


*Reality is harsh*

Anusha

**I Had to  
switch  
the  
ending**

A large, faceted pink diamond is positioned in the bottom left corner of the image. The diamond has multiple facets that catch the light, creating a shimmering effect. Its color is a soft, pastel pink, matching the overall color scheme of the background.

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Sometimes, it's not just some story.

*-Anusha Choudhary (20204032)*

*“Grandpa-a!! It’s already nine! It’s my story time!” Squeals my 11 year old granddaughter in excitement.*

“Okay! So What do you wanna hear today kid?” I smile, wrapping her in the blanket.

“Oh! I wanna know how you met grandma!” She squeals again. My eyes get watery

“Are you okay, Grandpa?” She says looking with concern at me.

“No, Nothing, I’ll tell you” I caress her hair and suddenly the electricity went out, but I comfort her and start to narrate.



It was long ago, when a boy named Charles, was attending a ball, He was there with two of his friends and they all were enjoying. Charles was a 21 years old boy. He had two best friends and it was one of the ball nights. It got a little over whelming inside the ball, so Charles along with is friends came out for a little fresh air. And they see a lady sobbing in the garden. Oh! And most importantly, Charles was terrible and shy with ladies, and his friends used to mock him for that.

“She’s crying, what do I do?” He asks his friend.

“Go comfort her.” His friend, Henry replied.

“How do I do that?”

“Start with hugs.” Thomas said

“With what?!” And Thomas and Henry started laughing.

“Hey, you’re okay, Lady?” Charles said politely, handing her his handkerchief. She looked up at him, and wiped her tears pretending, she wasn’t crying and gives a fake smile.

Her attire was a little dirty as if she was running or fighting, But that’s not what caught his attention, it was the innocence on her face. Her eyes were deep ocean blue, beautiful. Her baiting eyelashes added on to her pretty face. He focused back and asked again, she denied to tell again. She got up and walked away. He went back to his friends who mocked him and were laughing on him because he made her run away. But who knew what’s coming ahead. After a while they heard her scream, they all ran towards her and saw a man who is riding a horse running away, they ask her what happened.

“These goons have been bullying me since past few mornings, they stole my expensive necklace and now come again to check if I have something else, worth stealing” she said almost sobbing.

Charles and his friends decided to help her out and she explained where all these goons theft and hid their stolen belongings and where they’re hiding right now. She told them about the den.

So we frame our plan of how to get her expensive necklace back. They all headed into the den from behind it was a one way path. It was dark so they used a firelight.



Everything was going smooth, They had quietly snuck into the den. It was spooky and they had found her necklace back. They got happy and were all laughing through the adrenaline rush. The lady was glad and her smile touched her eyes and that was when Charles couldn't stop smiling like an idiot looking at her joy. He was caught up in her infectious laugh. His friends started teasing him looking him smile.

“So, What’s our exit strategy” The lady asks

“Our what?” Charles replied shooting up his brows

“Oh my gosh! we're all going to die” And everyone started laughing but soon it got all serious when they realised that it was a one way path, they planned out conspiracy against the goons and they all got no choice but to get out through the front end. So they all take one-one horse each from the stable of the goons inside the den.

“Do you know how to ride, lady?” Charles asked her.

“Oh! I’m amused to your question. Watch me.” she replied as she shoots her leg through her gown on to the horse back and sits firmly.

And Charles laughed, His grin was infectious. And he climbed up the horse nodding and smiling to her reaction.

They all raced fast on the horses out of the den so that they don’t get caught, but the goons where out there and enjoying whiskey. They saw them and started shouting “HEY! Wait you bastards! Chase them!” Shouted one of the goons and the rest followed them on the leftover horses. Charles guided his friends and the lady to change the track and soon, they managed to get them out of site, they all

stopped over the bridge and got off the horses, they all started laughing out loud through the Adrenaline rush.

“That was some fun!” Shouts one of Charles friends  
“Yaa! Man! That was” Charles replied laughing hard.

“Anyways, the Lady got her neck piece back, And it’s late we should head home, Charles” Henry Commented.

Thomas nodded and left with Henry.

“I’ll head home once the lady is home safe.” Charles waved them a goodbye.



“So, Lady———”

“I can go home myself, thank you sir, for tonight.” She bowed down in gratitude, and Charles repeated the same.

“Oh, and sir, your name, after all I need to know who helped me?” She asked.

“You don’t know me?!” He asked amused. And she shakes her head and frowned.

“Well, I’m Prince Charles of Atlantis City” He said and bowed down again. She was shocked and bowed hesitantly

“I-I’m SO-sorry, Prince Charles. I didn’t——“

“Oh, no, no, it’s okay, it felt nice, spending a day with someone who doesn’t know me” He gave a smile that touched his eyes.

“you’re a prince, you’re not supposed to give me anything but orders”

“Okay, then I order you to meet me here over the bridge at dusk tomorrow, as a date with me”

She stared wide eyes, she was amazed.

“Umm. Okay” she said and smiled nervously.

“And I want to know the name of the lady whom I helped” Prince Charles said.

“Well, I’ll tell you tomorrow when we meet” she winked at him, bowed down. She climbed the horse and rode away. The Prince couldn’t help but smile. They both were eagerly waiting for tomorrow. Charles was amazed that he spent a lot of time with the lady, and still didn’t know her name.

“My Greetings, to the prince” she bowed down.

As he greeted her and kissed on her hand.

“So, what would I have to do to know your name?” Charles said.

“I’m Emma” she said smiling. And the prince was lost her smile.

They chatted all evening.

The prince and Emma used to meet a lot and gradually they fell in love. The prince asked Emma to marry her.

And soon afterwards they got married over the same bridge in Atlantis city.

“You remember we met here for the first time, right?” Charles said to Emma

“Right now, I don’t know if I want to kiss you or shove you off the bridge” Emma narrowed her eyes.

“Can I pick?” Said Prince Charles pouting and they bursted into laughter.



It was not long when the prince had to go on ship for trade of weapons especially a special kind of dagger for the safety of Atlantis. Charles stroked Emma’s tear-stained



cheek. Her eyes met his, and He tried his hardest to remember them, because He had the feeling that after this day, He might never see her again. He would be away and who know what might happen to him.

Prince Charles left for the trade, but after a mile or two. He saw the Atlantis city drowning in water soon it was in. Everyone on the ship stare shocked and panicked. They sailed back to see what happened, but Atlantis city was no where to be seen.

Tears rolled down Prince Charles face, his wife was in Atlantis city which drowned in the sea, leaving him all alone. Now, It's always referred as "A girl who drowned in the Atlantis"



"Grandpa Charles, do you miss grandma Emma?" My granddaughter asks in tears.

"Yes, A lot." After all how could I tell her she left us due to blood cancer. All the time I spent with Emma felt infinitesimal.