

THE PAIN OF SEPARATION

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

Few love stories end up in pain and few ends with happiness. What were the fate of relationship and love between James and Nicol? Was it just an attraction that would end up with a small fight? Or was it a long term commitment, the eternal love that would bring them together again?

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always and preserves."

Author: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

"Love is all you need"

John Lennon

Chapter 1 – At the Airport

Every sign of being ruled by the confusion was there on her face and her glittering eyes were searching for someone in that throng. It was all messed up and the chaos was difficult to neglect.

With every moment passed, she was shrinking and weakness started to overtake her. It was all dark, even when lights of different shades were present and she was looking for him desperately. There at one end the arms of the clock were betraying her and with every move they made here precious drops lost their hold. There was nobody concerned about her and they kept moving around at their own pace. Finally she lost herself and sat down needing a support. For that moment everything got jammed and silence emerged from every corner. She looked at the clock again and cried hard, realizing that it won't be useful to wait any longer. But once again she was ruled by her feelings and it became difficult for her to move. Memories of all good and bad times ruled her soul and she cried harder. All she wanted was to see him again and tell him that she loves him. But it surely seemed that it was not her day of getting what she wishes for. It was late and the announcement for the flight stupefied her. She was to leave now but for every moment her eyes were still searching for him and they didn't stop longing for him.

She lifted her bag up on her shoulder which were already burdened by the memories she shared with him and then trying to hide the tears she moved towards the gate where her flight had just arrive. Her steps were heavy but she still walks with her eyes on the ground. Only a step was needed for her to get inside the door when someone pulled her back and took her into his arms.

"Oh my God It's you, I thought I wouldn't be able to meet you" She exclaimed.

"Nicol, how can it happen? I still love you" he said holding her tight into his big and brawny arms.

"I love you too James" She said and hugged him tightly.

"But what happened last night, couldn't be ignored" She said, trying to step away from him.

"Yes it couldn't be ignored and we should forget everything we ever shared" he said being rude and sad at the same time.

"Ok, we won't meet again, we'll never meet again" she said and ran towards the plane.

That is how that bond ended and a new chapter was to start after many years of togetherness. Still the memories were not to leave them alone and every night they were to suffer the pain of separation.

Continued....

Chapter 2 – The Pain

James kept waiting in hope for Nicol to return but she was gone and even hours of waiting didn't make her return to him. It was his turn to wait and cry, but the bold man stood straight and as usual kept every emotion beneath the petal of the rose of his heart.

At last he lost his hopes and moved towards the parking lot where he parked his red mustang still shining like a new one under the moon light. He unlocked the door and moved out of the airport in silence. Memories of all the good and bad times were troubling him and he was still able to remember that his car saw their first date and even the first kiss.

Loneliness was the new partner of both of them.

That day he didn't do anything as the empty house made him realize the scarcity of love in his life and heart, later he went on the bed. After that silent night and the unknown scarcity he moved out of the bed in the morning when his maid brought him the bed tea.

"Good morning Sir" she said

"Good Morning Maria, what's the time?" he asked

"Its 11:00 in the morning sir" She replied

"Oh my God, it's late, I am late to office" he exclaimed

"Excuse me sir, but today is Sunday" she smiled gently.

"Oh I forgot, but still I've got plans to be out with my friends, so why don't you take a paid vacation for like a week?" he asked

"That would be great sir, thank you" she said

"I'll take a leave after I finish my work today" she said again.

Around 4:00 PM

Out of the normal routine James did everything he could have done, engaging himself in his work so that he could not be troubled by the memories of his love. The day went off when the dusk knocked at his door, in the night he went out with his friends. He was dressed in black that gave a brighter look to his well built and brawny personality, the fair color of his skin emerged as a new color that day. He was always like the same, the cynosure in every party and girls were used to being around him from his college days. That's how he met Nicole and then he fell in love with her.

"Hey James" Ronnie said. Ronnie was one of his closest friends.

"Ron, where are the other guys?" he asked.

"They'll be here in a while, let's go and get some drinks until then" he suggested.

"Don't forget that you are supposed to get me drunk, Ron!" James exclaimed.

That night he enjoyed a lot with his friends but the scarcity of love in his life was still troubling him. He gulped drink after drink and could not remember when he lost his control and his friends brought him back home.

Around 3:00 AM

Alone in his home and his bed, James laid quietly. Memories had a good hold on him, he would try to sleep but the sleep seemed to be running away from him. For a second he thought Nicol was still there when he heard something fall on the ground in the kitchen. He jumped out of bed and hurried towards the noise. Finding that it was just the wind that might have pushed the glass from the opened window he was hurt and for the moment he couldn't resist himself from calling Nicol. It was still a state of confusion after he dialed the number but then it was too late and soon after he decided that he didn't have courage to talk.

"Hello! James?" She asked.

He was stunned and was not able to collect words to deliver.

"Hello, is anybody there? James?" She asked again.

"Nicol" he finally said something, still unable to find words.

Silence penetrated both the sides as at that minute, both Nicol and James were confused and it was difficult for them to find the words to continue the conversation.

"James, what happened? Please say something" she said.

"Nothing, I wanted to know about how you would be collecting your ornate?" he asked hiding that he was missing her badly as his ego forced him to do so.

"I don't need them, do whatever you wish with them, bye" she busted.

It was the end of the call.

Their ego clashed again and it ruled out the chance of their love and affection to hold a place. They both were madly in love with each other but still there was a need to realize that they formed a part of each other's lives. After that call, it was all like a state of desolation for James and the flash of Nicol's face and words took away his sleep and with it his overdose of alcohol became a habit. He didn't realize when he started getting late to office, when the sun started annoying him, his performance was toppled and that was surely affecting his career. Drinking heavily was now not just a routine but a need for him to forget about his relationship, even his maid Maria gave up pleading not to ruin his life and just ask Nicol to come back.

The story was same with Nicol; the sleep wouldn't come no matter what she tried. But being a smart and matured girl she knew that life was more about her career. She was working hard to excel in life and her interest in fashion designing made her an upcoming fashion designer of the year. But even after every fame and melodies she still would cry and would have her own song of melancholy, she remembered James and all those romantic moments they spent together.

4 months later...

James career was at an end where Nicol was on a new height of success and fame. They both were unaware of each other's lives and there was a need for a miracle to make them live together again.

It was a Saturday night when James was out at the pub and was busy with his drinking.

"James!" someone exclaimed in his ears.

"Remember me, we met at the party 2 months ago" she says

"Reena, hey it's nice to see you again, yes sure I remember you" he said still shaking on his words as the alcohol grabs his mind.

"What happened to you? When was the last time you look into a mirror" she says.

"Nothing I am fine" he replies

"I can see that" she frowns.

"One more please" he asked the bartender for another quarter of whiskey.

"Sir, it's already the 16 Th one, you are drunk, we can't allow you anymore" he said.

"What the heck! 16th are you out of your mind James?" she busted.

"Let's go, I'll drop you at your home" she insisted.

"No I will manage on my own and I need one more quarter I said" he stared at the bartender.

"James its' too much now, you have to come with me "she insisted holding James's hand.

No one has said this to James from the last few months, so it felt a little strange for him.

It was already dark when Reena brought him to his place. She opened the door and took him to his bedroom, where she changed his clothes and waited till he was into a deep sleep. He missed every moment he spent with Nicol and the way she used to love him and she comforted him was unique. He was missing them all and when Reena provided him with her care and affection he felt comforted after those lonely months, the touch of a woman left an impact on him.

Reena kissed his forehead and wished him a good night there by leaving for her home.

The next morning when James opened his eyes, he had such a hangover. He remembers nothing but the thought that Reena dropped him, she changed his clothes and she kissed him. He was confused and scared that if something happened between them last night. As he touches his forehead he still can feel the touch of her lips.

With the ring of telephone he came out of his thoughts and hurried to pick up the phone.

Continued...

Chapter 3- New Love?

"Morning James"

"Reena, oh my God it's you" he busted

"Wow, you remember my voice so good" she exclaimed.

"Reena I'm sorry for what happened last night" he uttered, the heaviness in his voice was obvious.

"Oh come 'on it happens, you were drunk anyway and I'm sure you would have taken care of me the same way" she said.

Did it really happen? He smells his body, his shirt and then stares at the bed.

Nothing! It was a dream I guess, but it felt so real. His eyes were calm, heart was coming back to its normal beats and the heaviness in his voice was vanishing.

"James?"She said.

"I know you love Nicol" she said, He kept quiet and his silence indicated that he cannot talk about her. Reena kind of understood his silence and changed the topic.

"What are you doing this evening, not drinking again are you?" she smiles.

"Let's meet tonight for dinner" she suggested.

"Yes sure it will be great; I'll pick you up at 7" he said.

On the other side in New York City Nicol was presenting her collections at the National Exhibition and celebrities from all over the country participated and mostly loved her designs. That night she was honored for her designs with the national award. The shining stage at the Exhibition made her only look more beautiful. The pearl necklace James gave her on her birthday when they were in college was still the lucky charm for her. The red dress she wore added an exquisite glow to her beautiful skin, her hair was curled up but a few of them still touched her cheeks.

"Ladies and gentlemen, now I call upon the stage a great and enthusiastic fashion designer- Nicol Sinclair"

Nicol went to the stage, she stepped up and with every step she felt her heart started beating faster, soon the happiness got trapped with her nervousness. She started shivering and something strange occupied her, it was the large auditorium occupied by a gathering of famous people known for their extraordinary work. She was always afraid of standing on a stage where she can notice people watching her and talking about her, it just always got her nervous but then James was there, as she used to look into his eyes, the confidence and love she could feel would always boost her up and she could manage to steal the stage.

"Nicol Sinclair, ladies and gentlemen" the host announced it once again helping her to come back to the present from her reminiscing memories.

Nicol climbed up to the center of the stage.

On the other hand James hurried up remembering that he has a date tonight. It was already 6 in the evening and the clock was ticking. He wore his favorite attire, and everything else to impress Reena. Everything was set for a perfect date, he was happy after a long time and they were getting closer. Grande was the best place Reena knew where she could plan her date and a perfect night with James. She had liked James since their very first meeting, and from then she has waited for this very moment. The Grande was covered in beautiful glass work and had the perfect ambiance for two persons in love and moreover for two person to fall in love.

"What would you like to have sir?" Waiter asked.

"One Spink wine and some sushi" James ordered.

"You look gorgeous Reena" He said, as soon as the waiter left them all alone.

Reena just smiled.

For the moment they were looking at each other, the eyes were still and something different was going on. The chemical reaction was triggered in their hearts and their face was turning red. Were they falling in love? Can James fall for Reena? Can he stop loving Nicol?

Could this be the beginning of a new love?

Continued...

Chapter 4- The End

"Here is your wine sir" waiter said.

James nodded and then took the bottle in his hands, opened it and poured into her glass and then into his own. She kept staring at him, whatever he was doing was giving her a new kind of pleasure, she never felt this before, there was a spark in her eyes and softness was growing on her lips.

"Reena!" James asked

She came out of her thoughts and held the wine glass that James offered her. They knew, they knew it very well that more than the wine it was something else that made them high, the attraction was very strong, pulling them towards each other and they were unable to resist it.

"How is Nicol?" Reena asked all of sudden.

Like the black dense clouds appearing on the sunniest day, James' face turned dull, the deep silence was portraying the emptiness in his heart and his life, and moreover it suggested to Reena that James was still in love with Nicol. But she couldn't stop herself from falling for this man she had craved for many months now and she knew it, she knew that she wanted it to happen, she wanted it badly. She held his hand and they searched each other's eyes for a sign that would dissolve this emptiness and loneliness. At first James was reluctant but then he surrendered to the comfort, care and love on her eyes. But what about his love for Nicol?

Back in New York, Nicol was standing on the stage, people watching her and talking about her, she was nervous and her palms were sweaty. Where is James? Where is the only one person she has loved for so many years with patience and commitment? A thousand thoughts were killing her, in that crowd she was all alone still searching for those eyes that belong to her best friend and her lover. That man who she wants to be her life partner, her soul-mate. The host invited some celebrities on the stage to handover the award to her. She can't move and she feels her legs so burdened and stuck to a rope that she can't break. She is fighting with the thought that she almost forgot, she is alone and she doesn't have her love with her anymore. Loneliness the one and only worst fear and worst death. Her heart beat raises to its extreme, her head is so heavy and she can feel everything revolving so freaking fast that her eyes can't grab even a glimpse. Within seconds she faints, while she falls to the ground her head hits the stage hard, everyone around her begins to panic, and people already on the stage runs towards her.

"Ambulance, we need an ambulance" somebody screams.

Their dinner was almost over and then breaking the silence James suggested that it's late and they should leave. A wonderful dinner it was for both of them, he enjoyed it but he knew that he cannot go on with this; his love for Nicol is too strong to allow him to get into a relationship with Reena.

Streets are empty, it's late. As soon they reached James's place Reena asked "Would you want to go for a walk?"

James stays quiet and only nods his head; his heart is still heavy, occupied with all the memories of Nicol. "James?" Reena grabs his hand while they walk on the street. She feels his hesitation and that he is not comfortable.

"James, I like you, you know that right?" she stops and looks into his eyes.

He looks away for a second and then looks into her eyes. She knows the answer, she knows it very well and she has known it since she met him. He tries to say something but before he could say anything his phone rings. He takes out the phone from the inner pocket of his jacket.

"Hello" he says.

"Am I talking to James?" a voice he never heard before.

"Yes, and who am I talking to?" he asks

"I am Officer Seth, I have bad news for you sir" he says.

"Bad news what is it?" he was more curious than shocked.

"It's about Nicol" the officer says.

"What about her? Is she fine? Where is she?" James yelled into the phone as his heartbeat quickened.

"Sir, please take care of yourself, I am sorry to say that Nicol is no more with us" Officer Seth said

He drops the phone on the ground, he is shocked and his heart is unable to bear this, Reena is so concerned, she tries to hold him and asks what happened, who was on the phone. He can't hear her, everything is so blurred for him, within seconds his heart is scrolling over the millions of memories he had with Nicol, and the love of his life is dead. He steps back and something hits him.

When he opens his eyes, he finds himself on the floor of his bedroom. His head hurts, drops of blood are on the floor, he remembers the phone call and the fact the Nicol is dead. Lifting himself up on the bed he was shocked but more than happy he could ever be it was just a dream that he had, he realizes that everything was just a bad dream. Nicol was sleeping on the bed; he jumps over her and kisses her, hugs her and grabs her into his arms. Nicol wide awake now doesn't understand what happened and what's going on.

"It's alright I forgive you "she says after a while.

"I am so sorry baby, I promise I won't fight with you, never ever will I fight with you, Don't leave me please don't leave me" he keeps repeating it, tears from his eyes rolls over to his cheeks and touched Nicol's face.

She has no idea what's going on but she knows the fight is over; she grabs him as well and wipes out his tears. It's alright baby I love you, I am here and I am always here with you. She kisses him and then he kisses her and again and again they kiss each other. It's almost dawn, the beginning of another chapter of their relation, because now he knows what she means for him, he knows that life without her would be miserable, he knows that he loves her and this is the love that grew as they did. Seven long years of their relationship had passed with a promise of thousands more to come.

The end...