Phuong Le| June 18, 2016

Scarlet’s Heart

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#### Table of Contents

[Prologue: Far from Being Me 3](#_Toc505775708)

[Chapter 1: My Gentle Good Bye 4](#_Toc505775709)

[Chapter 2: I Should’ve Stopped There 6](#_Toc505775710)

[Chapter 3: Remember to Be 9](#_Toc505775711)

[Chapter 4: I Have to Go 13](#_Toc505775712)

[Chapter 5: The Joy of Giving Back 15](#_Toc505775713)

[Chapter 6: Only I Can Love Me More Than Me 25](#_Toc505775714)

[Chapter 7: I Never Saw You One Last Time 28](#_Toc505775715)

[Chapter 8: His Infinite Love 29](#_Toc505775716)

[Chapter 9: I’m Ready to Begin Again 32](#_Toc505775717)

[Chapter 10: The Very Beginning 34](#_Toc505775718)

[Chapter 11: Acting on Your Own 36](#_Toc505775719)

[Chapter 12: Waiting at the Edge 43](#_Toc505775720)

[Chapter 13: I’m Going to Make This Work 44](#_Toc505775721)

[Chapter 14: Make That Two Months 45](#_Toc505775722)

[Chapter 15: I Stopped My Thoughts 46](#_Toc505775723)

[Chapter 16: I Want Him More Now 49](#_Toc505775724)

[Chapter 17: Our First Christmas Love 50](#_Toc505775725)

[Chapter 18: The Sun Shines Brighter 54](#_Toc505775726)

[Chapter 19: After the First Snow Fall 54](#_Toc505775727)

[Chapter 20: Working hard to Improve 58](#_Toc505775728)

[Chapter 21: I’m Not Ready to Say Good-Bye 58](#_Toc505775729)

[Chapter 22: My dreams become Actions 58](#_Toc505775730)

[Chapter 23: I won’t lie anymore 58](#_Toc505775731)

# Prologue: Far from Being Me

I’ve grown to dislike who I am. I’ve always been questioning myself, who I am, what’s my goal in life, who will I become?

I was told that when I was born, I had rearranged organs. I was kept in the hospital for about nine months attached to machines that kept me alive. If I had been born in Vietnam, I would have died leaving my twin sister behind, I was told that story when I was very young.

Ever since then, I had thought about what it would be like if I had not existed in this world, what would everyone’s lives would be like? After a year, I had a sister and 4 years later, my little brother. He made my parents happy. They had finally had a boy after having three girls. My little sister had always been the strong one in the family. My brother was given everything that he wanted.

As a kid, I was very fragile. I was either told I would grow to be useless, or hear that I wouldn’t make it in the real world. My younger sister told me things that hurt me the most, I had grown to hate myself because I had caused my family to pay a lot of money for my life. I absolutely hated myself even till now. At night when I have bad days I would start to cry, then I would remember my reasons for existence.

At the age of twelve I was still in elementary school. I loved school back then, I remember my first drawing I had recreated of a painting I did in school. I was very proud of it. I brought it to school to show my friends, they said they like it and told me I should become an artist, I was overjoyed, that day I had realized I wanted to be an artist, I smiled more back then than I ever do now.

# Chapter 1: My Gentle Good Bye

I thought love was always the same until I met you. Actually, it was weird to get to see you ever day, but then I realized that I didn't love you the day I couldn't remember why. It's sad to lose someone, but you still had to let go till I'll find a place where we'll meet again.

What I wanted to be best at is to be a good friend or girlfriend for you. Trying to be that is impossible because you never try opening your arms and heart for me.  Is it that I'm a fool to try to get your heart or is it a past that you can't tell.

I try to be what you need and want me to be, but I was never enough for you, do you really know what you were to me? You were the one, the only one I loved. For real, from my true heart.

I always laughed when you laughed, and I was sad when you were sad. I watched you to see if you would notice me or if some day.... Some day you would need me.

I cried for you and I would actually try to say I love you in my dreams. You would hug me, hold my hands, say good night every time we go out, and you even kissed me. Most of them were realistic, some were based on fantasy books I've read.

Finding out from your friends that you like me was all, but a dream. They say you liked me. When I try to see if you do, by being nice, you just left me there. So, when I gave up, you would always be there by my side, literally.

True... false... will I fall for you again....

Am I sad you ask? Well I am I don't know whether I'm sad because of love or because of family. My heart aches just thinking, what wrong with me. I don't feel bad just sad. Love can really hurt. Like a lot of things say, " a wound on the body can heal, but a wound on the heart can only leave scars…"

Do you still remember the times we were together? Good times, right?

I want to learn more about you, everything I can. I've told u a lot about me and I only know some about you. You never tried to talk about yourself or even asked " wanna get to know me better"? or " what do you want to know about me?"

I believe that you want to tell everything to someone, someone who would sit and just listen to you and to lend a shoulder to you or a hug.

It's been a while and I still love you, but I think I found a new love. Someone who would always stay by my side and never leave. He's cute, smart, friendly, but he's 2 years older than me.

Even though we don't say anything we knew what each other felt. We like each other, he knows we can't be that close. He keeps me warm and I know he cares. So, I hope this relationship goes better than the old. Sweet dreams…

We talked a lot today and we found out a lot about each other and how we're so connected but I don't know if he really likes me I'll try harder to see if we're meant to be.... he makes my heart skip a beat every time we’re close to each other and he would smile when I smiled...when I was sad he would ask why?

I can't believe I have a boyfriend now! We have a lot in common, like how we like red (or at least he uses to), black, white. We both like taking things apart and seeing how it works and putting it back together.

# Chapter 2: I Should’ve Stopped There

It all started two year ago, when we had biology together in 9th period. I had a little crush on him.... then he asked my best friend out so i stopped liking him, then they broke up real fast.

This year we have English 11 HN 1st period together.... we got to know each other after a few weeks into the school year. Then one day we were just waiting for Sophia, retaking a quiz or something, with Jason. we went around the school and he asked to go hide away for Jason behind a door and we stayed there for like a 30-minute listening to music and waiting for Jason to find us...still makes me laugh remembering that.... when he finally found us, he asked if Jason wanted to play hide and seek again, he argued a little and then we played again...this time we went to his old Spanish teacher's classroom. So, when we were in there I was getting tired and went to sleep.... he sat next to me and we both listened to music while i was sleeping. He showed me what my name meant on Urban Dictionary which was funny so we messaged Sophia on Facebook and waited there for her to come to us.

So, then we met again after school and we hanged out on the stairs near Ms. Inberg's Room, I got tired so I kind of fell asleep on his shoulders.... awkward though, but i had a warm and safe feeling that time and i still do now. I felt happy that day.

Then the second time we did the same thing, but that time he put his arms around my waist.......my heart was racing and i was really heating up.... cute time though. Then when it was time to go I showed him a flip book that said I LOVE YOU horizontally and then EM YEU ANH vertically with the "E" from LOVE and EM together. Then he asked for a hug which was a warm and safe feeling too.

Then after that day we were boyfriend and girlfriend, but not officially. We hanged out a lot and did the same things in different orders every day after school. During those times i thought he would kiss me but he didn't. So, on xx/xx I took the initiative and kissed him on the cheeks. At that moment, I was hoping he would pull me back but i guess he froze and I was walking too fast.... I wish I could start that day over again.

Then we started to kiss each other whenever we met after school, we would hug, I would sleep on his shoulder and he would put his arms around me. Then I lost my first kiss on October 15, 2013 and it was sweet, but there was still one thing left for us to do to make us true lovers.

I felt like the happiest girlfriend in the world then. I wanted to be able to say the things I felt about him.... tell him I loved him with all my heart and soul. I wanted to be able to call him my boyfriend and call him my true and only lover. I wouldn't ever let him go. To live with him my entire life...kiss him every day: kiss him in the morning and kiss him good night. Hug him every day and forever at night. I want to feel my heart race and heat up when he holds my hand and puts his arms around me. I can't deny that I love him. I love him.... more than the heat of the sun.... higher than the stars above.........bigger than the galaxy.... the universe.......deeper than the sea floor.... wider than infinity......heavier than a billion things.

I can't sleep at night because I don't want to dream about him, it's because I think the reality of our love is better than a dream. He is the one who finally made my heart whole again. He made me happy every time we would meet eye to eye and when we're chatting together. He is the reason why I would always smile every minute of my life when we started.... He is the reason why I can never sleep at night. He got me thinking about him every week, every day of every week, every hour of every day, every minute of every hour, and every sec of every minute. He'll never leave my mind as long as i love him....my love for him was for eternity till the second we die.

# Chapter 3: Remember to Be

What you should know is that if you ever want to make this relationship last, I learned that you must take chances now, rather than hide, cause if you don’t want to try, you might lose the chance to do anything great. I learned love is not about being perfect, if I can love you for who you are, you should love me the way I am now. Love isn’t about perfection, we will have fights, but you got to let it go sometimes, or tell me it and help me solve it, I don’t like being left alone to solve something. If you want me to understand what you go through, tell me, show me you know what’s right for me, don’t tell me to learn on my own. You want me to be perfect for you, I will, but sometimes there are bumps on the road, when I might not do something right, you’ve got to help me. Relationships are about giving equal opinions, you told me that, and I want to tell you how I feel about things you’ve done, but I can’t because I don’t want to hurt your feelings.

There is this one girl you will love no matter how much pain they put you through, that might be me.

I forgive you for anything thus far, but I don’t forget because I don’t want to get hurt the same way twice and I don’t want to make the same mistake again.

If I wasn’t different, I wouldn’t have been remembered, or if anyone who loved me, would forget me.

I would tell you now, but I feel like you never really broke my heart, you just made it stronger.

All I want is for someone to stay, no matter how hard it is to be with me.

I learned that no matter what it is, I will do anything and everything for you, just to see you smile.

If I keep holding back my feelings because I’m afraid, I’ll end up getting hurt anyway.

We both feel we need someone who deserves us, but we both feel we don’t deserve each other, that why we’re both perfect for each other.

You have given me a lot of pain and because of that I love you even more.

A woman knows that she can do it herself, but only a man won’t let her out.

Don’t take her for granted because one day another man will come along and appreciate what you didn’t.

When I message you, it means I miss you, when I don’t message you, it means I want you to miss me.

If I can give you one thing in life, I would give you the ability to see yourself through my eyes, only then would you realize how much you mean to me.

HOW TO MAKE A MAN HAPPY

1. Feed him
2. Sleep with him
3. Don't check his phone
4. Don't bother him with his movements
5. Don’t lie to him
6. Trust Him
7. Communicate with him
8. Don’t ask him to spend so much on you
9. Don’t make him mad
10. Comfort him when he’s mad
11. Don’t ask him for so much

HOW TO MAKE A WOMAN HAPPY

1. Love her
2. Never leave her alone
3. Trust her
4. Listen to her
5. Understand her
6. Compliment her
7. Play with her
8. Surprise her
9. Never let her go
10. Don’t accuse her of things
11. Let her talk/explain
12. Kiss her everywhere and anywhere
13. Hug her tightly
14. Hold her hands more
15. Protect her
16. Never lie to her
17. Treat her like your most prized possession
18. Kiss her to make her stop talking
19. Don’t let her cry
20. Hug her is she does cry
21. Feed her even if she says she doesn’t want any
22. Cuddle with her when she’s cold (don’t ask, just do it!)
23. Sometimes you can lie to her to make her happy

# Chapter 4: I Have to Go

That is the first time i have ever heard you call me beautiful by the way…

not once in our entire relationship have you said anything besides

1. Fine
2. Pretty
3. Ugly
4. Ok

NO, YOU DON’T

OUT OF THE ENTIRE ONE YEAR RELATION HAVE YOU EVER SAID IT

YOU DIDNT DO ANYTHING WHATSOEVER TO MAKE ME FEEL GOOD INSIDE AND CONFIDENT IN MY OWN SKIN

EVERRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

I DON’T WANT THAT NOW, I DON’T NEED TO BE CALLED PRETTY OR BEAUTIFUL OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT

I DON’T CARE ANYMORE DO WHATEVER YOU WANT

YOU SHOULD KNOW HOW TO BE A GOOD BOYFRIEND BY NOW…. YOU’VE BEEN OTHER GIRLS’ BOYFRIEND BEFORE, WHY DON’T YOU KNOW NOW?? HUH??

You made me think how you felt all the time, what I did wrong, you made me think, AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN, why should i do that for you, huh...? You gave me meaningless clues to understand what you mean...learn in school, i went to a different school then you, your raised in a different family, your life, your personality, your characteristics is completely different from mine. Math, Science, all the classes in school has NOTHING to do with feeling, trying to figure a relationship is different from solving a math problem, YEAH YEAH attempt attempt, it won’t help just to think, life is not all about logic, relationships is not logic, it’s about how you feel.

HAHAHA HOPING? IT WOULD WORK? you don’t understand. everything in life is different, from family, school, relationships, and friends; everything you solve in each of those things are different PERIOD.

Don’t you ever dare say that you would die for me PERIOD end of discussion, no complaints.

Don’t let your jealousy go overboard…. jealousy is good in all, but over board is pain too much…. if you repeat the same jealously more than 5x then I’m not going to talk to you.

No more playing…. i don't want to play anymore... cuddling sure, hugging is fine, kissing is normal, etc., just no playing, why? because i don’t want to just like you for your touches, that’s how girls are, feeling the sex feeling is normal, that’s how girls react, but if there’s actual love in it too, it’s 10000000x better than just feeling the sex feeling only, after we build the love then we can play again, but for now, no playing.

No random gifts…. i don’t need to receive gifts every day.

I pay for my own food, i pay for myself only...i don't need you to pay for me.

ALWAYS DO YOUR HOMEWORK BEFORE YOU TALK TO ME, OR DO IT WHILE YOU TALK TO ME

# Chapter 5: The Joy of Giving Back

When:  October 11, 2015

             9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

What:  Seed Collecting:  Rock Run Stream Power Line Meadow

Where:  15033 Lee Hwy, Centerville, VA 20121

Who: Dat: Phuong, Sophie, Ellen and Seraphina - Dayana: Jisu, Leticia and Gabriel

We woke up early to go get something to eat. We got 7 Eleven food. We all met up at school, then we went to the place early, we made it bull run park but that was to u turn back to get to the place. On the way, we saw a big hole. It was a fun day, we raced to see who can get the most seeds It was easy pulling the seeds off its stem, but then after a while it started to hurt our hands, so we got gloves. We made a lot progress and Dat and Jisu got the most. Then Dat and I teamed up and we all headed deeper into the place. Sophie stayed behind. Jisu, Dayana, Ellen, Leticia, and Seraphina teamed up. Dat and I thought it was unfair, so we stopped trying to race and put ours all together except Sophie. Sophie wanted to fill her bag completely (to feel accomplished.) Our bag was really big. Then we found a turtle in the bushes, but it was hiding. I went to show Sophie, but the supervisors told me to put him back where we found him. Then about half way we had a snack break. It was red bean paste stuffed in a flakey bread. It tasted ok, but i gave a half to Sophie. The others were on the other side though, so we split up. Then Dat, me and Sophie headed to the car for water (i think) and then talked to the squad a bit. then we went back to where the supervisors were but when we got there, they said we were finished here. so, we had to walk back. After all the paper signing for community service hour we talked about where we wanted to go. Dat, Ellen, Sophie, Seraphina and I wanted to see the big hole up close. Then go to my house for eggrolls. Jisu, Gabriel, Dayana, and Leticia agreed, but when we went out we went straight across the road, and we could because there were no signs. But Dayana went right because she thinks it was wrong. They said they went to Giant instead of following us to see the hole. Then Dat wanted to go see a creek. And we did. But then Dayana's car went to school to meet up with us. But because Dat wanted to go see the creek we ended up not meeting up and they left to go drive Leticia to work at target in Mosaics. Dat’s car went to the creek, or Dam we should say, and we went Pedal boat riding. I didn’t want to go because:

1) I wanted to go hangout with the squad

2) I'm scared of falling into the water

3) I generally didn't want to go on the water boat thing

I ended up going on it anyways and I didn't like the feeling at all. Dat asked me why, so I said, "I don't want to go on." I tried to keep myself from getting angry or sad or make him feel bad, but I did because he could tell and because Sophie told him. I wanted to stay in the car. So i kept my distance too and walked fast/slower than them. Then we went home and ate eggrolls and I kept my distance from Dat and didn't say much. Then I showered and when I was done, he left to drive Ellen home. And we didn't talk till late that night.

When:  October 18, 2015

             10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

What: Native Species Planting (170 trees and shrubs) Zachary Taylor Park

Where:  2900 Military Rd

Arlington, VA  22207

Who:

Dat: Phuong, Sophie, Ellen and Seraphina

Dayana: Jisu, Trammy and Gabriel

So today was ok. We woke up and bought coffee with tacos and hotdogs. Then we meet up with them at school. Then on the way there I wasn't happy cause I don't like the loud music distracting Dat and I go mad and kept quite till we go there. When we got there, we met up with Trammy. We all shared coffee/mocha/hot chocolate except Dat forgot his mocha on the car. Jisu didn't like hang's coffee because it was too sweet so he drank mine, Gabriel drank with Sophie and Dayana, and Trammy drank Seraphina's coffee. I didn’t want to have Dat get mad, so I gave the rest to Jisu. We had fun planting trees together. It would be nice if we paired up guy and girl, so the girls didn't need to do a lot of work, but the girls did their own. Dat and paired up of course and Trammy and hang paired up.

Dat and I: 7 planted

Trammy and Seraphina: ~

Sophie: 4~

Dayana:

Ellen:

Gabriel:

Jisu: 5~

While I was helping Sophie a bit I accidently swallowed a piece of gum >.<. We took pics together and alone I photo bombed Dayana's photo though.  Then afterwards we ate snacks, which tasted delicious, and got our paper signed. We got our papers from the car and drove it closer, so we can drive out easier, but parking was hard. After we got our papers signed, we discussed about what we should eat. We had an argument about eating out or barbecue at round tree park. I didn't like how we can’t go to a final decision. I was unhappy and frustrated so i took the car keys and sat in the car till they finished. I understand that hang and Dat wanted to go barbecuing because it's nice to cook food yourself and it's cheaper than eating out. But we're eating out occasionally so Jisu, Dayana, Sophie, and Ellen wanted to go eat out. The things I didn't like was:

Seraphina was being loud, so Dayana wasn't happy...

Jisu was annoyed (I think) ...

Dayana rolled her eyes because she just wanted to get the bickering over with...

Dat got pissed because it wasn’t going his way...

Ellen thought this was too much work (which i kind of agree) ...

They all or strictly speak to each other which was so depressing for me

Because Seraphina and Dat were so persistent, we ended up going barbecuing at round tree park. We had to go to H-Mart to buy food first and we did, we went separate ways, but we met up at H-Mart near Luther. Then Jisu chose the meat with hang and Ellen then left to go to target to buy the extra stuff and to go Gabriel’s house for the coal, tongs, bowl, knife, etc. Dat yells at us (me) because Jisu choose such expensive meet. so, we put some back and got other meat that were already seasoned. Then we bought potatoes and other Korean condiments/side dishes. It costed us $70. Dayana's team spend $32 and had to drive to Gabriel's house to get the other stuff. Then we meet up at the park. We got there first and waited till Dayana's team came. We all tried to start the fire for the grill but it didn't work so Dat got pissed because "people try to do things they don't know how to do" which counteracts with his philosophy "trying to do things is a good way to learn to do things" which he taught me when I should be more "strong" in the family and know how to use the leaf blower at home... Then once the fire finally works we started to cook but the smoke was killing Trammy's and Jisu’s eyes, so we fanned the smoke away. We also stood around because it was warmer there and it was fun hangout and cooking with them. Though Dat was still pissed so he sat at the table alone. I left him alone, so he could think after I heard what he had to say. Then Dat started lecturing us about how to fan the smoke. When he did it, it got worst... When Sophie and I did it we did well. Then when some of the meat was cooked, we brought it to the table. Then the other meat that was done while we cooked more, we feed each other. Seraphina feed Sophie and Gabriel. Jisu Feed me. It was beef and it tastes cooked. Then we finally chilled down with the whole argument thing and ate as a family which was nice. They said to each other though that they wished they would have eaten out instead of cooking out in the cold outdoors and barbeque next time in the warmer weather. And they all agreed! Then Dayana had to leave to drive her sister home and then come back. Dat and Trammy ate a lot, I didn’t eat a lot because I wasn’t happy, and I thought the pork was dry. Then after we ate Dat drove Trammy and Ellen home, while the rest of us cleaned up. Then we split up what we wanted to bring home. Dayana and I playfully argued about who takes the paper napkins, but then I got the big paper roll and Dayana got the napkins. We thought Dayana, Jisu, and Gabriel left. But they didn't. We thought they forgot the wood coal and gas liquid thing, so we called, and we saw Gabriel. He said they were actually waiting for us :). We all went into Dayana's car till Dat got back to pick us up. We talked, and it was fun :). Then Dat came back, he wanted to be funny and stayed where Dayana could reverse. Then we waved, and Dayana was going to reverse and almost hit the car, so it was funny. So, we got home, and I showered, and I haven't heard from Dat till later that night.

When: November 1, 2015

           11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

What: Collecting Indian Grass Seeds

Where: 15500 Lee Hwy, Centreville

Who:

Dat: Sophie, Phuong, Seraphina, Ellen

Dayana: Jisu and Gabriel

So Today Dat had to wake up early to drive his mom to the airport with his family. He made it on time to drive us to the place though. We woke early since today was daylight savings day, we woke up at 8:00ish and go ready, we ate breakfast too. I was texting Dat to see if he wanted to eat a sandwich but he wouldn’t answer or pick up when i called. I wasn’t mad. My dad drove us to school and waited. On the way, Dat called and said he was on his way so I told him to meet at school. We got there first then Ellen. Her grandmother and brother (Kenney) drove him to the school. Then Dat came. Dat came so my dad left after he dropped us off. Dat told me to call where the others are. Dayana said she went to pick up Jisu. Then we all got on the car and waited for the others to come, then i asked him where his community service paper is. He said "Oh shot! I left it at home." So, we went home to get it. Then he got other food for snacks. Then We left but he remembered that he had his new shoes on so we went back to get it. Then Dayana called and I said were coming. She said she was already there, but when we got there we didn’t see her. So, we waited a bit. Then they came. Jisu asked for the address so i gave it to him. Then off we went. We were right next to each other on Jaguar Trail entering route 495. I wanted to feed Dat a fruit snack but when he ate it he didn’t want it so i took it out of his mouth and ate it, then the people in the back said "ew" then they rolled down the screen and told Dayana and the others. I said it's ok cause we’re gf and bf, and talked about how me and grandma kisses mouth to mouth cause i was biting off a small piece of a food for my grandma =\_=. they said i was weird. It was weird for me too, i felt a bit out of place and stupid for saying it, then when we entered into route 495 and split up. DJG always goes into the easy route and we took the fastest route. Then when we got there it was a big area but not the same as the place we went at the powerline. It was near a house that looked abandoned. We saw crows on top of the chimney and it spooked us out a bit. DJG came later, Toni, our supervisor was there only. We collected Indian grass while we waited for them to come. Dat, Jisu, and Gabriel came later and helped. Jisu said he didn’t like do this type of stuff. Then Jisu, Sophie, and Seraphina went on the other side. The rest of us stayed where we were. I got closer to Dat cause he wanted to talk while collecting the seeds. Then Jisu, Sophie and Seraphina came back after a bit and said it was wet over there. Then we got into a break and only filled 1/4 of the bag. We ate cookies and candy since it was after Halloween Toni wanted us to at least fill one bag. But after the break only Dayana, Sophie, Ellen, Dat and I continued to collect seed while Gabriel, Jisu and Seraphina just stood there and eat and did nothing. Dat got mad so we tried moving farther from them. Toni found Three dead bodies of deer so I got scared. Then we went back and Toni said to Dat that he should tell our team to motivate them to continue working. But they didn’t listen at first. We continued to collect but there weren’t a lot left so we went to the other side. We found a lot and collected more and then Dat, Jisu, Gabriel, and Seraphina came to help but then after a while Jisu and Gabriel went back. Dat kept telling me how they are bad cause they aren’t helping but eating food that’s supposed to reward us for what we accomplished. Then Grandma called Sophia cause I left my phone in the car. Then Toni said we were done and only ended up getting half a bag. Dat felt bad and said he doesn’t want to control the group if they're like that. We headed home.

When: November 8, 2015

           10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

What: Native Species Planting: Rutherford Park

Where: Rutherford Park, Fairfax VA, 22032

Who:

Dat: Sophie Phuong Seraphina Ellen

Dayana: Jisu Gabriel Leticia

So, it was like any other morning so we got food to eat and got gasoline, but because Dat was mad, we went there a little late. Gabriel and Ellen got there first and waited. We were going to be late. Dat wasn’t super made when i fed him tacos. When we got there, we waited for Dayana, Jisu and Leticia. Then Leticia came so off we went. We got there pretty quick cause it was a 13-min drive. But DJGL couldn’t find the way cause the GPS wasn’t right. We followed the GPS but I saw the entrance to the park so we went back. Then we got off the car and waited for them. we talked and played and piggy back and carried me. DJGL took too long so we called them but they said they were still on their way. so, we went in. Jisu called Sophie and asked for direction so I took the phone and Dat's phone for the GPS. Jisu said this was BS so he wanted to go home. So I helped him but he couldn’t figure out what I meant so Dat took the phone and told him to go to where the GPS told him to go, but then he found where we were. We started to take down some thorny plants and kept the rest that they said was ok. Then they came and Jisu tried to cut a thick tree trunk out of the ground but when he pulled, he let go and flew back, I didn’t see it but Seraphina told me and Sophie and I smiled while Seraphina and Jisu laughed.

When: November 15, 2015

           10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

What: Native Species Planting: Eakins Park

Where: 3401 Prosperity Ave, Fairfax VA 22031

Who:

Dat: Phuong, Sophie, Seraphina, Ellen

# Chapter 6: Only I Can Love Me More Than Me

I learned that my friends and Sophia are the only things that will make me happy because they don’t judge me like he did. I learned that loving someone isn’t easy. I had put my time and effort into figuring out who he is and what he liked, what he wanted from me, but the thing that I missed is that he only loved me for my personality and my body, he never loved who I was. I was a tomboy, I liked wearing baggy jeans and just a sweater cause i just wanted to stay normal. I wanted to hide. I just wanted to be left alone cause no one in my family cared.

I thought he cared for me and knew what I needed, he changed me into a girl that dressed like a girl. I didn’t think much cause my family, mostly my little sister, thought that I was too boyish. I listened to him. He told me to be the top, he wanted me to be the best in my family, he wanted me to have power? I always never liked the spotlight like my little sister did. I never liked having power. I just wanted to be ordinary. Being ordinary meant no drama. He never liked drama, but he got me into the drama and I dragged him into it. We did things like go out and I would sneak out to go to his house and we would do things like watch anime or play with his niece and other things that I didn’t know how to respond to. I’m glad we didn’t go too far. I don’t want to experience anything like that again because I was always worried after anything we do together.

After a couple of months, things didn’t go well cause my little sister was on top of me and he didn’t like it. Instead of trying to cheer me up, he made me think about what I did wrong, repeatedly over the 1st year we were together. I was never happy with him, but i don’t know why I stayed with him. I tried breaking up with him, but I wrote to him about how he treated me and he said he would change. It was my first relationship so I thought “Why not?” We went back to dating, it was still the same to me, nothing changed much. He still didn’t call me anything close to beautiful. He didn’t cheer me up when I was sad. I was really mad at him.

It was around time for homecoming and I really wanted to go with him, I don’t know why though. He said, “Do you want me to go with you?” The dumbest question I had ever heard. Every girls’ dream is to dance with her loved one. So, I did something I regretted, I went to homecoming without him. I was furious. I had a guy friend who liked a girl friend of mine so i set them up. That guy said that if he kissed the girl he liked, Jimmy would kiss me. I didn’t think much so I let him kiss me on the cheek. That's really all that happened that was so out there for me. That girl friend of mine and another of my girl friend somehow thought it was ok to tell him what happened. I was stupid to think that they wouldn’t tell him. He kept it inside till the end of the week and told me he heard it from a person who was there. He said that they caught it on camera. I didn’t believe that it was out there. I regretted what I did, i hurt him really badly. He was extremely disappointed in me and he said he got post traumatic disorder. I don't think I want to hurt anyone that badly anymore so I thought that I would never fall for anyone again.

Somehow things got better, but he made it clear that I wasn’t allowed to talk to jimmy and his friend ever again. So, I never spoke to him till I ended things with him. That was the biggest mistake I ever did in my first relationship. After that we pretty much spent every day together till our two-year anniversary.

Oh, after our first month together I made him a card, I worked hard on it but he just left it in his room hidden in his drawers. And I made him one for our first and second year anniversary and he put it in his drawer too. I gave him a stuffed animal. He hid it in his backpack. When our relationship nearly ended, I asked him what happened to it all. He said he would go find it. I was a bit sad, but mostly angry of all my hard work was lost. When he gave it back to me, I found my artwork was torn apart and drawn on. I thought “that's such a waste of my time, if he wasn’t going to show it off i would have never done that” but all I did was leave without saying anything. When he gave me gifts, I was happy at first, but then I look at the price tag and it was just too expensive. I didn’t like it when he bought me expensive things and I told him that. I showed off the things he bought me.

Throughout this relationship, all he did was bought me things and changed me into a girl or women he liked. I don’t know why I stayed with him for two years and I regretted it all.

# Chapter 7: I Never Saw You One Last Time

I though you would get better. I thought you weren’t going to be extremely sick. Uncle why did you leave us? You didn’t see us graduate high school or college. As soon as I hear you were in the hospital I cried, I couldn’t sleep. I couldn’t

# Chapter 8: His Infinite Love

I never thought that I would fall in love again after letting my tears fall so much for him. I thought he was my everything. I thought to myself that I was never get a boyfriend, I thought I was never going to get married, I will forever be single and alone and die alone with Sophia. Like one friend said, “Singles forever!” no need for boys in your life because boys can cause a girl so much pain. I laughed every time I heard that. I dreamed good dreams since the day I broke up with him. When I thought about him I was not happy, I thought to myself, I am such a fool for wasting two years with him.

Senior year and I was single again, the feeling of being free came to me like opening a door to this white canvas. I had never felt so free in my life. I liked being single, I was breathing again and living the life I wanted. I was happy again doing what I wanted to do with my life.

I wanted to something only I could own, just one thing. I wanted it, I needed it. I had it before, but then I lost it. That thing I want to find was not an object that I could hold. It was a thought that I needed to have intertwined with someone who had the same thought as me.

That thought could be shared by everyone if their hearts wanted to. Even when I had that thought before. It happened when I was at the point where everyone found someone else to share that though with. It disappeared and faded away from me and the people I had shared that thought with. When that thought disappeared, I was broken, I was depressed to the point I wanted to disappear with it from this world I live on.

When I thought that I found it I put my heart, my soul, and my tears to keep it, but because of my ignorance, I had lost it again.

Once again, another encounter has changed that. I believe this person I met that day will change it all. He’s the one who got me to write this book, this diary of mine to tell you the journey that I took to get to him and while I share this thought with him.

Today was the day of Prom, Sophia, Lena, Seraphina and I were getting ready in a relative’s house that’s in front of our school. I saw how handsome and pretty everyone was, but somehow, I was most captured by Ace, I thought I started liking him at that moment. We all went on a party bus and Jimmy was there too. Sophia and I tried to put on white people music on and all the white (not trying to be racist here) girls didn’t like the music we were playing. Though they liked black people music that Angel put on. We went to Tyson’s galleria to take photos and eat at the cheesecake factory. When we got on the party bus to go to the prom, Sophia and I were cold so we asked Jimmy and Ace to give us their coat. Then we went to Prom and I was really having fun, I’m glad I didn’t see him there. I danced with my friends. When we got to the party no one was dancing till we got on the dance floor. It was really funny to me to see that. Most of the girls were dancing but barely any guys were dancing. So, I went to ask them, and they said they didn’t want to dance. Sophia and I dragged them out onto the dance floor and grabbed their hands and made them dance and we were having fun. Then a bad song came up and we sat down.

Hoping forward, it was almost the end of prom so I dragged Sophie and Jimmy and Ace and Lena and hang and her friend to dance and somehow the DJ put on a slow song. Ace somehow started to dance with my little sister. I was shocked. I didn’t know what to do except look away and danced with Sophia and holding her hand and somehow she didn’t like and it and put my hands on jimmy…. I didn’t know what to do so i continued to dance with him and then I turned around and notice Ace and Sophia dancing together. It was weird cause I told her before we left my cousin’s house that i liked Ace. Ace liked Sophia and Sophia liked Ace since then and I was mad at her. Not because she took him away from me. But because she later told me that she doesn’t trust people. People including me. It was two years ago that she liked him and I never knew about it till I liked him…. I tried cooling down and I eventually did after talking to Brian about it.

# Chapter 9: I’m Ready to Begin Again

After all that happened when we met at young life. I didn’t think much when Sophie told you about how there’s a part of the activities we did that we had to carry each other princess style.

I said, “Sophie you’re my partner.” as I thought “Sophie you’re going to carry me!”

She responded “I have Ace”

I said “What about me? If he’s your partner, who will be my partner?”

Then I thought to myself, I wonder if Raishiko will be my partner, and I asked you if you could carry 100 pounds since that’s how much I weigh.

Raishiko said he could.

Then we went down to play on the football field. Brian ripped his pants so Raishiko went with Ace to go get a new pair for him. When Raishiko and Ace got back we were playing the game. Sophia and I went to get Raishiko and Ace. Then we ran back to play the game. I was smiling somehow when he carried me, and I was wondering if he was tired of carrying me. I thought he looked cute. Raishiko and Ace said they were sorry for being all sweaty and we said it was okay. I thought aww how sweet of you to say that.

When we did the color/powder run I was trying to throw powder, but it didn’t come out and I was just laughing. Raishiko hit me with shaving cream so Sophia and I were trying to get back at him, but he kept trying to dodge till I snuck behind him and hit the back of his neck. I had a fun time with him so I wanted to know him more. When we took a break after we took pictures I asked for his drink and I was thinking “an indirect kiss!” Sophia thought I liked Raishiko because he resembles Ace. I like him because he was fun to hang out with and Ace scared me a little. I wouldn’t date him because he was in the military and I was scared he would get hurt. I wish no war breaks out anytime that I am alive. When we had to go home, I was sad to go. But it had to end.

# Chapter 10: The Very Beginning

I think it was during the all-night graduation party that I really started liking you. We did a lot together. You carried me on your shoulder and I thought, “does he like me?” I was watching you have fun and it made me happy! When we were swimming, you said you don’t know how to swim so i smiled and thought “we have something in common.” Playing blackjack was fun. When we were watching the magician, I was thinking all sorts of things.

Should I kiss him when it’s almost time to leave? He’s so cute when he fell because of the first act! Does he like me?

I was smiling a lot when I was next to you.

I was also thinking, it’s finally over, high school was finally over… What am I going to do without my friends? All those memories, I want to make more memories with everyone! I’m going to miss everyone…

I started to love again, he’s moving to VT, what can I do? I want to know more about him. I want to see his face more. I started crying by the time we had to leave.

I was trying to cry as much as i could because this is the end. I wanted to get a hug from you. I remember wearing your hat to hide, because I think I look bad when I cry. I like wearing your hat. I was glad we got to have a group hug, but cause my dad was there, that was better than nothing. I cried so much after we got home because I didn’t think we would see each other again. I’m glad Ace brought you with him when he wanted to see Sophia. It was awkward for me to try to talk to you so I would always ask Sophia to ask Ace about you to see what I could talk to you about. It didn’t really work till I started reading your light novel and found out you know how to draw and you played the piano. That’s when I really started liking you and I wanted to talk to you more so I asked Ace for your number but you gave it to me.

# Chapter 11: Acting on Your Own

“What time is your party?”

“I don’t know haven’t decided yet, probably 2-3ish to whenever.”

“Oh okay”

Shit I jumped out of that piano seat so fast

Lol yeah

Do you care that my house was messy> because my grandma yelled at me for making the house unpresentable?

Nah, it’s way more fun than Brian’s house. Are you going to get yelled at about us?

We already got lectured, but it’s play. Oh, and how is my house more fun than Brian’s house, there’s more freedom at Brian’s than mine.

Yeah, but he’s annoying while you guys are fun and it you didn’t get in trouble that’s fine

How are we fun? He can’t be that annoying besides his snore.

You don’t even know how annoying he is. It’s just fun to talk to you. How was my piano playing? Lol Haven’t played for a long time

I like it a lot. It brings me peace watching you.

Lol, I could tell with you leaning over my shoulder. I think my piano playing brought your grandma out.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*

It was Sophie and my first time entering a boy’s house

You know you make bold moves even though we’re not dating, I never would have expected that from you lol

I wanted to get you to like me, so I was planning this since you told me I was invited to you house

Lol it’s okay

Is it too much?

I told this to Ace when I first realized that you liked me, “I don’t think of her like that, but if she is able to make me fall for her, I will,” so just do you.

Lol really?

You should’ve seen his reaction lol it was like an anime line.

What did he say?

“OOOOOOOOOH SHIT, This nigga”

LOL

How do you feel about me now then?

Like I said before when you asked. I want to date you, it’s complicated right now because if we were to go out, you have a strict grandma and I leave in August, so we won’t see each other often.

“oh okay, I can wait. I’ll definitely wait! As long as we can talk on here, I don’t mind waiting”

Yeah, but I know the pain of being apart

Yeah, I’m already afar from you. I miss you a lot, your bed, holding your hands, and your soft face.

Lol it’s still complicated though.

I know, but I will still say it to you whenever I get the chance.

We’ll just see how I feel as this continues.

Oki doki

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*

I’m still thinking about what happened yesterday. I can’t get over it! I’m so embarrassed.

Lol why? It’s not like it made me think bad of you, so you should be happy that you actually did it.

I’m still embarrassed. I don’t regret it though.

It came out of nowhere though. I didn’t expect you to kiss me, then run out of my room as fast as you can lol.

Lol yeah.

It would’ve been nice if you kept hugging me even after the kiss.

Aww, maybe next time.

It’s kind of fun teasing you. I let you in my bed and sat next to you during the game to see if you would do something

Bu…bu…but why do I have to make the move lol.

Because you’re the one that has to make me like you

My heart is still beating so fast thinking about it.

That’s normal though

It’s not normal for me, I like you more than I know, just thinking about it does this to me?

Thinking about the person you like is supposed to make your heart beat faster

How is it fun teasing me?

It just is

And Sophie said that Ace told her that you don’t like people sitting on your bed

It’s more like a rule that only applies to guys and I don’t ike my bed sheets being messed up. It’s like I don’t want to sleep in the bed with another guy cause that’s weird so if another were on my bed, his scent would be around me as I sleep.

Oh okay that’s good, I would feel bad if it applied to me too.

You have no mercy though lol, you ran straight into my bed and under my blanket as soon as you walked in

Why?

What do you mean why?

Sorry!

It’s fine lol

It won’t happy again.

I already said it’s fine

Ok oki!

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*

Sorry, tell Ace I’m sorry too

We’re not mad it’s okay lol

I can’t hug you

Too many people

I know, I’m holding it in

I was gonna do it outside but you walked in immediately lol

You should’ve stopped me

You went too far ahead an Ace was in the way

Lol you pushed me and my heart is beating really fast, I wish it was longer

I sayw someone’s foot and panicked, my bad.

Lol, oh okay.

How many times did you kiss me? I lost count after atleast five.

I don’t know lol did you like it?

Lol of course, it made me feel hot inside

You should’ve taken off your sweater then.

Lol I’m not actually hot, but my heart is burning up and it was good.

That’s good

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*

What?

You didn’t say anything

Lol, honestly because I think it’s too soon to say that

Oh okay

Sorry

I think your action are faster than your words in this relationship

Lol, but a kiss is a kiss

Not to me

Oh really, my bad

Lol it’s okay, actions speak louder than words, so when you kissed me so many times, I assumed…

It’s fine, I’m the type of person who wants more physical affection than words

Lol I do too

By the way, I head your dad is really mad at us.

Yeah, he isn’t happy because you didn’t say hi.

F\*\*\*, yeah, I forgot to say hi and didn’t realize it because you said to go downstairs.

I think he was talking about when we were going into the room

Yeah, but I thought about saying hi when we first went upstairs

Oh

Ace said that he said he doesn’t want to see us again.

What? I don’t believe that my dad would say that.

That’s what Ace said and honestly I feel really bad

First impressions are important to them I guess

Of course, it’s really disrespectful in Asian culture, my dad literally just got mad at Patrick for not doing that yesterday and I made the same mistake.

I guess next time you’ll have to say hi

Ace and I are planning to be peasants and bow 90 degrees to say hi

Lol I would do the same

I feel really bad it though

It’s okay

It’s not though, if I’m going to be dating you I need approval form your parents

Sucks cause my Viet sucks too

Lol, my parents understand English so you could just say Hi

Yeah, but it would be better if I speak Viet, it seems like you’re not taking this seriously because Ace is freaking out and Sophie is sad.

I can teach you Viet if you want. Of course, I’m taking this seriously, this is the first time in a long time that I have to worry about how my parents think of a guy I like.

Did your other boyfriends have good impressions?

You’re my second boyfriend. My first boyfriend’s first impression wasn’t good either.

How did he fix it

Yeah, my grandparents didn’t like how I was sitting so close to him so I got in trouble and not him, my parents didn’t say much.

Since your dad said something about me, doesn’t that make it worst?

A little bit

S\*\*\*. Did we say hi to your mom?

Yeah you did and you said bye.

Okay good, at least I got that and we also said hi to some of your aunts, just didn’t get the chance for the males.

Uh huh! Yeah, you okay?

Still feel bad, your support helps though

That’s good.

I used to be fluent in Viet but my family kept making fun of my simple Viet so I lost it

That’s terrible, my family understands my Viet, but I’m better at reading and writing Viet than speaking Viet.

I don’t read or write at all and honestly, I don’t care as long as I can speak

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*

When are, you leaving for Ocean City?

The 9th then I come back on the 11th

Hope you have fun

Eh, I do this every year, it gets a bit boring

Really? I haven’t been on a Vacation in a long time so I can’t really say much.

I don’t think I can handle waiting a week till I can see you again, I’m gonna miss you so much

I am too but it’s going to be harder once I leave for college

How many years are you planning to study for? I plan to study or 6 years

Four right now, I might go for 6 to get my masters If I have to though

I can only get a minor or a master’s in graphic design.

That’s cool, you can draw, right?

Yeah, but not as good as you

Nah I don’t draw that well, it takes multiple attempts and a lot of erasing to draw what I do. When did you start drawing?

I started drawing in 5th grade, you?

1st, then I stopped in middle school and got back in 10th grade and started really drawing original characters last year.

Oh

I don’t know it’s just something that randomly clicked on day when I tried to draw original character and now I’ve gotten better with practice and repetition

That’s good, I need to draw again, I haven’t actually tried to draw something original since 10th grade

I could try teaching you sometime

I would love to learn to draw from you

Okay just ask me whenever you feel like it and when we get a chance, By the way, that would be the perfect day for you? Just curious.

Umm, a perfect day for me would be sitting on your lap and I watch you play games and I draw or we could both me watching anime in your comfy bed

That would be nice, but I don’t think that’s going to happen anytime soon.

Yeah

If I ever do anything you don’t like, make sure you tell me ok>

Oki doki, same thing for me, if I say or do anything wrong tell me.

Okay, we need good communication for a good relationship

Uh huh! Do you like abstract art?

Yeah, because I’m kind of an artist myself, I appreciate all kinds of art.

I want to be able to draw anime/manga art, but I’m best at abstract art and calligraphy

That’s like the opposite of me lol

Lol

We could team up to draw a manga. I do the people, you do the background, perfect team

I would like that a lot

Oh, I forgot to ask, but what do you consider a perfect day?

Hmmm, yours sounded really nice. I can’t really think of anything else, I’m fine with anything as long as you’re there.

Me too. Do you think if any of this would happened earlier if I had met you in 9th grade if I had taken piano instead of Sophie?

Honestly probably not because I didn’t talk to Ace then and I wouldn’t have hung out with you until senior year.

Oh

Plus, I wasn’t as open as I am now back then.

Yeah, I wasn’t too

Yeah you should remember how I was back in Jag

Yeah, I remember

We’re dating, right?

Yeah, why wouldn’t we be?

So, that means you’re my girlfriend right?

Yes, and you’re my boyfriend.

Okay, just wanted to make sure.

You’re talking to Ace, right?

Yeah, lol

Yeah, I thought so

Either way, it’s nice hearing you say I’m yours

# Chapter 12: Waiting at the Edge

Ocean City and Lena’s Birthday Party

The last time I saw Raishiko and Ace with Sophia was a week for Lena’s Birthday. Every year we had this tradition where we would go to Ocean City or Virginia Beach. It was

# Chapter 13: I’m Going to Make This Work

Saying good bye to Raishiko and Ace

# Chapter 14: Make That Two Months

Seeing Raishiko again after 2 weeks and couldn’t see him in October

# Chapter 15: I Stopped My Thoughts

Seeing Raishiko 2 months later (4-month anniversary)

Today is Halloween, but because I’m a college student now I felt too old going door to door for candy even though I love sweets. It’s only four days left till I get to see Raishiko again. Waking up today was really hard because I really didn’t want to go to school so early in the morning. Classes were the same, a sociology lecture, then a chemistry lecture and then I went home.

Well actually I went over to Sophie’s school to go visit her today because I miss her. I missed spending time with her.

One Day Left

He seems to have gotten mad at me for being scared of lying to my grandma. He said I wasn’t a kid anymore, so I shouldn’t be scared.

I thought, does being scared meant you’re a kid? I’m 19 now, I know I’m not a kid, I don’t act like one.

I told him that I don’t act like one at least. I don’t like it when he yells at me like that. It scares me. I don’t want him to be mad and I don’t want to lose him either. Everything became silent and I just laid in bed hearing the fans blow in his room.

He told me Alpha was going to take Ace around when Ace gets back. Then when he gets home with Jason, Alpha was going to pick him up and talk about it. He said that if everything goes well they might come to our house to visit me and Sophie. As soon as I heard that I wanted to tell Sophie. While I was telling her about their plan, I forgot to tell her that they might come over. He seemed mad at me and told me I forgot to say maybe and said I shouldn’t have to tell other people everything that he says to me. I told him that I wasn’t tell anyone except Sophie because this plan involves her.

I fixed my mistake and told Sophie about and then stopped because I didn’t feel excited anymore to continue and went back to writing my story.

I just finished my Friday class went over to dad’s friend’s house, went grocery shopping with dad on the ways home, got home and was

Today I woke up at 8 AM to go with my mom to “go to work” with Sophia and went to Raishiko’s house. My mom and Sophia dropped me off in the front of Raishiko’s house and then I knocked on to his front door till his mom answered the door.

“Hi ma’am,” I said to his mom

She replied by letting me into the house, I entered and took off my shoes. Even though I knew where Raishiko was, I asked her where Raishiko is and she pointed into the little hall next to the stairs. I went through the little hallway next to the stairs that lead to top floor towards a closed door. I opened it up to see him just lying there in the bed. I slowly walked to him, but then I remembered I had to close the door so I turned around closed the stairs. I knew I had to lock it too, but I didn’t. I turned back and quietly went to the side where he was sleeping. I took off my backpack, then my sweater, and then my socks. I stuck into his blanket and tried to hug him. Before I could lay down next to him, he woke up and kissed and hugged me really tightly. I laughed and hugged him back. The first thing he said was “ is the door locked?”

I responded “ no”

He asked “why?”

I said “I forgot”

Then he told me “go close the door.” I got up and went to close the door and then got back into bed with him. We cuddle, kissed each other, and rolled around like two little cubs playing with each other. I laughed every time he kissed me because I missed his kisses and to tell him I like getting kisses from him.

# Chapter 16: I Want Him More Now

Thanksgiving

# Chapter 17: Our First Christmas Love

Dec. 2

I miss you a lot uncle, where are you now? Are you watching over us? I want to see to see you again, I want you to wact us graduate from high school and college. Your family misses you, aunt misses you a lot. I’m crying now because of you. I want to go back to the old days where we can be going to ocean city or anywhere. I miss my nickname that you use to call me. I miss hearing your voice. I miss ding things for you uncle. I miss you a lot. My boyfriend brandon asked me if ii’m ok that’s all. He didn’t try to cheer me up this time. I waited for him. I didn’t say anything cause I didn’t want to bother him while he’s watching his movie or youtube videos. Why didn’t he ask me why I’m crying about my uncle all of a sudden. Of course I know I would say I don’t know cause I really don’t, but it would have been nice.

December 11, 2016

Today I’m 19 now uncle, I went to eat at ihop for breakfast and saw my ex coworker from giant and he was our waiter. He got us ice cream and the food was good. Afterwards we went shopping and I had a lot of looking for clothes to buy and new pjs to wear. I’m trying to look nice for Brandon when I’m out and even at home when I skype with him. Then we went to uncle binh’s birthday party and got presents. Brandon asked why I took pics of my underwear that I just bought. I said sorry, but he didn’t reply. I got scared and worried, maybe becoause I’m about to be on my period that’s why I’m a little over thinking this. I’m scared unlce of growing, I now I can take care of everyone, but I can’t picture myself growing up to be good enough to do anything. I’m scared ut tam.i’m scared of losing brandon, I feel like I don’t deserve his love, he wants a more feminine women than me, I don’t lime my femini side cause don’t have the boobs or butt for it. I don’t know how to cook like he does, I’m not as photogenic as hang. I’m not pretty as hang and oanh with makeup. I’m scared brandon won’t like me. He said he dreamnt about how hang likes him, but dreams are suppose to tell you what you want. I’m scared he might like hang more than me cause I’m nothing compared to hang, the only thing I’m better than her at is being conciderate and helpful. She’s pretty, smart, over achiever, a leader, dresses nicely, more mature, looks older, so she’s better than me at a lot of things. While I’m at the mall taking pics for Brandon of my new outfit ideas, he told me I need to puff out my boobs and stick out my butt more. The thing is I got very little of both. I’m disappointed in myself for not bothering about those two things to make myself more girly and feminine and a women of perfection to make Brandon like me more. I know that’s not something I should care about, but that’s the only thing on my mind right now. I want bigger boobs or a bigger but I’ve never liked those things in the first place cause those are as important as what’s inside. I’m so confused right now, I don’t know what to do, what should I do unlce. I’m scared, I’m very scared right now, I know it’s my birthday so I waited thill after midnight to cry and rant about this to you. I’m sorry for making you worried, I love you and I miss you a lot uncle. I wish you were still here, but I know you’re in a better place now. I hope to see you soon uncle.

Jan. 11

I haven’t written to you in a while uncle, I’m sorry, I’ve been busy with school and my boyfriend Brandon. I want to tell you that I feel sad today. I’m listening to reflection from Mulan and it hurts, just like the lyrics said, I’ll never pass for a perfect bride or a daughter. I want to do so much better than what I’m doing right now, but it’s weird, I don’t, I can’t, and I’ve tried to do my best to be better and be someone I want to be. It hurts a lot because I can’t talk about it to anyone really. I don’t want to tell Brandon cause he’s leaving again soon and I only want to bring and tell him happy and good things. I don’t know why, I’m looking just in the mirror, I want to see what’s inside me and reflect it to what’s on the outside. I want people to know I’m nice and hardworking and changing for the better (cheesy, but true), I want to look sexy and hot and act sexy and hot for brandon, I want to be a house wife and work outside my house (if you know what I mean.) I want to be able to help my family and friends when they need me the most. I want to be happy with who I am. I want to smile when I look in the mirror, I want to see my inner beauty reflect on my outside. I don’t like that I’m not ne and not good enough for brandon and worthless to my family. I want to grow, I want to be better, I want to be prettier, I want to be smarter, I want to be braver, I want to be stronger, I want to be helpful, and I want to change!! I don’t like the me that I see in the mirror these past 19 years. Help me!! I love Brandon, I want to be worth his love and be hos perfect wife, I want him to wake up smiling when he sees me, cause I will definitely wake up smiling when I see his face next to me, I love him dearly, I never want to make him sad cause he always makes me happy, I would do anything for him, I will miss him when he leaves for Virginia Tech, but I love this distance relationship between us because it make me feel sad and that tells me that I really want him back home when we see each other and seeing him home again makes the butterflies in my stomach flutter all over again which makes me know that what my heart wants is him and my body wants him. Uncle, why make love so painful and so lovely at the same time? How can he be someone I think about so much even in my sleep? How can someone like him love someone like me? What has he done to me to make me so happy and sad to know when he’s not by my side hugging me and kissing me and making me crazy. He’s just o perfect like in a fairy tale or the nerdy prince in a movie. I want to do more to be fit to be his girlfriend and be able to marry a guy like him. Uncle, please watch over me and lead me to the right path to bring me where he is, cause right now I’m so far away from him so I got a long way to go.

# Chapter 18: The Sun Shines Brighter

1 1/2 months + spring break

# Chapter 19: After the First Snow Fall

March 13, 2017

As soon as woke up I got ready for work, I looked at the clock and it was 11:32 as I rushed out to walk to work. The day before I went online to check my schedule for school and I saw that I wasn’t scheduled for work at all this week. As the person that I am I was worried cause I was worried that I would get fired if I didn’t show up. So, when I got there I checked all the departments that I would usually work at. First Starbucks, then the bakery department, and last was seafood, all in vain, I wasn’t scheduled for work. I went straight to my store manager, Moe, and asked him “why I wasn’t put on schedule this week at all.”

He answered, “because you told me so many things that your mom wanted for you to do at work”

“Sorry” I replied

“

March 14, 2017

March 15, 2017

March 16, 2017

March 17, 2017

March 18, 2017

March 19, 2017

My Spring Break started three days ago and today Brandon is leaving

March 20, 2017

March 21, 2017

March 22, 2017

March 23, 2017

Second day back from spring break and history class was cancelled. It was pretty much a good start of my day today. When I woke up to my alarm to hear that I was already over joyed and wide awake so I couldn’t fall asleep. First thing I did always was to snapchat my friends, good morning, then snapchat my boyfriend Ohayou.

March 24, 2017

March 25, 2017

March 26, 2017

March 27, 2017

March 28, 2017

I just stayed up till 2 AM

March 29, 2017

March 30, 2017

March 31, 2017

April 1, 2017

April 2, 2017

April 3, 2017

April 4, 2017

It rained on my way to school today and I was wearing my favorite pair of shoes. I was lucky that my dad honked me to get an umbrella on my way out of the car and to my history class. My shoes got so wet I took them off as well as my socks because my shoes weren’t water proof. I wore my shoes only for the rest of the day because my socks weren’t dry. I gave Ben the jacket I bought him because I didn’t want him to take my sweater and rip it. I wished Raishiko would let me dress him up once in a while because he only liked wearing one to two layers only, so because I like layering he won’t let me dress him. He said he didn’t like my taste in fashion so he won’t let me dress him. I really want to see what he looks like in certain things, but since he won’t let me, I can’t do much.

April 5, 2017

Work starts at 12 today so I get to sleep in, but I ended waking up at 9. I had an intensely hot dream even though I know it was about Raishiko, because I woke up sweating, but I don’t remember much that happened. I worked with Roohi, the lead clerk, for an hour She moved to work at this starbucks because her other work place wasn’t good and she was close to Quyen and Tee. I am glad Roohi is moved here to work because I would get to relax a little about working alone for a couple of hours instead of working for a long time alone. I did really well working alone for three hours till Maria came, but I didn’t know what to do with changing the coffee because I couldn’t find the other set of caps for the other set of coffee containers. I couldn’t find the coffee bean holder for the dark roast either.

April 6, 2017

It’s a rainy day today so I remembered to bring my umbrella. I didn’t do my homework for History class so I was in no rush to class even though I was already late. I should’ve sat in the back so I could’ve played SAO but I just cleaned my laptop while listening to the lecture, but I mostly dosed off about random things on my mind. I don’t know why I got upset about SAO when I tried to scout for OS characters and OS weapons. I didn’t want to get angry because I know I would get sad about it and cry. So, I tried playing the other event to level up my [Foxy Priestess] Silica. I continued to watch Prince Wolf, but the part that I was on was a sad scene so I stared tearing up while thinking about Raishiko. I kept crying till my next class started because I miss Raishiko so much. I wanted to hug him and cry till I felt better. I finished my last class early so I went to buy the rice bowl that my older sister wanted, but ended up having to buy something different because they didn’t have the one that I bought last time. I got home as usual and ate dinner before coming back to my desk to skype Raishiko.

April 7, 2017

I work at the flower shop today and I was doing good. Sophie walked to me to finally get her interview but my manager said she just got here and wanted to do the interview at 4. So, Sophie stayed with me till then and watched me doing my work. I got a break so Sophie and I went to go to get lunch because I was hungry. We went to 7-Eleven and bought a sandwich and a fruit cup.

April 8, 2017

April 9, 2017

April 10, 2017

May 27, 2017

Work was like any other day at Giant. Sophia sampled hamburgers and I worked at the flower shop. After work Alpha, Brandon, Tiffany, and Raishiko came to pick us up to go hang out.

# Chapter 20: Working hard to Improve

# Chapter 21: I’m Not Ready to Say Good-Bye

October 8, 2017

I talked to Yelena and everyone about how brandon is drinking and they think that i should talk to brandon one more time about why i don’t like it that he's drinking. They think that I am somewhat over thinking the whole alcohol thing.

I'm mad at myself for over thinking things. I don't like that he's drinking because I’m not there to take care of him when he's drink. I don't care that he's drinking anymore, I never worried about him doing anything with his friends or anything, but when thing can get out of hands I want to be there to help him. I can't stand being far away from him and not know if he is ok or not. Just like in SAO Kirito wanted to go fight that skeleton centipede Asuna wanted to go with him because she wouldn't stand staying back and waiting for him to come back when he could die. I can't just sit at home and wait for brandon to come home when he's in the real world that has alcohol and drug abuse it extremely hurts to my core.

October 9, 2017

I'm really angry and boiling inside right now because brandon made me end the call because i was the one who kept him up late last night because he has school in the morning today. I already felt bad enough keeping him up. i know i shouldn’t say anything because it's my fault for keeping him up. I’m also mad at myself for being the way i am and keeping stuff inside and not telling him sooner and not discuss this so late at night. i did 20 push up, 40 squats, and 60 curl ups and it still isn’t enough to channel my anger out so i couldn’t go to sleep. i don’t want to listen to music to go to sleep because my computer is almost dead.

I can't wait for him to come back and tell him everything I’m still holding back after we do it over and over again till i can't walk and he can't move. I want to make him regret leaving me so far away from him.

2:27 AM

It hurts like hell, it hurts a lot I fucking hate this feeling, but I should be lucky that I get to see him. I need to remind myself that I can skype him as soon as I get home from school, see his face, and hear his voice. I should be happy that I get to see him every few weeks or so, I should feel happy I have him.

12:10 PM

I know that we only get to live once so we should go all out to an extent. I don't put boundaries on him, but because we only live once I don't want him to get hurt and have him regret it. If he got hurt I would feel worst cause I feel like I didn't do my part as a girlfriend to stop him and keep him safe. I don't want him to die from drinking or if someone put drugs into his drink and leave me alone on this world. We only live once so I don't want anything bad to happen to him.

1:50 PM

I'm dying inside, i only got less than 4 more days till he gets back out of the entire 6 weeks since I last saw him. I'm so close to seeing but i'm killing myself here.

I went to the gym to kill time too today

October 10, 2017

I didn't skype him today...

October 11,2017

Today I was mad at Brandon, so I didn't say Ohayou to him or reply quickly. I was mad at him because I didn't like that he kept going out and not telling me till I asked or said something to him. I asked him if he's been to two places before, but he didn't reply till he got home. I even said tadaima, but he didn't say okeari and, instead, he sent me a text saying he was going to go eat pho. I know that he misses eating Asian food, especially his mom's food. While being away from home, he's mostly had to cook for himself and Jason, eat ramen, and go out to eat. I don't like it that he has to cook for himself and Jason because Jason doesn't try to help him cook or at least do the dishes.

Jason is an okay guy, but I can't see him in the future doing something good with his talent and life.

I kind of wish I actually tried to get into VT so I could live with him and help him with stuff since I already plan to get my graphic designer bachelor's degree wherever I am going to college, I won't be doing as much work as he does and I could help with cleaning his room and help him cook and do the dishes no matter how much I hate being a house wife. I would do anything to take some of his load on his shoulders' because it's already heavy when I heard that he wanted to be an engineer.

I am still glad he's having fun living on his own because it would help him in the future when he plans to move out of his parents' house. I myself wanted to be a engineer to because I love computers and taking them apart and learning what each part of a computer does and putting it all back together. I also love math, but I kind of am slow at learning math and science was really hard for me back then. Physics was easy, but then I took AP Physics 2 and I dying in that class.

Right now, classes are going great. AVT 105 is not fun though. I have to build this 3D idea of sound that I hear around me. AVT 222

October 12, 2017

Today I went to the gym with eric and kept myself busy till Brandon came home. It was Kenney's 15th birthday too so my family and Viet went out to eat BonChon.

Brandon couldn't make it home today because had afternoon classes today and he left VT around 6pm and didn't make it home till 12 am. While he was on the car ride home we played game on Message. Since we couldn't see each other today; we have to sleep early to see each other tomorrow.

October 13, 2017

I woke up as early as i possible could, 7 am and got ready to go to his house. I lied to my family that I was going to school to work on my art projects that were due Monday.

I was really excited to see him, so I wore the softest thinnest outfit that’s loose, so he could feel my body. I shaved and waxed my vagina and armpits. I missed his touch so much.

I walked to his car and when I got in I feel myself smiling and burning with excitement. I hugged him, and he was smiling as well. When we got to his house I greeted his mom and dad. We went straight to his room and when his lips touched mine I was happy because It felt like our first kiss. I missed it so much. I couldn't wait so we did it after so long. I was on my safe days, so we did it. We did it twice and it was the best feeling ever. He was happy I let him do it. He said it felt amazing.

After all the love we did together we went to George Mason so that I could get my art stuff home to work on when he leaves for Virginia Tech again. Then we had to go return the HP active pen that he bought me online because it wasn't working. We headed to Eric's house next to go to the mall.

October 14, 2017

Today we are celebrating Dante’s birthday.

October 15, 2017

I slept over his house and we did it more than once <3

He kisses me 11 different kisses for the 31 days that he going to be gone till so that I don't feel sad while he's gone.

kiss 1

kiss 2

kiss 3

kiss 4

kiss 5

kiss 6

kiss 7

kiss 8

kiss 9

kiss 10

and

kiss 11-31

and he also gave me 5 KitKats for me to eat after each week that he's gone.

October 16, 2017

First day that he's gone I still remember all the kisses he gave me and I'm doing great.

October 17, 2017

Second kiss is still in my head. I Snap Chat him that I wanted Chic fil a, but I need to save money for college as well as Christmas and Halloween. He replied by say that he would pay for me if i really wanted it or anything in general. which made me big smile and it made my day without him okay.

I forgot the 8th and 9th kiss today but he wasn't mad. He told me what it was. I made a mistake with the 4th and 8th kiss and the 9th kiss was his favorite number. I remember them now!

I told him "i love you babe :\* you make me so happy! yesterday thank you for letting me use your money for chick fil a if i wanted it. That made my day (in love) and the fact that you tell me where you go when we usually skype and give me a reason :) Today when i shared the song that i just listen to today because i like it a lot and it made me happy that you like it too :$." And that him smile :)

October 18, 2017

The third kiss is still in my head. He told me was going to go eat which I was always ok with, but when he told me he was going with friends because he forgot to thaw the meat made me happy too. We usually skype during that time so when he gave me a reason as to why we couldn’t skype at the time was comforting.

I forgot the 8th and 9th kiss today but he wasn't mad. He told me what it was. I made a mistake with the 4th and 8th kiss and the 9th kiss was his favorite number. I remember them now!

October 19, 2017

I remember the 4th kiss this time and all the ones that come next. It's the last class of the week and I was hoping that I didn’t need to go because I also had to go to the gym so I thought we could go home after the gym and Eric’s class.

October 20, 2017

5 days since he's been back home. I still remember all the kisses he gave me.

I went to work with Oanh today from 7-1. We worked pretty well today, and we got to help Ruth in HBC. For breakfast and lunch, I had 7-Eleven Chicken Parmesan and Oanh had Chicken and Alfredo. It was the best Chicken Parmesan I've ever had or at least better than the one for Giant. Giant still has good food though.

We drove home and brandon was home studying for his exam at 5. He also had a potluck after then the big and little reveal, then a pre-game and then the party after that back to back so he had to dress nicely to his take his exam and go to the big and little reveal right after the potluck.

I'm trying now to be nosy about what happened at the party or any of the parties that he's been to the that involved alcohol. I trust him, and I don't care what he does or if he drinks anymore. I shouldn’t, and I wouldn't because I don't need to worry about him. He's a man there's nothing I can do to stop him anyways.

When he left to go take his test I wished him good luck

I kept myself busy with Sophia, Viet, tutu, Darius and friends playing league. I watched a bit of Naruto. I made it till 11.

I waited for him to send me a pool game, so I feel that he's safe. He didn't send one till I said if we could play yet. He said sorry and I forgave him. I told him in a sarcastic way that I knew that he was busy, so he could reply whenever he remembered to. He didn't for an hour and I got mad, so I sent him a question mark only. which I meant to ask what he was up to and how was he feeling and doing. He got home after 2.

He snap chatted me tadaima and told me to go to sleep. I said I didn't want to sleep yet. He asked if I wanted to skype. I said yes but no. He asked me why. I said I don't know. I ended up telling him I wanted to skype. We skyped, and I burst into tears and had watery nose running down my face. which he didn't see. I told him I was glad that he was home. I told him this time was different because i saw him just 5 days ago and we did it multiple times. I didn't want to see him drunk and get hurt.

October 21, 2017

Today is day 6 and I’m not in shock that I still remember all the kisses he gave me. I would grab is shirt with my hand and one finger and lean in to kiss him. It's about to be a week that he was gone. I still remember the KitKat that he gave me when he left...

Today I have work with Oanh but she got sick, so I had to work in the flower shop to help Claire. Today was homecoming at falls church so it was extra busy for us.

I don't know why today he just took pictures of himself in a nice outfit today and sent it to me. He also told me that he was going to Christiansburg, so he might not be back by the time I get home. Because I like it when does that I went home to shower and snapchatted him to tell him that I missed showering with him. I got really horny, so I took a few more pictures. Then I wanted him to get on too. I snapchatted him a video of me touching myself. I knew he wouldn't be able to save it. I wanted to tease him.

He got home, and we skype each other masturbating.

I don't know what I feel but I don't like it that he won’t take the test that I sent him. He said he didn't want to take tests. Who doesn't? I don't know why I’m being like this then. Then he wouldn't help me answer a question about myself. YEAH, I KNOW I SHOULD ANSWER IT ON MY OWN CUZ NO ONE KNOWS ME BETTER THAN ME. YOU COULD'VE AT LEAST DIALED DOWN THE OPTIONS FOR ME!!!! but whatever. there's no point telling him that because he still wouldn't help me anyway. I just didn't know what to choose. I wanted to hear his opinion.

That brings up another point that I still can't get over. YEAH, I SAY I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO CHOOSE. I DON'T WANT TO CHOOSE BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE CHOOSING. WHY DO YOU KEEP ASKING ME AFTER I SAY I DON'T KNOW? I can't decide for you. you said you wanted my opinion, ok. When I asked you this time, you said you don't want to choose. Maybe it's not something I should be asking you, ok. Maybe it was a bad time because you were busy doing your own stuff, ok. Ok, I shouldn't be mad.

You asked me if I was ok. I said I was because I didn't want to talk about this dumb thought in my head. I shouldn't lie I know. You told me how I was acting different. I know I was. You should tell me that I am lying and demand the truth. You said I didn't see me smile while I say daisuki desu. You should've known that I was lying, but i guess you can't tell when i am and when I’m not lying. Whatever.

Right now, you're doing your CS project so I'm staying quiet so that if I start talking I wouldn't stop wanting to talk to you. I keep my distance from you when you're busy. I'm not trying to be clingy. I don't want to keep asking you what you're up to every hour of my day. It's a waste of my time being curious about where you are and what you are up to when i could be doing my own stuff. That's why I tell you a head of time what I do so that you can find something to keep you busy while I'm busy with something. I don't want you to be bored. I don't want you to ever feel worried about me. I definitely don't want you to think that I don't care enough to let you know that I'm safe somewhere. I don't want to ask because I don't want to bother you or stop your pace and have to answer me and get back on track with whatever you are doing. I don't want you to feel the need to always tell where you are at or where you are going every hour or two. I worry too much I know...

Typing this all helped me a lot to feel calmer.

I'm still not able to say daisuki desu to him tonight because i would be lying to him that I love him enough to not lie him. I don't want to lie to him.

I guess he's mad now because he's offline, i should probably send him this before he falls asleep.

I ended up calling him and telling him to check skype. I told him I was sorry and said good night i love you oyasumi daisuki desu and see you tomorrow. I don't like lying to him, but sometimes I do it for the small things like for this case because i think I’m going to make a big deal out of something as stupid as this.

DONT LIE!!

October 22, 2017

The 7th kiss, i still remember it,

October 23, 2017

The 8th kiss i remember that too.

October 24, 2017

The 9th kiss, his favorite number.

October 25, 2017

The 10th kiss, my favorite kiss.

GAME 101 midterms are over, and our class mates gave us pretty good feedback on how to improve our game. Most of them said that we needed a better way to count our victory points. We will be adding more stuff and straighten out all the little details of our game.

October 26, 2017

I like this kiss too. It's 11th through 31st kisses.

Eric took me to the gym today and watched me do my workout. It was fun I guess but he said he was going to kill me with the work out. It was totally fine, and he was pushing me pretty hard though. I wish it was brandon that was there helping me though. I miss his touches.

October 27, 2017

Half way till he comes back.

I had work today too. I went to work late because i was hoping to get buddy a bit more rest before work, but she ended up not going still. We had a lot of work to do still.

We masturbated to each other again.

He was going to stay home today because he's still sick. He didn't go to the haunted house. I fell asleep around 1 around 2 he texted me that he wouldn't be home anytime soon.

October 28, 2017

He went to a haunted house at night and it was raining. He was out all night. He told me he wasn't going to be home at 2. I feel asleep at 1.

October 29, 2017

I took pictures and a video for him. He was at a friend’s, so he couldn’t open it at the time.

He didn't tell me why he was out till I asked him what he was doing. He told me he just ate brunch and was going to go to Christiansburg. He said how he was sorry for telling me last minute.

I asked if he was tired, why wasn't he going home to rest. I told him I didn't want him to get sick again. He tried reassuring me by saying got a few hours of sleep and he was ok and that he loved me. I didn't respond after that. I was mad at him.

Around 5 I asked him what he was doing and what he was doing all night and when he would be home. He tried to reassure me again by saying he was sorry for making me worry. He told me he was helping a friend because he drank too much. He told me he wasn’t drinking and just played games and helping a friend all night. He said he was at the mall with some of them and that he'd be home in 1-2 hours.

He asked me if I was ok. I said no. He asked why? I said I don't like it that he's not taking very good care of himself. You make me worry so much. I'm all the way over here and i can't stop you from doing what you want. I can't make you o what you need to be doing. and that's to go get rest. You just got better. You stayed up late. You got only a little bit of sleep. Your strong, but you're not superman. You got better, but you can also get sick again. He replied saying he still out about 5 hours of sleep which isn't that little compared to how long the guy was throwing up for. I told him I’m not saying you can't help a friend. They need your help I know. I'm not saying you can't hang out with your friends because you just got better you want to go out and have fun I understand, but you got the whole school year. He said I also don't get the chance often, I prefer last night to anything I did at tech this year plus I have a lot of exams and assignments coming out so I'm trying to have fun now, so I can focus later. I was so angry at him at that point and I told him ok go ahead and have fun. He replied that he was about to be home now. I replied go ahead and do whatever you want, i got homework to do. He sent me a snap saying Tatiana and he called me 3 times and the 4th time I picked up because I was saying goodbye to my cousin and showing her out the door for her dad to drive her home.

I thought to myself that I shouldn't pick the phone up, but I did anyway. We ended up yelling at each other a little before we settled it. I told him I was just worried about him. I told him I wasn't trying to burst at him. I told him I didn't want to cry about this shit. I told him I don’t want to ruin his normal day. I told him that I just don't want him getting sick again or get hurt. I told him that I know that he can take care of himself. He didn't like that I want to trap him in the house because I seems to only argue when he's not home or school. I don't want that to be it. I just am like this because I have mood swings. I know I shouldn't blame them for this. I told him that I hate arguing with you so much as much as I hate lying to you and I don't like keeping it in when you will lash at me for lying to you and saying that I’m fine. I cried and said I was sad that I couldn't do anything to help him. I told him I can't do anything else but talk to you and et it off my chest, but it seems like every time I do, I ruin your normal fun day. I don't want to ruin a normal day for you because of something as stupid as this argument.

I told him I was sorry for ruining his normal fun day. I told him I was sorry for not trusting him. I told him I was sorry for not believe him when he was reassuring me so many times. I told him I was sorry for saying sorry so much.

October 30, 2017

I had a bad day because I finally remember to get my bag project graded. I was waiting for my next class to start but i really felt bad. I told him I feel like shit run. He asked Why? What's wrong? I said I feel like shit, I'm not happy, I want to throw my phone or everything to the wall. I want to punch something. I want to cry. I want to scream till I can't breathe. I want to go home, I want to hurt myself, I don't want to do jack shit. What I want to do is bury myself into a hole till I die. He asked Babe what happened? I told him my thoughts, that’s what happened. He asked About what? I told him about my life, my dream, my acceptance at George Mason, my future and how I don’t believe it.

And what about them made you think like that?

I DON’T KNOW, I DON’T KNOW, I DON’T KNOW, I DON’T KNOW!

Phuong all you told me is that you feel like shit I still don't know what it's about you just said it's about your future life. What about it? Do you think you're going to fail? Did you get a bad grade? Do you think people are better than you? I don't know what you're thinking, you have to tell me.

I'm not happy I got a C on my bag project. All my other projects I got B’s in and I'm still not satisfied with my grade. I'm not happy because I feel like I don't want to draw anymore. I feel like shit that I can't talk to you and show you how angry I am through text. I hate it. I hate that I want to hold it in, but I know I’m going to break at some point soon. I hate talking I hate feeling like this. I hate this life so much, I hate myself for working so hard but not getting what I want or deserve. I hate this. I hate myself for not being able to make this long-distance relationship work. I'm trying so hard not to give up but every time I'm down I can't do jack shit to make myself feel better and not have to rely on you when you’re too busy being an engineer.

Babe it's okay to put in hard work and not get what you want. Life is unfair like that. I could say that you could keep trying and you'll get better, but Idk if that's what you want to hear. I'm trying really hard to make this relationship work too, I told you in the beginning that I don't give up easily which is why I’m still with you after every fight we have.

I knew from the very beginning of high school that life isn’t fair. I know I can get better at drawing. But I just can't do this whatever it is. I just can't take it. Where are you right now? In class?

Class starts soon.

Do you have any important classes left today? No this is my last class.

Do you want to call and Uber to go home and I'll pay for it?

No, I’m takin the bus to NOVA to eat with Oanh.

Are you going to be ok?

Yeah, I won’t do anything foolish.

Have you calmed down yet?

Yeah, I have to hold it in till class is over.

Holding it in and calming down is different.

I'm calm.

Are you okay now?

Yeah.

He skyped me while I was in class, it didn't help much because my class was keeping me busy and he got his own class to worry about.

October 31, 2017

Happy Halloween! I still had school and the first thing that happens is that I almost trip on a rock and twisted my ankle but thank god I didn't. Then I dropped my phone concrete and shattered my screen protector and phone screen.

I told him about it and he told me, “Aww babe, this is why I told you, you need a better screen protector. What are you going to do?”

I can't do anything else, I have to chance my screen protector.

You can pay to get it fixed I'll help you.

It sounds like you're rubbing it in. It's fine I can pay for it on my own.

Sorry I didn't mean it that way. I know that’s not like you to mean it that way, but I’m still not happy.

Are you mad at me?

Kind of, but I know I shouldn't be which pisses me even more.

Do you want my extra screen protector I have at home?

Hang bought me once already.

Okay Are you okay babe?

Yeah

Okay that's good, Daisuki desu

Daisuki

I went to my cousin's Halloween party like usual and had Yelena and Eric come. I dressed like a demon and buddy as an angel.

He went to a club meeting and learned a new dance and joined the dance club that was with them. He showed me the dance and showed Eric as well. He had to sleep early so we couldn't skype when I got home. Buddy and I talked to Eric about Ellen on the car and I forgot my phone at Nancy’s, so I couldn't tell him.

November 1, 2017

Nothing much.

I just went to class like normal and went on with my day. and skyped him when we got home I guess.

November 2, 2017

Today my grandparents are leaving to go to Vietnam and I didn't have classes in the morning. I went with my dad to drop them off. I wanted to cry a bit because I was going to miss them, but I'm glad they're going over there because they need to stop working.

I talked to my dad about stuff on the car ride like if he was mad at my mom and buddy because they didn't say good bye to them. We talked about David’s mom wanting to sell the house in Maryland so that our grandparent could move over to our house. I told him that that means we need to move out, so mom has been looking for apartments and homes to buy or rent. He told me just focus on school for now. Buddy and I want to move out so that dad and mom doesn't need to worry about taking care of us because we can take care of ourselves and we want to try to live on our own before it becomes reality when they have to leave us for unexpected reasons. I want to move our so that when I come back I can become a better daughter ready to take care of them. He tells me I'm not ready till I can work and earn enough money to take care of myself. He told me that that is what he an mom wants us to have by the time they have to leave.

I cleaned the house a bit till I had to go to school. After classes were over He told me, " babe I’m going to go to the library and try to get a lot of work done okay? I said, "ok." He asked me, Are you mad?" I told him, "I don't think so, but I got a bad gut feeling about something." "Is it about me?" I told him, "it's ok that you're getting your work done, I'll be busy too, I have an essay due tonight, but I don't know what to include in it. I don't know if it's about you or someone else, I usually get them when something bad happens to someone in my family and you and our friends." He asked me "Want me to send you snaps of me doing work at the library to reassure you?" I said, "I heard an ambulance...I know you are safe babe, but I don’t know if anything unexpected will happen, so snaps won't reassure me as much." He told me, "Oh okay, it's okay babe, it's superstitions and you're psyching yourself out." I told him, "I've had these feelings before babe, I'll tell you about them when we're free." He said, "Oki Daisuki desu." I thought to myself how should i respond. I know I love him, so I responded like I was fine, "Daisuki desu babe."

I went home to clean up with everyone again and almost forgot about the essay I had to do. I ended up turning it in late and was waiting for him to come home.

November 3, 2017

I just wanted him to stay focus and study, so I didn't text him all night. I asked Ace if he knew where Raishiko was.

I sent him an Oyasumi hoping he would respond quickly but it took a bit of time.

He responded, "Oyasumi. Babe did you really get Nam to text me where I am?"

I said, "yeah."

He asked, "Why I told you I was in the library. Do you trust me?"

I said, " I knew where you were, but I got worried that you were heading home, and something happened, or you fell asleep at the library."

He asked, "Why didn't you just text me or call? Why did you have to get someone else to do it?"

I told him, "I didn't want to disturb you while you were studying, I only asked if Oanh knew, I didn't ask him to ask you."

He asked, "Why would you ask him if he knew where I was if you already believed that I was at the library?"

"I thought maybe you were on your way home." "The why would you be worried?"

"I thought maybe something happened to you on your way home." "what would you think that?"

"Because VT is a public place." "How does that make any sense? Everywhere is a public place. Do you realize this is why most of our arguments start?"

"Everywhere is a public place so anyone can go into your school and hurt people and you." By that logic the same can happen when I'm at home in NOVA."

"Ok, I'm sorry for worrying to the point that I'm not thinking logically that you can take care of yourself."

"It makes no sense what you're thinking. If I follow what you're saying to stay "safe" I should just never leave the house again and drop out of school and never work at all in my life. It just doesn't make any sense. It just you are being too worried and overprotective."

"If I was overprotective I would make you not leave to chase your dreams or control you so much that you can't hang out with your friends. I'm not controlling you, I’m just saying what I feel like when I worry about you. Yeah, I say it a lot to the point that it gets annoying, but I won’t stop you from doing what you want because I can't stop you. If I don't say anything I would feel like a heartless girlfriend. Saying something won't change what you do. I can't stop you."

"Phuong that’s what you're doing right now. You're just not saying it directly. Instead you're choosing not to trust what I say and try to get confirmation with others. You're also using guilt to make me feel bad about having to go through normal college experiences like studying and working hard. I feel like I can never go out late because you always make it seem like the end of the world and I just got kidnapped when I do."

"I'm sorry ok? I'm sorry. I'm apologizing from the bottom of my heart that I'm not trying to ruin your college experience. I'm sincerely apologizing for being like this. I tried hard keeping myself focused on my essay due at midnight, but I ended up late. I've lasted a lot longer this time not worrying about you but just the thought of you getting hurt scares me, I don't want to lock you up like my grandparents locked me up, I'm just sorry."

"It's okay. If you're worried, you can literally just message me or call me."

"I don't want to disturb you while you're studying."

"That's better than having to deal with this after."

I got really sad and angry when he said that so I told him, "Just go sleep, you got class early tomorrow morning don't you?"

"Uhuh"

I didn't say Oyasumi, Daisuki desu, good night or i love you. He didn't say anything either.

I stayed up thinking and only slept for 2 hours because I had work and woke up late. I came home to around 3. I asked earlier if he was going anywhere today. I wanted only a yes or a no.

"Yeah, later today at 6 is the culture show."

"ok."

After work on skype, I asked him " Do you wanted to talk about anything."

"We already talked about it yesterday and you apologized. I feel like talking about it more will make it worse."

"ok never mind then."

"unless there's something you want to talk about."

I cried. I cried as I ate. I thought to myself i only eat to live. I cried because I couldn't get over the argument. I was still sad. I thought long and hard and ended up napping till he got home. I watched Naruto a bit too. When he got home I asked how the show was. He said some of it was good and some was bad. He put some of the good ones on snapchat story. I was eating McDonald's Ice cream and he thinks ice cream will make it all better. I told him I didn't feel better at all.

# Chapter 22: My dreams become Actions

# Chapter 23: I won’t lie anymore