

CRUSH LIKE LOVE

Akhand Singh

Author's Corner

About Me:

I am an engineer craving to be to a writer and an artist trying to get his work on your mind.

Born in a middle class family where you don't have much money but plenty of emotions, I grabbed the pen when I was quiet young. Diaries and notebooks were my partners and since then the words begin to flow as soon as I get my hands on something to write, be it the old school way of pen and paper or the new age way of PDF's, MS word or Google docs.

Writing is more than a hobby for me, I write most of the times and even when I am doing other things I will keep thinking about "what next to write".

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Message:

"You have only life, grab the pen and write about it. Write about everything you dream and everything you see. Someday your story would be heard and read louder than you would ever imagine. May be it will give hope to someone, may be it will scare someone and may be it will spread love."

Prologue

Did he ever love her? Or does he just like her? Just like he thinks he liked everyone else in the past.

Sitting on the porch he has thought about this for hours now. He didn't even realize when the day-light ran to hide and night started seeking it. It's cold but he doesn't want to move, he doesn't want to call her or answer her calls. He has never been this confused before. There is a very strong feeling in his heart for her, he knows it, he has seen how much he cares for her but will she ever understand what he holds in his heart for others?

Can she actually see past this and give them the chance they deserve.

“Love is the stupidest thing that can ever happen to someone” he always believed this. But did he just fall in love or he has fallen slowly with the last few years? Or did he already fall and was just realizing it only now, when the memories of all his past crushes and relationships are hitting him.

How can he be confused at this point of life?

“Can he love more than one person at the same time and can he love them equally?”

How can he be ready to accept the thought that he never believed in? Was he changing? Was it love that was changing him? With so many questions on his mind he was also burdened to find the answers. This was of the utmost urgency for the fate of his current relationship depends on it.

Sitting on the porch he thinks...

“Love is a feeling that enlightens your heart, lets it grows, lets it shape, lets it flourish and lets it live...”

Chapter 1: The New Neighbor

It all started when David was 12 years old, year 2000 was rolling in and everything around was changing but yet roaming around with friends or without was his ideal way of living life. He would spend hours on the soccer ground and then would sit with his little local gang consisted of all the children from the neighborhood. Being the eldest undoubtedly made him the leader of his gang and that's how he would conduct small missions of fighting with others or putting crackers under someone's vehicle and all the other little mischiefs. Being the leader and the most mischievous one he wasn't actually the favorite of anyone, except his own little gang who praised him like a big brother. Parents of other children would worry that he might have a bad influence on their kids, they would ask them to ignore him and not to be his accomplice but then that's the beauty of a child's mind, it hardly thinks of the profit and loss and stays connected through a sense of unity and a strong bond prevails through all the ups and downs.

On a most sunny day what would a kid most expect is be allowed to play, but it wasn't that day for him. He was grounded for a recent complaint received from his school.

The scene at his home a few hours ago:

"Did you hit someone?" dad shouts at him.

"No I didn't" David speaks like he whispers.

"Don't you dare lying, your class teacher just called" dad frowns.

He stays quiet; he knows what he has done, but questions himself - would the explanation satisfy his dad? "Probably not" he thinks and silence grabs his tongue as he shrugs. That was it, the silence was the proof of being wrong for his dad and so he was grounded.

Sitting on his porch he was watching everybody playing and having fun, his little gang had already tried several times, but he won't go, he knows the code. He had to stay away from going out of the house otherwise he won't just be grounded next time but the thrashing would be painful. For hours he sat on the porch watching his friends play, jealous and frustrated he decided to come back to his room and sleep. As he walks in the room, he finds his mom sleeping, he frowns and then with a flux he simply switches on the TV. Few minutes later somebody knocks on his door.

"Who's there?" he shouts being irritated.

"It's me Sushant".

"I told you I am not allowed to go out today; I can't play" he frowns.

"It's important, open the door" Sushant says.

He walks up to the door and unhooks the lock, opens the door and stare at Sushant's face.

"What is it?" He says.

"You've got to see this David" Sushant pulls him towards the porch. They stand on the porch and as Sushant points out, David notices a truck unloading on the building next to his. What he observes next was something that marks a different level of happiness on his face. While Sushant and other friends standing in front of the building were happy about the new neighbors, David had another reason to be happy, he knew them and he knew her.

"Let's go and check them out" David says.

"You are still grounded dude" Sushant smirks

"I know, but I would go anyway, moreover mom is sleeping" David smiles.

"Alright let's go" Sushant agrees.

They both climb down the stairs and the gang seems so happy to see their leader with them. David's excitement is at its peak, he is shy for the very first time and he is confused. When Kiran sees David she recognizes him instantly and she smiles. David now gathers the courage and initiates the conversation with a simple "hi", Kiran just smiles back.

"What does this mean" he thinks.

"Where is Vicky?" David asks. Vicky is Kiran's younger brother, David met him one day while he was warming up on the ground before his soccer match, Vicky was roaming around with his dog, and when his dog saw David running, it just couldn't stop trying to bite him. David grew up in an environment where he had too many dogs in his house so he knew how to save himself and so Vicky's dog responded nicely to him ever since. Vicky was definitely taken and amazed with this fact and so they became friend instantly, it was Vicky who took David to his place and introduced him to his sister that same day.

"He is unpacking and helping mom" she said.

"Hi I am Sushant" the attention seeker breaks in and introduces himself. She replies with a same 'hi' and same smile, that makes David jealous.

"Hey Vicky "David busted as he saw him coming out of the apartment.

Vicky seemed so happy and excited to see David.

"Mom is calling you "Vicky pointed to Kiran, after which she left.

"Do you need any help?" David asked.

Vicky nodded and so the sport of helping Vicky in moving in commences for the gang. When David went upstairs with Vicky, Kiran was setting up the furniture, her mom stood there guiding the other workers to keep the television properly.

“Watch it, be careful” she shouted, listening to this David’s courage was already hiding in his pants.

“Hello aunty” he said, aunty replied nicely to this so that definitely gave him a little boost. But his eyes were sneaking on Kiran every time, even when he was talking to Vicky, carrying stuffs from the truck or played with his dog Blacky.

“David” Priya his elder sister pulled him as she came finds him standing near the truck.

“What are you doing? How did you find me?” he busted.

“Aren’t you grounded? Dad called to check on you” she frowns.

“Oh my god, I forgot, dad is going to kill me. I am grounded forever now” he shouts and run towards his apartment. Priya laughs along with his friends.

When he reached his apartment door, the door was locked. “Mom is awake” he thought. “I am dead, shit, shit, shit” he curses himself. Suddenly a crazy idea comes to his mind and he decides to jump in through the porch. He climbed down the stairs and then tried to reach the boundary of his porch. “I am insane, what am I doing?” he thought, but the fear of being caught by his dad, and explaining the fact that he went out even when he was grounded, propelled him to do this. He finally got a grasp of the boundary and he tried to pull his legs up to the space between pillars. “I did it” he exclaimed and the sudden excitement caused his left leg to slip, holding on to the boundary he looked down, the height frightened him and to save himself he moved quickly. A sense of relief and joy touched him when he stood on the floor of the porch again; he did something he never thought he would be able to do. He felt like some super action hero. “Is mom awake?” he thought as his mind gathered senses and calmed down, fear captured his heart again and so he went in to check on her. “Lucky day” he smiled when he found his mom sleeping.

“You were grounded and you went out?” Annie his younger sister asked, coming out of her room.

“Don’t you dare tell this to dad” David pointed, and that’s how he survived being grounded.

The whole night David just dreamt about her and that was surely one of the best nights he ever had. He was excited to see her the next day. Things continued in the same way for a while. A friendship of minutes turned to months and then years with time.

Present:

Just thinking about Kiran, David seems so happy now, his eyes have the same spark like the first time he saw her. There is an amazing happiness that his heart carries now. He almost comes to laughter when he remembers the first time he actually came close to say I love you, the three magical words to Kiran.

Past:

It was when he turned 14 and it was his birthday, the day he had decided to propose to Kiran. All dressed up; the birthday boy was ready for the celebrations. Everybody was supposed to come and they did, but his eyes were searching only for her, his friends asked him to cut the cake but how could he? So he just went over hiding

in his house until she came with Vicky. But how can he say it, he didn't actually know what to say. He sat next to her while they had dinner and even went to drop them to their apartment but never gathered the strength to utter those three words until he found the perfect moment. While they were on the way to Kiran's apartment both Sushant and Vicky were accompanying them as well, but they always had a lot to talk about cricket and so David and Kiran always walked together at least David always made sure of it. Considering that Sushant and Vicky were talking with each other and were engrossed in their discussion, David gathered courage and whispered "I love you", Kiran didn't say anything and she kept walking. Noticing this David grabbed her hand and pulled her towards him.

"What are you doing?" She busted.

"Nothing" he said, realizing that she didn't listen to what he said, her face and eyes were the perfect answer, and so he lost the courage of confessing ever since.

As they grew, the feeling for Kiran in David's heart changed. It became something he wasn't able to express and understand. They would play together, but he would make sure they stay in opposite team while they play cricket. For some reason he thought that would bring them together plus he wouldn't want Vicky to find out his feelings for Kiran. Nothing could ever change what he felt for her, not even when Vicky found out about it with the help of Sushant of course; not even when his first ever love letter was caught by his sister and when she told his dad about it; not even when Kiran got the idea for the very first time that it wasn't just a friendship in David's eyes.

Years passed and then came the time when Kiran and her family were moving out to a different city. He was heartbroken but even at that time when he tried so hard he couldn't even whisper his heart's song, he held the wrist band close to his heart that Kiran gave him before she left. What he felt for her might have been a mere attraction at that time, adolescence might have played the trick but then with years the feeling grew up to be something else he never understood.

At the age of 16 David was seriously having a hard time grasping the concept of love. He heard about it, read about it in almost every book and the movies made him write some poems and songs as well but nothing was strong enough to teach him how to confess his feelings for Kiran.

Chapter 2: Teacher's daughter

Present:

The night seems so long, he decides to get a coffee. While he walks to the kitchen he smiles on how stupid and ignorant he had been when he was a kid. Pouring the coffee into his mug he walks back to the porch. He looks down to the ground; the height is too much to scare him. Seventeenth floor was only what he got when he came to DC, pictures of the moment when he jumped in through the porch hits his mind, he laughs. Moment later he puts the coffee mug on the floor and hangs his leg passing between the boundaries of the porch. His legs feel so fresh, the blood rushes to the toes and he enjoys the feeling. He grabs the mug again and takes a sip, as the coffee enters his stomach; the taste on his tongue reminds him of the coffee he gulped for the first time when he was out on a date with Jennifer. He remembers her, remembers the way she was looking at him and how she was trying to hide the fact that she was nervous. The noise of his laughter wakes up the neighbors upstairs and they ask him to keep it low.

"Sorry" he says and continues gulping his coffee.

Past:

David was already late for his physics tuitions when it started raining, "Damn this rain" he cursed.

He stopped for a while under a shade of a restaurant nearby but soon was back on the road again, not caring for the rain; he didn't want to be late. Moment later he knocked on the door. As the door open his mouth fall open "Jennifer!" he exclaims. "What is she doing here?" he thought. He scrolled his eyes on her; she wore black tees and black shorts enough to get any guys attention, black hair, attractive eyes, a gold pendant, gold earrings, oval shaped lips and cuteness on the face. She scrolled her eyes on him, wet long hair, drenched T-shirt fitting to the shoulders, brown eyes, and silver bracelet on the right hand, threaded necklace, and coyness on the eyes. They almost stared at each other for few seconds and then all of sudden Jennifer ran inside.

David stood at the door, confused at what had just happened. "Why did she run inside?" He choked on his own saliva and stood there for a while. It had been a few minutes and nobody showed up so he decided to go inside the house. But then he stopped realizing that he was drenched and might ruin the carpet. In a while Jennifer came outside all dressed up and with a towel in her hand.

"Why are you still standing out?" she asked. Judging from David's expressions she realized it was a stupid question.

"Dry yourself" she smiled and gave the towel to David. He stood straight and didn't say anything, quietly grabbed the towel.

While he toweled off his hair, Jennifer stood watching him. "Can I come in now?" he asked.

She showed him where he should sit and so he grabbed the chair. She ran inside again. Moments later Mrs. D'Souza came out and met David, and asked him about his brother who was an ex-student of hers. She started to talk about his marks on 10th board, luckily other people came and so that was it for the introduction. David was relieved although he didn't like that introduction at all, yet he felt Mrs. D'Souza was a nice lady. The class started after a brief introduction from everyone and after that Jennifer jumped in. The look from Mrs. D'Souza surely suggested that she was pissed off because Jennifer joined them a little late, she grabbed the chair next to

David and accidentally her hand touched his. He was in a state of shock, first time ever some strange girl touched him. Something hit him hard that day, an attraction that he could surely feel.

Present:

He still misses her and is wondering if he should call her or not. In a spur of a moment he grabs the cell and dials her number. On the second ring he heard he just cancels the call, realizing that he shouldn't call her. His coffee is almost cold but he doesn't want to get up again. The view is so romantic; the night although dark is still slight reddish. He remembers that it there was a hurricane forecast for the near future.

Past:

It was almost the same kind of weather that day, the sky was reddish and David asked her out. She was unsure about going out at first but then she agreed. He took her to the Abha shop where they ordered just a coffee. "Coffee date?" he thought. She was looking into his eyes and he stared at hers. Deep inside he knew he already fell for her; it was more than an attraction now, he could feel the same in her eyes. For the very first time somebody's heart was so transparent to him. David had never been in any situation like this before; this was his first date ever. He was so nervous and afraid that he would screw up his date that he wasn't even trying to be himself that day until Jennifer slipped her hand into his and said "Thank you for bringing me here". He just smiled and looked into her eyes. After few hours he dropped her back at her home and then he came back to his. The night seemed long and sleep kept hiding under his bed.

With time that passed they became friends and one day with the help of a best friend of course they ended up being in a relationship.

Present:

He finally decides to get another cup of coffee and comes back to the kitchen, but sooner he changes his mind and thinks a beer is what he actually needs. He throws the cup in the sink and grabs a bottle from the refrigerator. Slowly he walks to the porch again and grabs a chair this time. The sky is still reddish, but it had already started raining. The prediction for the hurricane was for early morning. Everybody gathered almost everything they could have to survive, he just didn't care anymore. The memories of the past had already occupied his mind.

Past:

He never noticed a girl like this before, feelings apart, there was this desire of touching her that was strange to him, and it was fresh and inexperienced. He sat around her just like any other normal day but it wasn't just a usual day after all, that was the day Jennifer touched him like a girlfriend for the first time. Under the table Jennifer scratched his legs when her mom was actually teaching, scared like hell yet David couldn't resist enjoying the moves. Later after the class, everybody left and he grabbed her hand, pulled her towards the garage and kissed her. At first Jennifer resisted but then the lips were locked for few seconds, breaking the joint they looked into each other eyes and within another few seconds their lips were locked again. He knew that it was more than an attraction now; he cared for her like he might have never cared for anybody before.

Everything was fine for that year and then things started to change, Jennifer became unsure about the future with David, and she started feeling that as they would grow up it would become more difficult to keep the relationship going. She wanted to get out of it, unsure about what she felt for David, she decided to move on and that called for a breakup.

The very same year David entered college, high school was over and as it seemed after his first ever breakup, he was stronger and more determined towards his life. He felt that he wasted a lot of his time on Jennifer, he felt that he could have done well in his school, might have spent more time with his friends but it was a total waste of time with Jennifer. As the teenager was growing up and marching towards adulthood, he created a brick wall and then climbed it leaving behind what he held for Jennifer in search of something new perhaps. He thought that he would start a new life; college might be that new opportunity he seeks for, what he didn't realize was that he already had a very strong feeling for Jennifer that wasn't going to fade away for a very long time.

Present:

He sits on the porch for another hour until it starts raining heavily and until he can see the storm coming. Later he decides to come inside and sit on the couch, may be watch TV or something. The memories still knocks on his mind and with that heaviness he comes inside. He then walks to the bed room and jumps inside the bed, pulls up the bed sheet as he realizes that the room was colder than usual and then he closes his eyes. Thinking about meeting Jennifer again someday, he remembers his promise that he made to her "I will always be there for you", the words echoes in his ears and he pulls up the pillow and covers them, thinking he would out run the past. Slowly sleep catches up to him, the tiredness of his mind forces him to let go and so he shuts his eyes and rests.

Chapter 3: The Girl with a Pony Tail

Present:

With the noise of thunder David wakes up, the room seems darker so he walks up to switch on the lights. He knocks his head on the pillar while he tries to reach the switch.

“What the fuck” he curses and then scrolls his hands on the wall, finally after reaching the switch he flips it.

“Damn you power outage” he curses again realizing that the switch was already on. Later he feels cold and looks at the window, he notices that the glass is broken; He walks toward the window and tries to clean up the floor, wind although heavy feels so fresh and cold to him. With a joyful heart he slips into nostalgia. He walks to the porch again and enjoy the rain drops, feels them as they kiss his face.

Past:

It wasn't supposed to rain that day, the sky was clear blue and bright when he reached college. As usual he was late for the class and came running through the corridor, Mr. Jain was teaching and as he noticed David and few other students, he let them in to the class with a stare. While David tried to grab a vacant seat he noticed that Jiya and Deepa already saved a seat for him behind them.

“Thanks “he said and jumped in to the seat they had kept for him.

It's been more than a week now, he realized that something is going on; the look on Jiya's face just confused him yet promises him a proof of mixed emotions that Jiya might have been going through. She peeks on him and then just smiles.

Around 5:00 PM, after the last class everybody rushes to their home. David had to wait for his bus and so he stood out with his friends. Far away he could notice Jiya standing with her friends and waiting for her bus as well. The weather had already changed and the clear blue sky was now darker and dense black clouds already took over it. They could still notice each other, talking to everyone around yet their eyes were stuck on each other's. Moments later the clouds seemed so tired of holding on to rain and they poured, with her friends Jiya ran towards the library where David stood with his friends. They were waiting for the bus, but not actually wanting to get on it. The spark in their eyes was more obvious than they knew it. Moments later the bus came and they ran to get in, David let Jiya pass and get in before him, as she stepped up on the bus, her eyes were still on David's face and her head bumps into the door, she fell back and David held her from behind and supported her. She smiles and gets in. Later with a strange feeling he follows her into the bus.

Present:

He smiles as he realizes that Jiya was always cute. He misses her and remembers how she kept smiling and shying while they were sitting beside each other. The wind with rain makes him feel the cold and so he walks in. Considering the drenched slippers he removes them at the door and then walks to the kitchen bare foot. “Damn!” he screams as a piece of glass pierces his left foot and jumps on the sofa holding his foot. “This is worse, power outage in US and they say this is the country that never sleeps” He yells as he pulls out the glass. “Damn man” He curses again. Blood all over his hand makes it sticky, he looks for a towel that he threw earlier on the sofa, with his eyes that already adapted to the darkness he finally finds the bluish towel and wipes his hands. Then slowly he struggles on one leg and pushes himself to the bedroom to get the bandage. While he

puts the bandage on his foot, he bursts into laughter remembering how Jiya was so angry when he cut his finger and she was sitting on his bed, cleaning and putting a bandage on the wound.

Past:

That day on the bus, they talked like two people attracted to each other for the very first time. Their eyes were hiding and then peeking like they were playing hide and seek, everybody else on the bus knew that something was up, even Jiya and David had the idea, that it wasn't friendship anymore; they were walking on the lovers ally.

Few years after this day, as the course was coming to an end, they accepted that they were in love. Jiya started coming to his house and he started being serious about her.

“Shut up, let me put a bandage” She yelled as he tried to say something.

“You are so careless David” She frowned

“It's ok Jiya, it's just a cut” He smiled trying to cheer her up.

But she was so mad; she wouldn't laugh even when David tried so hard. He finally looked at her the way he never did before, she observed it, understood that David was ready for their relationship, he really fell for her, she could see the commitment in his eyes and the determination that the upcoming long distance would work.

She asked “What would happen to us David?”

“It's just a cut Jiya” He laughed.

“I am not talking about the cut, I am serious” she said.

“It will work Jiya, I love you” He said and inclined towards her shoulder.

Moment later their lips locked and they kissed; David pushed himself back as he noticed tears coming out of Jiya's eyes.

“What happened?” He asked.

“I am worried about us, how would I live without you?” She cried.

“Jiya, it will be alright, I am doing this for us, I love you and I will always love you” He assured.

Present:

He finishes putting the bandage and then gets up from the sofa and walks to the kitchen. He then opens the shelf and looks for whisky; “this will do” he thinks and then pours it the glass kept on the counter top. Walking back to the porch, he realizes that it had started raining heavily, so he slides down the door a bit and keeps it open to feel the fresh air. He realizes that his heart started feeling the burden of his promises to Jiya. Gulping the first sip, he thinks about calling her but thinking that it's too early in the morning, she would probably be sitting in the class, he drops that idea. His eyes drop some tears when he remembers the last time he saw her. It's been four long years since then.

Past:

At the train station, everybody was happy that he was stepping towards a new life and towards a new career, but the sadness and fear of not seeing each other for a very long time didn't escape the tacit. He was concerned about her, she kept hiding the tears but he knew like everybody else that separation was tough for her. As the train appeared, her eyes couldn't stop the tears and she cried like she never did before. His heart occupied with second thoughts about leaving didn't know what to do. He stepped towards her and hugged her, grabbing her into his arms, he whispered I love you and I will come back for you. As he jumped into the train with his mom and dad, his eyes remained on her; he stood at the door, requesting his friends to take care of her and just to grab all the glimpse of her until she disappeared into the crowd.

Present:

Whisky generates some heat, pain seems to disappear and he stares at the reddish sky. The burden of being away from Jiya for so long troubles him; He lies down on the sofa after putting the glass on the table, and stares the roof, and then closes his eyes trying to cope up with the alcohol on his nerves.

Chapter 4: The Best Friend

Present:

Memories have already made him restless, sleep runs away, even alcohol didn't work today. He curses his friends for putting him up with alcohol and making him addicted to it. Then he realizes that it was he himself that started drinking this crazily; to drink for him meant to get drunk. He feels alone, the emptiness of the house has been whispering and singing melancholic songs of his life since a long time now and just like tonight he has been awake almost all of the nights. He smiles remembering that it was just like this night, when he was drunk that he realized that he started having feelings for his best friend.

Past:

Sitting together at her dining room, they have been talking about various things for the entire night. David met her at his part-time job in the university; there was something about her smile, something the way she cared about him that he forgot everything about his past and was compelled to Edna. As the alcohol reaches his mind, he realizes that the way he was looking at Edna changed; there was this guitar that he could dream about and can listen to its tune, his eyes stared straight into hers and he found the same feeling. He shook his head to come out of dreaming and realized that Edna has been starring him as well. He gulped the beer with nervousness and said "I should leave now, it's too late".

She kept quiet but accompanied him to the door, he turned back and hugged her and then left. Few steps later he stopped and turned around, she still stood at the door, and he smiled and waved his hand.

"Bye" he said.

She smiled and waved her hand and he walked away.

Present:

His heart beat raises with the past he has been thinking about, "I need a smoke" He thinks and grabs a cigarette from the packet kept on the table. "Where the hell is the lighter now" He yells and looks around. "Here it is" His eyes find the lighter kept under the TV rack and so he gets out the sofa and grabs the lighter. Then walking with the pressure only on right leg he drags himself to the porch again. It's been raining heavily since last one hour now; he doesn't care about the rain running his carpet anymore and opens the door. He then lights the cigarette and inhales, the smoke going in lightens him a bit, reduces the heart beat and moreover helps him stay calm. He realizes he didn't used to smoke until last year when he gave in to the urge to try smoking with his friend and had smoked for the first time. It had been the same since then, and as his life got messy, he started smoking heavily as well. He looks at the skyline, the reddish sky over the city and Washington monument just amazes him. He laughs realizing that it's exactly the same experience that he had when he first kissed Edna.

Past:

She came to see him; he was studying for his exam in his bedroom upstairs while all other roommates were sitting on the hall and talking. She walked upstairs.

"Hello" She knocked.

“You can come in, I am not nude” He laughed.

She steps in and jumps right on the bed beside him. “What you doing?” She asked.

“Studying, I have an exam next week” He said staring at the laptop.

“You’ve been flirting a lot these days, what’s going on” Edna asked.

He kept quiet, thought of telling her what was going on climbs up into his mind but then he controlled it. “I flirt because you flirt” He said.

“Really is that so?” She smiled.

“Shut up or I will kiss you” He said.

“You won’t” She said.

And with a sudden action he turned right and slicked his lips on hers, she didn’t resist and so he made another move and raised his hands to her breast.

“Wait David” She whispered and tried to pull back.

Realizing that he went far ahead with this, he restrained himself and pulled himself back.

“What was that David?” She asked.

Before he could say something, his roommate interrupted looking for Edna.

Present:

Holding on to his breath, he thinks about her and about how he was dependent on her. He still stands at the door, resting on the slider he moves back to scratch his back and the door slides way in robbing him off the support and he falls on the ground. “Bloody hell” He yells as he tries to lift himself up. Then noticing the cigarette drenched on the floor of the porch he curses “what the fuck, now I have to go and get another one”. He then lifts himself slowly considering that the wound was still fresh on his left leg. Slowly dragging himself back to the table, he keeps thinking about Edna, about how she cared for him when he was sick. He lifts the packet and picks out another cigarette and then he lights it up. Continuous inhaling and drinking whisky kept on the table while sitting on the sofa makes him dizzy just like the old times, and the memories slips him into nostalgia once again.

Past:

“David, do you love me?” She asked.

“Yes I do” he said.

“I am not just a body for you right? It’s just not about sex, is it?” She asked, while lying on the bed curling up on his shoulder.

“Are you crazy? I love you Edna” He said “But you know I love Jiya as well” and he paused.

“I know, I cannot replace her” She said and closed her eyes.

“What am I doing?” He thought, cursing himself that he was cheating both of them purposely. But the very fact he was aware of was that he was in love with both of the girls, Jiya was always the one who he wanted to marry but Edna became someone whom he knew he would never forget and whom he would love, may be as equal.

As the sun approached, the darkness in the room faded and he could see her sleeping like a baby, like the early morning blossoms love smiled and he kissed her forehead before he decided to walk out.

“Where are you going?” She asked as he tried to sneak out.

“I have work today” He said.

“Won’t you stay, I am leaving today” She looked at him.

“I will be back soon” He said and left with heavy heart. The fear of being alone again burdened him as he walked to his work, he knew this might be the last time they would have been together, and he knew that he would probably never see her again but it didn’t stop him from going to work, he needed to get out for some air. His love for her was strong and driving him nuts. But at the same point he knew he was cheating on her, he knew he would never leave Jiya and that she would always be the one for him.

“I love you David” She said as she stepped into car.

“I love you too Edna” He said watching as she sat with her sisters.

She looked at him as he walked behind the car for a while, holding his heart and his tears he walked to his house. Finally after a year he was all alone again, there was no one to care about him and not even anyone to talk to.

Present:

He sits straight staring at the wall in front, picturing all the moments he spent with her, his heart beats like the old times, like the first time they kissed. He knows she is always going to be his best friend. His heart feels heavy and tears rolls out of his eyes, flowing to the cheeks and then running to the collar. He throws the cigarette to the porch and stares it, comparing his life with the small life of the extinguishing cigarette. He curses himself for falling in love with Edna but at the same moment he curses himself for not being able to stay with her and treating her like shit when in reality he loved her like crazy.

Chapter 5 – The True Love

Restlessness was rolling over his body as the alcohol played its game, the smoke grabbed his lungs and the heavy breath was making strange noises.

“Should I call her?” He thinks as he picks up his phone.

Jiya has called him like fifteen times since the evening, he didn't answer, thinking “what would I say”, the truth tolled him when she said “he cheated on her and that she hates him”, he couldn't bare the fact that he would lose her, that she was slipping away from him. The woman he loved more than anything in the world, his one true love.

As he thinks about all these, the phone rings again, “it's her” he thinks.

“Hello” he says quickly accepting the call.

“David, where were you?” she yells

“I called you so many times, where are you? How are you? I heard the news” She says.

“I am ok Jiya” He smiles knowing she still cares about him.

“Why didn't you answer my calls” she demanded.

He keeps quiet thinking what he should say.

“I know I said I don't love you anymore, that I don't want to talk to you, but you know it that I was just angry” She says.

“You should have told me about everything earlier” she says.

“I know, but I feared how you would react to this” he says.

“David, I love you. It definitely hurts to know that you fell in love with someone other than me, but I respect the fact that you at least confessed to everything” she says.

“I know that I have hurt you Jiya, but you know how much I love you right?” he asks

“David I know how much you love me and care about me, but I would never understand how you can love someone the same?” She asks.

He remains quiet, remembering that last time his answer caused all the problems between them.

“Tell me how this is possible David?” She asks again.

“Jiya, I don't really have a correct answer about this” he says.

“Tell me what you have” she says.

“Love happens; I was in love with you when I was in love with Jennifer and Kiran. I was in love with Edna when I was in love with You, Jennifer and Kiran.” he says.

“That means you didn’t love any of us!” she frowns.

“That’s not true” he says.

“I didn’t used to believe in this, I always thought Kiran and Jennifer were always my crushes until I met Edna” he says

“I knew I loved you, I always knew it from the very first day we met and since the last time we were together” he adds.

“I knew it that I loved you whenever I slept or I smiled or I talked to anyone” he says.

“But when I met Edna, and when I realized that I started to fall in love with her, I realized with time that all the crushes were not just likeness but I always loved every one of them. It was actually Edna who made me realize how much I love you. Then thinking about the past I realized that Jennifer was always on my heart even when I didn’t want her to be, she was right where I had Kiran from my childhood. I actually never stopped loving them, just when I fell in love with you, they were shadowed. But when I fell for Edna, I always knew I loved you but there was this strong feeling and strong bond between her and me that I knew was definitely love. You weren’t shadowed but neither was Edna’ he said

“I don’t know David, I still don’t think this is possible, I cannot feel the same for anyone else like I do for you” She says.

“I won’t bet on that” he says.

“When Edna and I started hanging out with each other, I realized that every one of you has always been special for me, and then when I fell for her, I still didn’t stop loving you, nor did I stop loving Jennifer and Kiran. Although in the back of my mind I always knew you are the one that I would always love. It’s like a dogma or a protocol that I had to follow, but I simply never stopped loving you” he says

“You know Jiya, the truth is whenever I think of someone being my wife, I know that can only be you, and this is where I can distinguish my love for everyone” he calmly explained.

“But it’s like every time I think about if I love them or not, my heart would speak it loud, I love them and it’s not just a mere crush” he stresses.

“I don’t know what to say” she says.

“I don’t expect you to understand it, but realize that I love you and no matter what happens in future I would always love you Jiya” he said with confidence.

“Tell me what you actually see or feel when you were with Edna?” Jiya asked

“I feel like I was being cared for, I feel I am alive and happy” he replied.

“And how do you feel when you were with me?” she asked, uncertain of the answer she would receive.

“I feel exactly the same” he says.

She keeps quiet, like the world ended for her.

“Jiya, this is the truth, I know you might decide to break up with me. I don’t want it but I would accept it if it makes you happy. But this is the truth, I still love Edna, I still love Jennifer and I still love Kiran, but I also love you and I want to marry you, grow old with you” He says.

She hangs up the phone, the beep of disconnection echoes a little longer in his ears even when he throws the phone on the sofa and walk to the porch and stands in rain. He hasn’t done anything like this for a very long time. He hasn’t accepted and spoken the truth for years nor did he drench himself in rain since the childhood. The droplets from clouds in the sky hides the droplets from his eyes, but the gravity pulls him to his knees and he cries loud, screams like thunder and then as the heaviness of his heart pours out and flows with the water, he stands up figuring that he did the right thing. Realizing that he is right that he loves all of them equally and to be with Jiya is the right choice if she agrees to it, but he would not ever deny that he never loved Edna, Jennifer or Kiran. They have been a very special part of his life and he sees it clearly now.

“Love is a feeling that enlightens your heart; it messes you up, confuses you and tests you. But in the end it tells you the truth and brings harmony...”
