

"Draft 2020"

INT. IKAY'S ROOM - NIGHT

IKAY'S busy revising her script all over again, frustrated that a frown started to form on her forehead. Draft 2018 was stuck on the 25th chapter, no matter what word she typed there was never an eureka moment. A sigh comes out of her lips to express her disappointment to herself and to whatever she thought she loved doing.

Uly

Hello? Hello? Hello?

She turned her head to where the noise came from, a smile appeared on her face as she knew what's about to happen.

IKAY

(joking)

Here to bother me ULY?

ULY

(laughs)

Well yes I am, why'd you ask? Did ya miss me?

IKAY

(rolling her eyes)

Nope! Not even a chance! Who are you anyways haha!

ULY

Well your future someone? **(smiling)**

IKAY

"Future someone" for someone I don't know. Are we even dating?

ULY

Not yet.

IKAY can't help but laugh at his antics, getting inspired from her secret talking pal, she jotted down sentence after sentence after getting the motivation she needed. They continue talking while revising the story til she finishes it.

- Cut to: office

INT. OFFICE - DAY

It was already past noon when IKAY showed up to the office, she hurried herself to get her revision checked by her boss.

BOSS

(slams papers on desk)

This is different from what we asked you to do! This is a fantasy thriller not a romance movie!

IKAY

(lowering her head)

I'm sorry ma'am, it will not happen again.

BOSS

I'm tired of hearing that again and again. Make sure to never repeat it, or else I'll replace you. Understood?

IKAY only nodded as her response.

- Cut to: Home

INT. HOME - NIGHT

IKAY then again revised the same chapter she did yesterday, tired and irritated. The ringing of her phone did not help to distract her from work but the longer she prolonged it, the more she got irritated. She finally picked her phone, angrily.

IKAY

(irritated)

Hello?!

AUNT MENCHU

(surprised)

Jeez you're not stressed aren't you? What? Did you wake up on the wrong side of the bed?

IKAY

(apologetic)

I'm sorry Tata Menchu, I didn't mean to **(sigh)**.

AUNT MENCHU

Already knew that one. Try taking a breather, it might help.

IKAY

But you know I have a job to do.

AUNT MENCHU

You know you shouldn't get worked up in your job. At that point in your life, try to enjoy it—I know that this is what you dreamed and wanted to do but are you even loving it?

IKAY thinks her aunts' words were right, [~~but she was so close to getting the ending for~~] and that thought alone makes her even more frustrated that she shuts her laptop. She plopped down on her bed when the walkie talkie began to buzz.

ULY

Hello?

IKAY

If you're trying to annoy me, it's working.

ULY

I haven't said anything yet... You're still at that chapter?

IKAY

(muffled)

Yop-

ULY

You know the rice cooker that I fixed before?

IKAY

(annoyed)

"And proceed to break it more"? Yeah, I already knew that story,
what's the point?

ULY

Well if you're so smart aren't ya?—The point is there are some
things best left broken.

IKAY

(glares at radio)

And the thing is I can't leave it broken, I'll lose my job here
Uly!

ULY

You know what? I'll help you revise that chapter.

IKAY

You're not even a writer, you're a mechanic. Your job is to fix
things, not write stuff or anything.

ULY

I'm not gonna write, I'm just gonna share some ideas. You're the
writer here, duh.

IKAY

(sarcastically)

Okay fine! What's your so-called "idea"? Let's hear it from the
"great mechanic".

ULY

(laughs weakly)

Since you're writing a fantasy thriller, how about escalating
some things like hmm, reveal something horrifying to the
character like he's dying or something?

IKAY

(glares)

Why would I include that?

ULY

I didn't say include it, I'm only suggesting it. They're just characters, right?

For some reason, IKAY's heart felt heavy. A deep sinking feeling that her gut was screaming at her not to write it, but her hands worked faster thinking about her job at stake.

She then typed:

"Eugelio smiled bitterly as he looked at his scratched arm. Knowing that his wound signifies something: death. He pressed the button on his radio and said: I have to go now. Y'know, it's night and stuff"

ULY

Goodluck Ikay, I have to go now. Y'know, it's night and stuff.

IKAY

Wait- How did-

IKAY did not get to finish what she's about to say, somehow she's worried rather than relieved. She continued to type away thanks to ULY for lending his ideas, even if it made her concerned [~~dread~~].

EXT. HOME - DAY

Days have passed and IKAY hasn't heard from ULY ever since their last conversation. She looked at her draft for the upteenth time that hour, wondering if she should add more characters to make it interesting. She spent the next hours trying to revise the chapter.

"Eugelio smiled bitterly as he looked at his scratched arm. Knowing that his wound signifies: death. He ripped the hem of his shirt and wrapped it around his arm as he tried to outrun them. Some monsters chose not to react but opted to stare at him from the ground as others dragged or ran at him like a man deprived of food."

IKAY'S concentration snapped when she heard the buzzing sound of the Walkie-Talkie.

ULY

H-Hey, bad time to call now is (stumbles) it?!?!

IKAY

(worried)

What happened to you? You sound like you're running a marathon.

ULY

(coughs) Do I?

IKAY

(worried)

Uly, whatever you're doing isn't funny anymore...!

ULY

(out of breath)

Don't worry about me, I'm just calling because I haven't called you in a while and I want to check how you've been doing. So, how are you? Are you fine?

IKAY

You know Uly, you should worry about yourself. I don't know why you didn't call for days and I don't care. You shou-

Typing. IKAY heard the sound of keys being pressed. But her hands were holding the radio so who-

"Millions of voices spoke at once "Sheep, sheep, little sheep. How far thou hath run, back to the shepherd you have gone". Eugelio kept running as if he had gone through the same path over and over again. Never looking back even when his arm distorted and cracked while the other clutched the radio tightly, almost breaking it."

IKAY

(panicking)

Uly? Are you still there? Talk to me!

IKAY tried to press random keys but it did not cooperate to her whim, instead she heard a loud thud coming from the radio she's holding. She tries to communicate with him but only hears his weak breathing. She didn't know what to do first, worrying about her broken laptop or ULY.

- Cut to: ???

INT. EXT. ??? - DAY/NIGHT

IKAY thought that her Walkie-Talkie and laptop malfunctioning at the same time is weird but she gets the feeling that it has happened before, the same scenes, the same characters, and the same ending. Everything felt deja vu

She typed something to the file:

"He then miraculously survived, and called his loved one immediately"

The walkie-talkie buzzed.

ULY

Hey I know I've worried you yesterday, I'm sorry for that. I'm trying to run away from something. I called you that night because I thought it was gonna be my last.

IKAY got weirded out even more by what he's saying because it's the exact same line that she wrote for her book. When she tried to press the keys, it did not work but words appeared on her screen without her typing.

"Eugelio "Uly" Leonidas, sat in a pile of rubble, with only a walkie talkie in hand. He mustered up a laugh but all that came out were sounds that the monsters would make."

ULY

[DISTORTED] Heh, I haven't even told you my real name yet, my name's Eugelio.

IKAY
(weakly)

Why are you bringing it up all of a sudden...?

ULY

I just have the urge to tell you mine. Anyways, I got to go now.
Goodbye!

IKAY was left speechless, though thousands of words wanted to escape from her mouth but the only thing that came out was a confused and a sad sigh. She doesn't know what's going on or what to do but her intuition tells her that something isn't right.

"With one last buzz, maybe this was their final goodbye."

The story ends with no clarity, it leaves her wondering what just happened, one thing she knows is that she isn't going to keep her job. She stares at the walkie-talkie, hoping that he would call.

"Only silence will fall."

The laptop continued to type.

"Eugelio's walkie-talkie lay broken on the floor. The debris was already turned to stone but he was nowhere in sight but instead a monster sat in his place. With its long, twisted fingers, it scratched the rock in a slow, grueling line."

IKAY rushed to close the program down before it could complete whatever it was trying to do.

IKAY
I failed again...

IKAY opened a new draft and labeled it "DRAFT 2020" before the laptop began to disobey once again.

"The monster got up and left, leaving the words it set in stone:"

THE END