

PAST, PRESENT AND TRUTH

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 one 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."

Chapter 1 – The Call

He was almost done with the birthday celebrations and was driving back home, the taste of the food that he just had a few hours ago with friends was still on his tongue, pleasing him with mixed emotions of a small celebration that he had after a very long time. Engrossed in thoughts about the time when his birthday was a real big deal to his neighborhood kids he almost forgot that he was driving until his car shifted to the end of the road. He hit break with an impact and with a sudden reaction looked back on the rear view mirror to make sure no other car would hit him. Luckily the highway was not suffering from heavy traffic and no one was behind him. Putting the car on the parking lights, he quickly pulled over his car on the side of the road.

Gasping, he looked around, darkness and silence so strongly took over his heart that he knew the loneliness have been killing him slowly with time. He stood there inclining on his car and staring at the unending and empty highway until some cars crossed him with what he felt the lightning speed, then realizing that he had to work tomorrow he jumped into the car and sooner he was on the highway again. Sleep started troubling him sooner and he kept trying hard to bail on it. He remembered the last time when a cop pulled him over when he was over speeding; the cop actually thought he was drunk noticing his red eyes when he was actually sleepy. He forced sleep out of his mind but the sleep was like a loyal dog, it kept coming back to him until his phone rang. He saw the number, starred at the screen for a few minutes thinking that she might have actually dialed this accidentally. Then as his heart insisted with every ring of his cell phone, he finally answered.

“Hello” He said.

“Happy birthday Angad” She said.

“Thanks, you remembered?” He smiled.

“Of ‘course I do, actually I was thinking of calling you earlier but then I forgot when I went to work and I just got free.” She said.

“It’s alright, I am glad that you called” He said.

“Where are you? How was your day?” She asked.

“I am actually driving back home, went to have dinner with my friends. You won’t believe how much of cake I had today” He laughed.

“That is awesome” She smiled,

“It’s been a long time we talked isn’t it?” She asked.

“Yes, it’s been a very long time” He replied.

“We should Skype, what say you?” She asked.

“Not a bad idea, but remember I am driving right now?” He laughed.

“How far are you from your place?” She asked.

“Around ten miles” He said.

“We can talk on phone till then and I will come on Skype as I enter my home” He said.

“Sounds like a plan” She laughed, “So what’s new?” He asked.

“Well you know I’ve been busy with all the shopping for the wedding” She said.

“Really?” He asked, a slight stress on his voice and a lot more on his mind, but he hid it moreover he ignored it, he had already been on this path before and he knew there is no point resisting the fact.

“Yes, it so much of work, but it’s exciting” She said.

“Well honestly I have no idea, I am still single and not even closer to get married” He said.

“Dude sooner or later you are going to get married” She said.

“How’s you fiancée?” He asked.

“He is good; did I tell you that he got admission in Denver? He is coming here soon” She is all excited.

“Are you for Real? That’s great” He said, realizing that this was probably the last chance he ever had with her, but as a friend he was happy about her.

“Yes, I am so excited” She said.

“Hey I am almost home, let me go to my room and I will come on Skype” He said.

“Ok, come soon” She said.

“Alright bye” He hung up and hurried to his room with mixed feelings of what was going on. On the one hand she was getting married but on the other she was still talking to him even when after he confessed that he loved her. He just wanted to go with the flow this time and see how it ends, he wanted the truth not the biased one or the confused one but the real truth. Eager to come online as he entered the house, his roommates surprised him with the cake.

“Dude come ‘on it’s your birthday, you have to cut the cake” Nancy insisted.

“Alright let’s cut the cake” He said holding the knife on his hand.

“Happy Birthday” The songs were sung as he pierced the knife through the cake and then took few pieces and shared it with his roommates. Then hurrying to get on Skype, he quickly grabbed his laptop; his heart had been pumping up with a thought of seeing her after so long. Moreover the fact that she wanted to see him was enough to give him a reason of wanting it more.

“Hey are you going to come on Skype or what?” She said as he answered his phone. “Dude my system is taking time to startup, give me five minutes” He said and hung up as his Skype session loaded up. He looked at the screen, thought penetrated his mind and troubled him about whether he should talk to her or not, in the end she was getting married to someone else and few months ago she said she doesn’t feel anything for him. But he was never so strong when it came to his heart; strong feelings drove him crazy even though when he did stand strong and resisted the impulse of confessing his feelings again just a few minutes ago when they were on call.

He: “hi”

She: “Finally you are online”

He: “ha ha told you my system shits on its pants when it comes to startup”

She: “you should get a new laptop”

He: “Sure are you buying me one?”

She: “I will, sure”

She: “I am sending you a video call”, His eyes stared the laptop screen, pupils expanded and heart beat raised as he saw her face.

She: “yay happy birthday stud”

He: “Thanks”

She: “Look at you, all muscles”

He: “I told you I am working out” and he rolled his arms to show his biceps”

She: “you really look good” she smiled

He: “thanks, you don’t look that bad”

She: “ha ha funny”

She: “you know what I have gained weight”

He: “Are you serious, I was about to say that you’ve lost weight”

She: "No way my butt is big now"

He: "ha ha show me"

She: "no way"

He: "Come 'on show me, I will confirm if it's big or not"

She: "I know I've gained weight"

She: "I am so tired, let me get on bed" she said changing the topic again.

He: "but how would I see your butt"

She: "why do you want to see my butt?"

He: "because you brought it up and I want to see if it's big"

She: "ha ha ok" and she stood up and turned around shook her little ass on the screen, smiled in a strange and naughtiest way he ever saw her before. An extra-ordinary jest of excitement on her face and shine on her eyes pulled him closer to the screen.

She: "happy?"

He: "ha ha it's not big, its cute little butt" and he didn't stop laughing.

She: "Now I am lying down on the bed" and she jumped into the bed and pulled up the comforter to her chest.

He: "I can see a lot more now" he smiled

She: "I know, this tank is lower on my shoulders and you know what" she flirted back

He: "I know I know, I can see"

She: "Now don't stare" she smiled

He: "I can't help it"

She: "I miss you, you know?"

He: "Really? And that's why you don't call me or meet me?" He frowned

She: "It's not like that"

He: "Anyway I am driving to Northfield this weekend"

She: "Really, Denver is not that far" she smiled

He: "I know"

She: "How's work?" she changed the topic again hiding the eagerness to meet him

He: "You know it is same old, I work too much"

She: "You should take care of yourself and don't stress for work" she frowned

He: "Yeah that's why I go to gym, it makes me happy"

He: "How about you? How is everything?"

She: "it's fine, I just feel lonely and scared every time now a days"

He: "that's why I always tell you, make friends and go out"

She: "I don't know, I just seem to not trust anyone and I am scared of making friends"

He: "I am not talking about trusting anyone, but just make friends to hang out for fun"

She: "I feel so lonely" and tears rolled down to her cheeks, face bereft of happiness and abundance of loneliness on her tacit.

He: "You know what, let's meet. I will drive to Denver; it's just an hour from Northfield."

She: "really? You would drive to see me?"

He: "Yes if you are ok with it?"

She: "I will love to see you"

He: "And what about your boyfriend? Is he going to be ok?"

She: "He is going to be fine; I would have to tell him though" her voice staggered

He: "You know what I will come Saturday morning and leave by evening, so he wouldn't have problem me staying over"

She: "Ok that sounds good"

He: "Alright I will call you to confirm tomorrow that I am coming for sure"

She: "Alright I am so happy"

He: "ha ha me too, well now I got to go and sleep, work tomorrow" he said controlling his heart beat and stopping his mind from jumping into the pool of emotions.

She: "Alright good night stud"

Chapter 2 – Change of Plans and a Drive

Early morning as he woke up, the thought that he would be seeing her after so long excited him; he got out of the bed and grabbed the towel lying on his chair kept next to the bed and then hurried towards the restroom. As he turned on the water and stood under the shower, pictures of her standing next to him excited him more. He looked down to his frame and it was hard. The urgent need of self-pleasure drove him nuts and he couldn't resist scrolling his right hand down. He has dreamt about this even before but it was different this time since she was the one initiating the mission that was abandoned from so long.

Getting over the thoughts that were troubling him since last night he hurried to gym and then later to work. Around ten in the morning, noticing her online on gtalk he sent her a message.

He: "Sup?"

She: "Not much work"

He: "So I am driving tonight"

She: "Really?"

He: "yes, I would be driving to Northfield and would stay there for night and drive to you at morning"

She: "Alright that is awesome, can't believe we are finally going to meet"

He: "I know same here" and he disconnected as his Manager came looking for him.

Later at lunch

"Dude, are you crazy why would you drive there at morning?" His roommate Pratik said.

"Because I don't want to stay there for the night, it's a lot of trouble for both of us" He said

"Look man, if you are driving to her anyway, it doesn't matter when you drive, moreover the only good thing is if you drive there over night and come back Saturday afternoon is that we would get to hang out together" Pratik said.

He paused for a moment and then said "that does make sense, but I would have to call her and confirm"

"Yeah no problem, you call her and confirm it. We are going anyway so it doesn't alter the plan" Pratik said

"Alright" He said and they drove back to work.

As the evening approached the work hit him hard and he indulged himself forgetting about calling her to confirm the change of plan. Around six in the evening his roommate called him.

“Dude, we are still going right?” Pratik asked

“Yeah, just give me few more minutes, I will wrap my work and pick you up” He said

“Buddy we should have been on the road by now, just hurry up” Pratik frowned

“Ten more minutes’ bro” He assured.

“You do one thing, drive to my office. By the time you will be here, I will be done with my work and we can drive in my car, we’ll park your car here” He suggested

“Ok, I will be there in ten minutes” Pratik confirmed.

Few minutes later

“You know what, I am not sure if I should even meet her” He said.

“Are you crazy? Go and find out what she holds on her mind” Pratik insisted.

“I don’t know if I really want to do that. What if it’s just all the same and my mind is playing tricks with me” He said

“Dude it’s better to go there and find it out once for all, instead of spending the whole life thinking and repeating the ‘if only song’” Pratik frowned.

“I guess you are right” He said.

“What did she say about you driving over tonight?” Pratik asked.

“Damn, I forgot to call her” He stressed and quickly pulled his phone out of his pocket.

“Hello” He said as she answered the call.

“Are you driving?” She asked.

“Yes, on my way to Northfield” He answered.

“Hey I have a question” He said.

“What is it?” She asked.

“I am wondering if it’s going to be ok if I drive straight to Denver tonight. My friends want me to hang out with them tomorrow” He said.

“Only if you don’t think it’s going to be a problem” He added.

“Well, I would have to hide it from my boyfriend” She said.

“That’s up to you, I guess you can explain him the scenario” He added.

“Well, it’s not a problem. You come here tonight, I will tell him that you came early morning” She said.

“Alright whatever works for you” He said.

“Where are you right now?” She asked.

“I am not even half way to Northfield yet, I won’t reach Denver before 2 Am” He added.

“That’s going to be late, you sure you can drive” She stressed.

“No worries I have drove for longer than this, moreover I have to drop my roommate at Northfield so it is going to take time anyway” He said.

“Alright I will wait then” She said.

“Ok cool, I will call you as I reach Northfield” He said.

“Drive safe stud” She smiled and hung up the phone.

“I told you, she is going to agree” Pratik smiled.

“Aren’t you the bloody genius” He smiled sarcastically.

“Dude I know about girls, moreover I know there is something in your heart for her, go and spit it out in front of her” Pratik stressed.

“I know I should do it, but you know what I still don’t think it is a good idea” He shrugged.

“Just go and find it” Pratik said.

“Anyway you want to eat something and smoke?” He asked.

“Ok” Pratik nodded.

They stop at the next service center and grab a sandwich.

“You should definitely not miss this chance and let her know that you still have feelings for her” Pratik stressed.

“Dude not this topic again” He frowned.

“Alright, I won’t bug you, but remember I am your friend I want the best for you” Pratik said.

“I know” He said, “Well where is the lighter?” He asked as he searched in the cigarette case.

“Here it is I’ve been searching for this one from last week” Pratik said taking out the lighter from his pocket.

They lit up the cigarette and then as he inhaled the tobacco, the smoke travelled through his wind pipes and he felt the kick as same as the lightness he felt when he was drunk for the first time. He was avoiding the eye contacts with Pratik knowingly that he would say the same thing again and would force him to go and see her.

“What is wrong with me?” He thought as he kept inhaling the tobacco.

“I have to get over her and meet her just as friends and forget about anything else” He forced his mind to be stubborn about this.

Past:

He was running late for his class when he got a call from an unknown number.

“Hello” He said.

“Is this Ankit?” She said.

“Well I am Angad, Ankit’s roommate” He said.

“Hello Angad, I am Isabel. I talked to Ankit earlier about temporary stay” She said.

“Oh ok, he is in shower right now I can ask him to call back” He said.

“I am at my friends place, I won’t have phone after few minutes because she is going to the university” She said, stress and fear stood straight on her voice.

“Have you heard anything from Fatima?” She asked.

“Fatima? I have no idea” He said.

“Hold on I am putting Ankit on call” He added as Ankit came out of restroom and then after handing over the phone to Ankit he left for his class.

Later that evening, Ankit found him at the tutoring lab.

“Dude I have been looking for you all over” Ankit said.

“What is it? What happened?” He asked.

“Dude can you do me a favor?” Ankit asked, he got up from the desk and they walked outside.

“Alright what is it?” He asked.

“Remember Isabel?” Ankit said

“The girl I talked to earlier today?” He frowned.

“Yes can you help her moving from her friend’s place to Fatima’s place?” Ankit asked.

“Who is Fatima?” He asked.

“Dude, she is the one who came knocking on our door the other day and we helped her move to Chaitainya’s house” Ankit said.

“Oh ok I remember now” He said.

“Where does Isabel stay for now?” He asked.

“University heights, I gave her your number, she’ll contact you” Ankit said.

“Ok, I help her if she calls me” He said and went back inside the lab.

Next day, early morning

He hurried to pick up the call “Hello” He said.

“Hello, is this Angad?” She said.

“Isabel?” He asked.

“Hey how are you?” She asked.

“I am fine, thanks” He said.

“Did Ankit talked to you?” She asked.

“Yes he told me you need help moving” He said.

“Where do you live exactly and what time can I come?” He asked.

“I live here in 76 University Heights, you can come anytime you want, and I am ready” She said.

“Ok, I have to go to work at 4 PM, if you are ready I can come now” He said.

“Sounds great, just call me when you reach here” She said.

Few minutes later, he stood at her door and knocked. After about another few minutes when nobody opened the door, he dialed her number. Nobody answered and he started getting frustrated standing under the sun, he thought about walking back home but then thought if she called her back, he would have to walk all over again. He knocked again and she hurried to open the door.

“I am so sorry I was in shower” She said as he stood in front of her.

She looked at him, brawny green military t-shirt curving his shoulders and chest, neat and clean hair line and a dog tag. He looked at her, twinkling stars like eyes, heart shaped lips, skinny legs, slender and dark, with pale, perfect skin and long black hair, she wore black dove t-shirt and a blue fitting jeans adding a gracious look on her thighs going up to her waist through her outer hiplines.

“Its fine, did you already packed?” He asked.

“Yes I am ready; do you want something to drink?” She asked.

“No I am good, let’s go we have to walk at least a mile” He said.

“Ok” She said and hurried to get her luggage out of the bedroom.

They then walked dragging her luggage and in few minutes they stood in front of the house where Fatima was staying.

“Thanks so much Angad” She says as he drags the luggage upstairs.

“No problem, I would leave now, I have to catch a friend at university, if you have any problem then just call me” He said.

“Can I come with you? I have to go to university as well” She asked.

“Sure but only if you are not going to take time” He laughed.

“I am ready, let’s go” She smiled.

And then they walked towards the bus stop.

Chapter 3 – Hug, Kiss and the Truth

Present:

Just after he parked his car and walked out on the street, his heart stalled him. “You are so close, this might be the moment” He thought.

He took out the cell phone from his left pocket and dialed her number, after a long ringtone that it seemed, she answered the call.

“Hey my car broke down; I think I won’t be able to come” He said.

“Really? That would suck” She said, sadness climbed up on her voice.

“I know it sucks” He said curbing his laughter.

“You know I cooked for you” She said and seemed like she almost busted into tears.

“Hey I am kidding, I am standing downstairs, come and get me stupid” He said.

“Damn you Angad” She busted.

“I am coming downstairs” She said and ran.

He walked smiling towards the gate and stood there for a while, as the clock ticked thoughts of what she would be wearing grabbed him and then as a counter he cursed himself of still wanting her. He chained his heart while it tried to run free and assumed a lot for this meeting.

Past:

He stood at the door waiting for her to open it. Winter was at its peak, snowflakes troubled him but the thought of getting her on his arms was enough to get that missing warmth. They haven’t met each other from a week now, mostly because he was busy with his interviews and exams. He stood there waiting.

“Here you are” He exclaimed as she opened the door.

“Fuck it’s so cold, sorry I kept you waiting” She said,

“I would have frozen to death” He frowned and walked in.

“Sorry babe” She hugged him as he stripped his snow coat.

“Hug is not enough to forgive you” He smiled.

“Then what would do for you?” She asked.

“A kiss” He flirted.

“Ha ha sure” She smiled and tried to reach his face.

“I meant a real kiss” He said as she kissed his cheek and tried to get away.

“Are you serious?” She asked.

“What do you think?” He asked.

She stood quiet, thinking if he was serious. He looked at her thinking if she wanted him to take the action.

Present:

“Here you are” He exclaimed as she ran out of the door.

“Someone is looking damn hot” she said and jumped on him.

“Not hotter than you babe” He said and hugged her.

“Let’s go to your apartment, I need to pee” He said later and laughed.

“Are you serious?” She laughed crazily.

“Yes I am serious, I have been holding on to my stomach for so long now” He smiled.

They walked upstairs to her apartment, she opened the door and helped him finding the restroom, and he threw his bag on the ground and ran. He unzipped his jeans and while he inclined back he looked here and there. His eyes finally paused at the pink bra that hung on the rod of shower curtain.

Past:

Strangely she didn’t hesitated in kissing him, she came near him while he stood straight and teased her, she brought her lips closer and closer and touched his lips when he bent down a little. It didn’t lasted more than a second though, he was nervous as she was. However they laughed it off and then walked inside to her room.

“I have spent the whole day working on this and couldn’t figure this out” She said showing him her assignment.

“Let’s see what you got here” He said.

“All yours babe” She smiled as he sat next to her and started scrolling through her assignments.

“What is this?” He scrolled his hands on the bed and then underneath his butt and picked up a pink bra.

“Dude that’s mine” She frowned and grabbed it out of his hand.

“When did I say it’s mine” He laughed.

“Dude you are crazy” She laughed and said “My assignment?”

“Ha ha alright, let’s get this done” He said.

Present:

He walked out of the restroom to the hall “So how have you been?” He asked.

She looked at him, “You know how I’ve been” and smiled.

“It’s a pretty house you’ve got here” He said as he walked around.

“Thanks” She smiled and followed him to the kitchen.

“You want something to eat?” She asked as he searched through the refrigerator and the cupboards.

“I just need to drink something, so tired” He said.

“I have wine, if you want to drink that?” She asked.

“Alright, now we talking” He exclaimed.

She grabbed the wine out from the cupboard at the corner and then asked “Babe can you get the glass out of the shelf”, he took the glass out and kept them on the kitchen floor, she poured some red wine to both and then they walked out of the kitchen to the hall with their glasses.

“Let’s sit here” He pointed to the carpet on the wooden floor and she nodded. But before she seated with him she walked and dimmed the lights, something hit him hard, “What is she doing?” He asked himself.

“This is better” She said and jumped next to him.

Past:

“And this is done, all your answers are perfect, you are getting an A” He smiled as they finished her assignment.

“You are genius babe” She exclaimed and hugged him.

He smelled her hair while she wrapped her hands around his neck, the fragrance drove him crazy. His lips moved to her neck and couldn't resist giving a small peck. She felt it, she was waiting for that too, it have had been very long since they started feeling for each other.

She smiled but shied and he sensed it, she then released him and sat straight looking at him and then into his eyes. "Let's drink something" He suggested, she asked "What do you want to drink?"

"Depends on what you have" He said and walked to the kitchen, she followed. As she stepped out in the hall, she hit the lamp and it fell on the ground.

"Let's just not make noise, your roommates are probably sleeping" He laughed and helped her pick up the lamp.

They quickly came back to the room with their wine glasses and then sat on the bed. "Here is to the assignment and that A" She said as she raised her glass. He laughed "Here is to me". They drank for few hours and then as he started feeling little tipsy, he took out the phone from his pocket and said "its 3 AM, I should get going".

Present:

She kept staring at him as he told her how have he been doing since last two years, "Wow you had some serious fun there" She said.

"Yes life had been awesome, I have been doing so many outdoor activities lately" He said.

"What about girls, someone new in your life?" She asked, he paused and looked at her. "What is she trying to do? Bring back the past?" He thought.

"I have had been with few but no one right now" He said.

"Ok" She paused and stared at him.

"So how did you guys meet? Tell me the story, who is this new guy?" He asked.

"It's a very long story" She said he smiled "That is great because we have the whole night" he said.

"We started talking through Facebook" She said, he frowned "Are you serious? Did you meet him?" He asked.

"Yes we met twice" She said.

"Is this an arrange marriage?" He asked. "No, I love him" She said, He stared at her and walked to the kitchen "I need more, do you want some?" he asked, She nodded yes, he came back quickly and then sat beside her, eager to listen to what she had to say.

“We had been talking to each other from a very long time and one day he proposed me” she said.

“I said I need time and then few weeks after I felt that I love him and I said yes” she said.

“So that whole time you never met him?” He asked.

“Yes we didn’t meet” She said, “We didn’t meet until I went back to India next year”.

“That needs some balls, you fell for someone you didn’t know and you were ready to marry him” He frowned.

“He is a nice guy Angad, I love him” She said.

“I thought the same thing, but all I see is you being enchanted and affectionate towards this guy, moreover why are you in such a hurry to get married, what are you afraid of?” He asked.

She remained quiet, seemed like she was touched with some kind of strangeness or maybe she realized he was speaking the truth. Suddenly few tears rolled down of her eyes, he looked at them and then raised his hands to wipe them as they scrolled on her cheeks. That one touch excited her, she had not been touched in a very long time and moreover the touch like his, that brought back the memories to her, she remembered how they held each other that night.

Past:

“You can stay here tonight, it’s late, go in the morning” She said.

“No I think I should go now, I will come back tomorrow” He said.

“Babe please don’t leave, just sit with me for few minutes” She insisted, he looked at her, looked for if she was serious? She seemed serious but a little drunk. “Don’t leave” She jumped out of bed and spilled her wine on the bed sheet.

“I will clean it, don’t worry” He said and pulled out the bed sheet from the bed, “I am not leaving” He said and then grabbed her hand, gently made her sit on the bed again. He looked around, the photos of her boyfriend and her on the wall at right stared at him. “What are you thinking?” He asked himself. Then he looked at her again, she smiled with the comfort that he was not leaving.

“What do we have?” He asked.

“What do you mean by that? She stammered.

“Isabel why am I here? Why are we here like this?” He asked.

“I don’t know Angad” She said and looked at the red spot on the mattress.

He stood up and said “I should really go” and started walking, she jumped out of bed again and ran to grab him, she wrapped him from behind and said “Don’t leave, please stay with me”.

Present:

“I am afraid of being alone Angad” She said.

“But that doesn’t mean you marry the first person you find. Do you seriously love him?” He asked. She looked here and there, paused, gulped a stack of saliva she has been holding on to, “I love him” she said.

“If you love him, then that’s fine with me, all I really care is you being happy” He said, a smile held her face, the glitter on her eyes held his heart just like the last time. She kept the wine glass on the side and hugged him. “We are doing this again” He thought.

He restrained and stepped back, she realized that he was not comfortable, he stood up and walked to the window and looked at the empty street, he wished his mind was like that, he wished he would have never agreed to help her moving that day, he wished he would have never met her.

“Angad what happened?” She asked,

“You remember that day; we were at your place?” He asked.

“I remember” She whispered.

Past:

He turned back and kissed her, she didn’t resisted, he held her tight in his arms and then pushed her against the wall, then he kissed her again and again, he lowered his lips to her neck and then her shoulder, then her cleavage, she enjoyed it and moaned with pleasure. That encouraged him to continue kissing her and he lifted her on his arms and kissed her belly button. But soon he realized he should control his feelings. He stepped back. She looked at him, his face and his eyes. She realized he was restraining himself.

“I am sorry” She said.

“Sorry for what?” He asked.

“I don’t know Angad, you know I like you” She said.

“I know that” He said and sat on the bed; she walked towards the bed and sat next to him.

“You know we have something between us now, it’s not just the friendship” He said.

“I know” She whispered and sat straight with the wall. He moved up and sat exactly as she did.

Noise of humping from the next room travelled into theirs, her housemate had been doing this from last few weeks, she and her boyfriend have had been having sex on continuously basis.

At- least that's what Isabel told him, something ignited them, the moans of Richa across the room as she humped on her boy-friend just felt energetic to her. He looked at her, she looked at him, the passion that was just there on the edge few moments ago woke up, and moreover like magnets they got pulled towards each other. Her lips touched his and his lips held hers, his hands scrolled her body as her hands scrolled his chest. He felt that vigor, she felt that adrenal rush, and they both felt the cupid and kissed repeatedly. He no longer cared about anything else and especially how she felt about her boyfriend moreover he no longer cared about the pictures of her boyfriend and her parents looking at him. She didn't resist any of his actions and that encouraged him again and again to reach for the bosoms. He scrolled his hands on her back and then underneath her shirt. Then slowly he scratcher her back, she moaned and rested her head on his shoulder. Nervousness was overruled by his passion to get her on top of him and so he unhooked the bra, she stopped for a second and moved back, she looked at him like she never did before. They were no longer friends now, she knew it, he knew it, they both were aware now.

He thought he did something she didn't want, he tried to get her hands out of her shirt, but she resisted, she sat still and kept looking at him, he was confused and tried to think what she wanted, but he realized that they say it right, "a girl is never sure what she wants". She kept looking at him for another few minutes, he became nervous and nervous, and then in an instant he kissed her again. She didn't resist and kissed him back. He knew she wanted to open up; she was ready, maybe she was just checking if he was.

He then scrolled his hands on her back again and kissed her neck, she unbuttoned his shirt, and he stripped her off her t-shirt and then scrolled his hands on her chest. She pulled his shirt off and then kissed his neck and then chest and then arms. He then helped her lay down on bed, and then scrolled his hands on her belly button. She moaned with pleasure, he then pulled her pants off and kissed, kissed her everywhere. She pulled him towards him, he lay on top of her and searched her eyes not just for passion to have sex but the love that he have had been searching for so long.. The glitter on her eyes and the freshness of her skin drove him crazy, he scrolled his hands on her legs and then pulled her legs up and with a thrust they made love.

Present:

"Please hug me" She said while he still looked out of the window.

He turned towards her, smiled and extended his arms, she jumped right in and they held each other for few minutes. He smirked remembering how she was in his arms like this the other night, he remembered how tipsy they were, he remembered how much he was in love with her, he remembered how hard she tried to hide that she was in love with him and that it was just a sexual encounter.

Chapter 4 – The Final Moment

He looked around and said “At least show me his pictures”, she smiled and jumped on her bed to turn on the laptop, “Here he is” She said.

“Ok” He said, “What ok? Don’t you like him?” She asked.

“When is the wedding again?” He asked,

“In six weeks, this same day” She smiled.

“We should get you a bachelor party” He exclaimed.

“No strippers please” She laughed.

“Alright but how about I strip?” He asked and smiled.

“That would be awesome” She said, “is she really serious?” He thought.

“We should invite your friends, what about Fatima?” He asked,

“I don’t have friends anymore, I guess it’s only you” She smirked.

“Seriously? Just me?” He frowned.

“Yes it’s just you” She said.

“Babe you should make more friends, why have you started being such a loner?” He asked, she remained quiet and ignored him.

Past:

Exhausted they lay on the bed under the comforter, she laid on the left while he on the right, and she had her right hand on his chest and rested her head on his right. He kept his left hand on her waist and continuously scratched her body. Noises from another room still continued, she smiled and so did he, thinking how crazy Richa was.

“Do you like Richa?” She asked.

“Likeness, of what sense?” He asked

“I mean did you ever like her? As in you would sleep with her” She asked

“Ha Ha, she seems energetic compared to you” He laughed.

“Such an ass isn’t you” She hit him on his stomach while he tried to grab her palm.

She then jumped on his waist and sat there and looked into his eyes, flirted and teased him with her tongue lurking out of her mouth. He smiled and smiled again. She bent on him and kissed him and then bit his cheek. He laughed “You competing with Richa?” she paused and then bit his nose. Meanwhile a sudden thrust on the wall shocked them, they laughed as noises from Richa’s room became louder and louder. She looked at him and thought about doing the same. She slowly moved herself over him, he stared her with lustful eyes, and she danced on top of him, to and fro.

Present:

“You want to see my wedding dress?” She asked.

“Alright” He said and focused on the screen of her laptop while she scrolled through the pictures.

“This one is pretty” He said. She stopped scrolling and then looked at the dress.

“You like this?” She asked.

“I love it, this would look great on you” He said.

“How do you know?” She asked.

“I just know” He smiled.

She looked at him; he realized that she looked at him the same way she did that night, he became nervous, thought of losing control and holding her on his arms. But then wrapped his head with the chains of morality, he knew she was getting married; he just wanted to be the same old good friend. She kept looking at him; he jumped out of the bed and walked to the kitchen.

“What’s wrong?” She asked.

“Nothing I am just thirsty” He said.

“We don’t have any more wine” She said.

“It’s alright I will just have some water” He said and gulped some water from the tap.

He then walked back to her, her t-shirt lay short on her shoulder and he noticed her cleavage, however he tried not to stare, he un-intentionally did. She noticed it and turned her eyes away. He felt embarrassed but aroused; he felt his frame telling the hard truth and so he walked to the bathroom. She adjusted her dress but realized that it have had been so long someone actually looked at her like that, she missed the way he kissed her and touched her that night. She missed him as a friend but somewhere she started realizing this that he meant everything for him since they knew each other. She realized that he have had been there for her like always and even when things became unspoken and complicated between them, he still cared. She also realized that she missed the love, the emotion and the sex.

Past:

Passionate love was in air, she kept moving to and fro, he moaned with extreme pleasure. Noise from the other room accompanied them, fueled them continuously. He raised his hands and touched her repeatedly; she smiled and moaned like never before. They made love, extreme love.

“I love you” He said as she bent down on his chest with tiredness, sweat rolled down from her face to his shoulder.

She remained quiet for few moments, said nothing and slowly jumped out of his chest. He realized he said something odd, maybe she was not ready for it, maybe she didn't love him and it was really a casual sex. But was it possible, he felt that love, he felt that true friendship and he felt that serious attraction. Was he wrong? He asked himself continuously until she turned back and said “I love you Angad, but I love you only as friends”

Present:

He walked back to the hall and took out his clothes from his bag. “I am going to change” He said and walked towards the bathroom. She jumped out of the bed and walked on the hall, thinking what went wrong between them, thinking why she never told him the real feelings she held for him. He stood there in front of the mirror and looked at his reflection; he have had changed since last time they met; now he was all muscles and cuts, lean body. He grew up as a man, matured and strong. But still this was affecting him, her presence, her uncertainty and her insecurity everything was troubling him. He turned as he heard something, “Isabel, are you there?” He asked.

“Yes I was just checking if you are done” She said as their eyes met through the opened door, he realized that she was staring at him. Strangely he felt confident, he was already aroused and needed to either have sex with her or just a simple self-pleasure. But the way she looked at him, it was exactly the way she looked at him last time.

He walked out without putting up his shirt, she stared him “Wow, you've completely transformed your body babe” She said.

“Thanks” He smiled and walked out towards the hall, she followed him looking at his built back, the dense and strong muscle, she remembered how he held her in his arms last time, how he pushed her against the wall and kissed her with passion, she felt an urgent rush of self-pleasure just like the one he was feeling.

Past:

“What do you mean, just as friends?” He asked.

“I don't know Angad; can we just skip this topic?” She asked and looked around.

“We just had sex and you say you love me as a friend?” He frowned.

“Are we friends with benefits?” He asked.

“Angad please stop this” She pleaded.

“Isabel you must answer this, I need an explanation” He bused.

“Angad, I do love you, but it’s complicated” She said.

“What complicated babe is this all casual for you?” He asked.

“I cannot answer this Angad” She avoided eye contact.

“You must Isabel” He insisted.

She stood quiet looking here and there, they were now standing against each other, she looked at the door and he looked at her naked back. Sexual attention was all gone, now it was simply a quest for him to determine if she ever loved him and if this was all a lie and just a casual encounter.

Present:

“We should sleep” He suggested, thoughts of why he came here troubled him.

“Are you mad at me?” She asked

“Isabel you know what is troubling me” He frowned.

“You know how I feel about you” She said.

“I don’t buy your lies, I know exactly how you feel about me” He said.

“Even if I love you, what difference does it make?” She asked,

“It makes a huge difference for me, I want to know the truth” He bused.

She stood quiet looking here and there, avoided eye contact, “I know you are getting married, I know you have decided your life path, and maybe you love him, but if you tell me the truth now, at least I would die with happiness that what I thought of us was true” He said.

“Alright Angad, here is the truth, I love you, I am attracted to you since the very first day we met, you are my best friends, the only friend” She said.

He looked at her, happiness jumped and wrapped his heart, “Thanks” He said and turned around.

Past:

“I don’t love you Angad, what we had was just a casual sex, probably the alcohol” She said.

“So this should not happen again” He frowned.

“I must go now” He said and then grabbed his pants. He then quickly wore his clothes and walked towards the door. She stood there expressionless, naked and looked at him.

He turned around as he stood at the door, “Isabel I am leaving next week” He said and walked out.

She stood there for next fifteen minutes; he walked out in snow towards his apartment, heaviness on his shoulder pushed him hard on the snow, he struggled to walk at five in the morning, it was crazy cold that day, but he walked without his jacket, he forgot that he even wore it when he came to her place until he was half the way to his home. He didn’t go back; he didn’t want to see her again. Apparently tears rolled down from her cheeks and she cried hard. She realized that she has just lost a good friend and probably the person she loved the most.

That was the last time they saw each other, they didn’t even talk to each other for next year, but one day she called him and since then they started talking to each other often, but it wasn’t the same, she only called and talked to him when probably she needed to talk to someone. And this troubled him, one day he raised the same question, he was drunk but sober enough to ask for the answer, he asked “if she loved him, if she loves him”, she said the same “she loved him as a friend” and that was it, he didn’t talk to her after that until this time when she called him to wish him “Happy Birthday”

Present:

“I have loved you from a very long time, I am sorry I lied that night” She said, looked in his eyes.

“It’s ok, I am glad you confessed today” He said and took a few steps to hug her.

She jumped right in his arms, and felt that strong muscular and magnetic pull that she have had been longing for.

“Love is confusing, its complex but its passionate and patient”