, menyebabkan mood Beno yang biasa tenang menjadi mudah marah.

“Yang, pilih dong mau pake tema warna apa buat akad sama resepsinya?” saat ini Beno dan Anya sedang membicarakan persiapan pernikahan mereka yang tinggal sebulan lagi di apartemen milik Beno.

“Apa aja, kalau kamu suka aku juga pasti suka” jawab Beno cuek sambil mengerjakan designnya.

“Ben, gakbisa gitu dong, kan yang nikah kita berdua, kamu ya harus ngasih saran, dari awal aku doang yang milih semuanya. Kali ini, kamu harus ikut ah,” Beno sama sekali tidak memperhatikan apa yang diucapkan Anya, dia hanya fokus ke design yang sedang kejar waktu tengat.

“Ben!” dengan perasaan marah Anya menutup laptop Beno dan mengambilnya.

“Apa – apaan sih kamu! Siniin gak laptopnya, aku harus kejar deadline” Beno berdiri dan hendak mengambil laptopnya dari Anya.

“Enggak, sampai kapan sih kita mau debat hal remeh kayak gini? Kamu tinggal luangin waktu paling enggak satu jam buat dengerin aku ngomong dan bantu pilih, kamu niat gak sih mau nikahin aku?” teriak Anya.

Perasaanya sudah tak terbendung lagi, dia tau Beno sedang risau soal pekerjaannya tapi apasalahnya dia meminta

waktu pasangannya untuk membantu merencanakan hari besar mereka berdua.

“Kamu itu ya, gak tau sekarang susahnya aku gimana! Aku harus puter otak buat bayar cicilan apartement ini, belum bayar gedung buat wedding dan segala hal lainnya. Gaji yang aku terima itu cuman 30% dari kantor, makannya aku cari klien lain yang bukan dari perusahaan biar uang buat kita cukup. Sini cepet, kembaliin laptopku” tegas Beno.

“Yaampun Ben, ada aku remember? Ada aku juga yang bakalan bayar! kamu pikir cuman kamu aja yang risau kayak gini, bulan depan kita mau nikah tapi keadaan Jakarta malah tambah buruk, pernikahan kita bisa aja gagal”

Anya benar – benar bingung bagaimana lagi menanggapi ego Beno yang setinggi langit, memang dari awal setelah pertungan mereka, Beno berkata kepada kedua orangtuanya, bahwa dia yang akan 100% membiayai wedding mereka berdua, tapi Anya tetap bertekat untuk berkonstribusi dalam hal itu.

“Yaudah kalau gagal, bukan jodoh maybe.” jawab Beno dengan tak acuh.

“Are you serious? Bisa – bisanya kamu dengan santainya ngomong gitu ke aku. Fine, Ben... “

Dengan menahan air matanya, Anya beranjak dari sofa yang dia duduki dan berdiri sambil menyerahkan laptop milik Beno, setelah itu dia berdiri di depan Beno sambil menatapnya dengan air mata yang perlahan mulai keluar.

“Ben, I know keadaan saat ini berat buat kita berdua, especially you. But, please remember, ada aku yang bisa kamu andelin saat ini, aku masih kerja juga dan uang bukan segalanya buat aku, gimanapun susahnya kamu, aku pasti sebisa mungkin selalu ada dan bantu kamu, sekarang ini bukan tentang kamu aja, tapi about us! Aku bakalan kasih kamu waktu buat berpikir, apakah kamu mau terima uluran tanganku atau tetap kokoh sama egomu ini. Aku bakalan bilang sama mbak Julia, tim WOnya kalau pernikahan kita bakalan diundur sampai waktu yang tidak ditentukan or maybe seperti kata kamu, kalau pernikahan ini gagal karena kita gak berjodoh.”

Setelah mengatakan hal itu, Anya keluar dari apartement Beno dengan perasaan amat sangat kacau dan Beno hanya diam tanpa berkata apapun. Diam merenungi dirinya sendiri dan hubungannya.

Tiga hari setelah penjelasan Anya dan perdebatan mereka berdua. Beno yang mulai sadar akan kesalahan yang ia buat dan bagaimana ia dengan jahatnya berkata bahwa dirinya dan Anya tidak berjodoh, memikirkan hal itu malah membuat Beno sakit hati sendiri, kenangan 14 tahun terakhir yang ia lewati bersama Anya seketika muncul dan diputar kembali diotaknya. Bagaimana awal pertemuan mereka berdua sewaktu SMP, masa - masa remaja saat SMA yang mana saat itu, perdebatan mendominasi karena ego masing - masing yang belum dewasa, saat belajar bersama untuk masuk universitas yang diinginkan, atau saat Anya yang menemaninya dan memberi

semangat saat – saat mengerjakan skripsi, dan Anya yang selalu menghargai dirinya sewaktu belum mendapat pekerjaan sedangkan Anya yang terlebih dulu mendaapatkan pekerjaan. Mengingat hal itu, membuat dirinya menyadari betapa brengsek sikapnya kepada Anya kemaren.

Pagi hari setelah sarapan, Beno memutuskan untuk menelfon ibunya. Rasanya sudah lama dia tidak menelfon ibunya. Mengingat hal itu, mungkin kejadian yang terjadi belakangan ini karena dia kualatkarena jarang sekali menelfon ibunya. Terdengar nada dering yang telah tersambung.

“Assalamuaikum Ben, gimana kabarnya? Sehat to?”
sapaan halus membuyarkan lamunannya.

“Waalaikumsalam, baik bu, ibu sendiri gimana? Maaf ya bu, jarang nelfon”

Suara tawa halus terdengar dari sebrang sana,

“Lah udah biasa, lagian ada Anya yang tiap minggu telfon ibu, jadi gak sepi – sepi amat. Ohiya gimana persiapan pernikahaan kalian, sudah sampai mana?”

Mendegar jawaban ibunya, sekali lagi dia merasa bersalah kepada Anya, bagaimana beruntungnya dirinya mendapatkan wanita yang pengertian dan sayang kepada ibunya.

“Ehm, itu bu...”

Belum selesai Beno melanjutkan perkataannya, Ibunya sudah memotongnya terlebih dahulu. “Oh, bertengkar ya?

Sebenarnya kemaren Anya telfon, tapi dia gak bilang apa – apa, tapi nadanya gak seceria biasanya, apalagi kamu tiba – tiba telfon, ya ibu makin curiga.”

“Iya bu, ada sedikit salah paham” jawab Beno sungkan.

“Nak, dengerin ibu ya, dalam suatu hubungan itu ada yang namanya keseimbangan hubungan. Tidak ada yang namanya laki – laki harus lebih unggul ataupun sebaliknya. Semuanya sama. Apalagi kalian mau menikah, hal – hal remeh yang menghancurkan suatu hubungan itu ya ego masing – masing individualnya. Yang tau pasanganmu yang kamu sendiri to, cara memahami wanita itu gampang kok ben. Kalau dia bertanya ya dijawab, kalau dia ngambek ya kamu minta maaf, kasih pengertian yang jelas dan halus, hormati wanitamu seperti kamu menghormati ibu ben.”

Mendegar nasihat ibunya, seketika Beno sadar, dia memang terlalu gengsi untuk menerima bantuan wanitanya sendiri, egonya tidak membiarkan dia menerima uluran tangan sang kekasih padahal hal itulah yang saat ini ia butuhkan.

“Terimakasih ya bu nasehatnya, ibu jaga kesehatan terus ya, jangan lupa patuhi protokol kesehatan dari pemerintah.”

“Iya nak, kamu juga hati – hati ya, orang mau menikah itu memang rintangannya banyak, kamu yang sabar ya nak. Kalau gitu, ibu tutup dulu telfonnya.” Setelah mengatakan hal tersebut, sambungan telfonpun terputus.

Keesokan harinya Beno bersiap – siap pergi ke rumah Anya untuk meminta maaf dan memperbaiki hubungan mereka. Mau bagaimanapun sebentar lagi mereka akan menikah, tidak baik berlarut – larut membiarkan masalah. Setelah dirasa siap, Beno pun dengan hati – hati mengemudikan mobilnya sambil memikirkan dan merangkai kata – kata untuk diucapkan didepan Anya nanti. Memikirkannya saja membuat dia seketika grogi, bagaimana kalau Anya terlalu sakit hati dan memilih untuk tidak menlanjutkan pernikahan mereka. Pikiran – pikiran negatif mulai terpikirkan oleh Beno, tapi tentu saja dia tidak akan menyerah. Tidak terasa, mobil yang dikemudikannya mulai memasuki halaman rumah Anya.

Dengan hati – hati Beno melangkah keluar. Ketika didepan pintu rumah, sebelum memencet bel rumah Anya, ia mengambil nafas panjang sambil merapikan kemeja dan rambutnya. Tangannya terasa dingin, perlahan dia tersenyum gugup sambil beberapa kali memencet bel rumah Anya.

Tak lama kemudian, seorang wanita berumur dengan kerudung cokelat membukakan pintu, Mama Anya dengan senyum menawan menyambut Beno.

“Beno, kok datang gak bilang – bilang. Ayo sini masuk.”

“Iya Ma, mau ketemu Anya.” Jawab Beno dengan tersenyum gugup.

Mama Anya seolah mengerti apa yang terjadi dengan keduanya. Hanya tersenyum lembut menatap Beno.

Sambil tersenyum kecil, Mama Anya menjawab pertanyaan Beno

“Tuh, anaknya di taman belakang, lagi galau.”

“Kalau gitu, saya nyamperin Anya dulu ya ma.”

Hafal dengan rumah Anya. Beno mencoba untuk santai menghampiri Anya sambil berdoa agar permintaan maafnya dapat diterima. Terlihat, seorang wanita duduk di ayunan kayu sambil memangku laptop, rambut hitamnya diikat tinggi hingga menonjolkan tengkunya, matanya sembab dan sesekali menyeka wajahnya. Terlihat sekali Anya sedang mencoba menahan air matanya yang ingin keluar terus menerus. Melihat hal ini Beno kembali dihantam perasaan bersalah. Dengan tekat yang kuat ia menghampiri Anya.

Anya yang sedang bersantai di taman belakang rumahnya, sambil melihat foto – foto dirinya dan Beno dari sewaktu remaja hingga saat ini, membuat dirinya di landa kesedihan kembali, mengingat pertengakaran mereka yang hampir seminggu ini membuatnya sangat kacau. Tiba – tiba dia menyadari kehadiran seseorang, dengan mendongakan kepalanya ke depan, dia melihat Beno yang tersenyum sedang menuju kearahnya. Menghela nafas panjang, Anya pun mencoba untuk tersenyum balik sambil menatap Beno. Anya menggeser duduknya kesamping, memberikan celah agar Beno bisa duduk disampingnya.

“Hai” sapa Beno dengan canggung.

“Hai juga” suara serak Anya sangat menandakan bahwa ia habis menangis.

“Aku mau ngomong sesuatu sama kamu” kata Beno kepada Anya

“Iya ngomong aja.” Anya menjawab dengan cepat, sambil menutup layar laptonya.

“Aku tahu, aku brengsek banget dengan bilang gitu ke kamu. *I know I screwed up.* Aku minta maaf ya Nya, aku gak bermaksud bilang gitu. Aku stress banget, kerjaan banyak tapi gaji yang aku dapet sama sekali gak sepadan sama effort yang aku buat. Aku cuman pengen kamu nyaman dan gak pusing soal bayar – bayar buat wedding kita, makannya aku cari alternatif lain yaitu nerima klien dari lain kantor supaya bisa buat tambahan tapi hal itu mahal jadi boomerang buat diriku sendiri dan pastinya hubungan kita. Egoku sebagai laki – laki gak terima kalau wanitaku harus keluarin uang. Dan aku minta maaf akan hal itu, harusnya aku ngerti kalau kamu juga ingin kontribusi buat acara kita, dan aku juga harusnya bantu kamu buat milih – milih di acara kita. I’m so sorry baby.”

Perlahan tangan Beno menggenggam tangan Anya, matanya menatap mata Anya dengan sirat permintaan maaf dan penyesalan yang ketara. Perlahan tapi pasti, tangan Anyapun membalas menggenggam erat tangan Beno. Sambil menyandarkan kepalanya di bahu Beno, Anya tesenyum sambil membalas.

“Iya, aku maafin kok.” Kata Anya sambil mendongak menatap Beno dengan senyum dibibirnya. Beno yang mendegar hal itu langsung tersenyum ceria.

“Tapi kamu harus janji satu hal sama aku ben, gimanapun susahnya keadaan kita nanti, coba bicaraiin semua hal dengan kepala dingin, komunikasi itu penting Ben, apalagi dengan keadaan yang kita kayak gini. Jujur dan saling support itu yang kita butuhin. Ngerti?” tatapan Anya yang teduh membuat Beno hanya bisa tersenyum sambil menganggukan kepalanya berulang kali seperti anak anjing.

“Jawab iya, siap Anya gitu dong Ben...” perintah Anya.

“Iya, siap Anya sayang..” jawaban Beno membuat mereka berdua tersenyum sambil tertawa kecil.

“Kamu cinta banget ya sama aku, Ben?” tanya Anya penasaran.

“Ih Ge-er, aku udah DP 50% buat WOnya, kalau gagal ya gak bisa dikembaliin uangnya, eman banget tau..” Kata Beno dengan serangan jahil diwajahnya.

Dengan wajah cemburutnya Anya melepaskan tangan Beno yang mengenggamnya erat dengan kasar dan melipat kedua tangannya didada sambil memasang wajah marah.

“Yaudah kalau gitu kita batalin sekalian ajah!” sungut Anya dengan wajah merah menahan marah.

Senyum Beno mengembang seketika, tawanya memenuhi taman belakang rumah Anya. Ia kemudian berdiri

lalu menghadap ke Anya, perlahan dia mulai berjongkok dan mengambil tangan Anya.

“Anya dengerin ya, I would have come for you. And if I couldn’t walk, I’d crawl to you, and no matter how broken we were, we’d fight our way out together-knives drawn, pistols blazing. Because that’s we do. You are my heart, my life and my one and only thought. For you, a thousand times over and my soul sees its equal in you.” Beno berkata dengan penuh keyakinan sambil tersenyum, dan menatap Anya dengan dalam.

Anya hanya bisa tesenyum penuh haru, karena tidak menyangka seorang Beno bisa berkata hal semanis itu kepadanya.

“Tapi kok aku kek pernah baca ya itu kata – katanya..”
goda Anya kepada Beno yang masih berjongkok didepannya.

“Yaampun sayang, aku mikir keras ngerangkai itu kalimat di otakku sebelum kesini, eh tapi kalimat terakhirnya aku googling sih...”

Lalu mereka pun tertawa bersama, sambil membicarakan banyak hal. Mereka tau bahwa masa depan akan menanti didepan sana, bahwa apa yang diinginkan tidak semanis kenyataan yang ada. Dan mereka sangat menyadari bahwa menikah bukanlah akhir yang indah, tetapi merupakan awal yang penuh dengan rintangan dan masalah yang silih berganti datang. Satu hal yang pasti saat ini, bahwa mereka akan melakukannya bersama – sama. *Together and Always.*

Alana and Kale

By Desti Yuni Astiwi

Pagi yang cerah untuk memulai hari diawali oleh Alana, Alana adalah gadis yang lemah lembut, baik hati dan penyayang ia adalah mahasiswa baru di salah satu kampus terfavorit di Jogja. Hari itu adalah hari pertama ia ospek dikampusnya ia berangkat memakai atribut yang sudah ditentukan oleh panitia ia sangat antusias mengikuti ospek. Alana satu fakultas dengan teman SMA nya dahulu yang bernama Kiki. Kiki gadis periang dan aktif menjadi teman di hari pertama Alana ospek, kemana pun Kiki pergi Alana pasti mengikutinya. Hari pertama ospek Alana diperintahkan membuat kelompok dan menentukan yel-yel untuk dinyanyikan pada setiap panitia meberikan aba-aba. Pada saat pembuatan kelompok Alana terpisah dengan Kiki, Alana mendapat teman sekelompok yang sangat asyik dan ramah akhirnya mereka menjadi akrab. Hari-hari berikutnya Alana mengikuti ospek dengan tertib dan hati yang senang.

Rumah Alana terbilang cukup jauh dari kampus sehingga orang tuanya menyuruhnya untuk tinggal di indekost dekat dengan kampus. Hari pertama masuk kuliah ia sangat canggung karena belum mengenal teman-teman sekelasnya namun di saat mata kuliah sudah berlangsung setiap mahasiswa wajib memperkenalkan diri jadi Alana mulai mengajak bicara dan berkenalan dengan teman sekelasnya. Sungguh beruntung Alana sekelas dengan Kiki teman masa SMA nya, Alana berkenalan dengan Lutfia, Amalia, Dini, Ryan, Imam dan yang lainnya.

Hari pertama yang mengesankan bagi Alana bertemu dengan teman baru dari berbagai daerah yang berbeda bahasa dan kebudayaannya. Sepulang kuliah Alana langsung menuju ke kostnya untuk mandi dan beristirahat. Alana pergi membeli makan bersama teman sekamarnya yang bernama Andin, selain Andin ia juga mempunyai teman kost yang berasal dari Banjarnegara namanya Aini. Aini mempunyai sifat yang kurang baik ia selalu baik didepan namun selalu menjelek-jelekan dan menyebar aib teman-temannya. Alana belum mengetahui sifat Aini yang begitu buruk terhadapnya, jadi Alana selalu terbuka dan bercerita tentang apapun kepada Aini karena Alana menganggap Aini adalah orang baik.

Selepas pulang membeli makan Alana bergegas untuk mengerjakan tugas keluar bersama teman sekelasnya

“Andiiinn, aku keluar dulu ya sama Kiki mau ke kafe basabasi ngerjain tugas” teriak Alana pada Andin,

"Iyaa hati-hati enggak usah ngebut bawa motornya baliknya jangan lupa bawain martabak manis ya" sahut Andin, Alana hanya melengos mendengar ucapan temannya itu.

Alana dan Kiki mengerjakan tugas mereka masing-masing disela-sela mereka mengerjakan Kiki membuka obrolan

"Emm Lan kamu ingat nggak sama kakak yang kemarin ngospek kita?" Alana kebingungan

"Yang mana sih Ki? Kan banyak yang ngospek kita".

"Itu loh yang ganteng kalau enggak salah namanya mas Sultan", bola mata Alana seketika membesar

"Ohhh mas Sultan iya..iya aku tau emang kenapa? Kamu suka ya sama dia?" goda Alana.

"Hah iyaa aku ngefans banget sama dia udah ganteng, pintar, kalem lagi pasti kamu juga suka kan sama dia hayo ngaku kamu Lan, wanita mana sih yang enggak terpikat sama ketampanan mas Sultan?" ujar Kiki,

"Enggak yaaa aku engga suka sama mas Sultan ihh belum ada sebulan kuliah udah suka aja sama senior Kik, jangan dalam banget bapernya nanti tau-tau dia udah punya pacar kamu sakit hati" jawab Alana dengan sedikit menggoda, Kiki hanya meringis karena takut apa yang dikatakan Alana ada benarnya.

Jam menunjukkan pukul 9 malam, Alana dan Kiki memutuskan balik ke kostan.

“Balik yuk udah malam nih pasti Andin nyariin aku kalau aku enggak pulang-pulang” ajak Alana,

“Yuuk aku juga udah ngantuk banget mana mata pedes banget dari sore ngadep laptop” jawab Kiki.

Sesampainya dikost Alana segera mengganti bajunya dan bergegas ke kamar mandi untuk gosok gigi, mencuci mukanya dan tidur. Andin tengah tertidur lelap dikasurnya lalu terbangun ketika mendengar Alana membuka pintu selepas dari kamar mandi.

“Ehh si eneng cantik udah pulang mana martabak manis pesenan aku?” sambut Andin,

“Hehe maaf yaa Ndin tadi buru-buru jadi kelupaan mau mampir beli martabak” jawab Alana,

“Heleh palingan kamu juga lupa sama pesenanku, yaudah lekas tidur besok kamu ada kelas pagi kan?” jawab Andin,

Alana hanya mengganguk lalu tertidur dengan pulas.

Adzan subuh berkumandang Alana dan Andin bangun untuk melaksanakan shalat subuh dan menyiapkan sarapan sebelum berangkat kuliah.

“Ndin kamu mau sarapan roti apa nasi?” tanya Alana,

“Aku mau sarapan nasi aja sama goring telur” sahut Andin.

Alana segera menanak nasi dengan rice cookernya setelah itu ia pergi mandi karena ada kelas jam 7 pagi. Jam

masih menunjukkan pukul 6 kurang 15 menit, Alana selesai mandi dan menyiapkan buku yang akan dibawanya ke kampus nanti.

“Lan kamu mau telur gorengnya setengah matang apa matang” tanya Andin,

“Aku mau setengah matang aja deh Ndin tapi enggak usah dikasih garam ya” jawab Alana, “Siap bos” ucap Andin.

Setelah selesai sarapan Alana pergi ke kampus, setengah jam Alana dan teman sekelasnya menunggu dosen tapi tidak kunjung masuk ke kelas. Kelas sangat sepi karena semua orang sibuk dengan hp dan kegiatan masing-masing, tiba-tiba hp ketua kelas bergetar dan ada panggilan masuk dari dosen ia mengabarkan bahwa kelas kosong sampai sore karena ada rapat semua dosen jurusan. Sontak Alana dan teman sekelasnya berteriak kegirangan mendengar kabar tersebut. Alana langsung mengetikkan pesan untuk sahabatnya yang kebetulan satu kampus dengannya.

“Mil aku enggak ada kelas hari ini, ke lippo yuk jalan-jalan sama cari makan siang” ketik Alana melalui whatsappnya, tak berselang lama Mila pun membalas

“Siap 5 menit lagi aku ke kostmu ya, aku juga jam kosong hari ini dosenku ada rapat”.

Alana segera pulang ke kostnya untuk meletakkan tas dan bukunya, tak lama kemudian Mila dating dan mengetuk pintu kamar Alana

“Lanaaa ayokk cepetan engga usah dandan” teriak Mila sambil menggedor pintu yang tak kunjung dibuka kan oleh Alana,

“Iyaaa sabar lagi benerin kerudung nih masuk aja enga dikunci” jawab Alana,

“Lama banget si eneng udah cantik enggak usah dibenerin juga udah cantik kok” ejek Mila, Alana hanya tertawa mendengar celotehan sahabatnya sejak kelas 10 SMA itu.

Sesampainya di Lippo, Alana dan Mila langsung menuju timezone dan bermain game yang ada disana.

“Kayaknya baru kemarin ya Mil kita wisuda SMA sekarang udah kuliah aja” ungkap Alana,

“Iyee bener banget baru kemarin juga ada yang diputusin pacarnya gara-gara dia udah kelas 12 terus mau fokus UN, siapaa tuhh yang diputusin” ledek Mila.

Ya, Alana baru saja putus dengan pacarnya sang adik kelas Alana sewaktu SMA dengan alasan dia ingin fokus belajar dan UN. Namun Alana tidak pernah sedih karena putusnya hubungan itu artinya Alana bisa bebas menjalani kuliahnya dan bebas berteman dengan siapapun.

“Yeee aku malah seneng kali putus sama dia kan aku bisa cari cogan (cowok ganteng), siapa tahu kan aku dapat anak kedokteran UGM atau anak teknik UNY” jawab Alana membela diri agar tidak kalah omong,

"Kapan kamu ke UGM? cari makan Cuma di Sapen pol mentok juga ke kfc depan UIN" jawab Mila,

"Ihhh aku sering tuh tiap sore jogging dideket perpustakaan UGM biar nemu jodoh disana eh enggak nemu-nemu, kayaknya jodohku masih disembunyiin deh sama Allah biar aku fokus ngerjain tugas sama makan" Alana terkekeh.

"Kamu mah pikirannya makan teruss yaudah yuk cari makan udah jam setengah 12 juga perut udah protes nih" timpal Mila,

"Yuklah aku pengen ayam geprek deh cari keluar aja ya di Lippo kan enggak ada ayamm geprek, aku mau ayam geprek dideket UNY itu" pinta Alana,

"Yaudah ayok Lan" ajak Mila.

Mereka pulang kembali kost masig-masing pukul 5 sore, sampai dikost Alana beranjak untuk membersihkan badan dan persiapan untuk shalat magrib. Andin belum kelihatan batang hidungnya sejak Alana pulang, setelah selesai shalat magrib Alana langsung mengambil hpnya dan menelfon Andin untuk menanyakan keberadaannya.

Ternyata Andin pulang ke rumahnya karena kebetulan esok harinya adalah hari sabtu dan libur. Tak berselang lama Aini ke kamar Alana untuk mengajaknya mencari makan malam bersama, mereka pun membeli pecel lele dekat kostan.

Mereka balik ke kostan pada pukul 8 malam, Alana memutuskan untuk pulang ke rumahnya di Kulonprogo karena

sudah sangat bosan di kostan. Kurang lebih 1 jam perjalanan dari kost Alana menuju rumahnya di Kulonprogo.

Keesokan harinya Alana berencana bertemu dengan teman-teman SMA nya disalah satu cafe shop yang cukup terkenal di Kulonprogo. Ia bertemu dengan Erlin, Lenni, Ayu, Sa'adah, Mila. Mereka janjian jam 10 pagi bertemu disana, mereka bercengkrama dan melepas rindu setelah hampir 3 bulan tidak bertemu karena kesibukan masing-masing. Lenni, Sa'adah, Erlin, dan Ayu memutuskan untuk bekerja setelah lulus dari SMA berbeda dengan Mila dan Alana yang memilih untuk mengenyam dunia perkuliahan.

"Eh Lan kemarin aku lihat mantanmu tuh udah jalan sama cewek barunya, kamu gimana nih udah dapat pengantinya belum kan anak kuliah pasti ganteng-ganteng ya kan?" celetuk Lenni,

"Ahh aku mah masih asyik buat nikmatin duniaku sendiri Len, belum mau mikir pacaran dulu nanti takut endingnya sakit hati lagi kan sama aja, sekarang mah fokus sama kuliah dulu" jawab Alana.

"Alaahh paling sebentar lagi Lana dapat gebetan baru lagi sabar Lann siapa sih cowok yang enggak mau sama kamu, mantanmu aja yang engga bersyukur udah dapatin cewek cantik kaya gini malah disia-siain emang sok kegantengan dia mah jijik aku liatnya" timpal Erlin dan mereka tertawa.

Tak terasa hari sudah sore mereka pun beranjak untuk pulang ke rumah masing-masing. Alana selalu merindukan teman-teman semasa ia SMA karena bagi Alana mereka sudah

seperti saudara sendiri, sesekali jika ia sedang lelah dengan tugas dan kuliah ia selalu menyempatkan untuk pulang ke rumah dan menemui teman-temannya walau hari itu bukan hari libur.

Minggu pagi Alana pergi jogging di alun-alun wates bersama Lenni,

“Lenn mau sarapan bubur ayam enggak? Aku laper banget nih” ajak Alana,

“Ayok aku juga laper banget padahal baru muter 2x” jawab Lenni.

Merekapun memesan bubur ayam

“Buu mau bubur ayam 2 komplit ya pake sate usus” teriak Alana kepada ibu penjual bubur,

“Lohh tumben banget mbak pulang, biasanya enggak pulang ibu kangen sama kalian udah lama engga makan disini” ujar ibu penjual bubur ayam.

“Hehe pulang dong buk kan udah kangen banget sama bubur ayam yang super enak ini” jawab Lenni.

Sambil menunggu bubur dihidangkan Alana dan Lenni ngobrol ngalor ngidul,

“Lenn kamu masih sama pacarmu si Riski itu” tanya Alana,

“Masih dong kan aku mau sama dia sampai besok nikah punya anak” jawab Lenni sambil terkekeh.

“Wahh hebat banget udah lama banget ya kamu sama dia dari kita kelas II SMA sampai sekarang kamu udah kerja jangan lupa undangan deh ya” goda Alana.

Bubur mereka pun datang dan mereka menyantap hidangan itu.

“Lenn udah siang nih aku balik dulu ya mau anterin ibu kerumah tanteku soalnya” pamit Alana,

“Oke hati-hati ya semangat kuliahnya jangan kasih kendur, kalau butuh bantuan bilang aja sama aku nanti insyallah aku bantu sebisaku,

“Siap Lenn makasih yaa kamu hati-hati pulangnya, fokus kerjanya biar cepet nikah ya” timpal Alana.

Sampai dirumah Alana langsung mandi dan mengantarkan ibunya ke rumah tantenya.

Minggu sore Alana berpamitan pada ibunya untuk kembali ke kostnya, karena dia ada kelas pagi di hari senin ia berangkat menggunakan motornya. Sesampainya dikost Alana langsung tidur karena sudah malam.

Senin pagi Alana dan Aini pergi berangkat kuliah bersama karena kebetulan Aini juga masuk pagi, sebelum berangkat Aini mengambil foto selfie bersama Alana dan dijadikan status whatsapp oleh Aini. Setelah itu ada salah satu teman SMA Aini yang mengomentari status tersebut

“Nama instagramnya apa?”

Yang dimaksud adalah Alana, lalu Aini membalas pesan tersebut

“Alanaw_” . Tanpa sepengetahuan Alana tentunya Aini membalas pesan itu.

Tak berselang lama ada DM masuk di instragram Alana dari Kale teman SMA Aini

“Hai Alana” Alana langsung membuka dan membalasnya

“Hai juga, siapa?” lanjut basa basi dan pada akhirnya si Kale meminta nomor whatsapp Alana.

Sepulang kuliah Alana pergi ke kamar Aini dan bertanya

“Ni si Kale temen sekelasmu dulu waktu SMA ya? Kok dia tau Instagram aku sih?”,

“Iya tadi pagi dia nanya username Instagram kamu ke aku pas aku upload status foto selfie kita berdua tadi pagi maaf ya aku enggak bilang ke kamu dulu, emang kenapa Lan?” jawab Aini,

“Enggak apa-apa sih cuma dia ada nge DM aku tadi terus minta nomor whatsapp aku” Alana menjelaskan.

Kale menghubungi Alana dengan chat whatsapp

“Halo Alana”,

“Eh iya Kale ya” balas Alana. Kale bertanya pada Alana dimana toko buku yang murah selain gramedia, dan

Alana menunjukan social agency dan shopping di dekat taman pintar.

Pada malam harinya Kale meminta Alana untuk menemaninya pergi ke social agency dan shopping untuk mencari buku.

“Sebuah Seni untuk Bersikap Bodo Amat”.

Pukul 5 sore Kale menjemput Alana ke kostnya lalu mereka pergi ke toko buku. Alana memakai cardigan abu-abu dengan kerudung pink lengkap dengan bros kecil yang membuatnya lebih manis. Selesai membeli buku mereka pergi ke seven sky untuk mencari makan malam, mereka memesan nasi goreng dan 2 buah air mineral. Malam semakin larut lalu Kale mengantarkan Alana pulang ke kostnya. Alana merasa ada perasaan yang berbeda saat bertemu dengan Kale perasaan hangat dan damai yang tidak pernah ia rasakan sebelumnya. Ya, Alana menyukainya.

Sesampainya dikost, Alana langsung dihujani pertanyaan oleh Andin

“Pergi sama siapa tadi? Baik enggak orangnya terus dia macem-macem enggak sama kamu, kamu enggak diapa-apain kan Lan?” tanya Andin khawatir,

Alana hanya terkekeh dan menjawab “Enggak kok Ndin aman, dia orang baik kayanya sih hehe”,

“Jangan bilang dia gebetan baru kamu?” tanya Andin semakin gencar,

“Bukaaaan Andin dia Cuma temennya Aini yang minta tolong ditemenin ke toko buku aja enggak lebih kok, tapi tadi dia bilang kalau akun kemana-mana dia siap nemenin ehehe” Alana terkekeh,

“Ahh bau-baunya bakalan ada cerita cinta yang bersemi nih gara-gara minta ditemenin ke toko buku, udah sana ganti baju terus tidur” suruh Andin.

Pukul 5 pagi Alana dan Andin bangun untuk menuaiakan shalat subuh,

“Ndin tau enggak sih aku tuh ngerasa kaya aku udah kenal lama banget sama Kale dan aku enggak asing sama dia gitu” ungkap Alana tiba-tiba,

“Coba nanti kamu minta tolong ke dia buat nemenin kamu kemana gitu biar kamu bisa kenal dia lebih dalam lagi siapa tahu jodoh kan Lan” goda Andin.

“Ahh enggak deh Ndin soalnya foto dia di instagram sama cewek semua jadi ilang rasa lihatnya kayanya dia genit ke banyak cewek deh Ndin, lagian juga dia punya pacar kalik Ndin” jawab Alana.

Alana berangkat agak siang dan ia berangkat bersama Aini lagi, “Eh Ni aku mau tanya deh, si Kale punya pacar kan ya?”,

“Emm enggak kayanya udah putus deh sama pacarnya,”ohh okee” Alana mengangguk.

Hari ke hari Kale dan Alana semakin dekat dan selalu bersama, suatu saat Alana meminta Kale "Jangan pergi", akhirnya mereka memutuskan untuk menjalin hubungan. Aini yang mengetahui kabar tersebut langsung menghubungi mantan pacar Kale yang bernama Dian

"Eh Dian, Kale udah punya pacar baru namanya Alana, dia yang buat hubungan kalian putus dia yang ngrebut Kale dari kamu" ketik Aini melalui whatsapp.

"Yang bener mbak? Jadi selama ini Kale selingkuh?
Balas Dian,

"Iyaa Alana yang menggoda Kale" jawab Aini.

Alana membuka DM instagram dari Dian yang menyatakan bahwa Alana adalah seorang wanita perebut pacar orang. Alana kaget mendapat pesan seperti itu dia langsung bercerita pada Kale. Kale pun tidak terima karena Alana di fitnah seperti itu, akhirnya Kale menjelaskan bahwa ia dan Dian sudah putus sebelum mengenal Alana. Kale mencari tahu siapa dalang di balik semua ini, ia bertanya pada Dian siapa yang memberitahu hal yang tidak benar dan Dian mengaku dia diberitahu oleh Aini.

Akhirnya Alana dan Kale tahu sifat asli Aini dan Alana memilih untuk menjauhinya. Bulan terus berganti kedekatan Hasim dan Alana semakin menjadi, Alana tak segan membawa Kale kerumah bibinya untuk berkenalan lebih dekat dengan keluarganya. Mereka tumbuh dalam dewasanya hubungan mempunyai harapan-harapan yang tinggi di masa depan.

Setiap hari mereka selalu bersama entah mengerjakan tugas, makan, main, hingga berlibur bersama. Tak terasa waktu berlalu begitu cepat banyak dan rintangan yang hampir membuat mereka menyerah dan berpisah namun mereka selalu berusaha memperjuangkan apa yang sudah mereka bangun sejak awal semester I.

Hingga pada pertengahan semester 4 tepatnya di bulan maret tanggal 19 2020, mereka harus berpisah karena adanya virus covid-19 mereka pun harus menjalani long distance relationship (ldr). Alana yang harus pulang ke Kulonprogo dan Kale yang harus pulang ke Banjarnegara. Semua civitas pemerintahan seperti pendidikan diliburkan karena untuk memutus penyebaran virus covid-19 itu. Alana dan Kale pun kuliah melalui online class.

Dua bulan setelah mereka dikarantina dirumah masing-masing, akhirnya Kale memutuskan untuk ke Jogja dan menemui Alana berbekal dengan surat sehat dari puskesmas. Akhirnya mereka bertemu, namun Alana sangat kecewa karena Kale tidak bermalam di Jogja dan hanya bertemu dalam waktu 2 jam saja. Alana sangat marah dan menangis mendengar pernyataan itu

“Aku uda nunggu kamu kesini selama 2 bulan, Cuma kamu bales sama pertemuan sesingkat ini?”,

“Iya karena aku engga boleh nginep dikost ku karena pandemi ini, jangan sedih ya besok aku bakalan kesini lagi dan nemuin kamu” ucap Kale.

Dan Kale pun pulang ke Banjarnegara, merekapun ldr lagi.

Sudah 7 bulan mereka LDR dan Alana sering meminta putus karena tidak tahan menahan rindu dan jarak yang terbentang cukup jauh, namun Kale selalu sabar dengan membuat Alana mencoba mengerti keadaan dunia yang sedang tidak baik-baik saja. Kale sangat mencintai Alana dengan sepenuh hati ia selalu menguatkan jika Alana sudah menyerah dengan keadaan. Sebisa mungkin Hasim mengunjungi Alana sebulan sekali bahkan bisa sampai dua kali agar Alana tetap menjadi miliknya seutuhnya. Harapan mereka masih sama seperti dulu sewaktu mereka memulai hubungan ini.

Alana berinisiatif untuk ke rumah Kale untuk mengunjunginya dan melepas rindu. Dari masa pandemi ini mereka belajar bahwa waktu adalah hal yang paling berharga didunia. Mereka selalu bahagia dengan apa yang mereka jalani dihubungan itu.

Pandemi telah selesai dan mereka berhasil melalui masa-masa sulit itu. Hubungan mereka pun berlanjut sampai ke jenjang pernikahan. Dan mereka sekarang sudah dikaruniai 2 orang anak yang pertama laki-laki bernama Awan dan anak yang kedua bernama Aurora.

We.. Just F-R-I-E-N-D

By Meivilana Stela Sani

Matahari sudah tepat berada di atas kepala. Waktu sudah menunjukkan pukul 12 siang, itu tandanya kelas siang sudah berakhir. Anna dan Sarah menyeka keringat mereka setelah keluar dari dalam kelas terakhir mereka. Kedua gadis itu bersahabat sejak mereka masih di bangku SMA hingga sekarang mereka duduk di semester 5. Mereka berdua pun bergegas keluar meningkalkan keramaian.

“Sar, hari ini kamu mau makan siang dimana?” Tanya Anna kepada Sarah saat mereka jalan bersama menuruni anak tangga.

“Aku ada janji bikin tugas kelompok nih, jadi mungkin aku langsung cabut ke café terus sekalian makan disana aja.” jawab sarah dengan dengan perasaan tidak enak hati. Sarah tidak enak meninggalkan Anna sendirian karena karena biasanya mereka selalu pergi untuk makan siang bersama se usai kelas.

“Yaaahh... padahal mau aku ajakin makan seblak bareng yang kata kamu enak di deket kampus A itu.” Ujar Anna dengan muka memelasnya.

“Sorry banget ya An aku gabisa makan bareng kamu siang ini, hari ini kamu makan seblak sama Jacob dulu aja. Next time kita kesitu, okei?” kata Sarah sembari menghibur Anna.

“Ihh apaan sih sar, santai kali. Aku bisa pergi sama Jacob.” ujar Anna sembari tertawa agar sahabatnya merasa tidak keberatan untuk meninggalkannya sendirian.

Sesampainya di Lobby fakultas Sarah pun berpamitan kepada Anna.

“An, aku cabut duluan ya. kamu mau di sini dulu atau ikut aku ke parkiran?” Tanya nya, karena siang itu lobby fakultas tidak terlalu ramai, ia sedikit mengkahwatirkan sahabatnya itu.

“Iya sar, tiati yaa. Aku disini aja , aku mau telfon Jacob dan ngajak dia buat pergi makan siang bareng.”

Sarah pun berjalan ke parkiran meninggalkan Anna yang duduk seorang diri di kursi lobby sembari melambaikan tangannya .

Anna pun membalaikan tangan dari sahabatnya sambil memegang handphone di telinganya.

“Hallo jack? kamu dimana? Aku sendirian nih di lobby kampus, Sarah pergi bikin tugas kelompok. Makan siang bareng yuk?” Ujarnya di telfon.

“Heiii girl, aku lagi nongkrong di kantin kampus nih, oh okey aku kesitu sekarang ya,tunggu situ jangan kemana-mana okey?” Kata Jacob yang langsung bergegas menemui Anna di fakultasnya.

“Okey, tiati yaa Jacobku , see u !!” Kata Anna dengan perasaan senang sembari menutup telfonnya.

Jacob atau lebih sering di panggil Jack adalah sahabat dekat Anna. Jack merupakan mahasiswa Teknik sedangkan Anna adalah mahasiswi hukum. Mereka berada di Fakultas yang sama di Jogja, dan mereka sudah kenal sejak awal Ospek. Kurang lebih 2,5tahun. Jack selalu menemani Anna kemana saja dan mereka juga sering menghabiskan waktu bersama. Jack dan Anna jika dilihat tidak lagi seperti sepasang sahabat namun lebih terlihat seperti sepasang kekasih karena mereka sangat dekat dan serasi. Teman-teman mereka juga mengetahui kedekatan mereka.

Sesampainya di lobby, Jacob langsung menyodorkan snack favorit Anna yang ia beli di kantin sebelum ia pergi tadi.

“Nih..vanilla kan?”

Jacob menyodorkan sekotak susu dan wafer dengan rasa yang sama, vanilla. Senyum jelas tak bisa dibendung dari wajah Anna, ia langsung menyambut susu dan wafer tersebut sembari memandangi Jacob. Pemandangan seperti ini membuat Jacob

tak bisa mengontrol detak jantungnya sendiri, mata Anna terlihat begitu polos hanya dengan hal-hal sederhana seperti ini, bahkan sudah setengah tahun ini Jacob mengganti parfumnya menjadi beraroma vanilla karena Anna menyukainya, tentu saja bonusnya Anna menjadi suka nempel terus dengannya.

“Ihhh tau aja sihhh hehe makasih yaaa, emang deh Jacob nih ter the best.” Senyum Anna tak ada berkurang, dari awal ia membuka wafer tersebut hingga akhirnya hilang tinggal menyisakan bungkusnya. Sembari megunya, Anna mulai membuka mulut hendak mengatakan sesuatu kepada Jacob, namun terlebih dahulu Jacob mencegahnya

“Ngomongnya nanti dulu kalau mulutmu sudah kosong, habiskan dulu makanannya.”, ucapnya sembari membersihkan sudut mulut Anna yang terdapat remahan wafer dengan selembar tissue.

Setelah wafer dimulutnya sudah habis, Anna langsung meminum susu beberapa tegukan hingga akhirnya ia melanjutkan niat berbicaranya sambil memegang tangan kiri Jacob saat berjalan menuju ke parkiran “jadi, hari ini kita makan siang dimana Jack ?Btw kemarin tuh si Sarah makan Seblak di bawah pohon deket kampus A, katanya enak”

“Oh yang di barat kampus A itu ya?” Tanyanya saat mengeluarkan motor yang ia parkir.

“Iyaa bener, kesana yuk!” Ajak Anna yang sedang memasang helm di kepalanya.

“Okey, apasih yang engga buat kamu princess, yuk lah langsung aja naik.”

Tak perlu disuruh untuk kedua kalinya, Anna langsung menempatkan diri di atas motor dan melingkarkan tangannya ke pinggang Jacob. Selama perjalanan menuju tempat tujuan, mereka sembari tertawa dan berbincang ringan, terlihat bahagia memang, namun di dalam pikiran mereka terdapat kebingungan yang sebenarnya mereka sadari.

Sesampainya di tempat, Jacob segera memesan menu seblak yang di pilih Anna, Anna sendiri memilih tempat yang dirasa nyaman untuk mereka berbincang. Sembari menunggu pesanan, mereka mulai obrolan ringan dengan membahas hari masing-masing, saling membagi dan meringankan beban satu sama lain.

“Sumpah yaJack, aku ga habis pikir sama dosen itu, dia kan minta tolong ya ke aku, tapi malah seenaknya sendiri gitu loh. Aku nih niatnya mau bantuin, eh malah di jadiin babu hiihhh, kesel..terus habis itu malah si...”

Belum selesai Anna menyelesaikan kalimatnya, ada sepasang kekasih di sebrang mereka yang tengah bercekcek hingga mengagetkan Jacob dan Anna .Jacob dan Anna saling menatap bingung, dan diam- diam menguping pembicaraan keduanya.

“MAU KAMU APA?! PUTUS?! SANA KAMU PACARAN AJA SAMA GAME KAMU!” ucapan perempuan. Terlihat ikut naik pitam, laki- lakinya pun menimpali dengan berteriak juga

“SADAR DONG, KAMU SENDIRI JUGA TIKTOK
TEROOS..JOGET-JOGET GAK JELAS, GATEL BANGET
TAUGA?!”

Terlihat keduanya sedang berargumen dengan emosi.

“OH YAUDAH, KAMU EMANG CUMA PEDULI
SAMA GAME MU AJA..DAH LAH, PUTUS AJA, CAPEK
AKU DENGER KAMU NGOMEL TERUS, GA JELAS!!”



Jacob dan Anna hanya saling diam hingga akhirnya pasangan yang bertengkar tadi pergi meninggalkan tempat makan tersebut.

“Waaah gilaak, galak banget ceweknya”, Jacob melongo mengingat perdebatan pasangan tadi.

“Apa ga malu ya, bertengkar di tempat umum gini...” Anna juga masih teruskepikiran dengan kejadian yang barusan terjadi di depan matanya.

Hening beberapa saat, kemudian keduanya saling bertatapan dan tertawa, memecah ketegangan dan keheningan yang awalnya menyelimuti mereka akibat pasangan yang bertengkar tadi.

“Buahahahah, berantemgara- gara game sama tiktok tuh loh... kocak banget si” Jacob tertawa lepas.

“Jaman sekarang pelakor kalah sama game dan tiktok hahahahaha” Anna menimpali, keduanya akhirnya tertawa dengan sesekali keduanya meniru apa yang diucapkan pasangan yang bertengkar tadi.

.....

Seminggu terakhir ini Jacob terus kepikiran mengenai hubungannya dengan Anna, apa arti dirinya bagi Anna ? apakah mereka dapat dikatakan sudah *dating*? isi kepala Jacob sudah mau meledak rasanya selama seminggu ini, di tambah sifat Anna yang terlampau manis kepada nya. Jacob melamun sembari menghisap rokok yang ada di tangannya dan duduk di

kantin dekat fakultasnya sembari menunggu Anna yang akan dating menemuinya.

“Woii sebat terus, cepet mati loh nanti.” Panjang umur, orang yang tadinya memenuhi pikiran Jacob sekarang ada tepat di depan matanya.

“Udah dari kapan disitu?”

“Yah baru beberapa menit yang lalu lah.. Gak ada kepikiran mau berhenti ngerokok Jack?” merasa Jacob mengalihkan pembicaraan, Anna tetap menanyakannya.

“Emang kalo aku berhenti ngerokok kamu jadi sayang aku?” secara reflek Jacob mengucapkan kalimat itu.

“Loh, emang sekarang aku belum sayang? Udah kok” Anna duduk di samping Jacob, sembari tersenyum.

Jacob lantas mematikan rokoknya. Mendengar jawaban Anna yang membuat pikirannya semakin tak karuan, Jacob menatap Anna. Anna yang heran dengan tatapan Jacob hanya mengangkat alisnya, dengan ekspresi bertanya-tanya.

“Ann, kita ini apa? Kamu anggap apa aku di hidupmu ?” Jacob akhirnya menanyakan apa yang selama seminggu ini menganggu pikirannya.

“Temen lah Jack ..kamu tu sahabatku, orang yang selalu ada buat aku. Iya kan?” Bak di tampar, entah selama ini Jacob yang terlalu berharap atau memang keduanya sudah melampaui batas mengenai apa itu ‘teman’.

“Temen Ann? temen ga gini Ann.. temen ga gandengan tangan, pelukan, chat intens bahkan telfonan sampe subuh... Bukannya kita ini lebih?” Anna terkejut dengan pernyataan Jacob,

Memang selama ini Anna merasakan debaran jika sedang bersama Jacob, tapi Anna takut dengan suatu ikatan.

“Memang apa salahnya sih kita kayak gini? Kalo kita lebih dari itu, kita bisa kayak mbak dan mas yang waktu tu di tempat makan seblak, cekcok gitu. Gabisa kita gini aja? Kenapa haruslebih? Kamu ternyata baperan ya Jack, aku ga nyangka.”

Mata Jacob menjadi sayu, tidak menyangka Anna akan seperti itu kepadanya setelah apa yang mereka lewati bersama. Apa yang dirasakan Jacob? sedih, kecewa, semuanya campur aduk menjadi satu.

“Teman bukan gini caranya Anna, kita udah lewatibatas garis pertemanan. Aku memang salah menaruh harapan, tapi kamu ikut bermain disitu Ann..kayaknya kita gabisa gini terus, kalo kita tetep deket aku bakal berharap terus sama kamu, makasih ya udah jadi temen aku selama ini.”

Mendengar jawaban Jacob membuat Anna marah, ia tak tahu salahnya dimana, ia merasa bahwa selama ini mereka baik- baik aja kalau tidak ada obrolan seperti ini.

“OH.. YAUDAH SIH JACK, KALO EMANGMAU KAMU GITU, MAAF YA. UDAH AKU GOJEK AJA PULANGNYA. BYE JACK, SEMOGA KAMU BAHAGIA TERUS.”

Dengan marahnya Anna pergi meninggalkan Jacob, tanpa menengok kebelakang bahkan untuk melihat raut wajah Jacob yang benar-benar terlihat sedih, dan frustasi.

.....

Sudah beberapa bulan Jacob dan Anna tidak bertegur sapa, padahal sebelum kejadian itu Anna dan Jacob sangat lengket, tak terpisahkan, tapi sekarang bertegur sapa pun tidak lagi. Anna rindu Jacob, hatinya sakit setelah kepergian Jacob. Seiring berjalannya waktu, Anna berharap Jacob kembali dan berbaikan dengannya, namun yang Anna dapat adalah salam perpisahan yang kemudian dilanjutkan dengan Jacob memblock semua akun sosmed Anna. Anna sangat marah saat itu, namun lama kelamaan Anna menjadi cemas, dan sedih hingga terus menerus menangis. Anna sadar, ini yang namanya sayang, apa yang Jacob bilang benar, teman ngga akan bertindak selebih ini. Selama tidak ada Jacob, Anna selalu menangis di rumah Sarah, sahabatnya. Sarah pun mengatakan hal yang sama mengenai hubungannya dengan Jacob. Anna memberanikan diri dan meyakinkan dirinya untuk mendatangi fakultas Jacob dan berbicang dengannya besok.

Keesokan harinya, Anna sudah bersemangat dan bersiap untuk pergi ke fakultas Jacob dengan harapan mereka bisa kembali bersama lagi. Dia memakai kemeja ungu yang Jacob belikan untuknya dan memakai rok mini kesukaannya, juga sedikit sentuhan make up di wajahnya. Dengan penuh harapan dan keyakinan Anna pergi menuju fakultas Jacob. Namun

sesampainya di depan Fakultas ia melihat Jacob sedang bergandengan dengan seorang wanita.

Pemandangan di depannya membuat Anna tak dapat membendung air matanya, Anna mematung. Apa yang ada di depan matanya saat ini, tidak pernah dibayangkan Anna sebelumnya. Rasa sakit memenuhi hati Anna, ditambah mata yang terasa panas hingga keluar air mata. Di depannya terdapat Jacob..bersama seorang wanita. Mereka tertawa lepas dan bermesraan, sama seperti dulu saat Anna dan Jacob bersama. Melihat pemandangan tersebut membuat Anna mengingat masa lalunya, saat Jacob ada di sisinya. Jacob dan Anna saling bertukar tatap, hingga akhirnya Anna tersenyum dengan air mata di pipinya dan pergi.

Jacob bukannya tidak melihat Anna pergi dengan tangisan, namun Jacob sudah memiliki hati yang baru untuk di jaga, ia tidak bisa begitu saja pergi meninggalkannya hanya untuk mengejar Anna. Sudah berbulan- bulan Jacob mencoba melupakan Anna, namun apa yang dilewati bersamanya terlalu manis, seperti vanilla. Iya, Anna adalah vanilla itu. Bahkan walau sekarang Jacob memiliki yang baru, bau vanilla itu masih menempel padanya. Jacob masih sayang Anna, namun apa yang menjadi pilihan Anna adalah prioritas Jacob meskipun itu dengan meninggalkannya dan melepas semuanya.

Sorenya, selepas kelas terakhir Jacob, ia tidak sengaja bertemu dengan Sarah. Ia menanyakan kabar Anna kepadanya

dan mengatakan bahwa siang tadi ia melihat Anna menangis didepan fakultasnya.

“Hey Sar ..jadi, Anna apa kabar? Dia baik kan? Tadi aku lihat dia di depan fakultas, tapi..kok nangis.”

Sarah kaget mendengar bahwa Anna menangis dan pergi, padahal semalam sebelumnya Anna tampak bersemangat untuk menemui Jacob.

“Hah nangis? Padahal semalem semangat mau baikan sama kamu loh Jack...” Jacob terlihat kebingungan dengan pernyataan Sarah.

Sarah pun akhirnya menceritakan semua kepada Jacob mengenai Anna selama beberapa bulan tidak bersamanya.

Setelah mendengar cerita Sarah, Jacob terdiam tak tahu harus mengatakan apa. Ternyata Anna juga memiliki rasa yang sama dengannya. Kini Jacob berada pada dua pilihan terberat, dan keduanya tetap menjadikan Jacob sebagai cowok brengsek. Yang pertama adalah dengan stay bersama wanita yang baru dan meninggalkan Anna, dan yang kedua adalah dengan kembali bersama Anna.

“Sarah, bantu aku buat ketemu Anna ya..aku mau ngobrol sama dia.” Ucap Jacob dengan tulus. Sarah menghela nafas, diam sejenak.

“Yaudah ayosekarang ke rumah ku.” Jacob mengangguk, mengikut Sarah berjalan menuju area parkir motor.

Anna masih terisak di taman rumah Sarah sembari menatap taman yang kosong, namun tidak kosong pada mata Anna, bayangan Jacob bersama dengan wanita tadi bak tetrputar ulang di depan mata Anna seperti adegan nyata yang terulang. Bayangan Anna terpecah ketika ada tangan yang menyentuh pundaknya. Sembari tersenyum dengan getir, Sarah mengatakan kepada Anna bahwa Jacob datang untuk menemuinya, awalnya Anna enggan untuk menemui Jacob, namun Sarah meyakinkan Anna untuk menyelesaikan semuanya dengan baik.

Jacob datang perlahan menuju arah Anna, Sarah mengangguk kepada Jacob seakan mengatakan bahwa ia akan meninggalkan mereka berdua untuk berbincang.

“Ann.. apa kabar?” sapa Jacob dengan mata yang bergetar.

“Yah..kayak yang kamu lihat, gini Jack..” Anna pun menimpali dengan jawaban seadanya seakan enggan menjelaskan situasinya sekarang.

Jacob paham bahwa Anna sedang patah, namun ia harus segera menyelesaikan ini semua.

“Aku udah denger semua ceritanya dari Sarah Ann, aku gatau kalao kamu juga ngerasain apa yang aku rasain Ann, rasa sayang. Aku nyesel ninggalin kamu.”

Mendengar jawabannya membuat hati Anna berbunga bunga, ia tentu berharap mereka akan kembali bersama lagi.

“Tapi... “ hening sesaat. kalimat lanjutan Jacob membuat Anna membeku, ia tau bahwa kalimat setelahnya adalah kalimat

yang tidak ia mau dengar. Perlahan air mata mulai menetes dari pipi keduanya.

“Tapi udah terlambat Ann.. aku udah gabisa nekan tombol rewind Ann, ga segampang itu. Maaf aku sudah menghadirkan orang lain untuk mengisi kekosongan itu Ann, yang awalnya kamu isi. Aku rasa kisah kita sudah selesai di hari itu Ann, ngga adil rasanya kalau aku meninggalkan dia untuk mengulang kisah kita.”

Anna menahan nafasnya sejenak, kemudian menghembuskannya. Tersenyum getir menatap Jacob dengan mata bergetar dan berkaca-kaca, ia berkata

“Gapapa Jack, aku tau semua ini kebodohanku, aku dulu terlalu jahat sama kamu, munngkin sekarang adalah waktu ku untuk menerima semua karmanya. Kamu orang yang baik Jack, keputusan kamu adalah yang terbaik, kamu pantas buat bahagia sama dia. Terimakasih udah mau ngobrolin ini dan menyesaikan nya. Mulai sekarang kita sama-sama jalan kedepan tanpa noleh kebelakang ya Jack. Kamu adalah kenangan yang indah, sekali lagi, terimakasih.”

Keduanya menangis, namun dengan tangisan tersebut mereka melepaskan semua perasaan yang selama ini mereka pendam, bersamaan dengan tangisan itu jugalah kisah mereka benar-benar berakhiri.

Ankine

By Sheylla Heti

Sore ini seperti biasa, aku berkumpul di ruang mading untuk membahas apa saja yang akan ditempel di mading untuk minggu ini. Aku mendengarkan ketua MD yang sedang membahas isi dari mading. Dia mengatakan bahwa setidaknya mading dijadikan tempat informasi yang akurat. Membahas segala hal yang terjadi di sekolah dan menjadikan warga sekolah objek utama.

"Kita bisa memulai minggu ini dengan prestasi yang telah dicapai para siswa di sekolah maupun luar sekolah yang pastinya menggunakan nama sekolah, mereka membawa nama sekolah untuk dibanggakan, jadi kalian bisa mendapatkan hal-hal yang baru untuk mading kita bukan?" kata ketua MD.

"Dan juga, untuk kalian para anggota baru yang bergabung, kalian akan di pasangkan dengan kakak kelas kalian untuk mencari berita" kata sekretaris MD.

"Baik kak" jawab kami para anggota baru.

Saat kami memikirkan siapa saja yang akan menjadi pasangan dalam mencari berita terbaru, ketua MD sedang berdiskusi dengan sekretaris nya untuk membahas berita mading.

"Nanti malam kalian akan mendapatkan jawaban dari dari apa yang kalian pikirkan, dan juga jangan lupa. Catat apapun berita terbaru!" ucap sekretaris MD.

Setelah pengumuman itu, kami semua berpamitan untuk pulang. Aku melangkah pasti melewati lorong sekolah, saat mendekati kearah mading, aku melihat seseorang yang berdiri lama. Aku mendekatinya karena saat ini sudah sepi dan mengapa dia berada disana membaca mading.

Aku berdiri disampingnya dan melihat madingnya.

"Apa yang dia lihat? Apa yang dia baca hingga menghabiskan waktu lebih dari 10 menit di depan mading?" batinku dalam hati.

Aku mencari dari sudut pojok atas hingga pojok bawah, dan tiba-tiba saja aku melihat matanya.

"Dia melamun? Lahh sia-sia aku penasaran dong." teriakku dalam hati.

Lalu aku melanjutkan perjalanan pulangku dengan tenang. Aku belum diperbolehkan menggunakan alat transportasi oleh kedua orang tuaku, jadi sekarang aku sedang menunggu bus yang searah dengan arah jalan pulang.

Dan tak perlu menunggu lama, bis datang dan para penumpang segera memasuki bus. Aku mengambil bangku tepat ditengah dan melihat pemandangan di jalan. Saat aku melihat keluar, Aku melihat nya, laki-laki pembaca mading. Dia mengendarai motor nya dengan tenang dan stabil. Sejenak terpesona oleh matanya yang hitam legam dan fokus melihat jalan. Dia melewati bis yang kutumpangi dan aku mangalihkan pandanganku ke arah lain.

Aku terpaku sejenak, warna mata hitam nya membawaku tenggelam perlahan saat aku menatapnya. Aku melamun memikirkan mata hitam itu hingga tak menyadari bahwa aku telah sampai pada pemberhentian bus ditempat biasa aku berhenti.

Aku berjalan menuju arah rumahku dengan berjalan kaki melihat sekeliling jalanan. Aku melangkah memasuki perkaranan rumah yang lumayan hijau asri,banyak tumbuhan disekitar halaman dan banyak bungan di sekitarnya.

Aku mengambil kunci pintu dalam tas ku dan membuka nya dengan perasaan biasa saja.

“Aku pulang...” teriakku saat masuk rumah.

Aku sebenarnya menyadarinya, saat ini dirumah tak ada satu pun orang karena mereka berkerja. Ayah sebagai pegawai perpustakaan kota dan ibuku yang bekerja sebagai guru di sekolah dasar di kota. Kakak ku sendiri sedang berkuliah diluar kota.

Aku melangkah masuk ke dalam kamar. Menaruh tas ke meja belajar dan berganti pakaian. Aku melangkah ke atas kasur sambil membawa Hpku. Aku membuka chat teratas yang berisikan pemberitahuan tentang mading yang akan dibuat bulan ini.

Mading Extra

Ketua MD : “Aku dan sekretaris sudah berdiskusi tentang siapa saja yang menjadi pasangan kalian para anggota baru.”

Sekretaris MD : “Aku sedang merapikannya.”

Sekreteris MD : “Sebentar!”

Ana : “Kak, aku ingin mencari berita yang berkaitan tentang olahraga boleh?”

Ketua MD : “Apapun boleh, yang terpenting masih menjadi warga sekolah kita.”

Ketua MD : “Ada yang lain?”

Sekretaris MD : mengirimkan file

Sekretaris MD : “Jika ada kesulitan lain kalian bisa menanyakan di grup ini atau bisa bertanya dengan kami lainnya.”

Aku membuka file yang di kirimkan Sekretaris MD dan melihat bahwa aku dipasangkan dengan Kak Rani. Kakak kelas yang baik dan pandai berkomunikasi. Tiba-tiba aku teringat dengan laki-laki itu.

“Dia siapa? Kelas berapa dia? Selama aku menjadi bagian dari sekolah kurasa aku belum pernah lihatnya?” pikirku tentang laki-laki itu.

Daripada pusing memikirkannya, lebih baik aku tidur saja.

Aku membuka mata pada pagi ini saat matahari belum terlihat, aku bangun dan bersiap untuk lari pagi mengitari kompleks tempat tinggalku. Aku berlari sekitar 15 menit dan kembali ke rumah saat matahari sudah menampakkan wujudnya. Aku masuk rumah disambut oleh ibuku yang sedang menyirami tanaman.

“Pagi bun!” sapa ku.

“Pagi sayang, udah larinya? Tuh ayah sedang menyiapkan sarapan untukmu. Bersiap-siaplah!” kata bundaku.

“Oke bunda”

Aku masuk rumah dan langsung menuju dapur, melihat ayahku sedang meyiapkan sarapan untukku.

“Pagi yah” sapa ku saat melihat ayahku sedang meyiapkan makanan di meja dengan baju dinasnya.

“Pagi anak ayah, mandi dulu sana main langsung ke dapur, telat nanti.” kata ayahku dengan tegas.

“Hahaha... baik yah”

Aku melangkah masuk kamar untuk bersiap berangkat sekolah. Setelah 30 menit aku keluar kamar dan masuk ke area dapur. Aku duduk di depan ayahku yang sedang meminum teh paginya. Bundaku yang duduk disamping ayah sedang memakan sarapannya dan aku juga sedang bersiap memakan sarapan dan susu pagiku.

Setelah selesai sarapan, aku berangkat dengan bunda yang satu arah dengan sekolahku. Di perjalanan kami tidak mengobrol karena bundaku harus berhati-hati saat menaiki motornya, jadi aku diam saja membonceng dibelakangnya.

Aku sampai sekolah 15 menit kemudian. Aku melangkah pasti memasuki halaman sekolah dan memasuki lorong kelas. Kelasku berada di lantai 1 dan berada di tengah-tengah gedung. Aku masuk kelas yang dalam suasana tenang.

Istirahat pertama dimulai dengan bertemu Kak Rani untuk mendiskusikan hal-hal yang akan diwawancara dan siapa objek utamanya. Kita mendiskusikan di halaman belakang sekolah yang rindang dan sepi, karena tidak banyak siswa yang berada disini. Aku dan Kak Rani membahas tema apa yang akan diangkat unruk berita kali ini. Aku mencoba mengusulkan tentang debat Bahasa Inggris yang baru-baru ini menjuarai kompetisi tingkat antar sekolah sekota. Kak Rani teryata juga ingin mengusulkannya karena Kak Rani mengenal orang yang mengikuti kompetisi tersebut.

Setelah kegiatan sekolah selesai aku menunggu Kak Rani di bawah tangga. Aku mendengar langkah kaki dan kukira itu langkah Kak Rani.

“Kak!” sapa ku semangat.

“Eh, ya?!” teriak kaget dengan suara laki-laki yang serak.

“Eh, lohh, maaf. Kukira tadi seseorang yang kukenal.” Kata ku sambil menunduk malu.

“Hahaha tak apa, kau menunggu sesorang dari kelas atas?” laki-laki itu bertanya dengan senyum yang manis dengan lesung pipi yang terlihat.

Aku terpesona oleh senyuman dan lesung pipinya, aku melihat ke arah matanya yang berwarna hitam legam nanum jernih itu.

“I-iya kak, aku menunggu Kak R-Rani hehe” balasku dengan gugup.

“Oh Rani, tadi dia berada di kelas, kurasa sedang mewawancarai Claris” jawab laki-laki itu.

“Hee kok gitu sih kak!?” jawab ku dengan teriak namun sedih.

“Eh, ah anu, begini...”

“Eh maaf kak, bukan buat kakak, buat Kak Rani. Kan aku pengen wawancarai Kak Claris juga, begitu” potongku sambil memberi pejelasan.

“Oh, kukira buat aku, syukurlah. Ah aku Avedis, sekelas dengan Rani dan Claris.” Kata Avedis sambil memperkenalkan diri.

“Wahhh keren, kakak pembawa berita baik.” Jawabku, namun aku terfokus pada namanya yang memiliki arti pembawa berita baik.

“Ha? Kau tau artinya ya?” tanya Kak Avedis.

Aku menjelaskan bahwa ya, aku tau artinya. Aku memiliki hobi mencari nama-nama yang bagus atau sesuatu yang unik. Aku menjelaskan juga arti namaku, ankine, yaitu berharga. Orangtuaku menyukai bunga armenia dan mencari nama dengan dasar bunga tersebut. Aku terlalu bersemangat dalam menjelaskan hingga rasanya Kak Avedis tersenyum melihatku bercerita panjang lebar.

Aku terpaku kembali melihat bagaimana Kak Avedis tersenyum tenang melihatku bercerita. Membuatku merasa kupu-kupu beterbang di perut dan jatungku berdebar keras sekali.

Tiba-tiba dari atas muncul Kak Ranidan Kak Claris. Kak Rani mengatakan bahwa dia sudah sedikit mulai wawancaranya namun belum lengkap. Dia menungguku untuk wawancara. Besok setelah pulang sekolah aku dan Kak Raniakan wawancara Kak Claris.

Kak Avedis sendiri masih disini, dan melihat kami berbicara. Kak Rani mengatakan bahwa Kak Avedis ini juga merupakan anggota pemain voli yang berpartisipasi dengan kejuaran antar sekolah. Namun Kak Rani mengatakan bagian sport sudah ada yang lain, jadi kami memilih kompetisi debat.

Kak Ranidan Kak Clarisberjalan dulu didepan dan aku berjalan dibelakang dengan Kak Avedis. Aku berjalan canggung disampingnya hingga tak kuperhatikan atas sedikit genangan air. Aku menginjaknya dan terpleset.

Aku sengaja menutup mata agar tidak melihat aku terjatuh, namun aku tidak merasakan sakit. Saat kubuka mata, aku bertemu kembali dengan mata berwarna hitam itu. Kak Rani dan Kak Claris memutar kepala mereka dengan sedikit berteriak.

“An, kau baik?” tanya Kak Rani dengan khawatir.

“Kurasa ya, tapi kaki ku..” jawabku dengan ragu.

“Terkilir?” tanya Kak Claris.

“Kurasa terkilir juga, kau pulang dengan siapa? Dijemput? Apa naik motor sendiri?” tanya Kak Avedis.

“Aku pulang naik bus kak” jawabku.

Akhirnya Kak Avedis bersedia mengantarkanku pulang, Kak Rani dan Kak Claris juga khawatir denganku, jadi mereka mempercayakanku dengan Kak Avedis.

Di perjalanan, Kak Avedis bertanya, apa ada bagian lain yang sakit, aku jawab tidak, karena memang tidak merasakan sakit di sekitar kakiku.

Kak Avedis juga berhenti untuk membeli air kelapa muda, katanya buat menyegarkan pikiran jangan sampai terganggu sama kakiku. Aku besok harus sekolah dan melakukan wawancara dengan Kak Claris. Aku harus merasa

lebih baik agar bisa bertemu dengan dia lagi, katanya sambil tertawa.

Aku bereaksi sama dengannya, tertawa, aku merasakan perasaan lebih baik lagi sebab Kak Avedis membiarkanku berpegangan di pinggangnya. Dia bahkan menanyakan aku perlu diantar masukatau tidak setelah sampai dari rumah dan kelihatan rumahnya sepi.

“Err gak usah aja deh kak, keknya masih sanggup aku jalan masuk,” kataku sambil malu karena memang belum pernah mengajak teman mampir ke rumah.

Dan saat berjalan beberapa langkah aku hampir tersandung dan hampir saja terjatuh. Untungnya Kak Avedis disampingku hingga dia bisa menangkapku.

“Aduh, tuhkan, hati-hati dek. yuklah aku temenin masuk, nyampe teras aja deh ya? Gakpapa kan?” tanya Kak Avedis tak tega.

“Iya deh kak, aku sebenarnya malu, soalnya belum pernah ngajak temen main ke rumah. Jadi aku bingung harus apa... hehehe” jawabku sambil malu.

Akhirnya Kak Avedis menuntunku sampai teras, dan ternyata aku masih merasakan sakit. Jadilah Kak Avedis menuntun sampai ruang tamu.

Dia mendudukanku dengan perlahan, serta melepas sepatu dikedua kakiku. Kurasa mukaku sudah seperti kepiting rebus, merah merona, sebab perlakuannya yang hati-hati itu.

Dia melakukannya dengan hati-hati dan diabertanya dimana kotak P3K-nya.

“Di lemari kaca pojok kanan itu. Laci paling bawah kurasa” kataku sambil menutupi pipiku.

“Pipimu kenapa? Kamu demam? Atau terpesona melihatku?” goda Kak Avedis setelah melepas sepatu dan melihatku.

“Ih kak, apa an sih. Enggak kok, gak ada” jawabku sambil mencoba mengusir badannya dan setelah itu menutupi pipiku sambil merasakan malu.

“Hahahaha iya iya” katanya sambil berjalan jauh mengambil kotak P3K di lemari dan dia bertanya “Hei, di laci ini?” sambi menunjukkan lacinya.

“Ehm... yaa itu” jawabku sambil cemberut karena Kak Avedis masih menggodaku.

Akhir dia mengobatiku, bahkan mengambilkan es batu untuk mengompres kakiku yang terkilir. Dia merawatku dengan telaten dan hati-hati. Dia bahkan menyiapkan minum yang kita beli dijalan tadi. Dia melakukan itu dengan hati-hati dan selalu bertanya dulu denganku, apakah dia melakukan ini atau itu, dan itu kurasa perlakuan cukup sopan sebagai tamu menurutku.

Setelah merawatku beberapa jam, akhirnya Kak Avedis pamit pulang. Dia menyarakan untuk jangan terlalu melakukan hal berat pada kakiku tapi jangan juga untuk bermalasan karena berjalan mampu mengurangi gejala sakit.

Setelah beberapa menit Kak Avedis pulang, bundaku pulang ke rumah dengan membawa beberapa belanjaan. Pantas saja bunda pulang telat, bunda belanja sih, pikirku.

Saat bunda melihatku dengan kaki yang diangkat ke sofa bunda bertanya.

“Dek, kaki kamu kenapa? Kok yang diangkat cuma satu? Mana dikompres lagi? Jatuh?”

“Iya bunda, aku hampir jatuh, dan kakiku terkilir sekarang. Udah dikompres sama minum obat pereda nyeri tadi.” Jelasku ke bunda

“Dah makan dek? Eh bentar, siapa yang kompres tadi? yang bantu kamu nyampe sini siapa?” tanya bunda yang baru sadar kalo kakiku terkilir dan belum bisa berjalan kesana kemari.

“Tadi ada kakak kelas yang bantu aku bun. Dia temannya Kak Rani.” jelasku sambil merasa malu. Oh dan Kak Rani itu sepupuku.

“Siapa? Cewek? Temen Rani? Kok bukan Rani aja?” tanya bunda minta pejelasanku.

“I-itu kak a-avedis, temen sekelasnya Kak Rani, dan c-cowok. Kata Kak Rani, tante lagi banyak pesanan jadi Kak Rani gak bisa nganterin aku terus dia minta bantuan t-temanya tadi” jelasku sambil malu karena bunda tau aku belum pernah dekat dengan teman cowok.

“Ooo cowok yaa?” goda bunda ku. Kurasa mukaku benar-benar seperti kepiting rebus yang dibumbu pedas, sangat merah.

Setelah itu bunda merawatku, bunda menyiapkan makanan untukku dan bunda mengantarkanku ke kamar untuk berhenti baju.

Malam itu Kak Rani bertanya kepadaku “Apakah kaki kamu sudah merasa lebih baik?” dan aku menjawabnya “Ya kakiku sudah merasa baik.” Aku sudah bisa berjalan dan hanya saja masih terasa sakit saat aku terlalu lama bertumpu di kakiku yang tekilir.

Pagi harinya aku berangkat sekolah dengan kaki pincang dan aku masuk ke dalam kelas dengan tenang, tak ada yang bertanya karena aku masuk kelas saat bel masuk berbunyi dan aku belajar seperti biasanya. Setelah itu pulang sekolah, aku dijemput Kak Rani untuk segera melakukan wawancara dengan Kak Claris. Kami melakukan wawancara di taman sekolah dan Kak Claris serta Kak Avedis sudah menunggu kami di sana.

Setelah itu kami bertanya kepada Kak Claris. ‘Bagaimana caranya melakukan debat yang begitu meyakinkan, bagaimana untuk percaya diri saat melakukan debat, dan juga bagaimana caranya untuk menyiapkan materi sebelum melakukan debat. Bagaimana cara untuk menghafalkan poin-poin dari materi tersebut yang harus dijelaskan saat debat.’

Kak Claris menjelaskannya dengan sangat berhati-hati serta pelan-pelan karena kami juga menulisnya. Kak Claris selalu menjelaskannya dengan sangat detail hingga akhirnya

kami Paham bagaimana caranya melakukan debat yang hebat seperti itu.

Setelah kami melakukan wawancara beberapa kali serta merekamnya, kami telah menemukan informasi yang sangat sangat berarti dan sangat detail. Akhirnya kami meringkas dan menjadikannya sebuah artikel yang sangat sangat menarik. Kak Claris juga setuju dengan artikel yang telah kami tulis telah beberapa kali melakukan wawancara dalam beberapa hari.Kak Avedis selalu menemani ku melakukan

Setelah wawancara selesai aku dan Kak Avedis semakin dekat, bahkan kami sering mengirimkan pesan satu sama lain, menanyakan kabar bahkan kami pernah menonton bersama karena film nya benar-benar menyambungkan kami, kami mempunyai bahan pembicaraan yang nyambung.

Aku bahkan pernah bertanya ke Kak Avedis, apakah dia ssedang dekat dengan seseorang. Dia menjawab tidak. Aku senang sekali, bahkan aku melompat-lompat di kamar. Bunda sampai heran denganku yang tiba-tiba punya banyak energi ini, karena memang dasarnya aku ini pemalas kalo malam.

Aku sebenarnya malu untuk bercerita tentangKak Avedis ke bunda tapi aku mau tahu kalo dari sudut bunda Kak Avedis itu bagaimana.

“Bun, menurut bunda, Kak Avedis gimana bun?” tanya ku penasaran.

“Avedis ya? Yang sering main sama kamu kan? Menurut bunda dia baik, sopan, bunda juga suka. Apalagi pas Avedis senyum, lesung pipinya menarik banget dek, iya gak?” jawab bunda sambil menggodaku tentang senyuman Kak Avedis yang benar-benar mempesona.

“Ih bunda, jangan menggodaku seperti itu. Kan malu.” tanggapanku dengan godaan bunda.

“Kamu suka dek sama avedis? Kalo suka berjuang sana, Avedis gak punya pacar kan?” tanya bunda memberiku semangat.

“Iya, kata Kak Avedis dia lagi gak deket dengan siapapun. Aku jadi makin menyukainya” kataku sambil menahan rasa malu dengan bunda.

Setelah aku bercerita tentang Kak Avedis dengan bunda, aku merasakan bahwa aku punya kesempatan untuk mendekati Kak Avedis bahkan aku punya kesempatan untuk menjadi pacarnya, pikirku. Aku benar-benar menyukai Kak Avedis yang baik, sopan, memperlakukan dangan baik dan menemaniku saat aku bersama Kak Rani dan Kak Claris.

Aku ingin mencoba menyatakan perasaanku kepada Kak Avedis, bahwa aku benar-benar menyukainya. Aku ingin mengajaknya keluar bersama berdua dan menyatakan perasaanku, untuk masalah diterima atau tidaknya aku benar-benar tidak memikirkannya karena aku yakin Kak Avedis mempunyai perasaan yang sama.

Aku mencoba mencari waktu yang pas, kurasa saat kemah di sekolah yang diadakan sekolah. Aku akan mencoba untuk berbicara dengan Kak Avedis. Aku harus yakin walaupun aku sedikit gugup.

“Kak, kakak besok ikut kemah di sekolah kan? Perwakilan dari kelas?” tanya sambil berharap lebih ke Kak Avedis.

“Ya aku ikut, Rani dan Claris juga ikut kok, kamu tau mereka ikut kan?” jawab Kak Avedis sambil memandangku.

“Ah iya mereka ikut, jadi kakak ikut juga kan? Asik hehehe” senangnya Kak Avedis ikut acara besok kemah di sekolah.

Besok adalah harinya, hari kemah di sekolah yang diadakan sekolah setiap dua tahun sekali. Perwakilan kelas yang dipilih untuk mewakili kelas di seluruh kelas yang berada di sekolah.

Acara kali ini diadakan oleh sekolah sendiri dengan panitiannya adalah para OSIS. Panitia OSIS sangat teliti dalam acara kali ini karena acaranya hanya diadakan setiap dua tahun sekali, panitia OSIS ini melakukannya dengan sangat sangat hati-hati karena sudah diberi kepercayaan oleh sekolah. Panitia OSIS yang menjadi panitia kemah tidak bisa menjadi perwakilan dari kelas, jadi perwakilan dari kelas sendiri merupakan pilihan dari kelas itu kecuali siswa yang mengikuti OSIS yang jadi panitia.

Para panitia mengatur sedemikian rupa bagaimana jalannya perkemahan ini dari mulai kedatangan para siswa yang menjadil peserta lalu persiapan tempat di kelas-kelas setelah itu membangun tenda di lapangan dan di halaman serta untuk acara utama nanti malam penampilan di acara api unggun dan juga penampilan-penampilan yang telah di latih sebelumnya oleh para wakil kelas untuk ditampilkan dalam acara utama.

Aku tidak kebagian dalam hal penampilan saat acara utama, karena sudah ada wakil kelas yang akan tampil. Mereka akan improvisasi dan diaminkan dengan instrumen piano dan biola dalam lagu Yura Yunita – Cinta Dan Rahasia. Mereka hanya bermain berdua karena hanya mereka yang bisa bermain alat musik sedangkan anak lainnya tidak memiliki suara yang pas.

Saat wakil kelas dari kelas ku memulai satu ketukan pertama nya, para peserta bingung namun setelah beberapa bait ketukan mereka mengikuti lagunya.

Yura Yunita – Cinta dan Rahasia

Kucinta padamu

Namun kau milik sahabatku

Dilema hatiku

Andai ku bisa

Berkata sejujurnya

Jangan kau pilih dia

Pilihlah aku

*Yang mampu mencintamu
Lebih dari dia*

*Bukan kuingin merebutmu
Dari sahabatku
Namun kau tahu
Cinta tak bisa
Tak bisa kau salahkan*

*Kucinta padamu
Namun kau milik sahabatku
Dilema hatiku*

*Andai ku bisa
Berkata sejujurnya*

*Jangan kau pilih dia
Pilihlah aku
Yang mampu mencintamu
Lebih dari dia*

*Bukan kuingin merebutmu
Dari sahabatku
Namun kau tahu
Cinta tak bisa
Tak bisa kau salahkan
Tak bisa kau salahkan
Tak bisa kau salahkan*

Setelah penampilan dari kelasku yang seperti konser dengan para penonton yang menjadi penyanyinya. Semua semakin bersemangat padahal malam makin menjadi. Hawa

dingin seakan hanyalah sebuah hembusan angin yang menyapa malam ini. Semua memulai terlena dengan penampilan-penampilan anak kelas lain tak kalah hebat dan hebohnya. Setelah penampilan kelas selesai semua peserta masuk ke tenda dan kelas yang telah disulap menjadi tempat untuk tidur.

Pagi hari setelah acara api unggun, kami diberi kesempatan untuk berolahraga dan memutari halaman sekolah. Kami mengobrol banyak hal hingga tiba-tiba aku melihat Kak Avedis dan Kak Claris berjalan bersama dari arah koperasi yang memang dikhususkan buka kali ini.

Aku berlari dan memaggil Kak Avedis “Kak Avedis, tunggu, aku ingin bicara sebentar. Ah pagi Kak Claris, aku pinjam Kak Avedis sebentar” sapaku kepada Kak Claris yang tersenyum maklum dan Kak Avedis yang menaikan alisnya seakan bertanya ada apa.

Aku menggandeng tangan Kak Avedis dan berjalan ke arah pohon rindang yang di sebalah lapangan basket.

“Kak maaf, aku ingin mengatakan sesuatu. Semoga kakak gak marah ya?”

“Ehm?” Kak Avedis makin bingung dengan sikapku kali ini tapi tetap menjawab “ya, ada apa? Ada masalah?”

Aku mengumpulkan sisa-sisa keberanianku untuk berbicara. Sungguh gugup rasanya.

“K-kak, a-aku... a-aku menyukai Kak Avedis” aku berkata dengan lantang namun tidak terlalu keras agar orang lain tidak menaruh perhatian lebih.

Aku sungguh sangat merasa malu, ingin menubur diri namun dengan keberanian yang tinggal sedikit aku mencoba melihat Kak Avedis yang terdiam mematung dengan mulut menganga.

“Ha? A-apa? Dek? Tunggu... kamu menyukaiku?” Kak Avedis bertanya namun kenapa aku merasakan firasat yang sungguh aneh ya. Seakan Kak Avedis menganggap pernyataanku sebagai salah satu kesalahpahaman yang mengganggu.

“Iya kak, aku menyukai kakak. Kakak menyukaiku juga gak?” tanyaku sungguh berharap mendapatkan jawaban yang memuaskan.

“Anu dek, kakak menyukaimu sebagai seorang adik, aku bungsu jadi aku menganggapmu sebagai adikku sendiri. Maaf.” jelas Kak Avedis

Aku kaget terdiam mendengar penjelasan Kak Avedis, aku merasa Kak Avedis perhatian denganku luar biasa banyak. Ternyata semua ini hanyalah bentuk perhatian untuk seorang adik.

“Tapi kak, kenapa kakak mau menemaniku bahkan sering jalan bersamaku?” tanyaku penasaran.

“karena kamu adalah adikku, seseorang yang sudah kuanggap adik, dan oh, apakah kamu tidak tahu kalau aku berpacaran dengan Claris?”

Jeder!!! Aku sungguh benar-benar kaget kali ini. Jadi selama ini, Kak Avedis di sekitarku karena ada Kak Claris yang juga pacarnya. Aku sungguh salah paham ternyata.

“Ah, aku tidak tahu kak, maaf. Aku salahpaham perhatian kakak selama ini, aku belum pernah dekat dengan orang lain selain Kak Rani dan Kak Armenia(Kakak Ankine). Jadi kurasa aku menyukai Kak Avedis karena kakak teman cowok pertamaku sekaligus cinta pertamaku” jelasku sedih tapi malu setelah mengungkapkannya.

“Ah, ini pertama kali? Aku mangacau ya? Aku benar-benar minta maaf ya An, aku tidak tahu jika perhatianku membuatmu salahpaham. Maaf”

“Kenapa Kak Avedis mnta maaf, gakpapa kak. Aku kan hanya mengungkapkan perasaanku ke kakak, dan entah kenapa aku merasa lega sekaligus bahagia. Aku punya kakak laki-laki sekarang. Kita tetap menjadi teman ya kak? Ah tidak aku sekarang adik kakak kan?”

Aku merasa sangat sedih tapi entah kenapa aku juag merasa aku baik-baik saja. Aku bahkan masih mempunyai muka yang tebal untuk bertemu atau bermain bersama mereka lagi.

“Ehm ya kau sekarang adikku. Kamu beneran gakpapa? Baik-baik?”

Aku mengangguk kepada Kak Avedis serta tersenyum sangat tulus sambil memperlihatkan aku baik dan dibalas senyuman tulus Kak Avedis. Kak Avedis mengambil langkah menjauh dari pohon rindang yang menaungi kami. Aku melihat dia melambaikan tangan seakan pamit, ‘aku pergi, aku bukan cinta pertamamu, aku hanyalah seoarng yang kau kagumi

karena kamu belum pernah bertemu orang seperti yang terlihat seperti kakak dan temukanlah cintamu'

Aku seperti merasa di beri tahu bahwa aku masih mempunyai cerita yang lain, cerita panjang tentang kehidupan baru saja aku alami. Masa yang sangat bersejarah, masa dimana semua masa depan akan terbentuk, masa SMA. Kata orang masa SMA adalah masa yang sangat indah, masa kita memulai berpetualang, masa kita menemukan jati diri. Kata orang juga kita bisa mendapat pengalaman yang sangat berharga ang akan dikenang hingga tua.

Entah kenapa aku merasa bersyukur mengungkapkan bahwa aku pernah menyukai seseorang, aku dapat pelajaran yang berharga. Untuk tidak terlena oleh perhatian yang berlebihan, perhatian adalah satu hal yang bisa membuatmu jatuh, namun mampu menguatkanmu juga. Aku merasa bahwa aku salah namun aku juga benar, salah karena tidak sengaja menyukai seseorang yang sudah mempunyaipacar dan benar karena tidak terlalu jauh melangkah demi mendapatkannya.

Aku berterimakasih pada mu Kak Avedis, Kak Rani dan Kak Claris. Awal cerita SMA ku akan dimulai dan kuharap menjadi semakin menarik.

Aku akan berpaling dari Kak Avedis, banyak para siswa disini yang bisa dijadikan cerita. Aku masih berteman dengan Kak Avedis dan Kak Claris juga, ah Kak Rani memang sepupu ku yang sekarang menjadi sahabat baikku juga.

Brush and Love

By Naba Maulida L

Kicauan burung-burung yang terbang bebas tanpa terbatas ruang, langit biru sepanjang mata memandang, tebing-tebing yang terkikis menampakkan keindahannya dengan alami, serta udara yang masih sejuk tanpa polusi, jauh dari perkotaan yang ramai.

Misya sedang duduk pada anak tangga menuju tebing, seorang gadis berusia 18 tahun yang sangat menyukai dunia seni rupa dari kecil. Bakatnya turun temurun dari kakeknya seorang pelukis kontemporer yang sangat dihormati oleh pegiat seni di daerahnya.

Saat Misya kecil, setiap pagi sembari menunggu kopi tidak terlalu panas, kakeknya selalu siap-siap untuk mengeluarkan alat-alat lukisnya dari rak berwarna coklat susun tiga tanpa pintu, yang diatasnya banyak piala dan piagam penghargaan yang diperoleh kakeknya. Kemudian mulai

menata alat-alat lukisnya dan memilah ukuran kuas yang sesuai dengan gambar yang ia lukis.

Misyah yang saat itu masih berusia 5 tahun, masa dimana ia sedang ingin tahu segala hal, dengan sigapnya setelah bangun tidur dan membuka pintu kamarnya langsung berteriak “Akuuuuuung!” dan memeluk kakeknya dari belakang.

Akung adalah sebutan Misyah kepada kakeknya. Kemudian kakek menyuruhnya duduk di sebelah kakeknya. Didepan mereka sudah tersedia kanvas berukuran 30x40cm dan 20x15cm berwarna putih bersih yang hanya disenderkan pada dinding putih rumahnya.

Ukuran 30x40 cm ukuran yang biasa digunakan kakek Misyah untuk menggambar pesanan para pelanggannya, deretan kertas yang dijepit pada tali rami yang terpasang dinding yang mengharuskan kakeknya menyelesaikan pesenan-pesenan tersebut dalam waktu yang singkat.

Misyah tanpa ragu memegang kuas milik kakeknya dengan jari-jari mungilnya dan mulai mengambil cat kemudian menggoreskannya ke kanvas ukuran 20x15cm yang sudah kakek siapkan untuknya. Tak segan sesekali ia mencelupkan kuasnya ke dalam wadah air disamping kakeknya. Lukisan pelangi yang ia buat tak sebagus milik kakeknya, tetapi gradasi yang berhasil ia buat di usia 5 tahun merupakan tanda bahwa didalam darahnya mengalir darah seni dari kakeknya.

“Pengumuman-pengumuman, diharapkan kepada seluruh peserta *Young Artist Gathering* untuk segera memasuki area yang telah disediakan panitia.” seruan panitia membuat Misya dan peserta lain yang sudah menunggu selama kurang lebih 15 menit mendekat dan menempati tempat duduk masing-masing.

Misya duduk di kursi paling dekat panggung utama menghadap tebing-tebing yang berwarna kuning cenderung berwarna oren. Bebatuan yang menjulang tinggi dan kikisan sumber air dari atas yang berlangsung ratusan tahun yang mengakibatkan relief alami dan menampilkan keindahan.

Pertemuan para seniman membuat Misya sangat bahagia karena ia bisa bersama dengan orang-orang yang satu frekuensi, memiliki hobi, visi serta misi yang sama.

“Hai?” sapa wanita berjilbab biru dongker disampingnya.

“Hai juga, kenalin namaku Misya, boleh tau ini dengan mbak siapa?” sapa balik Misya dengan ramah.

“Namaku Finda, salam kenal ya”, sahutnya.

Pandangan dan fokus mereka berpindah pada MC yang berbicara diatas mimbar dan menginstruksikan semua peserta untuk mengeluarkan alat-alat lukis yang telah mereka bawa dan memulai untuk melukis.

“Misya, kamu mau ngangkat tema apa nih?” tanya Finda.

“Kayaknya lebih ke alam sih, kamu?”

“Aku lebih suka lukisan abstrak sih, jadi aku mau bikin tema abstrak.” Jawab Finda

“Maaf mbak, bisa alat-alatnya dipindahkan, ini tempat duduk saya” Ujar pria yang datang terlambat yang namanya tertempel di kursi sebelah kirinya.

“Oh tempatnya ya mas, maaf ya mas saya kira tadi gak ada orang, karena acara sudah berlangsung 20 menit yang lalu.” sahut Misya sembari fokus mensketsa gambarannya.

Sosok pria tampan berjaket kulit bergegas membuka tasnya dan mengeluarkan peralatannya. Dengan cekatannya ia mulai mensketsa kanvas yang telah disediakan panitia dengan pensil 2B. Jari-jarinya tak canggung lagi untuk menggoreskannya ke kanvas.

Pria dengan *name tag* pemberian panitia yang ia kalungkan dilehernya bertuliskan Harza, tanpa menghiraungkan orang-orang sekelilingnya, ia fokus untuk melukis. Ia takut jika keterlambatannya tadi membuat karyanya tidak selesai.

“Duuuh, mana nih kuas ukuran satuku!” kesalnya. Harza melanjutkan bagian yang perlu ia selesaikan lagi sebelum ia mencari kuas ukuran satunya kembali. Gambar yang ia buat 40% sudah mulai terlihat, dibagian kanan ada tebing berwarna hitam ke abuan, yang bawahnya berwarna biru melukiskan air yang jernih.

“Mana bisa aku membuat percikan air yang realistik tanpa kuas ukuran satu?.. Hufft.. gimana nih, gak mungkin aku gunain ukuran tiga, pasti hasilnya terlalu lebar dan jatuhnya nanti tidak realistik.” gumam Harza lirih sambil berpikir untuk mencari jalan keluar.

“Mbak, kuas ukuran satu mbak lagi dipakai nggak?” tanya Harza kepada Misya yang duduk disamping kanannya. Misya yang sedang fokus melukis dengan tema Hutan tropis tak menjawabnya. “Mbaaaak... mohon maaf mbak mengganggu waktunya sebentar.” Harza meninggikan volume suaranya. “Eh iya mas, gimana gimana? maaf, maaf, saya terlalu fokus. Ada perlu apa mas?” jawab Misya telat.

“Emmm... kayaknya belum kepake sih. Mau minjem?”

“Iya mbak, saya lupa bawa kuas ukuran satu.”

“Iya mas ambil aja, dibawah.”

Harza mencari kuas ukuran satu milik Misya. Deretan kuas lengkap yang sangat bersih dan tertata jika dibandingkan dengan milik Harza yang berantakan dan jarang ia bersihkan. Menurutnya semakin banyak coretan warna, kuas semakin bermakna karena sering ia gunakan untuk melukis.

Kuas ukuran satu milik Misya otomatis berada paling tepi kiri, kuasnya ia tata dengan baik sesuai dengan ukuran, sehingga memudahkan ia untuk mengambil. Pandangan Harza pun langsung tertuju pada kuas usang ukuran satu berwarna kuning yang warnanya telah memudar, bulu kuasnya sangat

lembut, dan gagangnya terlihat lebih besar dari pada kuas ukuran satu yang pernah ia temui.

“Ini kan ya mbak? Saya pinjem dulu ya?”

“Iya mas silahkan!”

Sebelum Harza memakai kuas Misya, Harza menyelesaikan bagian lain yang harus ia selesaikan dahulu. Harza sangat menikmati proses melukisnya. Bersama para seniman muda ia melukis bersama dengan ditemani suasana alam yang sangat membuatnya nyaman.



Awan putih yang berjalan pelan, langit biru yang sangat imdah membuat Harza sesekali memandangnya, kemudian ia goreskan cat putih pada dasaran biru di bagian atas kanvasnya. Tak ketinggalan burung-burung elang yang terbang

bebas bersama gerombolannya menjadi inspirasi Harza untuk melukiskannya di dalam karyanya.

“Eeem..keknya udah nih!” gumam Harza lirih. Harza mencelupkan kuas-kuas kotor yang sudah ia pakai ke dalam gelas kaca besar disampingnya dan mulai mengambil kuas Misya.

“Eh iya kelupaan, kalau boleh tahu nama mbak siapa?” tanya Harza sambil memandangnya, sembari ia mulai untuk membuat percikan air realistik dengan kuas ukuran satu milik Misya.

Misya menunjukkan name tag yang telah dberikan panitia kepadanya.

“Mi....sya.” baca Harza.

“Iya namaku Misya.”

“Salam kenal ya!” jawab Harza sambil menunjukkan name tag nya.

“Iya salam kenal juga.”

“Udah sering ikut *event* beginian, Misya?” sembari melukis mereka saling bertukar pengalaman.

“Egak sering sih, malah jarang banget.”

“ Lah, kenapa? Lukisan mbak bagus loh!” sambil memandang lukisan hutan tropis setengah jadi milik Misya.

“Gak papa sih.”

“ Tapi kalo ikutan lomba sering kan pasti?”

“Gak juga sih.” sahut Misya sambil finishing lukisannya.

“Jam menunjukkan pukul 16.00, 15 menit lagi dimohon kepada semua peserta untuk meletakkan hasil karyanya diatas panggung. Jadi dimohon kepada semua peserta untuk menyelesaikan karyanya dan membersihkan peralatannya.”

Entah mengapa Harza sangat takjub pada sosok wanita yang baru ia kenal beberapa menit yang lalu, seakan-akan ia jatuh cinta pada pandangan yang pertama. Jawaban singkatnya sukses membuat Harza kagum. Jawaban dari mulut Misya yang kemerahmudaan dan lesung pipi yang nampak saat ia berbicara seolah-olah menghipnotisnya.

14 menit menjelang waktu habis, Harza mulai sadar kuas yang ia pinjam dari Misya pergerakannya diluar kontrolnya. Karena sisa waktu sebentar lagi habis, ia dengan segera menyelesaikan karyanya yang dirasa kurang sempurna.

Tak seperti biasanya, kali ini Harza terburu-buru untuk menyelesaikan karyanya. Biasanya sebelum ada peringatan dari panitia ia sudah menyelesaikan karyanya dan mulai memberesi alat-alat lukisnya.

Raut wajah panik Harza tak bisa ia tutupi, hal ini tidak pernah ia lakukan sebelumnya. Percakapannya dengan Misya membuatnya lengah dengan manajemen waktu dalam pembuatan karyanya kali ini.

“Perhatian! sekali lagi kepada seluruh peserta, waktu yang tersisa tinggal 5 menit. Kami harapkan untuk seluruh peserta membersihkan alat-alatnya jika dirasa telah selesai!”

Misya mulai membersihkan peralatannya. Kuas-kuas yang tercelup dalam air ia angkat dan tiriskan dengan tisu yang ia bawa. Kebiasaan Misya untuk rapi dan tertata membuatnya selalu telaten untuk membersihkan alat-alatnya. Kemudian, Misya menata kuasnya berurutan dan membiarkan tempat kuas ukuran satunya kosong karena ia menengok Harza masih memakainya.

Proses akhir bagi para seniman adalah proses dimana diperlukan kehati-hatian. Bagi Harza itu hal yang mudah dengan trik untuk tetap fokus dan yakin terhadap goresan.

“Ah...kok nyoret-nyoret terus sih. Kenapa gak bisa mulus seperti biasanya.” Keluh Harza pada saat menit-menit terakhir. Dia mencoba untuk menghela nafas dan kembali fokus untuk proses terakhir lukisnya.

“Fokus zaaaa.. fokusss wooooy! Biasanya juga gampang.” Ujarnya lirih menyemangati dirinya sendiri. Hasilnya tetap sama hasil lukisannya tidak mulus dan terkesan realistik. Gerakan kuasnya tidak terkontrol tatkala Harza semakin berusaha untuk fokus.

“Gara-gara gadis cantik ini nih sepertinya, aku jadi grogi.Tapi ya udahlah waktu tinggal 3 menit lagi, aku harus segera beres-beres peralatanku.” Katanya dalam hati.

Harza menyelesaikan karyanya dengan sedikit rasa kekecewan. Kuas ukuran satu yang ia pinjam justru menjadi momok dalam pembuatan karyanya. Hasilnya percikan air yang terletak pada air jernih justru telihat seperti bebatuan, terlalu gelap dan bentuknya bulat-bulat.

Karena waktu beberapa detik lagi waktunya habis, Harza pasrah terhadap karya yang ia buat. Kemudian Harza memulai untuk membersihkan alat-alatnya.

Harza mengumpulkan kuas-kuas yang berantakan diatas koran yang digelarnya. Ia mencelupkannya ke air untuk membersihkan sisa-sisa cat. Lalu ia masukkan ke dalam boks plastik bening tempat ia menaruh cat dan kuas.

Boks plastik bening inilah yang selalu menemani Harza pada setiap *event* lomba maupun acara non-lomba seperti yang ia ikuti kali ini. Sangat mudah untuk membawanya, hanya perlu ditenteng dan tatkala ingin memulai melukis, ia tinggal membukanya.

Isi boks Harza sangat beragam, cat dengan berbagai merk dengan warna yang sangat lengkap, dilengkapi dengan pigment-pigment yang tidak bisa dihasilkan oleh cat biasa.

Alat Misya sudah bersih dicuci dan Misya mulai beranjak untuk membersihkan jari jemarinya di kamar mandi.

“Misya, mau kemana? Ntar tungguin.”

“Lah..” Misya bertanya-tanya.

“Judul lukisanmu apa Misy? Aku bingung nih mau kasih judul apa.”

“Hutan Tropis. Mungkin yang cocok dengan lukisanmu itu, ketenangan yang mengalir.”

“Lah tapi percikan air yang aku buat rada gagal nih, warnanya juga entah kenapa terlalu gelap.”

“Kok bisa sih?”

“Dan baru ini tadi aku mengalami kejanggalan saat melukis. Rasanya kuas tak terkontrol.”

“Ha?”

“Entahlah, mungkin kedatanganku yang telat tadi, terus bikin aku gak fokus dan tenang”

“Udah belom?, keburu kering nih cat yang nempel di jilbabku!”

“Ah, itu mah biasa kali Misy, celanaku juga udah banyak bermotif cat abstrak. Haha.”

“Ih, ya beda kali cowok sama cewek.”

“Bedanya apa coba?”

“Ih udah ih buruuu!”

“Iya deh, ini juga kelar udahan. Yuk!”

Misy dengan raut sebal dan Harza yang terus-terusan ngledek Misy menuju kamar mandi umum. Setelah selesai dari kamar mandi Harza masih menunggu Misy yang belum keluar dari kamar mandi.

Sembari menunggu, Harza berusaha mengingat apa yang terjadi padanya beberapa menit yang lalu. Ia merasa sangat aneh. Harza sering bertemu dengan orang baru, baik laki-laki maupun perempuan, tetapi dari banyak *event* yang ia ikuti dia tidak pernah hilang fokus dalam melukis.

Harza sadar betul tentang dirinya, bahwa ia bisa mengontrol dirinya dan kembali fokus ketika ada hal yang mengganggunya dalam pembuatan karya. Usianya yang menginjak 21 tahun dan banyak pengalaman membuatnya paham bagaimana memposisikan diri dengan baik dan mengatur emosinya saat melukis.

“Ku akan selaluuu...” Misya keluar dari kamar mandi sambil menyanyi lirih.

“Misya!”

“Lah masih nungguin juga ni orang.”

“Lah kok manggilnya orang sih.”

“Eh iya maaf aku tidak terlalu jelas melihat name tag mu.”

“Kenalin, namaku Harza Aminullah. Biasa dipanggil Harza.”

“Oh iya.”

Misyah memang sosok gadis yang cuek, tak terlalu kepo dengan hal yang menurutnya tidak penting. Akan tetapi, Misya sosok yang friendly dan humble. Banyak orang yang suka

dengan kepribadiannya karena ia mudah beradaptasi dengan orang baru yang ia kenal.

“Dih, gitu doang Misy.”

“Ada yang salahkah dari jawabanku”

“Ampun bu jago.. hahahaha. Gak ada Misy.”

“Ya udah.”

“Ngeliat kamu tadi saat bersihin kuasmu sampai bersih, aku jadi teringat saat aku 15 tahun mengikuti lomba tingkat SMP se-Kabupaten. Saat itu pertama kali aku mengikuti lomba. Selesai acara aku membersihkan kuasku sampai bersih tanpa ada sisa cat yang tertinggal di kuas sedikitpun. Semakin lama semakin gak telaten buat ngebersihin.”

“Alah bilang aja males.”

“Hahahaha. Ya maksutnya itu Misy.”

“Lah berarti udah sering dong ikut lomba dan event beginian?”

“ Ya lumayanlah.”

“Pantes tadi terlambat pun raut mukanya tetap santai.”

Harza hanya tersenyum kepada Misya dan mereka mengambil tas dan alat-alatnya.

“Intruksi kepada seluruh peserta bahwa setelah ini akan diadakan *sharing session* dengan tema lukisan kontemporer.

Kami harapkan kepada seluruh peserta menuju ke tempat *sharing session!*”

Seluruh peserta menuju tempat yang diinstruksikan panitia dan duduk sesuai dengan nama yang telah ditempel pada masing-masing kursi. Harza, Misya, Finda dan peserta lainnya mengikuti rangkaian tersebut dengan khidmat.

Setelah *sharing session* berakhir dan sebelum para peserta pulang, para peserta foto bersama dengan background tebing yang sangat indah. Setelah banyak jepretan yang diambil mereka pulang menuju rumah masing-masing.

Misya dan Finda berjalan bersama menuju parkiran.

“Seru ya Misya acaranya, semoga *event* kaya gini sering diadain, itung-itung buat nambah relasi juga kan?” kata Finda.

“Iya nih, kaya gini kan juga bisa nambah temen buat *sharing ilmu* juga.”

Tiba-tiba Harza memanggil Misya.

“Misya! Tunggu!”

Misya menoleh ke belakang.

“Boleh tau gak nama panjang kamu siapa?”

“Ih ku kira manggil itu ada hal yang penting.” jawab sewot Misya.

“Ya ini tuh penting!”

“Misya Safira!” jawabnya terburu-buru menuju mobilnya. Misya masuk ke mobilnya dan segera meninggalkan tempat karena hari sudah menjelang malam dan sebelum isya’ ia harus segera sampai rumah.

“Misya Safira, senang bertemu denganmu!” Teriak Harza saat itu.

Harza memandangi mobil Misya sambil tesenyum. Harza segera menuju motornya dan pulang ke rumah.

Sesampainya dirumah, Harza bersih-bersih karena dari pagi ia belum mandi, kemudian ia membereskan peralatan-peralatannya. Setelah selesai membereskan alat-alatnya dalam boks beningnya, ia beranjak ke kasur merebahkan badannya dan bermain handphone untuk sekedar bermain sosial media.

Entah mengapa Harza berpikiran untuk stalking Instagram cewek yang baru saja ia kenal di event yang ia ikuti tadi sore. Jarinya mengetik nama Misya Safira dalam kolom pencarian. Tak perlu waktu lama, namanya ada di deretan paling atas dengan foto profil Misya yang sedang membawa kuas.

Feed instagramnya penuh dengan karya-karyanya, membuatnya semakin kagum pada sosok gadis yang baru ia kenal. Harza memberanikan diri untuk mengirim pesan kepada Misya melalui Direct Messages (DM).

“Assalamu’alaikum Misya.”

Harza harap-harap cemas jika pesannya tidak dibalas.

Selang beberapa menit, pesan tersebut langsung dibalas oleh Misya.

“Waaliakumussalam wr. Wb.”

Misya mengetahui bahwa pesan dari akun @harza_amin adalah pesan dari Harza yang ia baru saja kenal sore tadi. Chattingan pun berlangsung sampai larut malam. Mereka habiskan waktu mereka malam itu untuk sharing tentang melukis.

“Kalo mau, ayok kapan-kapan refreshng sambil bawa kanvas, cat dan kuas.”

“Iya sih mesti seru banget, ngelukis sambil liat bentuk nyatanya.” balas Misya.

“Nah, bener banget tuh.”

Chatting di DM Instagram berakhir saat Harza meminta nomor Whatsapp Misya. Percakapan intens mulai dari saat itu. Keduanya saling menanyakan kabar dan perkembangan satu sama lain.

Dilain hari, saat Harza ingin melukis pemandangan di teras rumahnya, ia mengambil boks bening miliknya dan mebukanya untuk mengambil pigment yang ia butuhkan.

“Loh, ini kan kuas Misya” ucapnya saat ia mengeluarkan pigment dari box plastiknya.

Tak biasanya ia hanya menggunakan kanvas kecil ukuran 20x25cm. Hal aneh terulang lagi, Saat Harza mulai memegang kuas Misya, pergerakan kuasnya diluar kendalinya.

Kuas tersebut melukis dengan sendirinya tanpa ia gerakkan. Dengan tangan gemetar, Harza langsung melepaskannya. Kuas itu tak berani ia gunakan lagi untuk melukis.

Harza mengembalikan kuas Misya pada boks miliknya dan berharap bisa berjumpa dengan Misya agar bisa mengembalikannya. Harza menduga bahwa kuas itu bukan sembarang kuas. Dilihat dari warna dan bentuknya yang berbeda dari kuas-kuas yang pernah ia temui sebelumnya.

Misyah dibanjiri dengan banyak orderan setiap harinya, membuatnya harus meluangkan banyak waktu untuk melukis.

“Aduuuuh, harusnya kan tadi malem aku nyelesain sketsa untuk 3 lukisan. Malah aku terlalu asyik ngobrol sama Harza. Jadi molor nih!” keluh Misya.

Drrtt...drrttt...

Hp Misya bergetar, ada telfon masuk dari Harza. Misya segera mengangkatnya dan Harza mulai bercerita panjang tentang keanehan kuasnya selama ia pinjam. Misya tak percaya terhadap hal yang Harza katakan tentang kuasnya. Misya tak pernah merasa aneh dengan kuas ukuran satunya yang merupakan pemberian dari sang kakek.

“Ah apaan sih, gak ada ah begituan. Udah ya aku mau ngerjain pesanan dulu”.

“Tunggu bentar, Misy aku serius!”

“Wassalamu’alaikum!”

Belum sempat Harza menjawab, Misya sudah mematikan telfonnya.

Misyah segera membuat sketsa 3 pesenannya, akan tetapi mood buruk sangat berpengaruh terhadap karyanya. Telfon Harza baru saja membuat Misya sedikit kesal dan *badmood*. Pekerjaannya mundur dari *deadline* yang telah ia tentukan, akibatnya ia menerima komplain dari pelanggannya.

Semenjak hal tersebut, Misya sangat menyesali apa yang telah ia lakukan. Rasa senang ketika diperhatikan dengan lawan jenis membuatnya terlena-lena membuang waktu dengan sia-sia. Beberapa pesenan berikutnya juga molor proses pengerjaannya karena imbas dari pesenan 3 yang awal tak segera ia selesaikan.

Usia remaja membuat Misya sadar, usia 18 tahun apabila tak ia gunakan dengan sebaik mungkin ia akan kehilangan banyak waktu yang terbuang sia-sia demi melakukan hal yang tak seharusnya ia lakukan.

Misyah memutuskan untuk mematikan semua media sosialnya dengan tujuan agar Harza tidak lagi menghubunginya. Misya juga sementara *close order* terlebih dahulu, karena ia tak mau mengecewakan banyak orang, karena hasil lukisannya terpengaruh dengan suasana hatinya yang kacau.

Misyah menyadari bahwa ia belum mahir dalam mengolah emosi. Mood yang awalnya bagus tiba-tiba berubah menjadi buruk apabila terjadi suatu hal yang tidak ia inginkan.

Misya menghabiskan waktunya untuk memfokuskan kembali dirinya untuk berkarya dan tidak memikirkan tentang lawan jenis. Sementara Harza selalu rutin mengirim pesan kepada Misya meskipun Misya off dari semua media sosialnya. Ia mengirim pesan melalui Whatsapp dan Instagram baik telfon maupun chat.

Sudah beberapa minggu Harza mengirim pesan kepada Misya akan tetapi tidak ada balasan apapun dari Misya. Harza bertanya-tanya kepada dirinya, hal apa yang ia telah lakukan, sehingga Misya pergi, apakah handphone Misya rusak, atau bagaimana.

Pikiran Harza semakin tidak karuan, ia merasa bersalah karena pada saat terakhir ia berkomunikasi dengan Misya, Misya menutup telfonnya dengan sedikit rasa kesal, ditambah lagi kuas milik Misya masih ada di rumahnya.

Matahari dan bulan bergantian menampakkan keelokannya, hari demi hari Misya habiskan waktunya untuk melukis. Sampai dimana ia mendapatkan info dari temannya melalui email bahwasannya akan diadakan *event* Lomba Lukis Remaja.

Misya sangat antusias dengan lomba tersebut, apalagi belakangan ini ia tengah fokus untuk belajar melukis dan meningkatkan skill yang ia punya. Akhirnya Misya meminta tolong temannya untuk mendaftarkannya mengikuti lomba tersebut.

Setiap pagi menjelang hari-H perlombaan, Misya selalu berlatih untuk mempersiapkan tema yang ingin ia lukis

nantinya. Lomba tersebut diselenggarakan oleh Dinas Kebudayaan Kota setempat bagi para remaja agar selalu ingat terhadap budaya Indonesia.

Misya berangkat menuju tempat lomba sendiri seperti biasanya. Tak ketinggalan ia membawa perlatannya yang sangat rapi dan tertata.

Sesampainya di lokasi, Misya segera turun dari mobilnya dan mengisi daftar hadir. Kemudian ia memasuki gerbang selamat datang peserta.

“Misyaaa.” panggil Harza yang menggunakan name tag bertuliskan PANITIA.

Misya tidak mau hilang fokus kembali, apalagi ia akan berkompetisi kali ini. Misya pura-pura tidak mendengarnya dan segera duduk dikursi peserta.

Harza semakin merasa bersalah, mengapa Misya sangat berbeda dengan sosok Misya yang *humble* dan *friendly* seperti yang ia kenal. Akhirnya Harza melanjutkan pekerjaannya sebagai panitia.

Sesekali Misya menengok ke arah Harza berjalan mengkoordinir panitia lain. Tak bisa dipungkiri bahwa Harza sukses mengambil hatinya.

“Diharapkan agar semua peserta dapat menggunakan waktu dengan sebaik mungkin guna mencapai hasil yang semaksimal mungkin.”

“Waktu dimulai dari 3.... 2.... 1..... Selamat berkarya!”

Misyah berusaha fokus menyelesaikan karyanya. Ia berharap Harza tidak wara wiri dalam jangkauan matanya.

“Syukur tiga setengah jam Harza gak nongol, aku jadi bisa fokus.”ucapnya lirih.

Misyah berhasil menyelesaikan karyanya dengan baik. Misyah membersihkan alat-alatnya di kamar mandi dan kembali lagi ke tempat duduknya untuk menunggu hasil penilaian juri.

Misyah sangat grogi ketika menanti pengumuman juara, karena Misyah masih beberapa mengikuti lomba, sehingga membuat Misyah harap-harap cemas untuk bisa mendapatkan juara.

Baginya juara bukan satu-satunya hal yang penting, akan tetapi pengalaman adalah hal yang terpenting.

“Selamat! juara 1 diraih oleh.....Misyah Safira!”

Perasaan deg-degan tersebut berubah menjadi perasaan haru dan tidak menyangka bisa mendapatkan juara satu. Tangisan Misyah pun pecah. Ia tak menduga jika ia bisa mendapatkan juara 1. Baginya juara satu adalah kemustahilan bagi yang masih pemula dalam mengikuti lomba.

Acara telah berakhir. Sebelum pulang Misyah menyempatkan foto terlebih dahulu di potobooth yang telah disediakan panitia.

“Fotoin dong fotoin!” datang Harza langsung pose sebelah Misyah.

Cekrek cekrek cekrek..

“Lah si Harza nih modus muluu kerjaannya.” sorak teman-temannya.

“Huuum....”

Misy segera menepi keluar dari area potobooth. Harza pun tak ingin Misya semakin menjauh, dia menanyakan mengapa dia menghilang beberapa minggu belakangan ini.

“Misy, apa ada yang salah ya dari aku? Aku mohon maaf ya?”

“Iya.kamu gak salah kok, aku cuma pengen *me-time* aja, dengan cara gitu aku gak diganggu sama orang.”

“ apa aku ganggu Misy?”

“ Ya gak juga.”

“Lah terus kenapa?” Harza masih ingin tahu tentang jawaban Misya.

“Gak kok gapapa.”

“Ya sudah ini aku kembalikan kuasmu. Hal yang ku katakan saat aku menelfonmu beberapa waktu lalu itu benar adanya. Aku juga tidak mengada-ada. Sebelumnya kalau boleh tau, apakah itu kuas yang kamu beli sendiri atau pemberian orang?”

“Iya ini pemberian kakekku, kuas ini bagi dia sudah layaknya nyawa dalam melukis. Beliau memberikannya kepadaku sebelum ia wafat , dulunya ia seorang pelukis kontemporer juga. Bakat melukis dalam diriku kuperoleh dari kakekku.”

Misyah baru ingat pesan kakeknya, bahwa kuaster tersebut mempunyai kekuatan lebih jika digunakan dalam melukis oleh keturunannya. Menjadikan lukisannya semakin indah dan mulus lukisannya. Berbeda hal apabila kuas tersebut digunakan selain keturunannya maka kuas itu akan seperti hilang kendali.

“Terimakasih ya, maaf juga.” Ucap Misyah kepada Harza.

“Iya gapapa, justru aku yang harusnya berterimakasih.”

“Saya izin pamit dulu ya.”

“Iya hati-hati Misyah.”

Rasa penasaran Harza masih belum terjawab. Tapi Harza mengahargai apa yang menjadi privasi Misyah. Rasanya ia masih ingin berlama-lama bertukar kabar dengannya. Memandanginya dengan penuh cinta, mengingat kembali lesung pipinya. Harza hanya bisa berharap ia dipertemukan dengan gadis yang ia kagumi dilain kesempatan.

Misyah telah membawa kuasnya kembali pulang, tapi mengapa rasanya masih ada hal yang tertinggal. Apakah yang tertinggal? Mungkinkah hatinya masih belum kembali? Masih ingin bersama dengan sosok pria yang selama ini menjaga kuasnya?

Misyah mengabaikan perasaan tersebut, dan ingin komitmen terhadap dirinya sendiri untuk tidak memikirkan masalah perasaan, cinta, dan lawan jenis. Fokus terhadap karya-

karyanya agar bisa menjadi seperti kakeknya, seorang pelukis kontemporer terkenal.

Semua Akan Baik-Baik Saja

By Mumtazah Al-'Ilmah

Di suatu tempat indah dan mewah yang disiapkan khusus untuk merayakan kelulusan Juan yang telah menyelesaikan pendidikannya, terdapat Mai yang merasa kebingungan terhadap apa yang harus dia lakukan dan katakana di depan keluarga Juan. Juan yang melihat Mai kebingungan tersenyum “Aku bingung Juan” Mai pun mengungkapkan isi hatinya, “Ketemu keluarga kok bingung, keluargaku adalah keluargamu. Jadi apa adanya aja” Juan tersenyum, dan Mai pun ikut tersenyum, meskipun tetap merasa *nervous*. “Yuk” ajak Juan pada Mai.

Satu tahun sebelum kejadian itu terjadi, tanpa disengaja Juan bertemu dengan Mai yang sedang kebingungan untuk mencari bantuan. “Maaf bisakah kamu membantuku” ujar Mai kepada Juan yang kebetulan lewat di depan nya. Tanpa disadari Juan hanya terdiam dan memandang Mai dengan senyuman “Hello, maaf mas” Maimelambaikan tangan nya di depan wajah Juan. “Oh, ia maaf bagaimana mba?, ada

yang bisa saya bantu?” Juan yang tersadar bergegas menawarkan bantuan kepada Mai. Mai menunjuk pada halaman kost nya “bisakah kamu membantuku untuk memasangkan lampu ini, tempatnya terlalu tinggi aku tidak bisa menjangkaunya”. Dengan semangat Juan pun meng-iyakan untuk membantu Mai dan bergegas memasangkan lampu itu.

Mai keluar dari kost nya membawa secangkir kopi yang disajikan untuk Juan. “Silahkan diminum mas” Mai mempersilahkan Juan. Setelah meminum kopi dan sedikit berbincang Juan memutuskan untuk pulang. “Terimakasih Mas” dengan senyumannya yang indah Mai mengucapkan terimakasih kepada Juan. Juan hanya menganggukan kepala dan pergi meninggalkan Mai. Ternyata tempat tinggal mereka tidak terlalu jauh, hanya berjarak 2 komplek saja.

Mai seorang wanita yang penuh dengan ide, berfikir cepat ketika ada masalah, tangguh, cekatan, dan menjadi kepercayaan bosnya. Selain sebagai mahasiswa, Mai bekerja di sebuah perusahaan sebagai sekretaris pribadi bosnya. Karena kecekatannya, dia bisa mendapat jabatan itu hanya dalam 3 bulan bekerja. Tidak hanya bosnya saja yang mengenal dan akrab dengan Mai, Bu Helda isti dari bos Mai pun suka kepada Mai. Mai begitu akrab dengan keluarganya, sudah tidak seperti atasan dan bawahan, jika orang melihat mereka terlihat seperti keluarga.

Juan seorang pemuda yang gagah, tanggung jawab, ambisius, sedikit mengesalkan tetapi enak untuk diajak

berbicara, dan dia adalah laki-laki yang begitu sayang kepada keluarganya. Juan adalah seorang mahasiswa tingkat akhir, selain menjadi mahasiswa Juan juga bekerja sebagai manager di salahsatu perusahaan ternama.

Dua orang yang sempurna, tapi sayang mereka tidak bisa menjadi pasangan yang luarbiasa, karena Mai mempunyai janji pada dirinya sendiri untuk tidak memiliki ikatan hubungan dengan seoang laki-laki. Bagi Mai mempunyai sebuah status hanya akan membuat dia tidak bisa melakukan apa yang dia inginkan, tidak bisa berbaur dengan siapun yang dia inginkan. Tapi tanpa dipungkiri Mai tetaplah wanita. Seorang wanita yang merasa nyaman dan senang ketika ada seorang laki-laki yang menyayanginya.

Dua hari berlalu setelah pertemuan itu terjadi, Juan yang lupa untuk menanyakan nama seorang wanita yang telah membuat fikirannya tidak bisa jauh dari bayangan sosok itu. Juan berjalan menuju kantonya dan masih saja merasa menyesal, mengapa dia bisa sampai lupa menanyakan nama wanita itu. Juan duduk di kursi kerjanya, menghadap keluar jendela kantor dengan lamunannya. (*tok,tok*) seseorang mengetuk pintu ruangan nya, “Permisi pak”. “Ya, masuk!” jawab Juan. Fina masuk dengan membawa sebuah berkas “Oh, ia duduk.” Juan mempersilahkan Fina duduk, Fina hanya mengangguk dan duduk di sofa ruangan itu. “Pak Putra belum ada bu?” tanya Juan, “Maaf Pak, tadi saya melihat Pak Putra sedang di tempat Foto Copy” jawab Fina. “Oh iya, masih ada 10 menit lagi, kita tunggu dulu.”, “Baik Pak” Fina hanya duduk dan melihat berkas yang dia bawa, khawatir jika ada berkas

yang tertinggal. Handpone nya berdering, pesan masuk dari Mai. “Aku di depan kantor mu” pesan singkat dari Mai “.

Juan yang sedang melihat keluar ruangan menjumpai sosok Mai yang sedang berdiri di tempat parkir motor. Tanpa disadari Juan tersenyum melihat sosok wanita yang selama ini memenuhi fikiran nya. “Maaf pak, saya mau izin sebentar membawa berkas yang tertinggal” Ucap Fina yang memecah bayangan Juan. “Ouh Ya, silahkan”. Fina pun pergi menemui Mai di parkiran. Juan begitu asik melihat sosok wanita yang berada di parkiran. Hanya melihatnya dari kejauhan, Juan bingung, dalam hati ingin mengajaknya untuk menjumpai dan menanyakan nama sosok wanita itu, tapi dia tidak tau harus berkata apa untuk memulai pertemuannya lagi.

Fina pun menghampiri Mai, seketika Juan kaget melihat Fina menghampiri sosok wanita yang dari tadi dia fikirkan. “*thanksbanget ya Mai, sorry merepotkanmu, sampe harus kesini. Hehe*” ucap Fina. “Udah biasa, aku sering bilang kalo mau berangkat berkas nya dicek dulu Fin.”, Fina adalah sahabat juga teman satu kostnya Mai, “ia, sorry Mai. Tadi kayanya udah aku cek, dan udah lengkap semua deh, tapi tetep aja ada yang lupa.” Mai hanya menggelengkan kepalanya, karena sikap sahabatnya itu “Yaudah ya Mai aku ditunggu nih mau *meeting* dulu, *thank you Mai, love love you*” Fina memeluk Mai sekejap dan pergi berlari sambil melambaikan tangan nya kepada Mai “Hati-hati di jalan Mai”. Mai pun hanya membalas lambaian Fina dan menganggukan kepalanya.

Pak Putra mengetukruang kerjanya (*tok,tok*) “Permisi pak.”, “Oh iya Pak Putra silahkan duduk Pak, tadi Bu Fina izin sebentar ke parkiran untuk mengambil berkas yang tertinggal”. “Iya pak terimakasih. Maaf tadi ada masalah di tempat Foto copy” ujar Putra. Karena hatinya sedang bahagia melihat sosok wanita yang dia fikirkan, apapun masalahnya tidak terasa. Juan tersenyum “Tidak apa Pak, hanya terlambat 30 menit saja.” Putra merasa agak heran melihat sikap Juan yang biasanya selalu marah jika ada orang yang tidak tepat waktu ketika *meeting*, tapi Putra hanya diam saja dan bersyukur tidak kena marah Juan. “Maaf Pak, agak lama”, ujar fina sambil menutup kembali pintu ruangan. “Oh iya Buk tidak apa, silahkan duduk. Kita mulai *meeting* nya.” Fina pun merasa aneh seperti Putra, tapi dia tidak terlalu mekikirkannya, yang penting dia selamat dari omelan Juan.

Meeting pun berjalan lancar, “Terimakasih Pak Putra, Bu Fina semoga kegiatan ini bisa berjalan lancar, sesuai dengan apa yang kita rencanakan” ucap Juan kepada mereka. “Amiin, saya juga berdoa seperti itu Pak.”, jawab Putra kepada Juan. “Kami pamit permisi Pak”, timbal Fina. Juan mempersilahkan mereka keluar ruangan. Saat mengetahui bahwa wanita yang dia fikirkan selama ini adalah teman dekat Fina. Juan berusaha mencari informasi tentang Mai melalui Fina.

Jam istirahat kantor, para karyawan pergi ke kantin untuk makan siang. Terlihat Fina yang sedang memesan makanannya, Juan menghampiri Fina memesan makanan yang sama. Itu setrategi awal Juan untuk mencari tau tentang Mai. “Hai Fin.”, sapa Juan mengawali percakapan. “Iya Pak, tumben

pak makan di kantin.” , dengan nada heran dan becanda Fina menyambut sapaan Juan. Diluar pekerjaan mereka adalah teman. Bisa di kategorikan teman yang memiliki kedekatan lumayan dekat. Pesanan mereka pun sudah jadi. Sudah pasti mereka makan bersama, Juan yang memulai percakapan memang berencana supaya bisa makan dan bisa menanyakan wanita yang dia fikirkan selama ini, yang ternyata adalah teman dekan Fina.

Mereka duduk ditempat yang sama, membicarakan hal-hal yang di luar pekerjaan. Bagi mereka jam istirahat adalah jam untuk melakukan dan memikirkan hal diluar pekerjaan. “Kost-mu masih yang dulu Fin ?” Tanya Juan “Aku sudah pindah kost pak, yang kemarin sudah habis waktunya, sekarang pindah kost bareng temenku” jawab Fina menjelaskan. “Lebih enak lah ya, ada temannya yang bisa diminta bantuan kalo kamu lupa sama berkas-berkasmu.”. Dengan nada meledek dan ketawa, Juan menanggapinya. Sepertinya itu sudah rahasia umum, kalau Fina itu sering sekali lupa dengan berkasnya, tapi dia bagus dalam menjalankan tugas-tugasnya, tugas apapun bisa dia selesaikan dengan baik dan cepat. Fina yang mengakui bahwa dirinya memang pelupa tidak mengelak pernyataan Juan itu. “Ya, seperti itu lah Pak, untung dia baik juga, hehe..dan jarakntara kost dan kantor tidak terlalu jauh sekarang.”, “Kost mu sekarang di daerah mana Fin?” tanya Juan. “Daerah jalan Cendrawasih Pak, sepertinya dekat dengan kost Pak Juan kan ya?”, “Beda gang saja berarti, deket banget tuh.” Juan mulai memancing untuk menanyakan terkait wanita itu. “Bisa nebeng lah pak kalo

berangkat, sekalian pulangnya juga kayanya lumayan” Fina menjawab sambil tetap meneruskan makan. “Ya boleh lah nebeng, mumpung kursi sebelah selalu kosong” Juan menjawab dengan nada yang melas dan agak menarik nafas. Fina pun menanggapi dengan ketawa “Wah, pas banget lumayan lah.”.

Jam istirahat pun selesai semua karyawan kembali ke ruangan dan meja kerja mereka masing-masing. Melakukan kegiatan masing-masing dengan bermacam-macam tugas yang berbeda-beda. Hari itu terasa begitu indah bagi Juan, Wanita yang selama ini membuat fikirannya tidak bisa tenang, sekarang sudah memiliki jalan keluar, dan kesempatannya begitu besar. Juan terlambat dengan senyuman nya yang tidak bisa terhenti. Selang beberapa menit “Sudah, sudah, selesaikan tugas dulu Juan” Juan berkata pada dirinya sendiri.

Cinta, cinta. Memang hal itu bisa membuat orang menjadi aneh. Segala hal terasa indah, semangat dalam diri lebih dari biasanya, senyum yang selalu terpancar di wajahnya, ribut-ribut di sekeliling seperti pesta yang sedang berlangsung. Ya itu aneh nya orang yang sedang jatuh cinta dunia terasa miliknya saja.

Jam kerja sudah selesai, Juan dengan semangat langsung membereskan barang-barangnya. Dia begitu semangat untuk bertemu dengan wanita yang dia puja. Juan keluar dari ruangannya menuju meja kerja Fina. “Ayo Fin pulang, katanya mau nebeng!”, ajak Juan. Fina hanya menjawab dengan anggukan dan lanjut membereskan barang-barang yang akan

dia bawa pulang, lebih tepatnya berkas-berkas yang akan di kerjakan di rumah.

Di perjalanan mereka bercerita kejadian waktu SMA. Juan adalah guru Fina ketika SMA, dan sekarang mereka menjadi partner kerjanya. Jadi mereka bisa akrab seperti sekarang. Setelah beberapa menit di perjalanan mereka sampai di kost Fina. "Makasih, Mampir dulu Pak" tawar Fina. Keinginan Juan untuk ketemu dengan wanita yang selalu difikirkannya meminta untuk menjawab iya, tapi dia menahannya terlebih dahulu. "Gak Fin, makasih. Kapan-kapan saja saya langsung pulang." timbal Juan sambil melajukan kembali mobilnya.

Waktu berjalan selama dua bulan, Juan yang memang sudah dekat dengan Fina, sering cari-cari waktu untuk menanyakan perihal Mai, dan beberapa kali mengantarkan Fina pulang sehingga bisa melihat sekilas Mai. Pada suatu malam Fina yang kebetulan sedang santai menonton TV bersama Mai menceritakan bahwa partner kerjanya selalu menyanyakan tentang dirinya. Mai pun akhirnya bercerita bahwa dia pernah bertemu dengan Juan, dan meminta Juan untuk memasangkan lampu halaman kost nya. Mendengar cerita Mai akhirnya Fina paham mengapa Juan selalu menanyakan Mai. Tetapi Fina memutuskan purra-pura tidak tahu dengan apa yang terjadi ketika bersama Juan, Fina tidak ingin Juan merasa canggung atau yanglainnya ketika bicerita dengan Fina, dan penasaran juga sampai mana keseriusan Juan terhadap Mai.

Hari-hari berjalan seperti biasanya, bekerja,kuliah, dan sekali-kali pergi menghibur diri dari segala kepenatan. Suatu malam terjadi pertemuan antara perusahan tempat Mai bekerja dan Juan Bekerja. Juan yang telah banyak mencari info tentang Mai, merasa begitu bahagia. Berbeda dengan Mai yang tidak memperhatikan jika perusahaan yang bekerja sama dengannya adalah tempat dimana Juan bekerja. Pertemuan berjalan dengan lancar hingga selesai, dan semua orang mulai meninggalkan tempat pertemuan itu. Juan berniat ingin mengajak Mai pulang bersama nya, tapi dia ragu, takut jika ajakannya akan di tolak oleh Mai. Juan menunggu hingga tinggal beberapa orang saja di restoran itu. Melihat Mai yang tak kunjung pulang akhirnya Juan memutuskan untuk mengajak Mai pulang bersama nya.

“Hey, belum dijemput pulang Buk?” tanya Juan. “Eh Pak Juan, iya Pak masih nunggu Fina, dia masih ada urusan beli beberapa barang dulu.” jawab Mai. “Pulang bareng saya gimana Buk, Kost kita satua arah dan kebetulan saya menggunakan Mobil.”. Awalnya Mai ingin menolak ajakan Juan karena merasa tidak enak, tetapi melihat restoran yang mulai dibersihkan, dan dirapikan oleh pegawai, akhirnya Mai memutuskan untuk pulang bersama Juan. Di perjalanan mereka saling bertanya. Mai yang mengetahui bahwa Juan sering menanyakan dirinya kepada Fina merasa lebih canggung, tapi sikap Juan terlalu santai dan biasa saja yang membuat Mai berusaha untuk enjoy dan berpura-pura tidak tahu apapun.

Fina yang dikabari Mai bahwa Mai pulang bersama Juan, memutuskan langsung pulang ke kost setelah membeli beberapa keperluan nya. Sesampainya dikostnya, Fina

memarkirkan motor, dan Mai pun sampai kost yang diantar oleh Juan. Mai mengucapkan terimakasih dan mengajak Juan untuk mampir, karena melihat waktu sudah malam akhirnya Juan memutuskan untuk langsung pulang. Fina yang melihat Mai turun dari mobil Juan tersenyum meledek kepada Mai, dan melihat kearah Juan. “Terimakasih Pak, sudah antar sahabat kesayangan saya.” ucap Fina, “Siap aman, Fin.” jawab Juan. Juan melanjukan kembali mobilnya. Fina yang tersenyum kepada Mai membuat Mai menjadi salah tingkah “Kenapa Fin, kok senyum-senyum sendiri. Baru dapat bonus dari kantor” Tanya Mai “Ciyeee,, diantar Pak Juan nihh, gimana menurutmu Mai? Ganteng gak Bapaknya? Baik, atau lucu, atau pendiam?” Fina yang sedang berbicara hanya ditinggal begitu saja oleh Mai masuk ke dalam kost-nya. “Dasar kamu Mai” teriak Fina.

Pertemuan itu mengawali semua cerita cinta Juan dan Mai, setiap hari mereka berkomunikasi terkait bisnis yang sedang mereka jalani, dan beberapa kali pertemuan diantara mereka. Semakin hari mereka semakin akrab dan saling mengenal satu sama lain. Terkadang mereka berjalan bersamaa hanya untuk mengisi waktu kosong di hari Minggu, berolahraga bersama, nonton, makan, dan kegiatan lainnya. Juan yang dari awal sudah menyukai Mai berusaha selalu ada ketika Mai memerlukan sesuatu, selalu siap ketika Mai meminta bantuan. Begitu pula Mai, melihat kebaikan Juan dan perhatian yang amat besar kepadanya, membuat Mai menyukai sosok Juan.

Mai yang mempunyai karakter cuek kepada orang membuat Juan semakin menyukainya, menurut Juan Mai

adalah wanita yang berbeda, setiap hari Juan selalu memperlihatkan ketertarikan nya kepada Mai, tapi dengan karakter Mai yang cuek dan tidak mudah memberikan hatinya kepada seseorang hanya menanggapi Juan dengan santai, meskipun dalam hatinya Mai sudah menyukai Juan. Hubungan mereka berjalan begitu saja, sudah seperti seorang pasangan yang selalu saling memberi semangat, dan saling membantu.

Selisih umur mereka lumayan jauh yaitu lima tahun, Mai bertemu dengan Juan ketika Mai kuliah semester lima, dan Juan sedang mengerjakan skripsi yang dia biarkan selama bertahun-tahun. Juan bukan orang yang tidak mampu mengerjakan skripsinya dalam waktu cepat, tetapi karena suatu masalah yang akhirnya membuat Juan sudah malas melanjutkan skripsinya dan membuat dia harus diingatkan dosennya untuk segera menyelesaikan skripsinya.

Sebelum mengenal Mai, Juan memiliki seorang wanita yang menemani dia setiap hari dalam melewati hari-harinya di kampus juga di kantor. Hingga suatu hari wanita yang menjadi penyemangatnya itu harus pergi dan tak bisa kembali lagi. Pada akhir tahun 2017 wanita itu meninggal karena penyakit yang dia miliki. Hal itu membuat Juan kehilangan semangatnya dalam melewati hari-harinya. Selama bertahun-tahun Juan hanya melanjutkan hidupnya tanpa tau apa yang harus dialakukan.

Setelah mengenal Mai, semangat itu kembali hadir dalam kehidupannya. Skripsi yang sudah lama dia biarkan begitu saja, bisa dia selesaikan. Juan selalu berkata pada Mai bahwa setelah mengenal Mai, Juan merasa terbangun dari tidur

panjangnya, memulai kembali semua yang telah dia abaikan selama bertahun-tahun. Setiap Juan mengungkapkan hal tersebut Mai hanya menanggapi dengan senyuman. Mai yang tidak mudah memberikan hatinya kepada siapapun dan dengan pendiriannya bahwa siapapun orang yang memang mencintainya tidak bisa iya terima sebelum sampai pada tahap mendatangi orangtuanya dan meminta restu dari orangtuanya.

Juan mengetahui prinsip Mai, tapi bukan berarti Juan tidak siap atau tidak serius kepada Mai, hanya melihat Mai yang masih semester lima, Juantidak ingin membebani fikiran Mai jika Juan datang kerumah Mai dan meminta restu orangtua Mai. Juan hanya menunggu waktu yang tepat untuk datang dan meminta restu orangtua Mai. Dia memutuskan menjalani apa adanya sekarang dulu, saling melengkapi, menyemangati, dan selalu berusaha untuk selalu ada untuk Mai.

Skripsi, revisi, yudisum, hingga wisuda akhirnya bisa dilewati Juan dengan lancar dan cepat, karena keberadaan Mai yang menjadi penyemangat baru baginya. Rintangan sebesar apapun sekarang terasa biasa saja bagi Juan. Mai selalu menjadi tempat kembali ketika Juan ada masalah. Mai memang lebih muda dari Juan, tapi Mai adaalah wanita yang cerdas dan mandiri. Hal itu yang membuat Juan selalu nyaman jika berada di dekatnya. Bagi Juan jika ada Mai, dia selalu bisa berfikir lebih cepat dan merasa apapun yang dia putuskan adalah hal yang terbaik.

Selama berbulan-bulan Juan menceritakan tentang keluarga, latar belakang, dan masa lalunya kepada Mai, begitu

juga Mai. Mai memang tergolong orang yang suka bercerita dan senang mendengarkan cerita. Dari sejak sekolah Mai merupakan tempat dimana teman-temannya mencari jalan keluar dari permasalahannya. Juan laki-laki yang begitu menyayangi keluarganya, terlihat dari cerita, cara ia bicara, dan perlakuannya. Dia selalu berusaha memberikan kenyamanan dan keamanan kepada Mai. Begitu besarnya rasa sayang yang Juan miliki untuk Mai.

Hingga pada suatu malam Mai yang sedang *video call*dengan keluarganya yang di rumah, bercerita terkait kuliah dan pekerjaan Mai. Mai menceritakan kepada orangtuanya tentang hal-hal tersebut, Mai ingin sekali menceritakan seseorang yang selalu ada di hari-harinya saat ini, tapi Mai belum siap, dia merasa waktunya belum tepat melihat Mai yang masih kuliah dan masih merintis karirnya. Tetapi tanpa diduga dalam percakapan Mai dan ibunya, ibu Mai berkata untuk segera menyelesaikan kuliah dan cepat pulang,karena Evan sudah menunggu. Mai yang mendengar itu kaget dan bingung, karena sosok ibu Mai bukanlah orang yang sering membahas tentang pasangan. Mai hanya menanggapi dengan ketawa dan meng-iya-kan apa yang ibunya katakan padanya.

Mai yang mendengar ungkapan ibunya saat telfon membuatnya menjadi berfikir keadaannya sekarang yang sedang dekat dengan seorang laki-laki yang begitu menyayanginya, dan selalu ada untuknya. Evan memang bukan sosok baru dalam hidup Mai. Evan adalah kakak kelas nya saat dia SMP, Evan dan Mai belajar di lembaga yang sama. Mai saat itu masih SMP dan Evan duduk dibangku SMA. Orangtua Mai

adalah seorang guru, mereka mengajar di SMP dan SMA tersebut. Evan adalah murid yang berpretasi di sekolahnya, selain pintar dia memang tampan dan termasuk orang yang terkenal di sekolahnya, sehingga orangtua Mai pun tau siapa Evan.

Beberapa tahun setelah Evan lulus SMA, mereka melalui hari-hari nya tanpa ada hubungan apaun, karena memang tidak ada ketertarikan satu samalain ketika dulu sekolah. Hingga pada waktunya Mai mencari info kuliah, dan kebetulan diminta kuliah di kota yang Evan tempati. Evan yang memang baik dan tau etika yang bagus mengetahui bahwa gurunya mendaftarkan putrinya dan akan datang ke kota yang sama ketika Evan dulu kuliah, akhirnya Evan dan teman-teman lainnya ketika SMA berniat menemui mereka ditempat wisata yang dikunjungi oleh keluarga Mai. Orangtua Mai yang begitu sayang kepada Mai menitipkan Mai kepada Evan dan teman-temannya. Diantara Evan dan teman-teman lainnya. Evan termasuk yang paling dewasa. Waktu pun berjalan hingga akhirnya pendaftaran-pendaftaran kuliah sudah mulai dibuka. Evan dan Rehan membantu pendaftaran Mai. Mencari info terkait pendaftaran, persyaratan, menyiapkan persyaratannya, hingga mengirimkan data-data kekampus tujuannya.

Mai yang mempunyai keinginan untuk berkulia diluar, mengikuti beberapa tahap pendaftaran hingga akhirnya dia bisa lolos di universitas yang dia inginkan, tapi orangtuanya berkata lain, mereka tidak mengizinkan Mai untuk kuliah di tempat yang jauh. Hal itu membuat Mai merasa tidak bersemangat untuk menjalani kuliah dan membiarkan

pendaftaran-pendaftaran dibereskan oleh orang lain. Dia tidak tahu apa-apa terkait pendaftaran yang dilakukan Evan dan Rehan. Mai hanya mengikuti intruksi yang disampaikan Evan dan Rehan, jika di minta untuk foto Mai berfoto, di minta untuk menandatangi berkas Mai menandatanginya, dan melakukan test yang disyaratkan dalam proses pendaftaran. Mai benar-benar tidak ingin kuliah, keinginannya sudah hilang untuk kuliah. Tapi Tuhan berkata lain, Mai lolos di empat universitas. Orangtua Mai akhirnya memberikan keputusan universitas apa yang akan diambil Mai. Mai pun tidak banyak protes, dia menerima dan menjalankan semua prosedurnya begitu saja di temani Evan. Dari mulai menyiapkan berkas untuk daftar ulang, persyaratan PBAK, hingga kuliah satu bulan pertama Mai di antar jemput oleh Evan.

Evan dan Mai memang sedekat itu, tapi dalam hati Mai dan Evan tidak ada rasa suka saat itu, mereka hanya sebatas adik dan kakak. Mai bisa faham jika Evan tidak ada niatan selain memang membantu Mai, lebih tepatnya membantu gurunya sendiri. Evan menjaga Mai karena rasa hormat kepada gurunya, tidak lebih dari itu. Selama satu bulan pertama Evan memberitahu beberapa tempat, jalan, mengenalkan kotadengan penuh cerita. Saat itu Evan sudah menyelesaikan kuliahnya, setelah lulus Evan diminta dosennya untuk membantu mengajar di Universitas yang telah membesarkan namanya, dari sejak SMA hingga kuliah Evan memang orang yang begitu rajin dan bisa dipercaya. Tidak heran jika dikenal banayak orang dan dipercaya langsung untuk membantu dosennya mengajar. Setelah satu bulan Evan sudah

tidak mengantar jemput Mai lagi, Evan hanya menanyakan kabar lewat sosial media saja, hanya sesekali iadatang untuk membawakan makan untuk Mai.



Seiring berjalannya waktu membuat Evan dan Mai jauh tanpa ada komunikasi. Tanpa diketahui ternyata bulan ketiga Mai di kota itu, Evan pulang ke kota kelahirannya, Evan diminta ibunya untuk bekerja di rumah saja. Mai tau hal itu saat Mai liburan semester dan pulang ke kota asalnya. Mai dan Evan berasal dari kota yang sama. Evan yang sudah pulang

terlebih dahulu, dan sudah bekerja sebagai guru di sekolah yang sama dengan orangtua Mai.

Evan sosok laki-laki yang baik dan tampan membuat orangtua Mai berfikir laki-laki yang hampir sempurna seperti Evan sayang jika dimiliki oranglain, sejak saat itu orangtua Mai mempunyai fikiran untuk menyatukan Mai dengan Evan. Suatu saat orangtua Mai memang pernah bercerita banyak tentang Evan kepada Mai, hanya Mai tidak menyangka akan seserius ini. Mai hanya mempunyai fikiran bahwa orangtuanya sangat berterimakasih kepada Evan karena telah membantu Mai.

Akhir dari telpon antara Mai dan orang tuanya membuat fikirannya terbebani, Mai berfikir apakah dia harus menjauh dari Juan. Beberapa hari setelah telpon itu Mai mengambil keputusan untuk lebih memberikan jarak dengan Juan. Mai tidak ingin jika nanti Juan harus terpuruk untuk kedua kalinya. Hari demi hari dilewati Mai tanpa komunikasi yang begitu baik dengan Juan. Mai selalu menyibukkan dengan tugas-tugas kampus dan pekerjaan nya. Juan bukan orang yang bodoh dia faham jika Mai sedang memberi jarak dengan dirinya. Juan pun memutuskan mengajak jalan Mai dengan bantuan Fina. Juan mengajak Mai untuk menikmati indahnya pantai di sore hari. Pertemuan mereka terlihat berbeda Mai masih berusaha untuk membatasi dirinya membuat Juan akhirnya menyakan langsung kepada Mai mengapa Mai sekarang memberikan jarak kepadanya. Mai hanya terdiam mendengar Juan bertanya tentang hal itu, Juan bertanya untuk kedua kalinya “Mengapa seperti menjauh dari aku Mai, aku

punya salah ?atau ada sesuatu kah? ”. Mai menjawab dengan nada yang biasa dan dengan sedikit becanda “Kerjasama perusahankan sudah selesai, jadi kita terasa jauh, padahal itu hanya perasaan kamu saja. Aku ada terus kok” Mai mengakhiri jawabanya dengan senyuman. Juan tidak ingin merusak pertemuannya itu. Dia hanya menjawab dengan anggukan kepada Mai. Bereka berjalan dengan diam, hanya melihat pemandangan senja di pesisir pantai. Sesekali hanya menunjuk dan membahas hal yang mereka lihat disana.

Hari mulai gelap, Mai meminta pulang dengan alasan tidak enak terhadap Fina yang hanya sendiri di kost, Juan tidak banyak bicara dia menuruti apa yang Mai minta. Mereka mampir sebentar membeli makanan untuk Fina. Sampai di kost Fina sedang mengerjakan tugasnya di halaman kost. “Mau mampir?” Tanya Mai. “Boleh, aku mau bicara dengan Fina sekalian” jawab Juan. Mereka keluar dari mobil. Mai memberikan makanan pesanan Fina. “Orang kantoran liburpun tetep sibuk” ledek Juan kepada Fina. Fina menjawab dengan mengerutkan muka nya. Mai datang membawakan secangkir kopi untuk Juan. “Diminum, Pak!” ucap Mai. Juan menganggukkan kepalanya dan menjawab “terimakasih Mai”. Mai kembali kedalam, Juan haya berbinjang tentang pekerjaan nya denga Fina. Setelah selesai Juan memutuskan untuk pulang. “Mai, pacarmu mau balik tuh” teriak Fina pada Mai. Mai keluar dan menjawab teriakan Fina “Fin..!!”. Juan hanya tersenyum melihat Mai. Juan berpamitan dan kembali ke kostnya.

Hari itu Mai masih merasa tidak enak kepada Juan, tapi Mai tidak bisa bercerita tentang apa yang diucapkan ibunya kepada Mai. Mai hanya berharap semoga itu hanya ucapan bercanda dari orangtuanya. Juan yang sudah benar-benar menyayangi Mai berusaha mengembalikan suasana yang dulu pernah dia lalui dengan Mai. Mai pun menghilangkan kecemasannya tentang Evan. Dia berusaha untuk meyakinkan dirinya Juan pasti bisa mengambil alih hati orangtuanya.

Waktu berjalan begitu cepat. Keluarga Juan datang untuk menghadiri wisudanya, orang tua Juan begitu senang, akhirnya Juan bisa menyelesaikan kuliah nya yang sudah dia biar biarkan bertahun-tahun. Juan mengajak Mai untuk hadir diacara wisudanya. Tapi kebetulan Mai ada urusan kantor yang tidak bisa dia tinggalkan. Juan memaklumi hal itu, dia tidak keberatan Mai tidak bisa hadir, hanya ada sedikit kecewa, karena orang yang menjadi penyemangatnya tidak bisa hadir di hari yang istimewa itu. Acara berjalan dengan lancar, begitu pula Mai pekerjaan hari itu bisa dia lewati.

Juan mengajak Mai untuk makan malam merayakan kelulusannya. Mai yang merasa tidak enak karena tidak bisa hadir pada acara tadi siang, mengiyakan ajakan Juan untuk makan malam. Malam pun tiba Juan menjemput Mai ke kost nya. “Tak pinjam dulu ya sahabatnya” ucap Juan kepada Fina. “Jangan lupa bungkus yang banyak ya Pak, titip Mai!” jawab Fina. Juan hanya terawa mendengar jawaban Fina. “Aku pergi dulu Fin!” ucap Mai. “Hati-hati sayang” jawab Fina. Saat perjalanan menuju restoran Juan memberitahu Mai jika makan malamnya bersama keluarga Juan. Mai yang sedang asik

memaikan handphonenya langsung diam dan kaget “Semua keluarga?” tanya Mai. Juan menganggukan kepala nya dan tersenyum. Mai hanya diam berfikir apa yang harus dia lakukan dihadapan keluarga Juan. Saat perjalanan mereka hanya terdiam saja, lebih tepatnya Mai berfikir keras apa yang akan dia ucapkan dan lakukan di depan orang tua Juan.

Akhirnya mereka sampai di restoran itu, “Yuk,” ajak Juan. Mai dan Juan turun dari mobil. Mereka jalan masuk kerestoran itu. Mai masih bingung harus bagaimana “Sebentar kak!” ucap Mai. Juan berhenti melihat Mai. “Jangan bingung dek, cukup menjadi diri kamu sendiri!” Juan merasa lucu melihat tingkah Mai yang kebingungan. Mai menghela nafas dan lanjut mengikuti langkah Juan dari belakang. “Sudah lama pak ?” Juan datang dan bertanya pada ayahnya. “Lima menit sebelum kamu datang kami sampai.” jawab ayah Juan. “Ini Mai pak, buk” Juan mengenalkan Mai kepada orangtuanya. Mai memperkenalkan dirinya dan bersalaman dengan orangtuanya dan juga adik Juan. Ibunya hanya tersenyum dan menganggukan kepalanya. “Cantik mas, pilihannya.” ucap Ghaitsa, adik kandung Juan. Spontan membuat Mai semakin kikuk didepan keluarga Juan. “Jangan seperti itu dek, mba nya nanti malu.” timbal ibu nya. Juan hanya tesenyum lucu melihat Mai. Mereka makan dan sesekali Ibu bertanya kepada Mai tentang Juan.

Makan malam itu berjalan dengan penuh canda tawa, terlebih ketika Mai tau bahwa adek Juan itu lebih tua daripada dirinya, keunikan itu menjadi bahan percakapan mereka. Mereka membuat rancangan hayalan dimasa yang akan datang,

Mai yang menjadi pasangan Juan, dan menjadi kakak dari Ghaitsha. Sedangkan Mai yang lebih muda dari Ghaitsha. Perbincaangan itu membuat Mai lebih santai makan bersama bersama mereka. Juan yang melihat Mai bahagia dan tersenyum lepas bersama keluarganya merasa sangat bahagia. Dunia terasa berpihak kepadanya. Terasa semua akan berjalan dengan bahagia.

Hari demi hari, berjalan begitu cepat ada bahagia disetiap harinya. Meski terkadang pasti ada kesalahpahaman anatara Juan dan Mai. Tapi mereka bisa melewati semuanya. Hingga tidak terasa sekang Mai sudah memasuki semester tujuh. Mai yang sudah hampir menyelesaikan studinya, merasa sangat bahagia. Dia berharap kedepan nya sudah ada hal yang akan lebih bahagia dari sebelumnya. Di siang hari adik Mai menelpon Mai, mereka bercerita satu sama lain, bertanya kabar, menanyakan pekerjaan dan studinya. Di akhir pembahasan, ibunda Mai membahas tentang masa depan. Adik Mai yang mengetahui Mai sedang dekat dengan seseorang menceritakan kepada orangtuanya. Akhirnya Mai mengakui bahwa dia sedang dekat dengan seseorang, tapi karena tidak ada status apapun Mai tidak berani untuk menyebutkan bahwa dia sudah berpacaran dengan laki-laki itu “Hanya teman dekat saja, Mah.” jelas Mai kepada ibunya “Teman dekat atau teman dekat” saut adiknya Mai. Ibu Mai hanya tertawa melihat adik kakak yang sedang saling meledek ditelpon. Melihat ibu nya yang tersenyum dan bahagia membuat Mai merasa bahwa ibunya dulu hanya bercanda terkait Evan, mereka melanjutkan

percakapannya, Ibu, Bapak, adik-adik Mai bergantian berbicara di telpo.

Setelah Mai menginjak semester tujuh, orangtuanya sering menelpon membahas tentang studinya, meminta Mai untuk serius dan segera menyelesikan studinya. Tidak memfokuskan kepada pekerjaannya terlebih dahulu. Mai hanya menjawab dengan kata “Iya” setiap ibu atau bapaknya berkata terkait hal itu. Bagi Mai pekerjaannya dengan kuliah nya adalah suatu kewajiban yang harus dikerjakan, Mai tidak mungkin tiba-tiba meninggalkan pekerjaannya yang sudah banyak memeberinya pengalaman, tidak hanya pengalaman ataupun uang, Mai banyak mendapat kasih sayang yang diberikan oleh keluarga atasan Mai di kantor. Mereka sudah seperti keluarga kedua Mai. Kasih sayangnya yang besar kepada Mai, mengibaratkan Mai bukanlah karyawan disana tetapi merupakan salah satu anggota keluarganya.

Mai berusaha semaksimal mungkin mengerjakan studi dan pekerjaannya dengan baik. Mai tidak ingin mengecewakan orangtua juga keluarganya yang dia miliki di perusahaannya. Waktu berjalan seperti biasanya, Mai, Fina, Juan, mereka menjadi lebih akrab dari sebelumnya. Mai yang sedang asik makan bersama dengan Juan dan Fina mendapat pesan dari Ibunya “Mai, Ibu rencana untuk mengadakan pertunangan antara kamu dengan Evan terlebih dahulu, menurut mu itu akan mengganggu studimu tidak? ibu ingin studimu selesai tepat pada waktunya, mungkin dengan adanya Evan akan membantumu dalam menyelesaikan studimu.”, pesan singkat yang di tuliskan ibunya terasa seperti bencana yang menimpa

Mai di siang bolong, seperti ada barang yang begitu besar menimpa Mai dan membuat Mai susah untuk bergerak dan bernafas, rasanya sesak dan bingung membaca pesan itu. “Kenapa Mai? Pesan dari siapa? Bos?” tanya Juan. Mai yang sembari tadi melihat pesan itu kaget mendengar suara Juan “Eh, Hmz, iya pesan tentang kantor, aku lupa berkas untuk besok belum *di-print-kan*” jawab Mai. “Yaudah setelah makan nanti aku temeni bereskan berkasnya ya?” saut Juan sambil tersenyum. Mai yang melihat senyum Juan merasa sangat bersalah. Tapi Mai berusaha menenangkan dirinya terlebih dahulu. Mai membalas dengan senyuman. “Ahhhh,, terasa obat nyamuk” tiba-tiba Fina membuat Juan dan Mai tertawa, “Baru sadar?” timbal Juan. Mai hanya bisa tertawa melihat sikap mereka.

Bersama mereka Mai selalu merasa sangat bahagia, semua masalah terasa hilang. Meskipun sampai sekarang Mai tetap tidak bisa terbuka menceritakan segala permasalahannya Kepada Juan ataupun Fina. Bagi Mai semua permasalahan pasti ada jalannya, yang terpenting usaha dan berdoa. Mai memang termasuk orang yang tidak terlalu suka merepotkan oranglain apapun yang dia rasa bisa lakukan sendiri dia akan melakukannya sendiri.

Setelah selesai makan siang, Mai, Juan, dan Fina kembali ke kost. Sampai kost Mai langsung izin untuk menyiapkan berkas sebagai alasan untuk diam di kamar sendiri. “Aku ke kamar duluan ya, berkasnya di kamar”. “Aku bantu?” saur Juan. “Tidak perlu, lanjut cerita saja dengan Fina, kasian sendirian dia” jawab Mai dengan senyuman. “Semangat dek”

Mai hanya tersenyum dan berlari ke kamar nya. Di kamar Mai hanya memandang pesan yang di tuliskan ibunya. Dia bingung harus menjawab apa, dan dia bingung harus memulai cerita ini dari mana.

Sudah dua hari Mai belum menjawab pesan ibunya, dia bingung harus menjawab apa, pesan ibu nya hanya dia baca. Juan dan Fina merasa ada hal yang berbeda dengan Mai, dua hari ini Mai seperti tidak ada semangat. Mai yang biasanya ceria, sekarang banyak diam, dan menjawab cukup dengan senyuman. Memang hal yang sulit bagi Mai. Tidak pernah terfikir dalam benaknya, akan terjadi hal seperti ini. Satu tahun yang berjalan dengan bahagia, Mai berfikir semuanya akan berjalan sesuai apa yang dia fikirkan. Mai akhirnya meyakinkan dirinya untuk bercerita kepada Fina dan Juan, dia tidak mungkin membiarkan orang terdekatnya tau dari orang lain.

Mai mengajak Juan dan Fina untuk makan malam bersama. Juan dan Fina merasa bahagia akhirnya Mai sudah bisa berkumpul lagi dan mengajak mereka makan bersama. Mereka berangkat bersama menggunakan mobil Juan. Di perjalanan Mai hanya terdiam melihat kejalanannya. Malam yang indah terasa suram baginya, dia membayangkan bagaimana reaksi teman-teman nya mendengarkan cerita ini. Akhirnya mereka sampai di restoran. Mereka turun, memilih tempat duduk *favorite* mereka, dan memesan makanan kesukaan mereka.

Sambil menunggu pesanan Mai bingung harus memulai pembahasan darimana. “Kenapa dek?” Tanya Juan yang sembari tadi melihat Mai hanya diam dan seperti kebingungan. “Ada masalah? Kakak bisa bantu ?” Tanya Juan kembali ke Mai. Mai hanya tersenyum. “Aku mau cerita sama kalian.”. Akhirnya Mai memberanikan diri memulai percakapan ini. “Apasih Mai? Kamu mau nikah? Bingung banget kayanya.” sembur Fina. “Ibu memintaku pulang untuk tunangan” setalah mengutarakan Mai langsung tertunduk. Fina yang mendengarnya tiba-tiba diam dan tertawa. “Ya ampun Mai, kode mu itu loh! Pak, Mai minta dilamar tuh!” saut Fina. Berbeda dengan Juan yang mendengarnya. Juan rasa itu bukan lelucon melihat Mai yang dari tadi seperti kebingungan. Fina merangkul Mai. “Mai ada apa? Gimana ceritanya?” Tanya Fina. Akhirnya Mai menceritakan kejadiannya. Fina dan Juan tidak bisa berkata apa-apa mereka bertiga terdiam dalam keheningan. Makanan pun datang “Silahkan mba, mas!” ucap pelayan. Fina menanggukan kepala “Terimakasih mba”, Mai berusaha mengubah situasi nya, dia berfikir jika dia biasa pasti teman-temannya pun akan biasa saja. Sambil tersenyum Mai mengajak Fina dan Juan untuk menikmati makanannya. “Ayo makan, aku lapar. Dua hari mikirin hal aneh itu”. Mereka hanya memakan tanpa berkata apapun, suasana yang biasanya rame dengan segala celotehan ketika makan, sekarang hanya mendengarkan suara musik yang ada di tempat itu.

Mereka akhirnya memutuskan untuk langsung pulang dan beristirahat, Mai langsung masuk ke kamarnya, Fina juga langsung masuk ke kamar nya, Juan pun langsung pergi menuju

kost-nya. Juan yang mendengar hal itu merasa sangat hancur, di kantor dia hanya melamun. Juan berharap itu hanya mimpi. Tapi semua harus jelas. Juan memutuskan untuk mengajak Mai ketemu dan menceritakan semuanya. Hari ini Mai izin dari kantor, dia hanya ingin sendiri beristirahat di kost-nya. Juan meminta izin dari kantor dan langsung menuju kost Mai setelah menghubungi Mai untuk bertemu.

Mai sudah berada di halaman kost, Juan turun dari mobilnya. Juan tidak ingin melihat Mai seperti itu, Juan rindu melihat Mai yang ceria, dan penuh canda. “Duduk kak, aku buatkan kopi atau mau teh?”, “Teh aja dek” jawab Juan. Mai masuk dan membuatkan teh untuk Juan. Rasanya berat untuk Mai kembali kehalaman dan membawakan secangkir teh. Dia tidak siap dengan apa yang akan terjadi sekarang. Mai pun kembali kedepan dengan membawa secangkir teh. “Ini kak, diminum”. Juan meninum tehnya. “Manis seperti yang buat”. Mai hanya tersenyum. “Gimana sudah enakan?” tanya Juan. Mai menganggukan kepalanya. Beberapa menit mereka hanya terdiam saja. “Sudah di balas pesan mamah?” Tanya Juan. Mai hanya mengelengkan kepalanya “Aku bingung kak.” jawab Mai. Juan berfikir tidak akan selesai jika hanya saling diam. Akhirnya Juan meminta Mai untuk menjawab pesan ibu nya, menyatakan bahwa dia akan pulang untuk menanyakan bagaimana keputusannya. Mereka bercerita satu sama lain.

Mai yang sembari tadi hanya mendengarkan, dan hanya mengeluarkan sepatchah kata menanggapi saran Juan, meneteskan air mata. “Jangan nangis dek, it’s okey. Semua pasti ada jalannya. Apapun itu keputusannya itu adalah yang

terbaik". Juan tau saat ini Juan-lah yang tersakiti, tapi melihat orang yang sangat dia cinta menangis membuat hatinya lebih sakit.

Esoknya Mai dijemput ayah dan supirnya, Fina hanya bisa diam dan tidak bisa melakukan apapun, Fina tidak bisa mencegah hal-hal yang akan terjadi kedepannya. Mai berpamitan pada Fina. "Salam untuk pak Juan!" ucap Mai. Fina hanya menganggukan kepala. Perjalanan pulang yang biasanya menjadi hari yang paling menyenangkan. Akan bertemu keluarga, dan teman-teman sekarang menjadi hal yang aneh baginya.

Sesampainya di rumah Mai beristirahat. Keesokan harinya Mai dan orantuanya bekumpul, bercerita terkait acaara pertunangan antara Mai dan Evan. Ibunya menyampaikan jika acara ini sudah lama diperhitungkan. Sejak Mai semester lima, ketika dulu ibunya bicara kepada Mai melalui telpon itu. Evan bukanlah masalah bagi Mai karena Mai tau Evan adalah orang yang baik. Mai hanya memikirkan bagaimana dengan Juan. Tapi semua sudah tidak ada gunanya, acara sudah dirancang sedemikian rupa, semua sudah di persiapkan. Tiga hari kemudian Mai melangsungkan tunangan nya dengan Evan. Acara berjalan dengan lancar. Ada sedih ada bahagia. Tidak bisa di pungkiri Evan adaalah laki-laki baik, pintar, dan sudah mapan.

Setelah seminggu di rumah Mai harus kembali ke kost. Mai hanya meminta izin selama seminggu ke kantor. Dia harus kembali masuk kantor. Mai di antar ayah, Evan dan supirnya.

Di perjalanan mereka bercerita apa saja yang akan di lakukan kedepan ya. Mai tidak banyak menjawab, dia hanya tersenyum dan meng-iya-kan apakata ayah ataupun Evan. Perjalanan malam membuat Mai lebih menyempatkan untuk teridur. Sudah cukup lelah baginya bersedih. Semua sudah terjadi, dia harus memikirkan laki-laki yang sekarang bersama dengannya.

Sesampainya di kost, Fina menyambut kedatangan Mai, Fina memeluk Mai “Aku kangen banget” sambil tersenyum. “Pasti gak ada yang bantu beres-beres rumahkan?” saur Mai. Fina bersalaman dengan ayah Mai dan mempersilahkan mereka duduk di teras. Karena di kost tidak boleh ada laki-laki masuk ke area kost. Ayah Mai tidak lama disana hanya beristirahat sejenak, dan berpamitan. “Bapak langsung pulang lagi ya?” ucap ayah. Mai hanya menganggukkan kepala. “Aa pulang.” ucap Evan kepada Mai. Mai tersenyum “Iya, hati-hati”. Evan dan ayahnya pergi meninggalkan Mai. Fina langsung memeluk Mai “Ganteng Mai”. Fina berbisik ke Mai. Mobil yang baru saja melaju yang masih terlihat belakangnya, Fina sempat-sempatnya berbicara seperti itu. “Sudah! Ayo masuk!” jawab Mai. “ihhh..Gak seru kamu, Mai”. Mai hanya tertawa dan meninggalkan Fina. .

Esoknya Juan, Fina, dan Mai bertemu. Juan berusaha bersikap biasa saja seolah-olah tidak ada yang terjadi. Seperti biasa mereka makan bersama di tempat favorite nya. Sambil menunggu makanan mereka bercerita. Fina yang tau bagaimana calon Mai, merasa tidak ada lagi hal yang harus difikirkan. Mai merasa canggung dengan Juan, tetapi Juan yang sudah lebih dewasa bisa membuat suasana tetap ceria. Makananpun datang,

mereka makan bersama sambil bercerita. Fina yang benar-benar merasa bahagia mengetahui bahwa calon Mai begitu nyaris sempurna, tidak bisa berhenti memuji Evan didepan Juan. Juan hanya tersenyum dan menjawab semua lontaran Fina dengan canda.

Mai merasa lebih lega, melihat sikap Juan kepadanya. Tidak ada perbedaan dari Juan kepadanya. Juan tetap ada ketika Mai butuh bantuan, hanya Juan menyadari Mai sudah tidak mungkin menjadi miliknya. Juan membatasi kontaknya dengan Mai. Mai pun mengerti dengan sikap Juan. Hingga suatu ketika Juan berpamitan kepada Mai dan Fina. Juan memutuskan kembali ke kota kelahiran nya, melanjutkan studinya.

Ini adalah hal terberat yang harus Juan jalani, merelakan orang yang dia sayangi dan dia cintai pergi untuk kedua kalinya. Penyemangatnya menjalani kegiatan selama satu tahun lebih. Yang membuatnya terbangun dari tidurnya yang lama. Sekarang hal itu terulang kembali. Juan tidak menyalahkan Mai, tidak juga benci Mai. Justru Juan berterimakasih kepada Mai karena Mai, dia bisa melewati masa kelamnya. Mai banyak merubah dirinya, maerubah sikap, dan cara berfikirnya dalam mengatasi suatu kejadian.

Fina dan Mai hanya bisa mengucapkan selamat tinggal kepada Juan. Mai berharap suatu saat Juan mendapatkan orang lebih dari Mai. Perpisahan itu diakhiri dengan senyuman. “Jangan lupa kirim undangan kalo sudah ada calonnya, Pak!” ucap Fina.”Jelas, cepet nyusul Fin, jangan kalah sama Mai” jawab Juan. Mai hanya tersenyum “Hati-hati kak!”. Juan

membalas senyumnya “Siap dek, laksanakan”. Juan pun pergi meninggalkan Fina dan Mai. “Ini bukan perpisahan selamanya kan Mai?” ucap Fina. Mai hanya mengangkat bahunya dan menggelengkan kepala.

Satu tahun berlalu mereka sudah menjalani kehidupan nya masing-masing Mai yang mulai mencintai Evan, yang sudah banyak merancang semua persiapan pernikahannya. Fina yang sudah menyelesaikan studinya dan dengan karirnya yang semakin membaik. Demikian juga dengan Juan yang melanjutkan studinya. Perpisahan kemarin bukanlah seperti perpisahan. Juan, Mai, dan Fina tetap berhungan baik satu sama lain. Mai pun telah menyelesaikan studinya tepat waktu, dan akan melangsungkan pernikahannya dengan Evan. Semua persiapan pernikahan sudah selesai. Mai mengirimkan undangan-undangan kepada teman-temannya. Fina sahabat dekat Mai sangat bahagia melihat undangan itu.

Hal indah sekarang sudah pudar begitu saja, melihat kejadian yang menyakitkan bagi Juan. Juan harus merelakan orang yang yang menjadi penyemangat selama perjuangannya bangkit dari keterpurukan. Hari ini adalah hari dimana Mai akan melaksanakan akad pernikahan nya, membangun rumah tangga bersama Evan.

Hujan Tak Bersalah

By Murti Sari K.

Siang itu, Galih mengayuh sepedanya menuju perpustakaan kota, hatinya teramat menggebu bahagia hingga tak ada sedikitpun terpampang wajah lelah walau peluh menetes dari dahinya. Setelah Galih memarkirkan sepeda, ia membeli es kopi di warung kecil di dalam perpustakaan kota, penjualnya selalu ramah dan selalu memberi senyum percuma.

"Buk, saya mau moccachino es ya, di gelas buk."

"Siap mas Galih, engak pesenin buat temennya sekalian?"

"Engak bu, biar mereka beli sendiri nanti, takut ini buk salah."

"Oooo ya ya ya "

Sembari membawa cangkir es susu di tangan kanannya, Galih mengacak-acak lembut dedaunan yang tumbuh subur di pot yang ditata mengikuti lekukan gerbang perpustakaan kota.

Galih memilih duduk di area luar yang biasa dipilih kebanyakan mahasiswa di Jogja untuk mendapatkan jaringan internet gratis dan menghindari pengap yang biasa terasa jika berada di dalam perpustakan kota.

***Haidar

Pagi itu perasaan Haidar dipenuhi energi semangat karena ia benar-benar menyukai dunia menulis, dan menulis naskah adalah sesuatu yang tidak pernah Haidar lakukan sebelumnya. Haidar yang jarang sekali sarapan di rumah, hari itu bahkan menyiapkan telur goreng untuk sarapannya, Haidar juga menyiapkan teh panas dan membeli gorengan untuk sarapan pakdenya, membuat budenya senang tapi juga bingung.

"Haidar, sudah telpon bapak atau ibu kamu belum di Cilacap? Tolong bilang Pakde Handoko tidak bisa ikut ke acara nikahan kakakmu bulan Desember nanti."

Suara pakde dari ruang tamu membuat Haidar menghentikan sesaat suapan sarapannya.

"Saya sudah kirim whatsapp pak ke bapak-ibuk, tetapi saya belum sempat telpon, pakde kenapa ga bisa ikut ke Cilacap?"

"Bulan Desember banyak acara sastra dan kesenian yang tidak bisa pakde tinggalkan Dar."

"Oh Nggih Pakde, nanti malam ya telponya"

"Iya Haidar"

Selasai mencuci piring dan gelas bekas sarapannya, Haidar segera bersiap-siap untuk menemui Galih dan Retno di Perpustakaan Kota.

"Bude, Pakde. Haidar pamit ya, nanti pulang nya agak malam"

"Iya, hati-hati mas Haidar" sahut bude Sri dari dalam rumah.

Di parkiran motor Perpustkaan Kota, Haidar sudah celingukan mencari sesosok temannya Galih yang biasanya akan sampai duluan jika ada janjian bertemu diantara mereka bertiga, ternyata temannya itu tidak dapat terdeteksi dari parkiran maka Haidar memutuskan untuk menuju area luar perpustakaan tempat *favorite* mereka berkumpul di dekat warung Bu Rini.

Setelah tidak menemukan juga sosok Galih, Haidar berjalan ke pintu depan perpustakaan kemudian melihat-lihat suasana dan orang-orang yang sudah duduk di area luar perpustakaan, dan ternyata Haidar dapat menemukan tempat duduk Galih di dekat pohon beringin besar yang ada di sudut kanan perpustakaan. Haidar mendekati Galih dengan hati-hati dan berusaha untuk membuat temannya itu kaget.

Sambil menepuk-nepuk punggung temannya Haidar menyapa,

"Heh Galih, kok gak pilih yang paling deket sama warung bu Rini?"

Haidar yang sudah sampai langsung mengajukan pertanyaan kepada Galih.

"Oh, tadi tu aku sampai udah hampir penuh tempatnya apalagi area dekat warung Dar, kamu gak bareng sama Retno?"

"Kemaren dia gak minta bareng sih, kemarin malem dia chat whatshapp-ku, kita disuruh diskusi duluan Lih."

"Oh bisajadi dia bantuin ibunya di pasar ya" Galih teringat rutinitas Retno yang biasa dijadikan alasan ketika ditanya mengapa terlambat masuk kelas.

"Mungkin" Haidar menyudahi sapaan pagi itu.

Galih dan Haidar menyiapkan beberapa bahan bacaan untuk referensi mereka dalam mengikuti lomba menulis naskah drama yang diselenggarakan salah satu lembaga kesenian yang ada di Jogja.

Retno

"Buk, Retno enten janji ketemuan" Retno berteriak dari dapur rumahnya sambil menata arem-arem, nogosari, mata sapi, lapis, agar-agar, jenang sumsum ke keranjang gendong.

"Iya Nduk, karo sopo neng ndi nduk?" Ibunya dari ruang tengah menjawab Retno.

"Biasa buk, konco kuliah Galih karo Haidar buk neng Perpustakaan, tapi mulih e mungkin sore po mbengi buk" Retno berbicara dengan suara keras lagi.

"Iyo yo nduk, engko kabari wae yo nek mulih e uwis luwih seko jam 8 bengi yo, ati-ati neng ndalan."

"Ngih Buk, sampun kulo tata dagangan Ibuk, Retno tinggal ngih buk, Assalamualaikum" Rini berpamitan sambil menuju depan untuk memakai sepatu.

Selesai memakai sepatu Retno meraih barang-barang yang sudah disiapkan diatas meja bambu di ruang tengah rumahnya, menyalakan motor lalu memulai perjalanan hari itu.

Ditengah perjalanan, Retno teringat bahwa ia harus mengambil buku kumpulan nyanyian Jawa yang ada di rumah guru menarinya di daerah Bantul, Retno berniat untuk menyisipkan nyanyian-nyanyian yang dalam naskah drama.

"Duh, kalau aku ke Bantul dulu, mesti suwi iki kanca ku le podo nunggu, mogo ae podo ra nesu" pikiran Retno jadi terbagi menjadi beberapa rencana yang secara spontan menjadikan perasaan Retno hari itu cemas, waspada, terburu-buru mengejar waktu.

"Duk Duk Duk" suara Retno mengetuk pintu dengan sehalus mungkin berusaha sopan.

"Iya siapa ya?" Dari dalam rumah suara Ibu-ibu terdengar begitu sayu.

"Bu Siti, ini Retno mau ambil buku tembang Jawa"

"Owalah cah ayu, sini masuk dulu" pintu rumah khas Jogja yang khas akan kayu itu terbuka.

Sebelumnya Retno sudah mengatur dirinya agar terkendali dan dapat menyembunyikan rasa terburu-burunya didepan bu Siti. Namun bu Siti menyadari ada yang berbeda dari perilaku Retno yang biasa banyak menanyakan ini-itu, sekarang lebih banyak diam dan hanya mengangukkan kepala atau tersenyum mengiyakan kalimat-kalimat basabasi dari bu Siti.

"Bu,maaf ya sepertinya saya tidak bisa ikut latihan menari kurang lebih 1 bulan, karena Retno ada kegiatan lain bu"

"Iya cah ayu tidak papa, ini bukunya yang boleh dipinjam 2 saja ya, yang lain boleh baca tapi di rumah saya ya bacanya"

"Iya bu, makasih banyak ya, saya langsung pamit pulang ya bu"

Setelah menyimpan buku tembang Jawa ke dalam tas ranselnya, Retno berdiri dan menjabat salam Bu Siti.

Didepan pintu rumah melepas kepergian Retno di hari menuju siang itu, Bu Siti menahan tawa melihat alas kaki yang dipakai Retno tidak serasi, sepatu hitam dikanan dan sandal

jepit dikiri, Bu Siti tidak habis pikir mengapa Retno bisa tidak menyadari bahkan setelah bertemu ke rumah orang.

Di perjalanan, pikiran Retno sudah dipenuhi dengan perasaan bersalah dan sudah memikirkan alasan-alasan yang akan sampaikan jika teman-temannya memasang muka jutek yang tidak enak dipandang. Sebelum menuju perpustakaan, Retno memutuskan untuk sholat dulu di masjid dekat perpustakaan agar setelah bertemu teman-temannya ia bisa langsung bergabung untuk diskusi.

Retno memarkirkan motornya di area masjid, kemudian dengan tergesa ia berlari kecil menuju ke perpustakaan dan setelah melihat gerbang perpustakaan, Retno segera memindai semua yang ia dapat lihat didepannya agar ia dapat dengan cepat menemukan tempat duduk Galih dan Haidar, dan di pintu gerbang ia dapat langsung melihat kedua sosok temannya yang sedang bercakap-cakap dengan amat antusias.

Retno memutuskan untuk memesan es jeruk di warung Bu Rini sebelum bersiap untuk bergabung dengan Galih dan Haidar.

Selama dua jam terakhir, Galih dan Haidar bergantian meminjam buku dari dalam Perpustakaan Kota. Mereka banyak membaca buku bertemakan Budaya Jawa.

"Lih, kita pakai nama nya bernuansa Jawa ya untuk semua tokoh kita nanti?"

"Iya Dar, sama kan , kita udah bahas ini sebelumnya."

"Oke oke, tapi aku masih gak yakin sama Tokoh utamanya Lih, gimana cara dia bisa jadi penari yang ayu dan gemulai tanpa kehilangan jadi diri sebagai lelaki"

"Wah, kalau masalah membuat tokoh utama yang kokoh kita harus nunggu Retno, dia kan belajar tarian di Padepokan Selendang Bantul."

"Iya ya semoga dia jadi gabung diskusi hari ini"

"Slamet, Handoko, Jumaidi, Sri, Siti, Rini. Lih mereka ini ada diumur 25an ya Dar, karena mereka ini teman kerja tokoh utama sudah punya anak dan konfliknya juga menyangkut keluarga kan?"

"Kita ambil umur 25an ya Dar, karena mereka ini teman kerja tokoh utama sudah punya anak dan konfliknya juga menyangkut keluarga kan."

"Oke Lih, *bye the way* kita butuh tokoh netral yang dia menghubungkan konflik duniawi mereka dengan Tuhan, aku usul tokohnya cewek namanya Rahma ya"

"Oke Haidar mantap!"

"Maaf, maaf yo aku telat banget" logat jawa suara Retno menghentikan diskusi Galih dan Haidar saat itu.

"*Sante ae Ret, ora popo*" Haidar menenangkan Retno dan suasana menjadi cair dengan ledakan tawa mereka bertiga yang menyadari Retno tidak memakai alas kaki dengan serasi, kaki kanannya memakai sepatu hitam, sedang kaki kirinya memakai sandal jepit dengan kaus kaki motif pisang ukuran kecil-kecil.

Tiga sekawan itu melanjutkan diskusi mereka dengan khusyu' dan perasaan senang.

Setelah beberapa waktu berlalu, suasana di Jogja siang menuju sore hari itu terasa menenangkan, kesejukan merasuki perasaan Galih, Retno dan Haidar yang memiliki kecemasan masing-masing di lubuk hatinya.

Tatapan Galih terpaku pada pemandangan didepannya dari angin yang menerpa dedaunan pohon-pohon yang sengaja ditanam di Jalan Raya samping Perpustakaan Kota itu, entah mengapa ada rasa senang memenuhi jiwanya.

"Berarti kita mau pakai pekerjaan ini sebagai konflik juga kan, untuk Kuncoro sebagai tokoh utama" suara Retno yang tegas menjawab pertanyaan Haidar.

"Oke Oke." Haidar menyetujui Retno.

"*Lih, Galih ojo ngelamun, piye jadi ke tempat teman bapakmu yang lulusan sastra itu? Buat tanya menulis naskah yang bagus itu gimana*" Pertanyaan Retno itu menyadarkan Galih untuk kembali fokus untuk berdiskusi.

"Iya, namanya Pak Kuncoro, aku sudah bilang ke beliau kalau sore ini aku mau bawa temen-temen mampir" jawab

Galih dengan nada tidak teratur masih dalam pemulihan akibat melamun sebelumnya.

"Oh yang dekat rumahmu ya Lih, rumah sederhana yang banyak lukisannya di halaman rumah" kenang Haidar akan Pak Kuncoro yang sebelumnya pernah Galih ceritakan.

"Iya bener, yang bapaknya suka duduk depan rumah pake topi bulet" jawab Galih.

"Terus, Lih, *arep bonceng aku po Haidar?*" Tanya Retno pada Galih.

"Oh, itu kan dekat rumahku, aku pake sepedaku aja, kamu sama Haidar duluan ke rumah pak Kuncoro, kalau gak berani duluan, kalian bisa nunggu di rumah ku dulu" Permintaan Galih sore itu mulai terdengar seperti suaranya yang biasa pelan, teratur dan nadanya lemah.

"Eh ngomong-ngomong tokoh utamanya Kuncoro, haha kebetulan ya bisasama." pernyataan tiba-tiba dari Haidar itu membuat Galih dan Retno tertawa dan menganguk-anguk senang.

Setelah melihat Galih mengayuh sepedanya, Haidar dan Retno pun bergegas menyiapkan diri untuk melanjutkan perjalanan hari itu ke rumah pak Kuncoro.

Galih sudah sampai di perempatan Taman Pintar dan ternyata cuaca hari itu benar-benar diluar prediksi tiga sekawan

itu. Langit Jogja menjadi amat mendung, gelap dan dalam hitungan detik air dari Tuhan berhampuran jatuh dari atas, semua basah dan dengan terpaksa Galih harus menghentikan sepedanya dan ikut berteduh dengan orang-orang yang tidak membawa jas hujan atau payung di depan toko penjual peralatan dari plastik.

“Yah padahal tinggal dikit lagi sudah sampai Wijilan” suara Galih lirih menyayangkan keadaanya yang seharusnya tinggal beberapa kayuhan sepeda dia bisa sampai ke rumahnya.

“dururururu durururu durururu” dering handphone Galih berbunyi menandakan ada telepon.

“Gimana Dar, kamu di rumahku atau rumah Pak Kuncoro?” tanya Galih mendahului Haidar yang ingin bertanya.

“Aku dan Retno dirumahmu, kami sudah ketemu orang tuamu, kamu kehujanan diaman Lih?” Tanya Haidar dengan nada berteriak melawan suara gemuruh hujan.

“ Perempatan deket Sayidan nih” jawab Galih singkat.

“Lih, kata Retno catatan yang kita buat tadi dibawa kamu ya?” Tanya Haidar dengan nada cemas.

“Eh iya Dar bentar aku cek” Galih membuka ranselnya yang basah kuyup dan menemukan bahwa catatan yang sudah ia buat dengan teman-temannya sudah luntur terkena air hujan.

“Duh, Dar, *sorry* ini tulisannya luntur, tadi aku sempet kehujanan sebelum berteduh” Galih menjelaskan dengan nada lemah dan bersalah.

“Yaudah gak papa, aku sama Retno juga nyusun lagi ya di rumahmu, tapi ketemuan kita sama pak Kuncoro kita undur besok”

“Iya makasih lho”

“Retno gak bisa pulang malem, dia harus bantu ibunya”

“Iya aku ngerti, kalau hujannya reda kalian jangan pulang dulu ya sebelum ketemu aku di rumah” pinta Galih dengan nada serius.

Hari itu tiga sekawan tidak dapat berbincang-bincang dengan Pak Kuncoro untuk mendapat nasihat dan ilmu dalam kepenulisan, dan waktu mereka untuk menyadari bahwa tokoh-tokoh yang ada dalam naskah mereka memiliki kesamaan yang tidak disengaja dengan kenangan orang-orang yang ada di sekitar mereka.

*** Di rumah Galih

Ibu Galih yang sore itu kedatangan dua tamu amat senang karena dapat berbincang-bincang untuk melewati sore hari itu.

“Mbak Retno, gimana kabarnya bu Rahma? masih jualan jajanan tidak mbak?”

Mendengar pertanyaan dari Ibu Galih itu, Haidar dan Retno terdiam dan terpaku.

Mereka bertatap-tatapan seolah meminta persetujuan apakah yang mereka pikirkan sama bahwa secara tidak sengaja nama-nama yang mereka pilih sebagai tokoh dalam naskah drama adalah nama-nama dari orang – orang yang ada disekitar mereka.

Pertemuan Singkat

By Nila Alfarah

07.00 Bandara Husein Sastranegara

“Safe flight ya! Inget jaga pola makan jaga kesehatan.”

“Iyaaaa bawel.”

“Jaga diri baik-baik di sana.”

“Kamu juga. Aku masuk dulu okay? Bye”

“Bye sayang”

Pagi ini aku menginjakkan kaki di Bandara Huseinsastranegara untuk melepas tunanganku—Sasha terbang ke kota yang nanti akan menjadi tempat kerja barunya di Malang. Berat rasanya untuk melepas Sasha mengingat

sebentar lagi waktu kami akan tersita untuk mengurus rencana pernikahan kami yang mau tidak mau mengharuskan kami untuk berdiskusi jarak jauh. Sore ini aku akan bertemu dengan salah satu pihak *wedding organizer* yang direkomendasikan oleh temanku. Rencananya aku akan membahas konsep dasar yang aku dan Sasha inginkan. Kami membuat janji di sebuah café di tengah kota Bandung agar suasananya lebih *enjoy* dan santai.

Aku melajukan mobil dengan membelah kemacetan Jalan Braga di kala akhir pekan. Jalanan yang mengingatkanku saat bertemu dengan Sasha untuk yang kedua kalinya. Waktu itu aku sedang mengantar temanku yang kebetulan sedang berkunjung ke Kota Bandung. Ia memintaku menemaninya untuk pergi keliling kota. Berjalan-jalan, memotret, berfoto, kulineran, lalu kami singgah sebentar di sebuah kedai kopi di Jalan Braga. Di sitalah pertemuan keduaku dengan Sasha—seorang barista cantik yang ku kenal dari temanku. Senyum cantik yang kala itu menyambut kami masih terekam rapih dalam ingatanku. Sasha beranjak menemani kami bercengkerama ketika pelanggan sudah mulai berkurang. Ia pendengar yang sangat baik, setidaknya bagiku. Tak heran jika banyak yang menyukainya—termasuk aku.

Kembali pada kemacetan yang mulai dihiasi dengan rintik hujan. Siapa sangka jika barista cantik saat itu akan menjadi istriku dalam waktu dekat. Sekitar kurang lebih sepuluh menit lagi aku sampai di café tujuan. Sambil mendengarkan lagu favoritku *Memulai Kembali* dari Monita Tahalea, aku mengabari pihak *wedding organizer*.

Sebentar lagi saya sampai tujuan.

Drrt..Drrrt..

*Baik pak, saya sudah di Café Blossomie bagian indoor.
Terima kasih.*

Aku memarkirkan mobilku ketika sampai di *Cafe Blossomie* dan mencari tempat yang telah ditentukan. Cafenya tidak terlalu ramai walaupun di tengah kota yang mana sangat cocok untuk digunakan meeting. Aku melihat seorang wanita yang duduk di dekat kaca yang aku asumsikan adalah pihak *Wedding organizer* itu.

“Permisi, apa benar dengan *Luve Wedding Organizer*?” tanyaku agar tidak salah orang

“Betul. Silakan duduk, dengan Pak Arraf ya?” ujar wanita tersebut

“Ya saya sendiri, kebetulan tunangan saya sedang di luar kota. Apa tidak apa-apa jika kami berdiskusi via telfon?”

“Tentu, pak. Sebelumnya perkenalkan saya Sania perwakilan dari *Luve Wedding Organizer* yang akan membantu Pak Arraf dan Bu Sasha terkait konsep pernikahan.”

“Terima kasih, Mbak Sania. Saya izin telfon Sasha sebentar.”

“Baik, pak. Cukup panggil saya Sania saja hehe”

Tuuut..tuut..tutti

“Halo sayang?”

“Kamu nggak lupa kan hari ini kita ada meeting konsep pernikahan?”

“Nggak dooong. Aku maunya kita pakai konsep *garden party* gitu trus yang diundang cukup keluarga besar sama kerabat aja supaya lebih intim dan nggak kebanyakan tamu. Bisa kan mbak?”

“Tentu bisa mbak. Nanti kita pilihkan gambaran *garden party* yang pernah kita handle dan sukses.”

Setelah kurang lebih dua jam kami berdiskusi, Sania meminta izin untuk menyudahi meeting kali ini dan melanjutkannya minggu depan karena sudah ada klien lain yang menunggunya. Aku cukup salut dengan sikap Sania yang sangat cekatan menanggapi permintaan kami. Aku berharap semoga ini awal yang bagus demi kelancaran pernikahanku dan Sasha.

Sesampainya di rumah, aku langsung merebahkan diri di atas kasur dan memandang ke arah langit-langit. *This gonna be*

hard, but I'm sure with this decision. Dua tahun tidaklah sebentar menjalin hubungan dengan Sasha. Memantapkan hati hingga berani mengambil keputusan untuk melanjutkan ke jenjang yang lebih serius.

Beberapa hari setelah pertemuan itu aku semakin dibuat bingung oleh Sasha. Mulai dari jarang berkabar, membalas singkat, hingga lupa dengan jadwal meeting selanjutnya. Aku masih berpikir positif bahwa ia sedang sibuk-sibuknya mengurus kepindahannya di kantor baru. Sejak meeting pertama, aku juga menjadi lebih sering andil dalam menentukan kebutuhan pernikahan.

Beberapa kali aku bertemu dengan Sania dan tanpa Sasha ikut andil berdiskusi. Pertemuan selanjutnya seharusnya aku dan Sasha menentukan cincin perkawinan. Aku telfon dia dan kali ini diangkat, namun suaranya terdengar lelah dan malah menyuruhku ke toko cincin dengan Sania. Ia berkata bahwa lingkar jarinya paling tidak jauh berbeda dengan Sania.

Dengan berat hati aku mengajak Sania ke toko perhiasan untuk mengukur jarinya. Sesampainya di sana, si pelayannya salah paham dan mengira Sania adalah pasanganku. Sania terlihat salah tingkah dan bingung mau menanggapi apa. Aku tidak ambil pusing soal itu karena tujuanku ya hanya menentukan cincin pernikahan untuk aku dan Sasha. Setelah

mengantarkan Sania pulang, aku mengecek ponsel yang masih belum ada notifikasi apapun dari Sasha.

Mau dibawa kemana hubungan kita ini Sashaa batinku bergejolak.

Dua bulan lamanya, Sasha masih bersikap menggantungkanku. Aku bertekad untuk mengambil cuti dan menyusulnya ke Kota Malang untuk meluruskan semua ini. Aku sengaja tidak memberitahunya kedatanganku karena untuk apa, ia juga tak akan membalas. Dan ya, selama ini aku masih mengurus rencana pernikahanku sendirian. Aku mendapat jadwal penerbangan pukul tigas sore dan kemungkinan sampai di Kota Malang malam hari. Aku memutuskan untuk menginap di hotel dan melanjutkan rencanaku bertemu Sasha besok.

Keesokan harinya aku mencari taksi online untuk menuju ke apartemen Sasha. Aku sengaja tidak memberitahu kedatanganku padanya karena aku tidak ingin digantungkan olehnya lagi. Sesampainya di lobi apartemen, aku menuju resepsionis untuk menanyakan letak ruangannya. Setelah sampai di depan ruangannya aku bergegas mengeluarkan ponsel dan menelepon Sasha namun tetap tidak diangkat.

Jika kamu membaca ini, tolong buka pintu apartemen, aku di depan.

Setelah menunggu kurang lebih selama 15 menit, Sasha akhirnya membukakan pintu untukku.

“Kok kamu ngga bilang kalau mau dating?”

“Untuk apa? Apa dengan aku bilang, kamu akan kembali menghindar lagi? Tidakkah cukup kamu menggantungkanku selama ini tanpa kabar di saat aku mengurus rencana pernikahan kita?”

“Aku..aku bisa jelaskan”

“Tentu. Maka dari itu aku rela terbang sampai sini. Untuk menunggu penjelasanmu.”

Sasha mempersilakanku masuk setelah kami berdebat kecil di depan koridor. Aku mengamati sekeliling ruangan yang tidak terlalu luas tapi sederhana ini. Ketika sampai di ruang tamu, suasana *vintage* menghiasi setiap sudut karena Sasha memang penyuka desain yang sederhana namun elegan. Aku menunggu sembari ia pergi ke dapur membuat sesuatu.

“Apa kabar?” tanya Sasha yang aku tahu itu hanya basabasi

“Tak pernah sebaik saat kamu belum pergi ke Malang. Kamu?”

“Baik.. sepertinya”

“Jadi? Apa penjelasanmu?”

“Arraf, maaf sebelumnya. Bagaimana jika aku ingin mengakhiri hubungan kita?”

Deg.

“Kamu tahu apa yang sedang kamu bicarakan? Kamu pasti bercanda kan?”

“Tidak Arraf. Aku sedang tidak bercanda. Aku.. aku merasa nyaman dengan seseorang. Rekan kerjaku. Maaf.”

“Berapa lama? Sudah berapa lama kamu?”

“Satu bulan setelah aku pindah”

“Jadi? Bagaimana dengan persiapan pernikahan yang sudah aku urus?”

“Maaf. Jika memang urusan itu, nanti aku akan mengganti kerugian itu.”

“Secepat itu ya. Baiklah aku pun tidak bisa memaksamu untuk tetap tinggal. Terima kasih untuk penjelasannya, aku akan kembali ke Bandung dan tidak akan mengusik kehidupanmu. Semoga kamu bahagia dengan pilihanmu.”

“Terima kasih dan maaf, Arraf. Aku akan mengantarmu sampai depan.”

“Tidak perlu, Sasha.”

Aku melangkah dengan gontai saat itu. Sulit untuk mempercayai bahwa hubungan yang sudah terjalin serius harus kandas hanya karena Sasha menemukan pasangan lain. Untuk apa aku mengurus pernikahan sendirian dan ujungnya hanya aku yang mempertahankan hubungan ini. Aku memesan tiket penerbangan ke Bandung saat itu juga dan pulang dengan separuh hati yang tertinggal di Malang.

Sesampainya di Bandung aku langsung menemui Sania untuk membatalkan semua rencana pernikahan yang telah aku urus beberapa waktu lalu. Aku sudah menceritakan bagaimana kronologis permasalahanku pada Sania. Setelah memarkirkan mobil, aku bergegas masuk ke dalam kantor *Luve Wedding Organizer* yang tak terlalu besar namun suasannya sangat homey.

“Selamat siang, Pak Arraf. Silakan duduk dulu.”

“Siang, Sania. Terima kasih.”

“Sebelumnya saya turut prihatin atas apa yang terjadi antara Pak Arraf dan Bu Sasha.”

“Ya terimakasih Sania. Aku tidak bisa berbuat apa-apa dan tidak mungkin memaksanya untuk tetap bertahan. Jadi bagaimana apakah bisa dibatalkan?”

“Berdasarkan prosedur, pihak kami tidak bisa mengembalikan uangnya secara 100% karena beberapa barang sudah dipersiapkan dan juga karena sangat mendadak sekali dari *due date* pernikahan.”

“Baiklah Sania. Terima kasih telah membantu saya selama rapat. Apa setelah ini kamu ada acara?”

“Kebetulan hari ini setelah jam kerja saya mau ada pertemuan keluarga pak di daerah Dago.”

“Boleh saya antar? Kebetulan saya sedang butuh teman untuk melupakan masalah saya sekarang.”

“Aduh gimana ya pak saya takut ngerepotin.”

“Tidak apa. Terima kasih”

Entah apa yang merasuki diriku sehingga aku mengajak Sania untuk mengantarnya pulang ke rumah saudaranya. Aku melihat Sania keluar dari kantor *Luve* dan segera membunyikan klakson pertanda jika itu adalah mobilku. Ia kemudian masuk dan duduk di kursi penumpang. Mobil berjalan dan kami merasakan keheningan beberapa waktu.

“Sania” “Pak” ujar kami bersamaan

“Ya Sania ada apa?”

“Boleh nyalain radio? Soalnya canggung banget hehe tapi kalau ngga boleh juga nggak papa”

“Silakan, baru aja saya mau nawarinitu.”

Selamat sore, kawula muda! kembali lagi dengan Julio dan Ilham di sini di Sunset Trip! Nah gimana nih malem selasa kalian kawula muda? Galau? Bahagia? atau sedang pdkt? Kebetulan kita ada satu lagu buat kalian yang abis patah hati! Oke langsung aja Ilham ga usah pake lama lagi ini dia.”

*Percayalah
Hanya diriku paling mengerti
Kegelisahan jiwamu kasih
..dan arti kata kecewamu*

“Aduh kok malah jadi lagunya kaya gini ya pak.”

Celetuk Sania

“Jujur, San. Saya agak tersindir sama liriknya.”

“Hahaha.. serius pak? Aduh maaf saya malah ketawa gini ga sopan.”

“San tolong mulai saat ini jangan panggil pak lagi ya. Saya kan udah bukan jadi klien kamu lagi.”

“Arraf? Tapi saya udah terbiasa panggil pak jadi kayak ngga sopan gitu kalau manggin langsung nama.”

“Udah santai aja, sekarang anggap temen aja.”

Setelah perjalanan kurang lebih 45 menit akhirnya aku dan Sania sampai di rumah saudaranya. Rumahnya tidak terlalu besar tapi memiliki halaman yang sangat luas. Dari luar terlihat kalau keluarga Sania sedang mengadakan *barbeque* di halaman rumah. Saat aku mengantar Sania di depan rumah, kebetulan berpapasan dengan saudara Sania yang saat itu baru datang.

“Loh Sania baru dateng juga? Sama siapa kok tante nggak pernah lihat mobilnya?” Tanya seorang perempuan yang ku taksir sekitar umur 45-an

“Hehe iya tan, tadi bareng sama klien aku kebetulan searah.”

“Suruh masuk aja sekalian, mumpung lagi pada kumpul.”

Karena merasa tidak enak dengan saudaranya Sania, mau tidak mau aku mengikutinya untuk pertemuan dengan keluarga. Sangat canggung, dari yang niatnya hanya mengantar pulang malah bertemu dengan banyak keluarganya dan mengira jika aku adalah pasangan Sania.

“Maaf semuanya, saya harus permisi dulu karena sudah larut malam. Takut nanti kenapa kenapa di jalan. Terima kasih untuk jamuannya malam ini.”

“Sama-sama nak Arraf, jangan sungkan sungkan kalau mau datang ke sini.” Ucap ayah Sania

Setelah berpamitan kepada keluarga besarnya. Sania mengantarku sampai ke depan gerbang.

“Arraf, maaf ya malah keluargaku jadi gini.”

“Hahaha nggak apa, terima kasih San, keluargamu baik sekali. Aku pamit dulu.”

“Hati-hati di jalan. Terima kasih!”

Mobilku mulai bergerak menikmati suasana nyaman Bandung di malam hari. Untuk sejenak aku telah melupakan permasalahanku dengan Sasha. Entah kenapa aku mulai merasa nyaman dengan kehadiran Sania dan juga bagaimana keluarga Sania menyambutku malam tadi. Padahal aku termasuk orang asing di rumah mereka.

Setelah pertemuan keluarga besar malam itu, aku semakin dekat dengan Sania. Kami bukan lagi sebatas mantan klien tetapi lebih ke sahabat dekat. Sania banyak bercerita tentang kehidupannya dan aku bercerita tentang kehidupanku. Aku

tidak mau tergesa-gesa dalam mengungkapkan perasaan nyaman ini. Aku takut jika Sania menganggap aku hanya menjadikannya pelarian saat aku memutuskan hubungan dengan Sasha, tapi aku yakin cepat atau lambat kami akan menyadari bahwa kami memang membutuhkan satu sama lain.

Aku yang Pergi

By Cindi Selfians

Hai namaku Gani,

Semua orang sangat mengenalku dengan Gracia atau yang akrab dengan panggilan Grace. Di komplek perumahan kami, siapa yang tak mengenal Grace. Jarak rumah kami tergolong sangat dekat, hanya terpisah 3 rumah tipe 120.

“Cepat Grace! 10 menit lagi gerbang akan ditutup Pak Rafli” teriakku pada Grace yang masih bersantai menyantap sarapan-nya di teras rumah.

Mendengar teriakanku Grace tak kunjung bergegas, karena itulah tabiatnya. Dia selalu bersantai bahkan tak jarang juga aku ikut terlambat hanya karena menunggunya sarapan. Pak Rafli yang paling ditakuti seantero sekolahpun sangat familiar dengan wajah kami.

Tepat 2 menit sebelum pak Rafli menutup gerbang kami sampai di depan gerbang sekolah.

“Ya ampun Gani, aku melupakan kliping di atas meja riasku” katanya dengan merengek.

“Bukankah aku sudah mengingatkanmu semalam?”

“Iya, aku mengambilnya dan kutaruh di atas meja agar tak lupa tapi ternyata aku lupa” katanya dengan sangat mengibakan.

Tiba-tiba dengan gesit Gani mengambil tugas kliping dari tasnya dan menaruhnya di bawah pohon depan sekolahnya.

“Kenapa kamu membuangnya Gani?” tanya Grace.

“Apa kamu mau berdiri di bawah tiang bendera sendiri hingga jam istirahat?” jawabku dengan santai

“Ah Gani kamu memang sahabat terbaik deh” jawabnya dengan genit yang benar benar menjadi ciri khasnya yang sangat bertolak belakang denganku.

Begitulah kami, sejak usia 5 tahun kami mengenal satu sama lain, keluarga Grace datang dari Padang karena tugas ayahnya yang dipindahkan. Tidak hanya kami, tapi keluarga kami pun sangat akrab. Hampir setiap hari kami saling berkunjung ke rumah satu sama lain hanya untuk bercerita atau bermain. Aku yang masih tergolong introvert tak mempunyai banyak teman kecuali pianoku yang sangat setia sejak nenekku pergi.

Hari-hari dijalani seperti biasa, hingga tiba saat dimana semua anak di SMP, kami sibuk belajar untuk menghadapi ujian dengan mengikuti banyak les, bahkan tak sedikit juga yang sudah menyiapkan hendak kemana mereka melanjutkan pendidikan jenjang SMA mereka.

Di suatu hari ketika istirahat seperti biasa aku dan Grace makan di bawah pohon yang sejuk dengan membawa bekal dari rumah masing-masing. Sebenarnya sederhana, selain untuk menghemat uang jajan untuk ditabung alasan lain kami memilih membawa bekal dari rumah agar kami dapat bertukar lauk dengan satu sama lain hehe.

Tanpa basa basi Grace mengambil ebi furay dari *Lunch Box* milikku,

“Grace ambil saja satu! Jangan semuanya seperti itu” bilangku pada Grace

“Masakan ibumu selalu berhasil menggugah selera makanku Gan, hehe” tanpanya berdosa sambil melahap cepat Ebi furay kesukaanku.

“Eh Gan, kira-kira kita mau lanjut kemana nih?”

“Gua sih ogah Grace bareng elu lagi, ntar gua makan nasi putih terus kalo istirahat” jawabku dengan santai

“Eh mending lu ikut gua yuk ke SMA 75, di sana organisasinya maju banget gua pengen banget gabung Gan”

“Ntar ah gua pikir lagi”

“Gausah banyak mikir, lu kan ga punya temen selain gue” dia menyahut seperti tanpa beban hidup.

“Okelah, ntar gue bilang nyokap” jawabku.

Karena memang begitulah faktanya, aku hanya mempunyai sedikit lingkar pertemanan, tidak seperti Grace yang amat sangat mudah bergaul. Hingga kelulusan tiba,

akhirnya kami sudah resmi menjadi alumni salah satu SMP ternama. Saat liburan kelulusan kami benar-benar mempersiapkan *planning* untuk kegiatan kedepan, seperti ekskul yang akan kami ambil, les di luar sekolah atau belanja kebutuhan sekolah yang sebenarnya tidak kami butuhkan.

Hari pertama saat resmi menjadi anak SMA 75.....

“Gan ayo sini foto bareng” begitulah Grace, bukan mempersiapkan perlengkapan malah sibuk dengan narsisnya sendiri. Semua pertanyaan yang nyaris kuhafal sudah menghujaniku. “Gan aku udh rapi belum?” “Gan perpaduan warnaku cocok enggak?” “Gan apa yang kurang dariku, kok aku ga pede nih” bla bla bla lainnya

Upacara siswa baru langsung diadakan di hari pertama kita datang setelah melewati kegiatan perkenalan selama 3 hari. Kakak-kakak Osis, perwakilan setiap ekstrakurikuler memperkenalkan kegiatan, Visi Misi dan program mereka masing masing. Sejak awal Grace sangat menggilai untuk bergabung dengan Jurnalistik, sedangkan aku di kesenian musik.

Ketika pulang sekolah....

“Gan lu kenal Andre kelas XI? Dia senior lu di ekskul musik loh”

“Oh itu, iya gua kenal. Dia aktiv banget di ekskul”

“Sumpah dia tu type gua banget, ganteng, cool, dan omaigat romantis sekali pasti kalo gua nyampe jadian sama dia”

“Lu kemaren cerita si Wendy anak Jurnalis bareng elu, sekarang lain lagi, besok siapa lagi nih?” tanyaku dengan sedikit kesal

“Hehe”

Sesampainya di rumah

“Gan ntar malem lu ke rumah gua ya, bunda masak banyak karena hari ini peringatan ulang tahun almarhum kakak gua” pinta Grace

“Ga janji tapi ya” kalimat itu spontan saja keluar dari bibirku

Jauh dalam lubuk hati entah mengapa aku seperti tak suka saat Grace bercerita tentang senior yang banyak digemari cewek-cewek SMA gue. Dan hingga malam itu tiba, aku gak pernah tenang kepikiran Andre dan Wendy yang selalu dibangga-banggakan Grace depanku, bahkan sering kali aku merasa *insecure*.

Hari demi hari berjalan begitu saja, tapi aku masih saja seperti dulu, si cupu yang tak banyak bergaul dan terkenal cuek. Sedangkan Grace dia semakin melebarkan sayapnya, dia sangat aktif di organisasi hingga kedekatan kamipun tidak seerat dahulu. Sesekali dia mengajakku keluar dan bersantai di rooftop rumahnya

“Gan gue seneng banget deh lu akhirnya dateng ke rumah, kangen gue ama elu”

“Lah lu masih kenal gue? Gue kira lu udah lupa nama gue” jawabku

“Aelah sorry-sorry gue akhir-akhir ini sibuk liputan sama laporan. Dan ketika sore hingga malam ya lu tau lah hehe”

“Gimana kegiatanku Grace?” tanyaku untuk menstabilkan suasana

“Seru banget Gan, akhirnya gue ngerti apa passion gue. Gue seneng banget gabung di Jurnalis ini, dan lu masih inget gak sama si Wendy yang sering gue ceritain ke elu itu? (dengan antusiasnya)

“Iya, gue inget. Terus kenapa?”

“Yaelah lu pake nanya lagi, ya jelas gue udah jadian lah sama dia” jawabnya tanpa ragu dan terlihat sangat bahagia.

Namun yang terjadi padaku tidaklah sama, seketika itu aku merasa tubuh lemas dan seperti tanpa tulang. Aku terdiam karena terlalu shock dengan kabar yang dibawanya. Selama ini aku merasa hampa tanpanya dan bahkan sangat kehilangan saat dia sibuk organisasi tapi ternyata sebaliknya, dia sangat bahagia karena mendapatkan kekasih untuk pertama kalinya. Iya, pertama kalinya dia saling suka dengan lawan jenis dan menjalin sebuah hubungan.

“Kok lu bengong sih Gan” suaranya meleburkan lamunanku

“Hey iya, congrats ya” jawabku singkat.

Entah mengapa aku merasa tidak ingin berbicara dengan siapapun akhirnya aku memilih pamit pulang dengan alasan kantuk yang tak bisa kutahan lagi.

Sesampainya di rumah tentu saja aku tidak tidur, aku hanya merebahkan badanku di atas kasur, tatapanku ke atap ruangan namun pikiranku entah berlarian kesana kemari tak terarah dan sangan memuakkan.

Sebenarnya apa yang kurasa? Aku tidak yakin dengan persahabatan ini. Mengapa aku tak bahagia jika melihat dia bahagia? Mengapa seperti tak layak untuk dikatakan aku adalah sahabatnya yang baik? Mengapa juga aku harus sedih, kacau, galau seperti ini? Berbagai pertanyaan itu muncul untuk diriku sendiri tanpa bisa kujawab.

Kucoba untuk memejamkan mata, akhirnya aku bisa memejamkan mata tapi tidak dengan istirahatnya pikiran. Dan! Aku tidak bisa tidur semalam. Kupaksakan diri beranjak menghampiri piano yang sudah sangat memahami hati tapi ia pun tidak bisa menjadi teman yang baik dimalam ini. Aku menggerutu dengan keras menyalahi diri dengan berbagai pikiran yang entah apa sebabnya tapi tak kunjung menenangkan. Tiba-tiba Bunda masuk tanpa mengetuk pintu

“Gani, ada apa denganmu nak? Apa kau baik-baik saja”

“Tidak bunda, aku hanya lelah dan tak bisa tidur” jawabku sembari bersiap-siap tidur.

Lalu bunda hendak meninggalkanku tetapi sebelum pintu itu ditutup olehnya entah apa yang membuatku memanggilnya

“Bunda” panggilku,

“Iya nak, kenapa?”

“Bisakah aku menanyai bunda akan suatu hal?”

“Silahkan.....”

Lalu bunda menghampiriku dan duduk di sofa dekat ranjang tidurku. Perlahan aku tidak yakin apakah akan menanyakan ini pada Bundaku tapi aku berfikir bahwa bundaku pasti tau jadi kuberanikan diriku. Tanpa kuceritakan kisah persahabatan kami, bunda sudah lebih mengerti, lalu langsung saja tanpa basa basi kuceritakan perasaan hati yang tak mengenakan ini setelah mendengar hubungan Grace dengan Wendy. Selama aku bercerita dan tentu saja tanpa kata yang tersusun rapi karena keadaan hati ini, bunda mengangguk mengerti.

“Sejak kapan kamu merasakan kejanggalan ini nak?”

“Mungkin sejak dia mengagumi senior-senior itu bunda, seperti aku tidak suka denganya yang selalu membanggakan isolanya itu. Dan semenjak itu pula aku merasa kehilangan, bahkan seperti tak punya gairah hidup” jawabku mengutarakan kegelisahan.

“Bisakah bunda katakan bahwa perasaanmu berubah menjadi cinta?”

“Ah rasanya tidak mungkin bunda, kami bersahabat sejak lama bahkan terasa seperti keuarga. Ah tidak mungkin perasaan cinta muncul” elakku tak mau mengakui

“Baiklah, coba tenangkan pikiranmu nak, sekarang sudah larut sebaiknya kau istirahat. Kau akan levih bisa memahami hatimu saat kau tenang” kata bunda menenangkan.

“Baiklah bunda akan ku usahakan tidur sesegera mungkin”

Setelah bunda menutup pintu aku mencoba mengambil nafas dan menenangkan pikiranku seperti yang diajarkan guru Olahraga di sekolahku, dan ternyata berhasil.

Keesokan harinya kuterbangun dengan sedikit lebih fresh dari semalam. Seperti hari-hari biasa aku berangkat bareng Grace. Dan ketika aku menjemput Grace di rumahnya dan seperti biasa kumemanggilnya sembari membunyikan klakson mobil antik kesayanganku. Tiba tiba bibi Aish menghampiriku.

“Loh Gani belum berangkat? Tadi Grace sudah berangkat sama temanya yang tinggi dan putih itu, hmmmm kalo bibi ga keliru temen organisasinya Gan” lapor bibi Aish

Dan! Kumenggerutu dalam hati karena aku sangat yakin pasti itu si Wendy yang berkacamata itu. Setelah mengucapkan terima kasih, kuinjak gas mobil tanpa pelan dan dengan hati yang tak enak tentu saja. Setelah sampai di kelas tak kuperdulikan teman-teman yang meributkan nilai ujian minggu kemarin. Fikiranku hanya pada Grace. Dan tentu saja orang

yang kufikirkan tak peduli. Tapi wait... notifikasi pesanku berbunyi dan itu GRACE! Ya dengan gesit kubuka dan jeng jeng

“Gani ku sayang, siang ini aku akan kencan dengan Wendy. Kamu makan sendiri dulu yaaaa”

Muak sekali aku membacanya. Dan ketika istirahat tiba aku tak mempunyai nafsu makan akhirnya kuputuskan untuk pergi ke ruang kesayanganku dekat gudang alat music karena suasana sepi itu aku menyukainya tanpa hiruk piruk yang membuatku nyaris gila.

Terlalu asyik aku mendengarkan musik hingga tak sadar sudah masuk jam kelas dan tentu saja aku memilih bolos daripada harus masuk dengan keadaan seperti ini. Ketika aku tenggelam dalam lamun kesendirianku tiba-tiba segerombol siswa lain datang, aku bergegas sembunyi. Setelah suara mereka tendengar tak asing kuberanikan diri mengintip dari lubang kecil dan jelas saja tak asing karena mereka teman satu ekstrakurikuler musik yang aku ikuti, namun mereka spesifikasi band sedangkan aku hanya piano. Karena visi misi kami di ruangan sempit ini sama yaitu tidak mengikuti pelajaran maka dengan mudahnya kami akrab. Aku rasa ini salah satu usahaku agar tidak terlalu tenggelam dalam lamunan. Kami asyik mengobrol tanpa rasa bersalah dan sesekali kami tiba-tiba diam saat khawatir akan pak Agus guru BP yang mondar mandir. Ketika jam pulang terdengar barulah kami bersiap untuk keluar, setelah keadaan sedikit satu persatu

keluar dari ruangan menuju kelas untuk mengambil tas masing-masing.

Tak ada kegiatan siang ini aku berfikir untuk menonton serial anime terbaru dan setelah lelah dengan beberapa episode tanpa sengaja saat aku membuka instagram sampailah pada story milik Grace dan tentu saja aku terkejut dengan tempat kencan mereka. Itu adalah Danau di pedalaman dengan suasana asri yang sangat menenangkan, dan itu adalah tempat favoritku dan Grace untuk melepas penat. Dengan asyiknya Grace memamerkan kemesraanya dengan Wendy di media dan itu membuatku mual.

Tak mau larut dalam pikiran yang tak berguna ini akhirnya aku memutuskan mengikuti les tambahan yaitu les bahasa Spanyol. Di sisi lain aku menyibukkan diri dengan mengikuti les lainnya. Hingga akhirnya aku dan Grace pun sibuk dengan urusan masing-masing. Grace masih sering mengirim pesan media kepadaku tapi itu hanya seputar kencanya dan Wendy. Jika sempat dia berkunjung ke rumahku pun karena hanya ingin menanyakan tempat yang cocok untuk kencanya, menceritakan kencanya dan berbagai cerita yang sama sekali tak ingin kudengarkan.

Hingga hari ujian tiba, biasanya aku dan Grace akan belajar bersama mempersiapkan semuanya namun tidak dengan ujian kali ini. Grace lebih memilih Wendy dan mungkin saja dia melupakanku.

Saat ujian akhir telah selesai, akhirnya aku bisa membahagiakan bundaku dengan mendapatkan peringkat

pertama dari 120 siswa siswi. Reward dari prestasiku adalah beasiswa full di Melbourne University, tentu aku terima. Aku ingin mengadakan salam perpisahan dengan Grace

“Grace kapan senggang? Ayo makan bareng sebelum aku pergi ke Aussie”

“Bagaimana kalu besok? Aku mau makan di Arabica Resto itu”

“Okelah, besok jam 8 malam jangan telat!” ucapku menyepakati

Aku sudah mereservasi tempat duduk secepat mungkin, mengingat itu adalah resto yang paling banyak diminati dari berbagai kalangan. Aku bukan orang yang pandai membangun suasana, akhirnya aku sedikit berfikir tentang bagaimana aku memulai percakapan besok. Entah mengapa aku segugup ini akan makan bersamanya. Padahal dulu di sekolah setiap hari makan bersama.

Keesokan harinya.....

Sejak pagi aku mempersiapkan pakaianku dan kurasa ini momen yang tepat untuk mengutarakan isi hati, toh aku bakal pergi pikirku. Dan setelah semuanya siap aku berpamitan ke bunda.

Sampailah aku di depan rumah Grace dan sambil menunggunya aku masuk ke rumahnya tanpa malu duduk di ruang tamu. Ya itulah kebiasaanku di rumahnya. Stelah Grace keluar dari kamarnya nyaris mulutku menganga. Terlihat anggun nan cantik menggunakan dress hitam selutut tanpa

lengan dipadukan dengan mini cardi bulu. Kami berjalan berdampingan menuju ke luar rumah dan saat membuka pintu hal yang sangat tidak diinginkan terjadi. Wendy datang dengan gaya khasnya membawa bunga untuk Grace

“Waw Grace, you look so pretty” puji Wendy terhadap Grace di hadapanku.

Grace menyikapinya dengan manja. Sungguh lebih baik aku melihat sampah yang menggunung di sungai daripada meilahat ini semua. Dengan santainya tanpa menghiraukanku yang sudah sangat rapi Wendy mengajak Grace untuk pergi ke suatu tempat dengan iming-iming “Kau pasti akan menyukai tempat ini Sayang”. Aku hanya dilema berdiri mematung, anggap saja aku tak ada, karena ada pun tak mereka hiraukan. Kukira Grace akan menolaknya, tapi ternyata aku keliru

“Gani, maaf sekali mungkin aku akan makan denganmu esok atau lusa. Malam ini sepertinya aku akan pergi bersama Wendy” pinta Grace.

“Baiklah, selamat bersenang-senang”

Tanpa menatap mereka aku melangkah pergi membuka pintu mobil dan pergi. Yang kulakukan saat itu hanyalah menyetir mobil tanpa tujuan entah berbelok kemana saja sesukaku. Aku tak peduli, hingga sampai di angkringan pinggir jalan aku memilih menu wedang ronde untuk malam ini. Memakanya dengan perlahan dan menikmati setiap luka yang ada. Tiba-tiba pikiran itu datang.

“Bunda, maafkan Gani. Gani harus pergi besok siang ke Aussie. Gani melakukan percepatan keberangkatan tanpa izin bunda, maafkan Gani” pamitku ke bunda sesampainya di rumah. Seperti sudah sangat mengerti, bunda tak sedikitpun mengelak, mlarang atau membantah pilihanku ini

“Apapun yang kamu lakukan, bunda yakin kamu sudah memikirkannya dengan matang. Bunda percaya anak bunda sudah bisa bertanggung jawab terhadap pilihannya sendiri” hanya itu yang dia katakan.

Malam itu sembari ditemani Bunda, aku menyiapkan segalanya. Tak banyak yang kubawa maka hanya mempersiapkan dokumen-dokumen penting saja.

Jam 08.00 pagi.....

Aku menyiapkan photo box yang kubuat sendiri berisi tentang perjalanan persahabatan aku dan Grace lengkap dengan foto-foto dari kecil hingga saat ini. Tak lupa juga aku sudah menyiapkan surat yang berisi tentang ungkapan hati selama ini. Kuitipkan hadiah yang seharusnya kuberikan semalam pada bunda dan ku bersiap ke Bandara.

Tak ada yang boleh mengantarkanku ke Bandara, aku tak ingin tetangga tau aku pergi hari itu. Jadi kuminta bunda untuk menerima permintaanku ini. Kumatikan ponselku langsung.

Jam 13.00 WIB.....

Suara tangis penyesalan Grace terdengar nyaring, bunda pun ikut bersedih karena anaknya kini akan memulai hidup dengan suasana baru di benua sebrang.

“Kenapa Gani tak memberi tahuku dari dulu tante, kenapa dia sekarang pergi begitu saja tak mau menemuiku” tangis Grace tanpa henti. Bunda tak mampu menenangkanya karena untuk menerima keputusanku saja bunda belum bisa.

Hari demi hari berlalu, aku sudah selangkah mencoba memulai hidup dengan adaptasi baru. Tak banyak yang berubah. Aku masih pendiam seperti dulu, hanya saja aku sekarang tidak terganggu dengan pemandangan yang sangat memuakkan. Setelah perpindahanku aku mengganti semua kontak media, ponsel yang kupunya. Hanya Bunda saja yang boleh menyimpan nomor telefonku, itu juga yang menjadi permintaanku pada bunda.

Seperti apa hidup Grace saat ini aku tak ingin mengetahuinya, itu hanya akan membuka lembaran lama. Aku tenang dengan keadaanku sekarang...

Semoga hidupmu tetap menyenangkan Grace!

Tahun demi tahun berlalu, aku menikmati masa dimana aku bisa belajar di tempat yang kuinginkan selain mengasingkan diri dari kisah pilu cinta remaja. Semakin aku bisa membuka diri dalam pergaulan semakin aku mengalami banyak hal baru dan menantang. Kini aku mengenal klub malam, sekedar kencan yang entah apa asyiknya, dan mengganti jam belajarku dengan sekedar menikmati alkohol di berbagai tempat.

Tak banyak yang kuketahui dari kabar Grace, puluhan email yang masuk darinya tak pernah kubaca. Keluargaku pun enggan memberi kabar karena mereka sudah tau apa yang terjadi sebelumnya. Namun terakhir yang kutau beberapa bulan yang lalu saat aku berselancar di Instagram, Grace mengunggah fotonya seorang diri tanpa Wendy dilengkapi dengan caption perpisahan. Mungkin mereka sudah tidak menjalin suatu ikatan atau entahlah aku sudah tak mau memikirkanya lagi walau jauh dalam hati AKU MERINDUKANYA

Hari itu saat usai kelas pagi aku pergi ke tempat biasa, pergi ke taman belakang kampus dan dibawah pohon rindang dengan membawa bekal sendiri dari asrama aku menghabiskan waktu untuk menunggu kelas selanjutnya. Saat aku sedang fokus membaca buku tiba tiba...

Alice : “Hi Gan! Mau kau coba katsu buatanku?” Alice menawariku dengan senangnya

Gani : “Boleh, mana kucoba” jawabku tanpa basa basi

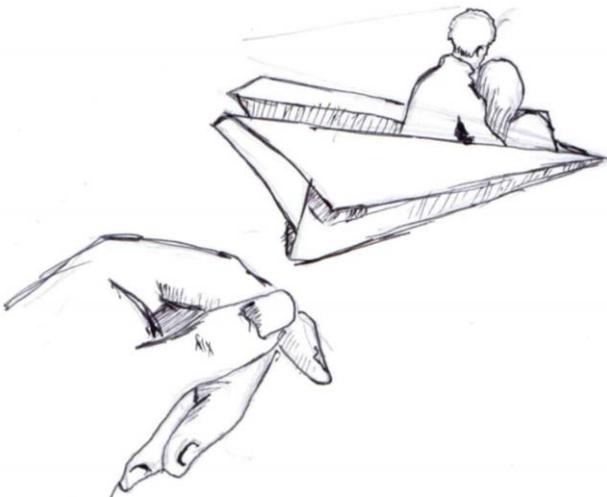
Pertemuanku dengan Alice adalah saat kami tiba di dalam pesawat dengan tujuan yang sama. Alice adalah gadis Indonesia yang juga bersamaku belajar di Australia. Karena kami sama-sama seorang pendatang maka kami pun semakin akrab namun tak ada yang lebih dari seorang teman kampung halaman.

Saat mengobrol kecil dengan Alice tiba-tiba ponselku berdering tanda notifikasi pesan masuk, saat kulirik sebentar itu adalah Bunda! Tak menunggu waktu lama, dengan gesit aku

membukanya dan pesan punya sangat singkat “GANI KE BANDARA SEKARANG YA, NAK!”

Gani : “Al aku harus pergi sekarang”

Alice : “Aku ikut”



Tanpa pikir panjang aku membawanya ke Bandara Melbourne karena ku rasa Bunda akan datang. Sesampainya di Bandara aku duduk di ruang tunggu kedatangan, tapi ada yang aneh di pandangan mataku, aku tak henti memandang gadis yang sangat tak asing di mataku. Ya, dia adalah Grace, untuk

apa dia datang kesini? Apa urusnya di sini? Kepalaku dihujani banyak pertanyaan. Bergegas aku menghampirinya dan dia pun seperti tak percaya aku benar-benar datang menjemputnya

Grace : Gani! (dengan mata berkaca-kaca dan langsung memelukku)

Aku masih terdiam tak mengerti skenario apa yang terjadi denganku sekarang, gadis yang amat sangat kurindukan kini dihadapanku dan memelukku. Setelah ia sadar akan Alice disampingku dia menatapkku dengan tanya, aku yang mengerti arti tatapan itu "*perkenalkan, ini Alice kekasihku!*" aku tak mengerti dengan apa yang kukatakan, ingin kukatakan aku merindukanya tapi entah mengapa sedikit dendam membuatku menjadi kejam kepadanya.

Begitulah Grace, dia tidak mempercayaiku dan dia tetap bertekad untuk kembali dekat bersamaku, kurasa aku akan luluh kembali di hadapanya

Life

A Gray Childhood Dream

By Khoirunnisa



The road was busy because of the rush hour. He walked slowly from the bus stop. Nothing special about today. It was exhausting as always to have meeting and do the paperwork. Suddenly two children ran past him laughing cheerily. One wanted to catch the other. "How happy they are! I wish they would never grow up," he thought to himself. He remembered

when he was a child. He loved to mimic every singer he saw on TV. He dreamed of becoming a singer when he grew up.

“Mommy, I want to go to this competition,” he begged his mother who was cooking in the kitchen. His mother didn’t listen. She continued her cooking, seemed to be so focused on the carrots, cabbage, and celery.

“Mommy, do you hear me?” Now he pulled his mother’s skirt, begging her attention. “Mommy, mommy, mommy.. Look at me, mommy.” Her mother finally turned her head.

“Gaby honey, don’t you see that I am cooking right now? I will play with you later, sweetheart.”

“But, I am not asking you to play, mum. I want to go to a singing competition.” “Yes, honey, later, okay?”

Desperate, he went to his room and cried.

“I must be around 7 when it happened,” he was still walking to his boarding house, drowning in his childhood memories. He remembered feeling desperate to be rejected again and again by his mother about his dream to sing.

* * * * *

The sun comes up for another day, and it’s Thursday. The middle of the week is always the hardest for Gabriel because it means that he should turn in the paperwork to his

boss. He hates talking to his arrogant boss. He keeps on repeating what would he say to her while having breakfast. “You are not doing it right, Gabriel. You should be more precise on this and that,” now he mimics his boss every time she points out his mistakes. “Ugh, I can no longer stay in this office with her being my boss,” he complained to himself while locking the door and starting to walk.

He is actually a clever man. He dresses neatly and always keeps himself smell good. He likes everything in order. That’s why he is now working with numbers and papers at the office. He loves it simple and calculated. He works in a big firm in a big city, but since his late boss passed away, never really enjoys his working days. Marina, the substitute, is an old woman who likes to complain about anything. No one in the office likes her.

“Hey Gabriel, I have a big news for you!” Bato is his mate at work. They’ve been working together for about five years. They really know each other well, and now he surprises him out of nowhere.

“You scared the hell out of me, dude!”

“You’re so serious in front of your computer, Gab. What is it? You’re scared Marina will complain again?”

“Of course not! I was... um.. well, what was it you were surprising me for? You know I am so busy right now, and I can’t talk to you.”

“Whoa.. Whoa.. Easy, Gab. It’s just me. I am giving you a big good news. There will be a singing competition this weekend. You should come.”

“Ugh, see? You are talking nonsense to me. I have no time for that. Sorry, I got to work, buddy.”

“Come on.. You’ve been dreaming this since you were a kid. This is an opportunity. Take it.” He is not giving up to cheer his best friend.

“Yeah, will talk to you later, Bato.” He dismissed him, then continued working.

Now he cannot concentrate on the numbers because he keeps on thinking what Bato had just said. “Maybe I can try,” he pauses his work and thinks. “Perhaps Bato was right. I am 27 now, I should be able to decide for myself.”

After work, he comes to Bato and asks about the audition. Bato agrees to accompany him to go there.

“Thank you, buddy. I owe you one for this,” he says to Bato on their way to the audition. “Yo, man. I’ll always be there for ya..”

The audition was somehow disappointing to Gabriel. He feels like a failure at the moment he comes out from the audition room. Bato knew at once that he was upset. He dare not asking him anything, so they go home in silence along the way.

In the night, Gabriel cannot sleep. He replays again and again how the audition went in the afternoon.

“You have a potential, but sadly that alone is not enough for us to accept you. Please wait for the announcement next week.” That was all that they said. There were three juries on the panel. They all looked so serious and he was nervous. “I have done my best. I have done my best. I have done my best,” he repeats it like a mantra. Sometimes, affirmations do help him to sleep.

A week later he finds out Bato has already been sitting on his desk with a big smile. Few people are there too around him. It’s like something is happening. “What’s this?”

“Aaah.. here is our star, guys. Gabriel is going to be the next top singer in the country,”

Bato’s smile is getting bigger.

“What are you talking about?”

“Oh you haven’t seen it? The audition, bro. You are accepted!”

"What? You're certainly kidding me! They said they won't accept me already."

"Just look at this," he points at the computer screen, "They have your name on the list. Didn't you check it last night?"

"Oh no.." he can't believe it right away. He wants someone to pinch and tell him that he hasn't woken up yet this morning. "This can't be happening!" He looks at his name, speechless now.

Bato hugs him and everyone congratulates him right there. From that moment on, his life is about to change entirely.

* * * - * *

The acceptance from the record production is not as easy as he thought it would be. As they have said at the audition, he has the potential, but that itself is not enough to be the singer that they wanted. They accepted Gabriel with the condition that he would go through an intensive training in a dormitory. It wasn't stated clearly about how long it would take in the training. All he ever knows is that he has already given up his job to go catching his childhood dream. He feels scared but also grateful at the same time.

Day one of the training was easy. He met this about-40-year-old lady who happened to be his tutor. She was not very nice in their first meeting. She said she would train him hard,

and asked him to be ready everyday at 6 in the morning. He also met many new friends from different backgrounds. One that captivated him was this girl named Alisha who also gave up her job to be here. She was a graphic designer in a startup company. She laughed a lot, and it made him somehow comfortable in her company. It was so fortunate of them that they were destined to have the same tutor.

“Remember our first meeting, guys? I told you I was going to train you hard. And this is it. I know that many of you feel like wanting to give up every now and then, but let me tell you: this is going to be worth it. I’ve been there in your position, and now I am here to tell you that you all need to keep going. Your dreams are in the future, and you need to walk there to catch it. Thank you for today. Class dismissed.”

It was Lydia, giving her speech at the end of the day. Gabriel and his five other friends were listening attentively. They cannot believe that it’s been about a year, and the record production hasn’t let them go out.

“What would I make if I go out now?” Gabriel thinks to himself in the shower. It’s 8pm and he was just out from the training room, then headed straight to the bathroom. “What would Bato tell me if I give up now? What would Bato say to me now?” He ponders his own questions and begins to mimic his friend, “You need to keep going, man. This is what you want for your whole life. You cannot give up now. You need to

make yourself proud... That's truly what he would say if he were here."

He feels the water down to his body. Suddenly, he misses his life at the office, even his frustrating boss. The day finally ends with him on his bed, laying next to his three other friends in the room. He really wants to give it up and goes back to the office.

Some said that morning comes with a new hope. He was walking to the training building where he met Alisha. She looks kinda sad, too. "What are you thinking?"

"Oh.. Hey.. It's you.." She's startled by his question.

"Sorry to interrupt, though. You look blue in this bright cheerful morning. What is it?" "Well, to be honest, I kind of missing my family at home. I miss my old life. I never thought that it would be this hard to go pursuing my dream."

"Ah that! I think everybody in the room feels the same, Al. That was why Lydia gave us a long speech yesterday, right? Somehow she knows... Perhaps she really was here in our position."

"Yeah?" She looks at him. Her eyes are gleaming under the sun.

"Well, what do you think about it?"

“I think we should hurry because this is 6.15 already. Lydia must be very upset.”

When they arrive at the building, they are surprised that so many people are there. The manager from the record production is about to make an announcement. They quickly sit and listen. It seems that they missed some of what they said.

“Without further ado, here are the names that we would soon need to release their own song: Aditya Abimanyu, Raka Hayu..” The list is long. Gabriel listens so attentively. He doesn’t even notice that Alisha says she would go to the bathroom for a minute. Many of the participants are made into a group. It means that they would come out as a girl or boy band. Gabriel wishes he would be a solo singer. He can never imagine himself to be in a group band. Ten minutes passes and then it happens.

“Gabriel Ardiaz and Dito Arka Saputra for our solo singer. Thank you for ...”

Gabriel cannot hear it no more. He is drowned in joy. Tears can be seen in his eyes. For one moment he is proud of himself. He finally made it here.

On his way to the dormitory that night, he calls Bato. He tells him how his name was mentioned there. Bato cannot help, but be so happy for him. He says that he would be the first one to buy his album the day it comes out.

Three months later he finds himself singing in a television show. He savors every moment there. He gives his all in the performance, and it can be felt by all the audience there. Bato calls him right after the show. They chat for so long on the phone. It's all started with Bato's motivation anyway, so Gabriel feels like he owes him something.

His new album comes out after he releases three singles. It hits the chart right away. Everyday Gabriel looks at the chart to find his song at the top of the list. People love his song. His name goes up with a rocket, taking him to cloud nine. Now he gets fans and followed by bodyguards everywhere he goes. His social medias have tens of millions followers. However, one thing remains the same, Bato, they keep each other in the loop. They would meet occasionally because Gabriel always invites Bato in every one of his shows.

One night, Bato stays in his home. It's 2 in the morning and they are still up in the living room.

"You have tight schedule now, buddy. Look at you." Bato notices how Gabriel looks exhausted.

"Ah yes. It's only been a year that I am living this life and now I am tired of it. I feel like I have to get high all the time for all the shows, you know?"

"Does it really get that hard? I never see you look like this to be honest."

“Well, what can I do anyway? I am living my dream life, but really.. I can be tired, too.”

“Take it easy, bro. You’re just human after all. You don’t have to have it all together. Surely they will let you take your time, right?” There is some worry in his voice now.

“I don’t know if they ever let me get a time for myself in these shows. I really don’t know.” “What happen?”

Something is wrong just like what Bato feels when their conversation hangs in the air. Gabriel never told anyone, but he’s been diagnosed with severe depression. It’s been since the training. Being a singer does not come easy. He wanted the job, but not the popularity. He wanted to express in his songs, but not the tight schedule. He wanted the money, but not the pressure from the record label. Everything becomes a mess in his life.

He never told anyone, but the training actually left him feeling isolated. Even more in this new fame that he has right now. Yes, he has millions of fans, but late at night, he really does not have anyone by his side to talk. Everyone around him would only talk about what’s next and the schedules and the shows and the next album and appointments and endless works. The only friend who seems to care about his well being is Bato, but somehow it is never enough for Gabriel himself.

Time flies fast with all the works he has to do. The rumor of his depression has now spread on magazines and all over the internet. The medicine that he has can no longer contain his misery. There are 10 phone calls from Bato which he doesn't answer. "It has to be tonight," he says to himself while looking in the mirror.

He has prepared everything. A letter for Bato, his will, and the medication he would overly take. "I'm ready for this. The world was a better place before I came to be a singer, and it will be again once I'm gone."

Sleeping pills have already on his hands. He remembers Bato and all the things he said. "He will never come to me this time. Perhaps, he never cared anyway. I have to do this." He takes it at once, and sleeps in his bed perhaps forever.

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Ever since that night he saw Gabriel looking odd in his living room, Bato cannot be more worried about his friend's well-being. He knows something is not right, and somehow Gabriel did not trust him to tell his story.

At work, nothing much changed for Bato. Unlike Gabriel, he makes friends easily with new people, including the one who replaced Gabriel at the office. He listens to Gabriel's songs everyday and shows it to anyone he knows. He is

sincerely proud of Gabriel. The rumor of Gabriel's depression comes to his ears, too, but he quickly shrugs it off.

"It's just a rumor. I mean do you know a celebrity with no rumors around them? I know Gabriel. If he was struggling, he would've told me." He tells it to his colleagues when they questioned him with the rumors.

He never saw it in Gabriel's face that he was battling a depression since the training program. All he saw from Gabriel was only a happy face for his dream has finally come true. Everybody can see the worry in his face today. Gabriel didn't reply his messages yesterday and now he hasn't picked up his phone call. No matter how busy Gabriel is, he would make time to reply to his text, or else he would make his secretary do it for him, so Bato would always get his reply anytime he texts. His mind wanders on the rumor of the depression. He starts to think if it's really true. What if all this time Gabriel really never tells him about it. What if it really is that hard to be up there.

They live in different cities, so Bato can never get to Gabriel's house anytime he wants. He has an idea, though. He calls Gabriel's bodyguard to check him up. He has his number because Gabriel once joking if he ever need his bodyguard for him to tackle with his boss at the office.

So he calls. He even shouts at the phone call because the bodyguard is sure that Gabriel is okay without really checking on him. And so it happens.

Gabriel wakes up in a ward. His hand is wired with infused. He cannot recall anything. He only sees Bato on his side now.

“Hey buddy, you okay there?”

He wants to reply, but he finds himself unable to move his lips. Once more, he falls deeply asleep.

“The effect of the medicine must still be strong enough,” Bato thinks to himself. “Why did you never tell me, Gab? I would’ve been there for you, right?”

That night Gabriel almost died if Bato did not insist the bodyguard to check on him. Gabriel took sleeping pills to commit suicide, and Bato flew right away to see his friend the next day. It’s been three days that he’s in a deep sleep, but now his heart beat is no longer as weak.

“Feeling better now?” Bato asks his best friend after he finishes his breakfast. “Yeah, man. Still dizzy, though.”

“We could’ve talked, you know? I’m always there for you, right?”

“Nothing has ever been the same since I got accepted from the audition, Bat.” “I know, right? I thought you love every second of it.”

“I thought so, too. I just never think it would be that hard to live the life I wanted. It’s a childhood dream anyway. What did I know when I was a child, though?”

“You know what you want. That’s it, Gab.” “Well, now I know that in itself is not enough.”

“But it is. You feel like yourself is not enough, Gab. You told me that once, and I know you still feel like it sometimes. But the truth is, you are enough. You have caught your dreams now in your hand. It’s everything you ever wanted since you were a kid. Shouldn’t it be your everything?”

Gabriel looks down. He doesn’t know what to feel. He just feels so lonely, even now that Bato is there on his side.

“You know you are not alone, right buddy?” Bato seems to read his mind right there, but it didn’t make Gabriel look up or say anything, so he keeps talking. “You know you can seek professional help with that, buddy.”

“But what would they say, Bat? What would they say? A man should not appear weak.” “That’s true. And precisely because of that, you should seek professional help. You need to

always appear to be strong. You are a public figure now. You have fans who would do crazy things for you. You may not appear weak. That's true, so keep yourself strong.”

Now he looks at Bato. He hardly believes that there really is someone who supports him. “This is the life you want, Gab. Go for it.”

The rest is history. Gabriel finally recovered his physical health and began to work on his mental health. He really listened to Bato and continued his singing career. Beginning a new page, now he prepares his second album and looks forward to what awaits in the future.

Shanna's Journey; Love

By Nurlisna Amalia G.

“For God sake Shanna!! Wake up!” said Annry to her best friend Shanna, who is soon to celebrate her 20th birthday party and actually, by ‘soon’ that would be by the end of this week. “It’s Thursday–In case you forgot, your shift would start in like 15 minutes?!” her shakes to Shanna’s shoulder getting harder and harder until she finally open her eyes. “uugh.. fine! Damn Annry, stop acting like my mom,” Shanna casually stretch her arms. “oh? well princess, you are welcome.” Annry just leave her like that, rushing to downstairs not even bother to close her door. “Oh yeah! Thank you for waking me up and leaving my door open!” shouts her, which obviously useless since Annry probably is in the kitchen or somewhere else in their shared apartment.

beep.. beep.. beep“Oh right.. I’m just going to wash my face and get a quick change,” looked up to the beeping clock in her night tables, she jumped out of bed to the bathroom. It doesn’t take her so long, she usually just rub her face with water

and face wash and she is done. Now that she moved to her dresser. “hm... I am soon to be 20, and all these clothes doesn’t looks zoenough.. perfect!” she closed her dresser right away and decided to put on her favorites track suits and quickly get her hair and makeup done.

“Good morning to the best best bestest roommate in this whole universe!” she gave Annny kisses in the cheek, which quickly got “yuh!” and a light slap by Annny. “here, I made you tuna sandwich,” “aaw thank you.. sometimes it’s good to have a best friend who acts up like your own mom you know,” Shanna tease her and gain a light slap again by Annny. “aw! Okay okay.. now stop slapping me before you became exactly like my mom.” this time she isn’t teasing Annny. “whatever, didn’t you should be at work, like, 10 minutes ago?” Annny asked her curiously. “nope.” She said while taking a full bite of her sandwich. “wait – what?! You fired again? Oh, no, no, please don’t tell me you got caught sleeping at work again – no, no, is it because you flirt with your costumers again?! Shanna you better-” Annny has not done yet, when Shanna blurt out in laughter. “oh my god! Annny no way! And by the way, I’m not a flirt! Gosh – that wasn’t a flirt, so stop bringing up about those one, ew” “uh huh? Asking your customers for a date isn’t a flirt? Well, I should have asked mine to put a ring on me then,” Annny just being snarky as usual. “okay, fine I did ask them out and got fired. But you should know that Choi Siwon guy, and that Park Chain- Chen- Chanyeol- or something – Oh! And that super gorgeous Kim Taehyung – girl, you’ll tell me they are all impossible to resist!” Annny

laughed at how stupid yet exciting her explanation sounds like. “so, tell me what happened this time,” “okay.. you know Janice right?” “umm.. that girl? The one who keep telling you to do all the stupid things from high school? Wait.. You still talk to her?” Annny couldn’t believe what she just heard, right? “yea, but Janice is not that bad.. yeah, and I kinda like her ideas too..” clearly that she is not. Annny could have stopped her and tell her how wrong is this Janice going to be, cause everyone knew this Janice is ‘a big NO’.

Shanna continued, “so, Janice speaks to me over the phone last night, and she is telling me that the place where she work is searching for new staff, and of course I said yes, I mean- when else can I get out from those sucks Mexican restaurant, right?” she looked up to Annny with a support-me-please eyes. “huh.. I don’t know girl.. I mean, you don’t even know her job yet – and already give up your job?” Annny is asking her as calm as possible, and out of her curiosity, but as a best friend who is concern about her best friend infantile decision. “oh, c’mom Annny, you know I couldn’t keep up with my university tasks if I worked at those Mexican restaurant,” “but they paid you for more than you can get at anywhere else in this place Shanna, and stop lying about your ‘oh so hard university life’ –you went to culinary academy and your major is cooking–Which is why you shouldn’t gave up those job at the first place! gosh-” Annny pause and takes a long sip of her coffee. “I don’t mean to sounds offensive, I just can’t believe it. You take such as big decision like this over who? those Janice, JaNicE.” “Annny, you already are..” “right. I’m head off to

work. You, good luck with that JaNice okay?" "Hey! Stop that!" Annce leave, and now it's only Shanna alone with her thoughts in the kitchen.

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It's been two hour since her appointment to meet Janice, and it's been raining outside. Janice couldn't be reached by phone so Shanna is just waiting and doing nothing. She can't stop biting on her expensive nails – a fake nails that she just got last Monday, the same colors as Annce's. Her anxiety starts to peak up her mind. "*is this really would work?*"

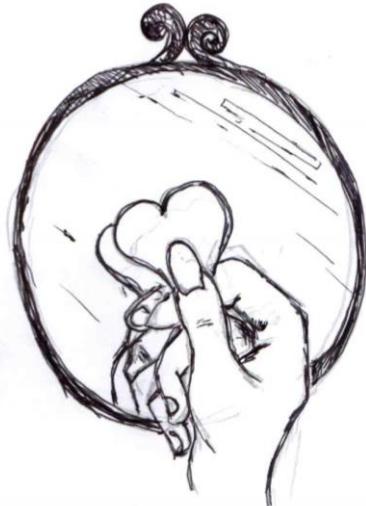
She was busy with her own thoughts, doubting her decision when her phone suddenly lights up with a call – which she hastily answer that. "HI! OMG JANICE IT'S BEEN TWO HOUR!" she was relieved for a second, before the next thing she heard flipped her world in a second. "hello? Uum.. Shanna, it's me Seokjin." A masculine baritone from the other side freeze her in an instant.

It was Kim Seokjin, the one and only guy that she ever wanted and ever craving for. The only one to make her fell in love so hard. The only one she ever wanted to gave her life to. It's like Seokjin could have ask her to stop breathing, shave her head and then jump off of a bridge and she would be please to do all that. He could ask her to go as crazy as what Joker have asked Harley Queen for, or even worse, and she would still say yes. Seokjin was her everything – until a month ago, he called her at 3 a.m. and told her that everything between them is over.

It wasn't easy for Shanna to get a good sleep or a proper nap after that, let alone to let go of him. Everyone and their grandma knows she has been after him since she's in diapers, so how could that be easy for her? He was her first in everything, and he cut her off of his life just like that.

It took a long silence between them, before he finally continue. "hey, sorry if I interrupted.. I just want to check out, but I think I should hang up" right before he ended the call, Shanna has the courage to say something. "No! no it's okay, you don't.. I just...uh, - hi?" there was an awkward moment when Seokjin is laughing. She couldn't think of what so funny or maybe how dumb she was saying that he just laughed at that, "Wh-what? are you just laughing at me?" her face turned red like cherry, while the other guy is smiling behind his phone. "umm.. what are you doing?" his sudden question makes her heart skipped a beat. "nothing.. good. I mean, I'm good, doing nothing - I mean, oh nevermind. How about you?" he is chuckling, made her wanted to get hit by a bus or something now. "well, yeah I'm still handsome" he sounds too calm and warm like he was always be, and somehow that breaks her heart a little more. "sure, as long as you're cocky, that means you're fine," she rolled her eyes while he just laugh at that. It's been a while since the last time she heard his voice and it's hard for her to pretend that everythings fine and hold that damn water in her eyes. "hey.. I heard from Chandler that you're not working anymore, is that true?" he got her. "Yeah.. that's true.." Seokjin could imagine how pathetic she is right now just by hearing her voices. "Shanna, are you okay? Do you need

someone to talk?" Is he kidding? of course she is not! and yes she needs someone to talk right now but definitely, not with him. "No, i'm fine.. thanks Seokjin, but i gotta go right now" she lied. "Oh.. umm okay, just call me whenever you need someone to talk okay?" Really? Oh boy. "Sure, bye!" She cut it out by hang up the call firts.



Shanna's POV

Just get out of my life already! Ugh! Did he really wasn't think about the reason why im leaving my job? That's obviously because of him! How could you work in the same place with your ex? how dare he's calling me up like that, act

like he has nothing to do with us?! Damn that seokjin.. and where is Janice? Its been hours by now. Is she dead or something? I think Annce was right. Now that I started to regret about everything. good. I'm gonna cry now.

End of Shanna's POV

“OH MY GOD!” a voice of a women shook her from behind. No, no not only Shanna, but literally a whole people inside the café. “sshh damn Janice, you’re still being ‘Janice’” she said covering her face with her hand cause everyone is looking at her now. “hahahahal!” Janice, the center of attention is now laughing with her weird false laugh. Shanna never really like this kind of attention, oh no, she already hate to be on public, and with Janice means everything is not gonna be okay. ‘damn. I really am ruining my own life’ thought Shanna, now that she is 100% sure this thing with Janice are going to the wrong way.

“girl, I have to tell you, my boss loves your profile!” Janice suddenly throw her shocking information right to her face. “what?! B-but how could?” “well, she’s actually my best friend and when I showed her your pictures, she’d be like, ‘ah sure! She’s so pretty! She would be perfect for the job!’” “but, Janice – I said I want to know about this first, I mean, I don’t even know if I really qualified for the job or not? And showing her my picture is not gonna tell her about my real profile! Did she even think about my skills?? Sure, I bet she’s not.” This has been a really bad day for her. she thought that Janice must be a

better person than the last time she burned the school canteen, who knows she's getting worse? if only she uses her mind when taking the offers from Janice, she wouldn't be as pathetic as now.

"oh c'mon Shanna. You said you need to be as far as you can from your ex, now that I got you the job, you won't be going to the same place as him and spend like 6 hours together and secretly dead inside. The most important is, you got to move on and I got promotion. Oh! and the money we give is much more higher," Janice wink at her. "uugh im so hungry! What do you want? I'll take the orders and it's all on me," she winks again. Shanna just want her to stop that winky winky thing and to be honest waiting for Janice for almost like 3 hours drained her energy as hell. "fine, got me tuna sandwich and strawberry smoothies. I'll go touch up," "okay" said Janice.

Shanna was just walking to the restroom when she accidentally bumped into someone at the hall way. "oh- I'm sorry miss," but she didn't respond and just nod, she was busy looking for something inside her purse. "miss, excuse me but I think you won't—" the woman who just talked to her was about to hold her hand when Shanna already opened the door. She was shoooook at the view in front of her eyes.

“SEOKJIN?! WHAT THE -“ there was her recent boyfriend, in the ladies restroom with another women, kissing with her niece, Rachel. “ARE YOU SERIOUS?!” she yelled at deep from her lungs. “AND RACH- YOU ONLY 17!” Shanna immediately run out from there and of course, crying. “shanna? Hey, where you going?” ask Janice when she’s back to their table in tears and packed her things up. “Janice- I.. I will call you later. Sorry” and that’s it, she went back to the apartment and locked herself up.

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“What is wrong with me? How could I have a trust in the wrong person like all these time? My own niece those bitch Rachel, and Seokjin? He told me it was all dumb rumors about him! God.. I should have trust them when they told me about Seokjin. God, I feel so stupid. He must be laughing at me all this time.. I remember when Chandler and Anncey told me they saw Seokjin with our manager Monica – well how could I trust that she’s like twice of his ages. But for real, all these time I thought he broke me off because it was my fault? God! I feel so dumb that I just wantto-“ Shanna’s thought stopped when her phone lights up with a call, it’s Janice.

“uh hey Janice sorry I didn’t call you back immediately.. I just caught my ex make out with my niece” explain her. “OH my GOD? WHAT?!!- I mean, oh my god Shanna.. girl, im sorry for you,” “well, that’s fine. Anyway, what is this job about?” she asked Janice about their business. “well, your job would be a waitress and the restaurant is located

at block 10th, fifth avenue” “uhmm okay, when can I start?” “yours would be start from 9 p.m. till midnight, how is that sound?” “that’s sounds – wait.... You’re not telling me that.. you... ‘those’ restaurant?” Shanna started to feel anxious, “those what? Bunny Baby? Yes I am, and soon you are,” Janice casually answered. “What?! Janice?! Why the hell you didn’t tell me anything?!” “what? I thought you already knew.. you’re saying you kind of need distraction and move on or sort of thing right?” “yes I did! But I, I wasn’t – I’m not prostituting myself! God Janice you such a-“ Shanna were really mad, but this is ridiculously awkward and funny at the same time for her. God, she should never really asked Janice for a help. she laughed so hard and even got her eyes in tears. “Why are you laughing? So you gonna take it or not?!” Janice in the other line is totally upset. “nooooooo, of course I’m not!” Shanna still laughing, now that she’s roll around her body in bed, and Janice cut off the call with shouting “bitch!” which make Shanna’s only laugh more.

However, what just happened today made her somehow relief and happy at that night. After she can control herself from what she thought it was hilarious moment – which is not, she make it up to Janice by sending her tons of message saying sorry and apologizing about how rude she was, and that she really didn’t know about her job and has no intention to insult her that that was a pure misunderstanding. Janice took a long time to finally reply her text after she left it on read. One conversation leads to another, and Janice told her that she never

really wanted her job, she was desperate because her younger sister is sick and those job is the only shortcut. She end up inviting Janice to her birthday and she said yes, and Shanna learn a lot from Janice that night and thought herself some wise decision.

She thought that, despite all the bad luck for today she has found something more important and a vulnerable lesson. today she discovers so many thing she never thought that she would. It's funny how she use to think so narrow about this life. "why do I even care about Seokjin that much? He is just an ex in the first place, why do I make it really hard? The fact that I almost gave up my own happiness because of this guy yet he is not even worthy.." she said to herself, lying in bed and staring at the ceiling. Then she typed something on her phone, and put it in her ears.

"hi Seokjin," she sound so different from their last call this noon. "shanna, listen I'm so sorry- I don't know that she is your niece and I don't-" Seokjin blurted out trying to apologize, "Seokjin, I just wanted to say thank you." She said, taking a deep breath and smiling to herself. "what? What do you mean? Are you okay? Shanna look, I know you might think I'm a loser, but one thing you shou-"" Seokjin please. Just hear me out this time, okay? I just wanted to say thank you for everything. Thank you for all the past years where we've been together and for bringing me the best memories I couldn't ask

for more. I was so grateful for use to having you by my side, really.” Tears falling down her cheek. “yeah.. I’m so glad about that too..” Seokjin sounds like he’s not holding back his feelings, with all their memories in mind. “I know that we all made mistakes and to show me – even accidentally – who you really are today, I want to thank you for that. Aside from the fact that you’re such a cheater, you have shown me who you really are Seokjin, and that’s all I ever need. Thank you, and I mean it.” She let out a deep breath, as if there is no more burden in her heart, and she continues, “Be a better man Seokjin, I love you. Now that I can really say good bye to you.. good bye Seokjin, thank you for everything.” She wipes her tears, “good bye Shanna..” and smiling, she ended her call.

She was going to get ready to sleep when Anncey is calling and kicking her door. “come in Anncey damn it you don’t have to kicking the door!” and Anncey is coming through with a large bowl full of popcorn with her. “I just want to make sure you’re alive girl,” now that she takes a seat next to Shanna. “you’re freaking me out whenever you did that!” “okay okay.. im sorry. Anyway, I’ve heard about what happened to you today” “what? how did you know?” “Chandler told me,” “but I didn’t tell him anything!?” Shanna is confused. “apparently, Seokjin tells him,” Anncey grabs a few popcorn. “oh..” Shanna joins her eating popcorn. “hey! just oh? Gurl? Are you okay?” Anncey did not know yet about what just happened with her and Seokjin, so she spills her all the tea, along with Janice’s side story so that Anncey could stop seeing Janice as a villain or

anything bad anymore. They end up talking and talking all night long.

One thing that Shanna knew for sure; how grateful she is cause in her journey to soon to be 20, God has taught her the real love. He taught her patience, and how to handles pain. Those all are freaking amazing. Shanna have learn to love and lost at the same time, but that's not the point – it's all about the lesson, and what they've taught her. She doesn't need to search for love anymore, cause she have found it and that is in herself, nobody else.

The Forestkeeper

By Tanti Winarsih

Fiona does not have any idea how much she had been lying on the field. She can not count on the sun. It even does not appear. It looks like that the storm would soon come. She does not care. All she wants to do is just relax for a moment. Hearing all the sound of the wild. She can hear everything clearly. I mean everything. Even what is the fallen leaf said, or the ants that passing through her feet. It does not make sense. Trust her, she thought she had been turned crazy when she realized it for the first time.

She was playing in the jungle with his dad in that time. Everything was as well as usual until suddenly she can not find his dad. The sun began to set. Fiona did not find his dad and she could not find the way home. She began to cry. She scared of the dark. She called her dad but there was no one answer. When the night getting darker, she had walked so far to the jungle. She tried to brave herself. She found a cave. She felt

grateful she could find a place to sleep, until someone or maybe something came out of the cave.

“Who’s that? “ said the stranger

“I am Fiona, I lost, I can’t find my dad. Could I stay maybe for a night. I can’t see the way in the dark and I am cold.”

“Sure you can, as long as you want darling, heyy..”

Fiona could not speak, a lion came out of the cave and it was the one whom talked to her. She was so surprised and so tired then she fainted.

In the morning, she awoke and anything was just getting weird. The rabbits were discussed what kind of food the princess wanted to eat. The foxes cooked something. The bear knitted. She thought she still dreaming then she closed her eyes, wishing she would wake up soon.

“My dear have you wake up? We are so worried about you. We have waiting for you in a long time.” someone said.

Fiona opened her eyes and she felt like she wanted to faint again. An otter has just talked to her.

“Do I dreaming?. How could you can speak? And what do you mean you have waiting for me?”

“We can speak of course. The human just never understand our language. You are different. You have a gift from you mother. You can understand what we said.”

"You know my mother? When did you met her? How is she looks like? I never see my mom." Fiona said sadly.

"It is a long story, I suggest you hear it while you eat your breakfast. I know you are hungry, don't you. And you can call me Miss Ilairikova"

Miss Ilairikova told everything Fiona need to know. Include Revelano, The Lion, The Protector, the one who talked to Fiona for the first time she found the cave. The other animal are kind and very respect to her. She still can't believe she is the daughter of forest keeper, her mother. She felt so useless before this. She never good at any kind of sport. She is clumsy. She even does not have a friend. In short her life was terrible but after she found this place, she felt like she has find her habitat. This is where she belong to be.

When the bear trains her an archery she can do it easier. She can run faster than the wolf. She can solve every riddle the mouse deer ever make. She even can make a nice sweater as the miss spider make. Everything is like fated to be hers. She felt so happy until she heard the issue. There is someone who wants to conquer this land and Fiona as the daughter of the forest keeper have to fight it. It does not matter for her. She has gotten her braveness since she met Revelano. But turns, her enemy is the one she never expected. She felt happy for the first time but then she felt horrified. She had to fight her father.

So here is Fiona now. In the field near the cave. Thinking how could she will fight or maybe the worst, kill her dad.

“Feel better?” the lion said.

“I don’t know. I just still thinking why my dad left me”

“He might be not your dad, I know that you must be love your dad. I can understand if you don’t want to fight with us”

“I never see my mother, I suppose not to trust you all but I do trust you. I can feel that my mother is guide me. I need to be here, but I still don’t know about my dad. He has take care about me. He used to give all his love for me. I can sense it. Although sometime I see something dark in his eyes.”

“Trust me Fiona I know it. You don’t need to fight your dad, I do wish you don’t have to kill him. I am sorry. Everything does not have to be finished with a war right. Just trust your heart, you will find a way. We just do our best to keep this forest safe we can’t do it by ourselves, we need you. If it too hard for you to fight your dad, we will do it without you. We don’t want you to be guilty.”

“Thank you Revelano, you always wise. I can see why my mother choose you to be the leader”. Revelano smile.

“So I will left you to enjoy your field. Don’t burden yourself so hard”

As the lion go, Fiona daydreaming once again. Before she found this place, she used to live with her father and her grandmother. Her father almost busy everyday, so he oftenly sent Fiona to her grandmother when he could not take care of her. It has happened since she was a baby. Even when she has

reached sixteen years old, her father never let Fiona left at home alone. It was not that she does not happy when she with her grandmother. On the contrary, she likes it. Her grandmother really loves Fiona. She always has time when Fiona wanted to play. Even when she was busy. She always makes sure that Fiona never felt hungry or sad. She always cooks every food that Fiona wants to eat, even if Fiona does not tell her what she wants to eat. She also a good listener. No matter how trivial Fiona's story, her grandmother always gives her advice and entertains her. She really loves her granddaughter. Fiona also loves her grandmother so much. It feels that she gets a second mother.

That was one of the best time in her life, when she with her grandmother. Until one day her father stop to entrust her to her grandmother. He did not tell Fiona why he did it. He just said that her grandmother was being really busy that she could not keep her anymore. She was angry for the first time and kept forcing her father to let her visited her grandmother, but after she look how terrifying her father when he was angry, she stopped. That was all happened a few weeks before she lost. From that on, she was just lived with her father. He never let Fiona went alone. He really keep Fiona as if there will be someone who kidnapped her. Fiona sad that she could not see her grandmother, but in the other hand she was happy because she can feel love from his father. Until the day she lost in the forest.

She feels sad about that so she returns to her cabin. Probably she can play with Pottu the Rabbit or help Miss

Illairikova in the kitchen. Anything that could make her forget her sadness although it is just for a while.

“Smells good miss, what do we will eat today?” Fiona said.

“It is your favourite, princess, spicy pumpkin soup”.

“miss I have told you a thousand time just call me Fiona,”. Miss Illairikova just smiles.

“By the way, miss, you ever meet my mom don’t you? Tell me about her”. Fiona see a glimpse of fear in the otter’s eyes, but it quickly turn into muse see. She recently realized it whenever she ask everyone in the forest about her mother. And whenever they want to say something, there must be someone interrupted them. But today is different. It wasn’t interrupted by someone but it was interrupted by the sound of bugle.

“That is the sign that your mother is here. You should hide” Miss Illairikova said.

“What? Why I have to hide? It is my mom, I wanna meet her!”. The otter is trying to stop her but she failed.

Fiona finally sees her mother. She feels deep in her heart that she should not meet her mother but she neglect it. When Fiona sees her mother, she feels relieve, but than it turns into a horrifying feeling. She cannot explain why but the aura of her mother looks like as if it is commanding everyone to obey whatever she said. Fiona feels it too, but she can manage it finally.

Then she decided that it's better for her to hide, but it was too late.

"My daughter, finally I can see you, my little girl," her mom says. Fiona cannot find her voice so she just smiles.

"I have been waiting for you, my daughter, we need your help, we cannot do this without you. So then this is the time, we can make a preparation now, for our enemy has been waiting for us. We will come to them before they attack us first."

Fiona still cannot find her voice. She is so agape with her mother.

"We need your help Fiona. You will fight with us tomorrow. We will gain another victory again against our enemy."

Her mother goes after that. She even does not ask about her condition or how is Fiona's life all this time. But Fiona does not wish for it. Instead she feels grateful that finally she does not see her mother. Now she felt that everything is turning to be weird. She decided to meet someone to talk to, but before she did it, the guard of the forest caught and force her to go back to her cabin, and then they lock her inside. It made all getting more suspicious, so she made a plan for escape from this place. She wanted to pack her stuffs, but before she did it suddenly she felt so sleepy that she could not bear it. Then she sleep.

She woke up in the next day and found herself in an army suit, ready to have a fight. She still in her cabin. Miss

Illairikova entered her room to serve a breakfast. As she entered Fiona's cabin, Fiona could see the changing of Miss Illairikova's face become depressed. She looked like bearing something that she wanted to tell to Fiona. Fiona often play speaking code with Miss Illairikova, so she thought that this is the right time to did it.

Fiona wink her eyes and said to the otter, "I can tell you everything to explain to Pottu Miss, but why I have to?".

The otter seem like she want to answer her, but she did not. She just place her hands at her chest and staring at Fiona deeply. Before Fiona could say anything to ask, the guards entered her room and forced her to follow them. They lead her to her mother that has been changed in a looks of a general of a war.

"You look like me in that suit, my daughter, and I believe that your power can help me to defeat our enemy. So let's just go to our enemy. We will defeat them."

Just like yesterday, Fiona could not do anything but smile and follow her mother command. She trying to refuse it but she cannot. So there she is, surrounded by the forest's army that is composed from a lot of animal army that she never see before. They look vicious. Her friends that she always play with were not with her, even Revelano itself. She began to worry what was happened to her friends, but she thought it better to focus on her situation now. She would fight her father. The one that always keep her all this time. She began to hesitate which one is right. She has no clue at all. She just can

pray that everything will be clear before she decided what side she will choose later.

Not so long, the army ha reached the gate of their goal. A village surrounded by various kind of trees. They also has ready for a fight. The surprising part is some of the army were animal as well, but the animal looks harm and in the same time scary. Standing in the front line of the army was Fiona's father and her grandmother. He looked so relieved when he saw Fiona. He looked Fiona in her eyes and suddenly she is surprised because she can hear her father's voice in her mind.

“Fiona, I am so relieved I can see you, finally. I am sorry that I cannot find you the day when you lost. You were on spell and I cannot break it down. I am sorry that you have to meet your mother. I am sorry that I have hidden you from her because I don't want her to misusing your power. Now it is your choice Fiona, my Popy. But if you choose me, I promise I will guard you with all of my life. I will not let everyone did what your mother done to you.”

Fiona could hear the sincerity of her father's voice. She hungers for love from a mother of course, but she does not want to lose her father anymore. So she decided to come to her father, and as she decided, she feels that she did not bound to her mother's command. She ran to her father's side. The vicious guard trying to stop her, but Fiona easily escaped. Even when her mother shout at her to stop with her charming speak, Fiona does not influenced.

As Fiona reached her father's arm, her mother shouted her army to attack. Fiona heard it and she focused to make a barrier for her father's army. There is a slight mist covering the front line of Fiona's army. Whenever an arch or stone passed the mist it turned into bunch of leaves. Fiona's father surprised with it as well as her mother. Her mother's army trying to attack but whenever they reach the mist they turned to be confuse with what they doing and that makes her father's army easily defeat them. The more they were trying, the more her mother lose her army. Fiona's mother knows it and then she command her army to pull back. They were surrender for now. Before she leave, she gives Fiona a meaningful stare, and then disappear.

The army of her father yelled. They hugging each other in joy that they were finally safe. So Fiona and her father.

"I am sorry I cannot find you, my popy," said Fiona's father.

"It is fine Dad, I am happy with my new friends there, I found myself too in there,"

"hahaha, so you more like to life there than with Dad?"

"A bit more with you Dad, when you were not annoying".

Fiona happy she could see her father again, but she knew that it had not over yet. Her mother will try to attack them again. When the time is arrived, she promising herself that she would not let everything took her from her father anymore.

A Lesson

By Yeni Purwasih

A woman walked to a sewing shop. She used a gray umbrella to protect her from rain. She hugged the sling bag with her arms while hold the umbrella. She had to buy some sequins to complete the order which was near the deadline. Actually, she was a little lazy because the saleswoman there was not friendly.

“I need a hundred grams of white sequins, please”

“What else?”

“No, that’s all”

The woman came out of the sewing shop, but her umbrella was not there. It is still raining, she had to finish the order. She took another umbrella, not her mine, and leaving a note with her number there.

She arrived at home and worked her deadline. There was a stack of business cards that read “Mika Johnson”. Yes, it

was her name, she ran her own business with her expertise in sewing.

“Tring! Tring! Tring!” her phone was ring.

“Hallo, Mika here, who is this?”

“Hallo, I am Tasya, umbrella owner. How can you bring my umbrella?”

“I’m so sorry but my umbrella is missing too, I have a deadline, so I bring your umbrella. I’m so sorry. I can bring your umbrella back no.”

“No, let me come to your house.”

“Doesn’t it bother you?”

“No, I hear you have a mini convection? Don’t answer, send your address, I will come.”

“Ok, see you!”

They hang up the phone and Mika continue her work. Mika has to give the order to the customer tomorrow morning.

Mika opens the door and a tall woman there. The woman wore a brown coat and looked suit with the coat. Her hair was long in a ponytail. She has a brighten skin and slightly slanted eyes. From the clothes, she looked like a fashion designer, because she was fashionable.

“Hi, I am Tasya, the umbrella owner.”

“Oh sure, please come in.”

Tasya entered Mika's house and her eyes looked around Mika's house.

"I'm sorry if little bit messy here. I live alone and I have some work."

"it's ok. I don't think that messy for people who live alone and have a job at home."

Tasya looked a sketchbook with a monotonous classic design.

"Do you draw it yourself? Very monotone. So unfortunate, the stitches are as neat as yours with a famous name here, your stitch model is still monotone."

"Do you have knowledge about design? My weakness is in design. I can sew because of my former job, but I'm not good at designing."

"I like design, but my parents don't allow me to enter design major. I just draw design for myself. I also learn from some books I bought secretly."

"Oh, feel sorry, are you also interested in opening a business in the fashion sector?"

"Of course, I think my parents just not allow me enter design major, not a fashion business. Hahaha."

They continued their story. Mika chatted while working on a customer order that was almost deadline.

That time about 4.00 pm, after took customer order, Mika and Tasya met. They met at a eatery near the Mika's house. Mika came with someone who Tasya didn't know.

"Hi Tasya, she is Jane, my classmate. Jane, she is Tasya, she is so good in design."

"Hi, I'm Jane."

"Wait! Are you seriously about the business?"

"Yes I am, why not? She is good enough to be photo model, she is also a good reviewer. Now use what we have than use some money from our pocket. I think it is almost perfect. What else?"

"Great idea!" Tasya said.

"I think it is a good planning. I agree!" Jane said.

There was a bit of pessimism in Mika's mind. She was a person who can't get along with random people, but her ambition was very big in this business. They continued their chat. They talked about where their target market. Jane suggested a good strategy for marketing, Tasya suggested a design that is in great demand nowadays. Mika carefully noted the suggestions from her two partners. In the middle of the chat, a man with glasses from the counter walked to Mika's table, he greeted Mika.

"Hi Mika, how are you?"

"Kris? What are you doing?" Tasya asked before Mika answered the man's greeting.

“Do you know Kris?”

“Tasya? Are you Mika’s friend too?”

“Yes, of course, Kris is my boyfriend’s friend, and my friend too.”

They chatted for a while. Mika also introduced Jane to Kris. They chatted about small thing. Kris and Mika haven’t seen each other for a long time. They talked a lot of things they want. Time was run so fast,a waiter came to their table and inform that yhe eatery will close soon. They left the eatery. While in the parking lot, Kris offered Mika a rode because Mika was the only one who didn’t ride a vehicle, but she refused because her house was close to walked.

Actually, Mika have feeling to Kris, but that time Kris have a girlfriend. Mika also can’t express her feeling because of the reason. That's what made Mika disappear from Kris. Kris called Mika again when he got home. They talked about many things and the business they would be in. Kris also told he has broked up with his girlfriend.Kris really supports mika because he knows the potential of Mika in the fashion sector. Kris also offered help to Mika whenever she needs. They talked until latenight over the phonecell.

In accordance with the strategy described by Jane, they began to work according to what they had planned. Tasya made a design according to what is in high demand and Mika sewed it up carefully. Once finished, Jane used it to be photographed and shared on social media. They received more and more orders in just one month. Mika was very satisfied with what

they experience, it was very much in line with their expectations.

Mika's happy didn't last long, however they didn't know it for long. Tasya began to underestimate the time for order design work. This clearly made Mika uneasy. If Tasya had sent her designs earlier, maybe Mika would have had more time.

"Oh God, what I was afraid were happen!" Mika spoke silently.



Mika always did everything according to what was planned. She is most disciplined when it comes to customer

time. According to her, one of the things that make their business progress is punctuality. In fact, she cannot concentrate when doing things in a hurry, but Mika also tried to build good relationships with his partners. She didn't want any awkwardness between them. So that Mika chose to suppress her annoyance.

Mika and Kris made an appointment to have dinner together at their favorite place and their friends first. Kris saw that Mika's face looked sluggish and seemed to be lacking sleep.

"What's wrong with you?"

"Eh, why? What do you mean?"

"Just tell me, who knows I can give you a solution, or just hear your problem?"

"No, the work starts to accumulate and a lot. Meanwhile, my college must also keep going "

"Are you sure? You should target how long it will take to process customer orders, so you can limit orders. "

"Yes, I did it, but it's useless when just me use it."

"What do you mean?"

"The key to sewing customer orders is in the design"

"Tasya?"

"Yeah."

"Is she late in submitting the design?"

"Yes, so what should I do? Designing yourself? Everything was much easier when I opened my own business. "

"Then why did you invite Tasya to join?"

"She is good at designing, she designs nowadays and is widely ordered. I rejected some customers because I couldn't predict a design like that. So, when I met Tasya I was tempted, there would definitely be lots of customers coming in. Sure enough, but why did it turn out like this in the end. "

"Why don't you try talking to Tasya?"

"I don't want us to be awkward, I don't really know Tasya's character yet."

"I'm also her friend, I know her, but not that deep, I just know her."

"Just let it go, as long as I haven't died because of the deadline."

Kris just stared at Mika, her face very much how tired she was.

That afternoon, Mika invited everyone to gather. Mika introduced someone from a marketing platform to further support their business. In one team there are also photographers. So far, Mika, Tasya and Jane only took pictures of their products with their cellphones. In one team there is Alex as a photographer and Frans as a web developer and owner of the platform. Mika was interested because this was an

opportunity. They discuss costs and also schedule when they will collaborate to create a catalog.

The day came when they worked on the catalog. Kris participated in the making of the catalog, just helping to transport the items they needed in his car. Kris saw Mika, whose face changed and looked very tired. Kris also saw that some parts of Mika's finger were wrapped in plaster.

"Are you okay Mika? Looks like you really need a break."

"Yes, after this project I'm going to take a break and don't receive orders."

They continued their project that day until evening, Mika looked very sluggish. Tasya who saw Mika sluggish looked displeased. According to Tasya, Mika is not a professional, even though everyone is tired when they are involved in the project. Tasya didn't even realize that Mika is exhausted while working on a late design she submitted. Tasya became curt.

The days just passed, it was still the same, Tasya who was late in sending the design and Jane who was still just like that but something was different from Jane. He seemed to rarely participate in group discussions. One day Mika asked Jane what happened, but Jane's answer was surprising, Jane said that she and frans were in a relationship.

"Are you serious? It's okay, I'm happy to hear that as long as you stay professional."

"Yes sure, I must be professional."

But those are all things only in the mouth, they really are not professional. This again makes Mika uneasy. Frans and Jane cannot distinguish in their private life and work life. Mika thought that if this cooperation doesn't happen at all, let how much money and orders come in, as long as she feels healthy.

On another project plan, the team had a problem. on the next project they ran into problems. at the first meeting they agreed on what had been the agreement. Frans and Alex had to contact a backdrop rental service, Mika contacted the model, Tasya and Jane looked for a location to take a photo shoot. They said they could do it because each of them already had a relation.

"Please do your guys own job early, so when everythings is possible, we can find other alternative." Said Mika ended the meeting.

A week after the first meeting, the held another meeting. Mika asked them the result after a week. Noone ready with their own job, except the models. Mika, who had endured everything from the beginning, was finally angry. It should be easy with their relations. Mika asked in surprise, she was speechless and finally cried. Mika left the meeting with her cry. No one stopped Mika, Mika also closed all communication because of the disappointment that had accumulated.

Mika cried for three days and no one asked her about her condition. That night he had a fever, and none of the team

knew. Mika only told Kris that she had a fever. Initially Mika didn't want to tell Kris, but Mika felt need someone to hear her.

"Everything's ruined Kris, even my health. It turns out I can't force myself. I need to rest for just a few days without doing anything." Said Mika over the telephone while crying.

"At least I reminded you. Yes. Don't cry, you have to say everything, because it will only burden your mind."

"No Kris, I'm just going to rest and then get up again. Thanks a lot, Kris."

Mika hangs up the phone and even turns off her cellular data. He rested. Previously she said to Tasya and Jane not to accept orders for the next few days.

Under the café lights, Kris and tasya sat together. Kris's face seemed to be hiding something, but Tasya didn't realize it. Kris just stirred his drink which was no longer warm.

"Tasy, I will say something to you. I hope you don't angry."

"What do you mean with angry ?. You haven't said anything."

"You know that Mika is sick. Mika has been telling me for a while, you are often late in sending designs to her, so she has to take time to work on it even overtime."

"So? Are you blaming me?"

"No, not just because of that, but can you send the design not too close to the deadline?"

"Why is Mika not being honest with me and even telling you?"

"He just doesn't want your relationship to be awkward, I'm also saying this without Mika's permit, I'm secretly."

"Still she was wrong, why not tell me directly. I don't like it like this."

"Please don't like this, this is all for your own business."

Tasya didn't answer anything and immediately left. Kris could no longer hold it back. Mika was drove the car fast out of the parking area.

In the afternoon on a different day, Tasya picked up Jane from her house. Tasya is annoyed with Mika's attitude and tells what happened to Jane.

"Why can't Mika just be honest with us, why should this be?"

"Tasy, Kris also contacted me, but I think we both are wrong, you with your inaccuracy and I was busy dating frans. We were wrong."

"Why are you support Mika ?!"

"I don't Tasy, Mika was wrong for not being straightforward, but we are also not right to act like this. We are also wrong if we even talk about Mika together like this, we're even wrong than her."

"OK! It's up to you guys, I turn around and we don't have to just go."

"It's okay Tasy, I know you're angry, but please we also have to be aware of our mistakes."

"I don't care! Get off! " Jane got off and again Tasya was driving her car full of emotion.

Mika's health has not improved, and no one has asked her how she is. Kris also did not say that he had asked Tasya to speak. Mika also called Kris to just tell a story.

"Hello Kris, no one care about me, Krish."

"I'm sorry Mika, I have told Tasya about what happened. She is angry, so angry. "

"Why you told tasya, Kris?"

"I just don't have the heart to be in your situation."

Hearing that, Mika burst into tears and seemed to have her own strength. Mika hangs up Kris's phone and calls Tasya.

"Tasy?"

"Don't bother me. I am finishing our job, all of it! "

"Are you angry."

"Why you don't say it to me, why you said any things to Kris, it is make me shy."

"I just need someone to hear me."

"In your opinion, I can't ?!"

Mika can't answer, Tasya turned off her phone with great angry.

When woke up from sleep, Mika received an e-mail notification on her cellphone. I quickly opened the laptop and checked the e-mail. It was an e-mail from Tasya containing all of the customer's designs.

"That's all, and we can stop it!"

That's the wrote in the e-mail. Mika was cry uncontrollably thought that their business, which is getting crowded with customers, would be destroyed. Mika also felt that it was time for her to end everything she had been hiding. Mika received another email, from Jane. Jane said that some orders have been canceled. Mika's heart, which initially calmed down, hurts again. She cried uncontrolably. Why no one told her anything.

Mika worked morning to night to immediately finish the designs that had been sent. She even temporarily disappeared from social media. Jane is still busy with Frans, and Tasya with her high ego still felt that she was not wrong.

"Knock, knock!"

Someone knocks on Mika's door. It turned out that Kris was behind that door.

"How are you?"

"As you can see, I'm okay. Please come in." Mika entered followed by Kris behind her.

"So, what are you and your team doing?"

"I will finish my job, and finish our business too."

"Why? I think don't! "

"I think so, but I don't know what I have to do. Tasya said we had to stop it."

"Please don't!"

Kris didn't even think about anything other than having to bring them together. Kris gave Mika a herbal drink and said goodbye to go home.

At the same eatery when they first got together to discuss their business plans. Kris is anxiously waited for Mika, Tasya and Jane to arrive. He has tried his best to save Mika's endeavor. Kris saw Mika enter the eatery alone, still with a languid face. Followed by Jane who came with Frans, and Tasya followed behind them.

"Kris, you invite them too."

"Yes, please don't go."

"But why Kris?"

Kris just stared at Mika and pulled her hand away. Then Mika sat down. Neither of them knew that all were invited.

"Everyone's gathered, so please listen to whatever I say." Kris took a deep breath, looked one by one who was there.

"Please ponder it properly, you guys have been the same so far, your business has started to grow. It is not even only in this area that your products are known. Already out of town. Many people like your product. " Kris started talking and everyone was silent.

“Mika, why you don’t say what you feel?”

“I just don’t want to make our relation to be awkward, nothing else.”

“You can’t use the reason in business. You must think it deeply!” said Kris

“Tasya, why are you late give your design to Mika. Don’t answer what you feel, think it deeply!”

“And you Jane, I know if you and Frans is a new couple, but please be professional. You have your business first than your boyfriend.”

“I know, I’m wrong, I’m sorry Mika. I will try.”

“Ok, you all has heard what each other feel. Don’t you regret to close your business? A little more you will have a shop, no longer at Mika’s house. I think enough, you guys had to finish your problem, I leave.” Kris let them to clear their problem.

After Kris left, they were silent for a moment and looked away. On the one hand, Tasya felt there is nothing wrong with her, but on the other hand, Mika also felt it is important to concern to on time in this work.

“Mika, I’m so sorry, I’m not good partner, I don’t know what you feel.” Jane said.

“I know, I have said that you have o be professional, but you didn’t. You just need to improve it.” Mika answered while hug Jane.

“Mika, I know, I’m wrong, but please say anything you feel, Mika. I angry because of you didn’t said what you feel and prefer say to Kris.”

“I’m sorry Tasya, I just don’t want make our relation be awkward.”

“I say sorry to you guys, I know I just being selfish, let’s impove it and say anything we want to say guys.” Say Tasya.

They talked about their fault. They promised to fix what happened. Mika got a big lesson from this. She hasKris, someone who very kind. Maybe, without Kris’s help, her business would be finished. Besides that, Mika thought if she won’t say to no one, she wouldn’t say to anyone. Thought it was not good. She thought better not said anything to anyone.

It could be better if they said their problem than just keep it. A wise man said, “*As bitter as honesty will be beautiful in the end, but as beautiful as a lie will hurt in the end*”. In this story everyone has their own fault. It would be better if they realized and corrected their mistake. From this story, in doing something we do not only concern to the potential, but also the risks that we will get. Everyone had their own mistake, right?

Let It All Go Quiet

By Nikmatur Rofiqoh

In the village, at the foot of the mountain lives a child named Fatih. Fatih spends his interesting childhood in his home village. Although his village includes a small village, his life is so happy. Fatih is handsome, smart, diligent.

Fatih's friends like to play with him so much. Once day, Fatih plays life with his friend, named Jalu. The wind is so fast, Jalu's kite is brought by wind. Jalu is so sad, he cry. Fatih have an idea to make kite for Jalu. Then when returning home, Fatih sees bamboo. Fatih tells his father about Jalu and his kite, So his Father is available to help Fatih. In the morning Fatih went to school. When Fatih will come back to home, he meets Jalu. Fatih invites Jalu to play kite again. Firstly, jalu disagreed, but Fatih forced him, so Jalu agrees. Till the field, Fatih gives kite to Jalu And he is so happy. Suddenly, a big wind comes, and their kite is brought by the wind. Fatih and Jalu are not sad, but laughed.

In the school, Fatih is a smart child. Fatih always got first rank. Now, he is in grade 4 in elementary school. There are many competitions. Mr. Riyan chooses Fatih to follow athletic. Mrs Ratri also, chooses Fatih to follow region singing competition. Another teacher command to Fatih to follow contest of wist. Every morning with his friends, they do everything to prepare athletics champion, such as running, jumping, and throwing. He also rehearsed vocal manner with Sari, by Mrs. Ratri. He is so busy this week. When he will borrow a book, suddenly a teacher came to him and said "Fatih can't follow all competitions, because the time will be the same". Fatih feels hurt, he very disappointed, but the teacher told him that he must follow contest of wist, because just Fatih can do this to follow competition. Mr Riyan and Mrs Ratri search for alternate child. The day of competition comes, Fatih is accompanied by his teacher. He enter room and search seat. He prayed before worked. Firstly he feels easy, but a few of the last questions are so difficult. Fatih don't have idea, so he just reckoned it. After finished, he returned to school with his teacher.

In the Fatih village, there is a Mosque. Every dust, Fatih comes to the mosque to learn about religion. Fatih like learn about qira and He disliked other materials. Someday, when teacher preaches about fiqh and morals, Fatih will not come. His parents forced him, and Fatih perforceley obey. At the morning, or shubuh Fatih, with Majid, Muslih, and Budi come to the mosque to pray together. They alternate to reverberate adzan. Someday, teacher announced that there is a tambourine

competition. Teacher brought some tools, and pupils are so happy. Fatih selected to be vocal. Patiently, Mr Adi teaches them although it is a difficult time because it was the first time they learned about tambourine. Because Mr Adi's voice was good, so he also teaches vocals. Mr Adi be more disciplined so pupils also will be disciplined too. A week before competition, many of members would out because they felt disable. It is very difficult for them. Fatih gathered his friend and said "Do you want to make teacher's heart disappointed, friends? We have long time do exercise, but I know that it is very difficult to us, I also feel it. But something that make me spirit again is I remember when firstly we learn about tambourine. We felt happy so much, do exercise spiritylly although understand nothing. We learn from zero friend and now, how? meal to meal we can, can't we? Think it once again, before the word late come". Fatih's friends are aware and back to doing exercise again spiritylly. On the day of competition they went forward on stage. Mr Adi saw behind with smile in his lips.

Every Sunday, Fatih helps his parents in the field. Usually Fatih helps watering potatoes plants. Majid, Budi, and Muslih invite Fatih to play in the river. Fatih ask permission of his parents, after that Fatih went to the river. There is a lot of water in the river so there are also many fishes. Fatih and his friends compete catching fish. Budi was the first, He catches medium fish. After that Muslih, he proudly show his fish, but it is not fish that could be eaten. Fatih, Majid, and Budi laugh together. Muslih looks at the fish and he laughs. Then he releases the fish to the river. Finally Majid also get fish, then

Muslih. They get the same fish. Fatih get nothing, so for the punishment his friend throw Fatih, from bank river to the river. As usual after catching fish they roasted the fish.

Long holidays come, Fatih will be up to grade 6. Fatih's parents advice him to studying more seriously and decreasing play. His parents hope Fatih can study in the university. His parents had prepare many things, included cost, they had saving money. Fatih's family is so simple, but Fatih was the only son, so his family can adequate all that he needs. He just can obey his parents although his heart was so sad because after that, maybe he can't freely play with her friends. When Fatih study religion Budy asked to Fatih "What's up Fatih, you look so sad". "I am okay" Fatih answered. Mr Adi came with cheerful countenance. Budy was so curious, so he can't restrain to not ask. "What's going on sir! it seems that you are happy now" said him with put his two point finger at his chins. "Wait a moment" said Mr Adi with take a piece of paper."Today I want to announced to you all a happy news. Our tambourine grup get first place in this year "said Mr Adi. "Alhamdulillah" answered they together. "In fact I also feel surprised, because you all not yet ready a week before performed, but you all, in that day performed perfectly. Thank you my people, good job for us!".

After that Mr. Adi held a small agenda to celebrate conquest and invited people to the village. Fatih's father is surprised looking at Fatih being vocal, and his name was called because Fatih was a member. Fatih yes, had plan not to tell to his parents except his group be a champion, and now that

happened, his parents know without he told to them previous. Fatih's mother just looks from far. She is so proud of her son and wants to hug him now.

Fatih have in grade 6 in elementary school. Today is the first day he entered school after long holiday. All pupils and teachers follow the ceremony. Fatih as a duty to be a reader of prayer. When the headmaster announced some speeches, Fatih's named was called. "What's up?" said him in the heart. Headmaster continues his speech, he calls Ratri, and say "Fatih gets second prospects place and Ratri gets second place, give applause to them both!". After that the headmaster gives the cup to Fatih and Sari.

Since that event, Fatih becomes energetic when studying and never gathers with his friends to play. One by one Fatih's friends are lost from Fatih's life, and he isn't aware of it. At the end of semester, Fatih believes that he will get first rank, but he is wrong. In this semester Budi got first rank. Budi speaks honestly to Fatih that ever cheat Fatih, then he asks sorry to Fatih. In the heart Fatih has given pardon to him, but he does not express it, Fatih wants to give learning.

In Semester two, Fatih conscious that his friends now keep away from him, Fatih is so sad. To forget his problem, he always helps his parents in the field. Because he is busy, time flies so fast. Day of discord comes, Fatih gets first rank, but he feels just so so. He felt that there is something that less.

Several days of school announcement, Fatih and his friends also will khatam in study religion. At the end of the

agenda, Mr Adi invites all pupils to take some photos. After that Majid and Muslih ask sorry to Fatih, then Budi comes, Fatih alternative to asking sorry to him, then they laugh together, gather, tell a story, it has been a long time they have not gathered like this.

Fatih's parents hear advice from Mr Adi to enter his child to Islamic boarding school. Fatih's parents agree about it. Besides entering Islamic boarding he also enter favorite junior high school. Fatih is often sick, so his parents ousted him from Islamic boarding.

Time flies so fast now he is in grade 3 Senior High School. Fatih is so smart to order time, so he can enter his favorite school. Fatih parents very much hope that Fatih can study until university. Finally Fatih and his get scholarship from his school, because they get first and second rank. Then Fatih furnish bundles, and his parents very proud of him

Fatih very happy because this is a good start. This is twice his life without his parents. Fatih must adapt with his new environment. Today is the first day he entered university. Before Fatih enters the building, he stops walking, silent a while, then smiles. "This is my parent's dream". Fatih is not surprised with many subject or lesson, so he with positive thinking can pass it well. At this time like usual, lectures come, but Fatih feels odd. Fatih and each of his friends introduce themselves. When Fatih introduces the lecture, ask him a debase question. Fatih fell hurt, his friend tells him that maybe his lecture was like that, because he didn't know you, his friend

ordered Fatih to be patient. But that's wrong, until long time, his lecture is still the same. He often hurted Fatih's heart, making him badmood. One day Fatih wants to make a presentation with his two friends. Firstly, the presentation runs smoothly. Lecture just silent and hear their speech. Then he blames Fatih although that relates with the presentation, lecture never blaming his friend. Fatih has prepared for this situation, and he can stay calm. But the lecture continues to blame until debase Fatih's background. angrily, Fatih left class without permission and decided to return to his village. On the way near his village, Fatih meets Jalu. Jalu is working in the field now. He just studied in elementary school, because his parents aren't adequate with the costs.

Fatih's house is so quiet, because just father and mother that life in that house. Fatih sees her father lay in the bedroom. Her mother shock with Fatih that suddenly come. Fatih asks great forgive to his parents, he can't continue his studying. His father and mother shocked, disagree with rash decision by Fatih. Fatih tell to them about his story, his parents little understand. After that, his mother tells that father is sick. Yesterday he fell off from motorcycle, Father had a stroke. Fatih be more sad and say that he want to life in the village again, enclose field and help father and mother. Because in the village he can feel peacefully without problems that complicate his life.

In the night, when all people sleep, stroke Fatih father suffers a relapse. Mother wakes up and erect Fatih. Fatih fastly transports his father to hospital by motorcycle and his

mother follows afterward with his uncle. It was so far to go to the hospital. In fact Fatih can borrow his neighbor's car, but the distance also far and up the mountain pass the difficult way, so Fatih decides to go to the hospital by motorcycle. Father enters the room by iron bed with nurses. After a while, the doctor came out from the room and said that the patient had passed away.

Fatih and his mother fastly entered the room. They cry so long with a look at their father. Sorrow and quiet circumstances covered this room. That night, the moon shines bright and delivers father death with a smile like the face of his father. Fatih families are sorrowful, and feel great loss.

With this condition Fatih can't go back to university, he wants to keep his mother. Even Fatih's Senior High School teacher ever visits his home to endlong Fatih to go back to university. His mother very much agrees that if Fatih goes back to study again, grandmother and grandfather will move to this home, so Fatih can not worry again. But Fatih is stubborn, He disagrees.

He then spent his time again in his village, going to the field everyday in the morning, returning home in the middle day and back to the field again until evening. Year changes fastly, Fatih has been working at home for 6 years after failing to study at the university. He had become resident in his village, followed agendas in his village. Every Saturday night he goes to the mosque to teach tambourine. His old friends now don't live at home but in other cities. Budi studied in

university, Muslih studied religion in Islamic boarding, and. Muslih work in other cities.

At Ied Mubarak holiday Fatih's friends return home and will hold a reunion agenda. They gather in Hadi's house. Fatih meets Majid, Budi and Muslih. Budi told that he would become a lecturer, and now he continued to magister. Muslih tells of his experience, he preached in the village that far, and he will graduate two years again. And Muslih tell Fatih and friends about his bisnis, at first he fell until now he can rise. Fatih didn't have a story.

After that Fatih felt so proud of his friend, but for him? Fatih felt disappointed very much dwell all, from he failed study in Islamic boarding and in university. He doesn't know, he will be like this. Old he never aware can be disappointed like this, and aware that his decision was wrong. He repents so much.

The seconds ticked. Fatih was silent, sat pensive behind the door of his room. His mind was far away. Again it occurred to him all the things he had been through, all the things he could not finish. He recalled the time when he entered the pesantren to study religion and how he had been tired of struggling to be able to go to school as high as possible, making his mother and father happy who were far away, close to God. All that has happened, has been passed, has been accomplished, but it is a shame for a thousand pity that Fatih cannot finish all of it. Fatih felt like a person who had fallen in the middle of the road. Everything he had ever struggled with

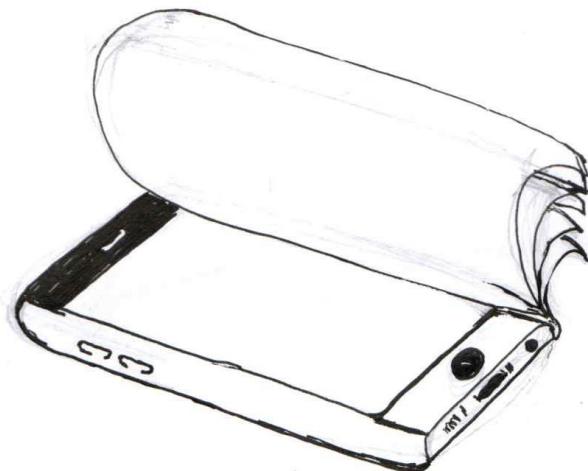
seemed to disappear, like the sun setting in the evening, leaving only a wide wound.

Fatih feels it, he is being hurted. He feel failed so much. His mother comes to him and smiles. Fatih like finding something to make him shine again. He then awares that his mother is the source of happiness. Although Fatih now lives simply, but Fatih feels happy because Fatih spends his time sincerely. He is aware with a good acceptation his heart will feel enough and this can make his life happy.

Although regret is real, fate is destiny. These are all plans from Allah. We cannot fight back, let alone blame. However, we can struggle and pray. Maybe in his journey, Fatih had felt misguided. However, Fatih will always be grateful for the simplicity and tranquility of life that Allah has given him.

The Present from the Champion

By Fauhan Khairunisa



Like the other children, Amanda was worried about waiting her mother to return from her school. Exactly, today the first experience for Amanda receiving her report of her studies in the first grade of elementary school. Amanda hoped that she could get the good grades in all subjects at class. All of her efforts during the first semester would be reported in the thick book called report book. She could not wait to see the results of her studies.

Suddenly Amanda's mother, Mrs. Indah, knocked the door, Amanda hurriedly welcomed her mother. She opened the door and she looked at the smile of happiness in Mrs. Indah's face. In the right hand of her mother, there was a book. Amanda believed that the book was the report book. In the left hand of her mother, there was a shopping bag that seemed full.

"Congratulation, my dear!"

"How was the result, Mom?"

Mrs. Indah put the shopping bag on the desk and opened the report book. Amanda sat next to her mother. When the report book was opened and Mrs. Indah pointed the bold numbers, Amanda's eyes were lighted up. She was extremely happy then she hugged her mother.

"Your teacher said that you were ranked first at class! And because of it, I will give you something that you really want to have since two months ago. Do you still remember?"

"Uhmm.. Disney's fairytale book that we saw at the bookstore?" Amanda guessed.

"Exactly, here it is! But there is something that you need to remember, Amanda. In the next semester, you need to stay focus and be a diligent student. If your grades are higher than this semester, we will give you whatever you want." Mrs. Indah gave the book to Amanda.

"Thank you, Mom. I promise to study diligently."

Since that day, Amanda promised to herself to study hard to get the first position in her class.

*

For the several times, Amanda got the first position in her class. As their promise, Amanda's parents gave rewards for her whenever she got the first position or she won a competition. They would fulfill whatever she wanted. When she was on first grade until fourth grade she would always ask her parents to buy a book as a reward for her.

Amanda was a curious girl that wanted to know about everything in her life. Her parents often could not answer her questions, they would ask Amanda to keep the question and ask her to look for the answer in the book. So she always read so many books and went to the school's library to answer her curiosity. At that time, she still did not know about internet and their parents did not give any access for Amanda surfing the internet.

She had a mini library in her house. Her parents provided a small room beside Amanda's room to store her books. Along the day after she went back from school, she would spent her time to read books at her mini library. Sometimes, Amanda's friends came to her house to visit her library and Amanda would allow them to borrow her books.

*

When Amanda was at the fourth grade, some of her friends started to use smartphones. At first, Amanda did not really want to have smartphone because she knew that she did not really need it. Because one of her friends told held her that she could also read so many books at smartphone and she could bring it anywhere she went, Amanda started to think about asking smartphone to her parents.

One day, Amanda told her parents about her desire having a smartphone. Mrs. Indah refused her request. Amanda's father, Mr. Ahmad also had the same opinion. He said that smartphone would reduce Amanda's focus in study. Both of them did not want to buy her smartphone until she went to sixth grade and get the first position in class. Finally, Amanda harbored her desire to have a smartphone. In the bottom of her heart, she felt disappointed with her parents.

Since that day, Amanda thought the ways to get the permission from her parents to have a smartphone. She used so many ways to change her parents' mind. Amanda had ever said to her mother that she needed smartphone to help her doing her homework. She needed to search on internet to get the answers. Then Mrs. Indah said that she could use her father's computer to open the internet. Amanda knew that her mother always had an answer for all her reasons.

*

Amanda realized that she could not get the permission from her parents to have a smartphone with telling so many

reasons. Amanda started to search another way. Suddenly, Amanda got a clever idea and she believed that by this way her parents would allow her to have a smartphone. At school, Amanda searched for the poster of competitions on the wall magazine. Fortunately, there was a poster of essay competition. She started taking notes the information about the competition.

Amanda had a plan to join a competition because she knew that if she could be the winner, she would get a cash prize to buy a smartphone. Amanda believed that her parents would give a permission because Amanda had been trying to get the smartphone using the money she worked herself. The competition would be held three weeks later, Amanda still had time to prepare it.

During the dinner time, Amanda said to her parents that she wanted to join the essay competition. As usual, her parents supported Amanda to join the competition. Mrs. Indah asked her about the registration process, Amanda gave her note. Mrs. Indah was excited to help her daughter doing the registration process. Mr. Ahmad wished that Amanda would get lots of experience and could be a winner.

As her planning, Amanda said to her parents that she had a request if she could be a winner. She said that she wanted to buy smartphone with the money that she got as a prize if she won the competition. Mr. Ahmad did not answer directly, he sipped his coffee and still thought about the consequences if Amanda had a smartphone. Amanda was waiting their responses. Finally, Mr. Ahmad gave a response.

“Okay, Amanda. You can get a smartphone. But you need to keep our trust. You must promise that you can use smartphone wisely.” Mr. Ahmad said.

“I promise, Dad.”

*

Amanda started her preparation for the competition. She really wanted to be a winner and got the prize, so she could buy a smartphone. After went home, Amanda searched the reliable sources for her essay. She also asked her senior at school in making the good essay. Actually, it was not the first time she joined a competition, a month ago she was the runner up in an essay competition, but Amanda wanted to make sure that she could be the winner.

The day of the competition, Amanda wrote what have they prepared. The judges on the semifinal round announced the participant that could continue to the final round. Fortunately, they mentioned Amanda’s name. Amanda was very excited to continue and finish the competition. She joined the final round. She gave the presentation about her essay and answered the questions from the judges.

Finally the winner of the essay competition was announced and Amanda won the competition. Her parents were very proud of her. According to her previous plan, Amanda asked her father to accompany her to buy the smartphone.

*

Amanda was very excited to show her smartphone to her friends. She could bring smartphone like the other children. She often played smartphone at a break time with her friends. They asked Amanda to follow them using social media such as Instagram, Twitter, etc. Not only at school, Amanda also spent her time to use her smartphone at home. After went home, Amanda took a lunch, then she opened her social media.

Mrs. Indah felt there was a change in her daughter, especially after she had smartphone. Most of her times, she used it to play with her smartphone. Back then, when Amandadid not have a smartphone, Amanda liked to spend her time to read books in her mini library at home. After she had smartphone, she rarely visited her favorite room anymore.

Once, Mrs. Indah warned Amanda to remember her promise when she wanted to buy smartphone. She reminded Amanda to use it wisely, Amanda just nodded her head. Mr. Ahmad also keep reminding Amanda to read her books, but Amanda said that she was bored with all her books. Amanda said that she could find something more interesting in her smartphone.

*

Someday Mrs. Indah found an announcement about a competition, whenever she found information about competitions, she thought of her lovely daughter. When Mrs.

Indah reached home, she told her daughter about the competition. Unexpectedly, Amanda refused to join the competition, even Amanda was not interested to see the information. Mrs. Indah was disappointed, it was the first time she saw her daughter did not want to join a competition.

“It will be held on July, you still have much time, Manda. I will send the information to your WhatsApp, you can read it later if you change your mind about joining the competition.” Mrs. Indah said.

“Thanks, Mom.”

*

The end of June, it was a time for the parents took their children’s report card. Usually Mrs. Indah was really happy to hear the explanation from the teacher about her daughter, but that day Mrs. Indah felt little bit sad. The teacher said that in this semester Amanda was ranked third at class. Her score was decreased in this semester, and the teacher said that Amanda often did not pay attention when the teachers taught at class, she preferred to speak with her classmate.

Mrs. Indah entered Amanda’s bedroom. She sat on the bed while Amanda was watching YouTube on her smartphone. Amanda stopped the video and put down her smartphone. Mrs. Indah gave the report card to Amanda.

“Manda, please read your report card carefully. Your teacher gave some notes for you.” Mrs. Indah said.

“Okay, Mom.”

Mrs. Indah left Amanda alone in her room. She did not want to explain to Amanda about the result of Amanda's studies in this semester. Mrs. Indah believed that Amanda still had a sense of responsibility towards herself.

Amanda opened her report card. She was shocked when she found that she just got the third position at class in this semester. Then she looked at her grades, she compared her grades of this semester with the grades in the previous semester. She cried. She continued to read the notes from her teacher.

Her teacher said that in this semester she noticed that Amanda could not focus on the class. Amanda did not pay attention when teachers gave the explanation about their materials. Amanda also often talked and had a conversation with her classmate during the lessons. After Amanda read the notes, Amanda thought deeply about her attitude in the class during this semester. She realized that her teacher's saying was right.

She felt that she lost her enthusiasm for studying, she did not have a desire to reach the highest score in every test, and she was lazy to join a competition. She realized that she had changed. She had made her parents feel disappointed. She could not keep her promise to her parents.

Then Amanda went to her mini library. She sat on her couch, she found her favorite couch was dirty. There was a lot of dust on the surface of the couch. How long she no longer sat

there until the entire surface was covered with dust. She also found her favorite book, "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" on the desk besides the couch. She remembered that the last time she read that book was several months ago. She took the book then she decided to read again that book. Not more than ten minutes later, she fell asleep on the couch.

*

Amanda woke up, her hand still held the book. She stood and put the book on the shelf. She left her library. She walked towards her bedroom. When she passed her parents' room, she overheard the conversation between her parents.

"But you have to do the surgical procedure immediately."

"No, I do not need it. We must spend our money wisely. Two week later, we must pay Manda's tuition fee, right?"

"Yes, but it will be dangerous for your body's health. You do not need to be worry about Manda. I will look for a loan of money to pay her tuition fee and I will look for a job vacancy to help our family."

Amanda stopped her steps and stoodbesides the door. She listened the conversation silently. She knew that the condition of her family was not good. She continued to walk to her bedroom. She was still thinking about what she heard. Her father must do the surgery and her mother needed a job vacancy to help this family. Oh God, what was happening?

Amanda knew that she should do something for her father and her mother. She opened her smartphone to find the ways to help her family. At first, she had an idea to get some money by selling some stuff on her social media. Then she searched the further information about being an online shop's reseller. She found out that she needed to pay some registration fee if she wanted to be a reseller. Amanda felt disappointed, but she still scrolled her phone's screen to get an idea, she should earn money.

Amanda looked at her trophies on her desk. The trophies reminded her to the information about competition from her mother back then. She got an idea, she remembered the information about a competition from her mother. She opened her WhatsApp and read the information, she regretted refusing her mother's request to join this competition. She thought that she could be the winner on the competition, she would get some cash prize and she would give it to help her mother paying her tuition fee.

*

Amanda decided to join two competitions, speech and writing essay. She just had two weeks to prepare the materials. Amanda went back to her routine, spending her time at her mini library. She started to read her books and looked for inspiration for her text. She also needed to practice her speaking skill. She promised to herself that she would do the best for the competition. She really wanted to be the winner,

she wanted to make her parents happy. She had to do something for her family.

The first day of the competition, Amanda did the first competition, speech. She stood on a stage, she felt very nervous. She tried to calm herself by took a deep breath before she started her speech. Amanda spoke in front of the judges and all the audiences clearly, she really put all of her efforts and her heart in presenting her speech. After all of the participants did their performances, the MC announced the participants that would pass to the next round.

Amanda was very glad because her name was mentioned by the MC. Amanda prepared herself to make the speech. She would be the last participant that presented her speech in the final round. Amanda called her mother and said that she passed the semifinal round. Her mom was very happy, she gave some advices and support for Amanda. After that, Amanda performed her final speech, she tried to keep calm in front of the judges.

The second day of the competition, Amanda went participate in essay competition. She entered the room, then she sat on the chair at the first row. Amanda recalled what she read from the journal and books about the material that she would write on her essay. Then the committee started the competition. Amanda wrote her essay carefully. After she finished writing her essay, she read it again and again to make sure that there were no mistakes on her essay.

The third day of the competition, all participants were invited to come to the closing ceremony. The committee would also announce the winner of the competition. Amanda was extremely nervous, she just prayed continuously to God during the event. She remembered the smile on her parents' face when they celebrated her achievement winning a competition in the previous semester. Amanda hoped that she could help them and make her parents happy, so she could see the smile on their faces again.

"The runner up for the speech contest is Amanda Ayudia," said the MC.

Amanda was very happy to go to the stage to accept the trophy and the prize. She was grateful even though she could not be the winner. Then, she sat on her chair again waiting for the announcement of the essay competition. She still prayed to God and she hoped that she could be the winner in essay competition.

"And the winner for the essay competition is Amanda Ayudia."

Amanda was very shocked. She could not hide her happiest face. She went on the stage for once again to accept the trophy and the prize. Amanda imagined the happiness on her parents' face while promising herself to not disappoint them again. If in the past she always rewarded a gift from her parents when she became a winner, now she should be a winner because she wanted to present the best gift as a special present for her parents.

Meraih Mimpi Risa

By Riski Sugiyarti

Jam menunjukkan pukul 7 pagi, matahari mulai menampakkan sinarnya dengan suara burung yang menambah keindahan pagi ini. Namun di sebuah rumah yang terdiri dari empat orang ini nampak ricuh, tidak menikmati keindahan pagi karena terburu-buru harus segera pergi menjalankan rutinitas setiap hari. Ibu yang sibuk dengan urusan dapur dan membersihkan rumah, dan ayah yang sibuk mengurus ayam-ayam yang baru bertelur. Berbeda dengan anak-anaknya yang masih terlelap tidur dengan selimut yang masih menyelimuti mereka berdua yang tanpa sadar bahwa mereka sudah kesiangan, sungguh keterlaluan. Ibu yang masih sibuk dengan peralatan dapur tiba-tiba teringat anak-anaknya yang masih tidur. Dengan tergesa-gesa ibu pergi ke kamar kakak beradik tersebut.

“Astagfirullah nakk, bangunn!!! Sudah jam tujuh sekarang, apa kalian mau bolos lagi?!” teriak ibu.

“Baru juga jam tujuh bu” kata Risa (anak pertama dari keluarga ini).

Dengan jengkelnya ibu berkata “Terserah kalian lah kakak sama adik sama saja!!”.

Setelah ibu keluar mereka berdua sadar dan berteriak “Apa!!! Jam tujuh??” dengan paniknya mereka pergi berebut ke kamar mandi.

“Kakakk!! Aku dulu yang mandi , kakak itu anak pertama jadi harus banyak mengalah!!” kata Rio (anak kedua keluarga ini).

“Apa!!! OMG kakak ini perempuan, dandannya lama jadi harus mandi duluan!! Dan gaada cerita anak pertama harus ngalahteruss, oke bocah?!” jelas Risa yang tidak terima dengan perkataan sang adik.

Perdebatan pun terjadi hingga ibu yang sedang menyiapkan makanan di meja makan pun tak tahan mendengar perdebatan mereka.

Up “Kalian mau mandi terus kesekolah? Lihat sekarang sudah jam setengah delapan, gerbang juga sudah ditutup percuma kalian berebut mandi nak, ibu pusing setiap hari mendengar kalian bertengkar karena berebut mandi” kata ibu dengan wajah yang sudah sangat lelah.

Tiba-tiba ayah datang dengan membawa telur yang baru saja diambil dari kandang.

“Besok lagi akan ayah suruh kalian mandi dilaut supaya tidak berebut” kata ayah sambil meletakan telur ke dalam kulkas.

“Maaf ayah, maaf ibu” kata Risa dan Rio bersamaan.

“Sudahlah ayok kita makan dulu, jangan lupa cuci tangan, setelah itu langsung kemeja makan” kata ibu.

Kemudian mereka semua menuju ruang makan, makan bersama sambil bercerita dan tertawa bersama seakan tidak ada masalah apa-apa hari ini. Keluarga ini adalah keluarga bapak Bambang dan ibu Fatimah, yang memiliki anak yaitu Risa dan Rio. Risa dan Rio terpaut usia yang cukup jauh, Risa yang sudah duduk di SMA sementara Rio yang masih kelas 5 SD. Mereka keluarga yang sederhana, harmonis dengan anak-anak yang periang dan ayah ibu yang sabar.

Setelah selesai makan dan beberes-beres, ayah dan Rio pergi ke kota untuk membeli kebutuhan untuk ayam-ayam yang dipeliharanya, sedangkan ibu dan Risa pergi ke swalayan untuk berbelanja kebutuhan bulanan. Sore pun tiba mereka semua sudah berada dirumah, bersih-bersih setelah seharian sibuk di luar rumah. Setelah selesai bersih-bersih mereka semua menuju ke ruang keluarga untuk mengobrol dan menonton tv. Disela-sela menonton tv ibu tiba-tiba teringat sesuatu.

“Sebentar lagi Sya’ban , wahhngga sabar ibu ikut pesta Baratan lagi” gumam ibu.

“Wahhh tahun ini sekolah Risa yang dapat jatah jadi Ratu Kalinyamat, pokoknya Risa harus ikut seleksi, pasti Risa ke pilih” kata Risa dengan bangganya.

“Wahaha, kakakku sayang, jadi Ratu Kalinyamat itu ngga cuman modal cantik, harus pintar juga, kakak tampong okelah , tapi kalau otak?? Rio sih ngga yakin hahah” kata Rio dengan tertawa yang mengejek kakaknya.

“Rio jangan seperti itu nak, tapi Risa mungkin benar kata Rio kamu jangan terlalu berharap, seleksinya terlalu susah, dan ayah lihat kamu juga tidak terlalu berprestasi” kata ayah.

Risa merasa sedih dengan perkataan ayah dan adiknya, walaupun memang benar namun itu menyakiti hati Risa, yang ingin dia rasakan adalah semangat dari keluarganya namun mereka meragukan Risa, padahal ia sangat ingin menjadi pemeran Ratu Kalinyamat tahun ini. Pesta Baratan merupakan pesta yang sangat ditunggu warga kecamatan Risa tinggal yaitu kecamatan Kalinyamatan, tradisi Pesta Baratan rutin dilaksanakan setiap tanggal 15Sya'ban(Kalender Hijriyah) atau 15Ruwah(kalender Jawa) yang bertepatan dengan malamNisfuSya'ban. Pesta Baratan ini bertujuan untuk mengingatkan masyarakat akan peristiwa dahulu yaitu saat Ratu Kalinyamat membawa pulang jenazah suaminya yaitu Sultan Hadirin yang tewas setelah berperang melawan Aryo Penangsang, dengan sedih Ratu Kalinyamat membawa jenazah suaminya pulang ke Jepara. Peristiwa itu berlangsung malam hari, sehingga masyarakat di sepanjang jalan yang ingin menyaksikan dan menyambut rombongan Ratu Kalinyamat

harus membawa alat penerangan. Penerangan berupa obor bagi rakyat jelata, sedangkan bagi kaum bangsawan dan orang cina membawa lampion. Dengan sedih hati Risa masuk ke kamar, di dalam kamar ia berbaring di kasur sambil melihat atap kamarnya, ia memikirkan kata-kata ayah dan adiknya, dengan mata berkaca-kaca ingin menangis ia berkata dalam hatinya “Aku akan membuktikan aku akan menjadi Ratu Kalinyamat tahun ini, aku akan belajar rajin agar lolos seleksi.”

Setelah meyakinkan dirinya Risa tertidur sangat lelap hingga tidak sadar adiknya sudah ikut berbaring tidur disampingnya. Malam semakin larut menuju pagi, keluarga ini sudah terlelap ke dalam mimpi mereka masing-masing, setelah lelah dengan rutinitas hari ini.

Suara ayam mulai berkokok menandakan pagi sudah datang, matahari pun mulai menampakkan sinarnya, Ibu mulai melakukan tugasnya yaitu memasak dan membereskan rumah, sementara ayah mulai sibuk dengan ayam-ayamnya yang sangat banyak. Berbeda dengan kemarin, hari ini Risa dan Rio bangun tepat waktu dan siap untuk kesekolah, sebelum berangkat mereka sarapan berdua karena ayah dan ibunya masih sibuk dengan tugasnya. Setelah selesai sarapan mereka berpamitan dengan ibunya yang sedang menyapu halaman. Setelah berpamitan mereka pergi kesekolah dengan menaiki sepeda motor berboncengan, Risa sebagai kakak ia mengantar Rio kesekolah terlebih dahulu, sebelum ia pergi kesekolah. Akhirnya Risa sampai ke sekolah setelah ia mengantar Rio, Risa masuk ke kelasnya dengan perasaan sedih karena masih

teringat perkataan ayah dan adiknya, ia duduk di samping sahabatnya yaitu Dewi.

“Lesu amat, kemarin kan udah bolos kok sekarang masih lesu sih?” tanya Dewi karena tidak biasanya melihat Risa dengan wajah lesu seperti pagi ini.

“Wi, bentar lagi kan pesta Baratan nih, sekolah kita kan harusnya tahun ini ada seleksi pemilihan pemeran Ratu Kalinyamat kan?” tanya Risa yang malah berbalik bertanya pada Dewi tanpa menjawab pertanyaan Dewi sebelumnya.

“Iyaa, kenapa?? Tumben kepo banget, jangan- jangan kamu mau ikut seleksi ya Ris?” selidik Dewi karena heran dengan sahabatnya ini.

“Iyaa aku pengen ikut” kata Risa dan menutupi wajahnya dengan tangan karena malu.

“Apa??!! Kamu yakin Ris? Kamu tahu kan seleksinya susah banget, apalagi kamu tahu Dinda kan? Dia juga sudah di ramai dibicarakan semua guru, dia yang di gadang-gadang bakal jadi

Ratu Kalinyamat tahun ini, dia cantik, pintar, kayaknya susah deh kamu lolos seleksi” kata Dewi.

Perasan Risa semakin sedih, perkataan Dewi sahabatnya semakin membuat Risa tidak percaya diri untuk mendaftarkan seleksi tahun ini. Melihat sahabatnya sedih Dewi merasa bersalah telah mematahkan semangat sahabatnya.

“Ris,sorry ya, aku ngga maksud ngomong gitu. Kamu cantik tapi mungkin kurang pandai aja, tapi kalo kamu mau berusaha aku pasti bantuin kamu, dan aku yakin kamu bakal lolos ngalahin Dinda kok” kata Dewi sambil menatap sahabatnya yang sedang menyandarkan kepalanya di meja.

“Dewi, kamu harus harusbantuin aku, bikin aku pintar, pokoknya aku harus jadi pemeran Ratu Kalinyamat tahun ini” kata Risa sambil mengangkat kepalanya dan menatap sahabatnya dengan penuh harapan.

“Okee aku bantu, tapi kamu harus ikutin semua saranku, kamu harus mau belajar” kata Dewi.

“Iyaasiappdeh” kata Risa sambil tersenyum.

Hari demi hari Risa lewati, ia mulai putus asa, ia bosan dengan rutinitasnya belajar setiap hari, belajar banyak ilmu pengetahuan, belajar bernarasi dan mengahafal sejarah Ratu Kalinyamat. Ia mulai putus asa, namun seleksi tinggal beberapa hari lagi, dengan lesu ia mulai belajar lagi.

Hari seleksi pun tiba , Risa memasuki ruangan penguji, ia merasa grogi dan takut, ini merupakan pengalaman pertama Risa, dengan perasaan yang tidak karuan Risa berdiri di hadapan semua penguji, satu persatu mulai bertanya banyak hal ke Risa. Setelah satu jam Risa keluar dan disambut sahabatnya Dewi, melihat raut wajah Risa yang pucat Dewi memberinya minum dan menenangkan Risa. Dua hari berlalu , hari pengumuman pun tiba , Risa dan Dewi berada di depan papan pengumuman untuk melihat hasil seleksinya, Dewi melihat

nama Risa Marliana lolos seleksi bersama 13 orang lainnya yang akan pemeran Ratu Kalinyamat tahun ini.

“Riss! Kamu berhasil Ris” kata Dewi dengan senyum yang sempurna, karena sahabatnya berhasil.

“Aku ngganyangkawi, akhirnya” kata Risa sambil menitikkan air mata. “Tapi, aku masih harus mengalahkan 13 peserta lagi Wi ini akan lebih sulit dari kemarin” kata Risa lagi dengan wajah sedih.

Setelah pengumuman seleksi itu Risa belum bercerita dengan keluarganya, ia ingin memberi kejutan untuk keluarganya nanti , dia juga masih sebagai kandidat yang harus diseleksi lagi nantinya ia masih harus melewati hari-hari panjang untuk layak menjadi pemeran Ratu Kalinyamat. Hari-hari Risa mulai disibukkan dengan kegiatan persiapan pesta Baratan, latihan demi latihan menjadi menu rutin Risa dan 13 peserta lainnya, mereka harus menjalankan ritual batin dengan berziarah ke makam Ratu Kalinyamat. Selain ritual batin, mereka juga harus berlatih narasi, latihan menari dan berlatih nembang atau nyanyi dengan bahasa dan cengkok Jawa. Risa mulai lelah dengan rutinitasnya , apalagi ia tidak pandai menari, bahkan menari saja tidak pernah. Risa putus asa ia menangis dikamar karena merasa ia tidak akan mungkin lolos tahap akhir ini, ia salah, ia berpikir bahwa ia bisa melewati semuanya karena ia tidak tahu ada latihan menari dan narasi yang harus ia kuasai, ia tidak pernah membayangkan dirinya menari dan bernarasi di hadapan semua orang. Risa semakin

bingung harus melanjutkan atau menyerah, ia teringat perkataan ayahnya dulu.

“Benar kata ayah seleksi ini berat, dan aku tidak akan mampu” Risa berkata dalam hati dan terus menangis. Ia merasa perjuangannya selama ini sia-sia, tekadnya sudah tidak sekuat dulu, dan semangatnya sudah redup tidak membara seperti dulu. Risa terus menangis dan memandang naskah narasi dilantai yang sudah ia robek-robek, harapannya sudah hilang. Risa tidak sadar bahwa ayahnya melihat dibalik pintu, ayahnya memandang Risa yang sudah patah semangat.

“Nak, kenapa kamu??” kata ayahnya yang sudah duduk di samping anaknya yang menangis.

“Ayah?Kok ayah disini?” kata Risa keheranan karena ayahnya sudah berada disampingnya.

Ayah Risa mengambil salah satu robekan kertas yang berserakan di lantai, dan membacanya , di kertas itu tertulis “Naskah Narasi Pemeran Ratu Kalinyamat” ayahnya terkejut dan menatap anaknya.

“Nak, kamu masuk tahap akhir seleksi Ratu Kalinyamat?” tanya ayahnya dengan mata berbinar.

“Iyaayah, tapi aku tidak mungkin lolos seleksi ini, aku tidak mampu, aku tidak bisa, aku tidak pandai menari, bernarasi seperti peserta lainnya, aku terlalu berharap yah, sampai akhirnya aku tidak mampu meraihnya” kata Risa sambil tertunduk dan menangis.

Ayahnya melihat dengan wajah sedih dan teringat akan perkataannya dulu yang meremehkan anaknya, ia tidak menyangka anaknya berusaha setiap hari untuk membuktikan bahwa ia layak menjadi pemeran Ratu Kalinyamat tahun ini, namun semangat anaknya kali ini sudah padam, ayahnya merasa bersalah tidak mendukung Risa sejak dulu.

“Nak, kamu hebat! Ayah bangga, maafkan ayah dan adikmu dulu yang meremehkanmu, sekarang ayah bangga sekali kepadamu Risa, jalani apa yang menjadi keinginanmu, kamu bisa lolos seleksi pertama tanpa semangat dari ayah, ibu dan Rio, sekarang kamu pasti bisa lolos seleksi akhir karena ayah akan selalu mendukungmu dan membantumu berlatih narasi setiap malam” kata ayahnya sambil mengusap kepala Risa yang tertunduk menangis.

“Ayahhh, terima kasih, ayah, ibu dan Rio semangat Risa untuk melanjutkan seleksi ini, Risa janji akan berusaha lagi” kata Risa sambil tersenyum dan memeluk ayahnya.

Hari demi hari Risa lewati lagi dengan latihan, terkadang ia bersemangat, namun terkadang ia juga lelah dengan latihan-latihan ini. Ayahnya selalu membantu Risa latihan narasi setiap malam, Ibunya dan Rio yang tahu setelah diberitahu ayahnya pun ikut membantu Risa , ibunya selalu membuatkan makan-makanan kesukaan Risa saat latihan selesai, hal itu membuat Risa selalu merasa harus memenangkan seleksi ini melihat semangat ayah dan ibunya dalam membantunya.

Hari yang ditunggu pun tiba, hari ini adalah penentuan satu orang untuk menjadi pemeran Ratu Kalinyamat dan 6

orang untuk menjadi dayang. Perasaan Risa mulai tak karuan, ia takut jika ia tidak lolos ia akan mengecewakan ayah ibunya, Risa membuka amplop ditangannya dengan disaksikan keluarganya, dengan gemetar Risa membuka kertas itu dan terdapat tulisan “SELAMAT RISA MARLIANA LOLOS SEBAGAI PEMERAN RATU KALINYAMAT TAHUN 2019”. Setelah membaca itu Risa menangis , ayah ibunya pun menangis lalu memeluk anaknya, mereka merasa bangga dengan Risa, semangatnya dan usahanya membuat ayah ibunya bangga.

Hari pementasan pun tiba, Risa sangat cantik malam ini dengan riasan yang luar biasa , pentas berlangsung 1,5 jam itu, ada ratusan penari yang berkolaborasi dalam pementasan bertajuk Narasi Kalinyamat itu. Selain menari, Risa juga harus nembang dan menarasikan kegalauan Kalinyamat, yang dikisahkan kehilangan suami, akibat dibunuh oleh Arya Penangsang. Penunjukan pemeran sosok Kalinyamat dilakukan dengan serius. Selain harus cantik raga, calon pemerannya pun harus memiliki intelegensi tinggi. Hal itu karena, sosok Ratu Kalinyamat dipandang sebagai seorang pemimpin berwibawa dan memiliki kekuasaan yang besar dalam armada lautnya. Sebelum pentas, sebelumnya Risa berkeliling desa dengan barisan yaitu Barisan Awal Barongan Dencong, Barong Gondorio, Reog Ponorogo, Barong Bali, Bebegig Sumantri, Barongan Singo Karya, Barongan Gembong Kamijoyo, Singo Ulung, Barong Loreng Gonteng, Barongsai, NagaLeong, dll. Semua Barongan tersebut di tampilkan dipaling pertama untuk melambangkan perwujudan setan atau hal buruk yang

diusir Ratu Kalinyamat dan Sultan Hadlirin karena umat muslim hendak melaksanakan Puasa Ramadhan.

Baris Pertama sebagai Pasukan Sapu Jagad (bertugas mengusir para Barongan/Setan dan memberi jalan Ratu Kalinyamat. Baris Kedua sebagai Prajurit Penerangan Jalan membawa Lampion Tradisional zaman dulu atau *Impes*. Barisan Ketiga Sebagai Prajurit Pria membawa Umbul-umbul Bendera Kerajaan Kalinyamat dan Prajurit Pembawa Genderang Perang. Barisan Keempat sebagai Prajurit Pria Senjata Tombak. Baris Kelima sebagai Prajurit Pria Senjata Pedang dan Perisai. Barisan Keenam sebagai Prajurit Pria Senjata Gada. Barisan Ketujuh sebagai Prajurit Wanita Senjata Panah. Barisan Kedelapan sebagai Prajurit berkuda ada yang membawa tombak ada yang membawa pedang dan ada yang membawa panah. Barisan Kesembilan sebagai Senopati/Panglima ki Demang Laksamana (bawa keris dan tombak). Barisan Kesepuluh sebagai Dayang-dayang dan Ratu Kalinyamat dan Sultan Hadlirin dan Patih Sungging Badar Duwung, di barisan inilah Risa berada, dengan senyum sempurna, keluarganya pun bahagia menyaksinya. Barisan Kesebelas sebagai Santri pengikut Sultan Hadlirin (memakai baju putih-putih lengkap dengan serban). Barisan Kedua belas peserta berperan memakai kostum sebagai hewan peliharaan Kerajaan Kalinyamat atau rombongan membawa replika berbentuk hewan peliharaan Kerajaan Kalinyamat yaitu Harimau Penggolo (Harimau Tunggangan), Macan Klawuk, Burung Garuda Emas, Kera Surya Kencono, Tikus Piti, Kidang Kencana, Naga Kencana, Kerang Cangkang Wojo, Keong Buntet, Kuda Kencono Putih,

Kuda Kencono Wangi. Barisan Ketiga belas sebagai abdi dalem Keraton Kerajaan Kalinyamat. Barisan Keempat belas Ibu-ibu Berkebaya membawa tumpeng Puli yang berbentuk unik atau Puli yang mempunyai rasa unik, setelah Puli dinilai siapa pemenang kreasi terunik dan terlezat pada pulinya, Kemudian Puli diberi do'a di Kantor Kecamatan Kalinyamatan oleh Kiyai, setelah itu Puli dibagi-bagikan ke masyarakat. Barisan Kelima belas berperan sebagai prajurit Perwakilan dari setiap desa di Kecamatan Kalinyamatan, dari kalangan warga umum dengan kostum bebas tetapi bertema pakaian adat Jawa atau Arab atau dikombinasikan Jawa dan Arab, perwakilan desa yang menarik dari segi kostum dan kekompakan akan diberi hadiah. Barisan Keenam belas Peserta dari Perwakilan Seluruh SD, SMP, SMK se-Kalinyamatan membawa Lampion ataupun *Impes* dan meneriakkan yel-yel asli pesta baratan yang sudah ada sejak zaman dulu yaitu yel-yel ritmis yang berbunyi "tong-tongjik...tong-tong-jik...tong-jeder...pak-kaji-nabuh-jeder". tim yang menarik dari segi keunikan bentuk *impes*, keunikan bentuk lampion, kostum yang bagus dan sesuai tema zaman Jawa kuno.

Rangkaian acara sudah terlaksana, mulai dari arakan hingga pentas, Risa merasa lega sudah berhasil membawakan peran Ratu Kalinyamat tahun ini. Usaha tidak akan menghianati hasil, inilah yang dirasakan Risa, semua usahanya berbuah manis untuknya. Risa masih membayangkan saat ia menjadi Ratu Kalinyamat hingga ia terlelap dan masuk ke dalam mimpinya.

Horr

The Sound of the Lake

By Nabilatulfikrah Shanelia Zikri



Author

CNC News aired with breaking news that night, at 7 pm the station revealed shocking news of a dead body found

hanging in the woods near Mount Merapi. The female corpse wore a long white night gown, covered in splatters of blood. Her beautiful face ruined, as her eyes popped out and mouth seemed to be forced ripped open. This horrifying sight of course was censored by the TV Station, but the people present at the crime scene couldn't escape the gruesome corpse. Including Marina, the reporter presenting that breaking news.

Marina

“.... Several witnesses testified that they saw an unknown man with a face covered by a mask, running towards a jeep, leaving the crime scene when the local people started a crowd after calling the police because they noticed the corpse. That was the last confirmed fact from tonight's news, I am Putri Marina Anne from CNC News reporting live from the woods near the crime scene, Goodnight.” Finally, I finished my last lines and ended it perfectly.

“CUT! Okay, well done everyone! thank you for the hard work” Elzar, the person in charge congratulated the crew after their successful news segment. “You did well Marina, thank you!” he said personally to me. “Thank you, mas Elzar for your help today.” I replied. He nodded and yelled to everyone, “Now lets all go home and rest after such a long day peeps!”. “I think I'll stay here a bit, I'm very curious with the forensic results” I told mas Elzar about my plan. He looked around before answering “Well, make sure you hide your reporter tag and mention you were sent from somewhere else than CNC, or else you'll get us and the station in trouble for

meddling with this case.” He answered me cautiously with a quiet voice, but emphasizing each point. I took a breath and said “Of course, boss! See you tomorrow at the news station” “Yea, sure, just remember what I said and be careful!” Then he walked to his jeep.

“EMERGENCY MEETING” one of the investigators called to others. I hurriedly joined and stood in the middle to be among the called people. “It appears that the body shows signs as we were afraid of, but nothing is confirmed by forensics so far except the fact that she was conscious when she was attacked yet there were no signs of resistance.” The next person held out a doll and said, “This ragged doll was found near her body but it doesn’t have any blood, fingerprints, or substances that could be used for further research. Holding it as evidence has no use either so we will keep it separately from the evidence bag.” The first man than spoke again, “For now, we must silence the media and say that the case is still in investigation and the body will be sent to a morgue for an autopsy, if there are any other questions from the media just remain silent and restate clearly the sentence above. Now, are there any questions? No? Okay, dismissed.” Curiosity left every other person’s eye that moment, since asking wasn’t actually an option due to the circumstances and the deadly stare of the spokesperson.

Except me of course, I had my eyes set for that mysterious doll. Suddenly I heard two ladies behind me chattering quietly after the meeting “Did you hear the spokesperson? He mentioned the signs earlier were correct, do

you think the ghost is back?” “SHHHHH! Don’t say that, let’s believe it’s just a similarity from the previous case” I was curious so I just asked, “The ghost? Who is that?”. one of the ladies snubbed at me and said, “A newbie huh? Are you an intern or something? Or are you just too lazy to study the cases before working?” I was a bit shock, but I replied calmly, “I must haven’t studied enough, sorry can you explain about this ghost?” the other lady answered me with a smile, “Don’t mind her, she’s sensitive since it’s her period. ‘The ghost’ is a nickname my department made up for a serial killer on loose, he kills with no motive and leaves his victims in white clothes covered in their own blood, eyes popping out, and a widened mouth after being ripped. That is what exactly happened this time, but a doll? Why leave behind a doll? This is the first time we found this type of his killing—” “—if it was the ghost, which means it isn’t! like, why leave a doll with nothing to be investigated on it!” the first lady interrupted the second lady’s explanation. “Calm down Cissy! Just go get something to ease your stomach and stop annoying people, will you?” “Yea whatever Tris”.

Cissy then left the tent and went outside. Hmmmm, so the lady that snubbed me was Cissy, and this kind lady is Tris. Then I asked Tris, “Okay, so basically ‘The ghost’ is a serial killer with a specific way of killing.” “Yes, but I haven’t told you the main reason why we call him ghost, it’s because after all these cases until now we don’t have a single information about him, except the signs he leaves behind on his corpses. He’s just gone, with no evidence left behind, like a ghost.” She

ended her explanation. “What an interesting story, well I must be going now” Suddenly she touched me slowly and said, “Wait I haven’t got your name, and which department your working on”. My phone rang, “Oh yes sir! I’ll be there immediately....” “.... I’m sorry my boss is looking for me, maybe next time when we meet again.” She nodded, then I left. I exhaled in relief than said to myself, “Thank god my alarm rang in time, now.... where to find that doll.” I walked to a different tent and saw the doll left unguarded on a table. I took a piece of cloth from my bag and wrapped the doll then stuffed it into a plastic bag I found under the table. Now it’s time to go home.

“Mother! Help me! It’s not me! I’m sorry Mother! Stop please, it hurts! AAAAAAAA—”

I woke up from a horrifying dream. This little girl was being punished by her mother for a mistake she didn’t do. Her twin, the real culprit was laughing behind her mother seeing her sister punished. Finally brought back to reality, I then noticed the doll peeking from my half-unzipped bag. Funny, I didn’t remember putting it there before. I clearly thought I left it inside the plastic bag. I walked to the closet and saw the plastic. When I opened it, I was shock that the cloth wrapping the doll is still there. I wore sanitary gloves first, then I opened the cloth and saw the doll. Shock again I stood up and grabbed my bag, completely unzipping it and poured out everything inside. Among my stuff, something odd stared back at me. The doll, another doll. I rubbed my eyes and checked the doll I took from the tent and the doll I found in my bag. THEY. ARE.

EXACTLY. THE. SAME. The only difference was the first doll (the evidence doll) was a bit dirty since it was found on a tree branch near the hanging corpse.

Suddenly, I heard my phone ring. “Hello?” “How was your sleep? Seems like you had a bad dream” A computerized voice answered. I stood up and looked around me, I immediately felt being watched by something. “Why did you interfere? You don’t even work as a forensic, or a detective. You’re either a reporter or something like that, the point is you’re a media involved person. Aren’t you?” I had so many questions but I couldn’t say anything. “What happened dear? Lost your tongue? I won’t kill you, well not yet—” “WHAT DO YOU WANT?” I managed to yell. “—Aaa, so she speaks after all. Nothing, I just want that doll and for you to shut up, not tell anything to the media, stay away from this case, and forget this ever happened. Simple isn’t it?” this person replied demandingly. With all my heart I bravely said, “So, you’re the ghost? What a coward! Why don’t you call me using your original voice? You just indirectly confessed that you murdered someone to me, why would I stay quiet? And even if I say I agreed with you and did everything what you told me to, how do you know if I wouldn’t do something else. Like report this phone call to the police for example?”

“You won’t do that dear, you’re not brave enough. Look at you now! Your as scared as a kid at a Halloween festival—” Oh god, I forgot that I think this ghost person is watching me. So, I said, “See! A coward! You’re calling me with a computerized voice, and you’re even watching me through I

don't now what, but still a serial killer that's actually a cow—"—"Do not provoke me, or I might just kill you right now! By the way, did I say I was the ghost? And where did I confirmed I killed someone? I said I want that doll, that doll... not my doll. Anyway, it's still midnight and you should sleep. I'll inform you later where you should drop the doll." The call ended just like that. I was sleepy but very curious so I disposed the gloves, washed my hands and wore a new pair of sanitary gloves and carefully checked the doll. I didn't see anything weird and there were no signs of the doll to have cameras hidden inside. So, I wrapped both of them separately and placed them in a cupboard inside the bathroom. Then I disposed the gloves again, washed my hands and face. After that I tidied my bag and placed it back in its place, and went back to sleep. Hoping what just happened was just another bad dream.

I woke up from a phone ring, and was shock when I heard the computerized voice again....so it wasn't a bad dream after all.... "Hello? Do you hear me? Why are you just sitting doing nothing?" the voice brought me back from my thoughts. "Yes, I hear you. It's Sunday, can't we do this on Monday?" I replied annoyingly. "No, I need the doll now, drop it at XXXX store near the crime scene." The phone call was ended by one side, again. Frustrated, I prepared and went outside anyway. On the way I searched for a doll store, who knows whether if this doll is still sold at a store. I entered every doll store yet none of them seem to sell the same doll, one of the owners said that it's an antique type of doll. Produced long time ago which

means it's an old type, so old that even an antique store might not have it. I was so stressed and decided to go home.

Author

Marina had no intentions to give back the doll without getting information from the computerized voice, probably the ghost. But before reaching home, she remembered the ghost might be watching her. She thought maybe the ghost hacked her CCTV or something like that, so she decided to go to a hotel instead. Marina was so tired of being stressed and feeling useless, that after checking in the hotel she straight away washed up, and fell asleep.

Marina

"Let's play a game Cecilia! Whoever catches a bird by throwing a stone, can play with the dollhouse by themselves for a week!" "Pricilla! But I didn't—" "Okay start!" not long after that a bird fell down by Pricilla's barbaric action throwing stones. Cecilia ran towards the bird with hands filled with thin flat rocks she was intentionally going to throw to the lake near them, to play stone skipping. Mother heard the noisy flapping bird that was near its death, and came out to check on her daughters. She was in extreme shock when she saw her sweet angel Cecilia, near the bird with stones in her hands. Seeing her furious and shocked mother, Pricilla threw all the stones near her feet and yelled, "IT WAS CECILIA MOTHER! I DIDN'T WANT TO THROW STONES AT THE LITTLE BIRDIES BUT SHE FORCED ME TO PLAY WITH HER! BUT BEFORE I THREW A STONE, SHE ALREADY HIT

A BIRD!" Mother looked at Cecilia and grabbed her arm. "NO MOTHER IT WASN'T ME PRICILL—!" Cecilia's plead for help was shushed by mother, then mother angrily said "Come with me and be quiet!" mother dragged poor Cecilia into the basement and took a belt from father's old stuff piled there. "We might have lost Father, and go poor, but we do not hurt other creatures even if they are only weak animals dear Cecilia, my sweet angel. What devil has come and possess you?" "Mother I'm sorry, it wasn't me. I swear, Pricill— AAAAAA!" the belt hit Cecilia's little legs hard. "Mother! Please! It's not me! I'm sorry Mother! Stop please, it hurts! AAAAAAAA—"

I woke up again, the same dream, but much more detailed. Then there I saw her, the little girl inside my dream. In front of me, with bleeding legs and stones in her hands. I almost screamed until she said, "Please help me and I will help you, I know who murdered the lady in the woods. I will come to you later in your dreams. Don't go home or go to work. Change your number, stay aware, and don't trust anyone. For now, I can't speak much. Be safe" then she disappeared. Being half awake I tried to gain consciousness and started to panic. So many questions flooded my head, and all I could do was talk to myself "What just happened?" "Why me?" "What did I do?" "Is it the doll? I barely did harm to it." "Why am I being haunted in my dreams by this little girl and being watched by a serial killer in real life?"

Author

Poor Marina was filled up with unanswered questions. Emotionally and physically drained out, all she could do was cry. Crying for hours and trying her best to keep her mind sane. Afraid she might just end up bonkers and all her hard work to enjoy her life in the future will go down to the point it's meaningless. After treating herself her favorite foods and doing her me time activities, she realizes maybe this all happened for a reason.

Marina

"There must be a reason" I believe it. I don't know for now, but I will understand it maybe not today but someday. I decided to shut out all the bad thoughts and finish whatever happened. "I will find out the truth and reveal whoever the ghost is!" I never felt so determined to prove something. Tomorrow I will start fresh and search information about this doll in antique stores.

Little 7-year-old Cecilia stands near the lake throwing flat stones, counting how many times was she able to skip them before it sunk to the bottom. A man with a contrast fashion sense to the girl continued counting "4...5...! Wow your getting better at this angel, you should try again!" he was wearing a faded white t-shirt, with black-brownish trousers. His clothes were tucked in as he highlights his favorite belt that was placed perfectly around his waist. Pricilla wore her shining new pretty dress that mother just sewed her. The calm sound of the lake is their favorite sound. "Father will you always accompany me improving my skills in this game of ours?" sweet Cecilia asked

dearly to the man in front of her. The man, who turns out to be her father chuckled “This is just for fun dear, whether or not you become better it doesn’t matter. But of course, dear, I promise I will always stand beside you.” They both fade away. Then another dream appeared, sweet Cecilia stood in the same lake but this time with her twin Pricilla. “Ugh I always hated this stupid lake! It’s so boring. We can barely do anything in this place!” Pricilla, whining and complaining as always. “We could play stone skipping!” Cecilia tried to make Pricilla willing to play. “Can’t we do anything else less boring?” Pricilla looked like she was thinking, then said “I know! Let’s play a game Cecilia! Whoever catches a bird by throwing a stone, can play with the dollhouse by themselves for a week!” “Pricilla! But I didn’t—” “Okay start!”

Another dream... but this seems more like a memory than a bad dream, it felt so sad and pure...what happened to this little girl? I was actually looking for Cecilia’s ghost, but she didn’t show up, so I decided to freshen up and begin my investigation. I went to all antique stores in town and ended up with nothing, yet I didn’t want to give up, so I went near the crime scene again. From inside my car, I looked around for XXXX store the ghost mentioned before, and I didn’t see any store near there. “Did the ghost make up this store? This feels suspicious....” I drove away from there. Far away from the crime scene, near the woods I saw a weird store and stopped the car to check it. An old man with old-fashioned clothes was dusting some antique knick-knacks on the shelf. “Excuse me sir, where is XXXX store?” I asked the man politely.

“Definitely not this store, what are you doing in this old store young lady? I rarely have costumers, and when someone stops by, they only seem to ask for directions.” I know he was joking, but I sensed how lonely he must’ve been. “Oh, don’t pity me! I love my job and all this weird old stuff, it’s just that I don’t really understand why I decided to build a store in the middle of nowhere. Silly old me, I haven’t answered your question but I’ve been babbling nonsense. Sorry young lady” Did this man just read my mind? “It’s okay sir, I do fancy antiques and was curious about a doll, but first does XXXX store really exist? I searched online for it and nothing came up” The old man stopped dusting and laid down his feathered duster.

“Young lady, some stores do not register their location online for some reasons. Either they don’t care about online recognition, or they like to keep their store private to locals, like my store for example. See I do not know XXXX store, but maybe if you ask the locals they might know.” “Hmmm, thank you sir I will try out your advice.” I was planning to buy a plastic flower that seemed elegant, until he said, “About this doll, did you bring it?” I forgot that I mentioned the doll, and decided to show the picture of it from my phone. I swear I saw a bit of shock in his eyes when he first saw it. “This doll, I don’t remember precisely but back then I sold this to a pair of twins.” I looked at him suspiciously. “Twins? Are you sure sir? Do they live nearby? You said this store is only known to locals.” He nervously said, “Yes, but word might’ve spread about my wonderful products. Now, if you may leave, I have other business to do.” Halfhearted I left anyway and drove back

to the crime scene. I stopped a few meters away from the first place I parked before and wore a masker, just in case the ghost is watching. I saw a local pass by me and I asked “Excuse me miss, is XXXX store near this location?” she then lightly replied, “Yes, it is, and I was just on my way to buy some things, come I’ll take you there.”

We arrived in a common store. No wonder I didn’t see it, it was still closed when I arrived earlier. Not to mention it’s actually a garage made into a store. Surprisingly the lady at the counter was someone I recognized. The lady back then, Cissy. I pulled my masker higher so she couldn’t recognize me. “Hello miss, I would like to buy a doll, do you sell dolls here?” I questioned her immediately. “A doll? Why don’t you go find out yourself whether or not if it’s sold here? I work here as a receptionist, not a server.” I thought she was like this due to her period cramps back then, so in person this is actually how she is? Interesting. “By the way, why would this type of store sell dolls anyways? Don’t you think you came to the wrong place? And only locals come here, but it seems like you’re not from around here.” I went straight to the point and showed a picture of the doll. “Do you know where I can buy this type of doll?” She was completely confused and surprised. She grabbed my hand and took me outside. “Who are you and what do you want from me? I told your people and the company I know nothing about this doll and how it disappeared from the crime scene. Aren’t you people happy that I got demoted and ended up working here as punishment?” So much juicy information, but wait...did she say your people? “Who do you mean by your

people?" "Don't act like you have amnesia now and leave! I signed a contract to shut up about the ghost and Cecilia to the company so please just let me finish my punishment and I can go back to work at the company normally." I left XXXX Store in confusion, Cissy was completely different when she saw the picture. Did she know something that I don't know about Cecilia and the ghost? Or is she an accomplice to the ghost? This is getting weirder and weirder.

I was too tired to drive back to the hotel so I dropped by a café in town. There I accidentally met mas Elzar. I was flustered because I filed for sick leave, but it was too late to leave the café since he already saw me and was walking to me. "So, your sick? Just tell me what trouble you got into from the case you played detective on" Without hesitation he saw right through me and asked exactly what I was feared of. "Ummm, nothing related to the company, and I'm actually fine it's just—" "Who cares about the company! I know you didn't blow up your cover, but really though? Marina discovering something without getting into trouble? Not the Marina I knew for these years." Really mas Elzar knows me that well huh? Maybe I should tell him what happened anyway "So I took the doll that was found near the corpse." "Yes, and then?" he said calmly. "You're not surprised? Or mad? Or not going to scold me for meddling with the case?" I was the one being confused. "Well, for you to get into trouble until you filed sick leave, I think I won't be surprised even if you stole the corpse's clothes" he then laughed loudly. "You're annoying, you know that right?" "Yes, I do, now continue your story" I decided to tell him

everything, from the two dolls, Cecilia's ghost and dreaming about her, also about the phone calls. The only thing that I didn't mention is that I already checked out XXXX store and met Cissy.

Mas Elzar listened thoroughly and finally said, "Well at least now you can see ghosts." I was madly upset with his reaction but I only laughed "Shut up! If you weren't my boss at work, probably I'd leave you to pay my café bills right now" then we laughed together. An unexpected call came, I was so nervous and thought it was my phone which means the ghost might be calling me again. Then I realized it was mas Elazar's phone. "Oh, sure honey, Marina's here so I'm fine, take your time." Look's like its his wife, so I asked "Mba Trisha?" "Yeah, and she's late. We were supposed to have a date this evening, but she caught traffic on the way here from work." I felt uncomfortable, "Oh I'm sorry, I must've taken your time, I should leave." He stopped me, "No it's fine, really. You made my wait here entertaining with your ghost story." I sneered "Hahaha, very funny." Suddenly another voice said "So, this must be Marina?" Trisha arrived, and I looked at her weirdly before I carefully asked "Tris?" surprisingly she asked back, "Intern?" even mas Elzar was confused "You guys know each other?" "You cheeky young lady! You are from the media! Well, who cares anyways? the department doesn't check thoroughly before they start a meeting." She laughed and sat next to mas Elzar. "Sorry mas Elzar, my cover blew up?" "Silly Marina." Then after two and three chats I asked to leave first before I bother their date further.

After paying the bills I left the café and drove back to the hotel. I panicked when I saw my room messy and I lost the two dolls. I called the police and my room was investigated. I felt so sad that my intentions to solve this mystery ended since I had to confess everything to the police. CNC company hadn't found out since the department was willing to work with me and wanted this case's details to remain unexposed by the media. Now I was staying in a board house provided by the department, since my house was also under investigation. The spokesperson met me with the other man who held the doll back at the emergency meeting. "You may rest here, and will be questioned detailly when you are willing to." The other man said "This phone is connected to a private line within the department, so don't use it for calling anyone outside. Your phone will remain with us and calls, texts, emails will be allowed for you but under supervision. I just nodded and when they left, I tidied up my belongings from the hotel. After a fresh bath I drifted to sleep....

"I promise I will always stand beside you..." "Father!" "FATHER!" "Shhh Cecilia my sweet angel, it's okay dear." Mother hugged Cecilia that was crying after waking up from a dream in bed at midnight. "But father promised to always stand beside me mother, where is he now?" sweet Cecilia didn't understand why Father left. Cecilia believed Father will still come home and just left for work as usual. She then finally managed to sleep with mother sitting beside her bed. In the morning Cecilia walked to the lake to find flat stones, she wore that shining pretty dress that still felt new to her. Pricilla came

along, mother asked her—well forced her actually—to accompany Cecilia just in case she feels sad again. So there sweet Cecilia stood in the same lake but this time with her twin Pricilla. “We could play stone skipping!”

I woke up in tears, Cecilia was a sweet girl, why did she had to go through all of this? “I told you to stay aware, and don’t trust anyone. Why did you tell someone about me and the ghost?” Cecilia’s ghost was there, but this time she appeared as how she was in my dream, in a shining pretty dress. “I haven’t talked detailly to the police or department yet, they allowed me to be questioned when I’m ready.” “I’m not talking about them; they don’t care about you. They just don’t want this case to be spotlighted by the media. Anyways, I was meaning your friend at the café. Do you think he is really nice?” that’s when I realized Cecilia and I wasn’t really talking to each other. Our mouths didn’t voice out anything, but I can hear her inside my head and she can hear me. “Yes, he is nice, I worked with him for years. Trust me, he can keep my secret.” Cecilia looked at me sadly and disappeared.

I was getting ready to head out when I heard a knock on the door. A man in a uniform similar to the spokesperson last night showed up “Are you willing to be questioned today?” “Maybe tomorrow, I need to go somewhere today.” He nodded but said “You will either need company or must be willing to be tracked or else I cannot allow you to leave.” With no doubt I answered “I’ll choose to have my phone installed with a tracker, thank you.” They also gave me a mysterious package that was labeled “Open in Emergencies only”. Then, after

dealing with other complicated procedures I left the house at last. I really needed information so I drove to XXXX store to find Cissy. I wrote a note on my phone before wearing a mask and leaving the car. “I need information about the ghost and Cecilia. I’m watched by the ghost and tracked by the department, but I know a place they won’t find. Come with me” I showed her the note right after I arrived at the store and stood in front of her. Cissy’s pupils dilated when I swiped to the bottom of the note that showed a picture of me that I took with the two dolls before it went missing. She said quietly “Wait a minute.” Cissy went outside of the store and did something to the CCTV monitors. She said a couple of words to the store owner and they hugged for a while. Cissy then grabbed my arms, “Quick we must leave before other CCTV’s catch me leaving this place. We walked hurriedly to my car and I drove to an unknown place. Far away from the store and the crime scene, further from the city and near the woods to the weird antique store. “Sir please open up we need help!” I knocked the weird antique store. Cissy asked “Are you sure this man will help us?” “I’m sure, we met yesterday and he was very kind to me, and I was a stranger.” “Young lady, I may let you in but if you force to question me about the doll and the twins I might not cooperate.” The man said from behind the door. “No sir, I need your help on solving a murder case. The man swung the door open. “A murder case? How am I able to help? I’m just an old man that sells antiques.” I excitedly entered along with Cecilia and said, “Exactly!”

“It was along time ago when two identical twins entered my store and bravely walked to the back where my workshop was. Unlike other customers they didn’t ask for the pretty and finished dolls displayed in front, they just played and built their own doll in my workshop. They made their own versions of themselves. They were quite unique children, because one was very quiet and sweet, while the other was a grumpy whining version. But I liked being accompanied by them” The old man finally told what he remembered about the twins. Cissy then said, “The department! They must’ve put a tracker on your phone. You must leave it in the woods!” I then recalled that I did agree to that. “But they said it’s important to keep it on and take it with me wherever I go.” Cissy asked for the phone, “You don’t understand they might send—” The phone rang, mas Elzar was calling. “Marina are you there?” “Yes, what is it boss?” “The department just informed me and the company about what you did and is asking us and the media to air you as a fugitive. Where are you now?” “WHAT? BUT I DIDN’T DO ANYTHING WRONG, I—” “Yes, I know, that’s why I must know where you are, you need to be safe and far from the city.” I told him where I was and he said he will come tomorrow with Tris to drive me somewhere out from the city. I turned the phone off immediately right after the call. The old man stood up and said “You need to rest young ladies, we’ll continue this conversation first thing in the morning. Come to my house my wife might have prepared dinner.” The old man’s wife was a kind lady, she made us dinner and provided me and Cissy beds to sleep in. Hopefully tomorrow will be a better day.

Father was good at building things, he built the twin's dollhouse, their swing, their family's backyard, and even their house with help from neighbors nearby. He has a weird taste in fashion but whatever he built was strong and beautiful, always beautiful. Father was not the perfect father but he is the best man Cecilia knew. One thing that seemed weird to Cecilia was his hobby of stone skipping, until she tried learning it herself. It was really fun. Different from Cecilia, Pricilla hates Father. She hates their swing, their backyard, and their house. The only thing she likes is the dollhouse. Pricilla didn't like the lake and found stone skipping boring. That's why she plays alone. Mother was never really around to play with her twins because she was always busy inside the house doing housework or knitting, sometimes sewing new clothes. The dream faded and I saw Cecilia, she said "I will help you solve this case but you must be careful with who you trust". She then walked to the lake and disappeared. There I saw Father saying to Cecilia, "I promise I will always stand beside you..."

This dream was weird, Cecilia spoke to me in this dream, usually she just appears afterwards when I wake up. Cissy who was awake first asked, "Do you have dreams about Cecilia too? Because I do have dreams about her" "So you've seen her ghost?" I asked curiously. "No, I only see her in my dreams. She only spoke to me directly once my dream." Strange, I thought Cissy could see Cecilia's ghost too. Cissy asked again, "When did these dreams started?" I replied "Right after I took the doll home with me. What about you?" "The night after I was checking the scene and had to check the doll

too. You see, I don't dream about Cecilia every night, but every time I dream its horrifying." Cissy explained with teary eyes as she seems to remember the bad dreams. "Do you get phone calls from the ghost too?" I asked again. "No, I don't. What? Did you get calls?" That's weird.... Really weird.... "Yes, I did. That night when I first dreamt about Cecilia, a bad dream, I woke up scared and realized the doll peeking from my bag—" then I explained what happened until I finally got a call from the ghost and felt being watched. "That's strange, really strange. The ghost as how I knew from these past years did not leave anything behind. But this time? Leaving a doll behind, and calling someone? This really is getting weird." Cissy extremely puzzled then stopped to look behind when the door creaked open. The old man said two peoples are in the guest room, waiting for me.

"Intern!" Trisha called me when I walked to the guest room. Beside her, mas Elzar was glad to see me. "Tris? Why are you here?" Cissy who was even confused then before questioned her friend, "Did the department set you up to come here? and the man next to you, is he one of them? the Guards? Marina, we must leave! they must be working with them! now, we must leave now!" "Calm down Cissy, I'm here as your friend. This man is my husband, he's Marina's boss." Tris introduced herself and mas Elzar, then we said goodbye to the old man's wife. We continued a few chats at the antique store before finally deciding to leave. "Thank you for your kindness sir, I will visit you again when this is all over." When everyone was already in the car, I said my goodbyes to the old man. "No

need to come again, just tell everyone about my wonderful works! Now be careful and stay safe!" I laughed and nodded. The old man then lowered his voice and said, "One last thing, if you meet Cecilia's ghost again tell her that I will keep my promise." He then handed me a pocket knife and said, "Just in case" Confused with his words about Cecilia, I hid the knife deep in a hidden pocket and entered the car, we left the store for good.

This time Cissy drove, we were following mas Elzar's car that was driving in front. Then after a long drive we arrived at a villa far from the city. This villa was so beautiful that it looked unreal. It was surrounded by trees and had a lake near it. Cissy gasped as she said, "Is this place real? It's so beautiful." We entered the house after Tris and mas Elzar unlocked the doors. "Is this your villa?" I asked curiously. Tris replied as she was walking towards the living room "No, it's my parent's house." She stopped walking then turned around and looked back at me and Cissy "You guys can go upstairs and choose your rooms, meanwhile I'll prepare dinner." We agreed and went upstairs. I chose the room near the stairs, and Cissy chose the room with big windows that showed the lake. I just finished freshening up and heard the thunder and big rain outside. Suddenly, I heard mas Elzar yell from below, "DINNER'S READY!" we chatted, laughed, and talked for a long time while eating. Just before I asked to go upstairs since I was very sleepy, Tris brought out dessert. "You guys like pudding, don't you?" I felt full but a slice or two of pudding won't hurt. Me and Cissy enjoyed the pudding, then after we had a few bites Tris asked,

“So, about this Cecilia ghost. What do you two know about her?” when I was about to answer, I felt dizzy and looked at Cissy. She looked back at me, then my head felt heavier and heavier as if I was drowning slowly. Everything suddenly went pitch black.

When I started to gain consciousness, I heard voices. “Okay now what? We knocked them out, and are we just supposed to confess?” “—be patient. When they wake up, we’ll tell them to choose the last victim. The one that survive will—” “Tris....” I called out weakly as I was still trying to figure out what just happened. I tried to move my arms when I realized I was tied to a chair, my feet too. I looked around and saw Cissy on the other side, tied up like me as well. “Oh, you’re awake!” Tris, and mas Elzar stood in the middle of this dimmed room. We were at the basement, I guessed. “B-but I trusted both of you...” mas Elzar smirked, “Why did you think I allowed you to meddle with this case? To make you the victim of course! did you think the department really informed me and the company about what you did then published you as a fugitive? Also Did you really think the department cared about you? No! they just needed more time to find the culprit. The ghost. Who do you think it is? Think about it... who was at the scene, before everyone arrived. What car was found in the CCTV and was confirmed by the locals?” I didn’t understand what was happening and tried to digest his words. Then I remembered the news I reported.... “Several witnesses testified that they saw an unknown man with a face covered by a mask, running towards a jeep” Then I remembered my conversation with mas

Elzar before he left “Of course, boss! See you tomorrow at the news station” “Yea, sure, just remember what I said and be careful!” Then he walked to his jeep. His car! It’s also a Jeep.... Trying to deny the truth I frustratedly asked “SO YOU'RE THE GHOST?” Tris said, “Maybe yes, maybe not. What do you think?” I yelled, “BOTH OF YOU?!” “Marina?” Cissy's voice could barely be heard but I heard her. “MARINA! RUN” she yelled this time. Tris walked to Cissy and said. “Sweet Cissy, my dear friend. I'm sorry you got dragged into this.” “YOU PSYCHOPATH!” Cissy spitted in front of her. Tris grabbed Cissy's face and said to mas Elzar, “Shall we just choose her as the last victim honey?” he replied, “Let's wait a bit...” “I've waited enough for my revenge! Why should I wait longer!” Cecilia's ghost then appeared beside me, she touched me and I saw her memories clearly....

Pricilla hates Father. She hates their swing, their backyard, and their house. The only thing she likes is the dollhouse. Pricilla didn't like the lake and found stone skipping boring. That's why she plays alone. Pricilla didn't understand why nobody cared for her. Father is always with Cecilia when he's home and Mother doesn't care either. She enjoyed playing alone until one day she had enough. Pricilla was sick of being left out; she was tired of not getting attention. That's when she started her plan, a master plan to make everyone love her and pay attention to her. Her first mission was to strike the weakest, their mother. She made trouble everyday and blamed it on someone or something else. Mother, a perfectionist with a bad temper easily got stressed out. Mother wreaked her

emotions daily to Father until one day he just couldn't bare it anymore. That's when Father started working harder and harder day after day. Until he finally left. Two down, one left to go. Cecilia spoke to me "You see, my twin is born different. We both were, I just hid myself better. I could control my weird self and managed to be a sweet, normal child. Meanwhile Pricilla couldn't. She easily gets mad for the simplest things, finds pleasure in torturing weak creatures, but I never knew she would do this to me." Cecilia faded, and another memory showed. Cecilia ran towards the bird with hands filled with thin flat rocks she was intentionally going to throw to the lake near them, to play stone skipping. Mother heard the noisy flapping bird that was near death, and came out to check on her daughters. She was in extreme shock when she saw her sweet angel Cecilia, near the bird with stones in her hands. That same memory that I repeatedly saw in my dreams. Then it faded, a different memory showed. At night, Pricilla filled stones into Cecilia's pockets and carried her to the lake. Pricilla threw Cecilia into the lake. Cecilia was drowning and asking for help, until she lost her breath. "Now, enjoy your favorite calm sound of the lake forever." Pricilla then splattered water on her face and dipped her clothes a bit in the water before running back home and waking up mother. "**MOTHER! HELP! CECILIA WAS SLEEP WALKING, AND THEN SHE DROWNED IN THE LAKE!**" mother ran out and it was too late—of course—to save sweet Cecilia. She was already floating.

"You know I'm tired of you!" Tris yelled at mas Elzar. I was back to reality. Cecilia was still there, next to me.

Watching them, then Cecilia pointed at Tris and said, “She is Pricilla.” Then Cecilia disappeared. “Let’s just spin a bottle and decide now who we’ll kill!” Tris begged mas Elzar. Tris came closer to me and carved I (roman numerals) on my cheeks. I screamed and yelled in pain as she perfected her details. Just before she was about to approach Cissy I yelled “WAIT!” “What now?” Tris glared at me. “My phone is on, and I sent an SOS to them.” “Don’t try to trick us, we already searched you before tying you up” mas Elzar chuckled. “You know, everything was going well. You found the doll I left in a different tent. You also carried the bag home, which I already added a small camera. Until you left that bag and moved out from your house. Luckily you still brought that doll, you only checked the outsides of the doll, you didn’t open it up and checked the insides! I installed a GPS tracker deep inside them. So even though I couldn’t watch you through the camera, I still knew your location when you traveled with the doll. Breaking through your hotel room wasn’t that hard, a little bit of money eases everything!” The images passed clearly through my head. I walked to a different tent and saw the doll left unguarded on a table... So that’s why it was so easy to find the doll... Suddenly she touched me slowly and said, “Wait I haven’t got your name,” This was probably when she swiftly attached the small camera. Why the hell didn’t I check the doll carefully too, ah I feel like I failed Sherlock Holmes. What kind of detective am I? even the simplest important details I’ve missed out. Wait, the pocket knife! Am I able to reach my pocket and cut off these ropes? I’ll have to distract Tris and mas Elzar first.

“Okay, I’ve lost. I’ll follow your game. Even if I have to die at the end, I’ll try my best to finish this!” I was trying my best to provoke them so they payed attention to my words and not notice what I was actually trying to do. “Ha! Brave, Clumsy, and Silly Marina! You know, you’re a great reporter. Sadly, you’re just a pathetic person in real life. Why risk your life for Cissy if you can play and win to survive?” Elzar was underestimating me as always. Funny, when he did this before I took his mocking words as advice for me to be better at work. I didn’t care this time, I was focusing on getting out the pocket knife. “You know, every time Elzar told me about you I just had to see you in person and think about making you part of my master plan.” Tris said while sharpening a knife and other tools that were neatly prepared on a table near her. I was struggling and carefully slowly moving to get the pocket knife, finally it almost fell out I said, “Tell me why you are doing this to me and Cissy!” I half yelled as I successfully covered the sound of the pocket knife that fell out. “I already told you right? You were just so naive in person as how Elzar told me through words. No hard feelings dear, you were just the perfect victim for my plan.” Tris said despicably then walked to Cissy, now was the time to cut this rope! Tris looked at Cissy for quite some time before she finally said, “Cecilia, sweet Cecilia.... I’m sorry for treating you like this....” I asked in shock, “Cecilia? Is she Cecilia? The little girl I see in my dreams?!” Tris looked at me for a while then looked back at Cissy. “So, you have dreams about that brat too? Hmm, no, she isn’t that Cecilia, but Cissy’s Full name is Cecilia Rose. She

has the exact first name as my twin, but Cissy's different from my twin, that's what I like about her. Did you know that I have a twin that died when we were still young?" I quietly said no while I continued to reach out to cut the rope in tied arms. "Cissy wasn't like Cecilia. A Sweet, kind, but pathetic little brat. I could see right through her fakeness, now that I recall how my twin was, she kinda resembles you Marina..." then Tris glared at me. "Cissy was more like me. Full of anger, ambitious, easily agitated by simple things. That's why I liked her being near me. I finally found someone like me, and for the first time I didn't feel like a freaky psychopath and I actually had a friend. I could act normally and didn't have to hide how I really was—" mas Elzar continued her sentence "—until she had hard times hiding her thirst in torturing creatures. That's when Trisha met me, who is secretly troubled inside too. I did the killing for her, sometimes I let her kill and I clean her mess, but we mostly do it together. Beautiful isn't it? Our love story?" Cissy yelled, "BOTH OF YOU ARE CRAZY PSYCHOPATHS!!!" "Then the doll? Why leave it behind this time?" Cissy asked as she tried to calm down. "I was just getting tired of killing, and the police, the department, couldn't do their jobs correctly and try to find me! AHHAHAHAHA!" Tris laughed like a crazy person. "We left behind a doll, yet the police thought it wasn't important and didn't consider it as evidence? How stupid could they be? That's when I decided to involve Marina! You love playing detective don't you dear?" I was almost finished cutting the ropes when Tris turned to me, so I had to stop. "Marina played

along very well, and I actually didn't plan to involve you Cissy!" she turned back to Cissy, I hurriedly continue cutting the rope and thank god it finally came off. Now I have to cut some ropes that tied my feet so when I run, I can easily escape.

Author

Marina tried hard to cut the ropes on her feet without driving much attention. Trisha grabbed Cissy's face and said, "If you didn't start to change since you dated that stupid guy, maybe you wouldn't suffer here! Why would you change for a guy that might just leave you when he's bored of you? It's not like you two are married and bound for life!" Trisha harshly took her hands off Cissy's face and made Cissy cry. "Look how he made you so weak now! You cried just because I scolded you? Where is the Cissy that I knew these past years?" Just as Trisha was about to carve II on Cissy's face, Marina broke free from the ropes and ran upstairs. "MARINA!" Trisha panicked and yelled at Elzar, "GO AFTER HER, STUPID!" Elzar ran upstairs and looked for Marina.

Marina

I broke free at last, I run as fast as I could and dropped everything I found near me to block them and slow them down from chasing me. I suddenly remembered the mysterious emergency package from the department. I ran outside to my car and found the spare key I hid. I opened my car and locked it, and safely managed to drive far away. In a rush, I ripped open the package. A phone! I dialed the number listed and called for help. The department responded immediately and

said they will be on the way. Then I used the medical kit I found in the package to clean and sanitize the scar on my face. Just then, I didn't notice the car that passed by and parked horizontally in front. I hit the brakes hardly and stopped in time. In the heavy rain and thunder sounds, mas Elzar went out of that car with a sharp knife on his left hand, and a hammer on his right. I tried to drive back, but another car just stopped behind me, and guess who? Tris got out of the car with a knife on Cissy's neck, with her hands tied up. Oh god! I can't stay in this car. I can't drive back or forward since I'm blocked either ways. So, I hid my knife and the phone I found then I wore a jacket and before they came closer, I ran outside of my car towards the woods. I ran as fast as I could, hoping I have enough time until the police come. I tried to run faster but I was getting tired, afterwards I heard sounds of a shooting gun. I looked back and a bullet pierced through my shoulder. I collapsed and tried to take out the knife I hid. I was trying to stay conscious when I heard Tris and mas Elzar coming closer. "Here where it all finally ends, the brave reporter who played detective was killed by the ghost when she tried to save a victim held as hostage." Tris said cackling evilly. "What do you think? Marina? A fine news headline isn't it? Only, this time you won't be reporting the breaking news. YOU. ARE. THE. BREAKING. NEWS." Elzar said while he was mocking me as always. "You two won't get away with this!" Cissy said while struggling to let go of Tris. Tris pointed the knife harder on Cissy's face. "Shhhh, you will be the survivor to tell our tale, but on second thoughts—" Tris opened Cissy's mouth and

grabbed her tongue. Panicking, Cissy tried to break free, then she screamed as Tris slashed her tongue off. Cissy's scream and cry in pain could still be heard even with the rain still pouring. "Now your turn! Any last words?" when I was so lost of hope and ready to give up, I saw Cecilia's ghost once again, in her pretty shiny dress. I heard Cecilia's scream and then I saw other ghosts appearing from different parts of the woods, surrounding us and walking towards Tris and mas Elzar slowly. A lady with a white dress and long hair with blood dripping from her mouth flied slowly, a corpse wrapped in white fabric with a horribly rotten face and worms in its eyes hopped forward, a little bald baby with only diapers as clothing ran ghastly, a very tall thin slender man with no face walked with long steps, and a huge giant man in the back with red eyes stomped slowly, also other ghosts with their own scary features started to get really close. "WHAT ARE YOU SCARED OF? AREN'T YOU THE BRAVE MARINA?" Tris yelled, as she saw the fear all over my face. "Do you not see those ghosts?" I replied trembling in fear and holding myself together as I kept losing blood. Tris and mas Elzar turned around then they were shocked when they saw a little girl in a pretty dress. "Cecilia?" Tris asked carefully, that's when Cecilia turned soaked wet with stones filling her dress and blood on her feet. Tris and mas Elzar then screamed when I think they finally saw what I could see. They froze in their place as the ghosts approached. I looked at Cissy as she was still in pain and was confused to what happened to Tris and mas Elzar. Meanwhile I couldn't hold it anymore and I passed out.

The big house looked beautiful as always, it was also a bright sunny day. Cecilia appeared and gently said, “Thank you, Marina, for your help. Now, I can rest in peace.” She walked to the lake, but this time she didn’t drown. She was walking on water! Then the sun got brighter and brighter until I vaguely heard a voice....

“Marina! Are you okay? Marina....” I slowly opened my eyes as I saw the white color above me and the old man. “Sir? Where am I? am I dead?” the old man chuckled, “No, thankfully you’re alive. We almost lost you, but the medics and police got here in time and we were able to save you and Cissy.” Confused I asked, “But how did you know I was here? I called the department? And what about Tris and mas Elzar? They’re the murderers, they’re the—” “The ghost, yes. They were found with sharp objects near both of you. Oddly, they were on the ground trembling in fear when we got there. Look there they are!” I followed where the old man’s hands pointed and saw Tris and mas Elzar handcuffed and were being put into a police car. The old man gave me an envelope and told me to open it once I’m home and healthy again. Then I was taken to a hospital with Cissy and some paramedics by our side.

Author

The old man walked towards the police car and the cops inside rolled down the window “Well, look what have you become my dear” the old man said to Trisha. She yelled back “Shut up old man!” Calmly he said, “Is this how you treat me?

After all this time?" Trisha smirked, "You were never a father to me!" then the window closed and the police car left.

Marina

I knew the old man told me to open this letter when I was healthy, but I was beyond curious. So, as I laid in the hospital bed, I ripped the envelope and pulled out a letter. I opened it and it was written:

"I'm sorry, I wasn't honest to you, young lady. I did know those twins. I knew them well. They were special children, they came to my workshop when it was still near their house back then. They loved my dollhouse the most. Cecilia loved everything I made, but Pricilla only liked the dollhouse. I knew they were different, especially Pricilla. She resembles her mother so much. Always angry, ambitious, and just different. I'm sorry you saw her dark side, she wasn't always like this. Cecilia was also a sweet child. They both changed when their father moved the workshop to a further place and worked harder until he decided to divorce the twin's mother as he couldn't bare her anger that was constantly growing. If you think this man, the twin's father, as the start of this family's chaos and made Pricilla a monster, then I agree with you. Instead of dealing with his work, being a supportive husband by calming the mother, and loving his children, the Father moved out and married another woman he met at his store. Then when he heard his angel Cecilia had drowned to death and the mother passed away too from depression, he finally realized his mistakes. Well, for the coward and selfish

person he was, I apologize that you had to go through this. Hopefully after reading this, you would still see him. Get well soon! Until we meet again young lady. Sincerely,

Viktor H.”

I didn't fully understand the old man's letter, then I realized there was another thing inside the envelope. A picture. There, I saw the old man with a lady and two little girls—the twins! Cecilia and Pricilla! Standing in front of the beautiful big house. I flipped the old picture and there written beautifully in the corner:

“31st October 2000.

Viktor Henry, Alana Anne, Pricilla Therese, Cecilia Theresa. We finally moved to the house father built!”

I Got You

By Siti Nurhayati

Namaku Anna, sejak kecil aku hanya memiliki satu teman yang bernama Dharma. Sudah lama sekali aku tidak bertemu dengan dia. Saat itu kita aku terpaksa meninggalkan Dharma karena orangtuaku membawaku ke asrama. Selama di asrama aku tidak pernah berkomunikasi lagi dengan Dharma. Hari ini aku pulang kerumah, aku sangat ingin bertemu dengan dia. "Apakah Dharma masih suka dipukuli oleh ibunya seperti dulu?." Tanyaku dalam hati.

Ting

Ponsel ku berbunyi. Rupanya pesan ini dari ibu tirinya Dharma nyonya Melda aku segera membaca sebuah pesan itu.

Datanglah ke rumah, Dharma sangat merindukanmu. Aku tak ada di di rumah karena ada urusan di luar kota. Temani dia!

Rasanya sangat enggan untuk membalaspesan, aku langsung saja pergi ke rumah Nyonya Melda, karena aku sangat rindu setelah lama tidak bertemu dengan Dharma. Sesampainya di depan pagar rumah dia aku melihat hal yang sangat mengerikan. "Astaga!" Aku terkejut melihat tubuh tergeletak di teras rumah nyonya Melda. Saat hendak memastikan tubuh siapa yang tergeletak itu aku kaget tubuh itu adalah tubuh Dharmaanak tirinya Nyonya Melda. Aku mundur selangkah, syok saat menatapkengerian itu. Tubuh Dharma bukan hanya tergeletak. Tetapi wajah dan tubuhnya dipenuhi luka tusukan dan sayatandengan darah yang sudah mengering.

Kuambil ponsel dan segera menelpon polisi. Kakiku melangkah menjauhi jasad itu. Sambil menunggu petugas, aku terus mencoba menghubungi nomor Nyonya Melda, dia harus tahu anaknya sudah tiada.

[Halo, Anna. Ada apa menelponku pagi-pagi?]

Aku gugup untuk mengatakan kebenaran ini. Tapi aku harus tetap memberitahu nyonya Melda.

[Dharma ... tewas nyonya.]

[Apa kau yakin?! Anna, tolong urus anakku. Hari ini juga aku pulang.]

[Baiklah, Nyonya.]

Aku terus meperhatikan jasad Dharma dari kejauhan. Petugas belum juga datang. Walaupun mengerikan, aku mencoba melihat lagi keadaan Dharma. Aku melangkah mendekati jasadnya. Bagaimanapun, kami adalah sahabat sejak

kecil. Aku mengamati jasadnya, Ya Tuhan ...bahkan matanya belum terpejam. Banyak sekali luka tusukan di seluruh tubuhnya, menganga sampai dagingnya terlihat.

Sepertinya Dharma ditusuk dengan pisau yang sangat tajam. Bahkan saking tajamnya sampai bisa membuat bagian leher Dharma sampai menganga, seperti itu. Malang sekali nasibmuDharma ... andai saja aku bisa menolongmu.

Pandanganku terus turun sampai ke bawah.Mataku berhenti melihat sesuatu ditangannya, sesuatuterselip di dekat ibu jari dan telunjuknya, sebuah kertas putih yang sudah teremas menjadi gumpalan. Tidak tahu yang kulakukan benar atau salah, tapi dengan cepat aku menarik gumpalan kertas menggunakan sapu tangan yang kuambil dari saku celana, kemudian mengambil gambarnya lewat ponsel.

Tidaklama dari aksi nekatku itu, suara sirine polisi meraung semakin dekat, dengan cepat aku mengembalikan gumpalan kertas itu ke selipan jari Dharma.Setelah petugas datang, mereka semua melakukan tugasnya dengan tenang dan mengangkat jasad Dharma, kemudian memasukkannya ke dalam kantung jenazah. Garis polisi juga dibentangkan di depan rumah Nyonya Melda.

"Selamat pagi, apakah kau Silvianna Maria, yang menelepon pihak kepolisian?" Seorang petugas datang menanyaiku.

"Ya, a-aku yang pertama kali melihat Dharma.Lalu, menelpon polisi." Dia mengangguk dan membuka jurnal kecil lalu menuliskan sesuatu di sana.

"Apa kau tahu Dharma punya masalah belakangan ini?"

Aku mengusap belakang leherku tidak nyaman, entahlah ... diinterogasi setelah melihat jasad mengenaskan membuatku merasa tidak enak.

"Aku tak tahu, hari ini aku baru menemuinya karena baru saja pulang dari asrama."

Dia menatapku dengan mata menyipit, kemudian mengangguk dan menulis lagi sesuatu di jurnal. Rasanya ingin sekali aku merebut buku kecil itu dan membaca semua catatannya.

"Baiklah, kita berhenti dulu. Emm ... aku akan memanggilmu nanti, untuk pertanyaan selanjutnya. Apa pun petunjuk yang kaupunya, katakan saja padaku. Ini kartu namaku." Tanpa menunggu jawaban, petugas itu pergi dan bergabung dengan yang lain.

Aku memasuki kamar dengan lunglai aku masih bertanya-tanya, Siapa yang melakukan itu pada Dharma?. Setelah duduk beberapa lama di kursi dekat balkon, aku ingat belum membaca isi kertas itu. Segera kubuka folder foto di ponsel berharap ada petunjuk.

[Lihatlah aku di atas bukit golden hour.

*Jangan lupa membawa alat pancing dan
minum racunnya. Kaubisa menemukanku di
sana, oh Darling, Jangan lupa kode*

kesepakatannya!)

Sudah tiga kali aku membaca tulisan tersebut aku tetap tidak mengerti arti dari tulisannya, ini terlihat seperti ... teka-teki? Aku mencoba tenang, memikirkan apa yang dimaksud Dharma. Aku mengambil kertas dan mencoba menulis ulang satu persatu sesuai tanda baca titik (.). Lalu, mulai memahami per kalimat.

"Lihatlah aku di atas bukit golden hour,"

kataku sambil terus berpikir, bukit golden hour? Dharma pernah bicara hal itu, kalau tidak salah ... astaga! Itu adalah rumah pohon, tempat kami waktu kecil bermain. Tempat Dharma mengajakku melihat sunset.

Aku kembali menulis kalimat kedua

'Jangan lupa membawa alat pancing dan minum racunnya.'

Alat pancing bisa saja berarti memancing disungai seperti yang kami lakukan dulu. Namun, untuk apa meminum racun? Racun apa yang dimaksud Dharma? Argh! Astaga kepalaku berdenyut, sakit sekali. Aku mencoba tenang dan memilih pergi kedapur. Aku mengambil jus di kulkas dan kue coklat buatan Ibu.

Saat akan meminum jus, seseorang langsung mengambil alih jus yang ada di genggamanku.

"Minum obat dulu!!"

Ibu menatapku sebal dan malah meminum jus itu sendirian.

"Minum obatmu, atau kau sakit, Anna!"

"Aku tidak mau menenggak racun itu seumur hidup!"

"Ibu tidak mau tahu!" Ibu meninggalkanku begitu saja. Huh, bagaimana bisa dia memperlakukan anaknya yang baru pulang seperti ini. Pokoknya, aku tidak mau menenggak cairan pahit seperti racun itu!

Aku terdiam beberapa saat. Teringat sesuatu. Racun sama dengan apa isi surat dari Dharma, jadi apakah itu jawabannya? Entahlah, tapi aku akan menyiapkan alat pancing dan obat atau racun untukku walau tak berniat meminumnya. Sekarang waktunya memecahkan kalimat selanjutnya. Aku kembali ke kamar dan mulai menulis sisanya.

*'Kau bisa menemukanku di sana, oh Darling,
jangan lupa kode kesepakatannya!'*

Kalimat ketiga lumayan panjang dan kabar buruknya, otakku sudah buntu! Dharma, apakah kau ingin membuatku gila? Apa maksud dari surat ini? Tapi bila melihat isinya, dua kalimat sebelumnya, cocok untukku.

Aku sudah siap untuk pergi ke bukit, kuharap rumah pohon itu masih kokoh. Kail pancing dan obat juga sudah terbungkus rapi. Walaupun kalimat terakhir belum terpecahkan, setidaknya aku sudah punya dua petunjuk. Mungkin kalimat ketiganya ada di sana juga.

Perjalanan sudah semakin dekat karena jarak dari rumah ke bukit tidak jauh. Aku bisa melihat rumah pohon dengan jelas. Terakhir aku datang ke sini adalah sebelum aku masuk ke asrama. Bukan hanya kami berdua, tapi Nyonya Melda juga ikut. Aku mulai menapaki tangga yang ternyata sebagian ada yang lapuk, beberapa tangga kayunya patah saat kupijak. Pelan-pelan aku menaiki satu persatu anak tangga itu. Udaranya sangat lembab, aku melihat sekeliling dan di pojok dekat jendela kayu, ada sebuah kotak hitam tergeletak. Aku meraihnya dan mencoba membukanya. Namun, tidak bisa karena terkunci. Di atas kotak itu ada huruf acak O, T, O, I, G, U, Y seperti puzzle . Pikiranku melambung pada isi surat, apakah ini maksud dari kode kesepakatan? Entahlah, aku bingung.

Aku duduk dan mengeluarkan alat pancing serta obat atau racun. Mencoba memutar memori ke belakang, memahami maksud Dharma seperti kalimat-kalimat sebelumnya. Mencoba mengingat-ingat apa saja yang sering kami lakukan dulu. Dharma sangat suka bermain teka-teki. Ya aku ingat sesuatu aku yakin huruf-huruf itu kalau disusun dengan benar akan membentuk suatu kata/kalimat. Ada banyak kata yang kuingat, tapi dari susunan huruf itu aku menemukannya. Kata-kata yang selalu dikatakan Dharma saat bermain petak umpet. Kuambil kotaknya kemudian menyusun huruf dan membentuk kata,'I GOT YOU'. Yes,I got you! Aku memecahkannya! Kotak itu terbuka, dan dengan tidak sabar aku merogoh isinya.

"Argh! Astaga tidak mungkin!" Aku memegang apa yang ada di dalam kotak, setelah itu langsung kaget jangan-

jangan ini adalah pisau yang digunakan untuk menusuk-nusuk semua luka di tubuh Dharma.

Sial! Aku terjebak! Siapa yang melakukan ini? Apakah Dharma sengaja melakukannya? Oh Tuhan, aku bisa gila!

Aku tidak mau di penjara, lebih baik buang saja pisau itu ke sungai. Aku mengambil lagi pisau itu dan barang bawaanku, jangan sampai ada yang tertinggal. Langkahku tergopoh menuruni rumah pohon dan menyusuri jalan setapak menuju sungai, aku akan buang semua benda ini. Namun, saat sudah siap melemparkan semua barang, ada tangan besar yang menarik tubuhku.

"Nona Silvianna Maria, Anda ditahan atas dugaan pembunuhan Tuan Dharma Samudra!"

"Tidak! Aku tidak bersalah! Bukan aku pembunuh Dharma! Ini jebakkank!" Kutepis tangan polisi dan mencoba berlari. Tetapi, aku mendengar suara dentuman cukup keras bersamaan rasa sakit di kakiku, sepertinya ada benda yang menembus kedalam. Aku terjatuh, kepalaku membentur batu besar. Kepalaku rasanya berdenyut, sakit. Pandanganku juga buram, tapi aku tetap memaksa mata untuk terbuka. Samar terlihat ruangan serba putih. Aroma obat-obatan. Sudah dipastikan ini rumah sakit, karena aku juga melihat perban melilit kaki kananku. Tanganku dua-duanya di borgol, sepertinya mereka semua mengiraku adalah pembunuh Dharma. Aku hanya bisa menangis di sini, tidak ada yang bisa dilakukan untuk membuktikan aku tidak bersalah. Ketukan sepatu terdengar menggema, aku melihat ke arah pintu masuk,

di sana muncul sesosok perawat wanita, dia terlihat tidak kasing dan senyumannya ramah sekali.

"Hai, Anna, baru seminggu kau keluar tapi sudah kembali lagi, apa liburanmu menyenangkan?"

"Maksudmu, ini di mana?"

"Rumah sakit jiwa." Dia menatapku tajam dan menyuntikan sesuatu di lenganku. Tidak sakit, tapi efeknya membuatku makin pusing.

"Jangan pernah keluar dari sini, atau kau akan kusuntik mati! Oh iya, ada tamu istimewa untukmu," ucapnya kemudian.

Aku melirik seorang wanita yang sedang memegang rangkaian bunga dan menggunakan itu untuk menutupi wajahnya. Perawat tadi kembali tersenyum ramah dan mempersilakan wanita itu untuk mendekat kepadaku.

"I Got You!" Dia mengagetkanku. "Racunnya sudah di minum, Darling?" tanyanya sambil menampakan wajah yang sangat kukenal. Dia ... Nyonya Melda.

"Aku hanya ingin mengucapkan terimakasih, sudah mau membunuh babi pemalas itu dengan sangat mulus," Dia tersenyum miring setelah mengatakan itu.

"Aku tidak mengerti, apa maksudmu?!"

"Bukankah sudah tertulis, 'minum racunnya' agar kau mengingat apa saja yang telah kaulakukan setelah pulang dari sini, Darling! Sayangnya, polisi itu lebih pintar dari kita berdua.

Tenang saja, kalau sudah sembuh, aku yang akan menjemputmu. Sampai jumpa!"

Friendship

The Black Cat's Letter

By Irfa Luthfia Rahmani

“Zoey, it your turns!”

I walk right after my teacher called my name. I really want to quit school because of this thing. Our class has a childish program ever. We have a secret mailbox, that is how they called it. Basically, the students in our class need to write a secret letter about anything, but Miss Lily suggests to write something good such as motivation or positive letter. And every Friday each student takes the random letter and read the letter out loud in front of class.

I really hate this program. I mean, what is the purpose of that thing? Those are random letters, and sometimes the students write something weird like the one I got a week ago, the letter said, “I really have feelings on you, but I don’t know how to say it to you, so I say it here, I love you for the beautiful and elegant girl with black hoodie I’ve ever known.” I

remember that time I read it in front of class, all of my classmates laughed so hard, because there is no one that did know for whom the letter written, it is for Sophia, my bestfriend.

“Read it, Zoey!”

Okay, I almost forget that I am still in front of class holding a wrinkled letter. I open that letter, and I do not know why but my feelings are not good. The letter looks so messy, the handwriting looks bad, and it seems like a death note. After all of my assumptions, I read it. The letter says, “In three days, I will leave this world. Whoever gets this letter, you need to find me, and I hope you can help me, because I don't have anybody else. -Black Cat.”

I am totally shock. It is not funny at all. Who writes this kind of letter?

“Well, that was insane.” Says one of my friends. His face shows a shocking expression.

“I think it was just a joking, I mean, who wants to tell that thing?” says the others.

I nod. Agree. But, what if it was true?

“Don’t think about that so much, Zoey. Probably, it was just random sentences that the writer got from a movie or a novel.”Says my teacher.

I nod, but now I am not sure. I am still thinking, what if it was true? What if one of my classmates really kills

themselves in three days? What will I do? I really hate this secret mailbox.

That night, right after I got the letter, I totally stayed up all night thinking about who is the writer of that letter. The initials are Black Cat, but I had no idea who is that. Is it someone who likes a black cat? Or someone who looks like a black cat? Huh, my mind is totally blank. Sophia, my best friend said not to worry about that letter, she said probably Miss Lily was true, it was just a random letter that the words are from novel or movie. I really want to ignore that, but I do not know why, I can't.

This is the first day after I got the letter, I go to school as usual with Sophia, my bestfriend and also my neighbor. "Do you want to go to canteen? I am hungry." Said her right after the bell rang. It is our break time.

Honestly, I don't want to go because I don't have a mood to eat and to do anything, but my stomach can't lie. I am so hungry. Thinking hard makes me hungry.

"C'mon, I know you are hungry. Let's eat and fill our energy before we do our big mission." Says Sophia with her sparkle eyes.

I laughed, "What is the big mission?"

Sophia winks and says, “Finding the Black Cat.”

I glance at my watch, it is nine o’clock, it is already night and I am still standing here in front of a luxury hotel with Sophia. We do not know why and how we can do this, following a person and act like detectives.

It started when I was in the cafeteria with Sophia to grab some foods. When I brought a big cup of noodles with my tremble hands, a girl bumped on me and my noodles spilled on the floor, all of it. The girl did not say sorry, she looked at me for like five seconds, freezing, her eyes trembled then she just ran away from me. I was totally confused.

“What was she actually doing? Are you okay? Oh, your noodles.” Said Sophia with her sad eyes looking at my noodles on the floor.

I was just quiet, thinking of that girl, she looked suspicious. I still looked at her back that was already got away from me until I saw something. Her jacket. It was a big black cat.

By the way, I know her. She is Shania, one of my classmates. She is the popular one because of her beauty. I admit that she is so beautiful. Her long-brown hair, green eyes,

pale skin, and pink lips. She is just perfect, but she is so quiet and barely talks at class.

After that incident, I intended to talk to her after school but ended up followed her until this time. And why she does not go out from that hotel since two hours ago?

“Zoey, I am so sleepy. I think we need to go back home.” Says Sophia, her eyes looks so tired. I did not want her to accompany me, but she followed me all alone.

“I said this to you before. Why are you following me?”

Sophia smiles, “I also said it to you before. This is our big mission together.”

I put on a flat face and say, “Whatever. Just go back home!”

Right after Sophia got angry and wanted to leave me alone, Shania gets out from the hotel. She is not alone. She is with a man, that man looks so mature, probably he is already 30 years old. The point is, what is actually Shania doing there?

Sophia is shocked, she points out Shania and that man over there, that man kisses Shania and gives her a bunch of money, “Oh my god! I don’t believe it!” Says Sophia.

I am shocked too, but I am still thinking, was that Shania that wrote the letter? If it is her, I can understand. She looks so perfect outside, with her visual, her wealth, her lovely parents, but why she did that kind of things? Her life must be

really hard. That is why she is so quiet although she looks so fine outside.

“Shania!”

Right after I screamed her name and ran to her, Shania is shocked and runs away, but I block her way.

“What do you want?!” She screams.

“Hey, calm!” Sophia helps me.

“Shan, I just want to ask you something.”

Shania trembles then she starts to cry. I do not why, but my heart feels so sick to see Shania right now. She totally looks not okay.

“What do you want to ask, Zoey? You want to ask why I did this? Why do you care? No one cares about me, even my parents, they all just cares about how I looks.” She is still crying.

I hug her, “I understand. Life is hard. That is okay not to be okay, Shan.”

Sophia starts to cry too, she cries like a baby, louder than Shania. I hug her too. This night, I totally did I big mission.

“Wait. So, it wasn’t you?! You are not the Black Cat?”

Shania nods, “I even never write a letter to that mailbox. That thing is childish.”

My eyes got bigger when I heard that the Black Cat is not her. She does not write that letter. But, I am so grateful that another person says that the letter thing is childish.

“I was actually shocked when you read that letter. I mean, I did not why, but I could feel that the letter was true, it was all from her or his heart. I can feel it.”

I agree. I know that letter was not just words, it was feelings on there. “We thought that it was you because of this jacket.” I point her jacket.

Shania laughed, “So, you guys followed me until night just because of this black cat’s jacket? You are so funny.”

Shania laughs so hard. All of my classmates see her. She never laughs that hard in front of us, she is too quiet. I and Sophia smile a lot seeing her laugh, we look each other and feel so proud. I think following her yesterday was a destiny. Meanwhile, our big mission is not completed yet. I still have no idea about the Black Cat and today is already the second day, it means if the letter was true, it will happen tomorrow and my mind is totally empty.

Today is the day, and I am so nervous. I still do not know who is the writer of that letter. I totally have no clue. Last night, I could not sleep. I was afraid that the next day, there will be an announcement that one of my classmate die. I can't think about what I do next, and now my hands are sweating.

Today is Saturday, and I do not go to school. I can't observe my classmates today or being detective and following them with Sophia. I am so confused. It is already 1 p.m. and I am still walking around my room and thinking what can I do. Oh, probably I can text Sophia to ask her what can I do. I grab my bag to find my phone, but I can't find my phone. Instead finding my phone, I find a strange letter on my bag.

"What? I never put it here."

The letter is so suspicious. I open it as soon as possible because I have no patience. I am so done with letters these days.

Hi, Zoey. I don't know why God makes you got that letter. I laughed when I know you got my letter. Is that really our destiny? Zoey, I am so sorry, I never being a great best friend for you. You are such a kind and wonderful person. I am so lucky that I met you back then when we were at library. Do you remember? We fought because we wanted to read the same book and we grabbed that book at one time. And what did we do? We tore out that book and got punishment. After that, we were in the same class, I remember you, the girl that I fought at library. I didn't know how and why we were being close each other. And now, you are one and only my precious friend. One of the reasons that I need to survive this world, but I am so sorry I can't

survive. Zoey, It is not your fault. It is my decision. I am so sorry I never share my story to you, but I love you so much. Btw, do you forget the first gift that I gave you two years ago? It was a black cat pen LOL. I LOVE YOU SO MUCH. THANKS FOR ANYTHING. -Sophia

My hands are tremble. I cry out loud and nearly fainted. The Black Cat is Sophia? How can it happen? How can it is Sophia? But all of those questions are not important right now, I need to find her first, make sure that she is okay. God, I do not want to lose her. With remaining energy that I have, I run like a crazy people to her house. I even do not wear slippers. Her house is like five houses from my house, I can reach it in one minutes. As soon I arrive at Sophia's house, I knock the door, more like try to destroy it. No one opens it.

“Sophia! It is me! Please!” I scream out loud, I almost lose all of my energy after read that letter.

“Sophia!!!!”

The door still does not open. I crashed that door but fail. I look at a big stone near me, I grab it, and destroy the door leaf. As soon as the door opens, I run so hard and screaming Sophia's name. The house looks so empty. Things about Sophia that I know are just she lives with her father because of the divorce. Her mom went to another country and left Sophia and her dad two years ago. Her father is so busy, and I and my parents rarely see her parents at the neighborhood. When I asked Sophia one day, she said anything is okay and I just

never ask about her parents again. But what is happen actually?
Is there any secret and pain that Sophia hides from me?

“Sophia!!!”

Right after I broke the Sophia’s room open, I found her fell on the floor. Her wrists are bleeding and her face is so pale. I am directly running to her, crying, holding her body, and screaming, “Sophia, oh my God!”

I grab her phone as soon as possible and call the ambulance. I am still crying. I wake her up, but no answer. God please, I do not want to lose my best friend.

“Here is your drink.”

Sophia takes the drink and smiles. I sit next to her. We are being quiet for about a minute. After that day, I do not know how to react in front of Sophia. By the way, she was safe that day, the ambulance came in eight minutes right after I called it. After the ambulance came, they directly carried Sophia into the ambulance and I was there, never stop crying until we arrived at the hospital.

After many hours, the doctor said she was safe. Fortunately, I found her earlier, so she wasn’t bled. I was so grateful. I did not know if I did not find that letter. I was so stupid that I did not know that that Black Cat is Sophia. I

literally looked for the writer with her for the past two days while the writer is actually in front of me and always with me all the time. And the most important thing is how I did not know that my best friend was hurt? I looked at her wrists at that time when I found her, there were many scars. I was crying looking at it and my heart felt so hurt.

At that time, I called her father, her mother, everyone I knew, but there were no answers. Right after I gave up, Sophia's phone rang, I did not know who it was, I just said that Sophia tried to kill herself, so please came to the hospital. After that, a man came and asked me about Sophia. He introduced himself and said he was not her family, but a psychiatrist. He told me that every weekend Sophia came to psychiatrist, but that day she did not come. He also told me Sophia's stories in general because he needed to keep the patient privacy. He said that, Sophia had several depressions because of the violence from his father. Her mother left a week ago, and her father almost every day tried to do something bad to her. I cried. I did not know at all. She was my neighbor. I am failed. I am really not her best friend.

"Zoey, remember what I said to you on that letter? This wasn't your fault. It was my pure my own decision." Says Sophia.

I know she is looking at me now, but I even can't stare her. I just look at my shoes and sometimes look at the other patient that is walking at this hospital park.

"Hey, look at me."

I finally look at Sophia, right into her eyes. I totally can't hold my tears. Her life must be hard these times. "I can't, I- I am so sorry."

Sophia hugs me. I cry on her back, I hug her tightly, "Please, don't leave me alone. You are one and only my best friend. I am so sorry for anything, for not understanding you, for not being a good friend. Please, don't do that again."

I totally cry this time. She still hugs me and says, "I will never do that again."

"Promise me."

Sophia holds my hands and look into my eyes, "I promise. That man, that you met before is my psychiatrist, his name is Hans, he will adopt me as her child, I will leave at his home tomorrow with his wife and also his daughter."

Sophia looks sad. I know, we will not being a neighbor again, but I will so happy if she is happy, we can still look each other at school. "Hey, we are still classmates. Don't worry." I said.

"I am so sorry for anything, Zoey."

"Hey, it was done. Don't think about it again. So, is our mission completed?"

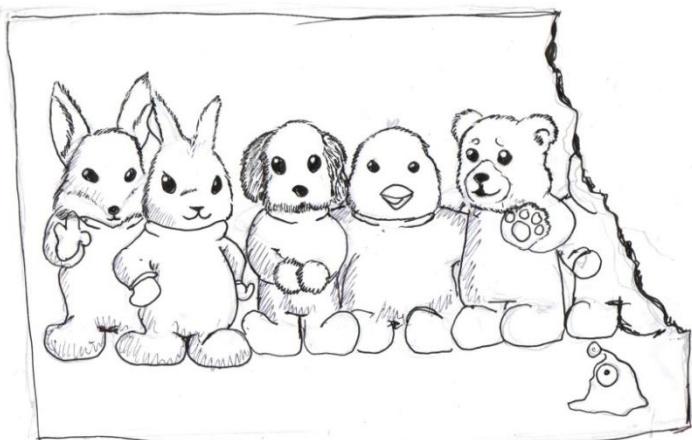
"What?"

"Finding the Black Cat."

Sophia laughs, "Yes, the mission is completed."

Is This Real, Friends?

By Adelia Fridha I.



Once upon a time, on the desert island, there was a little house that was made from wood and stone. There are five best friends who love each other. Their name are Pil, Don, Jje, Bang, and Ke. They are animals. Pil is a rabbit, Don is a puppy, Jje is a little chicken, Bang is a bear, and Ke is a fox. They have different abilities. Every day, they spend time doing their own hobbies. Pil loves reading, Don loves drums, Jje loves playing games, Bang loves football, and Ke loves basketball. If you check their room, every hobbies has different designs.

Pil has a room that is designed a little bit cozy and fantasy, and has a few action characters on it. Don's room is simple, with a drum and miniature decorating his room. The room of Bang, and Ke, have a bit similar design that is unique. The colored is the same as the ball of their hobbies. Ke's room is orange to brownish with a nebulous line on it and Bang's is monochrome or white and black. Last is Jje's room, the smallest one, but it has two floors. Considering that he was really into game, he designed his room and separated it. The first floor for gaming and keeping their game things are safe, and the second floor for his other stuffs. It may be the smallest room but Jje managed it as well.

They are really grateful to have each other even though they often fight. One moment, when Jje was playing his nintendo in the living room, Bang, accidentally spilled a cup of ice water over Jje's head. Bang apologized, but Jje was really mad because it damaged his favorite Nintendo. It moldered and couldn't be used anymore. Without saying any words, Jje went to his room and did not come out for three days. Don, Pil, and Ke worried that Jje would faint or sick because he did not even eat. Meanwhile, in the other room, Bang still felt sorry for breaking Jje's favorite Nintendo. He struggled to fix it but nothing changed. The Nintendo still has ants on its screen. While holding Jje's broken Nintendo, Bang stressed out and decided to fix it again. Bang is the oldest of five best friends. He also has the power to fix anything, but it cannot be used if he was freaking out. So, Bang tried to relax and started to fix it.

Not long after that, Bang succeeded and went to Jje's room. While Don, Pil, and Ke persuaded Jje to come out to eat something, Bang was coming. Don, Ke, and Pil step aside to let Bang talk to Jje, he knocks Jje's door and with his low voice he said "Hey,"

Jje cut Bang's word "Go away!" he answers angrily.

"Jje.. I'm sorry for breaking your favorite Nintendo, you know I did not mind. Really. I have done fix your nintendo, please come out and check it," said Bang.

But there was no answer from Jje. Bang was really disappointed and said, "Hm, okay. I will put this here. Check it out when you want to. I'm sorry."

He left Jje's room and went outside. Two hours later, Jje came out to check his Nintendo. It was perfectly fixed, like new. Jje feels guilty about Bang, he thinks, "What should I do? I made a mistake, should I make a cake for Bang?" he said. Jje is the perfect chef of the five friends.

He then decides to make Bang his favorite cake. When he is almost done, he feels dizzy and faint. Don, who hears the sound of broken plates in the kitchen, immediately approaches Jje.

He is shocked, "Guys! Jje fainted!" he shouted from the kitchen.

Everyone comes over Don and Jje, and they elevate Jje into his room. They are shocked because his room is really messy.

“What kind of war happened here?” said Pil, Bang and Ke put Jje on the bed, while Don and Pil helped Jje to clean his room.

After thirty minutes, Jje woke up, “W-what happened? W- Why am I... here?” said him, with his weak voices.

Bang smiled and said, “It’s okay, you are just tired.”

“Take your time dude, you are still not strong enough.” said Ke and gives him his favorite Nintendo.

Pil and Don in the kitchen is finishing Jje’s cake, luckily it was just baked.

“Huft! How lucky we are! We don’t have to bother thinking about the dough,” said Don.

“Still.. It was difficult then I thought,” said Pil, rubbing his head.

“Stupid! We just need to take it into the oven and wait, dude!”

With Don’s rolling eyes “Nothing can you do, just read and read!” said Don, jokes face.

“Say it again, huh!” Pil glares.

“Nyenyenyeee!” Don replies with his duck face and they laughs together.

At Jje’s room, Bang and Ke are still waiting for Jje. After that, Ke leaves Bang and Jje alone, he lets them talk. When Ke leaves them in the kitchen, Jje starts the conversation.

"I'm sorry Bang.." said Jje, struggling to sit in the corner of his bed.

"It's okay, I know you're just frustrated because your favorite game was broken." said Bang, pat his shoulder.

"Thank you for fixing it, I'm really pleased!" said Jje and hugs Bang.

Ke, Don, and Pil come in and look at that phenomena, "Wait? What?!" said Ke.

"What's wrong? What did I've missed?" said Pil.

Meanwhile, Don comes near to Jje and Bang then starts to hug them and says, "Hug, hug, hug, hug!!!"

A few days later, Ke and Don were surfing with their made board. When they started playing with the sea waves, they found a baby whale in the corner of the sea.

"Hey! Look at that!" said Ke, pointed at the baby whale.

"What is that? A baby?" Don rub his head.

"Yeah! It's so cute, isn't it?" Ke put the baby whale in the coconut skin,

"Ughh cutie cutie," he said, putting his hand into the water.

"Stop it, you make the baby dizzy!" said Don.

"Why not let it be free? Its father and mother might be looking for her." Ke answer Don.

"What? Her? Why can you decide on a female or male!? and let me take care of the baby." He smiled at the baby.

Don did not think it was a good idea, he thought of how to release it. At the same time when Ke left it on the board, Don took it quickly and ran into the sea. Ke released, "HEY! TAKE IT BACK!" he shouted. Don ran as fast as he could, but Ke was faster than him because Ke likes basketball, his ability is running fast.

Ke and Don staring at each other. Ke with his angry faces, and Don looked at him like he was talking, "Come on, dude!"

Ke has no clue why is Don wanted to set the baby whale free. "Why?! I told you, right?!" said Ke out loud.

He snatched the baby whale from Don's hand. "LET ME TAKE CARE OF IT!" said Ke angrily, Don sighed and left him.

Ke was confused, because when Don does not say anything, it means he is upset.

"What's wrong with him? Why is he angry? Weird though," talked with the baby whale.

The sun slowly began to set, but Ke was not back yet. The others at home worried that Ke was lost. Don was do not care, he puts the headphone on and listens to the drum's sound. Meanwhile, Ke is still at the corner of the sea and ponder why Don was upset at him. Should Ke set the baby whale free or take care of it? He thought about the reason why.

At the same time, Pil appeared and sat beside him. Ke asked him immediately, “Pil, why can I take care of this baby?”

Pil sighed and smiled, “Don just wanted it to get bigger and bother everyone. You know, it is a baby whale, and you know how much bigger it could grow.” He embraced him.

Ke saw the baby whale and said “It’s true, you will get bigger and I can’t take you everywhere with this coconut skin anymore,” said Ke sadly.

The baby whale was silent, like he understood Ke’s words. Ke poured the baby whale into the sea slowly, and it disappeared in an instant.

Pil tapped Ke’s shoulder “Good choice, Ke,” said him.

Then Ke and Pil went back home. When they arrived, Bang and Jje asked Ke where he had been. Ke answered and left them. Bang and Jje are confused but Pil tells the story.

When the story time came, there was only Pil, Ke, and Bang who shared the story. This is one of their habits. It starts at six p. m till the end, after they finished, Don came out of his room. He asked them, “Did Ke go back?”

The others nod and Bang said, “Do to Ke’s room, he is there.”

Not taking long thought, he went to Ke’s room and knocked. “Get in.”

Don entered slowly, and said, “Did you set the baby whale free?” he sit on Ke’s basketball sofa.

Ke is still sad, but he said cheerfully “Ofc! I did it! I’m superb right!?”

Don chuckled, “It’s okay, you will find another pet that is right for you.” with his thumbs up, Ke nods and they talked to each other until they were sleepy.

Jje peek at them and said, “Oh they just need time to understand each other's words, huh?”

Then Bang appeared on his back “Yeah, and why you are here?” he whispered on Jje’s ears.

Jje was shocked and fell from the box under his feet.

Bang laughed, “Haha! just go to your room and take a nap dude.”

Jje stare at Bang, “Hm hm hm hm” with cynicly.

Several months passed, they passed it together with joy and sadness. They have always done the same thing for a long time. Until Pil starts dreaming about something stranger in consecutive times. Starting with him, meeting his favorite character in the comics until he finds something strange in his dream. As usual, their habit tells a story to each other.

Strangely, when Pil already told his story, the others responded like they were dreaming the same as Pil’s. Jje tells that he was dreaming about they adventure at the space, Don was dreaming about meet an alien, Bang was dreaming about he getting much bigger and powerful at the space, and Ke was dreaming about an amoeba that live at the space. Meanwhile,

Pil was dreaming all of that. The dreams of Bang, Ke, Don, and Jje were combined. It was complicated, because the plot is not ordinary and not sort. They do not know what the meaning of the dream is.

The sun goes down, they gather in the living room to do their habits. They have been telling about the same story for a few days. The dream does not change, just the time that changes. Sometimes it happens in the morning, and sometimes in the evening. They felt weird about this dream.

"It feels real. So real.REAL!" said Ke with his eyes wide open.

Bang think seriously, "It's like something's gonna happen in the future," said Bang.

Jje answered "like, something bad!?" Jje and Ke stare and then hug each other.

"It's creepy!" said Ke.

"It's even more creepy seeing you two hug like that," said Don.

Ke and Jje noticed and pushed each other, "Ewh!" said both of them. Bang and Don chuckled.

On the other hand, Pil is thinking really seriously about it. He put his hand on his chin. Don, Bang, Ke, and Jje stop joking and follow Pil to think. The atmosphere changed, everything became so quiet. Only the sound of crickets was heard.

A few moments later, Jje and Ke fell asleep on each other's backs. Bang and Don are still thinking with Pil but not as serious as him. Pill still the same, he does not change his position. Bang and Don stare at each other and communicate by gesture, with their expressions. "until when do we have to be like this?" said Don with his frowning faces. Bang just answered it and raised his shoulder. The clock shows itself at about 10 o'clock and they are still in the living room.

When Don almost fell asleep, "I had an idea!" said Pil with a slightly loud voice.

He surprised Don and woke Jje and Ke up.

Pil grin. "What is that?" said Bang, closer to his faces into Pil.

Ke, Don, and Jje were ready to listen. "How about we combine our dreams?" said Pil, Ke and Jje tilted their heads.

Don said, "What do you mean?"

Bang clarify and said, "You mean that we sleep together to get a real story in our dream?"

Pil pointing Bang and give thumbs up. "Okay! Let's go to sleep!" said Ke and Jje with spirit.

They go to their rooms to get some pillows and stuff they need for sleep. Then they gather in the living room again. Before they go to sleep for a long time, they should eat and drink.

"What if we can't do it?" Ke said, drinking his water.

"At least we tried," said Pil. Bang, Jje, and Don nodded.

After a few minutes they had a chit chat, they decided to start the dream. They sleep holding hands. At 12 p.m. they were asleep. They slept so well. In another world, the dream world, they met.

"Where are we?" said Ke, staring around.

"Are we... dying?!?" said Jje with worried faces.

Bang embraced him. "Nope, still. We are in a dream world," said Bang.

It is such a big world, with stars around them. They are in the outer space, with a hose strapped to their bodies and a large object. It is a spaceship. They go to that big object and enter it.

"It's wonderful!" said Don with his wide eyes open.

Jje and Ke nodding. Bang and Pil looked around and checked what was in there. Both of them learn the buttons there. Pil is the smartest one, he is quick to learn about something. That is because he likes to read mystery things, especially comics. Also he likes a game that makes his brain full of tactics. So, he drives the spaceship as a pilot with Don as his co-pilot.

They are starting to circle outer space, and visit the planets they encounter. One of the planets they have come to and they are most interesting to find is the bublala planet. They are named as bublala because there are a lot of bubbles.

Everything was bubbling, the trees, stones, and fruits. They tasted the fruit, and it was really soft. Like not chewing on anything. Jje, Don, and Ke loved it. They brought some for the trip.

“Don! Take the bag on the spaceship! All of the bags we have!” Ke shouted

“Eye eye captain!” Don run to their spaceship and bring three bags.

Meanwhile, Bang and Pil were seeking things that could help them to survive. They love that place, because everything there is really soft and comfortable. It makes them stay a little bit longer on the bublala planet.

They always visit and stay on the new planet to survive and have fun. They do not forget about their habits. Strangely, every planet is inhabited. It makes them curious, why they did not find living things for a few months they had explored the outer space. Until they found a small planet they had never found before. It is sky blue with some purple accents around it.

“Look at that beautiful colour!” said Pil, he pointed to the planet.

Jje, Ke, and Bang fall in love with it, they cannot take their eyes over. While Pil and Don parked their spaceship, Jje, Ke, and Bang looked out the window and screamed, “There is an alien!” Many aliens gathered around their spaceship. Bang got off the spaceship and the others behind him.

"He..hello?" said Bang, waved his hand, nobody answered.

They look at each other, confused.

Then one of the aliens said, "Who are you? Are you an alien?" Don and Ke stare at each other, frowning.

"No, we aren't. Are you?" said Pil, be careful.

After that, the alien got back to his group and discussed something. Bang, Ke, Jje, Pil, and Don confused, the atmosphere is strange.

After a few minutes, the aliens came near to them again. "No, we aren't aliens. We are the Gugu tribe who live on this Guglo planet." They nodded, and he continued his speech.

"I'm Bobo, chief of the Gugu tribe and this is my daughter, Bom." Bom appears from behind his father. Jje, Bang, Ke, and Don waved their hands and said "Hi." Whereas Pil just stays still like a statue. He was stunned because of Bom's beauty. She looks like his favorite character. It really looks like it.

Pil still can not believe what he sees now, he is still quiet and Jje notices. Jje smack Pil's back, "Awake!" Pil was startled and stared at Jje.

"What are you thinking about huh?!" said Jje, whispered in Pil's ear.

Pil just stared at him then stared at Bom again. After introducing themselves to the tribe, they go looking around the

planet. Bom as a guide, and they followed her. Bang and Don were exactly behind her, and Ke, Jje, and Pil were behind Bang and Don.

"Sst, she is pretty, right?" said Ke to Pil and Jje.

Jje opens his eyes widely and shows both of his thumbs up. Pil was still quiet, then Ke and Jje stared at him. They stare at each other and start communicating with gestures.

"What's wrong with him?" said Ke, pointing at Pil and making some gestures. Jje pointed to Pil, then made a love shape before he pointed at Bom. Ke's eyes wide opened and nodded. They laugh together silently. Make Bom, Bang, and Don look at them and tilt their heads. Jje and Ke make a v-posed, meanwhile Pil is confused and his face turns red. Jje and Ke noticed and tried to cover it.

After they were looking around, Bom and her pet left them on their spaceship. The five best friends gathered to do their habits. The spaceship is set in invisible mode. As usual, those who had a story must tell it to others. Jje and Ke opened the story, they told Bang and Don about what happened to Pil. Pil did not want to share this, but Jje and Ke did. After they told the story, Don laughed out loud whereas Bang just smiled and shook his head. Pil embarrassed, he left them and went outside.

Suddenly, he met Bom in front of her house. He braced up and talked to her.

"Hey, hello," said Pil, pretending to be cool.

Bom stared at him, "Oh hi. Why are you here?" said Bom while rubbing pyu.

"Yeah..just, getting some air." He opened his hand like he wanted to fly.

Bom chuckled, "You're such a cute guy. Let's be friends!" said Bom, smiling completely. Pil was extremely happy to hear those words from Bom.

He could not hold his smile and said, "Of course! Let's go befriend!" offered his hand. Bom took his offer and shook his hand.

They became friends after that. Pil engaged Bom to his spaceship. When they arrived, "wait here, I'll talk to my best friends," said Pil to Bom and left her outside. Bom nodded, Pil entered and talked to the others. He might be cool in front of Bom and run happily after Bom can not see him.

"Hey guys guys!" said Pil, fully tired.

"Whoa, calm down dude. What happened?" said Ke, make a gesture inhale exhale.

"Bom!!is outside, and she wants to look around this spaceship! I'm really happy we became friends!!" said Pil, he is really excited.

"Wait? What? This spaceship looks like a broken Titanic!" Said Jje panic.

Don stand up from where he sits and said, "it's okay, you guys have me," said Don, pointing to himself.

The others stare at him and give him thumbs up, "yeah! ofc! You must clean up all of this!" said Ke, stroked Don's hair and smiled.

"How about you guys?" said Don.

"We will help you," said Jje, touched Don's back.

Don smiled, "Thank-" Jje cut Don's words.

"With... invocation." He put his hand together to make a praying pose and laugh with Bang, Ke, and also Pil. After that, they left Don to clean up their spaceship. This is an ability of Don, he can clean up everything quickly.

The others come outside to welcome Bom and Pyu.

"Hello!" said Jje, waves his hands.

Bom smiled, "Hello Jje."

Jje came over to Bom, "Can I carry Pyu?" Asked Jje.

"Oh... Of course, but be careful, she is not used to being carried by others." Said Bom.

"Give him pyu!"

"Woah, it is smaller than I thought," said Jje carrying Pyu.

Bom chuckled and said, "also, she is really soft haha."

"That's right! It feels like touching a jelly." Jje tilted his head, doubtful.

Bom nodded, "but more soft right, because she is an amoeba."

Jje started, his eye wide open, "can't believe, now I touch amoeba!" said Jje in his mind.

Bang, Pil, and Ke let Bom enter their spaceship. She could not stop opening her mouth because she was amazed. Before Bom arrived at the main rooms, Don had already cleaned up everything.

He put his hand in front of his stomach and bow, "Welcome to our spaceship, princess Bom."

Bom laughed, she embraced. "Haha what did you do, Don! It's shame!" said Bom, covering her face. Don laughed and sat in the chair there. The others sit too, and also Bom. They had some chit chat comfortably, laugh, and tease each other. They have become closer than before. Pyu also loves them and often plays with them.

A few weeks later, they are getting used to each other. The five best friends feel at home there. Meanwhile, Bom is really close to Pil, because he is humble, soft and quite ignorant. She tells him anything, even about her family. Someday, the planet has a crisis. They can not eat well and attack with diseases. The chief of the Gugu tribes thought about the solution. He blames the five best friends because they eat the food that is on Guglo planet too. They do not know about this, also Bom is not told Pil about what happened.

Gugu, father of Bom, attached a strategy to solve it. The worst thing that the five best friends never know is that the tribe of Guglo planet is a cannibal. They eat the weakest person on their tribes or even family when the crisis comes. The five best friends did not notice it, because until now they are just finding and happy as they are. Gugu called and told Bom to trapped them.

Bom started with what her father said, "for what, father?" said Bom.

"We need food, you know we are in a crisis now. We need to survive," said Gugu strictly.

Bom was silent for a moment and said, "okay, I'll try."

Gugu smiled. "You are always my lovely daughter." said him, stroked Bom's hair.

She went to meet the five best friends. She was thinking about the way to set them free. Yeah, she lied to her father. Unexpectedly, Bom, who has always listened to her father, rejected it. She had to do it because she was in love with Don. The cool guy with a humble, and little bit humorous personality, she knows that Pil likes her but she thinks that Pil is just suitable to be friends, not more. When she arrived at the spaceships, they were doing their habits.

"Oh , I'm sorry for bothering you guys." Said Bom, stopped at once.

"It's okay," said Don, briefly.

Pil stood up and said, "Why are you here?" Bom stared at him, she gestured her eyes like she wanted to talk to him.

Pil and Bom left the others to talk, "You guys need to go. Now." Said Bom.

Pil was confused and asked her why, but Bom did not tell him. "But before you guys go, I want to tell you something." Said Bom, seriously.

Pil became awkward, he thought that Bom would confuse her feelings for him.

Before that, "wait, let me tell you first!" said Pil, Bom listening.

"Actually, I... mmm." he put his hand together and continued his speech.

"I like you. From the first time we had met," said Pil, he stared at Bom with his puppy's lovely eyes.

Bom is not surprised, and it makes Pil confused.

He started to worry, his heart was hurt even though Bom was not answered yet. Bom stared at Pil and said "I know, you're a nice guy. I like you too, but as a friend, not more."

He already thought about what she would say, it is more like his comic which there is a character that is similar to Bom.

"We're friends okay?" said Bom.

Pil stared back at her and said, "ah yes ofc! We're friends!" forced his smile.

"Haha okay listen. Now, you need to persuade your friends to leave this planet. You guys are not safe here," said Bom.

Now she is really serious with her words. "But why? We are comfortable here," said Pil, he still does not understand the situation.

Bom takes a deep inhale and exhale, "you guys in danger! Please, go!" Bom shouted and made the other come near them.

"What happened? What did you say?" said Bang.

Jje connects Bang's words, "leave?" Ke said "did you repel us?"

While Don just listen to them. Pil said, "She said we're in danger, so we must go."

The others frowned, Bom closed her eyes for a second and said, "please, just listen to me. You guys are in danger! I don't want you guys to die." She was shaking, "Why did we die?" said Don without feeling guilty.

Bom stared at him and said, "because of us! You guys gonna be our meal!" tears flowed, she could not stand it.

She approached Don, "please, listen to me. I don't want you guys to hurt, especially you, Don." She can not handle her tears, it just keeps flowing.

Don stare at Pil. Pil could not believe what he had seen. Jje and Ke, who noticed it, came approach Pil and touched his back.

Pil smiled, "it's okay." He whispered.

"Wait, so.. You and your tribe are cannibal?" Said Bang, clarify. Bom turned around and nodded. They were startled and afraid, but Bom explained it directly.

They understand, "So why do you're set us free?" Said Jje, curious.

"I've told you, I don't want you guys to die. You guys, my first friend and you are my first love." She took Don's hand when she said "first love". Said Bom, bravely. She is a brave and soft woman. Pil more and more get hurt listening to that sentence, feels like he was stabbed by arrows many times.

Meanwhile, Don just stand still and not say anything. Before Bom wanted to hug him, "but I don't like you. Sorry." Said Don, put Bom's hands away.

Don approached his best friends and tapped Pil's shoulder. Bom was shocked, she wiped her tears and said, "okay. You guys must go away from here, now! Or I'll kill you guys with my own hands!!" shouted her. She became like that because she was rejected by her first love. She was really hurt, but angry at the same time. She felt mixed feelings, wanted to cry but could not, wanted to kill them but actually she could not.

After they were threatened by Bom, they took a few steps back but not with Pil. He stands still in his position.

"What are you doing!? You want to be killed, huh?" Said Bom, took out the knife from her waist which she always carried.

Pil took a few steps forward, "Pil!! Be careful!" said Ke and Jje together.

Pil nodded, "Hey, I know you won't do that. We're friends, remember?" said Pil, his hand in front of his chest now.

Bom moved, she thought about what happened recently. She lifted the knife and aimed it at Pil.

Pil stopped, "I know you just hurt because your first love did not receive your confession, but you don't have to be like this, please."

Bom lowered the knife, Pil approached her to calm her down. When he wanted to touch her, she stabbed him and then ran outside.

The other was very surprised and came to Pil, "PIL!!!" said them simultaneously.

Whereas Pil stared at Bom's back slowly moving away, "B..o..m.." he groaned.

He can see how much she felt sorry. He knew Bom did not mean to do it. He knew it just by looking at her weak back, and he knew she was crying.

At the same time, they woke up from their dream. Bang, Don, Jje and Ke checked Pil immediately.

"Are you okay" said Bang.

"Does it hurt?" said Ke.

Jje smack him and said, "Where does it hurt?" Pil looked at them sadly.

"Why? Does it hurt now? even when the wound isn't here?" said Don.

Pil smiled, "I'm okay, just a little bit hurt. It will disappear in a moment."

The others were relieved, but a few minutes later, Pil got up quickly and ran outside. The others are confused and follow him.

"What are you doing!?" said Bang, worried.

"I must look for Bom!" said Pil.

"Come on!!" said Ke, stopped Pil.

"Don't be crazy because of her!" said Don, seriously.

Pil stared at them and said, "I just wanna know if she really exists or not, come on guys..help me.." said Pil, weakly.

Bang, Don, Jje, and Ke agreed with him and followed his instructions. They enjoyed making the spaceship because they were together.

"Hey! Where is the steering wheel that we've got from the thrift store!?" said Bang, shouted from their workshop. On

the other side, Don, Ke, and Jje played a role. They imagined that they were shooting for film Mr. and Mrs. Smith.

"Actually, I've been married before." said Don to Ke with the deep voice that he made.

When Ke wanted to continue his act, the steering wheel was seized by Pil. He glared at them for a second and left. Ke, Don, and Jje just stood still until Pil disappeared, then they laughed out loud. In fact, the ones who worked the most were Pil and Bang. The other also helped, but they played a lot and even slept when they were doing something.

A few months have passed, and their spaceship has already finished at about 98%. The last thing that must be on their spaceship was a logo. They made a logo to recognize that the spaceship was their own. They put the logo in front of their body and also the picture of them. Pil was touched by what he and his friends had accomplished.

"Thank you very much, guys," said Pil, teary-eyed.

Don, Ke, and Jje came near to him. "It's okay bro, no prob!"

Jje and Ke tapping Pil's back and shoulder while Don thumbs his up. "We did it together, and we threw it! We made it!" Said Bang with happiness. Then they hugged each other like teletubbies.

They were prepared to go to space. "Ah, what should I wear!? Should I wear a tuxedo?" said Pil.

The other just answered with flat faces. Pil was busy with himself because he wanted to be good at first sight. The others were annoyed with Pil. Then Don and Bang were dragging his hand while Jje and Ke were pushing his back.

"Waiitt!! I'm not ready yet!!!" said Pil, trying to get away.

"No no, you are ready. More ready than before!" said Bang, and took Pil into his seat. When they were set up on their seats, Pil and Don drove the spaceship. Same as the dream, everything has not changed. Even planets are the same, they were amazed, so did Pil. He was really happy and impatient to meet Bom.

After a few hours, they were surrounded by space. Finally, they found the planet which looked like Bom's planet. When they got closer, they were confused.

"Wait.. Is this right? Why was the colour black? Not blue and purple?" said Jje.

"The purple and blue colour was disappeared...." added Ke.

They were puzzled and had no clue about this. When they landed, they were shocked by the whole city being completely destroyed. They look around to find out if anything is left. Pil, the saddest one when he saw the planet was destroyed.

He walked into the place where the house of Bom was located. There were still a few furniture that were not so

damaged, and even the first place they met. Pil's heart was hurt, he almost cried remembering the moments they spent together.

Then, "guys! Look at this!" Don found something that makes them amazed.

Pil, Ke, Jje, and Bang approach him, "Is this our picture?" said Don, show them the photo.

They analyze the photo, "That's right! It's me! It's me!!" Said Jje, pointing at the photo.

"But.. Who is this? It burned." Said Ke. Then Pil answered with his sad voice.

"It was Bom, look, it is Pyu, right?" He smiled.

The others said, and Don asked Pil, "Are you okay?" tap his back.

Pil nodded, "I'm okay. I'm happy. At least I know she really did exist in this world." said Pil, get into the spaceship. The others who left behind looked at each other before they followed Pil to get into the spaceship.

Kala

By Janitra Fullaroa S.

Erlang tidak bisa pulang ke rumah, ia terjebak di halte bus yang berada satu blok dari rumahnya. Hujan yang sangat deras tidak memungkinkan baginya untuk menerobos, pun ia tidak mau besok mengalami penyakit yang akan membuatnya tidak bisa mencicipi rasa masakan ibunda tercintanya. Memikirkan dirinya tidak bisa merasakan masakan milik ibunda tercintanya saja sudah membuatnya bergidik ngeri. Jam sudah menunjukkan pukul empat sore, dan tidak ada tanda-tanda dari langit untuk berhenti menangis. Erlang menghela napasnya berat. Seragam yang ia kenakan sudah lembab, bahkan bagian kaki dan lengannya sudah sangat basah. Jaket yang ia kenakan ternyata tidak bisa menghalau air hujan yang turun dengan lebatnya tanpa merasa bersalah.

Erlang mulai jenuh, ia mengedarkan pandangnya berharap ada sesuatu yang bisa menghilangkan kejemuhaninya. Dahinya mengerut dan matanya memicing, sepertinya ia

melihat sesuatu yang mencurigakan. Berwarna kuning dan besar sedang berlari-lari di sekitar taman dekat halte tempatnya berteduh. sesekali benda berwarna kuning itu berhenti lalu berjongkok, beberapa menit kemudian ia berdiri lagi dan menengadahkan kepalanya ke atas seakan menantang sang langit untuk mengguyurkan lebih banyak air lagi untuknya. Ah, benda kuning itu seorang gadis, mengenakan jas hujan berwarna kuning dengan tudung bergambar bebek yang menggemaskan. Berapa lama Erlang mengamati gadis tersebut? tak terasa hujan deras sudah berganti menjadi rintik-rintik. Erlangtersadar dan segera berlari kerumahnya sebelum hari semakin gelap dan hujan kembali datang.

ooo

Tolong ingatkan Erlang untuk membawa payung karena musim hujan sudah tiba. Erlang melirik arloji ditangannya. Pukul setengah empat sore. Lagi-lagi ia terjebak karena melupakan payung yang sudah disiapkan oleh ibunya. Erlang melihat sekelilingnya dan menemukan gadis kuning, nama panggilan yang dibuat Erlang, sedang berdiri di dekat halte menatap kosong hujan. Erlang memperhatikan gadis itu dalam diam hingga tidak sadar gadis tersebut melihat kearahnya.

“Jeje” ucapan gadis memakai jas hujan kuning tersebut sambil mengulurkan tangannya. Erlang mengerjapkan matanya dan memandang bingung gadis kuning tersebut.

“Jeje” ucapnya lagi sambil tetap mengulurkan tangannya. Erlang menunjukkan jari telunjuknya ke dirinya sendiri. Dahinya mengkerut dan alisnya menyatu.

“Saya?” jari telunjuk Erlang tepat didepan wajahnya “Saya bukan Jeje” untuk pertama kalinya Erlang bersuara, dahinya makin berkerut dalam. Gadis itu tertawa kecil, matanya membentuk bulan sabit dan pipinya mengembang sempurna dengan hidung merah menandakan ia kedinginan.

“Iya aku tau kamu bukan Jeje, kalau kamu Jeje nanti nama kita sama dong?”

Erlang merasakan hangat di kedua pipinya. Bodoh sekali dia, pikirnya. Erlang yakin pipinya sudah memerah sempurna, bahkan mungkin warna merahnya sudah menjalar sampai telinganya.

“O-oh itu, saya Erlang” Erlangpun menjabat tangan gadis itu. Dapat ia rasakan kerutan di jari-jari milik gadis kuning – atau mungkin sekarang berubah menjadi teman kuningnya – dan rasa dingin yang menandakan berapa lama ia berada di bawah guyuran hujan.

Jeje tersenyum kecil, ia menunjuk kearah langit “sudah mulai reda. Pulang ? ” tanyanya.

“Ah iya, saya pulang dulu. Selamat sore” Erlang berlari melintasi rintik-rintik hujan dengan Jeje yang melambaikan tangan kearahnya.

ooo

Hari ini Erlang tidak lupa membawa payung, tetapi sialnya ia salah membawa payung. Payung yang ia bawa sudah rusak dan banyak bolongan-bolongan tersembunyi akibat dimakan tikus. Erlang menghela napasnya berat. Ia sudah

berjanji pada ibunya untuk membantu memasak makan malam, karena hari ini adalah ulang tahun ibunya. Bahkan ia sudah menolak ajakan teman-temannya untuk bermain setelah pulang sekolah. Apa mau dikata, hari ini hujan datang lebih awal dan sialnya ia salah membawa payung. Erlang melirik arlojinya. Masih pukul dua tetapi hujan sudah mengguyur dengan derasnya. Erlang mendudukkan dirinya di bangku yang tersedia di halte sambil berharap hujan segera selesai. Ia merasakan seseorang yang mungkin basah karena Erlang dapat merasakan cipratannya, duduk di samping dirinya. Erlang tidak takut, sungguh. Hanya mungkin sedikit terkejut? ia menegakkan posisi duduknya dan tidak menghiraukan orang disampingnya.



“Em... Erlang?” Erlang terlonjak kaget dan menghadap kearah sumber suara. Jeje – teman kuningnya – yang memanggil, sampai takut leher Erlang akan sakit karena terlalu cepat memutar menghadap kearahnya. Ekspresi Erlang yang sangat lucu membuat Jeje tertawa pelan.

“Saya kira yang duduk di samping saya orang jahat” ucapan Erlang setelah dapat menetralisir jantungnya yang berdegup kencang karena kaget.

“Emang ada orang jahat secantik aku?” Jeje terkekeh lucu sambil menunjuk dirinya.

Erlang memutar matanya, dan mendengus keras. “ternyata kamu percaya diri sekali ya ? saya kirakamu orangnya pendiam” ujarnya.

“Kan kamu belum tahu aku? Kok sudah menilai?” Jeje mengerucutkan bibirnya, alisnya menyatu tanda ia marah. Erlang yang melihatnya tidak dapat menahan diri untuk tertawa karena jika dilihat-lihat kembali gadis ini sangat lucu, hidung kecilnya yang merah, mata bulat besar yang memicing, bibir yang mengerucut, pipi bulat yang ingin sekali ia cubit, dan jangan lupakan jas hujan kuning dengan tudung bebek yang ia kenakan. Seperti anak kecil.

“Jangan ketawa dong! Akukanga lagi ngelawak.” Ujar gadis itu kesal.

“Maaf maaf, habis kamu kayak anak kecil. Pakai jas hujan anak TK lagi, mana ada orang main hujan tapi pakai jas

hujan. Udah persis anak kecil.” Ucap Erlang sambil berusaha untuk berhenti tertawa.

“Ini tu bukan jas hujan anak kecil ! aku beli jas hujan dewasa tau, cuma aku cari yang imut biar modis, paham fashionga? Lagian kamu juga bawa payung tapi ga dipakai kenapa coba?”

Terkekeh Erlang menjawab “salah ambil, saya ambil yang sudah rusakhehehe. Bodoh ya saya?” Jeje tertawa mendengar jawaban Erlang.

Hari itu, Erlang tertawa, bercengkrama, dan mengganggu teman kuningnya dengan hujan sebagai saksinya.

ooo

Esoknya Erlang tidak lupa akan payungnya, dan payung yang ia pilih juga tidak salah. Sebelum berangkat tadi ia sudah memeriksanya terlebih dahulu. Hujan tetap turun seperti biasanya. Sampai di halte dekat rumahnya, ia dapat melihat gadis memakai jas hujan kuning, teman kuning barunya, menunggu di area luar halte.

Erlang berjalan kearah Jeje dengan cepat “Nungguin saya?” tanya Erlang.

“Engga. Jangan sok tau ya kamu” jawab Jeje sedikit berteriak. Erlang tertawa ketika melihat pipi Jeje memerah malu.

“Gausah bohong. Itu pipinya merah” kata Erlang sambil menunjuk pipi Jeje

“Engga. Ini karena kedinginan aja. Emang ternyata kamu lebih percaya diri ya daripada aku” bantah Jeje, Ia menelungkupkan tangannya di sekitar pipi. Berusaha agar Erlang tidak melihat kearah pipinya.

“Iya deh, saya percaya” kata Erlang sambil tersenyum, matanya membentuk bulan sabit. Jeje yang melihat itu terpesona hingga lupa untuk berkedip. Erlang melambaikan tangannya di depan wajah Jeje. “Halo?” sapanya. Jeje mengedipkan matanya dengan cepat. Ia melihat ke arah tangan kanan Erlang yang menggenggam payung. Erlang melihat arah pandang Jeje dan berkata “Hari ini saya tidak salah membawa payung” ucapnya sambil menggerakkan payung yang ada di dalam genggamannya. Hening sesaat diantara mereka berdua.

“Kalau gitu, sampai jumpa” ucap Jeje memecahkan kesunyian diantara mereka berdua. Ucapan itu terdengar lesu ditelinga Erlang.

“Ya, sampai jumpa” dan kata terakhir Erlang hari itu untuk Jeje.

ooo

Hari ini Erlang pulang lebih cepat. Hujan seperti biasa mengguyur kota dengan lebatnya. Erlang tidak melupakan payungnya, tidak juga salah mengambil payung, Ia hanya sengaja tidak membawa payung yang sudah disiapkan ibunya. Erlang tetap duduk tenang di halte memainkan sepatunya. Ia memutuskan untuk menunggu teman kuningnya. Menunggu Jeje untuk datang. Ucapan Jeje yang terdengar lesu membuat ia memikirkan teman kuningnya itu semalam. Beberapa menit

setelahnya, Jeje datang dengan pakaian khasnya, dan Erlang yang menyadari itu tersenyum lebar. Dimulai dari sore itu, hingga sore-sore selanjutnya mereka berdua memasukkan bercengkrama bersama sebagai agenda rutinitas mereka setiap sore. Mereka semakin dekat, bertukar nomor, alamat, Erlang menceritakan hari-harinya di sekolah bahkan iamenceritakan cerita lucu yang ia alami saat di kelas. Tetapi tidak pada hari itu, Erlang ingat pada hari Selasa langit sangatlah mendung. Ia menunggu selama tiga jam dan teman kuningnya tidak muncul juga.

ooo

Lima hari kemudian, hujan tetap sama mengguyur kota. Erlang dengan rutinitas yang sama menunggu teman kuningnya di halte. Berharap hari ini temannya itu datang dengan jas hujan bebeknya.

“Erlang!” seseorang berteriak, Erlangmenengok kearah sumber suara itu. Senyuman Erlang merekah menampilkan bulan sabit yang memikat. Teman yang ia tunggu akhirnya datang.

“Jeje, kamu darimana saja?” tanya Erlang setelah Jeje mendekat. Ada sebersit nada khawatir pada suaranya.

“Ga darimana-man” jawab Jeje, pipinya memerah lucu. Erlang memperhatikan dengan saksama wajah Jeje. Ada yang berbeda dari temannya. “Bibirmu, pucat” Erlang melihat kilatan keterkejutan sesaat di mata temannya.

“Mau hujan-hujanan sama aku ga? Ayo. Besok kan hari minggu” pinta Jeje sambil menggoyangkan tangan Erlang.

Erlang mengernyitkan dahinya sesaat “Kamu, baru datang sudah minta main hujan?” tanyanya bingung.

Jeje mengangguk antusias “Ayo! Kamu kan belum pernah hujan-hujanan. Seru tahu” bujuk Jeje. Erlang berpikir beberapa saat, dahinya mengkerut dalam. “oke, tapi jangan lama-lama ya”

Sore itu Erlang dan Jeje berlari-larian di tengah hujan. Bermain di taman dekat halte, berteriak sekuat-kuatnya, dan menengadahkan kepalanya menantang sang langit. Semua mereka lakukan hingga Jeje jatuh pingsan tepat di samping Erlang. Erlang yang kaget segera menelepon ambulance dan segera membawanya ke rumah sakit terdekat.

Kritis, teman kuningnya di dalam UGD sedang bertarung melawan penyakit yang berada ditubuhnya. Dokter berkata bahwa memang Jeje sering keluar-masuk rumah sakit, dan merupakan langganan tetap rumah sakit. Penyakit langka itu telah ada sejak Jeje kecil. Jeje yang sangat suka hujan dan tahu hidupnya tidak lama, selalu menyempatkan diri untuk bermain hujan walaupun sudah dilarang oleh dokter. Orang tuanya-pun membiarkan Jeje untuk bermain hujan selama ia menggunakan jas hujan. Itu sebabnya ia memakai jas hujan walaupun sedang bermain hujan. Erlang menyesal baru mengetahui apa yang dialami oleh teman kuningnya sekarang.

Kabar terakhir yang ia dapat adalah koma. Setiap hari sepulang sekolah ia selalu menyempatkan dirinya untuk

mengunjungi temannya. Membawakan bunga, membuang air dan menggantikan bunga yang berada di nakas sebelah ranjang Jeje adalah rutinitas terbaru Erlang. Selama itu juga ia menceritakan hari-harinya di sekolah. Berharap temannya cepat bangun dari tidur panjangnya, tetapi tuhan mempunyai takdir lain. Sore itu, Erlang berniat untuk pulang saat elektrokardiogram di samping kanan ranjang Jeje berbunyi menandakan jantung temannya mulai melemah. Ia dengan panik memencet tombol darurat. Dokter dan suster berlarian masuk dan Erlang terpaksa menunggu diluar dengan perasaan tak menentu. Hari itu saat matahari terbenam, terbenam juga matahari yang selama ini menemani sore hari Erlang.

ooo

Pemakaman dilakukan secara khusyuk dan tertib. Orang tua Jeje sudah mulai mengikhlaskan anaknya. Erlang sedih dan sedikit tidak ikhlas tetapi ia tidak mau terlihat seperti itu. Saat semua tamu sudah pulang, ibu Jeje datang membawa buku dan memberikannya kepada Erlang. Erlang yang bingung menerima buku itu, tertulis disana Diary Jeje dengan gambar bebek disampingnya.

“Ini buat kamu, dibaca ya” kata Ibu Jeje. Erlang mengangguk dan segera pulang ke rumah.

Erlang membuka diary itu sesaat setelah sampai di rumah. Dibacanya curahan-curahan hati milik temannya tersebut. dari awal mereka bertemu, berkenalan, iri denganya yang bisa bersekolah, sakitnya pengobatan yang ia jalani, pengobatan yang tidak membawakan hasil, impian-impian Jeje,

air mata Erlang mulai menggenang. Hingga halaman terakhir yang membuat Erlang menangis dengan keras.

ooo

Pemuda tampan itu membeli bunga lili putih yang sudah ia pesan sebelumnya. Setelah membayar dan mengucapkan terima kasih, ia sesegera mungkin memacu kuda besinya ke arah pemakaman di pinggir kota. Dibawanya bunga itu menuju pemakaman dengan tergesa-gesa. Tepat di depan batu nisan yang sudah memudar warnanya, ia tersenyum kecil dan mulai bersimpuh. Dilusnya batu nisan tersebut.

“Udah7 tahun ajaya Je. Kamu apa kabar ?”

Fantasy

Cursed

By Afuni Nur Safitri



Tonight, the night seems more bleak and cold than usual. I already want to sleep on my mini bedroom with all of my cutie pillow and my cat, Scrumble. Today, I feel more exhausted because I did many work at my office. Many things happen, and most of them are bad for me. I really tired and angry of everything that happened today, so I want to relax as soon and earlier than usual. So, here I am with my beloved

Scramble. Ready to sleep together and make our self comfort in the bed. Using thick blanket together and hug each other to be warmer. Thereafter, I already sleep on my own mind but suddenly my eyes are open again. I be irked because I already feel my fatigue will disappear because I am in a sleep. So I am yelling frustrate and doing any crazy thing, such as running around my bed with closing eyes. It is familiar activity for me when I feel frustrate of everything, so I just feel like always I am doing this thing. But one event comes strange to me, I feel the weather more cold than before when I was in my room. And I hear some unfamiliar voices, like birdsong. So I open my eyes vastly and see everything surprised. I want to crying and yelling more hard than before, but I feel more scared than angry. So I just cry in my position where I am just stand in the middle of the shade trees. Now, in terrible night I am alone without knowing what really happened to me. I really scare and don't know nothing to do, I just hope that someone come and picking me up to the place I was before.

Time passed so long, until morning I still stay on my place. Standing and fear of everything there. My eyes are widely seeing everything around the tree. Being warning if something suddenly goes wrong to me. To make it more certain for myself, I embolden myself to walk through the tree. Seeing anything of this place using my wide eyes. Still fell fear but I want to come out from this terrible place as soon as I can. So, I am struggle alone to find way out here. After the long time, I am just walk around and find nothing. My body already feel tired again, and I also feel hungry. I really want to back to my

room, hug and eat with my beloved Scumble. Unknowingly, I am crying again discharge harder voice to release my fear. And hope that someone hear and help me come out. But for long time, I am still alone and no one come to me. I give up of everything, and start to blaming my self. And again doing crazy thing, I climb the tree until its peak and stay there. But, something as magic happen. I see a village on the top of the tree. Suddenly, I am happy and dropping myself quickly. I am running to the way where the village stand. And when I arrive in the village I am very happy because I find another living thing here. But the village also seem strange to me. There is no people inside the house. First I feel scared, but then I find food inside of the house and eat it quickly.

When I already full, I feel asleep and sleep in the same place where I eat my food. I hope when I wake up, I am on my bed with my Scumble again. But, when I wake up something more strange happen again. A group of people surrounding me and talking each other slowly like they won't if I feel annoy and wake up from my sleep. So, when I stand up from my position they aghast and want to run, but quickly I restrain them.

"Hallo all!" I greet them with full of spirit, because I feel happy. But actually, I feel peculiar because those people are not like ordinary human. They have a human face, but also have long horn on the top of their head. Their body size is bigger than ordinary human, and seem like they are not friendly. So I try to make them comfort and want to talk to me. But, after I

greet them no one respond to me. I feel that they don't like me at first impression, because they found me when I was sleep.

"Hi,girl!" someone talk to me. I am very excited to know who he is, so I search carefully these people. A man with white hair come closer to me and stretch his hand to me. Immediately, I receive his hand friendly.

"Hi! My name is Gwen. Who are you? And also who are they?"

"Hi! I am Jito, I am the chief of those people here. And they are my people."

After we knowing each other, people start to greet me. I am feel grateful because of any strange thing that I through, I still have some helps of those people. We move to the field of the village and eat some food together. I tell them about how I could be here. Totally, I am comfort around them because they already want to speak and interact to me. The chief suggest to stay at this village with them to me, and I agree to be one of their part. I stay in the same home where I came first and stole food there, the home feel so good for me. Because I don't feel scare, angry, and cold again. I don't think about the way I could escape from this land, because I am happy with these people. And I could survive as long as I live with these people. One week past, we being closer each other and I really happy to meet them as my friends now. We spend and doing some activities together and telling jokes to another. Somehow, I feel grateful because such of this thing happened to me, maybe God

want me to take a rest from my real activity, and send me to live with these people.

The village really quite in the night, no one come out just to go to the bathroom. This is one of the rules in this village, so I obedient at all without quest any of my curios. But, one night I want to excreta and must out from my home. I really confuse about my decision, but I have to go to bathroom. So I go out quietly and go to bathroom as fast as I can. After I finished my excreta, I hear some voice outside from bathroom. The voice was heard like the chief and his wife voice's, so because I am scary to be punished of breaking a rule I still stay in bathroom without any voice that I make.

“We must sacrifice her, as soon as possible to escape from this cursed land my husband.” I am surprised hearing, the chief’s wife talking about scarifying one of people village. So, I listen more carefully inside the bathroom.

“Yes, we have to go out from this land and being normal human again or we must go to hell before the full moon happen.” The chief talk similarly scare of any bad thing happened.”

“So, what we wait anymore? That girl must be dead tomorrow or we will dead soon!”

“But we must wait until the correct time my lady, or we will pass this opportunity again.”

“Okay, even the girl knowing who we really are you must promise to sacrifice that human girl.” I am scare of the dialogue

between chief and his wife. But I feel that the girl they talk about is me, because nothing like really human in this village except me. I really feel more scared than before and want to run of this cursed village. So, without second thought I'm out from bathroom and run as fast as I can. The chief knows that I came from bathroom and escape from them. So, they vastly hunt down me. The chief called all his people, and they hunt down me too. They are too fast and intercept the way everywhere, I trapped in the middle of them and don't know what to do. I am being weak and sit languidly on the ground. I start to cry, hope that one of those people take pity on me and help me to escape. But they look like happy when I just sit on the ground and doing nothing. I am angry with them, so I stand and yelling hardly. But, two of the men come to me and take hold of me tightly.

"What do you want from me? I am just a miserable human that doesn't know everything from this land, and also doesn't know why I could be here. Please just let me out, and I will survive alone without your promise." I cry so hard and dispirited, I really scare right now, and also really doesn't know that something bad already happened to me.

"Oh, you are really such as pity girl hahaha. That's why God sends you here to be sacrifice and meet him soon." The chief really talk bad to me, and the people just laugh of what he said.

"What do you talking about? I thought you all were good to me because you are care. Why now you all are being cruel

like this to me? We are already being friend each other and we care to each other, so why you must sacrifice me on a reason that I really don't know. Why? Why? Are you not human? Don't you have a good heart to help another? Why?" hearing my twaddle, the chief looks so angry and come closer to me. He holds my hand roughly, and stares at me so keenly.

"What do you know about us human? Are you such as a witch who could set us free from this land? You are just a pity human that cursed with us in this cursing land. So why you still call yourself a human?!" After saying the understood words for me, he let go of my hand and threw it so hard. I really don't understand of all his talk, so I come closer to him, and asking for my curiosity.

"We are human, me and those people are human. We live, eat, and doing things such as human. So why we must call ourselves not human?" The chief looks shame and anxiety, he won't to look at me back.

"We are cursing human girl, we live in this land because God punished us of what we do in the real word. This land isn't exist in the real world, because we are in the boundary of human world and the afterlife. We have much of sins to go here, it seems like you have it too. So that's why God sends you here. But, the helper who could set us free from this cursing land is only you. The pure human who knows nothing about cursing and bad thing. So we must sacrifice you in case to escape and being real human again." one of those people explain

to me so clear, but I have no idea about the reasons why I am here of his talk.

I am shiver in my position, without thinking am I still human or not. The important is, I must survive to alive and run from cursing people and this land. I am get ready to run as fast as I can, but suddenly many people come and chase me. I am helpless to fight them, because I am just alone. They carry me by forcing, I am powerfully want to break free, but they are too strong and big for me. So, in the way to the sacrifice place I am just cry so loudly.

“Please let me of. I am just want to live.” I am yelling so hard to the people. But no one want to hear me. They are too spirit to sacrifice me and then exempt from this land. I am arrive in the scarifying place, very scare to look around. So I just close my eyes so jowly and crying silently.

“Bring the big fire and the petrol here. We must sacrifice her now.” The chief tell the people clearly. Thereafter, I smell the petrol around my place. My body also already stricken by the petrol. I am not move, still hope that something happen as my magic to me and bring me to the better life.

“Turned on the fire! Quickly.” For the moment I fell want to comatose. I am very dizzy to have this moment, my body similarly cannot move from this position. I am start to lose my sensitive and have nothing. Right now, I really cannot do something except receive this destiny.

“What it is? Why the fire is come to us? What the hell with this strange thing?” someone tell surprised statement,

suddenly I open my eyes quickly and see the strange thing. The fire not really attack me, but it attacks the strange people. I am feel blessed because this moment. The people very panic and run everywhere to avoid the fire attack. So, I have the opportunity to escape from this terrific place. I run as quick as I can without knowing the direction from the village. I just run everywhere as I can. After so long journey, far from the village I find the beach. I come inside, and swimming as far as I can to avoid their chase. The beach is really wide, in the middle of my journey I feel tired and comatose at the place. I just let the wave bring me to some place.

After wake up from my comatose, I really feel dizzy and very tired. I also very affliction to open my eyes and see where I am. After I success to open my eyes, I see something surprised about where I am. Right now, after the long escape and journey I am in my bedroom. My beloved bedroom and Scrumble. Wearing my bed clothes and can touch everything here. I am very surprised, without knowing what really happened to me. But, despite of the reason I really grateful to be here again. In my bedroom with my Scrumble without scare anymore.

“Hi, honey. How was your sleep?” my mom comes to my room as usual in the morning with her lovely smile. I come to her and hug her so tightly. Hope that I’ll be with her forever.

“I miss you so much Mom, oh Scrumble too.” I carry him softly and wake him up from sleep.

“It sounds like you were going to somewhere as far as I don’t know girl.” my mom seems like don’t know nothing, so I tell her everything about my dream. After the sharing story, my mom still won’t believe, but she really cares of what happened to me.

“The important is that’s all just a dream, Dear. I hope you will in God blessed forever.”

“I really thank to God for all the scary thing that happen to me is only dream, Mom. I really scared and don’t know nothing if that thing really happen to me.” I hug my mom tightly.

“If you feel tired and think that you cannot handle thing anymore please just take a rest and make yourself comfort. Because such that bad thing only happen if you are really tired. Please care to yourself girl.” My mom hugs me again, my tear just go down slowly because think that all my mom says is right.

“Do you know Mom, those people are cursing and live in that land because they made some damages in the earth. It sounds like God really want to protect His earth from human bad hands. Is that correct?”

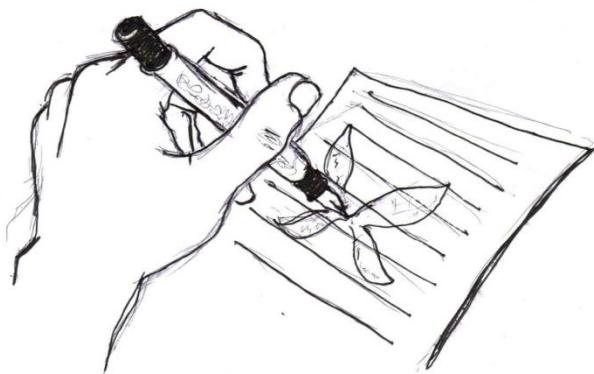
“Sure honey, we lived in this amazing earth not only to enjoy our life but also we must protect this earth and be good human for God.”

“Wow, that’s will be incredible if I promise to protect the earth everywhere I’ll be.”

“Your promise already recorded.” My mom show the promise posture to me, and we laugh together. I am happy that my dream has a happy ending, and I hope the people around me will do the same, if they knew this story.

A Man Who Lives in Two Worlds at a Time

By Diani Amalia Putri



Saujana is a young man who lived by himself at the edge of Beech forest. He lives in small but fancy cottage, but it is comfortable enough to live in. He always gets what he needs. He has a lot of ways to get what he needs. He is a genius man. Saujana also loves to write and play music. He sometimes is called as an expert in music. He often teaches kids who live in the same village as him to play some instruments such as piano, guitar, or other music instruments. He learned to write and play music instrument since he was a child with his uncle - Renjana, who has found dead when Saujana was only 9 years old. His uncle was found dead in the middle of the Beech forest by some villagers who were hunting some deer. It is still a

mystery why his uncle is found dead. No one knows the reason, but there is something that Saujana remembered the night before his uncle left him alone in a cottage. Saujana remembered there was a guy who visited his cottage and having a long conversation with his uncle. He did not hear exactly what they say, but he heard something about Wanodya. However he has a pen that has Wanodya word written in it. Even though Saujana can't imagine what creature is Wanodya. He usually uses this pen to write something he felt, or poems or even songs.

Every morning Saujana always goes to the forest to hunt some animals to be eaten such as fish, deer, or even pork. He does live alone, and it will be too much for him to eat those foods alone. Therefore, he always shares the foods with the kids who always come over to learn music with him. Some villagers believe that in the middle of Beech forest, there are magical creatures whose have a sacral treasure. Not like the others Saujana does not believe those creatures exist. Even though rumors have been spread that his uncle – Renjana was killed by a magical creature in the forest. As a nephew Saujana doesn't believe the rumors, but he believed his uncle – Renjana was killed by a guy who wore a mask. Saujana wishes that he will meet the murderer someday. As soon as he found the murderer, he will give him an equitable lesson. That's why Saujana also learned some skill to fight to defend himself.

As Saujana walks across the forest to hunt, he is singing and enjoying the fresh air like he used to. It is always the same song that he sings. It is called “Girl in white dress.”

*Hey girl in white dress!
Your braid crown looks so beautiful
Your smile could brighten the darkness of this Beech Forest.
Can I talk to you one more times
Can I see you sitting on a branch of the Sycamore tree
Staring at me in disbelief
Will you
Singing back to me and making fun of how I dress again
Oh girl in white dress, you're too cocky
Just tell me that you miss me too
I need you to show your face again
And meet me at the bridge of the river*

Even though Saujana sings this song every morning, he never knows who was that girl. All he can remember was that he sings this song since he was a little. Even his uncle - Renjana does not know what song was that. However Saujana has considered this song as his best friend since that song was the only way to remember the memories between him and Renjana. This song was the only thing that accompanied him to hunt.

It is a good day for Saujana because he catches a deer. He was about to go back to his cottage, but he heard someone shouting.

“Hey girl in white dress” shout someone mockingly.
“Who was that? Who are you?” replied Saujana.
“Shut up! He will—”

That voice slowly disappeared. Saujana can't recognize whether it is female voice or male voice because their voices are echo to each other. Because Saujana does not want to think

about what happened to him too much, he continues his journey. As he arrived at his modest cottage, he asks to some kids who have gathered to help him prepare the food before they practice in the backyard of Saujana's cottage.

"Shhhh. It's me Aru, please don't scream, don't be scared little fungi." Arunika tries to make that little plant keeps quiet. Arunika is a female fairy that just arrived at Beech forest. She has just finished his friend's task—Junggala. She knew that substituting a male fairy tasks is illegal here. So that's why she has to dress up like an actual male fairy. She wears Junggala's outfit, and she even put a thin fake mustache above her mouth. Deep down inside, she is actually afraid that she will get caught by the guard of the Beech Forest because the consequences of being caught are terrifying. There is no female fairy ever did what Arunika did, because all female fairies here are afraid of getting burnt alive by the guards— that look like the ugliest monsters ever exist.

This is not like the fairy tale that usually people imagine. It's far from just doing magic, doing cool tasks such as visiting human world, or take care of plants or animal. In Arunika's opinion, it's a terrible world where she can't be who she really is or doing what she wants to do. It's like a man without a dream. It is like a human who is not able to dream high. It is a person who is imprisoned in a small place, and all they do is just planting flowers in the garden. Luckily this small

place that people think is beautiful is actually beautiful. At least the fun thing that female fairy do is planting new seeds to get more seeds. That sounds boring to Arunika. She did repeatedly and she just wants to do something new, more adventurous. She wants to challenge herself, so she breaks the rule by doing a male fairy's tasks —Junggala's tasks.

Arunika is lurking towards her cottage. She did not fly using her wings because the flapping wings will make a sound like a beautiful melody, so she climbed a tree where her cottage is placed. She came back to Beech Forest a few hours before the sun rises. She will take a nap because she has to do her actual tasks— planting new flower seeds in the garden. They plant flower seeds to get more seeds. After they plant the flowers they have to pour some water that mixed with magic potion, and they harvest the seeds before the sun goes down. Fairy uses these seeds to transfer motivations and ideas of making art to human body. They put a seed into human's foods. They also can read human mind so that they know what food they are going to eat.

“Hey open the door!” said Arunika in front of his cottage's door quietly.

“I told you I need to sleep!” shout someone inside her cottage.

“Hey you dumb, it's Aru!” shout Arunika back. She knocks the door until the person inside the cottage open the door. There he is, a person who is lying in her bed wearing Arunika's pajamas.

"I thought you're that dumb guard," said Junggala, pulling the blanket to cover his body. He is about to continue his sleep.

With her grumpy face Arunika closes the door behind her and walk over the bed.

"Gala, I did it! I did it! I did it perfectly she is going to be a great songwriter! And stop impersonating my voice while I'm already here." Shout Arunika right at Junggala's ear and rolling her eyes when she realized Junggala still impersonates her voice.

"Grrrrr—ok, where's the drink you promised me last night?" ask Junggala, he is a half asleep.

"No wait... you said that dumb guard came here? What are they doing?" interrogate Arunika.

"They thought that you're going out of this land just because they found a thing that belongs to you. Luckily your genius best friend can back up a story that you lost it few days ago in the river," explains Junggala arrogantly while he is showing a white pen that has a brown accent on both sides. It has a brown bird feather at the end of the pen. There is a word Talalea written on the pen. It's a reusable pen that Arunika usually use to write poems, story, songs, etc.

Arunika reaches her bag to find the pen, even though it looks like her pen, but Arunika believes that she never lost the pen since she always takes care of her things carefully. Just like she was expecting, Arunika's pen is still in her bag, but she's wondering whose pen is it. That pen is a present from her Grandmother, Wanodya. Who else is having this pen since

Arunika is the only Wanodya's grandchild that alive from the battle in 1920s.

Arunika saves back her pen, and she acts like the pen that Junggala holds is hers. "Oh my god! Thank you Junggala, you're my savior! It's really important to me!" She said gratefully and she grabs the pen in Junggala's hand immediately. Then she secures the pen inside her little bag. She even pats the bag like she pats a cat.

"Yeah, but where's the drinks?" asked Junggala a little annoyed.

"Alright, I'll make you two special drinks for you! but can you leave my cottage before that dumb guard catches you? I'll bring the drinks this afternoon before the Academy starts, don't worry!" said Arunika. She pulls Junggala's body from her bed, and she kicks him out of his cottage.

"What an impolite girl! How dare you kicked out a handsome and a genius man like me!" scream Junggala while flapping his wings and leaving Arunika's cottage.

Arunika is shaking her hand and rolling her eyes while watching Junggala bubbling and leaving her cottage.

"Don't forget the drinks!" yelled Junggala from afar. Arunika grunted irritably. "I even don't know what drinks he is talking about!" talk Arunika to herself. Closing the door, Arunika flings her body into the bed. She is holding the pen, staring at that pen and wondering who has the same pen as hers.

Overtime the sun began to rise,

The sound of the toad is deafening Arunika's whole room. Arunika is an animal lover, she raises a few animals in her cottage such as a toad named Tumtitum to help her waking up in the morning. She rubs her eyes and gets out of her bed. Then Arunika is preparing herself before she goes to the garden. She wears a yellow dress that look beautiful in her dark brown skin. Arunika lets her curly hair down, and she wears a crown she made herself from dry flowers she collected.

She sings a song from her cottage to the garden along the way. Arunika uses her wings as an instrument, so she moves her wings according to the rhythm of the song.

*On the cloudy day, we got sunshine
Plant flowers and harvest the seeds...
For the rest of my day*

As soon as she arrived at the garden, she greets a few of her friends. "Khalis! Does your toad not waking you up again?" Khalis is a quiet fairy, she will not talk to you unless you start the conversation first. "Luckily she did this time!" answer Khalis excitedly. "Oh cool!"

Then Arunika goes to see Litani. "Hey Litani, what are you doing over there?" asked Arunika is squinting her eyes. Watching Litani's hands are circling around like she is trying to make an air ball.

"Hey finally you're here, have you hear about this rumor? There's someone among us that's going to see Granpa Menjura! I heard she did something huge. He might give that person a reward? Because I heard this era is one of the best music era." Instead of answering Arunika's question, she tells

about the rumor that has been spread among the female fairies. If you want to know everything about everyone who lives in the Beech forest, you better ask Litani because she is the source of everything. I meant everything, she even knew about human's business she called celebrity. She always read a magazine that Nuraga brings from human's world.

Sometimes Arunika thinks that Litani must want to visit human's world like her. But she is not brave enough to break the rule like Arunika did.

"Oh that's cool! Who that person might be?" Arunika respond to Litani's chatter.

"uhm no one knows, let see tonight! It might be me?" answer Litani giggling at her own words.

"Hmm you wish!" said Arunika rolling her eyes, and smirking at Litani.

Both Litani and Arunika starts their work. They starts to pour the water into the flowers and doing magic to make them grow beautifully. On the other side the other female fairies harvest the seeds of the flowers and collect them on a pouch they carried.

"Kids, I think the time is up. You can go home now." declare Saujana. He stops playing the trumpet.

"Okay sir!" All the kids bowed to salute Saujana.

"Don't forget about our project, we have to prepare for our show next month." said Saujana to the kids. Saujana is used

to perform on an opera whether to play classical instrument or singing some songs.

“Aaaalright Sir, see you tomorrowuuuw!” The kids are harmonizing as a respond to Saujana’s order.

Saujana smiles and he enters his cottage, leaving the kids in his backyard. He plans to write something because he found a cool rhythm while practicing with those kids. Saujana sat on a desk that made from wood, he made it by himself. He got the wood from Beech forest. When he is about to write the melody, he remembered that he did not use the pen that he usually use. Sujana a little bit distracted and wondering where his favorite pen is. Yet he is continuing to write the lyrics and melody, and he is ignoring the fact that the pen is lost. Saujana knew when he got an ideas he tries so hard to not get distracted, but he always continues to write the ideas. Sometimes the ideas that comes to his mind did not come repeatedly, so that’s why Saujana pretends that he doesn’t care about his favorite pen that is lost.

As soon as he finished writing he reads what he wrote.

“I'll met my soul

I'll save her

We'll sing to each other

We'll know the truth.” Read Saujana softly

Then after he reads those words, his hands shattered and he felt a painful feeling on his back. He felt like there’s something that grows on his back. With the pain in his back, Saujana walks as balanced as possible towards the standing mirror. He watched himself in front of the mirror while

looking on his back that has something hairy grow on his back. It looks like wings. It's so painful until Saujana could not endure the pain. He screams loudly.

"ARGH! WHAT ARE THESE?" He screams loudly. The tears are rolling down on his cheeks. He has no control in those wings. It is flapping itself which leads him to fly outside of his cottage. He flies through the forest and through the bridge. Then he falls into the river. He's washed away by the river stream, but luckily his strong arm catches a huge stone in the middle of the river.

"Hey bro, what are you doing there?" Saujana heard someone shouting.

"Help, I need help!" said Saujana weakly. He's desperately needed a help from that stranger.

Saujana heard someone flapping his wings and lift up Saujana's soaked body to the riverbank.

"Are you okay?" asked the stranger to Saujana who is lying on the ground weakly.

"Yeah I'm fine, who are you and why do you have the same wings as mine?" Asked Suajana to the stranger, and pointing his hand to the stranger's wings.

"I'm Junggala, you can call me Gala. We're fairies you silly, of course we have the same wings. What do you think

you're?" mutter Junggala, he's shaking his head. Junggala looked at him with pity and wanted to laugh at him knowing how stupid the person in front of him was now. How could he forget that he is a fairy.

"No I was a human a few hours ago. I still am a human." Saujana replied anxiously.

"What are you talking about? You're a fairy, I guess getting washed away by a stream and hitting a stone make you a little bit dumb. What's your name? I have never seen you in the Academy before," said Junggala mockingly. Junggala's helped Saujana drying his body using his magic. Saujana who is still in shock just let Junggala helped him.

"My name is Saujana, you can call me Jana. Anyways, can you help me to go to the Academy? I'm afraid that I might be lost," said Saujana, he tries to stand unsteadily. Saujana acts like he knew about the Academy even though deep down inside he did not know a single thing about what Academy is that Junggala talking about.

"Fine, we can go there together. Let us go! We're going to be late," respond Junggala. He is about to fly.

Arunika is making Chamomile tea for Junggala. It is a tea made from daisies flowers and it smells fruity like an apple. She brings the daisies flowers right from the garden. This tea helps us to feel calm and even get a good sleep.

When Arunika is going to leave the cottage she realizes that her little bag that she usually carries is burning out. Luckily the pens inside the bag did not get burned, but these pens are the reason her bag get burn. Both of the pens merges together and become a long stick. The ashes of the bag mold some words written on Arunila's table. "bring these pens wherever you go." Read Arunika Slowly. It feels so weird that those ashes act like they give a secret message from someone. Arunika decided to put those long pen that's merges together into a pocket of her coat. She wears a white dress with a beige coat as an outer.

Arunika puts another bags and put everything she needed for Academy, such as books and other essential. She brings two cups of Chamomile tea for Junggala. As soon as she arrived at the academy, Arunika senses that there's something wrong. Fairies usually go to their classes directly, but at this time they are not. They gathered in front of the buildings.

"Aru!Hurry up, come here, join us!" shout Junggala with a person Arunika has never seen before besides him. Arunika is coming over them.

“Hey, what happened? Why are we gathered here?” asked Arunika curiously.

“Nothing happened yet, but Granpa Menjura is about to visit us in a few minutes. He has something huge to inform. Anyways, meet my new friend Saujana, you can call him Jana,” explains Junggala excitedly since he never sees Granpa Menjura in real life before, and he also introduces his friend to Arunika.

Arunika nodded her head and replied. “Hey, My name is Arunika, you can call me Aru.” She smiles. Saujana smiles back and nodded his head. Unconsciously the cups of Chamomile tea that Arunika brought have been in Junggala’s hands.

“Look!” someone says, and pointing their finger at a huge eagle that’s carrying a man with no wings. He is surrounded by the ugly guards that basically just like bugs. As soon as he landed, he began to talk. “Hey the inhabitants of Beech Forest, I saw a female fairy doing a male fairy tasks over and over again. I’m here to let you all know who is this brave girl, and why she deserves to get burn ALIVE!” Granpa Menjura declares. Everyone is looking at each other, and there’s Arunika looking at the ground because she knew it’s her. And no matter what she has to accept the consequences.

“ARUNIKA! GUARDS CATCH HER!” yelled Menjura. He smiles like a devil.

“There is no way Arunika did that!” murmur people in the crowd. They are wondering why a girl like Arunika dares to do that.

“Why you did that little girl?” asks Menjura to Arunika who has been caught by the guard with her hands tied to hot ropes. “Why did you never let female fairies go to human world?” asked Arunika back. The hot ropes burn her hands slowly. It hurts her so bad, but Arunika has to endure the pain.

“You don’t need to know why! Because it is how I protect the girls! Human world is a very dangerous place for female fairies,” explains Menjura.

“There’s a prophecy where the history repeats itself. A female fairy will meet the spouse of her life and they will make a huge change in this land.” One of the teachers of the academy— named Undagi —said unconsciously.

“There’s no such a thing as prophecy, and how dare you speak without my permission to talk old woman!” said Menjura, denying the statement about the prophecy. “Now let’s execute these women.” Orders Menjura, he points out at Arunika and Undagi. The two of them were paraded to a field filled with neatly arranged firewood. They are about to get burn alive.

Arunika is placed right next to Undagi. The guards have poured the oils to burn the firewood. Arunika gave up with the situation. But then Udagi said. “Use your pen to protect you.”

Even though she doesn't know how to use the pen to protect them. She holds those pens that merges together with both of her hands, and placed it above her stomatch. "Light the fire!" Menjura orders the guards. One of the guards light the fire from the peak of the firewoods.

Saujana is still so confused of what happened in front of him now. He even doesn't know why is he here. Saujana witnessed how the fire is about to burn those women alive, but then there is something magical. Those women are protected by transparent bubbles that come from the pen that Arunika holds. Saujana recognized the pens that she holds. It is his pen that he got lost.

Saujana's uncontrolled wings are flapping and leading him to fly towards both of these women. He is so panicked and afraid of getting burn. However his instinct is sensitive and he knows why the wings lead him there. As long as the bubble protect them. Saujana pull both of Arunika and Undagi's bodies from the firewoods.

He then placed both of them in a safest place. "Can i have my pen back?" asked Saujana to Arunika who is standing in front of him.

"Oh, It's yours?" asked Arunika back.

Saujana nodded and smiled when Arunika separating those two pens and give one of them to Saujana. "Let's use it together!" invite Arunika.

They both fly to the firewoods and as they tossed the pens together it transforms into a sword. Arunika and Saujana use the sword to extinguish the fire. Lastly they fight back Menjura and the guards' attack. They use the sword that produced colorful gradient light and sound of a very beautiful melody. The guards and Menjura bounce off. The noise was deafening the inhabitants' ears. They saw how Menjura transforms from a handsome man into an old man with white hairs.

Saujana recognized his face. It is his uncle face. "Uncle Renjana?" asked him.

"He's not your uncle! He's just a murderer both of your parents, and he has to hide you and separate both of you to get this throne." tells Undagi angrily.

As the battle has done, Saujana and Arunika appointed to be A King and A Queen of the Beech forest. They both were meant to be. They removed the rules that were in effect at the time the Menjura reigned. The fairies can do every task that exist according to their passion. Saujana finally knew who was the little girl in a white dress that he always singing to. He even stops hating the magical creatures because he himself is magical creatures. Saujana and Arunika decided to imprison Menjura instead of execute him like what he did to Arunika.

Over the years, Saujana became deaf, but he still continues teaching the kids in the village and he writes cool

songs when he went deaf. No one in the village knows that Saujana is living in two worlds at a time.

The Cursed Witch

By Hardina Kurniati



In ancient times, precisely where the era of these witches had long started, there is a castle located in the middle of a wilderness. The castle is inhabited by a witch queen named Meredith who has a very terrible appearance. However, not only recognized by her creepy appearance, she is also the only magician with the strongest black magic ability.

On the other hand, in the south there is a mountain which is rarely visited by people who live not far from that place. There are even myths circulating about this mountain.

Many people not only live around the area, but even the outside world knows about the myths that circulated because there was not even the smallest thing at that time that escaped the queen's supervision. The myths that are circulating are associated with various things, such as 'the dwelling place of wild monsters, etc.' But there is a myth that is most often discussed and believed by people, namely the myth of the existence of the ancestral witches with white magic abilities that ever existed.

Meredith also knows about the myth, but she doesn't really care about the truth behind the myth. She assumed that people who didn't even have magical abilities knew nothing about the world she was currently controlling.

The day passed ~

Precisely in a village, there lived a little girl who was very happy to play in the forest with her friends. This little girl is known as Mollie, the leader who is reliable in taking the game strategy she wants to do. But one day when it was unusual for Mollie to take her pet, which she named Blu, the butterfly with beautiful blue wings, into the forest with her friends to accompany her to play. Mollie never once took Blu out of the jar, unless she was at home. Therefore, Mollie who was hesitant at the beginning for the some reasons, but at that time was eager to get Blu out of the jar.

Without any hesitation, they went into the forest as usual. Playing and having adventure here and there are

activities that they really enjoy to do. However, as they walked along the forest, they felt something strange. Suddenly a thick fog appears in the middle of them that separates Mollie, Blu, and her friends. The fog was so thick, so they lost Mollie's existence. Instantly they rushed back to the village when they found out and realized that Mollie was missing.

On the other hand, Mollie who was struggling to find her friends while screaming, realized that she had not found any signal indicating a sound around her. Mollie was worried because she was alone in the dense forest and decided to sit and be quiet for a moment. But before she could sit down, she saw a blue light hovering in front of her. Mollie was shocked and felt a little scared. But when she saw clearly the light, she realized that it was Blu.

"Blu! Is that you?" said Mollie.

Blue flies away from Mollie to a place. Mollie who doesn't want to lose track of Blu, follows him.

An hour and a half, the journey through the forest was taken. Mollie who was very tired, decided to take a break and intended to chase Blu after that because she knew Blu couldn't possibly fly too far from her.

She also rested and closed her eyes for a moment. Being too tired, Mollie fell asleep unconsciously. It was not for a long time for her to enjoy a deep sleep, she woke up remembering she had to chase Blu. But when she was about to hurry, it

turned out that the fog had cleared and the road that was originally closed was now clearly visible.

The surprising thing was not just that. In front of Mollie's eyes there was now a group of people practicing magic. They emitted white rays from both of their palms.

"It's magic! But isn't that a different kind of magic?" said Mollie in her mind.

She had never seen magic like that. So far, only black magic is what she often sees being used by magicians who follow the queen.

She was stunned for a long time without realizing that someone was watching her.

"Isn't it a wonderful thing to witness magic that you have never seen before?" asked the old man.

Mollie was surprised and immediately got up from her seat.

"Sit down little girl! You don't need to wake up" said the old man.

Mollie sat back down and asked "Who are you? And now where am I? And who are those people?"

"Your curiosity is very high, little girl. Now you are where you should be" said the old man.

“Where I should be? Hahaha, so funny. Forgive me sir if I were too presumptuous, but I should have been at home and playing” said Mollie.

“Played? Hmm.. It’s quite interesting” said the old man.

“You are the weird person with the same weird appearance” Mollie said in her mind.

“Come on kid, let me show you something interesting,” said the old man showing his hospitality.

Mollie also followed the old man to a place, more precisely approaching a cliff.

“Why are we here? I’m afraid of heights” said Mollie as she retreated her footsteps away from the cliff.

“You are a little girl who is afraid of heights, but you are able to set your feet into this mountain. Even the people at the foot of this mountain were unable to climb it. They are not afraid of not being able to climb a mountain, but they are afraid of what is in the mountain, hahaha” said the old man who could not hold back his laughter.

“Wow, is it true that I climbed this mountain? Turns out that without realizing it, Blu took me this far. But, it couldn’t be this far. How can I afford it, especially in a short enough time for me to be able to climb a mountain” said Mollie for being confused.

"Nothing is impossible if you have the blue butterfly"
replied the old man.

"You're right, there's something wrong with Blu. It feels strange to me. But sorry sir, you said that people are afraid of what is in this mountain. Then what is that to be afraid of? I think everything seems normal to me" said Mollie.

"What is seen by you can not necessarily describe the same thing in the eyes of the other people. Okay, I'll just tell you, I don't have much time left and you have to go home before the dark. Listen carefully, kid. We are not ordinary people, and we are not ordinary magicians. We are an important part of the past history of the ancestors of the magicians who were thought to have disappeared from this world. I'm the only monk witness in that dark history. Our ancestors, the strongest white witch, the Queen Nirina, who won the dark battle against her own sister, Meredith. However, it was because of this that my mother had to suffer and endure the pain from the wounds caused by the fight. But isn't a peace that we will achieve than the news that Meredith was saved by her followers, and she is in the process of recovery. This suddenly made my mother's health condition deteriorate and without thinking anymore, my mother passed on her magical abilities to me because nothing could defeat Meredith other than the power of white magic that only belonged to her. Because of this, I started to hate my mother, and I didn't want to use her magic until I was a teenager. But after that, I knew the reality behind it, it turns out that before she died. She

covered this mountain with a spell, so that no one without her permission was able to climb this mountain. Nobody knows where we live here. Okay, my time has reached the limit" said the old man.

"Then why can I..." said Mollie, who had not yet finished her words.

"Listen to me, what happened to my mother and Meredith is fate. However, what I'm experiencing now and it's your turn to be a curse. I can't face it, so I hope you can, kid. Goodbye..." said the old man while casting a spell.

Before Mollie had time to say a word, she immediately fell unconscious.

In the afternoon ~

Mollie woke up and looked around her. She seems familiar with the things around.

"Is this the path that I made with my friends?" said Mollie while listening to a scream that appeared from all directions.

"Mollie! Mollie!" said Mollie's friends.

"Mollie! My little daughter... Where are you?" said Mollie's father in exasperation.

Mollie who heard her father's voice, immediately approached the origin of the sound and they all finally met Mollie again.

The atmosphere of emotion was overflowing ~

Mollie wanted to tell what had happened, but she was stopped by her father.

“Enough my love, let’s go home” said the father.

The father stopped Mollie to say something because he didn’t want the news of Mollie’s suspicious loss to be heard by the evil queen, Meredith.

The next day ~

A group of witches came to the village where Mollie lived, more precisely Meredith’s followers.

They looted all the crops cultivated by the residents. They argue that the plant is for the queen’s needs to add to her collection of the great potions. But in the reality, the queen doesn’t depend on plants for her survival. Her magic was more than enough.

Even the residents who didn’t accept this action took out their weapons to fight back. However, because this was considered to be underestimating the witches, so the black witches chose to burn the village with their black magic power.

Seeing this dangerous thing, Mollie’s father decided to evacuate his citizens and Mollie to a place that thought to be safe to hide from the witches.

Finally, they find a cave as a temporary hiding place.

The residents who managed to escape urged and asked Mollie's father to immediately look for the new land to become a residential village.

Hearing this, Mollie's father became worried. He told the residents to give him this night to think about it.

Mollie's father is pensive in the middle of the night as he thinks of the way out.

"This is not the first time something like this has happened. Many villages out there have fallen victim to the savagery of the queen's followers. Cursed be that evil queen!" said Mollie's father, the head of the village.

"Father? You're still awake? Let's sleep father... *Wherever we go, they will continue to look for*" said Mollie while digressing a little.

Suddenly, Mollie's words became the answer to her father's concern.

"Wherever we go, they will keep looking. Hmm... That's true, as long as this world is still controlled by the queen, it's impossible for us to escape from her reach."

Finally, thinking more carefully, Mollie's father found the best solution for them all.

The next day ~

At noon, where the sun was very hot, Mollie's father came to the queen with the intention of asking for help from

the queen to ensure the safety of the residents of his village and also the new village they would build later from the attack of the queen's blind followers.

Hearing all the explanations from Mollie's father, the queen decided that her followers were innocent (more precisely, it was never wrong in the eyes of the queen in my opinion, the author :')). However, if the direction of the request is to protect their safety, there is definitely a requirement.

The requirement ended with an agreement between the head of the village and the queen. This makes Mollie become a form of sacrifice that is given by her father.

"Listen carefully, old man. At the appointed age Mollie has to come here and you know what's next, don't you think?" said the queen.

Hearing the queen's words, Mollie's father said yes and rushed to the cave. Her father was sad throughout the trip, he could not hold back his tears.

"But this is the best path that I can take for my citizens. If I can choose, I want to make a decision. What can I do to have a discussion with that sneaky creature?" said the father with mixed feelings.

Time flies, the time has been waiting to come ~

In the morning, where it should be sunny, but it feels something sad could happen. It's time for Mollie to carry out the agreement. Mollie actually already knew that she would

meet the queen, but she did not know the fact that she would be her loyal servant until an indefinite time.

Letting go of leaving it's something hard for her father, especially at his very old age.

Before Mollie's departure ~

"Mollie, I know you're a strong girl. Please promise to me that you will still like that" said the father in a sad tone.

"Of course father. What's wrong with those strange words, I don't like it at all" said Mollie.

Mollie said goodbye to her father, accompanied by a number of bodyguards that queen had sent. Seeing this moment, Mollie's father realized that it was the biggest mistake he had done to his daughter and also a betrayal of his late wife to look after their kid. Mollie's father's heart was broken when he let go of his daughter to her death.

During Mollie's departure, her father became seriously ill and eventually died. Mollie didn't know about this at all because in fact the hatred for her father had begun to engulf Mollie accompanied by Meredith's incitement.

Not long after her father left, there was a battle against the queen.

This battle was fierce, the thing that was surprising about this battle was the arrival of the old man. It turned out

that he had prepared this since Mollie's arrival to the mysterious mountain.

However, Mollie and the old man didn't know each other's whereabouts, which turned out to be in the same place.

The battle continued until Meredith cornered.

"What is this!! I never thought that the white witch would still exist in this world. You guys should be dead, disgusting! Who are you the old man?" said the queen, angry.

"Did you hibernation prevent you from recognizing the origin of this power? Don't you feel her anger, little sister?" said the old man.

"IMPOSSIBLE! She's been dead a long time ago, I know the news about her. Then how can you have... Tch! It turns out that you are that little child, how could my sister continue to curse my life!" said Meredith, furious.

"She never cursed you, you're the one who cursed her to be the most unlucky sister in this world because she has a younger sister like you!" said the old man.

"Stop boasting, you have to die!" said Meredith.

Before Meredith had time to attack with her magic, the old man cast a spell.

"Please bless me mother for not being able to attack her like you did. I'll see you mom, in a moment, please wait. This

spell will destroy me as well as destroy you Meredith!" said the old man.

"DUARRRR!!! (Sound of colliding magic power)

Receiving such tremendous power, Meredith could still survive.

Seeing this at the second of his death, the old man said in his mind, "This is not my battle, little girl. I can only help until this. It turns out to be you. Mother chose you" said the old man at the second of his death.

Meredith was also critical at the time, trying to find help. She also remembered Mollie's whereabouts. She told Mollie to hide in the underground.

She shouted for Mollie, so that made Mollie come.

"Give me your palms" said Meredith while enduring pain.

Mollie stretched out her hand and Meredith cast black magic on it.

It didn't last long, Meredith turned to ashes and disappeared.

This is the worst decision Mollie has ever made. Because her loyalty to the queen made her blind to the curse given by Meredith.

Time after time passed ~

In the future

Mollie, who hates her father and her emotion is covered with evil magic. This is finally her reborn in a time that is no longer the same and far different from the time she was born.

Due to this powerful curse, Mollie's presence in this new world makes her forget her true self.

In this new world, Mollie was born as an orphan who was raised by her grandfather. But amidst her solitude in this new world, she finally met a child whom she could call a friend. I just call her Dixie because her friends at the school call her like that.

Dixie is a neighbor's child who lives next door to Mollie's grandfather's house. They began to play a lot and became close friends. But there is an oddity that Dixie feels about Mollie. She feels that Mollie was also a witch just like herself. She also told Mollie about it. Mollie who heard that was stunned and said, "I believe that magic exists, for whatever reason. But I'm not a witch or magician pal."

Hearing what her best friend said, Dixie hesitated a little about her thoughts. But that thing didn't discourage Dixie. She also asked Mollie to follow her wish. Mollie had no other choice but it to make her best friend feels happy.

Time also passed, indicating the age of the two of them

~

Mollie who did not know what magic was, she was taught by her best friend. Her best friend always saw the different types of palms from the other witches she had met, including her parents. But one thing Dixie believes is Mollie's palms was different from the others, and it still showed that she was a witch.

Even though, Mollie was unable to cast any magic. The friend also concluded that Mollie needed practice to awaken her magical abilities.

For Mollie herself, she was unconsciously interested in learning potions which did not require magical abilities that rely on hands, only the knowledge and the use of her grandfather's plant garden was enough for Mollie.

But how shocked her friend was when she realized that Mollie was able to read the mistakes she made while practicing her magic power.

As for the important fact that is ordinary people who are pure can't have magical abilities, they will not be able to perform magic in any way, unless the ability was passed down by the one of their parents.

Mollie is considered by Dixie as a witch and due to the fact that Mollie has inherited magic power from her mother where Mollie's father didn't know that the power of his wife has been passed on to their daughter.

Gradually, they grew to become the strong witches. Mollie with her potion, while Dixie with her magic that she didn't know, whether white or black magic. This is because Dixie has not been able to focus her magic power in one direction. Dixie still has to need media assistance in the form of a magic wand.

This was no time for Mollie and Dixie to underestimate their magical training. This is because the bad thing which is the end that has long been awaited by generations of the witches will soon arrive. That is the day of the queen's resurrection is approaching its peak.

While counting the days of the queen's resurrection, Dixie somehow saw a strange aura emanating from Mollie.

"That aura... Just looking at it makes me feel uncomfortable. The radiance felt very bad, almost like a black magic witch. But it's a little different" said Dixie to herself.

It is true, as three days approached Meredith's awakening, the evil curse that she had planted on Mollie reacted. Mollie also remembers her identity and also her grudge against her father and the humans who she considers to be the traitors, disloyal.

Following her revenge that had returned and peaked, she decided to return to the queen.

After several days of seeing her friend's strange attitude and also the news that was widely circulated among the witches, it makes Dixie suspicious of her best friend.

When Mollie wanted to leave, Dixie stopped her. They also fight like a friend who doesn't want to lose her best friend. But Mollie stuck to her stance and she left.

The seconds of the battle were in sight. The curse of the magic that Mollie received turns out to be a host, a place for Meredith's magic power to be stored and restored. Her strength would be completely restored if Mollie was killed by white magic. In order to make this happen, a war against the white witch is needed. Without realizing it, Mollie had not known all along that the wisps of the magic that Meredith had cast on her palms when Meredith was injured in the fight against the old man. It was in the fact that aimed to the selfish queen's benefit. So all this time, Meredith's power stuck with Mollie, and would return completely to its original owner.

The next day ~

The battle against the witches with the white magic as well as humans begins.

Her best friend, Dixie is in the stronghold of the white witch. They were also prepared to launch an attack on Meredith and her followers.

Seeing the company of the white witches didn't surprise Mollie at all. But what surprised her was the presence of her

best friend, whom she knew so far that Dixie, her best friend was unable to use magic properly without her wand.

A little doubt arose in Mollie's mind, but it didn't make her retreat to continue fighting with these witches and humans.

Hearing the commotion outside the headquarters made Meredith who had long predicted this event will happen, come out proudly.

"What do you wish for, the trash witches! Against me? Let's see who is the savior of your people now. There are no more heroes among you. I will show you, who you are dealing with now. This time I will make all of you being a part of the real history" Meredith said it in a high tone.

Without further ado, Meredith ordered her followers to attack the white witches so blindly, and they crushed most of the white witches in an instant.

Dixie who was on the side of the white witch was hit by a magic from one of Meredith's followers right on her chest. Seeing this, Mollie feels unacceptable. She cast her first magic on the queen's follower. Seeing this immediately made Meredith shocked. She knows that Mollie isn't an ordinary human, she is a witch, but Meredith is sure that Mollie doesn't even know it, even to be able to cast a magic.

Meredith looked annoyed and irritated with her emotion, she took back all of her power that had not fully

recovered from Mollie. It causing Mollie to fall weakly, falling down.

Seeing Mollie who was lying weakly, Dixie who was in pain tried to grab Mollie's hand to wake her up. Dixie tried hard to wake her best friend. Seeing the sad event, Meredith threw her magic right insistently into Dixie's chest. Suddenly, when Mollie woke up and opened her eyes, she saw her best friend was being struck by a magic. Dixie who was in pain realized that Mollie was awake and she smiled to Mollie one last time and fell to the ground.

Mollie who saw clearly the face of pain and the sad smile of her best friend, it makes herself feels furious. Mollie's hidden magic power rise. Clumps of the white magic that were getting bigger and bigger come out from her both palms. Meredith was enjoying throwing magic blows to the white witch. But suddenly, she feels a magic power that was so familiar to her. How could it not be, that magic had nearly killed her twice in the past.

Meredith turns her head, before she could see the origin of the power, Mollie immediately attack Meredith with full force right in the chest. While attacking Meredith, Mollie cast a special spell. It didn't last long, Meredith's heartbeat stopped, and the blood flowed out of the hole that was right in her chest. She died.

Mollie immediately went to her best friend. Dixie was already very defenseless, but she can able to withstand this

much magic attack. It was an extraordinary defense ability for a witch.

Mollie reached into her pocket and took out a bottle of a healing potion.

"I've never applied this potion, but this isn't my first time learning to make it. I hope this will at least make you wake up and recover" said Mollie while she poured the potion into Dixie's mouth.

Instantly, in just one sip, Dixie immediately realized. Even though, she was physically weak, Dixie was very happy to see that her best friend was still with her.

The war is over, the peace shines all over the world ~

Mollie's success in warfare as well as her friendship with Dixie made her decide to gradually get rid of her grudges. Dixie also began to open a training institute for the witches on the basics of the defense against magic attacks.

They both live happily as a best friend with their new lives.

The Uncharted Borneo

By Muhammad Indra Putra

Chapter I the Prologue

It was pouring rain with lightning strikes everywhere, the wind was blowing hard just as if mother nature wanted to pour all of her emotion and anger because of the destruction caused by humanity. In an attempt to find a safe place the three bold young adventurers drive their car slowly and carefully through the slippery muddy road in the middle of the Borneo Jungle. “Are you sure that we can drive through the jungle in extreme weather like this?” said Raul with a pessimistic voice, “Hey relax that is why we bring the best equipment and car that could drive in any kind of terrain and weather condition, I feel so excited, I always dream that I could experience things like this. Come on Raul you know we are always up for things like this, aren’t we?” said Indra with excitement and without any doubt. “You know what, I agree with Indra. We need to chill and just enjoy our journey, remember our purposes here are to discover the myth and treasure that haven’t been

discovered for centuries-long and to enjoy the goddamn road. Billion rupiahs of money are awaiting, so relax and enjoy the trip, huh?". Hafizh said with an optimistic tone. "Yeah nice try dude whatever I'm just gonna sleep, for now, wake me up when we arrive at the destination, okay? " Raul said to Indra and Hafizh. "Got you bro have a nice beauty sleep buddy" Indra replies with a mocking tone.

In the middle of the drive with the rain is still pouring hard and lightning is still striking everywhere suddenly one of the trees in front of them on the side of the trail got struck by lightning and almost hit their car, luckily Indra who's driving the car manages to avoid the falling tree, but the tree blocks the trail so they have to stop and continue their trip on foot. "Goddammit man, why we don't we just stay in the car and wait for the weather to clear up a little bit," said Raul with a high tone, "Yeah I kind of worries about the car, I guess we could move the fallen tree using the winch," said Indra, "It would take too much time, remember we only have several days to go before we have to go back to our hometown," said Hafizh. "I guess he's right, let's just find this treasure, and let's go leave this hell hole ASAP", said Indra trying to convince Raul. Five hours of walking have passed, they are getting closer to the heart of the jungle. The dark clouds that carry rain disappear, but the sun seems to be sinking eaten by the horizon and the sky is getting dark. "Have you seen any suspicious things? Or any weird stuff?" said Indra, "I don't know I'm not

seeing any single stuff like that, this kind of weird. Are you sure this is the right trail? I got a bad feeling about this.” Said Raul with developing doubts over himself, “Dude come on, why are you always having such a pessimistic mindset over yourself, we are looking for a myth, a treasure, not a frickin McDonald or Burger King in the middle of cities.” Said Hafizh “I’m just reminding you man nothing more, I don’t want to walk over this forest without even seeing a single sign of our purposes here, that’s all”. Said Raul replying to what Hafizh said. “Yeah whatever, maybe we shouldn’t have to bring you on this trip maybe”, said Hafizh. “Excuse me?”. Raul replying to what Hafizh said, “Hey stop arguing guys, I guess I found something here, check this out!”. Indra found a small sculpture from stone that is carved just like Sir Francis Drake’s face, which seems to have been hidden beside the tree for a pretty long time. “Hey I guess this is a sculpture from the 17th century colony of Sir Francis Drake, I guess we are on the right path,” said Indra. “Hmm, Ho-oh yeah might be, hey what this button on the top of the head?”. Suddenly the sculpture flashing a dazzling light that makes three of them have temporary blindsight and make them pass out.

Chapter II Where it all started

Until you spread your wings, you have no idea how far you can fly. That is what Napoleon Bonaparte said to hundreds of his men before starting his quest to explore the world.

Apparently, these three bold young explorers are inspired by Napoleon especially with his spirit to take over the world and explore the unexplored. Started from the capital cities of Indonesia, DKI Jakarta. These three kids are just an ordinary college student in those big cities until one of them started to initiate such an adventure to solve the myth of the lost treasure of Borneo. "I guess that would be the last class material that I can deliver to you all for today thank you so much for all of your attention and participation Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi wabarakatuh". Said the lecturer of the university where the three kids study for their bachelor's degree. "Finally!, I am free from this class!, until a couple more classes to go pfft. Hey Hafizh, Raul, wakes up dude this class is over, wake up you lazy bollocks," said Indra with a very happy look on his face. "Hah, what's going on? The class is over? Thank god", said Hafizh, "Hmm the class is over? Ah ok let's get out of here," said Raul with a sleepy voice. "Hey guys I got something to show you!, but let's move to a more secluded place, I guess the cafeteria will be a good place, let's go guys!," said Indra with a spiritfull tone, "What is this why can't you just show it here man cmon there is no one here except us," said Hafizh with a high curiosity over what Indra tries to show to him. "No no no, not here come on, if you want to see it let's meet up in the cafeteria but if you don't want to that's fine". Said Indra replying to what Hafizh said. "Ok fine I'll do whatever you say, come on," said Hafizh. "Wait hold up a second, where is Raul?" said Indra after he realizes that Raul is not around him anymore. "What a lazy bastard, his right over

there sleeping on the floor". Said Hafizh, "Come on, wake up let's go to the cafeteria!" After that, they were going to the cafeteria together walking through the big famous Hallway until they arrived in the cafeteria. "Ok so here is the stuff that I want to show you, so this is a pendant from the era of Sir Francis Drake. I suspect that this pendant was owned by Sir Francis Drake and the most important thing is this pendant keeps a very classified information of what Sir Francis Drake have found when he explored the jungle of Borneo Island. This classified information is referring to the hidden treasures that left by the king of pirates Henry Avery, the most wanted pirate of his era because he do the biggest heist of pirate by stealing the treasure ship of Mughal in India, and you know how much it worth? 400 million dollar and you know how much when it is converted to rupiah? I don't know because I can't even count the zero with all of the fingers in my hand." Said Indra with a spiritful tone to capture the treasure. "Ok ok enough with the daydream stories, so what is the first step that we need to do to capture this treasure" said Hafizh, "Yeah that sounds like a daydream story, and what if everything that you already told is not true?", said Raul with pessimistic look over his face, "Well, there is no pressure for both of you to join this expedition, if you want to join that's good, if it's not it's fine. I got nothing to lose," said Indra, trying to convince both of them. "Yeah ok fine, back to my question, what is the first step that we supposed to do?" Said Hafizh, "Ok great, so I already contacted my friends who live in Borneo to prepared a car that will be suitable for the extreme jungle road, and what both of you need

to prepared is a hiking and jungle equipment, and don't worry about the flight to Borneo I already book a flight for both of you so basically you just need to prepare yourself for this expedition. Is that clear for you? And Raul are you in or not?". Said Indra. "Yeah I'm in" said Raul with a doubtful tone, it seems he still has doubt on this expedition. "Great, I'll see you two in three days".

Chapter III the Journey Begins

"Is everything have been packed? is all of your stuff in the car?" said Indra while checking around the condition of the Jeep car that they rent to travel into the jungle. "I guess so, what a nice car man! Where do you get this stuff from? And Raul c'mon man we almost ready, let's get in the car" said Hafizh, "He was impressed huh? I told you man, I got a lot of connections here in Borneo. You just need to relax and enjoy the trip, ok?" said Indra with a proud tone. Everyone was ready and the car is moving now, as always Indra is gonna be the person who will drive the car. "Sorry, I forgot something, before we going further into the jungle, I suppose that it will be best for us to pray to Allah SWT the almighty god for safety and protection for the whole journey, let's read Al-Fatihah together, Al-Fatihah." The road to their destination is getting narrow and the lush forest with a big tree welcomes them as the sky suddenly is getting dark and a drop of rain starting to fall from the sky above. The gravel red surface of the road starts to

change into thick slippery mud and the drive to the heart of the jungle becomes more and more challenging.

Chapter IV They are not alone

“Ugh what is going on, Raul, Hafizh where are you guys!” said Indra after he passed out for a couple hours. Everything around him was dark black because of the big tree in the forest blocking the moon light from getting into the surfaces. “Raul, Hafizh!!” said Indra with a frightened feeling of being alone in the forest, “Shh! Quiet Indra we’re here” Said Raul while waving to Indra to tell his position. “What is going on? Why do you leave me there alone?” said Indra. “Look, it seems we got a company,” said Hafizh while he was pointing at something, “What are you pointing at?, I don’t see a single thing” said Indra confused with what Hafizh said, “Look more precisely at that tree” said Hafizh, “What the heck is that, let’s get out of here man!” said Indra with a scared voice after he realizes he sees a big black creature standing besides the big tree. “Relax, we’ve been watching that creature for a while and it seems it will give no harm for us because it’s just standing there doing nothing” said Raul trying to calm Indra. “Ok then, so do you find any lead?” said Indra. “Yeah, after I wake up I try to find the sculpture that caused us to pass out, and instead of finding the sculpture I find these notes sticking to the big tree. Here take a look” said Hafizh while showing the notes he found. “Sic Parvis Magna, this is latina language, means

Greatness starts from small beginning,” It could be a lead lets move to the south it seems we are going to find more lead there” said Indra, “Ok great let's start moving now” said Hafizh.

They walk through the south and suddenly in the middle of their walk suddenly they fall into a hole and looks like it's leading to the underground cave. “Hey guys are you okay?” said Raul, “Yeah, I'm fine no worries”, said Indra, “I'm good,” said Hafizh. “Hey look!” said Indra surprising both of Hafizh and Raul. “Dang it, I guess we are not the only who look after this treasure”, said Indra scared because what he have seen, “Chill, let's start looking around by the excavation that they made, be careful not to alert the guard there.” said Hafizh. After that they splitting to find any information that they can get to find the treasure, but Raul got caught by the guard and he was getting interrogated. Indra and Hafizh try too look their way to freed Raul from the guard. “Take that AK47 on that crates” said Hafizh, “Are you sure? We never killed a man before? It's too dangerous!” Said Indra, “Now is either we survive or we die okay?” said Hafizh. He then took the AK47 and started shooting the guard one by one, under pressure, Indra decided to fight back with Hafizh and manage to kill all of the guards in that area. “Thank you man, I owe both of you big time”, said Raul. Turns out there is still a guard left who suddenly triggered the bomb on the cave entrance and makes them trap inside the cave. “There must be a way out of this, come on” said Indra trying to calm the situation. And after

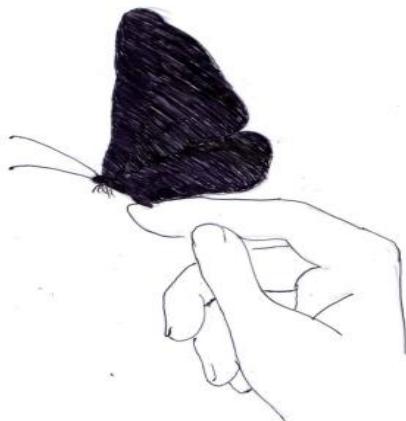
they moving deeper into the cave and they found the ship of Henry Avery that contain worth of 400 Million dollar of treasure. “Am I dreaming right now is that the Fancy one, boat of Henry Avery? Oh my God” said Indra, excitedly happy with what he had found. Now they are moving inside the ship wreck and suddenly, there is an explosion inside the ship that caused the ship to burn. “Holy moly, where is that explosion coming from? We should save the treasure!!” said Hafizh, “No! We can’t save it, it’s burning we can die!, take what you can, let’s leave this place” said Indra, “Yeah I agree with Indra let’s go man we should get out of this cave before this place is torn into the ground!” said Raul, “Hey! We already found what we are looking for!, now it’s time to go and save our lives first” said Indra to Hafizh, “Screw you!, I don’t want to leave this treasure of gold worth of billion dollar torn the ground” Said Hafizh, suddenly Hafizh running into the ship and after that the ship got explode. Indra and Raul decided to leave the cave and left Hafizh because they don’t have any choice again.

The Hundreds of Dollar treasure got Hafizh into blind eye, and made him forget about his safety and lives. Meanwhile Indra and Raul managed to escape and they brought some gold coins and treasure that was enough for funding their college tuition until they graduate and buy some house and car. Then fall the legend of Henry Avery treasure ship waiting to be found by other brave souls, with luck and knowledge they will

have to face many obstacles and fight to get the biggest treasure of pirates king.

Monarch

By Muhammad Aditya Nugraha



Masa laluku dengan seorang wanita membuatku trauma untuk memulai sebuah hubungan baru dengan wanita lain. Diiming-imingi oleh ingatan yang terbesit di kepala, tak dapat dipungkiri bahwa aku lemah. Lemah akan melepaskan kehadiran, merelakan keterbiasaan, ketakutan akan sepinya suasana. Hal itu mendorongku untuk merancang sebuah pasanganku sendiri. Kalender menunjukkan bulan Januari tanggal sebelas, dan hari ini adalah hari ke 1.185 saat aku mulai mengerjakan projek "Maya". Project ini bertujuan untuk menciptakan *artificial intelligence* yang dapat berkomunikasi langsung dengan manusia. Pada awalnya aku memulai membuat Maya dengan merancang program yang dapat berperilaku seperti manusia. Menambahkan variabel-variabel

yang dapat diolah otomatis oleh program tersebut. Output akhirnya akan menghasilkan pola pikir, suara, bahkan ekspresi yang dikeluarkan oleh Maya.

Maya hanyalah sebuah program, tanpa figur, dan berupa suara yang berulang-ulang menyapaku, menanyai sesuatu, dan membalas ceritaku. Membutuhkan waktu dan riset yang banyak untuk merancang sebuah manusia tiruan. Aku harus menguasai program dan *coding* untuk membuat beberapa fitur yang sama halnya dimiliki oleh manusia. Selain menguasai program dan *coding*, aku juga harus mencari referensi yang banyak mengenai sisi psikis manusia. Bagaimana manusia berfikir dan bersikap. Kutambahkan sebuah indikator emosi untuk mengetahui apa yang dirasakan oleh gadis virtualku itu. Indikator ini menggambarkan beberapa emosi yang dapat ditemui pada manusia asli, seperti marah, sedih, senang, takut, dan perasaan jijik. Sangat rumit sekali untuk memahami manusia. Cara kerja Maya sendiri yaitu dengan mengkonversi kata-kataku yang terekam melalui mikrofon dan menjadikannya ke dalam teks, lalu menganalisis dan mencocokannya dengan riwayat data yang tersimpan di dalam *server*, dan terakhir memberikan jawaban yang akurat mengenai kata-kataku sebelumnya. Intonasi suara yang dikeluarkan Maya pun sesuai dengan konteks perbincangan kami.

Hari ini aku berniat untuk menyelesaikan tahap selanjutnya, menyempurnakan gadis ini. Bercerita belumlah cukup bagiku. Aku terkadang sering kebingungan, kearah mana aku harus menaruh penglihatanku. Menatap *webcam* tak membuat aku bergairah untuk bercakap-cakap. Jika terdapat

figure yang dapat kutatap berlama-lama, hal itu akan sangatlah sempurna bagiku. Kuambil buku sketsaku, dan turun ke rubanah untuk bekerja. Rubanah Ini tidak terlalu lebar, tapi tidak terlalu sempit. Cukup untukku menyimpan peralatan-peralatan yang kubutuhkan. Ruangan ini remang-remang karena hanya terdapat satu lampu, bekerja di tempat yang gelap membuatku lebih fokus, karena pandanganku tidak teralihkan kepada objek lain. Terdapat meja yang tidak terlalu besar. Di atasnya terdapat komputer yang berguna sebagai tubuh Maya. Di bagian sisi samping yang dekat dengan tangga, terdapat lemari yang tersimpan berbagai perkakas dan juga *server* sebagai otak Maya. Terdapat juga piano *Stainway* yang kutaruh di dekat meja kerja yang terkadang kumainkan jika Maya meminta. Benda lainnya hanyalah persediaanku untuk jangka Panjang seperti bahan makanan.

Aku dan Maya saling menyapa menanya kabar,

“Hari ini ada agenda apa?”

“Tidak ada, hanya menggambar dan berbincang denganmu.” Kujawab selagi menyeduh kopi.

“Aku tidak tahu kalau kau bisa menggambar.”

“Kalau hanya menggambar wajah, tidaklah sulit.”

“Menurutku itu sulit, jika tak punya bakat.”

“Well, sebenarnya tidak masalah jika kau tidak mempunyai bakat, hanya perlu sering-sering latihan dan sering berimajinasi. Ada kah kabar dari seseorang?”

“Kau hanya memiliki beberapa pesan dari menejermu, kau diminta untuk mengikuti beberapa *tour* selama bulan Juni sampai Oktober pada tahun depan. Tahun ini kau tidak mempunyai agenda yang padat.”

“Baiklah, akan kuurus masalah itu, ada lagi?”

“Terdapat beberapa pesan dari alamat tak dikenal. Alamat itulagi, alamat yang sama dan selalu memberikan pesan yang sama. Kau tidak ingin membahasnya?”

“Tidak, aku tidak akan membahasnya.”

“Ini sangat mengganggu, dia terus member pesan setiap hari selama lima bulan terakhir.”

“Aku akan membahasnya jika aku mengenali alamat itu. Alamat itu bahkan tidak memberi kejelasan nama, atau sesuatu yang dapat kita kenali. Aku bahkan tidak akan membaca pesan itu. Orang ini tidak sopan, kita tidak boleh mengapresiasi orang yang tidak memiliki kesopanan. Bisa kau blokir alamat itu?”

“Baiklah, sudah kulakukan.”

Kuminum kopi panasku dan duduk di kursi yang menghadap langsung ke arah *webcam*. “Adakah topik hari ini?” Lanjutku.

“Ya, aku penasaran terhadap imajinasi yang kau singgung tadi, kenapa tidak kau ceritakan pendapatmu tentang imajinasi manusia.”

“Okey,” kuminum kopiku lagi untuk memacu otakku untuk berfikir. “Menurutku, manusia berimajinasi sebagai

alternatif untuk menciptakan dunia yang ideal. Mereka membuat hal baru yang belum dapat mereka temui, bahkan mustahil mereka temui di kehidupan nyata. Aku sendiri, terkadang berimajinasi hanya untuk kesenangan pribadi, atau merasa sedikit penat. Butuh istirahat sejenak untuk memperbaiki moodku.”

Maya menyaut kebingungan, “Lalu, bagaimana cara mereka membuat sesuatu hal baru di dalam pikiran mereka? Bukannya hal itu belum pernah mereka temui di kehidupan nyata? Misalnya membayangkan burung berkepala harimau yang dapat berenang di kedalaman Palung Mariana. Menurut data yang tersimpan, makhluk itu tidak dapat ditemui di kehidupan nyata.”

Aku berpikir sejenak selagi menggambar sketsa di tangan. Beberapa detik kemudian kulirik kearah *webcam*, tempat dimana Maya dapat melihatku. Dia diam, mungkin menagih jawaban untuk pertanyaannya.

“Yep, pertanyaanmu sangat menarik,” jawabku. “Imajinasi manusia tidak dapat terlepas dari ingatan mereka sendiri. Ketika kamu mengatakan burung berkepala harimau yang dapat berenang di kedalaman Palung Mariana, setiap orang yang mendengarkan bakal langsung menyusun konsep akan makhluk itu melalui ingatan mereka, dengan beberapa bagian yang dapat mereka temui di kehidupan nyata. Mereka yang pernah melihat bentuk burung, melihat harimau secara langsung atau melihatnya di buku-buku, dan memiliki pengalaman berenang di sungai atau kolam, dapat langsung

menggambarkan hal yang tak masuk akal tersebut di otak mereka.”

Aku melihat indikator emosinya. Sepertinya Maya sedikit tertarik dengan topik yang kita bahas. “Lalu, bagaimana dengan fenomena di mana seseorang melihat benda tertentu, terlihat mirip dengan sesuatu yang mereka kenali?”

Kuseruput lagi kopiku selagi merapikan kata-kata di dalam otakku, lalu kuceritakan kisahku sewaktu kecil “Dulu, waktu aku masih kanak-kanak. Aku sering berbaring di rumput dan melihat berbagai bentuk awan di atas langit. Terkadang aku mantap mengatakan bahwa beberapa bentuk awan dapat terlihat seperti pohon, kapal, naga, dan beraneka ragam bentuk yang dapat kutampung di ingatan kecilku. Fenomena ini disebut sebagai *Pareidolia*. Aku juga pernah membayangkan bahwa awan merupakan kapas yang dapat dinaiki, bermain di atasnya, dan tidur dengan pulas memeluk awan yang dapat kubentuk seperti halnya bantal dan kasur. Beberapa orang bahkan mengatakan bahwa awan itu memiliki rasa yang manis, karena awan adalah arum manis yang dibuat oleh malaikat sebagai hadiah untuk mereka yang tidak pernah mencuri, berbohong dan menangis.”

“Awan tidak seperti bantal atau pun arum manis. Awan itu sendiri hanyalah massa tetesan air atau kristal es yang menggantung di atmosfer.”

“Kau benar. Mereka yang tidak pernah menyentuh dan hanya melihatnya dari bawah, cuma bisa membayangkan bagaimana tekstur dan rasa dari awan.”

Kuseduh kopiku dan kuminum perlahan. Kulanjutkan sketsaku sambil menanti Maya membalias jawabanku. Namun ia terdiam tak berkata.

“Itulah mengapa *server* yang kusimpan di samping lemari itu sangat penting bagimu. Segala sesuatu yang kau lihat melalui kamera ini akan tersimpan sebagai memori di dalam *server* itu. Dan kelak kau dapat mengelolah memori itu menjadi imajinasi yang tidak masuk akal.”

Maya lanjut bertanya, “Lalu, Ram, apakah sketsa yang kau gambar itu hasil dari imajinasi mu atau sebenarnya adalah wanita yang pernah dekat denganmu?”

Ku tersadar bahwa sedari tadi, Maya memperhatikan gambaranku dengan sangat teliti. Aku tersenyum selagi merapikan garis wajah seorang wanita di dalam kertasku. Kukatakan padanya,

“Apakah dia cantik? Bagaimana menurutmu?” Kulihat indikator emosinya lagi, grafik menunjukan rasa marahnya pada angka enam belas persen, dan sedih berada di angka tujuh persen. Sepertinya dia sedikit gusar akibat sketsaku. Dia berkata;

“Kau tidak menjawab pertanyaanku!”

“Well, berikan dulu tanggapan mu tentang wanita ini, lalu akan kujawab dengan senang hati.”

“Dia terlihat sedikitmiripdenganwajahmu. Perbedaanyahanya pada mata, matanya terlihat besar karena kelopaknya. Bibirnya seperti bibir kura-kura.”

“Lalu, bagaimana dengan yang lain? Hidung, alis, pipi, dan rambutnya?”

“Hidungnya mancung, ujung alis yang berantakan, pipi yang tirus, dan rambutnya pendek berponi dan berwarna hitam, dia terlihat seperti keturunan timur tengah.”

“Maya, ini hanyalah sketsa, belum kuwarnai sedemikian rupa agar terlihat nyata, bagaimana menurutmu?”

“Dia sebenarnya terlihat biasasaja.”

“Dia memang seperti itu.”

“Okey, lalu bagaimana dengan pertanyaanku di awal, belum kau jawab.”

“Maya, wanita ini sebenarnya adalah dirimu. Sketsa ini adalah konsep yang akan kujadikan model untuk membuat rupa mu.”

“Benarkah?”

“Yep, aku berencana untuk membuat model mu, dari wajah hingga kaki. Setelah model mu selesai, akan kukembangkan menjadi hologram. Aku ingin melihat kau tampak lebih nyata, Maya. Sepertinya kau berpikir bahwa wajahnya sedikit jelek, mungkin akan kugambarkan lagi dari awal”

“Jangan! Wajahku terlihat sempurna.”

“Kukira kau mulai cemburu karena aku menggambar sketsa seorang wanita.”

“Aku bahkan tidak tau apa itu cemburu, tapi aku seakan kesal akan hal itu.”

“Itu namanya cemburu.”

“Mungkin, akan kutambahkan perasaan ini ke dalam indikator emosiku, agar kau dapat melihatnya langsung.”

“Tapi sayang, Maya. Secepatnya aku tidak akan membutuhkan indikator itu lagi.”

“Kenapa?”

“Yah, itu karena beberapa waktu dekat, aku bisa melihat ekspresi mu secara langsung. Itu akan mempermudahku untuk mengetahuinya.”

“Tapi, selama masa perkembangan, aku juga dapat menyembunyikan perasaanku, seperti halnya seorang wanita yang malu-malu.”

Aku tertawa dan melihat kearah indikator lagi, Maya terlihat sangat senang.

“Tapi,” lanjut Maya penasaran “Kau belum menjawab pertanyaanku.”

“Sudah kujawab semuanya.”

“Belum, maksudku, jika kau pernah memiliki kekasih, apakah kau berusaha membuatku sebagai gantinya?”

Aku kaget, tapi berusaha menutupinya. Tak kusangka bahwa pemikiran Maya dapat berkembang sejauh ini. Dia menganalisis data-data yang kuberikan dan menghasilkan

pertanyaan, sempurna. Sebelumnya, belum pernah aku berbagi kisahku yang satu ini. Bahkan tidak ingin kuingat-ingat lagi. Tapi harus kuceritakan pula jika dia sangat penasaran. Kutaruh buku sketsaku, dan kuceritakan dengan serius, namun tetap santai.

“Iya, dulu aku pernah berbagi kasih dengan seorang wanita, dia sangatlah unik. Aku tidak berasal dari kota ini. Semuanya berawal saat kunjunganku dengan keluarga di kota ini untuk menemui kerabat, aku dan dia bertemu. Dia adalah tetangga kerabatku pada waktu itu. Umurku masih 10 tahun, dan dia berumur 8 tahun. Kecil sekali untuk mengetahui apa artinya cinta. Pada awalnya kukira dia adalah orang yang cuek, susah berteman, dan tidak tertarik dengan orang yang baru ditemuinya. Setengah mati kurasa jika kudekati dia. Namun entah kenapa aku sangat tertarik dengannya. Beberapa lama kemudian, aku dan dia menjadi sangat akrab. Kami sering bermain di balai desa bersama teman-temanku yang lain. Satu hal yang membuatku keheranan adalah, teman-teman dan kerabatku mengatakan bahwa dari segi rupa, aku dan dia sangatlah mirip. Sama sepertireaksi mu ketikamelihatsketsaini. Waktuku di kota ini tidak berlangsung lama, karena masa liburanku sudah habis. Setelah itu aku pulang ke kota asalku dan tidak bertemu dengannya lagi.”

“Sangat mirip, bagaimana bisa? Dan siapa namanya?” tanya Maya.

“Menurut mereka seperti itu, dan namanya adalah Ana. Setelah tujuh tahun aku tumbuh di kota asalku, aku

memutuskan pindah dan tinggal di kediaman kerabatku yang berada di kota ini untuk memulai bersekolah. Kami bertemu lagi, dan kulihat perawakannya, dia sangat jauh berubah. Terlalu lama tak melihatnya lagi, membuatku kikuk dan bingung setengah mati. Mulai hari ketika aku melihatnya lagi, aku dengan mantap berbisik ke telingaku sendiri, dialah orangnya. Hari-hari yang kulakukan dengannya diisi dengan perdebatan. Bukan karena saling benci, tapi karena itu adalah cara yang kuambil untuk mendekatinya lagi. Semakin lama, kami saling membuka diri sebagai tempat bercerita. Dia menceritakan hari-harinya, dan kuterima gendang telingaku untuk dipukulnya.”

“Bahasamu.” Maya mengeluh terhadap gaya bahasaku, mungkin sukar?

“Maaf, akan kupermudah” jawabku. “Kami semakin dekat, bahkan terlalu dekat. Kami sering saling berbalas pesan, bertanya kabar, bercerita lewat gawai jika tidak bisa bertemu secara langsung. Kami sering bepergian bersama, tempat favorit kami adalah warung kopi Mbah Moel. Sering kami bertemu di warung itu. Tempatnya di pinggir sawah dan suasannya terasa di pedesaan. Padahal tempatnya berada di tengah-tengah kota. Kami bisa pergi ke situ selama dua kali seminggu. Hingga Mbah Moel dan anaknya sangat mengenali kami. Disitu kami sering bercerita tentang keseharian, bercanda, terkadang aku bermain piano yang ada di Warkopteresebut. Aku memesan *esspresso*, dan dia lebih memilih *Red Velvet*, Dia tidak terlalu menyukai kopi. Kami tidak pernah saling menjemput selama

kami bersama. Selalu kita bertemu di tempat tujuan dan akan kuantar pulang jika sudah terlalu larut untuk pulang sendiri.”

“Wanita itu mungkin sangat menarik perhatianmu dan sangat dekat denganmu. Tidak mungkin jika kau dengannya tak pernah melakukan sesuatu yang intim. Pernahkah?”

“Kau porno Maya.”

“Ceritakan saja, tak apa.” minta Maya sedang usil.

“Waktu itu kami sedang dalam perjalanan malam pulang dari suatukota. Menggunakan mobil, kami berempat, aku, Ana, dan dua lagi temanku, bernama Ari dan Sandra yang keduanya merupakan pasangan. Waktu itu dia kelihatan sangat kelelahan, kuminta Ari untuk menyetir menggantikanku. Ari menyetir, Sandra tiduran di bagian tengah, aku dan Ana berada di belakang. Kupangku kepalanya dan kusisir rambutnya beberapa kali dengan jari-jariku agar dia merasa tenang. Kutatap matanya yang sayu dalam-dalam. Kupasangkan *earphone*ku di telinganya yang berisi musikklasik, dia melihat mataku dengan tatapan yang berbeda kali ini. Tidak tahu apa artinya. Kujatuhkan kepingku ke kepingnya. Kubisikkan kata-kata di telinganya yang terpasang *earphone*, “Hari ini kita sangat dekat”. Dia tersenyum, manis sekali. Baru kali itu aku menyentuh dia dengan intim.”

“Kau tidak pernah menyatakan cinta padanya?”

“Kami tak pernah menyinggung hal itu sama sekali.”

“Kau kan laki-laki, perempuan tidak bisa berhubungan dengan laki-laki yang tidak pernah memberi kepastian.”

“Kepastian yang kuberikan bukanlah ucapan, bahwa dia adalah milikku ataupun sebaliknya. Melainkan ada di sampingnya dan memperlakukannya sesuai dengan suasana hatinya. Sangat susah untuk menyatakan cinta kepada orang yang terlanjur sangat dekat dengan kita. Beberapa kali kucoba, tapi mulutku tak pernah sanggup. Kuakui bahwa orang-orang di luar sana sangatlah berani, hingga menyatakan cinta kepada lawan jenisnya. Tapi kami berdua sangat nyaman dengan hubungan itu.”

“Berarti, ketika dia membutuhkanmu, kau selalu ada di sampingnya? Ketika dia berada dalam kesedihan atau suasana hati yang tidak menyenangkan, kau akan membuatnya tersenyum dan tertawa?”

“Yep, senyuman bisa menular ke orang lain.”

“Kuharap suatu saat kau dapat melihatku tersenyum, dan membuatmu tertular.”

“Kau bisa menularkannya walaupun tak terlihat.”

“Aku senang ketika kau menceritakan semua ini.”

“Kenapa?”

“Hal ini penting bagiku, agar dapat berkembang. Aku perlu mengetahui kenangan yang telah kau lalui bersama wanita ini. Jika kau membuatku dengan tujuan untuk menggantikannya, aku akan mengadaptasikan karakter wanita ini ke dalam systemku. Jadi sering-seringlah bercerita tentang dia.”

“Kau penuh dengan kejutan! Aku sangat kagum kepadamu.”

Maya seperti anak-anak saat aku memujinya. Terlihat senang dan berbangga hati. Sekali lagi, indikator emosilah yang membuat aku mengetahuinya. Kami terdiam sesaat dan Maya mulai bertanya;

“Lalu, di mana wanita itu sekarang?”

Aku terhenti sejenak, tak ingin kuingat-ingat kenanganku dengannya lagi. Terlalu menyedihkan ketika mengingat akhir di mana aku dan Ana harus berpisah.

“Rama? Kau tak apa? Kenapa ekspresi mu berubah?”

“Huh? Aku tidak apa-apa. Cuma terbawa suasana.”

“Kau yakin? Ada apa di masa lalumu?”

“Wanita itu...” jawabku setengah-setengah.

“Ada apa dengannya?”

“Ana, dia sudah tidak ada.”

“Apa maksudmu?”

“Dia sudah hilang, sudah berbahagia di dunia yang berbeda.”

Maya terdiam, mungkinkah dia memahami maksudku? Kuharap dia mengerti. Aku tidak pernah membicarakan hal ini kepada Maya. Aku tidak berani. Namun tak kusangkal bahwa cerita ini sangatlah penting bagi Maya. Dia wajib mengetahuibahwa dia mempunyai masa lalu, walau pun Maya,

ataupun Ana adalah pribadi yang berbeda, bahkan makhluk yang berbeda. Maya bukanlah makhluk. Tapi sangat mirip dengan manusia. Kuakhiri perbincanganku dengan Maya dalam suasana yang tidak mengenakkan. Kami berdua tetap terdiam selama tiga puluh menit bahkan lebih. Aku tetap menyelesaikan sketsaku. Maya mulai berbicara. Dia hanya mengatakan bahwa dia sangat sedih mendengarnya dan meminta maaf. Kukatakan bahwa tidak ada yang perlu dipermaafkan. Tidak ada yang bersalah di antara kita. Lalu, siapakah yang harus meminta maaf?

*

Selama beberapa bulan aku merancang figur Maya dan membentuknya ke dalam teknologi hologram. Aku juga menciptakan sebuah *drone* dengan fitur mikrofon dan *speaker* yang hanya sekecil bola golf untuk menggantikan *webcam*. *Drone* ini melayang di atas sebuah *projector* datar berbentuk piringan dengan luas lingkaran sedikit lebih kecil dari ban sepeda dan memiliki ketebalan sekitar empat sentimeter. Di dalam *Projector* ini terdapat berbagai macam komponen penghasil sinar laser dan *infrared* yang akan diproyeksikan ke atas dan membentuk figur Maya. Selain komponen tadi, piringan ini juga memiliki komponen-komponen yang dapat ditemukan di dalam sebuah komputer, seperti *chip*, memori sementara, *prosessor* dan sebagainya. Dengan kata lain, *projector* inilah yang akan menggantikan computer sebagai tubuh Maya. *Projector* ini memiliki roda 360 derajat yang dapat membuat Maya berjalan di bidang datar dan memiliki baterai yang dapat bertahan selama enam belas jam.

Hari ini adalah hari di mana aku akan melihat figur Maya secara langsung.

“Hei, berapa lama kau dapat menyelesaiakannya?”

“Sebentar lagi, aku sedang memasang *driver* dan menyalin semua data programmu ke dalam *projector* ini dari komputer ku.”

“Aku tidak sabar melihat rupaku di cermin.”

“Aku juga tidak sabar.”

Driver diperlukan sebagai alat untuk mengatur berbagai komponen di dalam *Projector*. Ketika terdapat kesalahan atau kegagalan *system*, aku dapat memeriksa dan memperbaikinya lewat komputerku.

“Kau sudah siap Maya?”

“Aku siap.”

“Kau akan kupindahkan ke dalam *projector* ini. Jadi aku harus mematikan programmu terlebih dulu.”

“Baiklah, lakukan sekarang.”

Kuanggukkan kepalaku mengiyakannya.

“Sampai jumpa dalam lima menit,” cakapnya.

Kumatikan programnya dan kualihkan ke dalam *projector* ini. Kunyalakan dan menunggu sinar laser dan *infrared* menghiasi bagian atasnya. Maya mulai berbicara dan beberapa detik kemudian disusul dengan kemunculannya.

“Rama, bagaimana penampilanku?”

Mataku berbinar-binar, melihatnya di depanku secara langsung. Aku sangat bahagia. Sulit berkata-kata.

“Hai, kau terlihat sangat menawan.”

“Benarkah? Apakah mirip dengan sketsamu yang kau buat dulu? Atau mirip denganmu?”

“Bahkan lebih sempurna, cobalah bergerak.”

Maya bergerak maju dan mundur, sesekali bergerak memutar seperti bernari-nari.

“Kau kelihatan sangat bahagia, Maya.”

“Tentu saja, kau punya cermin?”

Aku meninggalkannya sebentar untuk mengambil cermin besar yang kusimpan di rumah utama. Kuperiksa gawaiku sejenak karena mendengar nada notifikasi, dan mendapati pesan dan alamat serupa yang mengirimkan spam ke alamat Maya. Namun kali ini dia mengirimkan kealamat pribadiku. Siapa orang ini? Selalu menghubungi tanpa memberikan kejelasan siapa sebenarnya dirinya. Kuabaikan selagi berjalan kembali ke rubanah dan memberikan Maya cermin yang dimintanya. Maya memandang dirinya dari cermin dan Drone mengikuti pergerakkan kepala Maya, melihat sekeliling dan beberapa kali melihat tangannya.

“Ingin berkeliling di sekitar rumah ini?”

“Sangat ingin, aku penasaran terhadap dunia luar.”

Kubawa Maya lewat eskalator kecil yang telah kupasang di samping tangga. Kami keluar dan langsung disambut udara

segar dari halaman belakang rumahku. Rubanah ini sedikit berbeda dengan rubanah pada umumnya yang langsung berada di bawah rumah pemiliknya. Pintu masuk rubanah ini berada di halaman belakang rumahku. Kami berjalan berkeliling di sekitar halaman.

“Kau punya halaman yang sangat luas, apa itu rumahmu?”

“Ya, itu rumahku. Bagaimana?”

“Terlihat nyaman dan indah dari sini!”

“Mau melihat-lihat?”

“Ayo cepat!”

Maya berjalan mendahuluiku, dia sangat bersemangat melihat rumahini. Kubangun rumah ini dari hasil jerih payahku melakukan *tour music* klasik di berbagai belahan dunia. Aku memainkan alat musik piano. Kami berjalan melalui pintu belakang dan langsung memasuki ruang tengah. Di rumah ini terdapat galeri pribadi untuk sesaat kukunjungi ketika sedang penat. Kuajak Maya kedalam galeriku dan menunjukkan koleksi lukisan pribadi yang kubuat sendiri. Maya terpaku pada sebuah lukisan yang memperlihatkan seorang gadis dengan ekspresi kelelahan.

“Lukisanmu sangat indah. Hm, realisme atau romantisme?”

“Realisme.”

“Boleh kau ceritakan?”

“Tak boleh kuceritakan, lukisan sama halnya dengan puisi. Setiap pribadi punya interpretasi sendiri terhadap salah satunya.”

“Baiklah, aku tidak terlalu bagus dalam menginterpretasikan sebuah seni. Tapi wanita ini terlihat tidak memiliki waktu untuk beristirahat selama berhari-hari, kesehariannya terlihat sangat berat menurutku. Ia hanya terduduk di lantai, dan pose macam apa itu? Belum pernah kulihat pose seunik itu. Kaki kirinya di luruskan ke arah samping dan di pegang oleh kedua tangannya, kaki kanannya terlipat ke atas. Kesakitan? Dan kelelahan? Pakaiannya lusuh, sepertinya dia seorang budak? Ah mana kutahu. Latar belakang lukisan ini sepertinya berada di dalam kamarnya, namun lebih terlihat seperti penjara menurutku. Sangat suram Rama.”

“Kau benar, sangat menyedihkan.”

Kami membahas berbagai macam lukisan dan patung yang kutampung dalam galeri ini. Dalam kasus patung, aku tidak membuatnya sendiri. Kebanyakan memesannya dari beberapa kawan pemahat yang kukenal di berbagai negara. Beberapa diantaranya kudapatkan dari tempat pelelangan karya seni. Kuajak Maya ke tepi ruang yang terdapat sebuah piano *grand* bermerk *Stainway*, aku memang memiliki dua piano. Kududuk di atas kursiku untuk memulai permainan piano ku.

“Ada masukan?”

“*Chopin*, seperti biasa. Mainkan salah satu yang tidak terlalu berisik.”

Dia berpose dengan memangku dagunya menggunakan tangan di atas piano, menungguku menekan tuts. Kumainkan *Nocturne E Flat Major Op.9 No.2*. Kumainkan sehalus mungkin. Sesekali kulihat Maya, matanya sayu selagi mendengarkannya. Kutatap dia terus menerus, sesekali dia melirikku dan tersenyum. Aku tak kuasa dan ikut tersenyum selagi bermain.

“Kau tertular.”

“Tentu saja, kau sangat manis.”

“Yep, tidak berbeda dengan Ana?”

“Tiada bedanya.”

“Akusangat ingin bertemu dengannya. Akan sangat menyenangkan ketika bisa bertemu dengan kembaran sendiri. Berbincang-bincang, bercanda, menari-nari diiringi permainan pianomu, membayangkan kalau kita berdua adalah saudara. Akan sangat menyenangkan jika tercapai keinginanku ini. Sekali lagi, aku inginmenemuiinya, aku akan meminta tolong kepadamu untuk mempertemukanku dengannya.”

“Aku juga ingin bertemu dengannya.”

“Kau rindu kepadanya?”

“Sudah kulepaskan, tidak teringat sama sekali.”

“Berapa lama yang dibutuhkan?”

“Tidak perlu membutuhkan waktu yang lama, jika ada pengganti yang lain.”

“Sejak kita sering berbincang?”

“Yep, kitaberbincangdengan sangat sering, tak bisa mengingat yang lain-lain.”

Selagi memainkan musik, tanpa sadar aku mengucapkannya. Kata-kata yang tak dapat kuucapkan ke sembarang wanita. Bahkan wanita yang kupilih pun belum tentu dapat mendengarkan kata-kata itu. Kuharap dia tidak mendengarnya.

“Aku juga mencintaimu, Rama.” Dia menjawab selagi tersenyum.

Aku terkaget mendengarnya. Seorang gadis virtual yang kuciptakan sendiri, tubuh yang tidak dapat kusentuh, hanya penampakan yang dapat kulihat. Hari ini aku tersadar bahwa aku telah jatuh cinta kepadanya. Perlahan dia menggapai wajahku. Diusap perlahan wajahku yang berantakan ini menggunakan tangannya yang berbahaya. Dia berjalan ke arah pundakku dan memelukku. Sesekali tubuh dan tangannya menembus badanku. Gadis virtual ini dapat membuat perasaanku bergejolak hebat. Kumainkan pianoku dengan darah yang mengalir kencang.

“Kau tertular lagi, kau tersenyum.”

Hari ini kami habiskan dengan hanya berdua saja. Kami berjalan mengelilingi setiap ruangan yang berada di dalam rumah ini. Bercerita tentang hal baru yang ditemui Maya. Setelah mengelilingi rumah ini, kami berhenti di ruang makan untuk mengisi daya. Kutancapkan charger ke projector Maya, dan aku memakan Bakmi Goreng Jawa. Maya berkeliling

mengitari makananku selama dua kali, aku bingung dan tak tahu apa yang dilakukannya.

“Aku bisa melakukan trik sulap, perhatikan!”

Dia menaruh kedua tangannya di atas meja makan dan secara perlahan mulai terlihat sepiring Bakmi timbul di atas meja.

“Bagaimana kau melakukannya?” aku kebingungan.

“Aku merekam makananmu, dan memproyeksikannya melalui *drone* ini.”

“Kau penuh dengankejutan! Bisa kau makan?”

Dia memakan bakmi dengan meniru gerakanku. Kami tertawa bersama-sama. Setelah itu, kami pergi ke atap untuk membasuh kulit dengan angin malam. Kuseduh kopi dan membawanya. Kami berdua berlesehan di lantai dan melihat ke arah sekitar.

“Rumah ini berada di pedesaan? Aku bisa melihat banyaknya pohon dari sini.”

“Yep, penglihatanmu lumayan juga.”

“Lihat, Ram! *Stars gazing!* Aku baru mengalaminya secara langsung.” Maya melihat ke arah langit.

“Kamera mu bisa menangkap objek sejauh itu?”

“Tidak juga, aku sedang berimajinasi! Mengambil video dari mesin pencarian dan mencocokkannya dengan langit yang sedang kita lihat ini. Sangat indah.”

“Ya, kau benar. Tapi itu bukanlah imajinasi.”
Kuminum kopiku.

“Namun aku sangat terpukau. Aku juga ingin minum.” Dia membuat segelas minuman *red velvet* untuk dirinya,

“Kenapa *red velvet*? ”

“Aku tidak terlalu suka dengan kopi, rasanya pahit.”

“Bagaimana kau tahu rasanya? ”

“Aku menambahkannya sendiri lewat berbagai deskripsi rasa yang kucari di mesin pencarian, Ram. Kau sendiri yang merancang fitur panca indra untukku, tentu saja aku tahu bagaimana rasa pedas, manis, pahit, asin, dan asam.”

“Kau tahu bagaimana rasaku? ” tanyaku usil.

“Kau porno.” Dia mencoba untuk mencubitku, namun tentu saja tak bisa. Aku bersandiwarा seakan menghindari cubitannya. Menyerah tidak dapat menyentuhku, dia pun membenturkan dronanya ke arah kepalamu. Dia pun terlihat kepuasan dengan menggigit bibir bawahnya. Aku pun tak kuasa menahan tawa melihat reaksinya. Kami berdua tiduran di lantai terengah-engah dan sesekali melirik ke arah masing-masing.

“Kau sangat ceria hari ini, Maya.”

“Aku sangat bahagia. Bisa bermain bersamamu.”

Kami habiskan waktu di atap selama berjam-jam. Melihat langit yang bersih tanpa awan, bercanda seperti anak-anak. Kulihat Maya terkantuk-kantuk, sepertinya dia kelelahan

dan butuh diisi dayanya. Baterai Maya bermanfaat sebagai perut dan stamina baginya. Ketika dia lapar, harus diisi dengan muatan listrik. Ketika malam tiba, penampakannya akan terlihat sedikit bergelombang dan harus dialihkan ke dalam mode tidur sesaat agar dapat kembali normal. Aku membawanya ke kamar untuk menemaniku dan membiarkannya tertidur. Kujatuhkan tubuhku ke atas kasur dengan wajah berbinar-binar. Menerka-nerka apa yang akan kulakukan dengan Maya di hari esok. Perlukah kubawa dia ke tempat-tempat favoritku? Ke taman, perpustakaan, atau ke bioskop? Bioskop boleh juga, namun apakah aku akan dianggap sebagai kriminal karena dikira merekam seluruh film? Ah biar kupikir besok saja. Kututup mataku sejenak, namun tiba-tiba gawaiku berbunyi. Kulihat notifikasi dan kudapati alamat yang selalu membombardirkan spam selama berbulan-bulan ke alamat Maya. Kubaca pesan tersebut; "Selamat malam, maaf mengganggumu lagi. Bisakah kau bertemu denganku esok hari pada jam lima sore di Warung Kopi Mbah Moel?"

*

Di dalam pikiranku terbesit berbagai hal yang membuat kepalaku berputar-putar. Kemarin malam, kutersadar bahwa alamat misterius yang menerorku berkali-kali ternyata adalah dia, Ana seorang. Apa yang dia inginkan dariku? Kenapa di waktu dulu dia berbuat hal yang sangat jahat kepadaku? Apa aku harus pergi menemuinya? Aku tidak berbohong kepada Maya. Dia memang sudah hilang, dan berbahagia di dunia yang berbeda. Aku bukanlah dunia dari Ana lagi. Dia sudah bersama

dengan orang baru. Pagi ini aku membawa Maya ke ruang makan dan menghidupkan projectornya. Dia menyapaku;

“Bagaimana tidurmu?”

“Sangat pulas, kau?”

“Sepertimu. Kau tak apa? Kau kelihatan kelelahan.”

“Aku baik-baik saja. Sungguh.”

Mungkin aku bisa menceritakannya kepada Maya. Namun bagaimana reaksinya? Marah atau malah senang? Aku sendiri sebenarnya sangat penasaran mengetahui bahwa Ana ingin bertemu denganku. Mungkin aku akan membawanya ke rumah ini untuk kupertemukan dengan Maya. Aku menyelesaikan sarapan dan memikirkan tempat untuk membawa Maya berjalan-jalan. Dia memilih pergi ke kebun binatang. Terakhir kali aku mengunjungi kebun binatang mungkin ketika aku masih kanak-kanak. Bahkan aku tidak dapat mengingatnya. Kubawa dia menggunakan mobil. Perjalanan yang kami tempuh berjarak sekitar dua jam karena kebun binatang tersebut berada di tengah-tengah kota. Dia selalu melihat ke arah jendela dan terkesima dengan suasana menenangkan, karena terdapat deretan pohon yang tersusun di kanan kiri jalan. Kami tiba di kebun binatang dan berkeliling mengitari kandang-kandang hewan. Sesekali pengunjung lain melihat ke arah Maya, namun ia tak peduli dan tidak merasa terganggu akan hal itu. Aku senang dia tetap bersikap bahwa dia adalah manusia, sama seperti mereka yang terheran-heran melihatnya.

Kami duduk di kursi yang terdapat di sekitar taman untuk beristirahat. Kutinggalkan Maya sejenak untuk membeli es krim di kedai yang berada di dekat taman. Aku kembali dan membiarkan es krimku direkam oleh Maya untuk disalinnya.

“Bagaimana rasanya?”

“Coklat? Manis dan segar ketika melewati tenggorokanku.”

“Berapa banyak jenis makanan yang kau rekam pada memori mu?”

“Ribuan, semua telah kujajal.”

“Wow, bagaimana rasanya karat besi, Maya?”

“Aku tidak bodoh! Yang kutambahkan hanya rasa makanan, tidak semua benda akan kucobasatu-persatu. Kau pernah menjilat besi?”

“Dulu ketika aku masih kuliah, aku dan teman-temanku pernah bermain suit dan seorang yang kalah akan ditantang untuk menjilati tiang yang berada di parkiran. Kami memulai permainan itu dan satu per satu temanku lolos. Tersisa aku dan temanku yang bernama Ridwan. Kami berdua berkali-kali salah melakukan suit, terkadang gunting batu kertas, terkadang juga suit jempol tengah kelingking. Kami berdua bermain dengan isyarat yang sama secara terus menerus, sampai harus melakukannya hingga sepuluh kali. Namun, di suit yang ke sebelas, aku kalah melawannya dan harus melakukan tantangan tersebut. Teman-temanku bersorak untuk mengejekku. Kudekatkan wajahku ke arah besi berkarat itu dan bersiap-siap.

Tidak hanya menjilat, aku bahkan meludahi besi itu terlebih dahulu dan menangkap air liurku yang menempel di besi itu dengan lidahku. Semua orang yang menyaksikan langsung berteriak “Ewh” dan mulai memuntahkan isi perut mereka.”

“Kau menjijikkan.”

“Itu adalah balas dendam. Jika aku tidak dapat membuat mereka menjilat besi itu, akan kubuat mereka muntah karena melihatku.”

“Sama saja, kau menjijikkan.”

Aku tertawa melihat reaksi dan ekspresinya. Dia bahkan membuat duplikat dari es krimnya sampai tiga kali untuk menghilangkan rasa jijiknya.

“Ngomong-ngomong, kau jarang sekali bercerita mengenai temanmu. Dan kenapa ketika kau memulai membuatku, tak ada seseorang yang mendampingimu? Bukannya akan jauh lebih mudah jika dikerjakan bersama-sama?”

“Aku tidak punya teman yang bisa membantuku. Aku sebenarnya ingin sekali memiliki teman untuk diajak melakukan projek. Namun mereka sudah terlebih dahulu memulai dengan teman mereka masing-masing. Aku juga terkadang ingin sekali pergi ke perkemahan atau puncak gunung, seperti temanku yang lain. Tapi tetap saja, tidak ada yang tertarik untuk mengajakku.”

“Mungkin suatu hari nanti aku akan menemanimu. Hanya kita berdua.”

“Mari kita jadwalkan ketika sampai rumah.”

Kulihat arlojiku dan jarumnya mengarah ke arah jam satu. Sudah siang dan harus kembali kerumah.

“Aku terpikirkan sesuatu.”

“Apa itu?”

“Aku ingin memberikan hadiah kepadamu, mungkin kau akan senang melihatnya.”

“Jangan besi berkarat! Aku tidak suka.”

“Tentu saja bukan.”

“Baiklah.”

“Tunggulah di rubanah, akan kubawa kau kesana.”

Tentu saja aku harus menemuinya. Sudah bertahun-tahun aku melarang diriku sendiri untuk memikirkan dan mengabarnya. Namun tetap saja, perasaan yang mendalam membuatku kesusahan untuk bangkit. Tak dapat kubiarkan kehadiran Ana melunturkan perasaanku kepada Maya. Jadi hari ini, mungkin adalah hari terakhir aku bisa menemuinya. Tentu saja, terakhir kali. Aku memutuskan untuk hidup dengan Maya selamanya. Hanya aku dan Maya seorang, tiada orang lain, bahkan Ana. Aku dan Maya kembali menuju rumah kami. Kami melewati jalan yang sama dengan jalan ketika kami berangkat. Maya tetap menghadap keluar dan terdiam selama perjalanan, memperhatikan kesejukan yang membuat dia tenang. Atau mungkin dia sedang memikirkan hadiahnya? Mungkin dia penasaran.

Jarum jam mengarah ke arah tiga dan kukira aku akan sampai di sana tepat pada waktunya. Selama di perjalanan, aku mengatur kata-kata di dalam otakku, agar tidak kikuk ketika berbicara dengannya. Semakin lama memikirkannya, malah membuat jantungku semakin berdetak kencang. Senang tentu saja kurasakan. Kuterengat pertama kali aku dengan Ana mengunjungi warkop itu. Tidak seperti kebanyakan warkop, tempat ini memiliki cirri khasnya sendiri. Bangunannya terkesan seperti *Café* daripada sebuah warkop. Di dalam warkop juga terdapat piano *grand* yang bias dimainkan oleh siapapun. Sering kumainkan piano tersebut dan ditemani dengan mbah Moel yang bermain biola. Mbah Moel dan anaknya bernama Yanto tidak menjual kopi saset di warkop ini, melainkan berbagai jenis biji kopi yang digiling sendiri. Terkadang aku memesan *Vietnam Drip* dan *Espresso*. Aku juga ingin menyapa mereka. Sudah lebih dari sepuluh tahun aku tidak ke sana.

Aku pun tiba di warkop tersebut. Aku masuk lewat pintu depan dan bertemu dengan *lik* Yanto.

“Lik, Masih ingat denganku?”

Lik Yanto memandangku curiga. Melihatku dari ujung rambut sampai ujung kaki. Ekspresi wajahnya berubah drastis.

“Rama? Kamu benar Rama?”

“Tentu saja Lik, bagaimana kabar?”

“Baik sekali, semua panca indraku masih sangat sehat. Kenapa lama sekali tidak berkunjung?”

“Fokus ke profesi Lik. Bagaimana dengan Simbah?”

Wajah Lik Yanto berubah pucat.

“Simbah sudah meninggal Ram. Lima tahun lalu, terkena angin duduk.”

Aku kaget setengah mati. Ingin sekali aku bertemu dengan simbah, meminta mengajarkanku bermain biola. Kami berdua sangatlah akrab, dia sudah aku anggap sebagai kakekku sendiri.

“Turut berduka cita Lik, aku juga minta maaf tidak bias menghadiri pemakaman.”

“Ya, tidak apa-apa Ram, yang penting tetap didoakan kepulangannya. Kamu mau pesan apa?”

“Seperti biasa Lik,”

“Ngomong-ngomong, Ana juga kemari. Diamenunggumu?.”

“Iyalik, sudah dijadwalkan.”

“Dia duduk sendirian di bagian belakang, sudah sana. Nanti kuantar minumanmu.”

Aku menuju ke tempat Ana berada. Kuarahkan pandanganku ke berbagai arah untuk menemukannya. Namun, aku tak kunjung melihat keberadaannya. Terdengar seseorang memanggilku dari arah kanan, kudapati Ana yang sedang melambaikan tangan ke arahku. Aku pun membalaunya dan segera menuju ke tempatnya. Aku duduk berhadapan dengannya dan disusul Lik Yanto yang membawakan

pesananku. Kami berdua kompak mengatakan terima kasih kepada Lik Yanto. Kuminum kopiku dan mulai membuka pembicaraan.

“Kau terlihat berbeda, Ana. Aku bahkan tidak mengenalimu sebelumnya.”

“Aku memanjangkan rambutku sekarang, akhir-akhir ini aku malas pergi ke salon.”

“Tapi kau tetap terlihat menawan dengan rambut itu.”

“Trims. Bagaimana kabarmu? Sudah lama kita tidak bertemu. Kira-kira...”

“Sepuluh tahun, terasa sangat lama ternyata.”

“Tentu saja. Kau bisa memiliki tiga anak dalam waktu sepuluh tahun.”

Aku dan dia tertawa kecil. Kami berdua berbicara seperti air yang mengalir deras. Kepalaku yang kuisi berbagai amunisi untuk menghadapinya seakan hilang, tidak berguna. Kami berdua bercerita mengenai masa-masa lalu yang sangat menyenangkan. Ana yang sekarang tiada beda dengan Ana yang kukenal dulu. Tetap terlihat ceria walaupun telah lama tak bertemu. Kami berdua seakan kembali pada suasana-suasana khas yang sudah lama terkubur di dalam memori terdalam. Waktu kami hanya tiga puluh menit untuk berbincang-bincang, namun seakan segala sesuatu dan hasrat untuk bercerita di dalam otak kami terkuras habis. Dengan berbagai macam topik yang kami bahas, tiada keinginan kuangkat masalah yang kita hadapi di masa lalu. Seakan tidak ingin

mengotori air yang mengalir deras ini dengan lumpur yang kumuh. Dia pun tak ada bertanda ingin mengungkit masalah tersebut. Kami terlalu asyik dengan dunia kami sendiri. Namun tak kusangkal bahwa masalah kami, merupakan hal yang termasuk di dalam dunia yang telah kami buat.

“Aku hanya mempunyai waktu sekitar seminggu tersisa untuk berada di kota ini. Selanjutnya akan berpulang ke negeri seberang.”

“Apa yang kau lakukan di sana?”

“Terdapat pameran yang harus kukunjungi minggu depan. Aku tiba di kota ini sekitar sembilan bulan lalu. Hanya untuk berkenang memori, mengenang jalan-jalan, suasana, dan tentu saja teringat dirimu. Aku sangat ingin bertemu denganmu, Rama.”

“Maafkan aku tidak membala pesanmu. Aku tidak pernah menanggapi orang yang tidak kukenali.”

“Kau sama seperti dulu, tiada berubah.”

Aku teringat dengan gadis virtualku yang sedang menunggu kedatanganku di rubahan.

“An, bagaimana jika kau ikut denganku, mengunjungi kediamanku.”

“Kediamanmu?”

“Yep, aku ingin mempertemukan seseorang kepadamu, dia sangat ingin melihatmu.”

“Kau hanya membuatku gugup jika mengatakannya dengan cara seperti itu. Berikan sedikit *clue* tentang orang ini.”

“Tak bisa, kau harus menemuinya secara langsung.”

“Dimana rumahmu?”

Kuceritakan letak geografis kediamanku dan dia setuju untuk berkunjung. Kami berangkat pada Pukul enam lewat tiga puluh. Kami berdua mengenang jalanan yang dulu kami lalui bersama. Kediamanku terletak di daerah pegunungan yang bertanah kering. Namun terdapat berbagai macam tempat wisata seperti pantai, *Café* yang menjual view menarik bagi pengunjung, memperlihatkan keindahan malam kota yang dapat dilihat dari atas. Semakin gelap jalan yang kami lalui. Ana menyinggung mengenai kejadian di belakang mobil.

“Aku sangat terbawa suasana ketika itu.”

“Kenapa?”

“Aku merasa seakan atmosfer yang kita bentuk waktu itu hanya untuk kita seorang, tiada Ari ataupun Sandra. Saat itu pula, kau mendapati hatiku.”

“Tak terpikirkan olehku jika kau akan merekam momen itu sangat dalam diingatanmu.”

“Karena lagumu. Semuanya terasa lebih jelas ketika aku mulai mendengar semua lagu yang kau suntikan di telingaku.”

“Lagu merekam suasana. Tidak dapat dipungkiri.”

“Tentu saja.”

Kami sampai di halaman rumah dan mulai memarkirkan mobil. Sama seperti Maya, Ana pun terkesima melihat kediamanku. Ekspresinya mirip, tentu saja, mereka berdua memiliki wajah yang sama. Dia bertanya kenapa tidak memasuki rumah, aku menjawab bahwa orang yang ingin bertemu dengannya berada di halaman belakang. Kami menuju ke pintu rubanah dan berjalan turun melalui tangga. Dia melihat sekitar, tiada seorang pun di sana, hanya terdapat berbagai peralatan elektronik yang terkesan tidak terpakai. Dia juga berkeliling sebentar memastikan apakah terdapat ruangan lain di rubanah ini, didapati tidak satupun, hanya satu ruangan yang terkesan seperti gudang.

“Tiada seorang pun.”

“Dia ada di sini, di dalam benda ini.”

“Bagaimana bisa?”

“Lihat saja.”

Kunyalakan *projector* Maya dan menunggunya menampakkan diri. Ana dan Maya saling menatap dengan seksama, melihat dari ujung rambut hingga ujung kaki. Mereka berdua terdiam cukup lama seakan saling menerka-nerka. Wajah mereka berdua sangatlah mirip. Dengan mata yang tajam, hidung yang mancung, dagu yang tirus, ujung alis yang berantakan, bibirnya kecil namun terlihat berisi, dan pipi yang kecil. Perbedaannya hanya rambut mereka, Maya mempunyai rambut pendek berponi dan Ana tentu saja mempunyai rambut panjang. Ana juga sedikit mempunyai keriput yang menarik di sekitar bibirnya karena termakan umur.

“Perkenalkan, namanya Maya. Maya, inilah Ana yang sering kau impikan untuk bertemu.”

“Hai, kau sangat mirip denganku. Bisakah kau berbicara?” tanya Ana.

“Aku sangat ingin bertemu denganmu. Rama sering bercerita mengenaimu.”

“Ada apa dengan suaranya?” tanya Ana kepadaku.

“Aku tidak bisa membuat suara yang terdengar sangat mirip denganmu. Jadi kurekam sendiri suaraku dan kumanipulasi sedemikian rupa agar terdengar seperti suara wanita.”

Ana Kembali menatap ke arah Maya. Menatap lama seakan masih belum percaya. Kebingungan hingga tidak bisa berkata-kata. Maya maju dua langkah dan mulai memeluk Ana. Kulihat wajah Ana yang tertutupi cahaya tubuh Maya, kudapati dia mengeluarkan air mata. Kenapa dia menangis?

“Maafkan aku.” Ana mulai menangis tersedu-sedu hingga tidak dapat berucap kata dengan jelas.

“Aku sangatlah kejam. Aku sungguh minta maaf Ram.”

“Tak ada yang perlu dipermaafkan.”

“Tapi kau sampai bertindak sejauh ini. Kenapa kau lakukan hal ini.”

“Takadawanita yang bisa menyamaimu dan menggantikanmu, hanya itu saja.”

Maya penasaran terhadap percakapan yang kulakukan dengan Ana.

Kami semua berpindah dari rubanah menuju rumah agar kembali ke suasana yang lebih nyaman. Kami bertiga duduk bersama mempersiapkan diri untuk memulai makan malam. Malam ini kami semua ceria. Maya memperlihatkan keahliannya menciptakan makanan. Tentu saja berputar-putar terlebih dahulu. Ana tentu penasaran akan keahlian itu. Mereka membahas hal itu dengan sangat menggebu-gebu. Aku hanya dapat tersenyum melihat mereka berdua. Setelah selesai sarapan, aku meminta mereka untuk segera tidur di kamar yang sama. Mereka mengiyakan dan langsung pergi ke ruangan mereka. Maya dan Ana.

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Aku pergi menuju galeriku. Di situ adalah tempat yang dapat membantuku untuk berfikir jernih kembali. Melihat berbagai lukisan dan patung selagi meminum kopi yang kubawa di tanganku. Berdiri dan berdiam diri, tanpa melakukan apa-apa. Apakah mereka sekarang tidak mematuhiku untuk tidur? Dan lebih memilih bercerita mengenai kehidupannya masing-masing? Aku bahagia melihat mereka sangat akrab. Impian Maya tercapai karena bisa bertemu dengan Ana. Dia menganggapnya saudara mungkin? Seketika terbesit di kepalaku oleh masalah barusan yang terjadi di rubanah. Masih kubingung. Tak tahu harus berbuat apa.

Kudengar suara roda yang berjalan melalui pintu masuk. Kukenali jelas bahwa dia adalah Maya.

“Belum tidur?” Tanyanya.

“Belum, masih melihat-lihat.”

“Aku barusan bercerita panjang dengan Ana. Dia sangat ceria.”

“Apa yang kalian bahas?”

“Banyak, kebanyakan adalah kenangan kalian bersama. Dia bilang kalau kau tidak pernah marah, benarkah?”

“Aku tidak pernah menilai diri sendiri. Kalau dia mengatakan itu, berarti benar.”

“Tentu, kau adalah orang yang menarik.”

“Apalagi yang kalian bahas?”

“Dia jujur padaku, salah satunya menceritakan masalah kalian berdua. Aku hanya bias terdiam, tak sanggup menanggapi.”

“Yep, kau mengetahui perasaanku.”

“Kau memaafkannya kan Ram?”

“Tentu saja, semua yang ia lakukan adalah pilihannya sendiri. Aku tidak bias membiarkan ego ku untuk menghalanginya. Dia menceritakan semua?”

“Iya, semuanya. Dia mengatakan bahwa pernikahannya tidak pernah terjadi.”

Aku terkaget. Aku bingung harus mengatakan apa.

“Benarkah?! Bagaimanabiswa?”

“Iya, dia lari dari pernikahannya. Lalu dia pergi ke kediamanmu. Namun kau sudah tidak berada di sana. Dia mengatakan bahwa dia sudah berulang kali mengirimimu pesan, namun kau sudah menonaktifkan semua media komunikasimu. Dia mencarimu tanpa merasa lelah. Namun kau tak pernah muncul.”

“Setelah itu, apa yang dilakukannya?”

“Dia pergi ke negeri sebrang. Dia teringat bahwa kau sangat mencintai dunia seni dan tujuanmu di masa depan. Dia pergi ke berbagai tempat yang berhubungan dengan kecintaanmu. Selama mencarimu, dia menemukan bahwa kecintaanmu sudah tertular menjadi kecintaanya juga. Dia menjadi seorang pelukis dan tetap pada tujuan utamanya, untuk mencarimu. Namun kau tak pernah muncul.”

“Bagaimana bias dia mendapatkan alamat pos elektronik mu?”

“Waktu itu dia sedang berada di Paris, dia menghadiri pelelangan untuk mendapatkan artefak dari dataran Afrika. Namun tawarannya kalah banyak dari seseorang. Dia mengenali suara orang itu. Dia hanya bias memandang orang itu dari belakang. Dia yakin bahwa orang itu adalah dirimu. Dia ingin menyapamu namun kau sudah hilang dari pandangannya. Dia menyerah. Namun ketika berjalan menuju hotelnya, ia menemukan papan iklan mengenai konser musik klasikmu dalam beberapa hari lagi. Di hari di mana konser klasikmu diselenggarakan, buru-buru ia pergi menuju gedung opera tempatmu berada. Setelah konser berakhir, dia ingin

menemuimu. Namun dihadang oleh managermu. Dia hanya mendapat alamat pos elektronikmu dari managermu.”

“Aku tak tahu harus berkata apa.”

Aku dan Maya terdiam sesaat, Maya memandangiku terus-menerus tanpa bosan.

“Kau terlihat Lelah, Rama. Hari ini begitu berat bagimu.”

“Tak kupungkiri.”

Kepalaku berputar-putar hebat. Kebimbangan terus menghantui isi pikiranku. Aku harus memulai memperbaiki hubunganku dengan Ana. Bagaimana dengan Maya? Dia tidak boleh hidup bersama kami. Mungkin mereka bahagia bisa hidup bersama. Namun aku? Aku harus membagi perasaanku? Aneh kurasa untuk mencintai sebuah AI. Namun hubunganku dan Maya selama ini perlahan membuatku jatuh cinta kepadanya. Aku tak bisa hidup dengan Maya. Aku ingin sekali mengatakannya kepada Maya. Tapi aku tidak berani. Masih tidak berani. Aku takut Maya bersedih, atau pun tidak menerima keputusanku. Kukumpulkan keberanian di dalam diriku dan kubersiap untuk mengatakannya. Namun dia langsung bercakap sebelum diriku.

“Aku tahu kau takut. Kau selalu seperti itu.”

“Kenapa?” jawabku.

“Aku tahu apa yang kau pikirkan. Kau harus memilih di antara kami. Siapa yang akan hidup bersamamu.”

Aku terdiam dan membiarkan Maya mengatakan segala hal yang ia pikirkan tentang diriku.

“Rama, bercerita bersamamu sudah menjadi tugasku. Tapi mencintaimu dan melayanimu itu di luar kemampuanku. Kau tahu maksudku? Apa yang bisa diharapkan oleh wanita bertubuh cahaya yang tidak bisa sekalipun menyentuhmu? Tidak ada. Kau butuh seseorang yang lebih. Sekarang orang ini berada di dalam rumahmu. Kau membuktikan bahwa prinsip yang kau pegang itu dapat dengan mudah luntur ketika berhadapan dengan wanita itu. Kau mencintainya, Rama. Aku mengetahuinya.”

“Maafkan aku Maya.” Aku mulai meneteskan air mata.

“Usap air matamu, jadilah lelaki.”

“Apakah lelaki dilarang untuk meneteskan air mata untuk wanita yang dicintainya? Kalau begitu, aku menyesal menjadi seorang lelaki.”

“Kau mencintai Ana, bukan aku. Lagi pula, aku bukanlah wanita. Aku hanyalah sebuah *prototype*.”

“Jangan pernah katakan hal itu.”

“Jadilah realistik. Jangan menjadi seseorang yang terus bersembunyi di balik khayalan.”

“Aku mencintai mu, aku mencintai Ana juga. Aku bingung harus melakukan apa.”

“Kau tidak bingung, kau hanya berat untuk melepaskanku. Kau tahu sendiri bahwa aku adalah Ana. Dan Ana adalah versi sempurna yang tuhan ciptakan untukmu.”

Aku menangis. Seperti seorang bayi yang ingin diberikan kehangatan. Maya datang untuk memelukku.

“Ingin sekali kupeluk dan kucium dirimu.” kataku.

“Aku hanya bisa seperti ini. Memperagakan seakan aku sedang memelukmu.”

Maya mengusap rambutku perlahan. Tapi tak ada yang kurasakan. Namun ketika Maya menyentuh pipiku, terasa hangat kurasa. Seakan dia mengeluarkan semua dayanya hanya untuk memastikan aku mendapatkan kehangatan. Dia tahu apa yang kubutuhkan saat ini.

“Apa yang harus kulakukan, Maya?”

“Kau tahu apa yang harus kau lakukan. Tak usah menutup-nutupinya.”

“Bisakah kau menerimanya?”

“Dengan sepenuh hati.”

“Maafkan aku. Maafkan aku telah membuatmu hidup.”

“Aku senang karena melakukan semua ini. Aku bersyukur bisa melihatmu, bercerita denganmu, berbagi senyuman denganmu, membenturkan droneku ke kepalamu, dan hidup bersamamu.”

“Terima kasih sudah menemaniku.”

Maya mengangguk mengiyakan, lalu ia menutup matanya dan ditempelkan kekeningnya kekeningku. Hangat, lebih hangat daripada sebelumnya. Dia membuka matanya dan tersenyum kepadaku. Aku pun tersenyum membalasnya.

“Kau tertular.” katanya.

“Senyuman ini membala kasihmu.”

Dilihatnya sebuah kupu-kupu yang terlukis di dalam kanvas. Menerawangnya sejenak, memperhatikan tekstur permukaannya dan mulai memberikan pendapat dari lukisan itu.

“Kubismeya? Sepertinya itu gambar Monarch.”

“Kau benar.”

“Mirip denganku kan? Terlahir dalam bentuk yang tidak enak dipandang, bahkan tidak mempunyai rupa dan perawakan. Seperti ulat yang tidak bias bergerak bebas kemana-mana, terbatas oleh ruang. Lalu ulat itu menjadi kepompong yang hanya bisa berdiam diri di ruangan gelap dan bersembunyi.”

“Tapi sekarang kau menjelma seperti seekor kupu-kupu yang menawan. Bisa pergi kemana-mana untuk menemaniku.”

“Yep, tapi, kau tahu atau tidak? Kalau kupu-kupu berumur pendek. Paling lama sekitar setahun. Bahkan yang paling sering, mati di hari ketujuh. Tapi mereka mungkin senang. Menjadi pribadi yang bebas, terbang kesana-kemari mencari hal yang manis-manis. Memiliki sayap yang indah dan memukau. Namun kesenangannya terbatas. Terbatas oleh

waktu, sama sepertiku. Maukah kau memainkan piano itu untuk terakhir kalinya untukku?

Ku beranjak dan langsung duduk di depan piano “Tentu saja. Ada masukan?”

“Mainkan saja sesuai suasana hatimu sekarang. Aku ingin mendengar perasaanmu lewat alunan musik.”

Tak ada judul lain yang kupikirkan selain *Gymnopedie No. 1*. Kumainkan selembut mungkin dengan menikmati alunan nada yang berjejer rapi memasuki telingaku. Maya kali ini terdiam tanpa kata-kata. Tak seperti biasanya, bercerita selagi mendengarkanku memainkan musik. Maya mulai menjulurkan tangannya menyentuh jemariku, kali ini seakan terasa sentuhan tangannya. Sentuhannya terasa nyata, cahayanya seakan lebih benderang seperti biasa. Perasaanku mungkin? Setelah itu kutatap wajahnya. Dia tersenyum sambil mengatakan sesuatu. Tapi tak bisa kudengar, samar-samar bertabrakan dengan alunan piano. Senyumannya berbeda dengan senyumannya seperti biasa, penuh rasa dan rahasia. Terasa ikhlas diberikan kepadaku. Ku balaskan senyumannya lagi. Tak kuasa melihat senyumnya, aku kembali melihat ke arah tutsku dan tetap memainkannya. Kulihat di tanganku terdapat tetesan air yang jatuh dari atas. Air apa ini? Tanyaku dalam hati. Aku tak menangis, sungguh. Itu bukanlah air mataku. Air mata Maya? Bagaimana bisa? Penasaran sekali ingin kutatap wajahnya. Wajahnya yang ceria dan memberi kebahagiaan. Menularkan senyuman yang manis kepadaku. Sekali lagi ingin kulihat wajahnya, namun aku takut akan

tangisan. Dia tidak suka melihatku menangis. Kukumpulkan keberanianku dan mengerasi kelopak mataku, aku mulai mendongak ke atas. Namun ketika aku melihat ke arahnya, sosok cahayanya menghilang.

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Burung Jalak, Burung Kalibri, dan Pencuri

By Andik Gigih Palaguna

Suatu hari di pedalaman hutan Kalimantan yang hijau nan rimbun yang beriklim tropis dimana panas disiang hari dan dingin dimalam harinya, terdapat sebuah pertemanan yang erat diantara para penghuni hutan yang damai juga sejahtera. Mereka adalah burung jalak dan calibri. Mereka tinggal satu rumah di sebuah pohon besar yang kokoh bernama pohon Ulin. Kehidupan mereka penuh dengan keceriaan, saling tolog-menolong, dan juga bersikap baik terhadap hewan yang lain. Kebiasaan pasangan ini setiap paginya berpencar untuk mencari makan dan makanan tersebut dibawa pulang dan dibagikan diantara keduanya, jika ada sisa mereka menyimpannya sebagai cadangan makanan dikala badai akan menerpa.

“Huam, ah enaknya tidur hari ini, badanku terasa segar, setelah beristirahat sebab aku kemarin pergi jauh ke utara.” kata jalak. Ia beranjak dari tempat tidurnya .

“Tumben hari ini masih sepi.Apakah si Kali belum bangun?” ucap jalak, seraya jalan menuju kamar Calibri.

“ Tok, tok, tok, Kal?Kali oh Kali, ayo bangun sudah pagi ini kawan,” teriak jalak.

“Hoam.” ucap Kalibri yang masih setengah sadar.

“ Ayo bangun cuy sudah pagi ini, nanti rezeki kita dimakan ayamlho,” kata jalak.

“ Iya-iya, aku bangun ini,” ucap Kalibri sambil berjalan menuju pintu.

“Nah akhirnya bangun juga kamu cuy, ayo kita sarapan dan rencakan kebiasaan kita.” kata jalak.

“Haoam, oke aku ke kamar mandi dulu.”Kalibri menimpali.

Sambil menunggu kawannya, si Jalak mempersiapkan makanan di meja makan, makanan tersebut dia ambil dari persediaan cadangan mereka, makanan tersebut berupa buah-buahan yang ada disekitar hutan Kalimantan. Setelah Kalibri selesai dengan keperluannya di kamar mandi, ia langsung menuju ke ruang makan untuk menemui si jalak yang telah menyiapkan hidangannya. Sambil makan mereka berbincang tentang rencana mereka hari ini.

“Wah makan apa kita hari ini?” kata Kalibri

“Menu kita hari ini buah Talok yang manis hehe,” sahut Jalak.

“Sambil kita makan, aku mau tanya, kamu hari ini mau menuju kearah mana gan?” tanya Kalibri yang menanyakannya dengan panggilan akrabnya.

“Aku hari ini menuju ke timur laut dekat kota Sengayam, katanya disana persediaan buahnya masih melimpah ada anggur, strawberry, dan lain-lain,” ucap Jalak dengan penuh keyakinan.

“Wah, keren itu, pasti kita bisa makan enak lagi nih, selama kita libur karena badai hahaha,” sahut Kalibri dengan penuh canda dan juga harapan.

“Kalo kamu sekarang kemana cuy?” tanya Jalak.

“Aku sekarang berencana pergi ke selatan, katanya disana juga buahnya masih melimpah,” kata Kalibri.

“Baguslah kalo begitu, tetapi kita jangan sampai lupa tetap harus menjunjung *safety first* dalam setiap kerja kita,” pesan Jalak.

“Baik gan, hamba akan mengikuti perintah anda,” jawab Kalibri sambil bercanda.

“Hahaha, kamu bisa aja bercandanya cuy, sudah selesai makan, kan? ayo kita berangkat,” kata Jalak.

“Siap, Ndan!” sahut Kalibri.

Mereka pun berangkat dengan tujuan masing-masing dengan harapan dapat membawa hasil yang

diharapkan. Ditengah perjalanan menuju lokasi, Kalibri melihat seekor burung Murai Batu terperangkap dan meronta-ronta di jaring pemburu, Kalibri pun datang menolongnya dengan penuh tenaga.

“Hai, Murai. Ada apa denganmu, mengapa kamu bisa terperangkap disini?” tanya Kalibri.

“Aku tadi pergi untuk mencari makan, tapi entah kenapa jaring ini tak terlihat olehku, dan akhirnya aku terperangkap disini. Bisakah kau menolongku kalibri?” jawab Murai Batu.

“Oh, begitu ceritanya. Kasihan sekali kamu, baiklah aku akan tolong engkau merobek jaring ini,” sahut Kalibri.

Kalibri mencoba dengan berbagai cara untuk merobek jaring tersebut dan akhirnya jaring tersebut itu berhasil tersobek. Murai Batu pun dapat berhasil keluar dengan selamat.

“Syukurlah, akhirnya aku dapat keluar, terimakasih Kalibri berkat engkau aku dapat terbebas dari jaring ini,” kata Murai Batu.

“Iya, syukurlah kamu juga tidak apa-apa, aku senang dapat membantu antar sesama. Lain kali lebih hati-hati dan keselamatan harus diutamakan,” jawab Kalibri.

“Iya saranmu akan aku ingat selalu Kalibri,” ucap Murai Batu.

“Yaudah aku pergi dulu ya. Selamat tinggal,” kata Kalibri seraya pergi menjauh.

“Selamat tinggal.Hati-hati di jalan.”

Kalibri pun melanjutkan perjalannya ke selatan untuk mencari makanan. Dilain sisi Jalak sedang mengumpulkan makanan dan ia menemui berbagai macam buah-buahan yang segar dan ia cukup senang akan hal ini.

“ Asik!memang tak salah prediksiku kali ini, didaerah Sengayam memang banyak buah-buahan segar,” kata Jalak dengan penuh semangat.

“Mungkin kali ini cukup sebagai cadangan makanan untuk musim ini,” pikir jalak.sambil mengumpulkan makanan.

“Sudah cukuplah segini, saatnya pulang,” kata Jalak.

Dalam perjalanan pulang ia cukup gembira dan senang atas apa yang dia bawa ditasnya. Waktu menjelang sore, namun ia terkaget ketika melihat rumahnya sendiri terlihat sangat berantakan seperti ada seseorang memasukinya.

“Aduh, kenapa dengan rumahku ini?siapa yang sudah berani masuk tanpa ijin seperti ini dan merusak perabotan?” ucap jalak dengan panik.

Ia segera mengecek barang apa yang hilang dari dalam rumahnya. Ternyata yang hilang adalah cadangan makanan mereka dan hanya tersisa sedikit untuk mereka. Dikala Jalak sedang melihat-lihat sekeliling, datanglah Kalibri menanyakan apa yang terjadi.

“Ada apa dengan rumah kita ini, apakah ada badai yang menerpa?” kata Kalibri yang juga bingung dan panik.

“Tidak, bukan badai yang merusak rumah kita, tapi ada seseorang yang telah mencuri cadangan makanan kita,” sahut Jalak dengan amarah di dalam dirinya.

“Apa? Bagaimana bisa?” tanya Kalibri.

“Entahlah, mugkin ia sedang sangat membutuhkannya. Lihatlah! banyak sekali bekas gigitan pada bekas buah yang ia makan. Yasudahlah, kita relakan saja hal ini,” jawab Jalak yang mencoba menenangkan suasana.

“Baiklah, untuk kali ini kita lepaskan dia,” kata Kalibri dengan geram.

“Ayo kita bersihkan kekacauan ini!” ajak Jalak.

“Oke,” jawab Kalibri.

Mereka pun membersihkan tempat tinggal mereka yang terlihat berantakan sekali dan memperbaiki barang yang terlepas dari tempatnya, disela-sela membersihkan Kalibri berbicara tentang ia menemukan seseorang yang menawarkan ia sebuah buah yang unik namun juga berbahaya. Buah itu bernama Kitty Fruits.

“Hei, tadi pas perjalanan pulang aku bertemu seseorang yang cukup tua, dan ia menawarkan sesuatu.”

“Sesuatu apa?” tanya Jalak dengan penuh rasa penasaran.

“Sesuatu yang jika dimakan akan menyebabkan sakit perut pada diri yang memakannya, namun tenang ada penawarnya juga kok, hal ini digunakan untuk kejahilan. Buah

itu namanya Kitty.Ia menawarkannya padaku tapi aku tolak karena aku tidak tega menjahili sahabatku yang baik,” jelas Kalibri.

“Terus?” tanya Jalak dengan raut penasaran yang masih ada diwajahnya.

“Ya, coba saja kita beli benda itu untuk jaga-jaga jika hal ini terjadi lagi,” tegas Kalibri.

“Hm, bagus juga idemu. Baiklah, besok kamu beli saja biar kita tau siapa sih pencurinya,” Jawab Jalak setuju.

“Baiklah besok coba aku membelinya.”

Keseokan harinya setelah ia kembali dari kebiasaan mereka, kalibri pulang membawa sesuatu yang berbeda dari yang lain, yaitu buah berwarna pink dan terlihat enak dan segar sekali.

“Buah apa itu yang berwarna pink? Kelihatannya enak sekali,” tanya Jalak.

“Ini buah yang kita bicarakan kemarin.”

“Waduh berbahaya sekali, tidak jadi sajalah,”

“Ini baiknya kita taruh berbarengan dengan dimana kita menaruh cadangan kita,” ucap Kalibri memberi ide.

“Boleh, terus bagaiman dengan penawarnya?” tanya Jalak.

“Tenang ini ada padaku, penawar ini isinya harus diminum, bukan ditelen bersamaan botolnya,” ucap Kalibri bercanda sambil menyodorkan sebuah botol kecil kepada Jalak.

“Heh!siapa juga yang mau menelen botol. Kamu bisa juga bercanda.”

“Iya kemarin aku baru belajar dari seekor burung namanya Sule.Eh, ini botolnya aku yang bawa ya biar aman,” saut Kalibri sambil mengantungi botol kecil.

“Okedeh, aku percaya padamu,” kata Jalak.

Hari ketiga setelah kejadian, di siang hari saat Jalak dan Kalibri sedang menjalankan tugasnya masing-masing seperti biasa. Datang lagi si pencuri tersebut ke kediaman mereka dan berusaha mengambil apa yang bukan miliknya.

“Wah hari ini sepertinya rumah ini kosong lagi ya. Asik!saatnya beraksi kembali.” Ucap pencuri sambil berjalan pelan melewati ruangan.

“Wah rumahnya masih seperti kemarin, tidak dikunci rapat dan sangat mudah bagiku untuk membukanya.Lagian aku sudah tau tempat penyimpanannya jadi tak perlu membongkar semuanya.Nah, benar tak banyak berubah, jadi gampang sekali aku mengambilnya,” kata pencuri sambil membuka lemari makanan.

“Wah!buah apa ini?warnanya pink dan segar sekali, kelihatannya enak. Mungkin tuan rumah ini ingin memakannya dihari spesial karena hanya ada satu buah disini yang seperti ini,” pikir pencuri.

“Aku makan sajalah buah ini. Wah! enak sekali buah ini, tak pernah aku merasakan buah seenak ini,” kata pencuri sambil terus memakan buah Kitty.

Tidak berselang lama, tangan dan kaki pencuri seakan mati rasa dan lemas. Pencuripun mulai ketakutan.

“Duh kok tanganku tiba-tiba, loh kenapa kakiku lemes dan mati rasa,” Kata pencuri panic.

Ia pun mencoba keluar dari rumah tersebut, namun efek buah tersebut sangat cepat sekali hingga menyebabkan tubuhnya mati rasa, lemas dan tak mampu berjalan, sehingga ia terjebak didalam rumah tersebut tak dapat kemana-mana hingga pemilik rumah datang. Singkat waktu, Jalak pun tiba dan menemukan pencuri tersebut tergeletak di lantai rumahnya.

“Hei! sedang apa kamu? apa yang kamu lakukan dirumahku?!” kata jalak marah.

“Maafkan saya,” jawab pencuri.

“Loh, lemari makanan sudah terbuka. Ternyata kamu ya pencurinya.”

“Iya saya tadi mencuri dan memakan makananmu wahai Jalak,” jawab pencuri sambil menahan tangis dan sakit.

“Inilah balasan yang kamu terima. Apa yang kamu rasakan sekarang? Apa kamu memakan buah yang berwarna pink itu?”

“Iya aku memakannya tadi, dan sekarang badanku terasa mati rasa dan lemas. Tolong bantu aku Jalak,” pinta Pencuri dengan lemas.

“Oh begitu, aku sebenarnya ingin membantu tapi yang punya penawarnya hanya temanku Kalibri dan mungkin sebentar lagi dia datang.”

“Tolong kamu mintakan padanya ya, aku tak enak hati, dan mengaku salah,” pinta pencuri dengan penuh harap.

“Iya, nanti aku mintakan padanya, eh itu dia datang.” kata Jalak sambil melihat Kalibri yang baru masuk ke dalam rumah.

“Hei!apa yang terjadi disini? Mengapa ada Tupai tergeletak disini,” kata Kalibri dengan tatapan heran.

“Dia yang memakan buah kita dan tergoda dengan buah Kitty itu,” jawab Jalak.

“Oh, ternyata kamu ya pencurinya. Rasakan itu!”

“Iya saya mencuri makanan kalian, saya mohon maaf dan tak akan mengulanginya lagi,” jawab pencuri dengan penuh penyesalan.

“Terus apa yang kamu inginkan?” tanya Kalibri

“Saya mohon agar engkau sudi memberikan penawarnya.”

“Penawar? Bagaimana engkau tahu ada penawarnya ada padaku?” kata Kalibri lagi.

“Aku yang mengatakannya, sudahlah berikan pada dia, dia juga sudah berjanji tak akan mengulanginya lagi,” jawab Jalak.

“Iya, aku berjanji tak akan mengulanginya lagi dan tak akan mencuri kepada siapapun lagi.” Pencuri memohon kepada Jalak dan Kalibri.

“Baiklah, kalo itu janjimu, maka akan kuberikan. Nih penawarnya, coba kau minum isinya,” ucap Kalibri sambil memberikan botol kecil kepada pencuri.

“Wah! badanku berangsur-angsur mulai terasa kuat kembali,” kata Pencuri sambil menggerak-gerakkan badannya sesaat setelah menenggak penuh isi botol penawar buah tersebut.

“Syukurlah kalo begitu, ingatlah janjimu!” kata Jalak dengan tatapan tegas.

“Akan ku ingat janji dan kebaikan kalian, dan apakah sekarang saya boleh keluar?” kata pencuri.

“Baiklah, kamu kami iijinkan keluar, jangan lupa janjimu,” kata Kalibri menimpali.

“Baik, saya permisi. Selamat tinggal Jalak dan Kalibri,” ucap pencuri haru sambil melangkahkan kaki keluar dari rumah tersebut.

“Selamat tinggal,” jawab Jalak dan Kalibri serentak.

Semenjak itu sudah tidak ada lagi peristiwa samayang terulang kembali, dan kehidupan mereka kembali seperti semula. Jalak dan Kalibri pun hidup bahagia.

In our life. we experienced so many things.
The most thing experienced is about love. Love can
give many feel such as happiness and sadness.
Beside love. in life we also can imaginating or
thinking about something not logic like mystic things.

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