Half a year now, Half a decade some day

May 29, 2023 (My Song To You)

I have written many many notes to you... but this one, this one is one where I want to share everything with you. No holding back on any emotion.

It has now been 6 months since we started dating. It's so crazy to think that it was 6 months ago when you gave me your answer to my super awkward confession... right after we had finished a dance rehearsal. You know... it took everything in e to confess to you. The moment before I did so, I took so long because one, i was shy, but two, I was seriously doubting whether it was a good idea or not. The doubt was primarily because of how my ex left me... with dishonesty. That's why it took so long for me to confess... but I sure am glad that I managed to because the 6 months that followed... well, read on to understand!

I look back at the years since 2020, and it is only now that I realize that maybe it did affect me that I was cheated on. Reflecting, I realize that it was then that I shut myself away from people. There was an incident where was telling our group about her breakup and all I could do in that moment was write my code. I paid no attention to such a sentimental topic because I had sunk so deep in my denial that I had completely eliminated what made me human... feelings. For the next 2 and a half years, the only time I opened my mouth, all that came out of it was code, academics, and foolish conversation. Never did I ever talk about how I was feeling. It had been so long since I made a genuine, deep connection with anyone. All of my friends, even now, are daily surface level because I never made the effor to get to really know them, how they think, how they feel. Maybe this form of distancing was always in me, and my ex cheating on me amplified that

However, it was after a month of dating you... that I noticed a change in me. I noticed that I was talking differently to people. In afriendlier, more heartfelt manner. Suddenly, code was not the only topic of conversation I had. I reached a conclusion. The only thing that changed in my life.. Was you. Your presence, your warmth. That day, I learned something about myself. I couldn't just shut myself away from

everyone and focus on my work. That's what robots do. I needed to acknowledge that I had feelings, and those feelings are important and not meant to be sidelined as i ha been taught. You made me realize that. Do you realize how big that is? It changed my life completely. In a sense, you are the reason I was brought back to life. You are the reason that my soft, kind side was resurrected. When I noticed that... I just knew.. That you were the one. I used to always fantasize about a relationship. I used to picture myself going on ice cream dates, movie dates, foolish activities, roller coasters. I used to see all of my friends living that life that I could only dream about. I had a crush back in freshman year, but she started dating someone else within our friend group, so when i used to see them do all the fun stuff together that I mentioned... I could not help but feel like my life was incomplete. Those fantasies that I told you about. There was no face that those fantasies were ever associated with... because I just had not found 'the one.' But when I met you, and started dating you... suddenly, all those fantasies had a face. A beautiful face, with dreamy, dazzling eyes. Eyes filled with warmth. With time, those fantasies... well, they were no longer fantasies, for they had become reality.

Ever since then, we have been through so much together. The good, and the bad. We have made so many memories together. So many dinner dates, 2am Taco Bell sickness, spontaneous Shish/Pad Thai dates, cuddles, and many many more little things. We have gotten to know each other so well, that we know immediately if something is bothering either of us. However, I won't deny that there have been a few rough patches, some small, some more serious. There was only one instance, where I started to question whether we were meant for each other, and that was that one weekend...I guess I should tell you what went through my mind during that. There was some kind of fear brewing in me in those days.. I was scared that I was being lied to, that there was something you were not telling me. I think it was at that time when my trust issues had started to kick in. The night of the party was the breaking point, and I woke you up. I will be very honest, when you said "There is a guy who was interested in me," my heart immediately sank, as I immediately thought that my trust issues were correct. That is why I reacted the way i did. I panicked so much, and i just wanted the truth. My mind was clouded... and I questioned you about everything... about the texts, about the pictures. When I saw the pictures, and the texted that listed me as a 'friend,' I grew even more scared. My mind was

convinced that my trust issues were correct, and i had let it happen again, but my heart didn't agree. And so, I wanted to listen to everything you had to say. It took me a long time, perhaps the next 3 days, to fully convince myself that I was wrong, that I had spiraled down the wrong rabbit hole. Every time I tried to move on, those pictures would flash in my mind and remind me. I just could not reconcile what I saw, and what you told me. But with time, I realized that perhaps, I really had made a horrible mistake. Perhaps, I was so clouded in my judgement, that I let it almost destroy our relationship. Looking back... I cannot say that what I did was completely unjustified, but I also cannot forgive myself for the way I approached it, for the way i was with you. It is unacceptable, and unforgivable. I don't expect you to forgive me for that either. It's just something that I will have to make peace with, no matter how long it takes. I wrote here about that incident because it is the one where I hid my true emotions from you the most. I kept saying that I was okay, when in reality, I was constantly questioning whether I was wrong or not until I did reach the conclusion that I did. I just always want to be fully transparent with you.

Ever since that incident, there has been something in me that has changed. Ever since then, the way I show love, the amount of love I show, it has permanently been changed, and for the better I think. I feel attracted to you like i have never before. I guess... that setback showed me that i cannot let my past, my fears and my trust issues dictate my life forever. I need to move past them, and I need to understand that maybe it is okay to trust someone completely. Once again, you're the one who showed me that, who made me realize that. I think that this was the last weakness that I had that held me back from loving fully, and now that weakness is gone.

Baby, as I conclude this essay, I want you to know that since that incident, the amount of love that i have for you has been increasing, every single day. Every day, I feel like I love you so much that it is impossible for me to love you more, and every day, I am corrected. Your laughs, your kindness, your care, your love, your eyes, your smile, your hair, your loving, warm arms, your *ahem* boobies... everything about you, be it physical, emotional, or any other kind of 'al,' I love. There is not a thing about you that I don't love. Your qualities, your flaws, I love each and every one of them with everything in me. Today, it has been 6 months since we started dating.

6 months since my life changed forever. 6 months since I found the one that perhaps God destined me to find. The other half. Despite there being 8 billion people on this planet, 6 months ago, I found the person that I want to live a life with, the person i want to grow old with, the person I want to marry, have kids with. 6 months ago, I was brought back to life, and who was it that breathed life into me? It was you. 6 months now... i cant wait for the day it becomes 6 years, and beyond.

This letter, even though it is for honesty and transparency, it is mostly for me to say: thank you. Thank you, for making my life whole again. Thank you, for bringing back the human side of me that had sunk so deep. Thank you, for rescuing me when I was fading. And thank you, for always always staying by my side, no matter how intolerable, how annoying, and how insecure I get. I know I am far from perfect, and I know that there will always be people who I think will make you much happier that I ever can, and i know that I will always have that fear hidden somewhere in me. But I will never let that fear get the best of me again. I will never let it question the love that i have for you, or the love that you have for me. I would like to end this letter by saying thank you. Thank you, for saving my life.

I love you, meri jaan. I always have, and I always will. I hope I never ever make you question that, and I hope that you will always love me too, and hold onto me close.

Forever yours, Your Bub, Aalyan Arif

"I WAS LOST, UNTIL I SAW YOUR HALO, I WAS BLIND, UNTIL I SAW YOUR LIGHT.

I BELIEVE, OH BABY, WE ALL HAVE ANGELS, AND YOU ARE MINE.

- ANDY GRAMMER

I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW YOU SAVED MY LIFE."