Don’t look back 53

Laura glanced at her own reflection in the mirror. She was short for her old age, with her big curly grey hair, and irregular freckles across her face that made her look a bit younger than she appeared to be, but not by much. Laura was sitting on the couch and sipping wine from a glass when she started to remember.

She went to get the photo album that she kept hidden, in hope of forgetting him. The photo album was being kept in an old brown chest that had scratches and marks on it from the all the times it was being in used.

Laura opened up the photo album, as she simultaneously said, “It’s been such a long time, since I last thought about you.” There’s a silence in the room. Before Laura continuous to speak, as she continues to look at some photographs of her family. As she comes face to face with the black and white photographs.

She says to herself, "Why now?”

As Laura was dwelling on the that question, she took up a photograph of Kol and her sitting together both of them having overly happy expressions on their faces. She picked up another photo. She remembered the day this photograph was being taken like it was yesterday.

In their youth Kol and Laura were inseparable like a pair of Siamese twins, even though they're so different. While Kol was acknowledged as the quiet one, that always preferred to suffer in silence type. However, on the other hand you had Laura who was the polar opposite of Kol with her extroverted personality and shout it out loud attitude that didn’t come with a mute button.

But the day that photo was taken, nothing was ever the same. It was a winter night when Laura was looking through the window. When she noticed a figure in the distance from her window on the picturesque view from her apartment that she just got. She always dreamt of living in New Orleans, or as she liked to call it "The Big Easy”. She was always fascinated by the city’s French quarter or the Jazz fest. At the same time this city made her remember how small she actually was in this world.

As the figure got closer, Laura could see what it was. Kol. Always too skinny for a boy his age. Always that familiar messy hair that usually made it easier for her to spot him out in crowded places.

“Hello strangers” said Laura while hugging the life out of Kol.

“Weren’t you ever taught to not talk to strangers?”, replayed Kol while slightly pushing Laura off him. Laura looked hurt by this action, but quickly brushed the expression off her face. She didn’t want to ruin her precious time that she had with Kol.

“But anyways what are you doing here? You weren’t supposed to be here for another week?”, Laura stated.

“Can’t I surprise my favourite person, without her knowing it?”, said Kol while scratching his head.

“Of course, you can, dummy. I’m just astonished that you here. My apartment isn’t nearly ready for someone to live there, and frankly I have nothing in the fridge…” Kol places his hands on either side of Laura’s arm in hope to calm her down.

“Laura, calm down. We can figure this out, like always when the world felt like it was collapsing. What did we do?”

“We take a step back, and somehow find a decent solution to the problem."

The wind blew, as if it were trying to warn her that something big would happen next, at the time that was true. It started pouring down, they went into the nearest place to hide was a photo booth machine near Laura’s apartment. They both went in, as they waited Laura got an idea. Do you have any coins on you?” Laura asked Kol mischievously. “Don’t tell me you actually want to use money on this, crap of a machine?” Kol asked Laura. While Laura only gave him a puppy dog face. Kol fished some coins he had left from his train journey and put it into the machine. “Happy now?” “Very.”, replied an overly enthusiastic Laura.

As the first picture was being taken they were both looking into the camera smiling. On the other hand, while the second picture was being taken Kol decided to say “I love you” in a hushed tone. Causing Laura to turn to him, and replay” Yeah, I know you do.”. Hearing that tone in her voice, Kol didn't think Laura knew what he meant.

Kol continued “No, I mean... Why do you have to be so oblivious sometimes? I love you, as a guy. I don't want to see your heart get broken by guys who don't care about you. I want to be the guy who won't break your heart." Silence filled the photo booth. Laura looked shocked and didn’t know what to say back to Kol. In the third photo Laura looked pissed and Kol looked devastated. “If this is some sick joke, then you must think that I was born yesterday”, Laura replied breaking the dead silence. They kept starting at each other, as if trying to read each other’s minds. Laura was about to say something when Kol leaned in to kiss, but Laura ducked in the last minute. “What in the actual hell was that?!”, Laura said pissed.

“I just thought that…”, Kol answered but was immediately interrupted by Laura “Oh, you thought. So that makes it OK?”

“I’m sorry. OK! I thought you wanted the same thing, clearly I was wrong.”, Kol said in a hushed angrily voice.

“I’m sorry”, began Laura in an apologetic tone, as Kol was staring down at his boots, “But I don’t feel the same way, and to be frank I don’t think this thing between us would work”

“But you never gave us a chance” Kol said pleading. “I don’t have to give us a chance to know how I’m going to feel if we ever start dating.” Laura said in an attempted to get through to Kol that she didn’t want this. Kol looked puzzled as if he couldn’t decide if he felt more saddened by this information or shocked.

“Kol I think you should go.”

“But what about the apartment?” Kol asked puzzled.

“Like you said earlier I can handle this.”, answered Laura with a hint of a smirk, that disappeared just as quickly as it appeared.

“I know you can.” Said Kol in a hushed tone.  Laura could only watch as Kol with a saddened expression turned around and left her standing there all alone in the photo booth, while she was contemplating on what she had done just now.

Not even a glass of her favourite wine could calm Laura’s nerves down after reminiscing the past. She thought to herself that it’s best not to dwell on the past.

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