

The Noise
Inside my Head

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The Noise Inside my Head



~In the crowd streets of New York, two strangers bumped into each other accidentally~

I'm sorry. They both said!



Is it possible that one word determines the fate of two strangers?

“Sorry” is a word that we used to say when we make mistakes, lie, forget something, mess up, cool someone down, give up, feel guilty, etc.

But what if “sorry” became the sound of regret that we have to live with every single day?



Chapter 1

(Alarm buzzes)

Spenser turned off the alarm, he got up from his bed then he went to take a shower. After he finished showering, he walked shirtless to the kitchen to prepare his coffee. While preparing the coffee, he opened the fridge to drink water. However, he ate leftover food instead. Afterwards, he left his coffee to cool down then he entered his bedroom to get suited. Later, he took his coffee to drink it on his favorite chair by the window while reading the morning news. After a while, he headed out of his condo and rode in his fancy car to drive to his company.

~Spenser, a name that has always been heard in the city of New York for the latest years, is a smart lawyer who loves to win big and accepts no failure. He's well-known for his success and great achievements~

As Spenser arrived at his company, his secretary came to his office to notify him about his schedule for the day. Later, Emma, his partner and best friend, came in.

Emma: **Spenser!**

~He looked up~

Spenser (*flirting*): okay, I have two words for you; absolutely stunning.

Emma: Look who is in a good mood today!

Spenser (*continues*): what about taking you on a dinner date?

Emma: enough of your compliments, I need your help.

Spenser: you, women, are unbelievable! Tell me what do you want?

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After Emma told Spenser about the problem she is facing and what she needs from him. He confirmed that he will handle everything soon. However, he was starving. So, he went to eat from the shop near his company. While he was walking to the shop, his mobile rang.

**Few seconds later.**

*~He bumped into someone accidentally~*

**I'm Sorry! They both said.**

Spenser lost concentration while being on the phone for a couple of minutes due to the sudden

hit. However, he got back on track as soon as everything settled. He completed his way until he arrived at the shop. Later, he ate his favorite baguette sandwich then he went back to his company. Spenser met Emma in the hallway. He told her that he already finished what she wanted from him. She asked him when and how he did that. He told her that he has just ended the call with the client and she accepted the offer. She sarcastically mentioned his ability of influencing women then she thanked him anyway. Afterwards, she told him about Shaylen, her client, who called her a few minutes ago telling her about a problem that her company is facing. Then, she asked for Spenser's help due to being the only one who can help her in this case since she runs out of time. Spenser told her not to worry as he will help her. He looked at his watch then he excused Emma for leaving for a meeting he has with one of his biggest clients. Before he left, he asked his secretary to find some information for him on a certain case until he comes back.

### **30 minutes later.**

Spenser arrived at his client's company. He entered Zain's office then the conversation between

them started. Zain told Spenser about his expansion plan and the barrier towards the expansion because of his competitor's intention. Accordingly, he asked Spenser to take care of that case instantly. In the end of the conversation, Spenser glimpsed a beautiful lady walking among the crowds. Coincidentally, it was the same lady he bumped into the street.

Spenser left Zain's office after they finished the meeting. Nonetheless, he found himself roaming the place searching for the girl he had just seen a few minutes ago. Everyone around noticed that he was searching for something. So, a lady came to offer help but he thanked her. When he couldn't find her anywhere, he headed to the elevator to leave. However, things changed in a second as she suddenly appeared on his right side while he was waiting for the elevator. The elevator opened, yet he walked away to where she was walking. **Few seconds later**, he stopped in front of the office where she headed in. While he was standing in front of the door, she appeared in front of him to close the door yet she didn't notice his existence. Hence, he walked away. Later, he arrived at his company where he met Emma,

the first person. She asked him about the meeting. He responded that it went well. Both of them entered Spenser's office. Afterwards, he asked Emma if she wanted to order food with him.

**Few minutes later.**

They ordered food then they started to work on the case that Emma asked for his help in it. **After 20 minutes**, the food has arrived. So, they began to eat. After they finished, they continued their work until a late time.

*~Emma is yawning~*

Spenser: go home.

Emma: no, I'll stay until we finish

Spenser: well, I can still handle it. You need to rest, you look tired.

Emma: but ...

Spenser: it's okay.

Emma: Are you sure?

Spenser: I am!

Emma: alright! Take care of yourself then.

Spenser: okay, you too.

*~Spenser stayed up all night working on that case~*

**Next day.**

Spenser woke up late. He washed his face and brushed his teeth. Then, he got suited. As he was driving, he got an emergency call from Zain. So, he changed his direction to Zain's company. As he arrived, he went directly to Zain's office. Zain told him that he has been sued for stealing 10 million dollars from his competitor which, infact, didn't happen. They kept negotiating for a while then Spenser told him that he would solve it. Afterwards, Spenser directed himself to the elevator to head out. He was absent-minded due to thinking about the new case he had just received from Zain. Eventually, the elevator arrived. While he was getting in the elevator, the girl got out.

*~Once again, they crossed each other. Once again, they met as strangers~*

## Chapter 2

*~Spenser went back to his office to work on Zain's case. Later, Emma knocked on his door~*

Spenser: there you are!

Emma: where have you been this morning?

Spenser: I got a call from Zain. I had to meet him urgently.

Emma: what's going on?

Spenser: he's being sued for stealing 10 million dollars

Emma (*surprisingly*): Holy Shit! Who sued him?

Spenser: McKenzie

Emma: Jack McKenzie?

Spenser: yes.

Emma: weren't they partners?

Spenser: Zain dissolved it a couple of weeks ago.

Emma: Then, this must have been a comeback! What are you going to do then?

Spenser (*with an ego tone*): I'll let him play the game then watch me winning it.

Emma: Spenser's philosophy!

*~He smirked then handed her a document~*

Emma took the document and scrolled her eyes on it. Then she said: that's perfect, Spenser.

Spenser (*with a relaxed face*): told you, I'm going to make it happen.

Emma (*whispering*): what a cocky man!

Spenser: I heard you

*(Both laughed)*

**At 10 pm.**

The secretary came in and asked Spenser if he wanted anything else before she left. He permitted her to leave. Then, Emma entered.

She asked: won't you go home?

Spenser: I can't. I have work to get done!

Emma: a new case?

Spenser: it's Zain's expansion plan

Emma: what did that man do to have two cases against him at the same time?

Spenser: hold on!

Emma: what?

*~Spenser is looking into several documents on his desk then he held one document~*

Spenser: McKenzie and Reynold are cooperating against him.

Emma (*surprisingly*): how's that?

*~He handed her the document to read~*

Emma: that's smart from you

Spenser (*confidently*): as usual

Emma: but you wouldn't figure this out without me. Thanks for my contribution!

Spenser (*laughed*): absolutely, right!

*~He grabbed a bottle of wine~ then he offered: want a drink?*

*Emma: perfect timing!*

## **Later.**

He poured a drink for themselves then Emma asked Spenser what was going on with him. First, Spenser didn't understand what she meant. So, she clarified to him by saying that there has

been something on his mind apart from work as he has been absent for several times:

Emma: I'm still waiting for you to speak!

Spenser: what do you want me to say?

Emma: Who are you thinking of?

Spenser: other than you?

Emma: Spenser!!

Spenser (*sarcastically*): I asked you before to go on a date with me but you refused.

Emma: When will you stop making fun?

Spenser: well, it's no one! I'm just busy as you can see!

Emma: Do you think that an 8-year friendship is few to know when something concerns you?

Spenser (*smirking*): okay, you are right! There is something strange happening with me.

Emma: What is it?

Spenser: there's someone who has been appearing a lot in front of me wherever I am, I see her.

Emma: What's strange about that? She might like you.

Spenser: she doesn't even know that I exist.

Emma: O! That's exciting.

Spenser: are you mocking me?

Emma: Am I? *~She laughed~* it's only unusual to hear this from you. How did you know then?

Spenser: listen carefully because I won't repeat twice

Emma: alright, Mr. Harris!

Spenser: and no questions are permitted.

Emma: wouldn't it be better if you didn't tell me from the beginning!

*~He laughed~*

Spenser: Well, I bumped into her in the street. We just apologized then she vanished into thin air. Later, at the same day, I saw her once again at Zain co.

Emma: really!

Spenser: Yes! I recognized her but she didn't.

Emma: so?

Spenser: what?

Emma: Is this everything?

Spenser: yes!

Emma: But I still don't get you!

Spenser: You asked and I just responded.

Emma: Spenser, you said nothing!

Spenser: forget about it, Em.

Emma: of course, not. I want to understand!  
~*She paused*~ Did you feel something when you saw her?

Spenser: I said no questions are permitted.

Emma: it's only one question!

Spenser: alright, only this.

Emma: sure

Spenser: I can't describe how I felt but it sure is strange for me.

Emma: Are you going to do something about it?

Spenser: I don't know either. You have just asked another question!

~*She laughed*~ then she said: I think you are starting to have feelings for her!

Spenser: of course, not! *~He paused~* why are you saying that?

Emma: I know you! It's the first time I see you hesitant. You were never concerned about love, even when girls at university fell in love with you, you made no room for them. You used to tell me that love is a lie that you don't want to waste your time on.

*~They told me a lot about love but I never believed in it. Until I saw you that I realized my problem wasn't really that I didn't believe in love~*

## Chapter 3

### **Next Day.**

Spenser woke up early. He worked out at his home then he went out for a jog. After then, he returned home, took shower then he got suited. While he was driving to his company, he called Zain to update him regarding his lawsuit.

### **Two weeks passed.**

*~Spenser had a lot of work these past weeks. He hasn't even met the girl since then. Until, he received an invitation from Zain to his daughter's wedding~*

### **Thursday night.**

*(The Wedding day)*

Spenser walking in, wearing a tuxedo, to the wedding festival. There, he met many people he knows. After congratulating Zain and his daughter, he sat on a table with some friends. **Few hours later**, a girl entered the wedding with her long navy-blue dress that grabbed people's attention. She walked in like a princess congratulating Zain's daughter. As she was walking back to the table, Spenser saw her.

*~There they are; there they finally met after a long time~*

Right after Spenser saw her, he wanted to go and talk with her. However, he was in the middle of a conversation. Hence, he couldn't just leave. Accordingly, he kept staring at her from a distance while conversing with people on the table. As a result, he was caught off guard several times. **Few minutes later**, he decided to leave the table to talk with her. Nonetheless, he was stopped by a college friend who kept recalling the old days. Spenser wasn't giving any attention to his colleague since he was concentrating on the girl who was grabbing all his attention. Later, he watched Zain's son "Omar" getting closer to her. Accordingly, he excused his colleague to leave.

As Spenser got closer to them, he realized that they had been fighting. Suddenly, Omar held her arm to stop her from moving away. Nevertheless, she took her arm away then warned him not to ever do that again. Afterwards, she left. Omar tried to stop her from moving away yet she insisted to go and told him not to follow her or else he will never see her face again. Omar walked away

while Spenser noticed that she forgot her scarf on the table. He took the scarf then he quickly followed her. Yet, she was already gone. Spenser rode in his car, he looked at the scarf while feeling happy due to having a chance now to talk with her. Later, he put it on the chair next to him then he started the engine to go home.

### **Next day.**

After Spenser jogged for a while, he went back home to have a shower. Later, he grabbed the girl's scarf to return it back. **Half an hour later**, he arrived at Zain co. As he was walking in the company, Zain caught him. Accordingly, Spenser had to come up with something to explain why he came to the company.

### **15 minutes later.**

After Spenser convinced Zain with a fake reason for his arrival, he completed his way to find the girl's office yet suddenly someone from behind called him.

Omar (*surprisingly*): Spenser! How are you doing?

*~Spenser turned his back~*

Spenser: Omar! (*With a fake smile*): I'm doing great!

Omar: I heard that you came yesterday to the wedding! I didn't see you.

Spenser: yes, I did. You were the bride's brother, you must have been busy.

Omar: you are right. It has been hectic yesterday. BTW, I was talking with my father about you and he praised you a lot. I'm happy we finally met in person.

Spenser: thanks. It's great that you joined Zain's team.

*~While Omar was continuing the conversation, Spenser glimpsed the girl entering an office. Accordingly, he excused him to leave. Eventually, Spenser was free from the Zains. So, he headed to where the girl entered. Before Spenser entered the office, he looked and read her name on the door~*

*(Spenser clears throat)*

Spenser: you must be Talia

Talia: Yes, I am. Can I help you with something?

Spenser: I don't need help

*~He approached her desk~*

Talia: then, I expect you are in the wrong place

Spenser: I'm not!

Talia: who are you?

Spenser (*confidentially*): I'm Spenser Harris.

Talia: I doubted that the moment you entered my office.

Spenser: so, you know me

Talia: not exactly but I heard about you.

Spenser: what did you hear to make you recognize me without meeting me before?

Talia: well, you won't love it

Spenser: it's fine.

Talia: You are a cocky. Men want to be like you and women wish to be in a relationship with you

Spenser: interesting!

Talia (*added*): and some other bad stuff.

*~He laughed~*

Talia: what are you laughing at?

Spenser: everything you said.

Talia (*whispered*): such a douchebag! (*Then she said*): well, I have a lot of work to get done and you are wasting my time

Spenser: but if I left, you'd regret you treated me in this way.

Talia (*arranging the files*): the door is behind you. So, show yourself out.

Spenser: that's so harsh ~he paused~ alright, I'm leaving now but bear in mind that this is not our last time.

*~Spenser left~*

Talia (*whispering*): who he thinks himself is!

Later, Zain called her to meet up. As she came back, she saw her scarf on the chair. At that moment, she realized that she forgot it the day before. Afterwards, Omar came to ask her about something. So, she told him about the scarf. However, she discovered that it wasn't Omar who brought it to her. Later, she wondered who returned it back. Eventually, Spenser popped up into her mind yet she hoped that he was not the one because she was so rude with him.

*~Talía, a workaholic, conventional, and independent girl, has been in New York for three years. She travelled to New York to do masters. After she graduated with the master's degree, she applied for Zain interior design corporate; which is one of the most successful interior design corporations in New York. Ever since she got a stable life, she focused only on her career. Unlike most of the girls, Talía wasn't looking forward to being in any relationship. Talía is also known among her colleagues that she is a genius. As a result, most of them trust her work. Hence, they learn a lot from her~*

## Chapter 4

**“Who she thinks herself is!”** After leaving the office, Spenser whispered to himself.

*(Phone buzzes)*

Emma: where have you been it's 12?

Spenser: I'm on my way. I had to finish something first.

Emma: speed up because Andrew is in the meeting room waiting for you.

Spenser: holly shit! I forgot about him.

Emma: don't worry, I'll handle him until you arrive.

Spenser: thanks, Em.

### **15 minutes later.**

Spenser arrived at his company. He headed to his office quickly to meet Andrew who has been pissed off because Spenser has been late for 20 minutes. However, Spenser was able to cool down the situation. Hence, they started their meeting. After they finished, Spenser went to the trial that he has.

## **A week later.**

Zain called for an urgent appointment with Spenser. After a short time of Spenser's arrival, Talia arrived. Both of them weren't expecting to meet each other. Spenser smiled whereas Talia was embarrassed of him. She sat on the table with them. Zain introduced them to each other, however, they acted as if they have never met before. During the meeting, Spenser was looking at her from time to time while she was looking away whenever their eyes met.

After the meeting was over, Talia and Spenser headed out of Zain's office. Spenser smirked then he told her that he was right when he said they will meet again. Talia was so embarrassed of him. She thanked him about the scarf while looking down. Then, she apologized for being rude that day. Spenser teased her by saying that she shouldn't have dismissed him before she understands why he came in the first place. Then he added that she doesn't have to always believe what people say about others because it doesn't have to be right. Then, he left. She smiled then she walked to her office.

### 3 weeks later.

Spenser received a call that Zain passed away. Spenser felt grieved. Next day, he went to his funeral and consoled his family. He thought that he would meet Talia there. Yet, he didn't find her. **A week later**, while Spenser and Emma were at the office discussing something, suddenly the door knocked. As Spenser looked at the door, he was amazed. At the same time, Emma turned her back to see who the person is.

Spenser (*surprisingly*): **Talia!**

*~Emma looked back to Spenser saying that she will leave in a lower voice then she smiled to Talia in her way out~*

Talia: I'm so sorry for coming without an appointment but it's urgent.

Spenser: it's okay. Have a seat. Tell me, what is going on?

Talia: Ever since Omar became the successor, everything turned upside down and now we are losing everything.

Spenser: what happened?

Talia: yesterday while I was bringing him the

files, I heard him speaking on the phone about a deal. I felt that there was something going on as he stopped talking when I entered. He has never done this before. I gave him the files then I left. I didn't feel comfortable. So, I waited for him to leave the company to enter his office and see what deal he was talking about.

*~Talia showed Spenser the picture she has taken on her mobile of the deal that she found~*

*(After Spenser saw what's on the phone, he shockingly said):* He is selling the business to McKenzie ... that means that Zain co. will no longer exist

Talia: exactly, it has been only a week since his father's death and he wants to destroy everything his father did!

*(A moment of silence)*

Talia: what are you thinking of?

Spenser: I think I know who to go to *~he looked at Talia then he said~* don't worry! I won't leave him to destroy Zain Co.

Talia: thank you, Mr. Harris!

Spenser: just Spenser!

Talia (*smiled*): alright, Spenser. Here's my contact number ~*she gave him her business card*~ please update me and If I found anything else, I'll let you know.

Spenser: great! But watch out, we don't want Omar to notice any changes until I handle this.

Talia: okay, don't worry!

*~They stood up to shake hands; at the moment their hands touched for the first time, they looked deeply into each other's eyes then she took her hand away, smiled, and left. Emma who was talking with his secretary came back to Spenser after Talia left~*

Emma: who's she?

Spenser: Remember the one I told you about a few weeks ago?

Emma (*sarcastically*): who doesn't know that you exist?

Spenser: who appears a lot in front of me!

Emma (laughed): is that her?

Spenser (*half-smile*): yes.

Emma: Look at Spenser's smile!

*~He laughed~*

Emma: What did she want then? She seemed worried!

Spenser: now I knew why Zain admired her so much. Today, she came to tell me about Omar Zain who is looking forward to selling the business to McKenzie.

Emma: WHAT! Didn't he know about the rivalry between his father and McKenzie.

Spenser: he sure did but there's something dirty going on that I'll figure out.

## Chapter 5

### Two days later.

Before Spenser entered the court, he called Talia to inform her that he wants to meet her in person after he finishes. Yet, she didn't respond. After he finished, he decided to go to her directly. **Half an hour later**, he arrived at her company; he got out of the car, then he walked to her office. As he entered her office, she felt amazed due to not expecting his arrival. Then she asked him if there's any news. He nodded his head. So, she closed the door so no one could hear anything.

He updated her about everything including what he figured out. Then, he concluded that Omar can no longer sell the business. Talia couldn't believe that Spenser just saved the firm. She thanked him so much! Yet, her happiness didn't last for long since Omar came in.

Omar (*in a mad tone*): it's clear now, you are in this together!

Talia: what are you talking about?

Omar: you know what I'm talking about

*~Spenser interrupted~*

Spenser: you are right. There is no longer a deal.

Omar: who gave you the right to do that behind my back?

Spenser: I've been your father's attorney for a long time.

Omar: my father is dead.

Spenser: if he was alive, he wouldn't permit this to happen. How could you sell the firm to the person who hated your father?

Omar: I know what I was doing. That guy just offered me triple the firm's value.

Spenser: That guy you are talking about lied to you. He wanted to take everything from you while giving you nothing in return

Omar (*angrily*): what are you saying? That's all bullshit.

*~Talia interrupted~*

Talia: don't you hear! We were about to lose everything and now we are off the hook and you are still arguing!

Omar: Stay out of this!

Talia: no, I won't because you were about to betray all of us including your father. It has been a very short time since your father's death and you wanted to destroy everything he had done for selfishness.

Omar (*raising his voice*): shut up!

*~Spenser asked Talia to leave with him before he loses his control because if he stayed for an extra minute, he would cause damage. However, Omar got even madder. Accordingly, he grabbed Talia's hand to stop her from walking away with Spenser. A minute later, Omar was beaten up on the floor. Afterwards, Spenser took Talia quickly outside the company~*

Talia: what have you done?

Spenser: I've done what was supposed to be done.

Talia: did you realize that you got fired!

Spenser: I don't care. Anyway, I wouldn't stand to be his attorney.

Talia: I could have handled him.

Spenser: and I couldn't stand still.

Talia: but?

Spenser: no buts. Do you have your car or I drive you to your home?

Talia: I will call Uber.

Spenser: put your phone down. Let me drive you.

After Spenser and Talia rode in the car, they remained silent for a couple of minutes. Talia told Spenser that Omar won't let this thing go. Spenser responded that he's not worried about what Omar will do to him but he doesn't want to put her career at risk after what happened. She told him that he can never hurt her. Spenser asked her about the reason because he remembered also what happened on the wedding day. Hence, he wanted to understand what the nature of their relationship is. Talia told him that it's a long story. Yet, Spenser responded that he'd like to listen to everything. Talia started telling him that she's not American, she came to New York three years ago. Spenser interrupted by asking her where she is originally from. She responded that she's originally from Egypt but she moved to Dubai when she was 13 years old to live with her sister.

Spenser: that's interesting, then you live here with your sister?

Talia: no, she still lives in Dubai but I came here to do masters then I settled down.

Spenser: so, you weren't planning to stay here after your masters.

Talia: exactly

Spenser: what made you change your mind?

Talia: I attended one of Zain's talks. He really inspired me a lot. I decided to settle down and join his company.

Spenser: that's really perfect! You can continue about Omar.

Talia (*continued*): So, after I took my master's degree, it happened. I got accepted into Zain co. Since then, Zain became not only my inspiration, mentor, but also the closest person to me

Spenser: I can see that!

*~Spenser stopped the car because the sign at the street was red. Hence, he stared at her while she was speaking~*

Talia: one day, he called me to introduce me to his son who has just come back from France. I

knew Omar already before meeting him because Zain was always telling me about him. On that day, Zain asked me to supervise Omar until he gets familiar with our work.

*~Talia suddenly stopped because she noticed that the sign had been green for a while and Spenser was still staring at her. So, she awakened him~*

Spenser: how can you let this happen?

Talia: I really don't know

*~Spenser laughed then he asked her to continue~*

Talia continued: where did I stop? ... Yeah *~she remembered~* while supervising him, I started to feel that he started to catch feelings for me.

Spenser: and you? ... Did you feel the same?

Talia: no. As I knew, I stopped supervising him.

Spenser (*jealousy tone*): then

Talia: that's it. He has been following me ever since but I had to stay at the company for Zain. Even after Zain died, I couldn't let go of the only thing that reminds me of him.

Spenser: that's complicated

Talia: exactly! But I'm adapting with it.

Spenser (*whispering*): If only I had the chance to punch him earlier

Talia: what are you saying?

Spenser: I was saying that I understood now why he can't hurt you

Talia: but you have to avoid him. I don't want to be the reason you get involved in any problems.

*~They arrived at Talia's home~*

Spenser: don't worry about me! Just take care of yourself!

*~She thanked him for the ride. Then, she left. Spenser felt that he didn't want to let her go. Later, he drove to his house. He got in his condo and exchanged his clothes. Then, he sat on the sofa watching TV until he fell asleep~*

**Next day.**

Spenser woke up early. He went for a jog. After he finished, he went back home to wear his suit and go to work. Later, Spenser arrived at his company. His day was so busy as he had two trials and several cases to work on. It was 10 pm.

Everyone left except for Spenser who stayed at the office working. Later, he stood by the window wondering whether to call Talia or not. **Few minutes later**, his mobile rang. Surprisingly, it was Talia.

Talia: I'm sorry if I'm calling late.

Spenser: not at all.

Talia: how are you?

Spenser: I'm better now and you?

Talia: I'm good.

*(A moment of silence)*

Talia: I called you to thank you for everything.

Spenser (*smiling*): you don't need to thank me; we've done that together! Did you meet Omar?

Talia: yes, he actually came to apologize to me for being out of control that day.

Spenser: And what did you do?

Talia: I had to accept his apology.

Spenser: but you didn't have to.

Talia: that was better for the firm. I had to let go.

*~The real reason behind her acceptance to the apology was to prevent Omar from doing any harm to Spenser since she feels so responsible of what happened~*

Spenser: but if he bothered you again, he wouldn't like the consequences.

Talia: And what would you do this time?

Spenser: I'll rip him apart

Talia (*laughed*): you are such a confident man!

Spenser: confidence is attractive (*he smirked*)  
what do you think?

Talia (*shyly*): maybe!

*(A moment of silence)*

Spenser: It's great to hear that you are fine.

*~She smiled~*

Their souls connected so quickly; despite that they've known each other for a short time.

~~~~

*~I wish I could tell what I feel when I listen
to your voice. I wish I could explain my heart-
beats and control these butterflies.*

*I wish I could picture your laughs and
smiles. I wish I could tell you how strange
everything changed the second I looked into
your eyes~*

Chapter 6

Next day.

(Alarm buzzes)

Spenser woke up. He washed his face, brushed his teeth, and then he made coffee for himself. While he was dressing up, he sent Talia a morning text. **Few seconds later**, he received a text back from her. Accordingly, they kept chatting until Spenser called her because he was going to drive. As Spenser entered his office, he hung up with Talia due to his meeting with the client. Right after he finished the meeting, he was called for another one by the board of directors. Hence, he didn't have time to call her. **After 2 hours**, he returned back to his office to drink a glass of wine. However, the secretary came in with a new big case. Despite that he wanted to have a rest, the secretary notified him about the importance of the case. So, he left the wine on the table to work on the case.

Next day, at 12 pm.

Spenser was at his office doing nothing so he called Talia yet her phone was turned off. Then,

Emma came in to notify him about an old case that has been reopened. He left the mobile and kept talking about the case. **A couple of hours later**, Spenser was free at his office, so he wanted to make sure that Talia was fine. Accordingly, he called her but the phone was still off. He started to feel awkward about her disappearance. However, the tons of calls that he received made him busy for a while. **In the evening**, he was sitting on his desk finalizing some work yet Emma distracted him by clearing her throat.

Spenser: how long have you been here?

Emma: for some time. What's wrong?

Spenser: nothing!

Emma: but there's something on your mind!

Spenser: I tried calling Talia for several times

Emma: but?

Spenser: But her phone has been off since the morning!

Emma: maybe it ran out of battery

Spenser: I don't think so, if it ran out of battery, why wouldn't she charge it.

Emma: why you seem so worried.

Spenser: not exactly! I just find it strange.

Emma: maybe she forgot it at home and it ran out of battery.

Spenser: It's 11 pm, are you saying that she still at the company

Emma: I don't know. It might be.

~Spenser is standing up~

Emma: where are you going?

Spenser: to her company

Spenser headed out, while Emma stayed at his office for some time. He rode in his car then he called Talia for one last time yet he still couldn't reach her. As he arrived at the company, the secretary downstairs told him that everyone left. So, he precisely asked about Talia. The secretary responded that she didn't come today. Spenser left the company then directed himself to where she lives. As he arrived, he quickly jumped out of the car to ring on the intercom. He kept ringing, nonetheless, he received no response. He waited for some time. Yet, nothing changed. Talia is gone! He felt so worried about her.

Few minutes later, he decided to drive back to his home. Later, he couldn't sleep. Hence, he went to the kitchen to pour a drink. Afterwards, he stood by the window drinking while wondering where she might have gone.

Next day.

As Spenser woke up, he checked his mobile immediately. Yet, he didn't receive anything from Talia. He got up from bed, wore his suit, then he took his car keys and headed outside. **Few hours later**, he arrived at her home. At the same time, there was someone getting out of the building. Hence, he quickly got in before the door closed.

He ran upstairs until he reached her floor. Afterwards, he rang the doorbell but no one opened, he knocked several times on the door hoping that she would open but she didn't appear. As a result, he felt nervous. Later, he rode in his car and directed himself at her company. He walked in not giving any attention to anyone until he, eventually, saw her with three people standing by the elevator. As he saw her, he was angry since she was totally fine and acting normal while he was very worried about her.

Spenser directed himself to where she stands. He stood beside her. When she noticed him, she couldn't say anything because of the people who were standing with her. Later, they all, including Spenser, rode in the elevator. In the elevator, Spenser and Talia kept looking at each other until they reached the third floor. They got outside. Spenser called Talia while she was walking with the people. She excused them for a minute then she asked them to enter the meeting room until she came. Afterwards, she stood with Spenser.

Talia: Spenser! What are you doing here?

Spenser (*with glaring eyes*): really! Are you asking why I'm here! I called you several times, your mobile was off and you weren't at your home! Where were you all day yesterday?

Talia: Did you come to my home?

Spenser: yes ~he paused~ I thought something bad happened to you but it seems that you are totally fine.

Talia: I'm sorry, I ... (*stumbling*)

Spenser: are you good?

Talia: yes. It's only that day of the year that I disconnect from everything.

Spenser: why?

Talia: I don't really want to talk about it.

Spenser: it's okay!

Talia: I'm really sorry.

Spenser: most importantly, you are good and nothing bad happened to you. Alright, I'm going to leave you for the meeting.

Talia: I will call you.

Spenser: okay.

Spenser headed out of the company. Later, he met Omar on his way out. Omar was full of anger. He asked him what he was doing at his company after he fired him. Spenser was in a rush; he didn't want to mess up again. So, he just ignored him and left. Omar felt rage in return.

~~~

### **Next day.**

As soon as Spenser arrived, the secretary notified him about Cameron who was waiting inside.

*~Cameron is a lawyer who hated Spenser so much for a long time. That is because when Spenser was a senior associate, he beat him*

*in the court and made him lose one of his biggest clients. Cameron discovered that Spenser crossed the line to win. As a result, his hatred to him never faded~*

Spenser: what a surprise! I haven't actually heard of you since last time.

Cameron: how about hearing this *~he dropped a lawsuit on Spenser's desk~* Zain co. is suing you for negligence.

Spenser (laughing): what!

Cameron: you punched your client.

Spenser (*sarcastically*): I didn't know that it hurt him that much

Cameron: You didn't change since the last time I saw you! You always love to make fun of others; thinking that you are above them. This time is different because it's time to watch you lose, Mr. Harris.

Spenser: what's really funny is what I'm hearing right now.

*~Cameron headed out of Spenser's office feeling confident~*

Spenser knew that he's in a real problem. **Few minutes later**, Talia called Spenser. However, he couldn't answer her. While Spenser was standing up, Emma came to him. She was familiar with everything since the secretary told her. Accordingly, Emma asked Spenser about what he will do regarding this case. He told her that he's going out for now. Afterwards, Spenser went to have a coffee. **10 minutes later of his arrival**, Talia came.

## Chapter 7

Spenser (*surprisingly*): How did you know that I'm here?

Talia: you are not the only smart guy here.

Spenser (half-smiled): that's impressive!

Talia: To be honest, when I called you; I was on my way to you. When I arrived, I found the same lady whom I saw at your office the last time.

Spenser: Emma?

Talia: Probably, she didn't say her name but she told me that you will be here.

Spenser (*smiled*): she's a disaster. So, you probably heard of the lawsuit.

Talia: yes and I'm here to offer help!

Spenser: thank you, I will handle it myself. You don't need to involve yourself again with that guy.

Talia: Spenser, please let me help you. I know I'm not a lawyer but I sure understand Omar so much! I told you that he will come after you and here he did.

*~Spenser looked at her without uttering a word. Hence, Talia told him that this means an approval then she added that he doesn't have to worry. He nodded his head while smiling back to her~*

Later, Talia left Spenser and went back to her company. She was waiting for Omar to arrive and when he arrived, she went to his office. As Talia came in, Omar welcomed her asking if she wanted anything. She approached his desk, looked directly to his eyes, and asked him to withdraw that case against Spenser. Omar laughed so hard as he couldn't believe what she was asking him. Talia told Omar that Spenser doesn't deserve this. However, Omar didn't care about what she was saying as he was mad about crossing the limits. Talia told him that if his father was alive, he wouldn't like such a thing since Spenser has been loyal to the firm for years. However, Omar was stubborn to withdraw the lawsuit. Accordingly, Talia told him that she will resign because she was the one responsible for all of this.

Omar didn't believe that she would trade her career to save him since she values her work so much. In addition, he can't let her go as Zain Co. Values her so much. As a result, Omar was con-

fused about what should be done; choosing Talia over the lawsuit or taking revenge from Spenser at the cost of Talia's departure. Talia left Omar and headed to her office. **20 minutes later**, Omar knocked on her door.

Omar: I have never thought that I would do such a thing. You know how much you mean to me and how valuable you are to the firm, but ...

Talia (*disappointingly*): I understand. Today, you will find my resignation letter on your desk.

Omar left Talia's office. She sat on the chair very disappointed because she couldn't help Spenser and she lost her job at the same time. Later, while she was absent, a colleague interrupted her as he wanted her feedback on his project. Therefore, she let in her colleague.

### **At 8 pm.**

Talia started to pack her things up. Then, she wrote her resignation letter. Later, she headed to Omar's office who wasn't there at that moment. She put her resignation letter on his desk then she left. While leaving, she was looking at every place in the company. Then, she went to see her office for one last time before her departure.

Afterwards, she left everything behind with eyes full of tears.

Talia headed out of the company waiting for an Uber to take her home. Nonetheless, Omar appeared.

Omar (*breathing heavily*): good that you are still here because I didn't find you at your office.

Talia: I'm leaving, Omar! Isn't this what you asked for?

Omar: I can't let you go (*He ripped the letter into pieces*).

Talia: but ...

Omar: I already called my lawyer to withdraw the lawsuit

*~Talia looked at Omar not believing that things changed at the last minute, she thanked him saying that she owes him one now~*

Uber arrived. So, she got in the car. **30 minutes later**, she arrived home. After a day full of stress, Talia finally can feel relieved. On the other side, Spenser was notified that there is no longer a lawsuit against him.

## Chapter 8

*(Dialing Talia)*

Spenser: Has anyone told you before that you are far-fetched?

Talia (*laughing*): does this mean that you heard the news?

Spenser: I did but how did you do that?

Talia: I told you that I might not be a lawyer but I can still handle it

Spenser: you impressed me *~he paused~* So, I was thinking of taking you on a dinner

Talia: for what occasion?

Spenser: you've just proved to me how perfect a lawyer you can be.

Talia (*smiled*): so, should I consider this as a job offer?

Spenser: if it suits you, miss.

Talia (*confidentially*): let me think of this

Spenser: I can take this as an acceptance

Talia (*laughed*): alright

Spenser: so, tomorrow at 7?

Talia: so, tomorrow at 7 it is

Spenser (*half-smiled*): perfect.

After they hung up, Spenser poured a drink for himself while Talia started to realize that the feelings of excitement and happiness she experiences whenever she speaks to him is different. Nevertheless, she didn't want to over-think things. As a result, she was convincing herself that these feelings are the result of finding comfort in the friendship.

### **Next day.**

Talia got up from the bed. She went to the bathroom, washed her face, brushed her teeth, and then she prepared tea for herself. Later, she went to work. However, she has been watching the clock all day feeling excited about dinnertime. Accordingly, she tried to speed up to be able to leave earlier.

**Few hours later**, Talia arrived home. She opened her wardrobe to pick an outfit; trying one outfit after the other. Nevertheless, she couldn't decide which to wear. Afterwards, Talia face-timed her sister to help her choose an outfit. Her

sister asked her for what occasion this is. When Talia told her it's for dinner, her sister started to ask her who, where, and how questions. However, Talia was running out of time; she told her that she will explain later. Before she hung up, she told her sister not to get very excited because it's a business dinner.

After she hung up the phone, she wondered why she lied about Spenser, why she didn't have the courage to tell her sister that she just met someone who's gentle, respectful, and amazing. Later, Talia wore a very beautiful simple black dress that was chosen by her sister.

At the time where Talia and her sister were face-timing each other, Emma came to Spenser at the office with a new case. However, Spenser told her that it can wait till tomorrow since he got plans. Hence, she asked him what was going on. He responded that he has got dinner with Talia.

Emma replied: Finally! I can't believe that you are the same guy who said women are trouble

Spenser (*laughed*): Well, taking her to dinner doesn't change the fact that women are by nature trouble.

### **At 6.00 pm.**

Spenser went to pick Talia up. He arrived after 20 minutes. Hence, he called her to let her know that he's waiting down for her. Before Talia switched the light off, she couldn't believe that her room was upside down. Then, she headed out. At the moment she saw Spenser, who was waiting by his fancy car, something inside her moved. Yet, once again, she neglected differentiating these feelings. As she was getting down the stairs, he was just staring at her. Afterwards, he told her that she looks gorgeous then he opened the door for her. She thanked him. Then, they rode in the car to go to dinner.

### **Few hours later.**

They arrived at the place where Spenser planned to take her at. As they sat on the table, the waiter came, welcomed them then Spenser asked Talia if she loves steak. She told him yes. Consequently, he told the waiter to make it two then the waiter left. After that, he told Talia to trust him with the food. She smiled. **Few minutes later**, the waiter came again to pour a drink for them. However, Talia thanked the waiter.

*(The waiter left)*

Spenser: don't you drink?

Talia: It's forbidden in my religion.

Spenser: really, I'm sorry. I didn't know.

*~He called the waiter to take the champagne off the table~*

Talia: Why did you do that?

Spenser: it's okay.

Talia *(smiled)*: So, tell me how was your work?

Spenser: it was busy somehow but what about not talking about work tonight!

Talia *(laughed)*: you are right, enough work. By the way, I really like the place

Spenser: that place has always been so special to me since childhood *~in a flirty tone~* for your records, I've never taken someone here before, you are the first one.

Talia *(sarcastically)*: since childhood? Wow. Then, I'm lucky that Mr. Harris by himself took me here.

Spenser *(smirked)*: they are lucky having you!

*~Talia looked downward due to shyness~*

*(The food has arrived)*

Talia: so, you won't tell me what makes that place special to you?

Spenser: it's a long story.

Talia: I'd love to listen.

Spenser: well, bear with me then. I grew up in this small town. My parents got divorced when I was two years old. Ever since the divorce, my mom became everything to me. We used to do everything together; share and spend all the time with each other. We were so good until we started to run out of budget; I was 9 years old at that time. So, I decided to work besides school to help her. She refused, at first, saying that she will work for extra hours or search for an additional job at night but I knew that she was already tired from her main job. So, I insisted on working until she agreed.

Talia: that's amazing!

*~Suddenly, Spenser asked Talia to leave the food and follow him for a second. Yet, she had no idea what he was doing, she followed him any-*

*way. Afterwards, Spenser greeted and hugged an old man who was standing in the kitchen~*

Spenser to the old man: you will never change.

The old man to him: you know how much I love cooking!

*~Then, Spenser introduced Talia to him saying that he's the owner of the place who employed him years ago. Talia and the old man shook their hands. Talia looked at Spenser then she smiled at the old man. He then told them to enjoy themselves. Later, Spenser and Talia returned back to the table~*

Talia: that's beyond amazing! It seems like Antonio loves you so much.

Spenser (*with a smiley face*): he does. Antonio has always been my mentor and my best friend. He's like Zain to you. I've learned alot from him.

Talia: Does this mean that you can cook?

Spenser: absolutely.

Talia: you are surprising me.

Spenser: you will be more surprised after you eat food made by me.

Talia: I like this confidence when it comes to food. Well, I'm waiting to taste.

*(Spenser smirked while cutting the steak with the knife)*

Talia: is that the reason the place is special to you? I mean because of Antonio.

Spenser: part of it *~he paused~* Do you really want to know what makes this place special to me.

Talia: of course.

Spenser: alright, it's where I first invited my mother with my own money.

Talia *(excitedly)*: that's so sweet! Tell me more about it. How she felt.

*~Spenser is recalling the first day he brought his mother to dinner~*

Spenser: When we entered, she started to ask me what we were doing here until we sat on the table and I told her that I'm honored to have dinner with her. She was surprised and super happy. Antonio has served us by himself that day. Everything was great. She loved that place so much *~He said with a regret tone~*

*~Everyone has their own story of hiding  
their scars that are so close to their hearts.*

*One minute; they are suffering, the other  
minute; they are covering but they can't let  
go~*

## Chapter 9

Talia: did you stop taking her here?

*~Spenser looks doleful~*

Talia: are you okay?

Spenser: I promised her that I will always take her here but I broke the promise because my ego was so high that I chose to cut all the connections between her and I.

Talia: why did you do that?

Spenser: the problem started when she once came to my room and asked me to carefully listen to her. There, she told me that she will marry. At that moment, I got so angry. Then, she started to clarify why she has to marry him. There she told me that life is getting harsh on us as we couldn't make enough money. I told her that I'll work more but she doesn't have to get married. However, she told me that I have to focus on my studies so I can go to the university I want to go to and become the lawyer who I dreamt to be. I didn't listen to her. I kept working for more hours and at different places so I could make more money but it wasn't enough. I felt helpless.

Talia: then?

Spenser: a couple of days later, they set their marriage date. My relationship with her began to change gradually as someone else started to share everything with her. Days passed, I came one day early home and heard her crying in her room. When I entered, she was wiping her tears. I asked her what's going on, she told me nothing wrong. I knew she was hiding something. Later, her husband arrived. I was so mad as I expected that he's the one who's causing her pain. I yelled at him. Then, we got into a fight. When he told me that I'm sick and jealous because his mother loves him so much. I couldn't stand, I punched him hard, he fell on the floor. Afterwards, my mother yelled at both of us to stop the fight. Then, she asked me to go. At that moment, I was shocked; I didn't believe that she just asked me to leave. I looked at her then I left home.

Spenser (*continued*): then I returned back late at night, I packed my things, and took the money that I have saved then headed out of home. I was so lost; I couldn't stay in the town. Later, I decided to go to New York so I can pursue my dream. I was concerned because I had no enough money

to start a new life in this big city. However, everything changed when I met Davis.

Talia: Who's Davis?

Spenser: the man who helped me go to Harvard to become the lawyer of today. He's Emma's father.

Talia: really! That's impressive.

Spenser: I owe this man.

Talia: he's generous. What about Antonio, you too left without telling him?

Spenser: of course, I talked with him. He didn't want me to go at first. However, he knows how stubborn I am. So, he let me do what I see right!

Talia: And your mother? You haven't met her since then?

Spenser: it was too late.

*(A moment of silence)*

Spenser: 6 years later, Antonio called to inform me that she passed away and that I have to return for her funeral but I didn't go. Instead, I worked intensively to distract myself. However, I was still mad at her because I couldn't blame her for all of these years she chose this man over me.

*~His eyes are full of tears~*

He continued: 2 years ago, Antonio came to me in New York. He asked me to listen attentively to what he is going to say. There, he told me that she was ill all that time and that she knew that she was dying soon. She didn't want me to know about her illness, all she wanted was to live the rest of her days beside me. She never thought that I'd disappear one day. I understood that she asked me to go on that day because she was hurting. As I left home, her husband took her to the hospital due to the pain she felt and I mistakenly thought that she abandoned me.

Talia: I'm sorry for your loss!

Spenser: thank you! I wish I could only tell her that I'm sorry for everything and tell her that she has always been on my mind.

Talia: haven't you done this before?

Spenser: no, I couldn't. Anyway, I shouldn't have brought all of this in while having dinner.

Talia: why are you saying that! At the opposite, I'm glad that you spoke what's in your heart.

## Chapter 10

After they finished eating, Spenser said goodbye to Antonio then they got in his car. While he was driving, Talia was looking out from the window then she asked him about his town. He suggested if she wants to see it. She excitedly said yes. **Few minutes later**, he parked his car near an old tall building. Then, he asked her to get out and follow him. There, she noticed that it might be a school. He confirmed that this was his school.

It was 10 pm. The school was closed. Accordingly, Talia asked him how they will get there. He told her some adventure time won't cost them anything. Hence, they started to sneak inside.

**Few minutes later**, Talia and Spenser were able to successfully pass the security who was on the gate. Hence, they entered the building. Later, Spenser started to show her the building from inside including where his classes were while recalling some of the memories. Then, he took her to the basketball court. He switched on the lights then brought a ball and started bouncing it. While

bouncing the ball, he looked at Talia and told her that it has been a very long time since he played basketball. She asked him whether he was a good player or not. He laughed and told her **“we don’t ask these questions”**.

He approached her with the ball then asked her to join the game. While she was trying to take the ball from him, he was dribbling and scoring several times until she got tired. Afterwards, he gave her the ball and told her to try to score.

She confidently stood ready to score. However, she failed more than once. Spenser was watching how hard she was trying to score while laughing at her. Later, he approached her and told her to watch how it is done. Then, he gave her the ball to try; her performance was getting better yet she couldn’t score. He got closer to her to show her how to hold the ball and focus on the target to score. At that moment, she felt nervous. Eventually, she successfully scored the ball. Thus, she felt so happy and bragged about how good she is at that game. He laughed and told her in a sarcastic tone **“I can see”**. Then, he kept teasing her for a while and laughing on her reactions.

**15 minutes later**, they headed out of the basketball court. While they were walking, they passed by the principal's office. So, Spenser stopped and entered the principal's office. Talia noticed that this is the principal's office because she read the sign written on the door before she entered after him. Spenser started to mimic him while Talia was laughing. Afterwards, while they were going outside, Spenser quickly backed off as he saw one of the securities coming with the principal. Talia asked him why they can't get out. He told her about what he saw. She panicked. Yet, he cooled her down asking her to remain silent.

**Few minutes later**, they noticed that the door was being opened. Hence, they hid behind it. The principal asked the security to go, then he entered his office. As soon as he got inside, they decided to run before he caught them. Accordingly, the principal felt terrified when he saw them getting out of his office. He thought they were thieves; he held his gun and shouted at them to stop. The security guard who was with him heard a noise, so he quickly returned back to the principal. As they were escaping, they met the security in the

hallway. Once he saw them, he ran towards them to catch them. Spenser and Talia were trapped from the front by the security and from the back by the principal.

Few seconds later, Spenser held her hand unexpectedly then they entered a tiny door where they could take the stairs and run downwards. As they got out, they found 2 other securities looking for them. Given that, the securities started to chase them. Spenser had to throw the bins at them to be able to escape. Nonetheless, one of Talia's heels broke while she was running, hence, she couldn't run with a broken heel. As a result, she took them off and they continued running until they successfully got out of the school. Later, they got in the car, took their breath heavily then Spenser started the engine and moved away.

After they drove far from the school, he stopped the car. Then, they looked at each other and started to laugh. After then, Talia told Spenser that they were almost caught. He responded that he never expected the principal to visit the school at that time. She told him that he asked for an adventure and here they made better than expected.

**12 am.**

Later, Spenser stopped by a place. She asked him why he stopped. He told her that he would like to show her something before they leave. They got out of the car. It was dark so they opened the torch of their mobiles and walked on the grass for a couple of minutes until they reached a very beautiful lake. As they stopped at the spot, she was stunned by the place then she asked him what that place is. He told her **“that place I discovered when I was 7 years old. Ever since, it became my escape zone”**.

Talia: I already loved your town! That’s really amazing!

Afterwards, they left since Talia noticed that it was too late. Spenser drove her back to her home, she thanked him a lot for the day. Then, he asked her if she is free tomorrow night. However, she remembered that she had a flight in a few hours.

Talia (*surprisingly*): I almost forgot. I have a flight in a couple of hours.

Spenser: really? Where are you going?

Talia: London; to the new branch of Zain co.

Spenser: when will you be back?

Talia: I don't know, maybe 2-3 days.

Spenser: take care of yourself then

Talia (*smiled*): okay!

*~Talia got out of the car, while feeling happy as she really enjoyed spending time with Spenser. Later, she entered her apartment, exchanged her clothes, then slept~*

# Chapter 11

**At 5 am.**

*(Alarm buzzes)*

Talia turned it off. She was so sleepy yet she had to get out of the bed to pack up her things and head to the airport. She made coffee then started packing up her things. **Few minutes later**, she was ready to go. It was 6.45 am, she called Uber then waited for him to come. Later, she arrived at the airport. Then, Omar called her to meet up.

**(7 hours later: 3 pm/ London)**

Talia and Omar arrived at the hotel. Talia told him that she will rest for some time. Accordingly, she went to her room then lied on the bed to sleep. However, she found 2 missed calls from her sister so she Face-timed her informing her that she has just arrived in London. Afterwards, she slept.

**(2 hours later: 5pm/ London)**

Talia woke up. She found a message from Omar saying that he will be waiting for her at 6 pm to have dinner together. She left the mo-

bile as she was expecting a text from Spenser instead then she got up from bed. She washed her face, brushed her teeth then she took her mobile, grabbed some water, and stood in the balcony to smell fresh air. The view and the weather were amazing, thus, they made Talia recall the last day she spent with Spenser. Nonetheless, she quickly awakened herself trying not to think about it. Afterwards, she got inside to get ready for dinner.

**(12.30 pm/ New York)**

Spenser received bad news regarding the trial that he has in a couple of hours. Accordingly, he asked the secretary to cancel any plans for the next couple of hours to be able to solve the problem before going to the court. Afterwards, he collected many documents and files and put them all on his desk trying to figure out a way out.

**(6pm/ London)**

Talia wore a white shirt, blue jeans, and heels; putting the shirt inside and adding jewelry to the outfit. Then, she headed to Omar who was waiting for her on the table. As he saw her, he stood up then he told her that she looks gorgeous. She

thanked him then they sat on the table. Later, he asked her whether she slept well or not. She told him yes. The dinner has arrived. She was starving. While eating, she started to talk with him about the company and discuss things that should be done in the company in London. During their discussion, she received a text from Spenser saying: **“did you arrive?”**. She got very excited as she read the message then she replied back. At that time, Omar repeated again what he was saying since he noticed that she wasn't hearing.

After they finished the dinner, she excused Omar as she was still tired. She told him that she needs to get a good rest to be able to wake up early in the morning. So, she left. As she entered her room, She put her mobile on the bed then she went to the kitchen to bring water. After then, she approached the balcony to close the window but her mobile rang. So, she left the window and went to check who it is. She found a text from Spenser asking whether she's free to call her. **Few seconds later**, he called her. She took the mobile and stood in the balcony while talking with him.

## Next Day.

Talia woke up. She got ready for work. As she arrived at the company, she met with the manager and they started their meeting. Later, Omar arrived and joined them. After a couple of hours, Omar and Talia went for lunch. As they were having lunch, Omar started to talk again about his feelings towards her; wishing that she could give him a chance. However, she was honest with him. Accordingly, she told him that she can't see him more than a brother to her. She also added that she's not thinking of going into any relationships as she came here only to fulfil her dream. Omar respected her point yet he wished he could change her feelings one day.

*~Omar was crazy about Talia. Despite the fact that he owns a big house in London, he booked at the hotel to be with her. He wanted her to love him as he does. He tried several times yet he couldn't win her heart~*

*~Talia is a very beautiful and successful girl. Anyone meets her, loves her instantly. Her kindness and pureness are always reflected on the way she treats people and the way she speaks in general. Yet, when it comes to love, her stan-*

*dards become so high; she doesn't want to break someone's heart for a chance she might give without deeply feeling it or be broken because she was already broken before. Talia appreciates hard work and success over love. That's her perception about life. Therefore, she is not easily attracted to anyone. Her feelings are not cold, they are delicate. Her chances to love somebody became low, because no one was able to connect to her soul~*

**(8.30 am/ New York)**

Spenser returned back home after he jogged for a while. He took shower, got suited, then he went to his company. As he arrived, he went to his office to start working. Few hours later, Cameron met him where he was eating his baguette sandwich on the street.

*~Spenser is busy eating his favorite baguette~*

Spenser: here you are! (*Sarcastically*) as far as I'm concerned, I didn't hit anyone this time!

Cameron: I didn't come here for this *~handing him a file~* your client is being sued for killing people. This time tell me how you will cross the line! Meet you at court, Mr. Harris.

Cameron left while Spenser returned back to his company. He called his client “Wayne” for explanation of what he heard. **Few minutes later**, Spenser went to meet Wayne at his company as per Wayne’s request. As he arrived, he went to Wayne’s office to discuss what’s going on. Wayne told him that he has been working for years and invested a lot of money to produce that medicine yet he never expected that the results show the opposite. Spenser asked him why he sounded hesitant. Wayne paused. Spenser understood at that moment that his client knew the consequences yet he proceeded in it. Hence, he told him that this is considered a crime. For that reason, he can’t defend him. Wayne begged him to help his company then he started to explain the whole story.

*~Wayne and his brother Jonas have a pharmaceutical company. Wayne is responsible for production and research and development, while his brother is responsible for marketing and finance~*

Wayne told Spenser that his brother came to him one day telling him that he has made a deal with a big hospital to sell that new medicine in

return of huge money. They got excited yet the problem was timing since the medicine needs a couple of months to be fully ready but Jonas had already cut a deal with the hospital to give the medicine in a month from that day. Wayne continued saying that he fought so hard to let him back off. Afterwards, he thought that his brother forgot about that deal as he didn't open the topic with him again. Later, he was surprised that his brother took the money and traveled out of the country. On that day, Wayne had a heart attack and was moved to the hospital. Later, he received a call from the big hospital they cut the deal with which asked for the medicine as per the deal.

Nonetheless, Wayne tried to clarify the whole situation asking for extension. Yet, the manager of the hospital didn't cooperate with him. Instead, he asked him to either return the money back with a penalty of paying double the money they took as per the conditions of the deal or give the medicine. Otherwise, he will get sued and lose everything including the company. However, Wayne didn't have enough money to return them back. As a result, he agreed to give them the medicine. Spenser asked him why he didn't

call him at that time instead of putting people's lives at risk. He responded that he agreed to give the medicine because he had made a final trial on it and it succeeded. Wayne begged Spenser to help him as he believed that the medicine was ready to be out. He added that if it wasn't, he wouldn't ever get it out since its people live. Later, Spenser left Wayne and drove to his company. He kept thinking of the whole situation.

## Chapter 12

**At 8 pm.**

While Spenser was working on Wayne's case, he heard a noise outside his office. So, he stood up and headed outside to see what's going on. He found the secretary fighting with a woman telling her that she can't get in. Accordingly, Spenser got involved asking the woman what she wants. When the woman saw Spenser, she approached him and asked for letting her in. Spenser couldn't let her go. So, he permitted her to enter, then he looked at the secretary telling her that what she has done is inappropriate. Afterwards, he entered the office with the woman.

*~Mitchell came to get a divorce from her husband who she discovered that he has been cheating on her. Not only that but he also threatened her to take everything including her son if she brought this thing to court~*

After she told Spenser about the divorce, he told her that he doesn't work on this type of cases. Not to mention, he asked her not to worry since he will pass that case to someone else who can help her better. But Mitchell insisted on Spens-

er to have her case since she heard that he's the best lawyer in New York. Besides, she fears losing against her husband because he will not leave her alone until he destroys her life and takes her only son from her. Although Spenser was busy with the huge case that he has, he didn't want to put her down. Thus, he agreed to take that case but asked her if they can have another meeting in 3 days so she can tell him everything in detail. After the woman left, Talia popped up into his mind. So, he called her.

*~Face-timing Talia~*

**(1.30 am/ London)**

Talia (*sleepy tone*): Spenser! Is everything fine?

Spenser: were you sleeping? I'm sorry for calling late.

Talia: no, it's fine! Are you okay?

Spenser: not really!

Talia: what's going on?

Spenser: there's a lot in my mind. I feel tired, Talia and I'm not supposed to feel like that!

Talia: you are not supposed to say that! You are a human and it's okay for you to feel tired. You

are the best lawyer in New York and you will always be like that no matter what. Just give yourself a break.

Spenser: hold on one second! Did you say “**the best lawyer**”?

Talia: did I? I don’t remember saying such a thing!

*~They both laughed~*

Spenser: hearing that from you is different.

Talia: Whys that?

Spenser: because it sounded better than what someone once told me before on the first day we met! “Cocky, have a lot of haters ... “rang any bells?

*~She paused~*

Talia: hmm!

Spenser: hmm! We got past this. Don’t worry, i was joking.

*~They both laughed~*

*(A moment of silence)*

Spenser: for real, how can you do that?

Talia: do what?

Spenser: you made me feel much better.

Talia (*smiled*): Well, it's Talia's magic (*paused*)

Spenser: I can see!

Talia: where are you at this time?

Spenser: still at the office.

Talia: then leave whatever you are doing. Go home, take a shower then have a good sleep.

Spenser: alright! I'm leaving now. When are you coming back?

Talia: I still don't know! I hope soon.

*~They hung up the phone. Talia continued sleeping while Spenser arrived at his house. He took shower, poured a drink then he slept~*

**Next Day.**

**(8 am/ London)**

Talia woke up, she got dressed then she went to the company. **Few hours later**, she met with Omar. Talia updated him about everything telling him that everything is going very well. Afterwards, Omar told her that he will leave early as he has to go to the bank. Then, he invited her to join him tonight with some of his old friends.

Talia gave him excuses in order not to go, yet he insisted on taking her. He added that she will enjoy it. Later, Talia called Spenser to check on him.

*~Face-timing Spenser~*

**(7 am/ New York)**

Talia: good morning!

Spenser (sleepy tone): morning. What time is it?

Talia: I think it's 7 in New York.

Spenser (*sleepy tone*): I have to get up but ...

(*Silence*)

Talia: Spenser! Did you sleep again?

Spenser: what were you saying?

Talia (laughing): you are so sleepy. Okay, I'll hang up when you wake up just call me!

Spenser: alright

**Half an hour later.**

*~Face-timing Talia~*

Spenser: I'm sorry I was on a sleep mode

Talia (*laughed*): it's okay. Did you continue your sleep after we hung up?

Spenser: no, I woke up right after we hanged up

Talia: are you sure?

Spenser: I just woke up now.

Talia (*laughed*): I expected that *~she paused~* I shouldn't have called you at that time.

Spenser: at the opposite, if you didn't call me, Emma would have done this. I discovered that I turned the alarm off while sleeping.

Talia: you must have been so tired. How are you doing now?

Spenser: I'm doing great! What about you?

Talia (*smiled*): I'm great!

Spenser: when are you coming back?

Talia: again?

Spenser: did I ask you before because I can't remember!

Talia (*sarcastically*): yes, yesterday! This must have been on your mind.

*~He half-smiled~*

Spenser: do you really want to know?

Talia (*shyly*): never mind. What are you doing?

Spenser: coffee.

Talia: Are you going to the company today?

Spenser: of course, I have a lot of work to get done today.

Talia: you can do that!

Spenser: thank you. What about you?

Talia: I'm at the company now!

Spenser: and is everything good at your work?

Talia: yes! Let me leave you now to get ready

Spenser: okay. Talk to you later!

**30 minutes later**, Spenser arrived at his company. He went to his office to investigate his client's case. Yet, he was feeling bad about working on it. Later, Emma came in. She asked him what he's been focusing on. He told her that (Wayne Pharmaceutical company) has been sued for killing people. Emma was shocked and asked Spenser whether they are guilty or not. He told her the whole story. However, something popped up into his mind while he was saying the story. **Few**

**minutes later**, he looked at the day where the hospital received the medicine and the day where they filed a lawsuit against his client. Accordingly, he found inconvenience, thus, he knew that something was going on. So, he looked at the hospital's records. As a result, he found that the hospital has been running out of budget that year. Consequently, he connected things together. Later, he left his company and headed to Cameron.

## Chapter 13

Cameron: Look who came! What do you want, Spenser? We are supposed to meet tomorrow at court.

*~Spenser threw a file on his desk~*

Cameron: what's that?

Spenser: that is a settlement offer that will save your client from spending the rest of his life at prison.

Cameron (*laughed*): are you kidding me? You came here to settle! Show yourself out.

*~Spenser gave him other files that prove that his client is innocent showing that the medicine is unrelated to causing any deaths. Besides, the hospital is running out of budget which resulted in coming up with all of this. In other words, the hospital has been incompetent in terms of laying off 20% of its workers, not following up with patients, and so forth due to the unexpected crisis. As a result, the hospital has filed a lawsuit to get compensated rather than going bankrupt~*

Spenser (*continued*): so, instead of going to each worker your client has laid off and proves the in-

competence of your client's hospital. Hence, put your client in prison for life, you'd better accept this ~he left then he returned back~ BTW, consider the offer is doubled now when you pay because you didn't like my first offer and next time when you have a case against me, don't hold your head high because I fear you have it broken.

*~Spenser left while Cameron got so angry~*

**(9 pm/ London)**

Talia hung up the phone with Omar who told her to be ready in an hour. So, they can go out. Talia face-timed her sister then she started to get ready for the hangout. **An hour later**, she met with Omar. Later, Omar asked her what she thinks about his car. She told him that it's nice then she asked him when he bought it. He told her that he bought it today. Talia wasn't surprised by what he did because Omar always spends too much. Whatever he needs, he gets. They arrived at "**Aspers Casino, Stratford**". Talia wasn't familiar with the place until she entered with him and met his old friends. **Few hours later**, Talia felt uncomfortable at the place because everyone was drunk, even Omar who went gambling. She stood to the side. However, some drunk peo-

ple bumped into her. Accordingly, her mobile fell. She was mad while grabbing it. Hence, she called Uber to take her back to the hotel. Later, she wore her pajamas and laid on bed sleepless.

### **At 2 am.**

Talia was frightenedly awakened by the noise on the door as someone had been knocking on it. She quickly got up from bed and approached the door to see what's going on. There, she saw Omar waiting for her to open. Accordingly, she opened for him as he didn't want to stop unless she opened the door for him. Indeed, he was all drunk. She told him to stay quiet and return back to his room to sleep. Since, It's very late and everyone is sleeping. Yet, he didn't stop saying things in a loud voice. He even forced himself to get inside her room; he asked her why she left without saying then he kept telling her that he loves her so much and he can't stand the way she's treating him. She told him that he's drunk and he needs to sleep. However, he told her that he won't go away until she tells him that she loves him back. Then, he started to approach her. Talia lost control and yelled at him to go out. Omar looked at her and told her that he will not give

up on her then he left. Talia couldn't sleep after. She stood in the balcony to breathe some fresh air, then she went inside to pack up her things to return back to New York.

**At 11.30 am.**

Talia returned back to her home. She charged her mobile, then she went to take shower. After she finished, she checked her mobile. There, she found 2 missed calls from Spenser. Therefore, she put on her clothes and went outside. Later, she called Spenser.

*~Face-timing Spenser~*

Spenser: here you are!

Talia (*laughed*): I'm sorry, my mobile ran out of battery yesterday and I charged it up in the morning

Spenser: alright! How are you doing?

Talia: great and you?

Spenser: I'm all right.

Talia: where are you?

Spenser: I'm at the company but I'm leaving now.

Talia: to where?

Spenser: I'm going to meet someone then I'm traveling to London.

Talia: funny!

Spenser: I'm serious

Talia: And why's that?

Spenser: I have work there

Talia: really?

Spenser: yes! Then, I can meet you!

Talia: of course, after you finish your work.

Spenser: exactly.

Talia: okay then, I'll hang up because I met someone

Spenser: a woman or a man?

Talia: would it matter?

Spenser: no but if it's a woman, just give her my number in case she needed me later

Talia: what if it's a man?

Spenser: I thought it's not an option

Talia: why exactly?

Spenser: I thought English men are not your type

Talia: And how do you know?

Spenser: I don't have to ask. It's clear.

Talia: for your records, English men are attractive to me. I love their accent.

Spenser (*speaking with British accent*): I can too speak like them

*~She laughed~*

*(After a short time)*

Talia: excuse me!

*~Spenser turned his back~*

Spenser (*surprisingly*): what! Since when you arrived?

Talia: a few hours ago.

Spenser (*sarcastically*): I thought you will never come back

Talia: why's that?

Spenser: don't you love English men!

*~Talia laughed~*

Spenser: glad you came.

Talia (*laughed*): thank you! Were you going to your friend now?

Spenser: yes, I'm supposed to. Where were you going?

Talia: I was going to the coffee shop

Spenser: Breck's?

Talia (*surprisingly*): yes.

Spenser: let's go together then!

Talia: what about your friend?

Spenser: it's okay, I still have time

*~They walked together to Breck's~*

Spenser: do you have any plans next?

Talia: nope.

Spenser: what about joining me then?

Talia: no, I can't

Spenser: but you don't have any plans

Talia: but you are going to meet your friend?

Spenser: it's not a friend. She's a client! I'm going to meet her in a park nearby. Hadn't you told me before that you would want to know what I do in my work?

Talia: Yes, but will that be acceptable?

Spenser: it's okay. You are with me!

Talia: are you sure of that? I don't want to cause you any problems

Spenser: it wouldn't be a problem if you pretended to be working with me.

Talia: Do you want me to lie?

Spenser: you won't lie. It's not the first case we've worked on together

Talia (*confidently*): you are right. I can make a good lawyer though.

Spenser (*whispered*): I hope that the day passes without any harms

Talia: Were you saying something?

Spenser: not at all.

They arrived at Breck's, grabbed coffee, then Spenser's chauffeur came to pick them up. **15 minutes later**, they met with Mitchell. Spenser introduced Talia to Mitchell by saying that she's his best associate and she can feel free in front of her. Thus, Mitchell greeted Talia. At that moment, Talia panicked since she felt responsible with that fake position. They sat on the bench

then Mitchell started to tell Spenser the whole story in detail.

*~Mitchell told Spenser that she can no longer live with that man as he always returns back home crooked. As a result, he hits and insults her and her little son. She added that he's irresponsible, careless, and always threatens by killing her~*

When Mitchell started to talk about her little son; she burst into tears. Talia got out of control and started to insult her husband then she cooled Mitchell down by telling her not to fear as they won't leave her until she gets divorced from that inhuman. Afterwards, her little son came to his mom and kissed her then he sat beside her, holding her hands. At that moment, Spenser loosened his tie knot as he felt suffocated. Talia noticed that something is going on with Spenser. Accordingly, she took the kid away to play with him, so Spenser can be back on track.

*~After hearing her story and seeing her son, Spenser could understand very well what she and her son have been feeling because the same story happened to him when he was a kid. That is, his father "Mark Harris" used to hit his moth-*

*er in front of him due to being drunk all the time. Nonetheless, as a 2 year-old-kid, Spenser wasn't able to do anything for his mother but instead waits until his father goes to bed then hugs his mother until they both sleep~*

Later, Mitchell thanked them so much then she asked Spenser whether Talia is the one working on that case because she would like her to work on it as she loved her so much. Talia was surprised by hearing that. Unlike Spenser who assumed that something like that might happen due to witnessing how eager she was when Mitchell started telling her story. Accordingly, Talia felt so worried and her face turned red. As a result, she was about to uncover the secret and tell her that she's not his associate and she knows nothing about law. Yet, Spenser interfered by telling Mitchell that Talia is kind of busy as she's helping him in other cases. For that reason, he will handle that case by himself adding that he will do whatever it takes to make her divorced as fast as he could. Mitchell thanked him again then she looked at Talia and said that she felt glad by meeting her.

## Chapter 14

*~After Mitchell left. Spenser looked at Talia~*

Spenser: seriously! Were you really about to tell her that you are an engineer?

Talia: I didn't know what to say! I freaked out.

Spenser: did you notice that this is our second time in one month to get out of trouble at the last minute.

Talia (*relaxed face*): you always handle the situation.

Spenser (*amazed*): were you really about to tell her that you are not a lawyer!

*~She gave an innocent look while smiling~*

*~He told her not to look at him in this way then they walked away~*

*(A moment of silence)*

Talia: so!

Spenser: so?

Talia: don't you want to tell me what happened while she was talking?

Spenser: what happened?

Talia: seriously! You are the only one who knows.

Spenser (*laughed*): but nothing really happened.

*~Spenser didn't want to tell Talia that this case was hard for him to take as it reminded him of his father and what he had been doing to his mother when he was a kid. By witnessing the kid and listening to the full story of Mitchell, Spenser recalled what he almost forgot. That's why he felt suffocated~*

Spenser: aren't you hungry?

Talia: I'm starving!

Spenser: Let's go eat something then you can tell me what you did in London.

~~~

Spenser and Talia decided to go to “Agosta” which is Antonio’s restaurant in Spenser’s old town. As they arrived, they ordered food then Talia told Spenser about her trip. Afterwards, they decided to walk because the weather was so beautiful. While they were walking, they found an ice cream car. Hence, they bought two ice

creams. Later, they arrived at Spenser's favorite spot. While they were walking through many trees, Talia asked Spenser how he discovered such a place. He told her that he knows every little part of this town and added that this area is specifically his favorite because it's hard for people to discover. Talia responded with "**that's really amazing**". Afterwards, they reached the place.

~~~

Talia: what's that?

Spenser (*surprisingly*): that has been since years (*then he said*): I know it looks different than the ones we usually see but it's a handmade sandbag.

*Talia: really! ~She asked~ were you the one who made it?*

Spenser: yes. We can be better than the English.

Talia (*laughed*): I can see. Are you still playing it?

Spenser: of course.

Talia: so, what's the story behind this handmade sandbag?

Spenser: historically, boxing wasn't available here. So, I used to wait every Thursday at 9 pm to watch them playing on TV. One day, I decided to make that thing ~*he pointed to the sandbag*~ I took my mother's old jeans and I cut one pair of it then I filled it with sand. It took me several trials to successfully make it look like the original one and here you are! You didn't recognize that it's a sandbag

*~Talia laughed then she told him that she likes it. He grabbed the sandbag then he tried to put it back in place~*

Spenser: I used to come here behind my mom's back to do boxing.

Talia: really, why's that?

Spenser: because she has always perceived this sport as aggressive. One time, I told her that I'd like to be like Muhammed Ali, she made me stop watching them on TV. So, I had to go behind her back ~*he paused*~ but later, I was surprised that she bought me boxing gloves on my 11th birthday because she knew that this would make me happier.

*Talia (laughed): your mom was so sweet!*

Spenser (*smiled*): yes!

*~They walked to the small bridge on the lake  
and sat on its end~*

Talia: My childhood was different from yours but similar in other aspects.

Spenser: how is that?

Talia: I was born in a very rich family but having everything was not enough because the most important thing was missing.

Spenser: and what's that?

Talia: parenthood. Your childhood, for instance, has been difficult but at least you had a mom who loved you so much and was there for you when you were growing up but my parents ... they weren't there during my growing up phases.

Spenser: why?

Talia: my father is a diplomat; he spent most of his life out of the country while my mother is a CEO of a famous fashion brand. Thus, she spent most of her time with her brand. As a result, my sister and I were the victims of their work. Do you know what?

Spenser: what?

Talia: despite that their absence bothered me so much at first because every time I needed them, they weren't there such as in parent's meetings, birthdays, Mother's Day, or even when I got sick but then, I wished that they would stay away forever.

Spenser: why are you saying that?

Talia: because whenever they were at one house, they were fighting, criticizing, and insulting each other instead of spending time with us ~*she paused*~ when they were away, it was bad but when they were at home, it was even worse. You can't imagine how much I hated them for every minute they wasted on themselves instead of us.

Spenser: that must have been tough but If your parents weren't there, who raised both of you up?

Talia: my sister; she's 9 years older than me. She's the one who raised me up. Without her, I wouldn't become who I became. She sacrificed everything, on the top of that, her childhood to take care of me. I owe her.

Spenser: it seems like both of you are so close to each other.

Talia: true! She provided me with what my parents didn't. But then, she had to travel to study psychology abroad. So, I had to take care of myself. It wasn't easy at all because the one who I used to run to when I feel scared has no longer been there. I hated everything around me but then I met "Yusuf"

Spenser: who's he?

Talia: the person who changed everything ~she smiled~ he became my best friend in a very short time; we used to share everything together even his family became my family too. He was able to fulfil my sister's place and show me the bright side of the world.

*~Talia suddenly stopped~*

Spenser: why did you stop?

Talia: I just remembered the old days

Spenser: what happened?

*~Talia inhaled~*

Talia: one day, we were racing with our bicycles and then he suddenly stopped. I asked him

why he stopped. He told me that something in his stomach hurts him. I thought he was joking with me as usual since we were racing and I was ahead of him but he couldn't really walk. So, I returned back to him and told him that he might have eaten something bad and that he will feel better soon. We returned back to our homes, so he can rest. Second time, we were walking to the shop then he suddenly lost consciousness but he told me that he's okay and that might have happened because he hadn't eaten anything since the morning. Hence, we completed our way to the shop.

Talia (*continued*): 4 days later, I called him because we were supposed to meet but he didn't respond. I went to his home yet I found no one there. I called him several times yet he still didn't respond. I felt worried. So, I called his mother. She told me that they moved him to the hospital. I quickly went there but I wasn't able to catch him because he was already gone ~*her tears began to fall like raindrops*~ I couldn't believe at that moment that he's gone but people around me showed otherwise

*~She wiped her tears~*

She continued: I kept on denying his death until a week later when I started to recognize that he's gone forever but it turned worse because I got very sick. I refused to eat. I even had no tears to cry, I wasn't communicating with any nor sleeping. Therefore, they moved me to the hospital and I had to stay there for a couple of days. Afterwards, I asked to meet his mother to understand how that happened but they refused to let me meet her when I was in the hospital. Later, I knew that Yousef was sick, he didn't want me to know of his disease. On that day, he died in an accident as he lost consciousness once again; his mother told me that he drifted to the side of the car with his bicycle. I blamed him for the years he hid his disease on me. If I knew, I wouldn't have asked him to cycle with me every day.

Spenser: I'm sorry for your loss!

Talia: it has been a long time.

Spenser couldn't reveal his feelings despite that he wanted to. They kept silent for a while then they got up to ride the car. Later, he drove her back to her home while he returned back to his company.

*~Pain doesn't kill and Weakness doesn't  
make you weaker, they only direct you to the  
path you are meant to take~*

## Chapter 15

### **3 weeks later.**

Spenser called Talia to tell her that he won Mitchell's case. Talia was so happy by hearing the news then she asked him what he is going to do next. He told her that he has to return back to the company as he has a meeting with the board of directors then he has other stuff to get done. As a result, they both agreed to meet at 7 o'clock. After Talia hung up with Spenser, she thought about making something for him because he has been stressed for the past days.

### **At 6.30 pm.**

Spenser called Talia to pick her up then they could go together somewhere. However, she told him to go directly to the spot where they can meet there. Accordingly, he left the company and directed himself to the spot. As he parked his car, he called Talia to see where she was. She didn't respond. So, he got out of the car and walked to the place. It was totally dark until he approached the spot. Talia was already there waiting for him to uncover the surprise that she prepared for him.

**Few seconds later**, Spenser couldn't believe what she prepared for him. He couldn't express his emotions too. He stood amazed among the fairy lights which were all over the tree. He kept smiling and laughing at the same time while looking at everything she did including the pizza, drinks, and snacks which she brought.

Spenser: have you done all of that?

Talia: absolutely, did you like it?

Spenser: of course, I did. You brought life into the place.

*~She smiled~*

Spenser: but how could you think of this?

Talia: I don't know. It just popped up into my mind. When you called me today, I thought about doing a little celebration for this victory and I couldn't find any better place than this!

*~Spenser smiled~*

Then he said: unbelievable!

*~Talia smiled back then she told him to sit to start eating~*

After they finished eating, Talia stood up then she walked near the lake. Consequently, Spenser

followed her to the small bridge. **Few seconds later**, he was behind her watching her watch the sky. Then, he came beside her~

Talia: Do you know what special about stars?

Spenser: what?

Talia: you can see your emotions through them.

Spenser: really!

Talia: yes.

Spenser: from where did you know?

Talia: I know I might sound insane but they can reflect what's inside you as if you are drawing a picture of your emotions. They can as well make you feel better. They are simply magic.

Spenser: what!

Talia: Let's say you are stressed, by looking at them for some time; you can start seeing shapes for your mood. Afterwards, you will feel relieved because they have this magic.

Spenser (*laughing*): what are you saying!

Talia: you are mocking me. I shouldn't have told you.

Spenser: no... no! I didn't mean to but it's my first time to hear something like that.

Talia: I spent my childhood watching them every night. I understood everything about them.

Spenser: so, stars are magic.

Talia: yes.

Spenser: wow! Then how did you discover that?

Talia: Do you want to try?

Spenser: I'd love to.

Talia: lay your back on the bridge then close your eyes.

*~Talia closed her eyes~*

Are you following me? She said

Spenser: yes, don't worry.

Talia: now, exhale ... repeat this for 4 times with me!

*~After they exhaled~*

Talia: take a deep breath then exhale slowly for one last time (***exhaling***). Now, try not to distract yourself and free your thoughts. Don't open your eyes until I tell you, okay?

Spenser: okay!

**(Few seconds later)**

*~Spenser slowly opened one eye after the other. Then, he looked beside him. There, she was sleeping like a princess, directing her face to the sky. Accordingly, he kept watching her while she was meditating~*

**(After 2 minutes)**

*~Talia told Spenser that they are going to open their eyes in a few seconds. However, he was still watching her as she took his mind off. Afterwards, she opened her eyes while watching the sky peacefully. He smiled then said that they are indeed magic. Hence, she looked at him yet he was still staring at her beauty. She asked him why he's staring at her. He quickly looked towards the sky. She smiled at his reaction~*

**Next day.**

She called him in the morning to meet him as it was a holiday. Accordingly, they met at “Breck’s” to drink coffee. While they were drinking, Talia was checking her mobile every now and then which annoyed Spenser in return. So, he asked

her if she's waiting for something. She told him no then she apologized. After they drank their coffee, she stood up and asked him to follow her without asking questions. They headed outside then they rode in Uber. **An hour later**, they were at his mother's grave. He asked her amazingly how she knew her place. She told him that Antonio had told her. Afterwards, she approached him then she said that he once told her that it was too late to speak to his mother and tell her what he felt after all of these years. He didn't believe that she had thought of this. While she was leaving to let him on his own, he held her hand for the first time to stop her then he told her to stay. He left her hand then approached his mother's grave while looking back at Talia. Afterwards, he introduced Talia to his mother. Later, Talia stood away while he was expressing his emotions to his mother for the first time after 12 years.

After he finished, he wiped his tears then he stood up. He went to Talia thanking her. Later, they started to walk until they stopped near the spot. They kept laughing as they found themselves at that point without realizing how far they walked. Talia ran towards the spot happily and

excitedly while he was watching how beautiful she is then he followed her until they arrived. As they stopped, Talia was breathing heavily while Spenser grabbed a nail that he saw on the ground. Accordingly, Talia asked him what he's going to do with that nail. He approached the tree then started carving their names on it. After he finished, they looked at it then he said: **that's where we can always escape**. Afterwards, they stood in front of each other. He looked deeply into her eyes where the sun was reflecting on them then he told her that he's lucky having her in his life.

### **Later, after that day.**

Things have changed dramatically leading to a step back from Talia's side given that what she was afraid of has happened. She fell in love when she was not supposed to. In the past couple of weeks, when Spenser was popping up into her mind, she was doubting her feelings convincing herself that these feelings are unreal. However, the day before was the turning point since it killed all her doubts. Talia realized at that time that what she has been experiencing towards Spenser for weeks has been love. Despite that her heart

has always been a battle that is hard to win, Talia fell for Spenser. However, she couldn't conquer her fears.

*~Her heart is a battle that is hard to win~*

## Chapter 16

*“Hello sister, I really need to talk with you. I know that you are busy but please call me as soon as you receive my message. Love you!”* Talia sent a text message to her sister.

Later, Talia went to work. She surrounded herself with tasks to distract herself yet she couldn't run away from thoughts. She received calls from Spenser yet she couldn't answer. She wanted to escape yet her heart wasn't ready. She felt suffocated, so she went outside to smell some fresh air. All she has been thinking of is how to stay away from him. **15 minutes later**, she returned back to her office. She was called for a meeting. Indeed, she was physically there but mentally absent. After she finished her meeting, she left the company early.

This time she didn't call Uber because she preferred to walk in the streets and smell fresh air. While she was walking, she stopped by an ice cream car since she remembered that day when he bought an ice cream for her. She awakened herself then she continued walking. **Few seconds later**, she heard a lot of noises coming from the

back but she couldn't figure out where the sound came from.

She tried to disregard them and continue her walk. However, the noises have been following her all the way. She started to feel mad, she wanted to run in some peaceful place where she can't hear any noise yet she couldn't escape because it turned out to be the noises in her head.

**A couple of hours later**, she found herself at her home. At that moment, Spenser was calling her but she couldn't respond. Instead, she threw her mobile on the table then she entered the bathroom to wash her face. She thought that she could wash her thoughts as well by washing her face but it was too late because they already conquered her.

**~After 1 day of disappearance~**

Talia called Spenser to apologize for being away the last day. She lied to him for the second time because she failed to escape and leave every memory of him behind. Spenser has been loyal to her ever since they met. Hence, she was trying to control her own feelings instead of losing him. **Few days later**, they returned to how she first

drew them. In other words, they returned back as best friends.

Nevertheless, this kind of friendship couldn't last for long since she put an end to it; on the day she stopped by a new shop near her company to bring something from it to eat. As she was leaving, she received a text from Spenser responding to her message that she sent a few hours ago. This message contains an apology since his schedule has been tight. Accordingly, she thought about buying his favorite baguette and passing it to him.

It was 9.00 pm. Talia arrived at his company. She walked inside. Later, she took the elevator. The more she was getting close to his office, the higher she was listening to the sound of her heartbeats. **Few minutes later**, she approached his office where his secretary wasn't there. Then, she continued her way to his office but she couldn't believe what she saw at that moment.

She saw him kissing a lady inside his office. Accordingly, she quickly stepped back without anyone noticing then she ran away. While running, she hit Emma accidentally so all the food she was carrying fell down. She apologized to her

then she continued running away. Emma felt astonished. Hence, she went to Spenser to understand what's going on.

As Emma headed to his office, the lady was heading outside. Later, she asked Spenser what Talia was doing here. He asked her what she is talking about then he asked her if Talia really came here. She clarified the whole situation saying that they had just met a few seconds ago in the hallway where she accidentally hit her and the food fell down. **Few seconds later**, Spenser headed out of his office. While running, he found the food on the floor. Accordingly, he stopped for a second then he took the stairs to catch her faster. He kept on running downstairs until he reached the ground floor. He headed outside of his company searching for Talia. There, she was standing a few inches away waiting for Uber. He ran to her.

### **Talia! He called**

*~Talia's eyes were full of tears. She wiped her tears when she heard his voice~*

Spenser: why did you go?

Talia: how did you know that I came?

Spenser: Emma told me. Why didn't you enter then?

Talia: because you were busy!

Spenser: but I wasn't!

Talia: you had someone *~she stopped and looked away~*

*(Spenser is trying to understand what she meant)*

Spenser: hold on! You probably misunderstood me. I have nothing to do with her beyond work. She unexpectedly took that action. I didn't ...

Talia *(interrupted)*: why are you giving me reasons? I don't care, it's your own life.

*Spenser: but I don't want her ~he paused~ I want you!*

*(A moment of silence)*

Talia: what are you saying?

Spenser: I love you ever since I met you!

Talia: but I don't ... *(She burst into tears)* please, Spenser go! Get out of my life!

Spenser: I won't go. I've waited for this moment for a long time.

Talia: please, I'm begging you to go and leave me!

Spenser: but you too love me, right? *~He paused for a while~* you too love me, am I right?

Talia: we can't be together!

Spenser: why?

Talia: we just can't

Spenser: but you are asking me to do the hardest thing.

Talia: I'm sorry but this is the best for both of us!

*(A moment of silence)*

Spenser: but there must be a way out. I just can't let you go after I finally found you.

Talia: I wish there was but there's no other way. Please, stop calling or texting me!

***~I thought we were just best friends; I didn't know that love can take place here too. "I wish I didn't meet you"~***

## Chapter 17

Spenser's phone kept ringing for some time. Yet, he was absent-minded until he recognized that it was ringing. So, he responded.

Emma: Are you okay?

Spenser: I guess!

Emma: where are you?

Spenser: I left

*~Emma knew there is something wrong~*

Emma: Are you sure everything is okay?

*~She knows that when he feels upset, he prefers to stay on his own~*

Spenser: yes! I'll call you later

Emma: okay

~~~

Spenser hung up the phone. Then, he drove to a nightclub. He ordered a drink then stayed for a while not knowing what should be done. Is it the end of his story? Is Talia forever gone? Or things will settle soon as she takes a break. Later, he kept drinking one after the other until he felt

worse. He went to the bathroom to wash his face yet he threw up. Afterwards, he headed to his car then he held his mobile while being drunk to call Talia in the hope of telling him that what had happened was untrue. Nevertheless, she didn't respond. Later, he drove back to his home.

Next day.

He woke up late and found himself on the sofa with his clothes from the day before. He got up slowly as he was tired. He went to take shower. Later, he discovered that his mobile ran out of battery. So, he put it to charge while he was getting suited. It was 12 pm, he was too late for work. As his phone opened, he received several missed calls from Emma, the secretary, and others. Spenser arrived at his company a few minutes later. He went directly to his office; the secretary entered his office after him. Hence, she notified him about his schedule of the day. Spenser wasn't feeling good yet he had so much work to get done.

Next Morning.

Spenser woke up, he couldn't get out of bed. He went to take shower then he got suited. Later,

he arrived at his company where he met Emma in the hallway. She asked him if he is okay, he responded yes. However, his face state showed otherwise. Afterwards, she left due to the trial she had in half an hour. **A couple of hours later**, in the middle of the day, Spenser left his work and went to the bathroom. While he was heading outside of his office, the secretary noticed that something's wrong going with him as he was imbalanced. He continued his way to the bathroom.

As he entered, he felt so bad as he couldn't see well due to feeling dizzy. As a result, he loosened his tie knot. After that, he tried to wake himself to stay conscious. **Few seconds later**, he opened the tap of the water and then washed his face. Later, he walked back to his office.

The secretary asked him on his way back if he's okay. He nodded his head. Then, he headed inside the office. He held a glass of water to drink. Yet, he couldn't raise his arm to drink. He tried badly to raise it but he was helpless. He got angry. As a result, the glass of water fell from his hand. At that moment, Emma entered his office. Accordingly, she ran towards him to help him.

Afterwards, she asked him to tell her what's going on with him. They sat on the sofa. After then, he told her that he has been stressed these days, not sleeping or eating well. However, Emma knew that it's Talia. So, she specifically asked him about Talia. He didn't want to talk about her. Accordingly, Emma cooled him down until he started to talk gradually about how he felt when she disappeared from his life after he got used to her. He felt so upset so he asked Emma to handle the case that he has been working on because he needs to leave.

He entered his car, started the engine, then he drove without a destination. He started to recall their memories, especially the day when they were together at Mitchell's son's birthday. He remembered when he received a call from Mitchell who invited him to her son's birthday and asking him to bring Talia since that will make them happier. He remembered when he heard the sound of Talia's excitement and happiness when he told her about the invitation. When they went together to buy a gift and the reactions he witnessed while she wasn't watching. He remembered how

happy he was by her side all the day; watching her smiling, laughing, and playing with kids.

When he stopped the car due to the red sign, he remembered the day when she was sitting next to him, raising her arms in the sky, and enjoying the weather. He felt bad. Afterwards, he continued driving. **30 minutes later**, Spenser arrived at the spot in his old town where he could escape. He got outside the car then he walked to the place. There, he went to the bridge and sat on its end.

Next day.

He woke up at the sunrise realizing that he fell asleep the day before on the bridge. As a result, his clothes and hair were messy. He stood up, fixed his hair, then he walked back to his car and drove to his home. As he arrived, he took shower then got suited and went outside. He stopped to buy his favorite baguette as he was starving. Later, he went to his company before everyone. He sat in his office to work. **Two hours later**, Emma came in. She asked him why he's early today. He told her that he has just woken up early. Then, she asked him if he feels better now. He responded that he is. Later, she left him as he was busy.

At the end of the day, Emma went to Spenser's office. He was standing with a drink in his hand, by the window, looking outside. She came beside him. They looked at each other, then each looked outwards. Spenser handed her his drink while looking outwards. She took it from him then she smiled. Later, they kept standing by the window silently.

~My heart feels tired of pretending everything is okay~

Chapter 18

Dear Joe,

It has been a long time since I wrote you a letter. I'm sorry but life is too harsh on me these days. I couldn't write to you. I miss you so much! There's a lot going on my head and this makes me tired. I feel so lonely. If only you were alive, nothing of this would ever happen.

I met a guy; he has the perfect smile and the best personality. He's gentle and successful. He once told me that he doesn't trust people. Yet, I found myself listening to his secrets. He once told me that he will always have my back. Yet, I didn't know that I'm the one who would break this bond. We became best friends but

Things started to change slowly; I didn't even plan it that way ...

I kept doubting my feelings but deep inside I knew that he was different. Yes, I loved him for every minute, I doubted it. I loved him for every second; I listened to his voice or saw his face. I loved his spirit and adventures. I loved his support and companionship. I loved his achievements and ambitions. I loved him beyond words.

Ever since you were gone, I thought I won't love again but I mistakenly thought about it because I loved someone but it turned out to be the wrong man. Why is life unfair?

Yours,

Talia

~Talia ripped the letter into pieces after she wrote it and threw it away then she returned back home~

Two weeks later.

“I'm on my way!” Talia told her friend at work a few minutes ago. She arrived at her friend's birthday party. She called her to see where she is since the place was full of people where her friend was hardly found. Finally, she met her friend “Cloe” and her group of friends. Cloe introduced Talia to her friends then the party began.

~Music is loud, people slipping in among the crowd, hands in the air, dancing like nobody cares, drinking to get hangover, as if it is their last night on earth~

Talia was absent, she wasn't enjoying it at all. Later, she felt a bad headache, so she excused

Cloe to go to the bathroom. While she was walking to the bathroom, she glimpsed Spenser sitting there among his friends. She stood still to watch him for a while since they have been apart for some time. While she was watching him, she wished she could run into him, hug him, and tell him how she really missed him but instead she ran away before he could catch her. Nonetheless, Spenser glimpsed her too while she was moving away, he didn't believe that he had just seen her. At that moment, Emma noticed that he's looking for something.

What's wrong? Emma asked.

I saw her. Spenser said.

Who? She asked

~Spenser stood up to leave~

Where are you going? She asked.

Spenser quickly went to follow Talia; he walked among the crowd too. It was dark, he kept searching for her but he couldn't see except unfamiliar faces. Then, he went outside. He saw her riding in a car. He quickly entered his car, started the engine, and went after her. While he was driving, his mobile kept ringing. Nevertheless, he didn't

answer the mobile as he was concerned only about reaching Talia. Spenser was riding fast for the purpose of finding her. **A couple of seconds later**, he started to feel the panic attack coming again as his vision was becoming unclear. Spenser didn't stop the car as he wanted to get over his panic attack and find Talia. However, it was getting worse; he couldn't breathe well, he felt suffocated.

Although he saw a truck coming across the road junction, he couldn't stop the car due to losing control over his whole body.

Chapter 19

After a few hours.

Why did you go? Spenser asked Talia.

I had to. Talia responded.

~He held her hands while looking at her eyes~

But we are not happy without each other. Why are you doing this to me? You are the only one I loved *~he paused~* what if there's another way? Spenser asked her.

Don't you get it, Spenser! There's no other way. Please, leave. She replied

~~~

Spenser stayed at the street, in the midnight, imagining that he was talking with Talia: the one who he loved so much, the one who decided to disappear without saying any reasons. He totally got absent. His mobile kept ringing. However, he didn't answer it. He laid his head on the steering wheel until he fell asleep. **Few hours later**, a car stopped near him. A bunch of annoying guys who were back from a party got out of their car then they ran towards him. They kept knocking

on the car window in an annoying way to wake him up yet he was so sleepy. One of them ran on the side road and brought a rock then he threw it strongly on his car window. Accordingly, the glass fell down. They kept shouting, asking him whether they listen to what they are saying or not. However, Spenser neglected them. They tried to get him out of the car but they couldn't. **Few seconds later**, one screamed saying: **he's still alive, call the hospital right now.**

Consequently, Spenser was moved to the nearest hospital after he was found in his totaled car covered with blood. The guys reached out to Emma since she was the one who kept calling him while he was passed out. Spenser was taken instantly to the operating room to have a surgery because he has very bad injuries in his head and body. **After half an hour**, Emma arrived. She was so worried about him. She wanted to know what happened, whether he's okay or not. Emma kept waiting for him outside praying that he gets out of it successfully. **After 12 hours of operation**, Spenser was moved to the recovery room. The doctor told Emma that Spenser luckily survived because his injuries were so severe.

**Next day.**

Spenser's accident was spread in news as

***“New York’s lawyer Spenser Harris was found injured in a bad car crash yesterday at 31st Wrethlane St.”***

The doctor informed Emma that Spenser has been in a coma. They couldn't determine when exactly he could wake up. On that day, Talia was packing her things up to leave the country. While she was waiting for Uber to take her to the airport, she coincidentally saw the news on her mobile. She felt so frightened. Uber arrived, she ran downstairs. She cancelled the trip and asked him to move. Nonetheless, Talia didn't know which hospital Spenser was in. She kept searching on the Internet, even searching for Emma on Face-book to find out his place. Yet, she couldn't find anything. Later, she called his company and eventually succeeded to know which hospital he is in. Hence, she asked Uber to take her to this specific destination.

Despite her fear of hospitals, she ran so quickly to see him. While she was running, she was recalling the same day when she was 13 years old;

running to see Yusuf at the hospital. Accordingly, her heart was beating rapidly; she was terrified because she didn't want to lose him as she lost Yusuf. She kept running faster until she arrived at his room. There, she found people waiting outside. She panicked. She was so scared because she experienced the same scene before with Yusuf when his parents were standing outside crying. She stood apart trying to breathe. **Few seconds later**, she inhaled and then walked towards his room.

As she approached his room, she directly looked at Spenser. Accordingly, her tears began to fall like raindrops. **Few seconds later**, Emma who was as well inside his room with the nurse saw her. Hence, she got outside and aggressively asked her to leave. Talia didn't want to go before she knew how he was and what happened. Emma asked her whether she cares that much. Talia responded that she needs to get inside and talk with him. Emma stopped her from getting any closer telling her that he won't be able to talk or listen to her since he has been in a coma. Talia was shocked when she heard that he had been in a coma. She burst into tears. Then, Emma told her

to stay away from him because that will be better for everyone.

Talia moved away quickly because she felt suffocated. She got outside the hospital and started to breathe. She couldn't move further, so she sat on the side crying until someone beside her asked her why she was crying. Talia stopped when she heard someone's speaking, she looked beside her then found a homeless old man sitting on the pavement speaking to her. She wiped her tears. Afterwards, he told her that the world is so strange. That is, some people get out of that place crying because they lost their beloved ones while others get out of the same place so happy and laughing that their beloved ones are back to life. Then, he added that people don't recognize that life can sometimes be harsh yet it is too short. So, people have to appreciate the little things and enjoy the most of it even if it gets harsh. Talia stood up after the man finished talking then she walked back to Spenser's room.

As she approached, she found Emma was still in. She stood four feet apart waiting for her to leave to be able to get inside. **Few hours later,**

someone came to take Emma, thus, she left the room with him. Accordingly, Talia entered.

She slowly approached him while he was laying on the bed with closed-eyes and a body full of scars. She leaned towards his ears whispering that she missed him. She slowly put her hand on his. Then, she said:

*~Remember when you once came to me at the company asking where I have been the day before and I told you that this day of the year I usually escape and I couldn't tell you the reason. On this day, I always disconnect from the world and stay by myself because it was the same day when I lost my first love and my best friend and couldn't get this out of my head for years. It is the day when Yusuf died back then **~she paused for a while~** I fell in love with him, yet, I kept silent for years because I thought he didn't share the same feelings with me. We were so good that I even sacrificed my happiness for his own sake; when I helped him with getting ready for his first date. I thought he was happy with her, I felt sad because I couldn't speak before her. All I did was watch how she is taking my lover from me. I*

*slowly got apart but he noticed. He fought with me, asking why I act weird. Few months later, he broke up with her saying that he didn't love her but he was already broken. I kept silent because I couldn't tell him about my feelings too. I was afraid to lose him ... but I lost him anyway.~*

*~Talía is getting emotional~*

When Yusuf died, I knew that he loved me too but he kept silent because he thought that I didn't share the same feelings with him because how on earth can someone love the other and at the same time seem excited for his first date. Yusuf left without knowing that I loved him because I was so perfect at hiding my feelings. Since then, I buried my heart with him.

*~Talía paused~*

Then, I met you. I wasn't looking for anything at all. We became friends but I didn't realize that I could fall for you at the end because love was something impossible for me, it has been buried since years. Yet, it happened; I fell for you but it wasn't easy at all because I had to listen to my head; telling me to escape instead before it becomes too late ... After a short time, you told me

that you love me too. Isn't that perfect for two lovers to reveal what they feel and live happily ever after? But how can this happen when we fell for each other so fast that you still don't know who I really am. So, instead of sharing my happiness, I was so scared. I wanted you more than anything in the world but I couldn't get away with the noise of my head that was killing me inside: "Would you be able to start a new life and create new norms? Would you be able to abandon your past? Would you still love me after I tell you about the fact? Or love is something other than that? Are you looking for a long-term relationship with me? Am I important to you? Is your love really true? Or you are just attracted like those before and I'm the only one inside this war?" These questions are all in my head.

I wanted to run but I couldn't. Something was always pulling me back, I knew it; that was my heart fighting with my mind. I chose to stay as your close friend but the day I saw the girl kissing you ... I realized that I can no longer win this battle inside my head because what can be harder than being unable to love your lover and watch him with another? I loved you but it was still hard

to ask you to convert to Islam because the only sound I've been familiar with is the sound of my head telling me to escape instead.

*~Talia kept crying for a while covering her face with her hands then she wiped her tears~*

**I'm sorry!** She, for the last word, said.

*~I wasn't planning on falling for anyone soon but then I met you and things just happened~*

## Chapter 20

Before leaving the room, she noticed that he was moving in his bed. After a short time of this, she heard the sound of the heart rate monitor increasing. Accordingly, she returned back to him and held his hands then she started to speak to him yet he wasn't getting any better. She felt so afraid. Afterwards, she quickly headed out to bring a doctor. Yet, she couldn't find any. She ran in the hall to look for anyone who can help. She found a nurse, hence, she asked her to come quickly with her. They ran to Spenser's room. The nurse called the doctor then she started to take the necessary actions until the doctor arrived.

Later, the doctor arrived; he was trying to make his heart go normal again while Talia was watching from an inch away. She was so worried about him. At that moment, Emma came and saw what was happening. Afterwards, Spenser returned to his normal heart rate then the doctor told them that he needs to rest completely. Emma asked him how that happened. The doctor responded that this might be a result of dreaming. He added that they don't have to worry.

The doctor left, Emma asked Talia what she has been doing here since she asked her to leave once before. Talia told her that she needed to talk with him. Emma responded that there's nothing to talk about since nothing would change the fact that he no longer wants her in his life. She clarified to her that he was getting used to his life without her and that he got over her. After then, she asked her to leave him on his own. Talia left with tears falling like raindrops. She returned home at night but she couldn't sleep because of Emma's words. Talia kept awake until the next day thinking about everything; how her existence made everything worse.

She couldn't go to work due to tiredness. She kept watching TV until she fell asleep at 5 pm. However, she was woken up by a nightmare. Accordingly, she took her breath then looked at her mobile to see what the time was. In fact, it was 10 at night, she got up and drank water. Then, she stood in the balcony for a while to smell some fresh air. Few minutes later, Talia wore a coat then she headed outside her apartment. She took a taxi then she arrived at the hospital. As she got out of the taxi, she hesitated to proceed. Hence,

she returned back to the taxi and asked him to take her back home. Talia couldn't forget Emma's words that have been like an echo inside her head. Later, she arrived home. It was 11.30 pm. Streets were empty, lights were off, people were sleeping but still there was the noise inside her head.

**Next day.**

**At 8 am.**

Talia woke up. She drank water then she went to the bathroom. Afterwards, she got dressed to go to work. She stayed late at work trying to distract herself until it became 9 pm. She called Uber. Later, she arrived at the hospital. She got outside the car then she started to walk inside. While she was entering, she glimpsed the same homeless man sitting on the side. She stopped for seconds then she returned back to him. Once she approached him, he glimpsed her. Accordingly, she turned her back quickly to leave. She continued walking until she sat on the bench near the hospital. She kept asking herself what she's still doing here since she was told that her existence made everything worse. Suddenly, she heard someone asking her why she had hesitated. She

looked upwards towards the source of the voice; she found the same homeless old man who followed her. She asked him what he meant. He responded that he saw her the day before when she came but left immediately and now too when she walked away. Then, he told her that she must have someone so special to her inside the hospital. She nodded her head then he sat beside her on the bench.

The homeless man to her: you know, I had a very pretty daughter at your age and a beautiful young son. I had the best family and life that one envies you about but everything was taken away from me in a minute.

Talia: what happened?

He said: I told them that I'm going to take them to dinner at night because of my younger son's birthday. However, I had to stay a bit late to finish the amount of work that I had before I went. I started to work intensively to get them done quickly before dinner time but time flew and I forgot about the dinner. Few hours later, I realized that I've been too late. My mobile has been on silent mode; my wife tried calling me for 15 times. I called her back while driving home but

she didn't answer. When I arrived home, they weren't there. I kept calling several times until someone answered me. He told me **“you need to come to the hospital, your family has been there”** Later, they informed me that my wife had an accident. When they told me where the accident took place, I realized that she was on her way to the restaurant. When I arrived at the hospital, the doctor told me **“I'm sorry, your family passed away”** the words that I never forgot. Since then, I've been sitting there. People think I'm crazy but the feeling of being around them is priceless. They have always asked me to spend time with them because I was always working, I didn't know that life could be that much shorter until I lost the most precious things in my life.

She said: I'm sorry!

He responded: Years have passed and I feel like I'm going to them soon. I'm telling you this, my darling because life can't always be like we want it to be. There are always important decisions that we must take throughout this journey. That is, sacrifices or choices. Neither of them is the best but that is what we have to accept at the end

because life is all about journeys full of sacrifices and choices. Bear in mind, life is too short.

*~Talia thanked the old man for the advice~*

Then, she returned back to the hospital. As she arrived at Spenser's floor, she pulled her wrap around her face to stay unknown then she started to walk slowly because she didn't want to be seen. Afterwards, she approached his room, she put her hand on the glass window, then she started to talk to him behind the glass.

*~Talia to Spenser: **you no longer need to answer these questions inside my head. I'm leaving forever but bear in mind that I'll never forget about you, I will always love you. Someone just told me that this is what the journey of life is about; sacrifices and choices. I had to leave for you to live the life you deserve with no more pain or hurts. I'm sorry for everything I caused you, please don't hate me~***

While Talia was heading outside the hospital, she called Omar and asked him to move to London and work at the company there. Indeed, Talia traveled to London after she said goodbye to Spenser.

## **Two months later/ London.**

Talia has been suffering for 2 months. Ever since she came to London, she knew nothing about Spenser. Later, she dedicated her life to work and concentrated on one of the most important projects in her life which, in fact, helped her get disconnected for some time.

## **Three years later.**

Talia's life has changed a lot as she accomplished several things within these 3 years; one of which is becoming the youngest designer who works for the royal family. Talia was informed to return back to New York to attend the big opening of her project that she has been working on for 2 years. Accordingly, she traveled a week ahead of the opening to make sure that everything is at place and to hold meetings with Omar at the headquarters. As she landed in New York, she discovered that she has been pretending for the past 3 years since she couldn't get over Spenser. Talia went to the hotel to have a rest. As she arrived, she put her things down, then slept.

## Chapter 21

**Next day.**

*(Alarm buzzes)*

She turned off the alarm then she got up from bed. Afterwards, she took a shower then made a coffee to herself while checking her emails. Later, she got dressed then headed to the company.

**At 9 am.**

She was so welcomed by her colleagues, who surrounded her when she came to the company, greeting her and praising her achievements. She was so happy by what she was hearing from them then she continued walking to her old office that she missed so much. She entered her office, sat on her chair, checking every part of her office then Omar came in.

~~~~

Talia: nothing changed in the office since I left.

Omar: I know

Talia: Do you mean that no one came here after I left?

Omar: exactly, I couldn't give it to anyone because I knew that you will come back one day

Talia: But we already talked in this, Omar! You know that I will return back to London after the opening

Omar: You changed the whole company in London and you really have great people below you but we really miss you around.

Talia (*smiled*): I missed you all too!

~Omar smiled~

Omar: alright, I'm going to leave you. Perhaps, you want to stay on your own.

After Omar left, Talia felt so emotional since she started at the same exact office as a junior and now, she's one of the most important and well-known designers in London. She left the company then walked in the streets of New York. She bought donuts then she started to eat while walking. After then, she sat down in front of a lake. There, she started to recall her memories with Spenser. Later, she continued walking. Among the crowd, she accidentally hit someone.

I'm sorry. Talia said

~He turned around. It was Spenser. She didn't believe that he's standing in front of her~

Talia (*surprisingly*): Spenser!

~At the moment he looked at her; his head started to hurt him~

Talia: are you okay?

~Few seconds later~

Spenser: I'm sorry! Do we know each other?

Afterwards, a little girl ran towards him, she held his hands then she asked him to lift her up. As he looked back at Talia, she had already vanished into thin air. He felt awkward because he couldn't know who she was. Later, the mother arrived asking Spenser what he was looking at. He told her that he has just met someone yet he couldn't recognize that person. Then, they walked away. Talia stood apart watching Spenser while playing with his little girl and laughing with his wife. She felt so sad. She returned back to the hotel and opened her laptop then started to surf the internet about the side effects of Coma. There, she read that they might lose their memory. As a result, she was disappointed.

~He neither remembered her face nor the place where they first met but something in her eyes were still memorized~

Two days later.

~Talia met Emma by coincidence at her company~

Talia: Emma! What a coincidence!

Emma: Hey Talia, how are you?

Talia: if you have come here to ask me to stay away from Spenser. Don't worry, I already met him two days ago and he didn't remember me at all!

Emma: I didn't come for this!

Talia: what did you come for?

Emma: I know that you hate me right now and I know how painful it has been for you

Talia: you will never know!

Emma: at the opposite, I'm the only one who knows how you feel *~she paused~* I've been living in this pain for 10 years.

Talia: I don't get what you mean

Emma (*disappointingly*): I've been loving Spenser for 10 years but he has never noticed. He used to tell me that he doesn't believe in love but then he fell for you. I kept silent because he was so happy with you and that was making me happy too. I know that I asked you to leave but that wasn't because of sending you away. I made this because I didn't want to see him hurting again. Spenser hardly trusts anyone but when he loves you, you choose to leave him. You didn't see how broken he was; he wasn't talking much and he was always absent. I tried my best to help him and be beside him but he wasn't helping me. I asked him to go to a psychiatrist but he refused; he wasn't the Spenser that I know for 10 years. And when he started to get better, you appeared once again. On that same day, he made an accident. I almost lost him. I couldn't stand losing him forever, Talia. He's everything to me!

~Talia was shocked hearing all of this. She hid her emotions by saying~

Talia: why are you saying this to me now? He's now married and has a daughter.

Emma: What daughter?

Talia: when I saw him, his wife and daughter were with him.

Emma: Spenser is not married. You must have seen him with Carla and her daughter Aisel. Those are not his family. Carla is an old friend who has just come from Spain with her daughter.

Talia: don't worry, Emma. I've just closed everything related to Spenser from a long time ago.

Talia went to her office. She was desperate. She couldn't just believe what she heard from Emma. Talia loved Spenser so much, she couldn't get over him for 3 years. Yet, she has to stay away from him for the rest of her life.

Chapter 22

After Talia accepted the fact that she has to put an end to her own love story and accept the painful truth, she felt suffocated. So, she left the company. Later, she found herself going to their spot at his old town. As she arrived, she unconsciously started to recall every memory happened at the spot. After a short time, she went to the tree where their names were carved on; she moved her fingers on their names while recalling the day when he held a nail and carved their names on it. Later, she went to the handmade sandbag which reminded her of when he was showing his strength by punching it. Afterwards, she walked to the small bridge. She kept watching the beauty of nature while her tears were falling like raindrops. Talia was forcing herself to let go of every beautiful memory she made with him!

At 6 pm.

She left their spot and returned back to the hotel. She kept working on her projects and responding to emails until she fell asleep.

Next day.

(Alarm buzzes)

She switched off the alarm then she continued sleeping. **Half an hour later**, Omar awakened her since he kept calling her. She hung up the phone with him then she quickly got up. Later, she drove fast to the company. She met Omar in the hall. She asked him if they arrived. He told her that they are going to meet them in the English restaurant two streets away. Accordingly, Talia and Omar rode in the car together until they arrived at the place. There, they met the English people. Then, they held the meeting. After the meeting had finished, they said goodbye to them.

Omar to Talia: are you ready for the opening tomorrow?

She nodded her head: hope it goes well.

Omar responded: it sure will.

~Then, they returned back to the company. Talia has been aiding her colleagues in their projects. Later, Omar came to her at her office. After she finished with her colleagues, Talia and Omar chatted over life~

(The Opening day)

Talia met with Omar at 4 pm. They went to drink coffee then they headed to the opening. There, they started to meet several people in the field and out of the field. Talia has been communicating with many people until she got tired. Accordingly, she ran from the crowd and stood at a high table on her own to free her mind while drinking orange juice.

~Few seconds later, she heard a voice coming from behind~

Omar: Look! Who has been hiding from people and left me on my own!

Talia (laughed): I have a headache. I needed to escape.

Omar: you are right. The place is full but I'm so proud of you!

Talia: thank you! ~She smiled~

Omar: don't go!

Talia: But I have to Omar!

Omar: You never told me why you wanted to move in the first place.

Talia: I felt I wanted a change and at the same time they needed someone to teach them our strategy.

Omar: Anyway, I'll be waiting for you tomorrow at the company!

Talia: why?

Omar: won't you say goodbye to us before leaving?

Talia (*smiled*): I sure will.

Next day.

Talia arrived at the company. She went to Omar's office. Yet, she didn't find him. His secretary notified her that he's waiting for her in the meeting room. There, she found Omar and the board of directors waiting for her. She felt surprised since she didn't know why they all attended. Omar asked her to sit beside him then he started to talk about her achievements at the company since her first day and how valuable she is to everyone. Then, he offered her to become a managing partner. She couldn't believe that she was just offered with this position as she has been dreaming of it for a long time. Afterwards, she told them that this was surprising.

She looked at Omar because she wanted this position yet she doesn't want to stay in New York. After a while, Omar asked her whether she accepts this promotion or not. She happily nodded her head. After they all left, she asked Omar whether he had done this to make her stay. He responded that she deserves this more than anyone.

Few months later.

Omar and Talia have been on very good terms. She saw in him a side that she thought she would never see. A side that his father would have felt so proud of. Omar took Talia for dinner as they have been working so hard since the morning.

(While eating)

Omar: I know that we haven't talked in this since the last time but I want to end the debate inside my head. I still love you.

Talia: you have changed a lot to the best but ...

Omar: I know you don't have feelings for me but give me a chance

~Talia felt so confused~

Chapter 23

(Conversation is ongoing)

Talia: I don't know what to say *~she paused~* alright, Omar. Let's give a chance to each other but if I still didn't feel anything towards you, no hard feelings!

Omar: sure! *~He paused~* I don't believe what I'm hearing.

~She smiled~

Omar: You won't regret it!

Talia: can I ask you something?

Omar: sure

Talia: Why did you keep on loving me when I told you that I don't share the same feelings?

Omar: because it's what my heart demands! You are different, Talia.

~She smiled~

Two days passed.

Talia didn't feel happy with Omar despite him being perfect with her. Accordingly, she felt pressured. She wanted to talk with someone

about what she feels to let this stress go. Later, she found herself going to “**Agosta**”. When she entered, she didn’t want to sit at the same table where she used to sit with Spenser. So, she sat at the back. There, Antonio saw her sitting alone. He asked the waiter to take him to her.

Excuse me, can I sit with you? Antonio said.

~Talia turned her face to the source of the voice~

Antonio!! *~She said with excitement~* sure!

He said: where have you been all of these years?

She replied: I moved to London 3 years ago

He said: you left without even saying goodbye

She responded: I’m sorry. You must have been mad at me

He said: to be honest, I was worried about you. I couldn’t even ask Spenser about you.

She said: because he wouldn’t have remembered me!

He said: I won’t ask you what happened to make you leave suddenly because I’m sure you have a reason for this but I’m glad you came today because I wanted to share something with you

Talia: sure, what is it?

~The waiter served the food on the table. Antonio thanked the waiter~

Talia: you still remember my favorite dish!

Antonio: despite my old age, I never forget

~She smiled~

He said: listen, my darling. I've known Spenser since he was a kid. I know literally everything about him, when he hides something, when he's excited, when he's angry, happy, overthinking. That kid has been different than any other kid since the first day I met him. I still can remember his first days when he saw me sitting alone, he came and asked me what's going on. I told him nothing, kid. I'm just thinking about something. He told me that he knew that I'm sad because of my daughter. He kissed my shoulder then told me to travel to Spain to see her and that he will take care of the place. Indeed, I went to my daughter. As a result, I was able to hold my newborn granddaughter between my arms and that's all happened because of him. When I returned back, everything was perfect as he promised. He has always been smart. Many years later, he fulfilled

his dream and became the best lawyer in New York. Despite this, he never forgot about me. He was always calling to check on me. One day, he called me late at night, I was astonished why he was calling at that time. The first thing he said was asking whether I was okay or not. He always knows when I'm sad. The next day, I found him here despite the fact that it was difficult for him to come. I had to tell him the truth that I'm going to shut down the place because I can no longer pay my liabilities. The other day, I found that all the liabilities have been paid. He told me then that this place has to remain no matter what. Not only that but he also sent me some workers to renew it. He recruited employees instead of those who left me. He turned the old place into this. Since then, it has become the best restaurant in town because of him. Do you know what else?

Talia: what?

Antonio: Remember the first day you came here?

Talia: of course.

Antonio: He called me the day before saying that he will bring someone very special to him to introduce to me. I knew that the one he will bring

will be different. The day I saw you, I was right about that. I was watching you from a distance. I've never seen Spenser that much happy since the loss of his mother.

Talia: but I hurt him so much. He hates me now.

Antonio: he's hurt because he probably doesn't understand why you're gone. He only needs to listen to you to understand

Talia: but it's too late now, Antonio!

Antonio: It's never too late if you are meant to be for each other.



Suddenly, they heard a little kid calling “**grandpa**”. They looked at her, it was Antonio’s granddaughter. Accordingly, he hugged and kissed her then he told Talia to see his granddaughter. Talia understood now that Spenser’s old friend is Antonio’s daughter. Later, Carla; the mother entered. So, Antonio excused Talia and went to his daughter. Afterwards, Talia kept thinking of Antonio’s words that reflected how loyal Spenser is to those he really loves and that she lost someone so special. Besides, thinking about Em-

ma's words when she told her that she has been loving Spenser for 10 years, and finally Omar's words who kept loving her for years as well. All of which confused her.

Chapter 24

Few hours later.

Talia finished eating, so she ordered the check. While she was waiting for the check, she glimpsed Spenser entering the place. When she saw him, she felt like she missed him so much. However, she kept hidden in order not to recognize her. Once the check came, she paid and left the changes to leave quickly. At that moment, he was sitting with Antonio's family who kept laughing together. The moment she grabbed her bag from the table to leave, he had already disappeared.

There, where she decided to run quickly towards the door to head outside. However, she accidentally hit him due to not seeing him because she was looking back at that moment.

~Her bag fell down when she bumped into him. He grabbed the bag from the floor and when he looked in her eyes, his head started to hurt him again. She took the bag from him and ran away~

Spenser returned back to the table. He wasn't feeling good. Carla asked him what's wrong with him. He told her that he's fine but he has a head-

ache then he entered the kitchen to Antonio. He asked him if there's something he knows while Spenser doesn't. Antonio knew that he meant Talia yet he asked him what's going on. Spenser told him that there has been something on his mind. He asked him what it was. He told him that he bumped into the same lady twice and at the two times, he felt like he knew her but he couldn't remember anything. He added that it's weird to meet her here. Afterwards, Antonio told him that he was loving her before the accident. When Spenser asked him what happened after the accident. Antonio told him that he doesn't know. Spenser excused him so that he could catch her before she leaves. However, he couldn't find her at all. He returned back to the table. Nonetheless, he was absent. Later, Carla and her daughter left while Spenser directed himself to the spot.

As he arrived at the spot; he laid his back on the tree feeling lost. Later, he noticed that his name is written above the name "Talia". Then, he started to see pictures of her in his mind. Accordingly, he held his head out of pain due to recalling everything gradually. Later, he called Emma and asked her where she was.

30 minutes later, he arrived at her house. He asked her what she knows about Talia. Emma was amazed that he remembered then she asked him how he remembered her. He got very angry since he knew that she had been aware of everything; he raised his voice saying why she hid from him everything all these years. She waited for him to cool down then they sat down. She told him that he has been hurt ever since she disappeared from his life then when he saw her after weeks in the club, he ran after her and that was the day he made the accident. She told him that she hid from him for his own sake as she couldn't see him hurting again.

Spenser (*yelling*): but hiding from me made it worse. How could you do this to me? You betrayed me.

Emma: I didn't. I wanted to help you.

Spenser: if you wanted to help me, you wouldn't ever lie to me. I told you that I've been feeling something missing, I asked you about my life before the accident and you never told me about her. If you really cared, you wouldn't leave me all these years lost. Friends never do this to each other

Emma: I'm sorry!

~Spenser left~

He drove to where Talia used to live 3 years ago. However, it was late so he didn't want to break into her apartment at the late time. He kept waiting in his car to meet her the first thing in the morning. However, he fell asleep while waiting for her.

At the sunrise.

He woke up then he looked at his watch; it was 6 am. Spenser got out of the car quickly as he saw someone was heading out of the building. Hence, he entered the building then he ran upstairs until he reached her apartment. He didn't hesitate a minute for ringing the doorbell. **10 minutes later**, an old woman opened the door. Spenser asked about Talia yet the woman was unfamiliar with what he was saying. He asked her since when she lived here. The woman responded that she rented it 3 years ago. Spenser apologized for the inconvenience then he left.

Afterwards, he arrived at his company. **Few hours later**, the secretary came to his office where he was sleeping on the sofa. She didn't

know whether she should wake him up or leave him. Accordingly, she quietly entered to leave the documents on his desk. Meanwhile, he woke up while she was leaving the office. He slowly got up from the sofa asking her what time it was. She told him **“good morning. It’s 8”** then she offered to bring him a coffee. He agreed then he thanked her. Later, he went to his desk checking on the documents which the secretary just brought in.

At 9 am.

Emma knocked on his door. He was upset with her, he asked her what she wanted. She told him that they have a meeting in an hour. He responded that he has a lot of work. She told him that he must attend as per the client’s request. He got angry saying that he won’t attend the meeting. Emma was shocked due to his reaction. She went out of the office, he looked at her while feeling so upset then he looked away. **Few seconds later**, he called the secretary telling her to postpone his meeting that he supposedly has at 5 pm.

He kept working on the cases that he has then he looked at his watch. Accordingly, he stood up

and left. Later, he entered the meeting room with Emma and the client then apologized for being late. After they finished the meeting and the client left, Emma asked Spenser what made him change his mind. He responded that he has done that for the firm. She thanked him. He looked at her then he turned his back to leave. However, she called him asking him to stop. After then, she walked towards the door and closed it.

Chapter 25

Emma to Spenser: why are you treating me like this? I apologized. I told you I've done this for your own sake, yet you still want to punish me.

Spenser: I've always trusted you but I didn't expect that you will break this trust one day.

Emma: how can you say this, we've been so close for 10 years!

Spenser: and you know that if trust is broken, everything else is broken

Emma: What can I do to make you trust me again?

Spenser: nothing, Emma.

Emma: but ...

Spenser: let it take its time!

~Spenser opened the door to leave~

Emma: Talia works in Zain co. you might find her there but speed up because I heard that she will return back to London soon.

~Spenser left~

He headed outside the firm, rode in his fancy car then he drove to Zain co. As he arrived, he saw her riding in the car with Omar. So, he followed them. **25 minutes later**, they arrived at a fancy restaurant. They entered while Spenser was waiting for them outside to talk with her on her own. However, he couldn't stand sitting tight so he entered the place too. At the moment, he saw Omar kissing her hands. Spenser felt so jealous. He wanted to go and take her hands away. **Few seconds later**, Spenser was standing in front of them. When she looked into his eyes, she freaked out as she didn't believe that he's standing in front of her. She knows that he doesn't recognize her yet he kept looking into her eyes. Afterwards, he greeted Omar then he left them.

Talia doubted that Spenser recognized her due to the way he has been staring at her. She asked Omar to leave because she feels suffocated. Omar kept asking her what's going on and why she changed after Spenser left. She didn't want to talk about it. However, she asked him to take her home. Later, they both left. As she arrived home, she wasn't feeling good at all.

Next day.

Talia woke up then she got dressed. Hence, she was ready to go to work. Likewise, Spenser turned off the alarm, he got suited then he went to work.

At 5 pm.

Talia took her car that she bought recently then she drove to the spot; the only place where she can spend quality time with herself. She got outside the car, walking on the grass until she reached the tree; there she found Spenser sitting on the bridge. She didn't know that she would see him there. While walking away, she tripped by the tree and fell hard. Spenser heard the noise, he stood up and approached the tree. Talia was trying to hide behind it yet he has already caught her.

Talia (*embarrassed*): hey!

~She stood up~

Spenser (*pretending he doesn't know her*): who are you? What are you doing here?

~She realized at that time that she mistakenly thought about recognizing her the day before.

So, she had to come up with something~

Talia: I was passing by. Anyway, I'm sorry I'm leaving!

~She was about to leave~

Spenser: **Talia!**

~She surprisingly turned her back~

Talia: did you call me?

Spenser: yes!

Talia: did you remember me?

Spenser: I did

Talia: when?

Spenser: the day I saw you in "Agosta", I recalled everything

~Talia didn't know how to react. She started to stumble~

Spenser: you don't have to explain. It's clear now *~he continued madly~* when did you fall for him? Why have you done all of this to me? Emma was right and I was wrong when I kept fighting for you.

Talia: that's not right, Spenser! You never knew what I felt throughout these years *~she paused*

for a while then she eventually revealed her feelings after years of keeping them~ I never stopped loving you, I couldn't get over you and I wished I could tell you what made me leave but I couldn't ...

Spenser: why?

Talia: you will never understand

Spenser (*madly*): I need to understand

(After a while)

Talia: I couldn't just tell you I'm leaving because we can't get married because I'm Muslim and you are Christian. I felt so pressured and scared. I loved you so much but I didn't want to put you in the position of choosing between your religion and I. I was afraid it would be too late because my love for you was growing every day and I didn't want to hurt you too with something beyond our hands. I had to disappear to stop this thing between us.

Spenser: I tried to forget about you but I couldn't.

Talia: I'm sorry, Spenser! I'm sorry for everything. I wish I hadn't met you.

~Talia was leaving~

Spenser: will you marry him?

~She stopped, her eyes were full of tears, she turned back then she said~

Talia: I don't know.

~He approached her~

Spenser: what if I told you that I'd do anything to be with you! Would you still marry him?

Talia (her tears falling like raindrops): it's too late, Spenser!

Spenser: why are you doing that? We are in love! I still want you and I'd do whatever it is to be with you!

Talia: Emma!

Spenser: what's wrong with Emma?

Talia: she loves you for 10 years but you never noticed.

Spenser: that's bullshit. Emma and I are just close and nothing more, she knows quite well that I love you!

Talia: that's why she kept silent

Spenser: I can't love her!

Talia: you never know. You never gave yourself a chance to know her beyond this friendship. Maybe if you do, you'll find yourself in love with her.

Spenser: it's impossible, I already love you!

Talia: but you have to forget about me. I'm marrying Omar soon!

Chapter 26

~DON'T LEAVE ME~

Talia rode in her car then she burst into tears. Afterwards, she left. While Spenser stood still; he couldn't believe what he heard. He felt so bad. He rode in his car then he left too.

(Talia is dialing her sister)

Kenzie: Talia, how are you?

~Talia is crying~

Kenzie: Are you crying?

Talia: I feel so bad.

Kenzie: what's going on?

Talia: I told Spenser that I'm going to marry Omar after he told me that he'd do whatever it is to be with me

Kenzie: so, why have you done this?

Talia: Emma has just told me that she loves him too

Kenzie: but he loves you not her

Talia: but she reminded me of myself with Yusuf when I kept silent for years until someone else took him from me.

Kenzie: so?

Talia: I know what it is to be silent for years. It's really painful.

Kenzie: but they have been close for a long time. If he had something for her, he'd have felt it a long time ago.

Talia: he needed to know what she kept for years. Maybe, he can love her.

Kenzie: You always cared about people's feelings; this has always been you since your childhood. But you are hurting Spenser who truly loves you. He chose you among others. Emma got used to this and she will get over it! So, don't blame yourself. She made the decision of keeping on loving him while bearing the consequences.

Talia: I love you, sister!

Kenzie: I love you too, Titi.

Talia hung up the phone with her sister then she called Omar to meet him somewhere. **Few hours**

later, Omar and Talia met at a café. There, Talia told him that she loves someone else and that she tried to forget him but she couldn't. She added that she doesn't want to hurt Omar's feelings and he must know that she tried to love him but she couldn't. Omar asked her whether this person is Spenser. She nodded her head then she apologized to him yet he was understandable about the situation as he told her that he doesn't like it when he puts more pressure on her. She thanked him for understanding then she told him that she will resign. He didn't accept at first yet she insisted to quit since she didn't want to be around him while he still feels something towards her. Eventually, he accepted her resignation.

Two days later.

(Door is knocking)

~Talia opened and she was surprised by seeing Emma on the door~

Talia: Emma, how did you reach me?

Emma: Can we talk inside?

Talia: sure, come in.

~Emma entered, they sat in the living room~

Emma: Omar told me where you live

Talia: And why did you come to me?

Emma: I came to tell you that you must follow Spenser before he leaves

Talia: what?

Emma: I knew what you told him about my love for him. He came to me that night and we kept talking. He told me that he will leave everything including his company and start a new life in Canada ~she paused for a while~ Spenser truly loves you Talia, please go to him; he needs you the most right now.

Talia: but?

Emma: no buts! I really appreciate what you did for me. I got used to this. Don't worry about me!

~Before Emma left, she thanked Talia~

Later, Talia got dressed quickly then she headed to the airport. As she arrived, she started to run so fast to catch him before he went. She apologized for hitting people while searching for him among the crowd. Eventually, she found him

heading to the plane. Accordingly, she called his name to stop. Her sound was too familiar to him, he stopped, turned his back then he found her breathing heavily in front of him. He didn't believe that she's in front of him. She ran towards him until she approached him.

Spenser: **Talia?**

Talia (*breathing heavily*): **don't leave me!**

Chapter 27

~KEEPING YOU FOREVER~

~The conversation is ongoing~

Spenser: what are you asking me?

~Calling passengers who are travelling to Canada~

Talia continued: please, don't leave! We must forget the time of fear and the time lost in between and start a new life together!

Spenser: and Omar?

Talia: I lied to you. I already told Omar that I love you.

~Spenser let his bag fall on the floor telling her that he can't believe that he has just done this. Afterwards, they held each other's hands then he kissed her forehead saying that he's happy she is finally here. Later, they walked back together~

6 months later.

Spenser and Talia walking with arms around each other. He's wearing a black suit with a burgundy bow tie while she's wearing a burgundy long dress. They walked like a prince and prin-

cess to the wedding festival of Emma. They congratulated Emma and her husband then they went to join Omar and his fiancée at the table. Later, Spenser went to bring juice for him and Talia. However, he met some of his old friends on his way. They kept talking with him then he left them to bring the juices. While waiting for the drinks, a woman came beside him. She told him that she would like to dance with him on this song.



Spenser to the woman: do you know what?

The woman: what?

Spenser: I'm so lucky that the prettiest girl in the world is waiting for me over there. Excuse me, I have to go to her now.



Afterwards, he went on the table and put the juices on it. Then, he leaned towards Talia asking her to dance with him. She put her hands in his then they walked together to the dance floor. He put one arm around her back while holding her hand with his other hand then he looked into her

eyes saying that he's the luckiest man because he's dancing with the prettiest creature one can ever see.

One month later.

Talia looked to herself at the mirror for 2 minutes then she inhaled. Afterwards, she walked out of the room like a princess wearing an off-white long dress. As she was walking slowly, her heart was beating like a rhythm of an ocean. She put her hair away from her eyes while walking then she found Spenser standing among the dark lightening.

She stopped for seconds then she took her breath. Afterwards, she looked beside her nervously then she put her arms in Antonio's arms. After then, they walked together on the aisle until they approached Spenser who looked at her with eyes full of tears. They stood in front of each other then he held her hands and told her how gorgeous she looks. She smiled then told him how lucky she is today.

Afterwards, the music went on then people started to watch them while they were dancing their first dance on the bridge that they used to lie

on in their spot. Later, couples started to join and among them were Emma and her husband and Omar and his fiancée. Then, Antonio joined with his granddaughter. After a short time, Talia's sister ran to her and hugged her tightly. They were all dancing around the fairytale lights and under the sparkles of the stars. In the middle of their celebration, Talia glimpsed her parents standing there putting their arms around each other while watching her dancing with her husband. She felt shocked since she hasn't contacted them for years. Afterwards, she left the crowd and headed to where they were standing. She approached them but she couldn't utter a word. Her mother was hesitant to approach her since she hasn't touched her daughter for years.

Talia's eyes were full of tears. Hence, her mother moved her fingers on Talia's face to wipe her tears but Talia stepped back. Talia looked at their eyes where she found her father feeling emotional since he saw his little girl grow up and got married while her mother was nervous since she wanted to wrap her in her arms yet she knew it would be awkward after these years.

I'm sorry. Talia said. Then, she continued: I feel awkward seeing you here.

~Her mother was about to talk but Talia stopped her asking them to listen for one time~

She said: you hurt me a lot, you were the reason I lived with fear, you left me to grow up on my own, you never gave me the love of parents. Why have you done this to me? I hated you for every second you wasted for yourselves not caring about me. It has been 13 years since I last saw you and 16 years since I last saw you close to each other like today. I couldn't imagine when I would meet you again, I'd feel like that ...

~She paused~

Her mother: like what?

Talia: missing you.

She burst into tears while running into their hugs. They didn't believe that their daughter finally forgave them after all the trials they were doing to make her forgive them. They all cried, then Talia wiped her tears while expressing happiness that they had finally reunited. After then, she took them to introduce them to her husband.

Afterwards, Kenzie joined. Accordingly, Talia was amazed that her parents and Spenser already met each other before. Kenzie clarified to her sister that Spenser called her a few weeks ago asking her to help him meet their parents since he wanted to reunite the whole family. Hence, he traveled to Egypt to introduce himself and get to know them on a personal level. Later, Talia hugged him tightly then they walked back on the dance floor. While they were dancing, she whispered to his ears: **we finally did it.**

*~And that's how I put an end to the noise
inside my head~*

The End

Index

Chapter 1	6
Chapter 2	12
Chapter 3	19
Chapter 4	26
Chapter 5	32
Chapter 6	42
Chapter 7	50
Chapter 8	54
Chapter 9	63
Chapter 10	67
Chapter 11	73
Chapter 12	81
Chapter 13	89
Chapter 14	99
Chapter 15	109
Chapter 16	117
Chapter 17	123
Chapter 18	129
Chapter 19	133
Chapter 20	142
Chapter 21	149
Chapter 22	155
Chapter 23	160
Chapter 24	166
Chapter 25	172
Chapter 26	179
Chapter 27	184