

Ash Girlfriend



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Dedicated especially to



*For someone who has felt the
pain of being abandoned by a
lover while still having feelings of
love*

Motto:

*Look, if you had, one shot, or one
opportunity*

*To seize everything you ever wanted in one
moment*

Would you capture it, or just let it slip?

FROM THE EDITOR

Love is one of the most common themes in literature. This universal human experience is pervasive in all genres of literature. Love is like a double-edged dagger. On some occasions, it offers us the beautiful colors of the rainbow; on others, it brings us songs of tears and long, lonely nights.

This novel, *Ash Girlfriend*, written by Alfarian Bobby Kristanto, demonstrates how painful and fragile life and love could be. A short encounter between two beings triggers love, but then it is just stolen by a death in the blink of an eye. Love is laughter. Love is tears.

He should be proud of himself for successfully giving birth to his *Ash Girlfriend*. His story is about the loss of a loved one. However, he suggests that one should develop their ability to make peace with their “ash reality” and live in hopes for a brighter future.

B. RetangWohangara

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PROLOGUE

“Habis gelap, terbitlah terang.” That is the phrase that has been vocalized by the iconic female figure of the nation. Indeed, this statement holds true in my present life.

How could I possibly not feel that I have discovered a part of my soul? Loneliness is the name of the heart I've been seeking desperately for a prolonged period, subsequent to losing myself in a place of torment.

In a remote village, away from the hustle and bustle, I came across a strikingly attractive person.

A village where I encountered the most exceptional creations brought into existence by the universe. Fate enticed me into this land. Joy is sometimes unexpectedly compelled upon me by destiny. And it's lovely.

However, the beautiful story was lost in just a flick of a finger. Like fireworks whose beauty can be enjoyed only occasionally.

Nonetheless, I happened to run into her. Her presence brings color to my life. This is my little diary. A sinless diary that I buried in regret. In it was a love song, the story of the two of us.

There are strands of words that are just wishful thinking. My short story is not perfect. A seven-day diary about me, her, and our hopes.

CHAPTER I

Accidental Meeting

Monday, 7th December.

My name is Ryan. 2nd-semester students who were enjoying their vacation time at my grandmother's house. Granny's house is on the island of Bali, where beauty and culture are preserved. I set aside this holiday to calm my heart and mind.

The pile of assignments from the lecturers made my mind tired. I hadn't seen my grandmother in a long time. Surely, she missed me and wanted to spoil me, her only grandson. Her love exceeded my mother's.

My grandmother's house was in a village with nature that was so beautiful and friendly. The right place for "healing", like the popular expression of South Jakarta children to call going on vacation.

I went to the village by car and was not accompanied by anyone. You know, I was used to going alone after being left without a word by my ex-girlfriend.

Since then, my life started to change. I didn't want to lean too much on women's shoulders.

But don't worry, I don't care about the past anymore. I don't want to recall my stupidity because I trust women too much. The most important thing now is to enjoy the holidays in peace and alone.

On the way home, I enjoyed the moon dancing with its bright light. Yes, tonight was a very beautiful full-moon night.

The sparkling night accompanies me in the middle of small streets that were empty of visitors. The atmosphere of the night washed away the soul and body. Seeing the embodiment of a dream and reality.

While driving, I saw a girl sitting down on the side of the road. She was accompanied only by a dim street lamp but enough light to illuminate her beautiful face.

Why was she sitting alone in the middle of the night? If I ignore it, maybe there were some bad person who will disturb it.

"Hmmm... or could she be?... No! Impossible! I don't believe that!" I muttered. That girl was not a curious devil. I stepped on the brakes of my car and opened the car window.

"Hey, are you okay?" I said.

I didn't want to get out of the car because I was on guard in case anything untoward happened. Her eyes looked at me. I saw the lines of tears still painted on her face.

She is so pretty. Her skin is as white as snow. It makes me remember a classic folk tale, the story of Princess Kaguya, who is in the land of cherry blossoms. Her beauty is as beautiful as the moon and her long hair is as shiny as a diamond.

I was hooked at first sight. Like the soft morning air that didn't incite, my gaze on her never gets tangled.

"Mother of Jesus! She's my type...." I muttered.

She looked at me for a moment, then walked over to my car

"Whoever you are, take me away from here."

"Pardon ?"

"Can I go with you?"

"Huh? What do you mean?" I confused.

"Please I will do whatever you want, the important thing is take me away from here." Begging with a hopeful face while shedding tears.

"I just arrived in this village. You don't have a house?"

"I ran away from my house. I'll explain later"

"Alright, I will take you to my residence. But, tomorrow you have to go back to your house. OK?"

"Okay. I agree"

The girl then got into my car. I was quite surprised because she didn't hesitate in the slightest to get into a stranger's car. "Thank you," said the girl in a flat voice.

She looked relieved after I let her to join. The journey continued without a word spoken by both of us. This silence continued to envelop the atmosphere until the girl broke the lonely feeling that existed.

"So... what do you want from me?"

"Huh? What do you mean?"

"I said earlier, if you take me, I will do whatever you want."

"Are you sure you're asking a guy you just met like that?"

"Yes. I've already decided that. Don't tell me you want to taste my body?"

“(*Shocked*) Huh?! I don't think like that! Do you think I'm an asshole?!”

"Hahahaha... Definitely you're virgin".

“(*Annoyed*) What did you say to me?!”

"No, I'm not kidding. Besides, if you ask for it, I'll serve it too," replied the girl with a seductive look.

“Your wish!”

The admiration for that girl was gone. "Why does a pretty girl seem to say like that?" I muttered. Unknowingly, my eyes began to steal glances at the girl.

She looks very seductive. Her slanted eyes indicate a Chinese-Indonesian girl. The chest is big enough to squeeze, lips are small but seductive, have a white thighs are as smooth as those of *Cherrybelle* members.

The body is fantastic, like a Japanese porn actress that I usually watch in the middle of the night. I am tempted by the invitation earlier.

"While it was night, it was quiet; no one saw it. Nothing wrong, right? After all, she gave me a green flag." I muttered.

My mind began to be chaotic and erratic. My lust suddenly rose. Drop by drop of sweat began to come out of the pores of my skin.

My “tiny brother” began to stand in a ready position. The Asmodeus whispered deathly, seducing my ears. Because of that, I was not focused, I did not see the sharp bend ahead.

"Watch out!" the girl shouted.

I was aware of her scream and suddenly stepped on the car brake pedal.

“Damn it! No, no! I didn’t want to do it!” I muttered.

"What's wrong with you?" asked the girl.

"No... it's okay... I was a bit sleepy... Sorry." He felt sweat in his palms, looked away for afraid to look into her eyes.

"Hihhi.... I see... You were thinking about a pervert thing, right ?"

“(Annoyed) I’m not!”

"Ha ha ha ha"

The girl laughed at me. Although embarrassed, I was quite happy because she didn't look sad anymore. The way she laughed looked like she was letting go of all the pain that was haunting her.

The noise makes us not realize we have reached our destination.

The car was right in front of the house gate. I went out and opened it. The fence was unlocked. Maybe on purpose because grandma knew her grandson would come to visit.

Slowly, the gate opened. I got in the car and parked it in the garage. It took quite a distance to go to the garage because my grandma's house was very big. Statues of Hindu gods that adorned the fence add to the mysterious aura.

The yard was very wide, filled with green grass. Various kinds of flowers lined the edge of the path. A beautiful joglo architecture house.

The girl was amazed to see my grandmother's house. Like she had never seen a house this big. Yes, that's normal. Everyone amazed when they first saw this grandma's house.

"Are you a rich kid?" asked the girl to me.

"No. I'm just a normal guy. My answer was humble.

When I opened the car door, my grandmother suddenly hugged me from behind.

"Welcome back, Ryan, my handsome grandson," Granny said to me.

"I'm home, Granny..." I replied.

The girl also got out of the car and saw the two of us hugging each other. Granny was noticed.

"Dear, who was that girl?" asked Granny.

“Ummm... She is...” I was confused to answer because I brought it without telling my grandmother.

“Hello, granny, let me introduce myself. My name is Via. I'm Ryan's girlfriend. I came here for vacation with Ryan.

“Nice to meet you..” The girl answered while bowing her body thirty degrees.

“Huuh?! Girlfriend?! Did you already have a girlfriend? Why didn't you tell grandma? How come your ugly face could make a girlfriend?

“(Shocked) Huuh?...”. What did grandma mean by saying I'm ugly?! You were saying handsome to me.” I said irritated.

"Eh... Granny means you're handsome. You know grandma is old. Already senile.”

"Hahaha," laughed the girl.

"(Whispering into girl's ear) Why did you admit that you are my girlfriend?"

"Yes, so I can have a reason to stay at your grandmother's house, right?"

"But that's not the case either. Granny was shocked to hear that.

"Okay, okay... already said it."

"Ishhh... This annoying kid..."

"You two should just talk inside. It's cold outside." said granny to us.

"Yes, Granny..." I replied.

The three of us entered the house. I took my suitcase and put it in the room I usually occupy when staying here.

The girl followed granny into the living room. I was still shocked and could not believe what the girl said earlier.

The girl also did not feel guilty at all. In fact, she even mocked me. She's beautiful but annoying. That's what I first thought about her.

"But, she said her name earlier... If I'm not mistaken, her name is Via.... A beautiful name according to her appearance." I muttered.

I didn't know why I blushed when I remembered her admitting that she was my girlfriend.

But nevermind. It was just a case. I didn't want to be upset because of words like that. I promised myself not to believe what women say easily.

After putting down my suitcase, I followed the two of them into the living room. Not long ago, the two of them were already very familiar chatting.

Seemed to be enjoying a topic of conversation. I wonder what they were talking about. The girl saw me and asked me to join them.

"Come here, babe, let's talk together." the girl said to me. I looked at the girl with a sneer. The mockery of the look on his face interrupted my view.

"Yes, babe..." I replied in a low voice. I then sat down and joined them.

Babe... I didn't called a girl like that in a long time. Last used that word 2 years ago. Where at that time, I begged my ex not to break up with me. It was a very stupid thing, wasn't it? A man begging not to be dumped by his girlfriend.

That dark past replayed in my head without anyone inviting her. Even though I knew her heart had been filled with someone new, I still couldn't get over that pain. A trauma that is hard to forget until now. Hoping not to get a bigger trauma again.

"Dear, are you sleepy?" Said granny.

Suddenly, I was surprised because I had been daydreaming and not listening to their conversation. "

"Are you okay, babe? Are you tired?" asked the girl to me.

"No. I'm okay." I answered with a smile.

Then, the three of us went back to chatting. Granny was not far away from asking about our relationship. I didn't know why we were united to make up a story.

Shortly thereafter, the clock struck 10 pm. The three of us finished our conversation and decided to rest. Drowsiness and tiredness began to embrace my body. Before going to bed, escort the girl to an unused room.

"It's been a tiring day, right..." Said the girl to me.

"Yes, because of who else?" I replied curtly.

“Yes, yes, sorry.... By the way, you have a good grandmother. It was fun to talk to.”

"I'm still confused why you can quickly get along with my grandmother."

“That is what is called communication skills. Hahaha” he replied with an arrogant face.

“Yea yea yea... the most communication”

"Ummm you're not angry when I told your grandmother earlier that I'm your boyfriend?".

"I'm not angry. Just shocked. It's ok."

"Thank goodness you're not mad. Once again, thank you for allowing me to stay at home." The girl said shyly.

“Yeah okay" I replied.

After delivering it, I returned to my bed. I lay down on my bed and closed my eyes. Releasing all my tiredness that gathered in my whole body.

Things that happened unexpectedly are things that must be accepted. It came to mind, whether the meeting with the girl was fate or just a figure of speech.

Even so, it can be a unique experience. Would tomorrow be surprised again by the girl's behavior? Would my relationship with that girl continue? Or just a one night stand?

Who knows. For sure, I looked forward to what mysteries the Creator's plan. And this was the first day with the girl I just met has ended.

CHAPTER II

First Date

Tuesday, 8th December

Sunlight streamed through my bedroom window. Indicates a new day has begun. I woke up from my sleep at 7 am. Heard the songs of the birds in the sky melodiously welcoming this sunny morning.

I opened the bedroom window slowly, I saw a rural atmosphere that spoiled my eyes. Green scenery that refreshed the body and soul. Coupled with the distinctive aroma of soft rural soil.

“Hah... I wanted to stay here forever...” I thought.

I opened the bedroom door and went to the bathroom to wash my face and brush my teeth. Things to do in the morning.

When the bathroom door opened, I saw a beautiful naked girl brushing her teeth in the sink and standing in front of me.

She looked at me. I looked at her. Eyes locked for a moment. I immediately woke up because I saw something amazing in the morning. The naked girl looked at me and.....

“AAAAAA...” screamed the girl.

"AAAAAA..." I screamed, too.

"WHY DID YOU OPEN THE BATHROOM DOOR, PERVERT?!" Said the girl while covering her body with a towel.

"WHY DIDN'T YOU LOCK THE BATHROOM DOOR, YOU BITCH?!" I screamed and spontaneously I closed the bathroom door again.

"THE BATHROOM LOCK WAS BROKEN!! YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT, PERVERT!!!"

"HOW DID I KNOW IF THE LOCK WAS BROKEN!!.

"(Whining) AAAA.... I CAN'T MARRY ANYMORE...."

"DON'T TALK LIKE I RAPE YOU!"

And that's the commotion that happened in the morning. I just remembered that I picked up the girl last night.

"At least I saw something good this morning," I muttered while imagining his naked body.

After that incident, the girl looked at me with a cynical look while holding her body. I saw their granny and the girl were preparing food.

The three of us had breakfast together. The girl helped grandma to cook early morning food. Granny praised the girl excessively and thought that I was lucky to be her girlfriend. At first, I was quite surprised to hear that.

It turned out that the girl also had advantages. When I saw it, she had a cynical face and holding her own body.

I thought it must be because of the incident in the bathroom. But I didn't really care about it. I just only care about what's in front of my eyes.

I can see warm white rice accompanied by red shrimp paste sauce made by grandma.

Not to mention that there is an omelette which is quite thick and filled with meat, warm mendoan fritters, and some fried chicken. Granny was confused by the strange behavior of the both of us.

“(Look at Via) Via, Why are you holding your own body? Are you okay?” Said granny.

“(Frown) It's okay, grandma. (Saw my face) I'm just on guard with perverts in front of me.” Said that girl.

“What did you mean, Idiot?!” Asked me.

“Ahhh.. So you've forgotten about what happened this morning. Pervert man!..”

“It happened because of your carelessness!”

“Huh?... Why is it my fault?!”

“(Cut off the conversation) Wait a minute... Are you guys having sex in this morning?..” Ask Granny.

“(Speak out loud) NO!!!” Said both of us.

“Why can granny think like that?” I ask.

“Because Via mad about you, boy. Or did you rape her secretly? You didn’t forget to wear condoms, right?” Said granny.

“(Red face and shy) It’s not like that!... Said both of us.”

“(Confused) Then why? Ask granny.”

“Ryan opened the bathroom door while I was inside and naked! Said that girl.”

“Because you didn’t lock it!”

“The lock was broken, you idiot!”

“Huh..... So, this is just a misunderstanding. Grandma forgot to tell you that the bathroom lock was broken. I’m sorry, boy...”

“It’s okay, granny. (Look at her face) It was her fault for not signaling.”

“That's my words!”

“(Calm them both) Stop it. Now, let's have breakfast first, okay?...”

“Yes, granny....”

The three of us had breakfast together. The girl helped granny to cook early morning food. Granny praised the girl excessively and thought that I was lucky to be her boyfriend.

After breakfast, I sat on the front porch of the house, enjoying the cool, quiet atmosphere of the morning, the birds chirping and the blooming flowers that were displayed beautifully.

“This is a dream atmosphere. If I could enjoy this atmosphere every day, maybe the tiredness that approaches will be replaced with a natural calm,” I muttered.

For a moment, I forgot the stress and trauma that existed. The softness of this atmosphere made my body feel relaxed and comfortable.

This feeling was a nostalgic feeling that I missed. However, this comfort didn't last long since someone startled me from behind.

“WAAA....” Scream that girl from behind.

“*(Startled)* AAA!!! *(Looking back)* Why are you bothering me?!” I said.

“Hahahaha... Sorry sorry... Hey, let's go for a walk instead of staying at home.”

“Huh?... Where are you going? Oh yeah, today I'll take you home...”

“Why did you suddenly want to take me home?”

“Yesterday you promised to me, right?”

“I have decided that I will stay here for the next 3 days. Hihihhi....”

“Huh?... You have no right to decide that.”

“Don't worry... I already told to grandma and she said to me to stay here as long as I want. (*Wink*) Hihihhi...”

“What about your parents?”

“I already told to them too and they said it's okay.”

“If granny and your parents say so, I can't stop it.”

“Yippie Let's travel together.”

“Huh?... I didn't want to do it...”

“Why don't you want to travel While you are in Bali, you know... There are many interesting places here.”

“I know, but I just want to relax in here.”

“(*Frown*) I've already asked you out on a date tho... Why did you refuse?... Even though it's a girl as beautiful as me...”

“Your wish!”

“(*Scofed*) That's the reason you're still a virgin...”

“Huh?... What do you mean?...”

“Only a cherry boy is afraid of being asked out by a pretty girl!”

“Why should I be afraid to date a gorilla girl like you?”

“(Clenched her fists and looked at my face) Ask that again and I will punch in your face....”

“(Speak out loud and scofed) GORILLA GIR..”

“Aaach... What are you doing, idiot?...” She hit my face.

“(Turns her face) That's a punch you deserve... (Grumble) Why is there a man as insensitive as you...”

“Huh? Ask again?”

“(Turns her face) I didn't say anything!”

“Huh.... (Back down) Fine.... Let's travel together....”

“(Happy and bring her face closer) Really?... Really?.... REALLY?...”

“Your face is too close!.. Yes!...”

“Yippie.... Thank you, babe.... I wanted to change first...”

“Why would I want to comply with her request....” I ask to myself.

After arguing, I finally agreed to the girl's selfish request. The serenity I yearned for ended up with a girl's selfish will.

I don't know why I want to accept her selfish request. But, after thinking about it, it's not that bad either. At the same time, healing, too, right?

On this day, we plan to go around the Ubud area. An area on the island of Bali that has a very beautiful natural charm.

A place where is suitable to calm down. I prepared by wearing makeshift clothes and relaxed.

Brown t-shirt and short black jeans stuck to my body. The sun is shining brightly and the atmosphere is very supportive for traveling.

"Hopefully, it doesn't rain." I thought.

After a while, the girl came out of the room. I was mesmerized when I saw the clothes she was wearing. She wears a brown summer dress with a light brown boater hat. Her long straight hair was slightly wavy at the ends.

Unknowingly, an amazed face painted on my face. I absentmindedly looked at her until she called me and realized my behavior. The girl laughed at me. I realized that and my face flushed with embarrassment.

We both get ready to go and say goodbye to grandma first.

"Be careful on the road, okay..." said granny with a smile on her face.

We got into the car and got ready to go to Ubud.

The trip to Ubud takes about an hour and a half from grandma's house. In the middle of the trip, we both talked about the first tourist destination.

After talking long and wide, we finally decided to go to a tourist spot called Rice Fields Tegalalang. To be honest, I've never been to that place. I've only heard about this place from my friends.

They say it is a beautiful and Instagramable place. Because it was interesting, in the end we both went to that place.

On the way, the scenery on this island still looks beautiful. Even though it has been 4 years since I visited Bali, I enjoy this beauty alone because the girl fell asleep in the car.

"Just one kilo of travel already sleep alone," I muttered.

The girl fell asleep with a pretty face like a sleeping beauty in Sleeping Beauty.

When thinking like that, for some reason, my gaze landed on the girl's lips. Her lips look very soft and sexy. It crossed my mind to kiss her lips like a prince in the story.

I started to move my eyes forward and did not see the sleeping girl. "Ah here we go again.." I muttered.

After enjoying quite a long journey, we both finally arrived at the Tegalagang Rice Fields. I parked my car in the parking lot and woke the girl up.

"We've arrived..." I said to the girl. She woke up with a still sleepy face. Even so, she looks beautiful in my eyes.

We both got out and went to the counter to buy tickets. I spent nearly a million rupiah on tickets for two. Yes, quite expensive, in my opinion.

Upon entering, you will see a very enchanting sight. Views of rice terraces that spoil the eye. The reflection of sunlight spoils the eyes.

Various kinds of colorful flowers adorn the edge of the path. Not only that, there are lots of special stands for couples.

"Wait a minute... why are there so many heart-shaped stands?..." I muttered.

I just realized that this is not an ordinary tourist spot. This is a romantic tourist spot where lots of couples come and take photos together.

"No wonder my friends say that this is an Instagramable place," I said to myself. I didn't realize it at the counter because I didn't pay attention to the details of what kind of tourist attractions were visited.

"Why are we going to a place like this?" I asked the girl.

"Huh?? Wasn't that already our decision?..."

"But... this is a place for couples?..."

"Yeah, so what?.... *(winks left eye)* The two of us are a couple, right?"

I'm sure her eyes were just blinking to tease me. But, what's wrong with coming to a place like this. A place that I think can be used as an interesting experience.

The girl started running small and calling my name. She took me to a stand that was quite interesting to try.

The stand is called Bali Swing. A swing that is right on the edge of the rice field descent. We can both see the people who ride the swing really enjoy it. When the turn comes, we ride the swing.

First, you have to tighten the safety available on the swing so it doesn't fall. When the safety is tied, the officer starts swinging my swing from top to bottom.

Swing.... I really enjoyed it. Swing after swing makes all the existing stress disappear instantly.

Swinging in the middle of a view of rice terraces is the most comfortable experience I've ever tried. For a moment, I also glanced at the girl. She also really enjoyed it.

Her wide smile and screams from her made me fall in love with him. It's like seeing an angel swinging above heaven. Interest began to emerge from within my heart.

The swing time was over. The momentary pleasure made my body much fresher than usual. We start visiting the next stand.

Stands that are devoted only to taking pictures with your partner. The stand is a stand where the couple sits together on a seat made of woven bamboo in the shape of an oval circle.

The girl with her passionate desire to take pictures with me. Even though I was only pretending to be going out with her, I agreed to her request.

"After all, it's just taking pictures, what's wrong?" I muttered.

For some reason, what is thought is different from what is lived. I suddenly felt nervous and embarrassed when I wanted to take a picture with her.

"Hey you why? Are you nervous about taking a photo with me? Hahahaha" The girl asked me with her annoying laugh.

"Of course. When else can I take pictures with a girl as beautiful as you? It's normal if I'm nervous," I replied curtly. *(Face blushes)*

I didn't realize I said those words to him. I tried to take my words back. *(Seeing her face)* "Uh, no... I mean...."

(Lowers head) It turns out you can be honest too, huh..."

Finally, we started taking pictures together. We were photographed by the officer guarding the stand. The first time I was photographed, my body looked stiff and embarrassed because of what I said to her.

But over time, I started to get used to it. After taking pictures, the two of us took a walk around the rice terraces. The girl kept holding my hand. Step by step, we pass.

A word unspoken is like two mute human beings. She seemed to turn away when I saw her. The situation that made me start the conversation.

"I'm sorry because of my strange words earlier..." I said to him.

"Huh?... no.... it's okay. Why are you talking like that?..."

"You've been quiet since earlier... that's why I was thinking about it."

"Nope. I'm just enjoying the view..."

"Enjoy the view, how come your face is always looking down?..."

"Hehehe... By the way, how come you never call my name?"

"Huh? Really?..." Subconsciously, I never called her name.

"*(Frown)* Do you still remember my name?"

"Of course... Via's, right?"

"*(Smiles)* Hehehe... yes..."

After that, we were not awkward anymore. Word for word began to be spoken while enjoying the terracing. The more I talked to her, the more I started to enjoy the day with her.

The heart began to feel comfortable when it was near her. This feeling was a feeling I hadn't felt in a long time. A feeling I know.

Maybe this is love at first sight. Love that comes suddenly Knock starts to sound in the heart, The door of this heart slowly starts to open by itself.

I know this feeling. The feeling of wanting to have someone.

"Can I bring her into this space of my heart?" I muttered.

The sun is overhead. We planned to take a break and approach a restaurant that was in that place to fill our stomachs. A restaurant that can feast the eyes and the mortal stomach.

How come? The view presented by the restaurant makes anyone who sits in awe of the beauty of the terraces. We find a suitable seat and open the menu.

I only ordered a burger and a bottle of beer, Via ordered a steak and a drink of lime.

While waiting for the order, we joked and talked about the experience we had earlier. Today is a great day. It didn't take long for the food to come and we started to enjoy the food that was served.

We returned to the car after we finished eating to go to the next tourist spot. The tourist spot is a waterfall which takes about half an hour's journey from where we are. The trip started and

as usual, Via immediately fell asleep in the car without talking to me.

“Sleeping beauty again....” I muttered.

I drove quietly without hearing Via's chatter.

Half an hour has passed. We have arrived at the tourist spot. Mountain Waterfall. That's the name. It is said that the waterfall here is quite famous and not much is known by tourists.

Twenty thousand is a small price to enter the tourist spot. We can see the view of the waterfall from above. On the left side there is an outdoor clubbing occupied by Caucasians.

Step by step is traversed carefully because of the sharp descent stairs. As usual, Via and I talked while enjoying the ride.

We have lots of conversations. Starting from the place, its beauty, and the atmosphere.

I saw Via enjoying this tourist spot. A beautiful smile radiated from her face. This made my face red because I saw Via's beauty.

We arrive at the waterfall. A cascading waterfall rumbles down onto the calm surface of the water. The warm sunlight makes me feel calm. Around the waterfall, Via pulled me into the shallow water and wet my feet.

"Why are you pushing me into the water?"

"Hehehe.... fun, right?" Via answered with an innocent face.

"What do you mean it's fun?... my clothes are wet you know because of you."

"That's just the question. Come on, enjoy. This water is delicious. Cool..." Via said while splashing water at me..

"Eh fuck you!"

"Hahahahaha"

We began to reply to each other with splashes of water. We laughed together and enjoyed until we didn't realize that our bodies were getting soaked. The cool water makes the body fresh.

When I saw her laugh, I laughed too. I began to realize the beauty of this imperfect life of mine.

Unknowingly, the time showed 4 o'clock in the afternoon. We rushed back to the car to go home. We are so satisfied that the fatigue we experience is not felt.

For me, seeing Via's smile and laugh has become a very satisfying thing. I thought I wanted to protect her beautiful smile.

"How?... Isn't it fun to date with me, right?... hihhi...." Via asked me.

"It's really good. Thank you..."

“Why say thanks?...”

"You have made me enjoy my vacation, which at first I thought this holiday was very boring."

“Hehehe... okay, okay. Tomorrow, we have a holiday again, okay...”

“Where are you going?...”

"Emm..... How about going to Kuta Beach? I've never been there.”

“Really, how long have you lived in Bali?”

"I've been here since elementary school."

"*(Confused)* You've lived in Bali for a long time. Have you never been to Kuta beach?"

"Yeah, never... hehehe.... I don't have time to go there."

"Why?..."

"*(Turns face to the side)* I'm not allowed... hehehe..."

"Okay, we can go but during the day, okay?"

"Are we really going to Kuta beach tomorrow?"

"Yeah..." I replied with a smile.

On the way home, confusion overcame me. Why has she never been to Kuta Beach? Even though Kuta Beach itself is a well-known destination. Lots of Bali tourists, one of their goals is Kuta Beach.

"Is it because his parents are overprotective, so she can't go?"

I thought Via was hiding something and didn't want to talk about it. At first glance, she looked away when asked why she had never visited.

But yeah, it's okay. It's not all have to be told to other people. Sometimes, sensitive things are better hidden than spoken.

After all, I'm also new to Via. How could she tell all her secrets to me? I didn't want to think like that anymore. We all have secrets we'd rather not talk about.

I looked at it one more time and sure enough, Via was sleeping beautifully. I think too much about her. even though she didn't care either.

"Hahaha... silly me," I muttered.

Looks like it's already 7 pm. Finally, we both arrived at grandma's house. I woke Via who was sleeping. Grandmother has prepared delicious dishes on the dining table.

Babi guling. The cuisine that I like when I go to Bali. Especially granny's babi guling which is very delicious. Plus, a jumbo portion of pork skin that is crunchy and melts in the mouth is served at the dinner table.

“Fortunately, I’m a Christian..” I muttered.

The three of us ate it with gusto. Even Via added three times. Ha ha ha. Granny’s cooking is the best.

After eating, I sat on the terrace of the house while enjoying the calming night view. The stars above the sky greeted me with joy. The rudimentary shape of the moon that accompanies my solitude.

The sounds of nocturnal insects intermingling are like the sound of a symphony being played by Beethoven.

The night wind blows all over the ruins, creeps gently, and whispers strains of poetry that soothe the soul. I want to sing to enjoy this beautiful night.

“(Singing)....At night, when the stars light up my room....I sit by myself..”

“(Via approaches and sings back) Talking to the moon..... Trying to get to you....”

“(Shocked) Fuck! You just startled me!...”

"Hahaha.... What are you doing alone at night? Being upset? Ask Via.

"Not your business..."

"(Sitting next to me) By the way, your voice is good too when you sing..."

"Thanks... Not sleep?"

"Not sleepy yet... You?"

"Same.."

In the middle of this silent night, we chat casually. Random topics are discussed, such as celebrity gossip, father-and-father jokes, and global elite conspiracies.

For some reason the night became livelier when chatting with Via. The quiet night turned into a night full of joy. Although the calm was much more pleasant, this kind of atmosphere wasn't so bad either.

I started to enjoy talking to her. The deeper the conversation, the more you want to know things related to her, want to get to know Via more closely and want to know about her other life.

Like she already has a boyfriend or not. Maybe that question is too soon to ask but why not? There is a possibility that the opportunity exists, even if it is small. This curiosity bothers me.

"Ummm.... Do you have a girlfriend yet?" I asked

"Did you ask?... Did you wonder?... Rarrww..."

"What?... It's really cringy... You TikTok slave!"

"Hahaha... It's really funny to see you irritated.. Hahaha"

"This kid...."

"Hahaha... Not yet... You?"

“Just broke up two years ago”

"Hahaha... Break up, why?"

I recounted an incident when I broke up with my previous ex. The incident where when I gave everything to my ex without caring about myself.

Maintaining her feelings by not being bad boys, making time for her once twenty-four hours until I gave her what she wanted.

Our relationship ended because she had an affair with a much prettier guy than me. Between love or stupid.

That's what I did. I didn't know why I told this casually to Via. Even though this is a very embarrassing disgrace for guys and I didn't want to tell anyone about it.

"I'm stupid, right?" I said with a sorry face

"Nope. (*Seeing my face with a smile*) In fact, I admire you because there are still loyal and sincere guys like you. If I were your girl, I would never neglect a boyfriend like you... Hihhi.."

"(*Looks away*) Bullshit.."

“Hahaha... Let's sleep... It's getting late... You don't have to think about your ex anymore. You already have me. Ha ha ha...”

“Okay...”

We both left the terrace of the house and returned to our respective rooms. I lay down on my bed and think about what Via said earlier.

“Is that a code?” Who knows. Girls are indeed complicated. To be sure, I look forward to seeing his face when I see the beach.

“Ahh... So can't wait for tomorrow...” I muttered.

CHAPTER III

Complicated Day

Wednesday, 9th December

Wednesday has come. I woke up late around 10 am. It is the sun's light that awakens me through the eyes. Incredibly bright weather awaits outside the window.

"Nice day for the beach," I muttered.

When I looked to the side, I saw someone sleeping next to me. I rubbed my eyes to see it. It turned out that Via was sleeping next to me. Suddenly, I was surprised to see her in my bed.

"AAAAA...." I screamed in shock.

(Via wakes up and wipes her eyes) "What are you screaming? In the morning, it's really noisy."

"WHY ARE YOU SLEEPING IN MY PLACE?!"

"Hah? What do you mean?...." Via looked around and realized that he was sleeping in my place.

"AAAA..." Via screamed.

"WHY ARE YOU SHOCKED?!"

"WHY DID YOU BRING ME TO YOUR BED?!".

"WHO BROUGHT YOU?! IT'S CLEARLY IT'S YOU WHO ENTERED MY ROOM!"

"AAAA.... MAMA.... I CAN'T MARRY ANYMORE...."

"DON'T TALK LIKE I RAPE YOU!"

The two of us fought on this sunny morning. Why is there always something wrong with her? Yesterday the bathroom, now my bed. Don't tell that she's sleepwalking. Maybe she did, though she didn't want to admit it.

"Every morning, there are always fights. Half of my energy was wasted because of this." I muttered

The incident brings us to the dining room with a sullen face. Likewise, I turned my face away because I was annoyed with her. Granny who saw us both was confused and asked us.

"Why are you two so sullen in the morning?" Grandma asked with a confused face.

"Just ask her/him, granny..." Via and I answered simultaneously.

"Hahahaha.... You two are a good couple, aren't you...." Grandma said, laughing.

"It's my fault, you said?" Via and I said at the same time.

"You didn't have to fight anymore. Let's eat together first." Said granny to us.

My emotions fell when I saw the food in front of my eyes. Warm chicken soup with dry fried tempeh and soft cakes adorn the dining table. Complements such as lime, white crackers,

chili sauce, and hot tea will increase your appetite. Mouthful mouthfuls and true pleasure are implied on both of our faces.

"Fix, there is no medicine for this food," I muttered.

After eating, our emotions began to calm down. We rushed to Kuta beach. I went to the garage to get a surfboard for later at the beach.

An orange surfboard mixed with a mix of dark blue and purple. The beautiful color combination is like a sunset view.

I put the surfboard on the roof of the car and then tied it using a special rope to tighten the surfboard so it wouldn't fall over. Do not forget also to bring a guitar to sing when the sun starts to set.

I have liked surfing since middle school. My grandpa taught surfing when he was alive. This surfboard is grandpa's last memory.

He is a former surfer. When he was alive, he taught young people how to surf, including me. We used to often surf at Kuta beach. Grandfather's name is well-known among young Balinese who like to surf on Kuta beach.

All preparations have been completed. I called Via to hurry up quickly. Via began to show itself.

She wore a light blue shirt and black hot pants and wore a light brown cap. Her long straight hair is styled in a ponytail. She looks like a tomboy now. Unlike yesterday, who looked like a graceful girl.

I only wore a dark blue t-shirt and shorts. Simple clothes without the need for a lot of style. I am also a male. Simple is my middle name.

After saying goodbye, we headed to Kuta Beach. Via was surprised when she saw the roof of my car, which had surfboards on it. She asked me how I could surf.

After hearing the answer, Via looked at me with amazement. She still can't believe that someone as thin as me can surf in the sea. Hearing that, I immediately challenged her to watch me play in the sea later.

Half an hour had passed from grandma's house. We both finally arrived at Kuta Beach. I woke up Via who as usual fell asleep on the way. Via, who knew that she had arrived at Kuta Beach, immediately rushed out with enthusiasm.

I don't know what's on her mind. But it seems she is the first time to the beach. Yes, she looked just like me when I was a kid when I first saw the beach.

"It's so nostalgic..." I muttered.

I untied the straps holding my surfboard and took the surfboard to the beach. It can be seen that Via is having fun taking selfies in the middle of the beach, and it's cool to set his feet in the coastal water.

Kuta Beach looks quite crowded, and many foreign tourists surf and lie on the beach. They all enjoy the heat of the beach.

Likewise with me who can't wait to surf. Via looked at me and asked me to play together. She was like a child playing on the beach and his face looked happy.

"Aaaaa it's so hot...." Via said excitedly.

"What's it like on the beach? It's great, right

"Huum... Really great. Thanks for bringing me here. I didn't know that the beach was this beautiful and enjoyable."

"Hehehe... you're welcome... Yes, the beach is really delicious. Moreover, the weather is very sunny too."

"(Singing).... It's the Best Day Ever!... Best Day Ever..."

I asked Via to watch me surf. Via agreed because I still couldn't believe I could surf. Seen from a distance began to appear large enough waves crashing on the coast.

"It's time to look cool in front of a pretty girl's eyes." I thought with a smug smiling face.

I started to warm up and got ready to swim out to sea to challenge the big waves that appeared. Initially, I swam towards the sea which is not far from the coast with a surfboard.

When I saw a big enough wave, I climbed onto the surfboard with my body back up, pointed the board towards the shore, and alternately swung my arms.

The waves have touched the tail of the board. I immediately stood on the board, with my body sideways, and enjoyed the pounding of the waves that brought the surfboard to the coast.

I remember this atmosphere. Free atmosphere when playing surfing. The wind that blows my body adds to the feeling of doing it again. A very addictive addiction.

Via was seen from a distance looking while skating, embracing the waves. Her face was amazed when she saw me playing.

"How?..." I asked with an arrogant smiling face.

"Wow.... you are so cool. You look like a different person knows when to surf."

"Hehehe... Do you want to try playing too?"

"Is that okay?..."

"Yes, if you want."

"I want, I want.." Via said with a sparkling face.

"Okay... Then I'll rent a surfboard first, then..."

"Okay, I'll wait..."

I rented another surfboard to use to teach Via the basics of playing surfing. Starting from warming up and basic theories to how to surf properly.

At first, she was scared when the waves came, and she often fell because of it. She kept trying even though she often fell in the waves.

I appreciate that. Just like grandma said, she is a hard worker. Via kept smiling and tried again and again until she mastered her surfboard.

An hour later, she started surfing well. We started surfing together and competed against each other to see who could last

longer in the waves. Via and I enjoyed our surfing game in the hot sun.

Our tiredness has been paid off with such pure enjoyment that we don't realize that the sun is starting to appear in the west.

I remember bringing the guitar in the car. It crossed my mind to take her to the middle of the beach.

In the middle of the beach, we order drinks that are sold. The local people who sell drinks are very friendly and provide us with two seats to sit in the middle of the beach.

I ordered a bottle of beer and Via ordered coconut ice. Not long to wait, our drinks have come and served before our eyes. We enjoyed the drink and chatted casually.

The sun was seen starting to set. I strum the guitar and sing the songs I like. Via saw it and told me to sing a song.

Passage after passage of notes sounded melodiously amidst the beauty of the orange sky. This rare opportunity cannot be ignored.

"Sing a romantic song while it's sunset..." Via said to me.

"(*Strumming guitar*) Okay, I'll sing it... But don't get emotional, you know..."

"Your wish! You're really looking forward to it... Hahaha..."

“(Singing)....Janganlah kau tinggalkan diriku... Tak akan mampu menghadapi semua... Hanya bersamamu ku akan bisa.... Kau adalah darahku... Kau adalah jantungku.... Kau adalah hidupku lengkapi diriku.... Oh sayang engkau begitu.... sempurna.....”

(Washed tears)

"Why are you crying?... Hahaha"

"(Wiping tears) I'm not crying tho?... (Looking away) I... I'm just touched, how come I see the sunset."

“Bullshit... Hahahaha”

"(Lowers head) Your song was the one you sang, maybe I can't promise that. Hehehe...."

“(Confused) Huh?... What do you mean?”

"No... it's okay... let's sing again. This time, let's sing together... hehehe..."

"Okay...."

“(Singing along) Saat bahagiaku.... Duduk berdua denganmu... Hanyalah bersamamu... Uuu.....”

In the midst of a beautiful sunset view, the two of us sang uneasy Indonesian songs together. We enjoyed this atmosphere cheerfully until the sun fully set.

We washed our bodies contaminated with sea water before leaving the beach.

It was getting dark and we both got back in the car to go to grandma's house. On the way, I thought about what Via said at that time.

What she meant by that I still didn't know. But for sure, I will remember this fun day forever.

Come to grandma's house. We both got out of the car and headed straight to the dining room to eat the food Grandma had made.

I can see a large bowl of warm rawon served on the dining table. I took rice because I couldn't wait to eat the rawon. Suddenly...

(Via fall)

(Seeing Via fell and went straight to his body)

“(Shaking Via's body) Vi... Why are you?... Vi...”

"(Panic) Via, why did it suddenly fall?"

"I didn't know granny... *(carrying Via's body)* I'll take Via to the room first..."

(Putting Via's body on the bed)

"How is Via's condition?" Ask granny to me.

(Holding her pulse) I think Via is just tired, Granny. She's still breathing. Granny, ask for a compress, please.

"Okay, granny will bring it..."

I'm worried about why Via suddenly fainted. Maybe he's just tired from playing surfing on the beach. I put a cold compress on his forehead. I stroked her hair and held Via's hand.

"I hope she's fine..." I said to myself.

Her body is quite hot. Granny and I were worried when we saw Via's condition. But I also don't want granny to worry.

"Granny, don't worry. Let Ryan take care of Via." I said to grandma. Grandma agreed and left Via's room, leaving us both.

Two hours passed, but Via was still unconscious. I sat beside her bed while waiting for her to wake up. Drowsiness began to attack but continued to keep my eyes healthy.

I'm worried about her condition. I hold her right hand tightly. Not long after, I fell asleep in a sitting position unconsciously.

CHAPTER IV

Back to Home

Thursday, 10th December

The sun has appeared, its light creeping through my body. Something is touching my head. Feels comfortable and soft.

Slowly, my eyes opened. I saw Via stroking my head. I realized that I fell asleep sitting in the room that Via was in.

When I saw Via waking up, I immediately hugged her tightly. Via replied warmly. Tears started to roll down my cheeks.

"(*Wiping tears*) Are you okay?.... Why did you suddenly faint yesterday?..."

"No... I'm fine... I think I'm just tired. It's okay. you don't have to worry..."

"(*Removes the hug slowly*) Are you really okay? Did you want me to take you to the doctor?"

"No need. I'm okay... Look at my face... weeee.... is that okay?... hahaha..."

"Yeah... your face is annoying as usual. If you're tired, you can tell me right away... don't just stay quiet..."

"Yes, honey..... thank you for taking care of me all night...."

"Yeah, that's my job..."

“Hehehe... By the way, today I wanted to go home. Can I ask to be delivered or not?”.

“You wanted to go home today? Why so suddenly?”

"Yeah, I didn't want to bother you with granny anymore. I already told you I'm only here 3 days..."

"Yeah...." I answered in a low voice.

“Don't tell me you don't want to let me go, okay?... Hahaaha...”

"No, really... Who said that?...." I asked in an irritated tone

"(Looking at my face while smiling sweetly) Your heart says..."

"Hah?....."

“Hahahahaha...”

I feel happy when she is okay. Even though I knew there was something she was hiding behind her smile. The smile she showed just now wasn't her usual sweet smile.

But when she wanted to go home, my heart suddenly ached, and I didn't want to accept it.

I don't want her to come home. I wish he was here with me.

This heart wanted to continue to be with Via. But what did it cost? I'm nobody for her. I'm just her fake boyfriend. So I can't forbid what I wanted to do.

Where there is a meeting, there is a parting. That's what's happening right now. So I have to accept her decision.

After that, we both left the room to have breakfast. The granny who saw Via waking up immediately hugged her.

Granny was also worried if anything happened to Via. Grandma's worry made Via moved. Maybe this time, there is someone who cares besides her family.

Breakfast has also been served. Via chatted to granny if she wanted to go home today. Granny agreed and advised that one day she could play at granny's house again. Via nodded with her head down.

This is just my feeling that lately she seems to be hiding her true feelings. I just want to know what she's hiding.

Everything about her I wanted to know. I didn't want to be a stranger in front of her. I thought of confessing my feelings before she returned to her house.

So that I also know what she thinks of me. Friends, strangers, or...

"Hey, let's go... How come you've been daydreaming?...." Via said to me.

“(Realized) Ah yes yes....sorry....”

“(Looks at my face) Are you okay?...”

“(Looks into his eyes) Yup... I'm okay...”

Time shows 10 am. We're getting ready to go. Via took his luggage and put it in the car. After that, we both said goodbye to granny. Granny and Via hugged again and granny thanked her for playing here.

Via also thanked granny for allowing her to stay for 3 days. Then we both got into the car and headed to Via's house.

"Hey, let's go for a walk first..." Via said to me.

"Wanna go for a walk again? Are you sure?" I said doubtfully.

"Sure dong.... I'm already healthy really. So don't worry anymore..."

"Well.. where are you going?.."

"Emmm... How about going to the mall? There's something I want to buy."

"Okay..."

We headed to the nearest mall called Kuta Beach Walk. A mall that is popular with tourists. This mall is quite good because it has its own charm.

I parked my car in the basement of the mall. After that, we both got out of the car and into the shop. We look at clothes, accessories, and so on.

Via took my hand and showed me a unique shopping place in the mall. She started putting things in baskets, such as casual clothes to buy. But Via forgot that he didn't bring her wallet.

With a pitiful cute face that she showed me, I finally paid for everything he bought. I feel stupid because of that.

When we went to the accessories area, she saw a silver round pendant necklace. She saw it and was interested in buying it because the locket necklace could be opened and a photo could be inserted.

"How about this necklace? Isn't it beautiful?..." Via said to me.

"Yes, it's suitable if you wear it..."

"Buy it... Please...." Via said with a pitiful face to me.

"Yes, I bought it...." I replied curtly.

"It's funny.... thanks babe....."

"Huft.... yeah..."

"Btw, we've never taken a selfie together, have we?... let's take a selfie..."

"Eh? Why suddenly?"

"Yes, because we are a couple. The couple haven't taken selfies yet."

"Okay...."

I spent a million rupiah to buy the items Via wanted. Via looks very satisfied. I also brought the groceries that Via bought earlier.

Even though I spent a lot of money on her, I didn't regret it because I bought things for the people I love. Besides, I didn't know if we could meet again or not.

My heart said that I wanted to have Via. I wanted to make her my girlfriend. I wanted to express my feelings to her, but I was afraid. An ugly person like me would definitely be rejected if I shot an angel like her.

Did she only see me as a friend? Was she just using the money I had? I pensively think about it.

"Which one did you think you like?" Aske Via with comparing 2 shirts and showing them to me.

"I liked you," I answered spontaneously.

"(Via's face turns red) Huh?....."

"(Looks at Via's face) Yes, I liked you. I wanted to be your boyfriend. I did not want to lose you. Understand?..."

"Eeeehhhh....." Via shouted in shock, and her face flushed.

"(I realized what I said) Ehhh... didn't I mean.....?"

"CIEEEE" shouted the people who were beside us, smiling.

Because many people watched, Via took my hand and left the shop. I was embarrassed after saying those words to Via subconsciously.

"What's wrong with me?" I muttered.

I wanted to straighten out what I said earlier to Via, but she said nothing and kept holding my hand. Via walks beside me. I saw her face down, her earlobes blushed.

"She must be embarrassed..." I thought. I'm confused about what I should do. I tried talking to her.

"I'm sorry... For what was earlier..." I said to Via.

"Why are you apologizing?... Hahahaha... I couldn't stop laughing, knowing you suddenly said that to me. In front of many more people... Hahahahaha..."

"I'm just confused why you said that earlier... hehehe... You didn't think about it?"

"No... Don't think about it anymore... Let's eat.... (Points at the donut shop) I want those donuts..."

"You want to eat donuts at noon?"

"Huum... I like donuts... heheheh..."

"Yeah, it's up to you..."

We both stopped by the donut shop and ordered a variety of donuts and drinks. Via invited me to talk about her groceries.

For some reason, she looked happier than usual. I started to enjoy our random chat until I forgot about what I said earlier.

After the meal was finished, we returned to the car to continue the journey to Via's house and it took one hour to arrive.

On the way, I sometimes glanced at Via who was sleeping as usual. I'm always fascinated when I see that innocent beautiful face. A face that I may not be able to see again because of this separation.

Time shows 5 pm. Twilight light began to fill the journey. We both arrived at Via's house. The house is quite big though not as big as granny's house.

But the house has a refreshing atmosphere because there are lots of flowers that decorate the fence of the house.

I parked the car in front of Via's house. We both went downstairs and rang the doorbell. A few moments later, the gate of the house was opened.

I can see a bearded man and an aged woman opening the gate. Via who saw her immediately hugged them both. Because of that, I'm sure the two of them are Via's parents.

"Your name must be Ryan, right? Introduce, we are both Via's parents." the woman said to me.

"Hello uncle, hello auntie... I'm Ryan... Nice to meet you too..." I said in an embarrassed tone.

"Okay, come on in. We eat together," said the bearded man.

"Come on, don't be shy... Hehehe...." Via said to me.

"Yes, thank you," I said while bowing my head.

Via's parents welcomed me well. It seems they know that I will come to deliver Via. I was ushered to the dining table. There are many side dishes served at the dining table.

The four of us chat while eating. It turned out that Via's parents weren't as fierce as I imagined, but parents who liked to chat randomly liked their children.

I started to enjoy talking with them. Indeed, the waste did not fall far from the tree.

“Ryan, what is your goal after graduating from college?” Via's mother said to me.

"I want to be a singer auntie. I want everyone who listens to my singing, will be carried away and carried away by every miracle of the voice that I sing."

“Wow... The sentence is really indie kid. Hahaha...” Via's father said to me.

"Hahaha..." I laughed too.

The three of us laughed together. I looked at Via with an amazed gaze towards me. I replied with a proud smile. But at a glance, I saw Via's eyes telling me that Via wanted to see me make my dream come true.

I smiled as if what I was thinking was what Via was thinking, too. I promised myself that she could see me fulfilling my dream.

Via's parents thank me for delivering Via safely and taking good care of her. After chatting at length with Via's parents, I decided to say goodbye because it was getting late.

I bid farewell to the three of them. After saying goodbye, Via walked me to the car. We started chatting again.

"You take good care of yourself...don't faint again..." I ask Via.

"Yeah, sure. When are you playing here again, please..."

"I'll definitely stop by again before I go home."

"Ummm... What if tomorrow Saturday you come here again?"

"It's okay. Don't tell me you miss me..."

"Yeah, I miss when you're not here..."

"Huh..."

"Hihihhi.... I will also answer your question when you say you want to be my girlfriend."

"*(Embarrassed)* If that's the case..."

"I promise... By the way, can I ask you something or not? These are my last 3 wishes..."

"Hahahaha... Last wish.... Do you really want to die?..."

"Hmm..." she replied.

“(Shocked) Huh?...”

"I mean we don't know when we will die right?... hihhih"

“Yeah...”

"First, I'll ask for your WA number so I can chat with you."

"(I gave my WA number) Okay...then what else..."

"Can you hug?"

"(Embarrassed) ummm yeah..."

We hugged each other too. I didn't expect this hug to be a warm hug on this cold night. Via hugged me tightly then spoke to me.

"I don't want to die..." she said softly.

"Huh? What do you mean?" I asked confused.

"(Removing the hug from me) No, it's okay... that's it... be careful on the road..." Via said while running towards the house.

"Then what's the third request?..."

"Don't forget to bring donuts when you come here next Saturday... (waving hand) Bye...."

After that, I got back into the car and went back to granny's house. In the middle of the trip, I was confused that Via was not as usual.

Is it because he parted ways with me that she is sad? Then, when she said that last request, it made me think half to death.

"Did she really want to die? No... that's impossible. I didn't want to think anything weird is weird." I muttered.

Most important of all, I got her WA number. It's the biggest achievement because of getting the contact of a beautiful woman. I can't wait to visit her house tomorrow Saturday.

CHAPTER V

The Last Chat

Friday, 11 December

Time shows 7 am. I looked at my cellphone to check if there was a message from Via.

"Morning, don't forget to eat." That was the first sentence Via sent me in WA.

I replied with pleasure. Finally, there is a woman I can chat with again after 2 years of being single. I expect an answer from Via tomorrow Saturday. I might get rejected because I'm ugly. Hahaha... But at least there is hope that I will date Via.

We both texted each other until I forgot to have breakfast. Because of the busiest thing, I immediately rushed to eat and bathe. After doing all that, Via replied to my message which reads like this.

"I want to go first, okay... Later when I come back, I'll chat with you again. Okay?..."

"Where do you want to go?..."

"Secret... really curious?... wkwkwkw"

"Well... be careful, okay"

I don't think she ever traveled with her parents. Turns out I was wrong. At least she was still loved and cared for by her parents. Unlike me who is a victim of a broken home.

I remember when I chatted with their parents. I missed that kind of atmosphere. An atmosphere where I can chat freely with my parents.

But I'm not as lucky as Via. I envy because she has kind and loving parents. I don't need to think about that anymore. I have to learn to be grateful for what is in my life.

After eating and bathing, I helped granny to clean the yard. I realized that while I was here, I spent time with Via. I felt bad for grandma because I originally wanted to spend time with her.

Because of that, I helped granny and had a long talk with her. Don't forget that we both also talked about Via.

It was already noon. I helped grandma prepare lunch. I started to show my best cooking to grandma. I cooked butter chicken. My favorite dish when I was in college.

I prepared all the ingredients and started cooking. After finishing cooking, I asked granny to try my butter fried chicken dish.

"How's Granny?... is Ryan's cooking delicious or not?..." I asked while putting on a hopeful face.

"Ummm Umami..." Granny said with an amazed face.

"Yes... Finally, my cooking is acknowledged by granny... hahaha...".

"What if Via came here again? You cook butter fried chicken. I'm sure she'll like it.."

"Ready to do granny..."

I almost forgot about Via because I had so much fun talking and helping granny.

I checked my cellphone. In fact, there has been no reply message from Via. I thought she was enjoying her vacation with her parents. I wonder where Via went on vacation.

I saw the afternoon sky that was starting to get cloudy. The previously clear sky was suddenly covered by thick clouds. As if hinting at something about a bad omen. I started to think about it.

My premonition is also starting to feel bad. I thought is there something bad going to happen in my life?

I throw away the negative thoughts and keep thinking positively.

"Maybe it's just an ordinary cloud. Nothing unusual." I thought.

After a while, rainwater began to soak the earth. On the melodic melody of the rain which is a self-soothing, a friend in silence and a medicine for longing. This heavy rain made me miss Via's figure.

The hot afternoon was cooled down by the rain. This cold makes me drowsy from the fatigue that I enjoy. A few moments later, I lay my body on the bed and sleep soundly.

I woke up at 5 pm when it started to rain. I looked at my cellphone to check if there was a message reply from Via. Turns out Via also hasn't replied to my message. Maybe because he forgot, I sent a message to Via.

"Are you home yet?"

That's the message I sent to Via. I'm sure he will reply quickly. After sending the message, I continued taking a shower and helping grandma prepare food for dinner.

I helped my grandmother cook my favorite food, namely rendang. Even though it's quite complicated to cook, I'm getting used to it. I really enjoyed cooking time with grandma.

The rendang is already done. I served it at the dinner table and ate it with grandma. We chatted at length while enjoying the food.

Before I realized it, it was already 8 pm. I checked my phone again. Turns out Via also hasn't replied to my message. I started to think, did something bad happen to her?

I started to think about what she said yesterday, Via's strange behavior that she did before we parted ways. I started feeling uneasy when I thought about it.

I will go to Via's house tomorrow morning to see if something bad has happened to her. Because of that, I quickly went to sleep so I could meet her tomorrow morning.

CHAPTER VI

Unexpected Farewell

Saturday, 12 December

Morning is coming. But the WA chat that I sent to Via didn't reply at all. I wonder if she's still asleep. Somehow, I'm starting to have a bad feeling. I'm starting to think about what she said Thursday night.

"I don't want to die." Those were Via's words yesterday.

I thought, why would she say that when she's still young? I started to remember the incident when she fainted suddenly after we came back from Kuta Beach. It crossed my mind to visit her house.

I have a bad feeling about Via. Suddenly, I immediately got ready to eat and shower. After that I said goodbye to my granny and got in the car to immediately go to Via's house.

Don't forget, I also bought a box of donuts for Via. She'd be mad if I didn't bring her donuts.

On the way, I kept thinking about it. I started to arrive at Via's house. You can see a lot of people visiting her house.

I was confused why so many people visited her house. Out of curiosity, I parked my car on the side of the road and rushed to Via's house.

The feeling I have right now is not good. That's why I ran. I arrived at her house and immediately entered it. You can see a large white chest in the living room.

Via's parents cried when they saw something in the crate. Via's photo is also displayed on the white casket.

I walked over and greeted Via's parents. They both saw me and immediately hugged me.

“Forgive us, Ryan...” those were the words Via's mother said to me.

I saw what was inside the white casket. My gaze was blank when I saw the person lying in the chest. People I really know.

She lay wearing a sweet white dress. Her face when she closed her eyes was still beautiful. Her pale lips graced her face.

Yes... That person is Via. The woman I love so much, lying in a coffin. I was shocked to see it. I'm in shock. I don't know what to do.

“(Crying) Vi... Why, Vi. Why did you leave me? Wake up, Vi. You remember we have an appointment... you remember we have vacation plans both of you.... you remember... Vi... (Screaming) VIAAA.....”

My gaze was blank when I saw her in the crate. I screamed very loudly. Via's parents tried to calm me down. They hugged me.

"It's done, son... already...." Via's mother said to me. I cried loudly. My body could not accept this reality. I could not control my body anymore. Not long after.... I fainted.

(In the dream)

Slowly, I opened my eyes and realized I was sitting in a long black wooden chair. I saw the sight of the blue sky and wavy white clouds surrounding me.

Underfoot was a vast pool of still water. The beautiful sky-blue color is reflected by the pool of water. I was wearing a long white shirt and black pants and shoes.

A bright light suddenly knocked on my door. I covered my eyes with 1 hand because it was too dazzling. After that, its bright light slowly began to dissipate.

I saw a figure I knew. She was Via who was wearing a long white dress.

“(Waving at me) Hi.... “ Via greeted me.

"Hey..." I replied with a m smile.

"You were shocked when you found out that I was dead?... hihihhi..."

“(Upset) Of course!”

"Hahaha... I really like it when you're annoyed with me..."

“I'm not kidding... Why did you suddenly leave me? Even though we promised, right?...” I said in a curt tone.

“Hahaha.... Are you curious?.....”

“You really suck at it...”

“Hahahaha.... You will know the answer later. I didn’t need to answer now. I'm here just to see you one more time.” Via said with a smile.

"Is that all?..." I said annoyed.

"Yup... *(Sits next to me)* After I saw you, I really believed that you would live happily without me..."

"I didn’t know if I could be happy without you... Why are you so mean?... Leaving me casually with a smile like that.... DO YOU KNOW IF I'M SAD TO LOSE YOU?! DO YOU THINK I COULD ACCEPT THAT?! I AM TIRED OF LOSING THE PERSON I LOVE! I... I'm tired Vi.... Tired..."

“*(Holds my hand and looks at my face)* Don't be sad.. As long as you don't forget me, I'll always be in your heart... *(stands up)* My time is up. That's all I want to say. I hope you can accept my departure. *(Looks at me)* Promise me that you can live without me, okay?... *(Bears tears)* I'm sorry..."

(After saying that, Via's figure slowly faded away.)

"*(Trying to hold Via's hand)* Vi.... VIAAA...."

(Waking up from sleep)

“Hah... hah...” I realized and woke up from my dream. I looked around, I remembered this room. This is Via's room. I fell asleep on Via's bed because I suddenly knew the design.

Suddenly, the door opened. I saw Via's father and mother. Mrs. Via brought me snacks and a glass of hot tea for me. They both sat beside me. They told about Via's condition and why Via suddenly died.

When I heard their story, I was shocked and started crying again.

They said, Via had been sick since he was in junior high school and she routinely took medication at the hospital for the healing process. But over time, Via's condition got worse and she often passed out when she was too tired.

Via asked to be operated on last Friday because if she is operated on, there is a possibility of recovery from the disease she is suffering from even though the chance of survival during surgery is only 50 percent. But, fate said otherwise. Via did not survive and died after the operation.

Hearing that, I already suspected she was hiding something from me. I should be aware of that. Realized when she always fell asleep on the trip, realized when she suddenly fainted, realized when she was the first time to the beach.

“Why am I so stupid?...” I muttered.

I told all the events when I was with Via in front of her parents. When they listened to me and knew what the two of us were doing, they smiled and thanked me.

They both said ever since Via was diagnosed with an illness, she rarely smiled and laughed. I immediately looked down.

Is what I did to Via right or wrong? I don't know. They also apologized because when I came to this house, they didn't tell me the truth about what happened.

After telling a long story, I begged goodbye to go home to tell my grandmother about this incident. I said goodbye to Via's parents. They both said that Via would be cremated the next day around 10 in the morning.

They hoped that my grandmother and I would visit Via for the last time. I agreed and promised to come to Via's last ceremony.

Before saying goodbye, I saw Via's face for the last time. I'm blown away. Even though she had died, she still radiated beauty on her face. Finished looking at her face, I got into the car and went home to granny's house.

I arrived at granny's house. I saw granny who was sweeping the yard. Immediately I immediately ran and hugged grandma.

I told Via everything that happened. Granny and I cried. We both didn't expect Via to leave so soon. I cried uncontrollably because I couldn't stand it and couldn't accept this fact. Granny tried to calm me down.

My heart began to calm, although the feeling of resentment has not disappeared. I went to my room to calm my mind. Closed the door, lay down, cried in a warm bolster hug, and remembered an old song...

"(Singing) Jujur... Aku tak kuasa.... Saat terakhir ku genggam tanganmu... Namun... Yang pasti terjadi.... Kita mungkin tak bersama lagi...

The song that I sang made my heart and mind increasingly erratic. Lamenting every love fate that I have experienced, and wondering if I am a human being who is not worthy of the true love that I desire.

CHAPTER VII

Love Letter

Sunday, 13 December

The sun began to rise from the east. I realized that I slept all day. Granny was worried about me because I slept too long. I believe it, is nothing.

We are both getting ready to go to Via's parents' house to attend Via's funeral. I wore a black suit left by my grandpa that was no longer used.

Likewise with my grandmother who wore a long black dress. The mirror of the room looked at me. I can see the sadness still on my face.

This is the last meeting between me and Via. I have to be strong and accept gracefully his death. Suddenly grandma hugged me from behind.

"Take it easy, dear; Via must be happy with the Lord Jesus. You have to be strong later and you can't put on a sad face for Via's, right..."

In the Bible, it's explained that dying is a gain. So you don't have to worry anymore... If you're sad, Via will be sad too...
"Said granny to me.

I heard and cried loudly in granny's arms. I still can't believe the person I love left me again. Granny returned my hug warmly while comforting me. What was supposed to be a beautiful holiday turned into a day full of tears.

We are getting ready to go to Via's parents' house. We have a long journey. An unavoidable feeling of sadness enveloped the car in eternal silence.

The goal has been reached, but not with sadness that never ends. You can see a lot of people mourning the death of a sleeping beauty, who if I kiss her sweet lips will never wake up, because I know I was not a fated prince.

Slowly, feet treading on the ground of doubt, got out of the car and was about to meet his parents. They are grateful and grateful for our presence.

I gave sentences of sympathy for them, I expressed sincere feelings, even though the expression on their faces did not seem to accept the situation.

The awaited time has arrived. The family group began to prepare to go to the funeral home together.

I saw Via's crate being put in the ambulance. The white casket has beautiful gold carvings suitable for an angel in it.

After Via's casket was put in the ambulance, the group started to go to the funeral home. My grandmother and I rode in Via's parents' car. I looked at the blue sky from the window.

"I wish I could catch up with you so we can be together again," I muttered to myself.

Looking at me blankly, Via's mother asked me to chat. He thanked me for accompanying Via for the rest of her life.

Via's mother said Via told me many things about me with pleasure before she was operated on. Via's father also thanked me for taking good care of Via. They believe that Via will not regret meeting me.

I blushed and was happy to hear from them. For a moment, my mood started to improve when they told me about Via's life.

Half an hour passed, and we arrived at the funeral home. We all got out of the car and prepared ourselves for the last prayer. Via's casket was put into the room used for cremating the casket.

Before starting, we did the last ceremony, namely praying for Via for the last time. The pastor came and said a few verses in the Bible.

After that, Via's parents said the last sentence for their only daughter. The essence of what they said was that they were proud to have a strong and tough daughter like Via.

I agree with what they said. I'm also sure Via is grateful to have both parents who are always by her side.

After finishing chanting, the casket began to be cremated. The fire started to accompany her in the darkness of the room.

The warmth that emanated from him, did not make the cold that felt fade away. Unknowingly, tears slowly began to fall in a structured manner. But I remember what my granny said, I have to be strong and strong to face it.

"Babe, be happy, okay? Thank you..." I said to myself.

My last words to the girl I've known for a week. A week that is memorable and a week that is painful.

Instantly, I fell to my knees, crying, letting out annoyance in my heart that was impossible to say. Unbearable tears began to flow.

I was not as strong as Via. I was a weak guy who was afraid of losing someone I loved. Granny who saw me tried to calm me down and hugged me tightly.

A loud cry escaped my mouth. An unbearable feeling from within. An atmosphere of emotion enveloped the ceremony of death. Deep condolences to the angels who have returned to heaven.

The cremation was over, and the four of us returned to Via's parents' house. Via's mother was crying in the car because of the death of her young child.

Granny tried to calm Via's mother so that she would not continue to dissolve into deep sadness. Finally, Via's mother stopped crying and began to accept the death of her child.

Time has passed. The four of us got to our destination. My grandmother and I thank Via's parents for allowing us to pay our last respects to Via.

Granny and I rushed to go home. But before that, Via's mother called me.

"Ryan, this is a small memory from Via.." Via's mother said to me. She gives a brown rectangular box.

"This is from Via, auntie?" I asked.

"Yes. Before she was operated on, she left the box to her aunt. She said if Via died, please give this box to Ryan."

"Ah, I see. Thank you, auntie. Sorry if it was a bother..." I said while accepting the box of chocolates with a smile.

"Yes, you're welcome. We should both be the ones thanking you."

After that, we both said goodbye to Via's parents. I bowed my body as a sign of my respect for both of them.

Then granny and I headed for the car to return home. Curiosity arose when she saw the box that Via's mother had given her. I'll open it when I get home.

On the way, granny said that she was grateful to meet Via. I was moved to hear the words of granny.

If you didn't take Via that night, I didn't know what would happen. Grateful to have met someone like her.

She was a woman who was strong and didn't give up easily I learned many things from her after knowing her life. I feel like a failure as a guy because I was not as strong as Via.

Finally, we both arrived. I put the car in the garage. After that, he got out of the car and took the box of chocolates that Via's mother had given her, headed to the terrace of the house while opening the box.

I slowly opened it, there was a written letter for me from Via. I was curious about its contents and started to read the letter.

Dear Ryan

It feels so weird writing a letter to a guy I've only known for a week. You are stupid, obscene, ugly. Let's be honest... the first time you approached me at night, I thought you were a bad person who wanted to kidnap and rape me.

Yes, I was ready for that, because at that time I didn't care about my life anymore. I intended to kill myself that night. But what are you doing?... You saved me from death instead. You let me stay at your grandmother's house, go out with me, until I forget my original purpose. You are bad, right?...

Btw... I've never told you about this problem. Since childhood, I had Aplastic Anemia. Because of the disease, I was often in and out of the hospital. I also fainted in class during high school, so I couldn't enjoy high school, which people say was a beautiful time.

I knew my condition was very bad. Until that night, I overheard my papa and mama talking in the lobby. I heard that I only have a week left to live. Since then, I have run away from the hospital.

I'm stressed, I'm lost, I think God has closed his eyes to see my condition. But I was wrong. Since you came to me that night...

You made me enjoy the rest of my short life. Did you still remember the coolness of the waterfall during the day, the beautiful view when we were swinging together, the heat of the Kuta Beach, until your money ran out because of my shopping groceries? It was the most beautiful experience in my life.

I finally knew what it was like to go on a date with a guy for the first time. When I was with you, I learned many things from your life. As I thought, you're a stubborn, pervert, noisy

person. As I expected, you are a sincere and kind person. I was grateful to have met you. It seems strange that trivial things like that are hard to forget, right?

But that feeling was normal if it was hard to forget. Especially the things we usually do together. The more I wanted to be with you, the more I knew I couldn't have you. Maybe this is a feeling that other people often feel.

A feeling called love. You're really mean... even though I only have a week left to live, but you introduced me to what love is. I still remember how it felt to cry in your arms. I still remember your warm hand. I still remember your singing that soothes my heart. I remember everything we did together. Because of that, I was afraid of death. I was afraid I couldn't see you anymore. I was afraid of losing the people I love. I was afraid of losing you....

Hihihi..... I cried when I wrote this part... Are there still tears left on this paper?...

Take a Responsibility! :p

Maybe these are my last words for you. I was so selfish huh... I still have the time to bother you even though I was dead. It was known that I was also a girl... But it was not that complicated... I just want to ask you a few questions.

Answered it! lol!....

Just be careful if you don't answer!

Naturally, you're a criminal who has stolen my heart....

Hahaha.....

Can you fulfill my last request? If not, my spirit will haunt you... Weeeeeee.....

*What do you think?
Can I stay in someone's heart?
Can I live in your heart?
Even if it's for a moment, is it possible that you will always
remember me?
Don't reset our memories, okay?
Promise?....
I hope my feelings reach to you...*

*RYAN, I LOVE YOU....
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU...*

*Sorry, I didn't tell you that I had a disease.
Sorry, I don't have time to eat the donuts you bought.
Sorry if I bother you with your grandmother.
Sorry, I disturbed your vacation time.
Sorry if I can't keep our promise.*

*Don't forget to be happy, even though I'm not there anymore.
Thank you for everything....
Good Bye..*

Via

I didn't realize I was crying when I finished reading it.

"It's true that a girl like you is annoying. I should be the one thanking you because thanks to you, I know the true meaning of life."

I was grateful to have a girlfriend like Via even if only for a moment. In the box, there is a silver pendant necklace. The pendant he bought yesterday at the mall. A round pendant with a small door to open.

When the locket opened, there was a photo of the two of us. Photos when we both selfie at the mall.

Inside the box, there were also photos of the two of us while on vacation together. I smiled at her. I looked up at the sky, put on the necklace and held it tightly.

“(Looks at the sky) Thank you for everything... I love you too... I will never forget the memories we have made. About how annoying you are, how fussy you are, how cheerful you are. Little things like that will always remain in my heart. So don't worry about me... I'm fine....Maybe...”.

I hope the wind that blows conveys this sentence to Via. I'm sure my feelings are conveyed to you, my beloved angel. I will enjoy tomorrow's holiday without you by my side.

-END-

EPILOGUE

Via's death so quickly made me realize that she was a special woman to me. Now, I live life in solitude. Enjoying my vacation in Bali without her presence and laughter anymore. My days are filled with emptiness and memories that leave an impression on my heart. I'm sure God will send angels who will accompany and laugh happily for tomorrow and beyond. My experience is the most valuable experience in my life. I wrote down my experience in a novel in the form of a diary. A small diary about my meeting and parting with Via. I have calmed down and tried to accept that the lover I love, has become eternal ashes.

Falling in love is like watching fireworks. It entertains you with many beautiful colors. You feel good at first but then it just disappears in a flash. That's what happened to Ryan who fell in love with Via. It was an accidental meeting that ended without a single word. This is a romantic story of two strangers: beautiful, yet painful.

