

Ethereal Love

written by

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FADE IN:

INT.

STRAWBERRY FIELDS SECONDARY SCHOOL, MEADOWFIELDS, EAST YORKSHIRE, FIVE MILES WEST OF BEVERLEY

THE SCHOOL HALL HAS BEEN DECORATED WITH BANNERS OF PURPLE, PINK, CHAMPAGNE RIBBONS. TABLES HAVE BEEN SET OUT IN A LINE WITH VAST ARRAYS OF VARIOUS NIBBLES AND CANAPES. IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MIDDLE TABLE, A LARGE PUNCHBOWL SITS WITH A TEACHER, IN HER LATE-50s SERVING.

A LOUD BUZZ OF CONVERSATION IS HEARD. SUDDENLY THE ROOM FALLS SILENT. EVERYONE IS STARING AT THE DOORWAY.

A HUSHED WHISPER STARTS ACROSS THE ROOM AS A YOUNG 18ISH GIRL FLOATS INTO THE ROOM.

ALLYLAINE-wearing a luscious white ballgown with a v-necked bodice, the skirt is decorated with loads of sequins. She wears her long sandy-beached hair in a trailing bun, with a pale pink and white rose at a slight angle. She is 19 years old and is in year 11, finishing her studies. She has been in love with Teddy since reception and is very protective of him especially around other girls. She is quite tall for her age, measuring at 5' 10''. She has emerald eyes with a flicker of gold in the corners which is accentuated with dark smokey eyeshadow.

SHE IS MET BY A BOY OF SIMILAR AGE AS SHE GETS TO THE CENTRE OF THE ROOM.

TEDDY-Saunters into the hall to meet Allylaine. He is dressed smartly in a black tuxedo which is matched with a off-white dress shirt and black smart joggers and black tap shoes. He has slicked back his jet black hair. He bends below the waist and offers his hand, he beams up at Allylaine, his glossy hazel eyes shining under the disco ball. He is quite petite for his age and is about half a head shorter than Allylaine. He suffers from a rare disease which has not a medical name but is generally referred to as a 'ghost condition'-he developed this when he was 5 years old. At sunset, his skin would go translucent and develops the ability to turn situations/people incognito. Teddy is using his ability to make him and Allylaine have the 'cinderella' moment at their school prom.

Teddy and Allylaine has always been friends since they were small kids. They grew up on the estate together and were inseparable. However, Teddy's medical condition remained a mystery to Allylaine and her family until Teddy disclosed it to her one day.

ALLYLAINE TAKES TEDDY'S HAND AND THEY ASSUMED THE STARTING POSE FOR A WALTZ AND STARTS THE INTRODUCTIONS AS A SLOW WALTZ BEGINS FROM THE SCHOOL BAND.

THE HUSHED WHISPER DIED AWAY AND EVERYONE IS STARING AT THE COUPLE.

BOY
Don't look, just keep your eyes on
me
GIRL
Cos all I see is you and that's
enough

BOY
(GIGGLES)
Are we going to talk in song
quotations all the way through the
dance?

GIRL
Of course not, that would be
stupid. Shall we ditch the next
dance?

BOY
Of course not
Whatever you want.
(HE NUZZLES HIS FACE INTO
THE SIDE OF THE GIRL'S
SHOULDER)

EXT. THE BOY AND GIRL HAS RAN OUT OF THE DANCE HALL INTO THE SCHOOL GARDENS.

THE GIRL TAKES OFF HER SHOES AND PROCEDES TO RUN DOWN THE MIDDLE AISLE. THE BOY PROCEDES TO CHASE HER.

THE BOY FINALLY CATCHES UP WITH THE GIRL AND PROCEDES TO RUGBY TACKLE HER TO THE FLOOR.

THEY TUMBLE TO THE FLOOR IN FITS OF LAUGHTER, THE BOY ON TOP OF THE GIRL.

THE BOY ROLLS OFF THE GIRL TO LAY BESIDE HER. HE TURNS TO FACE HER, A WIDE GRIN ON HIS SWEAT COVERED FACE, HIS HAIR DISHEVELLED.

BOY
You do know how to get me,huh

GIRL
You love it
let's stay down here for a while,
please?

BOY
I don't have anywhere else to go

GIRL
(LOOKING UP AT THE NIGHT
SKY)
Look at the sky, the stars are so
pretty tonight

BOY
(LOOKING AT THE GIRL)
Yeah, they are

GIRL
You're not even looking

A LIGHT WASHES OVER THEM. THEY LOOK BEHIND, IT WAS THE NIGHT
PATROLMAN.

THEY RUSH TO HIDE BEHIND A TALL HEDGE. IT WOULD BE HARD TO
EXPLAIN THIS TO THE PRINCIPAL THE NEXT DAY.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT.

THE NEXT DAY

STRAWBERRY FIELDS SECONDARY SCHOOL. THE MAIN CORRIDOR,
STUDENTS ARE MILLING AROUND THE LOCKERS PLACED ALONG THE WALL
ON BOTH SIDES, IN SMALL CLUMPS.

WORD MUST HAVE GOTTEN OUT ABOUT LAST NIGHT, TEDDY THOUGHT AS
HE MADE HIS WAY DOWN THE SCHOOL CORRIDOR TO HIS LOCKER. HE WAS
WEARING A DARK BROWN JUMPER OVER A PALE BLUE T-SHIRT AND
RUGGED DARK BLUE JEANS. HIS HAIR WAS RUFFLED UP IN A QUICK
UNTIDY MESS.

THE CORRIDOR WAS ABUZZ WITH HUBBUB FROM THE STUDENTS, ALL OF
WHICH DIES DOWN WHEN TEDDY PASS BY.

HE SMILED AS HE CAUGHT SIGHT OF HIS GIRLFRIEND, ALLYLAINÉ
WAITING NEAR HIS LOCKER. SHE WAS WEARING A SEQUINED KIMONO
STYLED T-SHIRT THAT IS MULTI-COLOURED WITH PATCHES OF BLUE
AND BABY PINK COLOURS AND A CUTE BOW KNOTTED AT HER RIGHT
HAND SIDE. SHE PAIRED IT WITH A CREAM COLOURED MINI SKIRT AND
A SILVER MEDIUM HEEL SANDALS. SHE IS WEARING HER CUTE DOGS
AND CATS TOTE BAG ON HER LEFT SIDE.

TEDDY
 (ACTING CASUAL)
 Hey
 (SLIDING TO HUG HER)

ALLYLAINE
 (DISTANT)
 Hey

TEDDY
 What's wrong?

ALLYLAINE
 (shaking out of her trance)
 What? Oh, nothing
 Ready for class?
 I hear that Miss Clarke has a
 surprise for us today

TEDDY
 Oh, has she?

THEY WALK TO CLASS, TEDDY'S HAND ON ALLYLAINES HIP.

THE CORRIDOR STARTS TO BECOME EMPTY AS THE OTHER STUDENTS GET TO CLASS

TEDDY

(SITTING DOWN IN HIS SEAT. HE LEANS IN TO WHISPER TO ALLYLAINES WHO IS SAT NEXT TO HIM)
 Looks like Teach is late...again

ALLYLAINE GIGGLES. TEDDY LEANS IN CLOSER TO STEAL A KISS. JUST THEN, MISS CLARK WALKS IN.

MISS CLARK
 (CLEARING HER THROAT
 LOUDLY)
 And just what do you think you're
 trying to do, Mr Robinson?

TEDDY ROLLS HIS EYES AND SITS STRAIGHT IN HIS SEAT. HE TRIES TO HIDE AWAY FROM MISS CLARK'S EYELINE.

TEDDY
 (WHISPERING TO ALLYLAINES)
 We'll continue that at break

EXT. UNDERNEATH THE BLEACHERS, ALLYLAINES AND TEDDY ARE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY, TEDDY NUZZLES HIS FACE INTO ALLYLAINES RIGHT SHOULDER, ALLYLAINES GIGGLES

JUST THEN, A BOISTEROUS BOY COMES BOUNDING IN, DISTURBING THE ROMANTIC MOMENT

TEDDY
Dude, what is your problem?

TEDDY BRUSH OFF BITS OF PIZZA AND WIPE OFF THE SPILLS OF MILKSHAKE WHICH GOT SPLASHED ON HIM AS HE WAS MOVING AWAY

BEN
(APOLOGETIC BUT ENTHUSIASTIC)
Sorry, I was in a hurry to get to you guys.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
What's the matter?

ALLYLAINE HAD MANAGED TO ESCAPE THE SPILLS AND PIZZA STAINS. SHE PUT HER ARM ROUND TEDDY'S SHOULDER AND GAVE HIM A KISS ON HIS LEFT CHEEK

ALLYLAINE
I'm gonna go. Slyvia just texted, said it was urgent.
See you at lunch, usual place?

TEDDY NODDED, THEY EMBRACE AGAIN, THEN ALLYLAINNE FLOATED DOWN THE TRACK, TEDDY GAZED AFTER HER LONGINGLY.

BEN
(WAVING HANDS IN FRONT OF TEDDY'S FACE)
Earth to Teddy, anyone in there?

TEDDY SHOOK HIS HEAD AND TURNED HIS GAZE BACK TO BEN

TEDDY
So, what's going on?
Why was you in a hurry to find me?

BEN
I guessing you heard what today's gossip around the school is, right?

TEDDY NODDED
Well, you, me and Allylaine all know who that mysterious couple is, don't we?

TEDDY NODDED, HE KNEW EXACTLY WHERE BEN IS GOING WITH THIS

TEDDY
You haven't said anything to anyone, have you?
You know how I will be viewed if the truth got out.
I was even surprised Allylaine stayed with me after I told her.

BEN

But you had no choice when you told
her, she was already in way too
deep.

TEDDY THOUGHT BACK TO THAT DAY

EXT.

2001, IN A LUSH GREEN MEADOW, A BOY AND GIRL IS PLAYING
BETWEEN THE TALL THICK GRASS.

THE SUNLIGHT DIMMING AS THE SUN BEGINS TO SET.

A RAY OF SUN BRUSH AGAINST THE SKIN OF THE BOY, THE SKIN
TURNS TRANSLUCENT. THE GIRL DRAWS BACK, SCARED.

TEDDY

(TRYING TO REASSURE
ALLYLAINE)

It's alright, I won't hurt you
It's nothing to be scared about, I
will explain

ALLYLAINE

(SCARED BUT INTRIGUED)

Why is your skin like that?
What are you? Are you even human?

TEDDY SQUEEZED THE BACK OF HIS NECK WITH HIS LEFT HAND. HE
NEVER FOUND IT EASY TO TALK ABOUT HIS CONDITION.

TEDDY

(HESITANT, GAINING
CONFIDENCE)

Well, I guess I start from the top
When I was about 5, I started to
notice that if I was out when the
sun is setting, my whole body would
go translucent, like I would
suddenly disappear.
One day, me and my parents went out
after school for dinner. As they
picked me up from school, the sun
was setting, and my skin turned.
My mum immediately took me to the
doctor's the next day.
The doctor was baffled, they had
never heard of symptoms like what I
had.
They took a lot of tests and I was
in and out of hospital for most of
my life.

(MORE)

TEDDY (CONT'D)

I mean, even till now, they don't know what it is, it seems like a new condition. They termed it temporarily 'Ghost syndrome'

ALLYLAINE

(TRYING TO GET HER HEAD AROUND WHAT TEDDY SAID)

So, you essentially turn into a ghost?

TEDDY

Not exactly, my skin only turn translucent when the setting sun shines on it. At night, my skin turns back to normal but I do have a little bit of 'ghost powers'

ALLYLAINE

What do you mean 'ghost powers'?

TEDDY PAUSE FOR A MOMENT. THIS NEXT BIT IS THE CRUCIAL DECIDING FACTOR ON WHETHER THIS WOULD END THEIR RELATIONSHIP OR STRENGTHEN IT. IT ALL RESTS ON HOW HE APPROACH IT.

TEDDY

I can make situations or people seem unknown to the rest of the world. A kind of 'genie in the lamp' thing really.

ALLYLAINE PUT HER HAND ON HER CHIN DEEP IN THOUGHT. THERE WAS NO DENYING THAT ALL THIS WAS A LOT TO TAKE IN. SHE TOOK A DEEP BREATH. SHE PUT HER ARM AROUND TEDDY AND EMBRACE HIM.

ALLYLAINE

I'm not going to lie, that was a bit of a bombshell and I was freaked when I saw your skin like that.

TEDDY GRABBED ALLYLAINES HAND AND PULLED HER AT ARM'S LENGTH. HE GAZED AT HER HESITANTLY.

ALLYLAINE (CONT'D)

But...I think it's kinda cool that I have such an amazing, wonderful, unique boyfriend.

SHE PULLED TEDDY CLOSE AND NESTLED INTO HIS CHEST. HE PUTS HIS HEAD LOVINGLY ON TOP OF HER HEAD AND KISSED HER. HE WAS RELIEVED AND FELT BLESSED TO HAVE SUCH A WONDERFUL GIRLFRIEND.

EXT.

BACK TO THE PRESENT DAY

STILL UNDER THE BLEACHERS

TEDDY

Yeah, but you never really know, do you?

I mean, with girls

BEN

Yeah, I guess so

BEN GLANCES AT HIS WATCH. HE RUSHED TO GATHER HIS BAG, WHICH HE HAD POPPED DOWN BY HIS FEET.

BEN (CONT'D)

We'd better go, we're already late for class.

BEN AND TEDDY WALK BACK TO SCHOOL, SIDE BY SIDE, CHATTING. THE CORRIDOR WAS ALMOST EMPTY EXCEPT FROM THE USUAL LAST-MINUTE STRAGGLERS. AT THE END, TEDDY COULD SPOT ALLYLAINA WAITING BY THE CLASSROOM DOOR. HE WAVED GOODBYE TO BEN AND RAN DOWN TO MEET HER. HE SCOOPED HER UP BY THE WAIST AND PLANTED A KISS ON HER LIPS BEFORE POPPING HER DOWN, AND WALKING INTO CLASS, HOLDING HER WAIST.

INT.

IN THE SCHOOL CANTEEN

TEDDY AND ALLYLAINA ARE SAT SIDE BY SIDE, EMBRACING EACH OTHER. THEY HAVE HARDLY TOUCH THEIR TRAYS OF FOOD. TEDDY WAS WHISPERING SWEET NOTHINGS IN ALLYLAINA'S EARS AND ALLYLAINA WAS GIGGLING UNCONTROLLABLY.

BEN PLONKS HIMSELF DOWN ON THE BENCH NEXT TO TEDDY, GRINNING WITH A GRIN AS WIDE AS THE CHESHIRE CAT'S.

TEDDY HEAVED A FRUSTRATED SIGH AND ALLYLAINA ROLLED HER EYES. THEY LOVED BEN BUT HIS DAILY DISTURBANCES TO THEIR PRIVATE TIME WERE GETTING VERY ANNOYING.

TEDDY UNTANGLED HIMSELF FROM ALLYLAINA AND TURNED TO FACE HIS FRIEND. HE STILL HAD ONE ARM AROUND ALLYLAINA'S WAIST.

TEDDY

(ANNOYED)
 What is it?
 Can't you see we're in the middle
 of something?

BEN

I'm sorry but this can't wait

TEDDY

(ROLLING HIS EYES AT
 ALLYLAININE)

Well, I find that hard to believe

HE KISSES ALLYLAININE TENDERLY, AND STARTS TO EMBRACE HER ONCE
 MORE. HE BEGINS TO CARESS HER FACE UNTIL BEN PULLS HIM BACK.

TEDDY SIGHS.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

(TURNING ONCE MORE, SO HIS
 FULL ATTENTION IS ON BEN)

Get on with it

BEN

What are you guys doing saturday
 night?

TEDDY

(Exasperated)
 You know full well what we'll be
 doing

ALLYLAININE STARTS TO FIDDLE WITH THE FOOD ON HER PLATE,
 CLEARLY BORED OF WAITING.

BEN

(IGNORES TEDDY'S INDIGNANT
 RESPONSE)

The library in town is hosting a
 true ethereal love story contest
 and I put down your names.

TEDDY

(ANGRY)
 You did what?

BEN COWER IN FRIGHT, HE DON'T DO WELL IN CONFRONTATIONS.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

You know, I don't like people
 knowing about my condition and you
 go and do the one thing, the one
 thing, that will let everybody know

BEN

(TIMID, BARELY AUDIBLE)

I'm sorry, I got so wrapped up in
my excitement, I forgot

TEDDY

(WIDE EYED, DISBELIEF)

Oh, you forgot

(SCARCASTIC)

I wish it was that easy for me, the
guy who has to live with it but no,
you just casually forget like it's
no big deal, like you forget to
wear socks in the morning
It's not like you're messing with
my life or anything

BEN

(INDIGNANTLY)

I said I was sorry, what else do
you want me to do?

TEDDY

Sorry just don't cut it, 'mate'
Just go away and don't bother us
again
I don't welcome Judases in my club

BEN APOLOGISES AGAIN AND SAUNTER AWAY, HIS USUAL ENTHUSIASTIC
SELF DEFLATED LIKE A BALLOON.

ALLYLAINE FOLLOW HIM WITH HER GAZE SYMPATHETICALLY. SHE LOOKS
AT TEDDY DISAPPOINTEDLY.

ALLYLAINE

(WORRIED)

Don't you think that was a little
uncalled for?

TEDDY

Well, he should have thought of the
consequences before he made a
decision that he knew would affect
our friendship

ALLYLAINE

Yes, I get where you're coming from
but now you left yourself even more
vulnerable.

TEDDY

I don't get what you mean?
How have I?

ALLYLAINE

Who, apart from me, knows your condition and who the mysterious couple was?

TEDDY SUDDENLY REALISES WHAT ALLYLAININE HAS BEEN TRYING TO SAY. HE HAD MADE A BIG ERROR OUT OF HIS ANGER AND MIGHT HAVE TO FACE THE BIGGEST CONSEQUENCES IMAGINED FOR IT.

HE PUT HIS FACE IN HIS HANDS IN DESPAIR. ALLYLAININE PUT HER ARMS AROUND HIM IN A REASSURING HUG.

HE HAD FAILED TO EMPLOY THE WELL KNOWN TACTIC OF KEEPING YOUR ENEMIES CLOSER.

IF BEN SPILL THE BEANS ON WHAT HE KNEW, TEDDY'S LIFE AS HE KNEW IT WOULD BE OVER.

HE MIGHT EVEN HAVE TO MOVE.

EXT.

The foyer outside the Library. The library's exterior has been decorated with flags and banners in the traditional red, white and blue. The town's mayor is on the podium.

MAYOR

(SPEAKING INTO THE PODIUM'S MICROPHONE)

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with greatest pride to announce the start of our true ethereal love story competition.

The rules are simple:

Each set of contestants need to write a ethereal love story which is based on a true event.

The story should not be less than 500 and no more than 4,500.

It can be in any tense and any perspective.

ALLYLAINE AND TEDDY ARE AMONGST THE OTHER CONTESTANTS ON THE STAGE. ALLYLAININE IS HOLDING A CLIPBOARD, TEDDY IS UNEASY, FIDGETING AND STRUGGLING TO SIT STILL. ALLYLAININE SQUEEZES HIS HAND GENTLY.

ALLYLAINE

(WHISPERING)

It'll be fine. The sun doesn't set for another 2 hours.

TEDDY

(WHISPERING BACK)

I hope you're right, I don't think my 'invisibility' act will work with such a large crowd.

ALLYLAINE

(REASSURING TONE)

We were able to be 'incognito' at the prom after that first dance.

THE MAYOR STARTS INTRODUCING THE CONTESTANTS. AS HE INTRODUCES THEM, ALLYLAINA AND TEDDY STEP UP AND TAKE A BOW. TEDDY STARTS TO FEEL BETTER.

MAYOR

Well, that's all the introductions and important stuff done and dusted. All that's left for me to say is Good Luck to the contestants and let the fun commence.

THE CONTESTANTS WERE LED BACK INTO THE LIBRARY TO CHEERS OF WELL WISHES AND GOOD LUCKS FROM THE CROWDS.

AS SOON AS THE DOORS CLOSED, TEDDY RELEASED A SIGH OF RELIEF AND HE HUGGED ALLYLAINA IN A LOVING EMBRACE.

INT./EXT. ALTERNATING BETWEEN TEDDY'S HOUSE, HIS SCHOOL AND HIS BEDROOM. AS WELL AS PARKS AND OTHER OUTDOOR AREAS.
MONTAGE

THE THOUGHT OF MOVING AWAY AND NOT BEING WITH ALLYLAINA WAS TOO MUCH.

BUT BEN WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING SO DESPICABLE, WOULD HE?

HIS CHARACTER WASN'T LIKE THAT. HE WAS LIKE A LITTLE PUPPY, PRONE TO MISTAKES BUT HARMLESS AND INNOCENT, RIGHT?

TEDDY WAS CONSUMED TO THE BRINK OF DESPAIR, HE COULDN'T EAT, SLEEP OR DRINK.

HIS DAYS WERE FILLED WITH PARALYSING THOUGHTS OF WHETHER HIS BEST FRIEND HAD SOLD HIM OUT.

EVEN ALLYLAINA COULDN'T CONSOLE HIM.

HE WAS TURNING INTO A MADMAN.

HIS GRADE DROPPED AND HE WAS ON THE VERGE OF BEING SUSPENDED

INT.

A FEW YEARS PASSED,

TEDDY'S GRADES IMPROVED BUT NOT ENOUGH

HE WAS SUSPENDED AND BECAME A RECLUSE

HE REFUSED TO SEE ANYONE, NOT EVEN ALLYLAINÉ

HIS PARENTS, DRIVEN TO MADNESS BY HIM, HAD GIVEN UP ON HIM

ALLYLAINÉ AND THE REST OF HIS CLASSMATES GRADUATED

A FEW DAYS LATER AFTER THE GRADUATION CEREMONY, ALLYLAINÉ
CALLED ROUND TO SEE HIM

ALLYLAINÉ

It's been 5 years and nothing bad
has come out of doing that contest,
everyone has missed you, you know?

TEDDY

(COLD, DISTANT)

How was graduation?
What grades did you get?

ALLYLAINÉ

Teddy, stop trying to change the
subject. Don't you think you
wallowed enough?
What's done is done, we can't
change the past, so let's focus on
the future.

ALLYLAINÉ TRIED TO MAKE HER SMILE GENUINE AND REASSURING BUT
TEDDY MADE NO EFFORT TO BE POSITIVE.

ALLYLAINÉ (CONT'D)

Look, I'm leaving for Yale in 3
days. I hope for the sake of our
relationship, you picked yourself
up and send me off as the fun,
bubbly, charismatic Teddy that I
fell in love with, ok?

TEDDY GRUNTED. ALLYLAINÉ FRUSTRATED, MOVED TO GO TO THE DOOR.
AS SHE GOT TO THE LIVING ROOM DOOR, SHE TURNED.

ALLYLAINÉ (CONT'D)

(LOOKING BACK AT TEDDY)

You know, after all these years, I
never stopped loving you?
I just wanted you to know that,

(MORE)

ALLYLAINE (CONT'D)
 I love you, I will always love you
 no matter what

SHE THANKED TEDDY'S MOM FOR HER HOSPITALITY AND LEFT.

TEDDY, ABSORBING WHAT ALLYLAINA HAD SAID, LET THE TEARS FROM HIS EYES FLOW.

DURING THEIR RELATIONSHIP, THEY SELDOM DECLARED THEIR LOVE. THEY KNEW THEY LOVED EACH OTHER BUT HAVE NEVER OUTRIGHT SAID IT.

SO TEDDY KNEW IT WAS SERIOUS, IF ALLYLAINA WAS MAKING DECLARATIONS LIKE THIS.

HE KNEW HE HAD TO GET OUT OF THIS 'FUNK' HE'S BEEN LIVING IN.

ALLYLAINE WAS RIGHT, THE CONTEST WENT WELL AND THEY HAD MANAGED TO KEEP A LID ON THE BIG CONDITION, GIVEN THAT IT WAS HELD MAINLY AT NIGHT AND UNDER THE COVERS OF DARKNESS, NO ONE REMEMBERED THEM THE DAY AFTER. WHAT REMAIN WAS THE HARD BOOK EVIDENCE THAT WAS WRITTEN ABOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIP BUT STORIES HAD AN ELEMENT OF ARTISTIC CREATIVITY ABOUT THEM EVEN IF IT WAS BASED ON TRUE EVENTS.

HE JUMPED OFF THE SOFA, RACED PAST HIS MOM, UP THE STAIRS AND INTO THE SHOWER.

HIS MOM, TAKING ABACK FROM THIS SUDDEN CHANGE FROM HER SON, NEARLY FELL OVER WHEN HE PAST. SHE WAS OVERJOYED TO SEE HER SON BEHAVING MORE LIKE HIMSELF AND ONLY HOPED IT WAS NOT TOO LATE TO SALVAGE HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH ALLYLAINA.

EXT.

3 DAYS LATER

TEDDY WAS WAITING FOR ALLYLAINA AT THE AIRPORT, HE HAD WITH HIM A BUNCH OF RED ROSES AND PUSSY WILLOWS, ALLYLAINA'S FAVOURITES AND A SORRY CARD, HE HAD HOPED WOULD MAKE UP FOR THE YEARS HE WASN'T THERE.

HE GLANCED AT THE BIG GLASS CLOCK HANGING FROM THE CEILING. 12:30AM. HE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR A HOUR OR SO.

SUDDENLY, HE SPOTTED ALLYLAINA WALKING IN FROM THE ENTRANCE, HE RAN ACROSS TO HER.

TEDDY
 (PANTING, OUT OF BREATH)
 Hey, caught you, just in time.
 These are for you
 (MORE)

TEDDY (CONT'D)
 (handing over the flowers
 and card)

ALLYLAINE TOOK THE FLOWERS AND CARD. SHE SMILED AS SHE SAW
 THE TYPE OF FLOWERS.

ALLYLAINE
 (SMILING)
 You remembered, after all these
 years?

TEDDY
 How could I forget?
 (BEAMING)

ALLYLAINE
 (GESTURING TO HIS CLOTHES
 AND APPEARANCE)
 You scrubbed up, pretty well.
 I was worried, you wouldn't show.
 That you would still be.....you
 know

TEDDY
 What, in a 'funk', a mess,
 wallowing in self pity

ALLYLAINE
 (LAUGHING)
 Yes
 what woke you up?

TEDDY
 (EMBRACING HER)
 Well, you

ALLYLAINE
 (TURNING HER HEAD TO FACE
 HIM, GRABBING HIS HANDS)
 Me?

TEDDY
 Yes, you
 (HE FACES HER, AND NUZZLES
 HIS NOSE IN THE KNAVE OF
 HER NECK)
 That declaration of love you made
 when you was leaving that day

ALLYLAINE
 Oh, that. I meant that. I would
 wait for you, however long that
 would be.

TEDDY

And I thank you for that.
 (HE BRINGS HER HANDS TO HIS
 FACE AND TENDERLY KISSES
 THEM)
 When's your flight?

ALLYLAINE

(SWEETLY, FLIRTATOUS)
 Not until 2:30.

TEDDY

Great, that's plenty of time.

THEY SAT DOWN ON A BENCH, EMBRACING EACH OTHER AND REKINDLING THEIR LOVE. THEY TALKED ABOUT THE FUTURE, THEIR PLANS.

THE TIME SEEM TO PASSED BY SO QUICKLY AND BEFORE THEY KNEW IT, IT WAS 2:30.

TEDDY WALKED ALLYLAINA TO THE BOARDING GATE, AND THEY EMBRACED ONE LAST TIME. TEDDY KISSED HER ON THE CHEEK AND AS ALLYLAINA STEPPED THROUGH THEIR GATE, SHE WAVED AND BLEW HIM A KISS GOODBYE.

THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS,

TEDDY WENT BACK TO SCHOOL AND FINISHED HIS SENIOR YEAR.

HE ACHIEVED SUPER GRADES AND MANAGED TO GET A PLACE AT YALE.

AT YALE, HE MET UP WITH ALLYLAINA AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP BLOSSOMED.

THE ACTIONS AND ALL THOUGHTS OF BEN HAD ALL BUT DISAPPEARED AND THEIR LOVE REACHED NEW HEIGHTS.

A COUPLE MORE YEARS PASSED

ALLYLAINE AND TEDDY GOT MARRIED

MOVED INTO A BIG AMERICAN HOUSE—THE ONE WHERE ALL AMERICANS DREAM OF HAVING WITH THE WHITE PICKET FENCE WITH A FRONT PORCH AND PORCH SWING.

DURING THE FIRST YEAR, ALLYLAINA GAVE BIRTH TO TWINS, A BOY AND A GIRL.

TWO YEARS AFTER, SHE HAD ANOTHER, A BOY WHICH THEY NAMED CASPAR.

ALLYLAINE BECAME A VETERINARIAN AND TEDDY WAS A REPORTER FOR THE WASHINGTON GLOBE.

THEIR LIVES WAS FULL OF THE USUAL FAMILY CHAOS AND DRAMA BUT IT WAS A HAPPY AND LOVED HOUSEHOLD.

INT.

ONE MID AFTERNOON IN AUTUMN

THEY HAD A SURPRISE SHOCK VISIT FROM THE PAST

TEDDY WAS WORKING FROM HOME, ON AN ARTICLE THAT WAS DUE THE NEXT MORNING.

ALLYLAINE WAS DOING THE SCHOOL RUN AND HAD A BUSY DAY AT THE SURGERY SO WOULD BE HOME LATE.

SUDDENLY, THE DOORBELL RANG.

TEDDY WENT TO OPEN IT AND WHO WAS STANDING THERE?

BEN. TEDDY DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO REACT

BEN WAS THE LAST PERSON HE WOULD EXPECT

SUDDENLY EVERYTHING FROM THE PAST CAME FLOODING BACK

TEDDY GESTURED FOR BEN TO COME IN.

THEY PROCEEDED TO THE LIVING ROOM

TEDDY
(SHOCKED)
How did you find me?

BEN
You mean, 'us'?
(GESTURING TO THE FAMILY PHOTO ON
THE MANTLE ABOVE THE ELECTRIC
FIREPLACE)

TEDDY
Yeah, I supposed I do
(HE SAT ON THE FOUR SEATER.
BEN TOOK A SEAT OPPOSITE
HIM ON THE ARMCHAIR)
So, what brings you to this part of
the woods?

BEN
Look, I know it's a shock to see me
and I know, well I heard, the last
first couple of years after the
contest, what you've been
through...

TEDDY

(INTERRUPTING BEN)

And so, you thought, you see the damage you caused?

Well, I admit, I was a mess for the first couple years, going crazy about the sort of things you might have done to the brink where I was living a sheltered life, a life of a hermit.

My grades went down, everyone gave up on me but Allylaine.

BEN

No, that's not what I'm here to do. Yes, it was wrong of me to go behind your back and signed you up for the contest but that's all I did.

I didn't do anything else, I never told anyone about your condition.

TEDDY

So, I went AWOL for nothing?

(GRINNING, LAUGHING)

BEN

Yeah, kinda but I don't blame you, I would have thought the same.

I put you in that position and I shouldn't have

I'm deeply sorry, I don't expect to accept it and I don't expect you to be my friend again.

I just want you to know, these past years have been hard and I have been beating myself up for making a stupid decision that cost me such a dear friend.

I said all I needed to say, I'll get out of your hair now.

BEN GOT UP AND MAKE A MOVE FOR THE FRONT DOOR. TEDDY IS DEEP IN THOUGHT, HE GOT UP AND FOLLOWED BEN. HE OPENED THE DOOR AND LET BEN OUT.

THEY EXCHANGED A WAVE AS BEN WALKED DOWN THE PATH.

TEDDY CLOSED THE DOOR. HE PLUMPED HIMSELF DOWN ON THE SOFA. HE COULDN'T MAKE SENSE OF BEN'S VISIT.

HE LOST HIMSELF IN THOUGHT.

INT.

A COUPLE HOURS HAD PASSED AND ALLYLAINA CAME BACK.

TEDDY HADN'T GOTTEN OFF THE SOFA SINCE BEN'S UNEXPECTED VISIT.

ALLYLAINE SHUT THE DOOR. THE BANG OF THE DOOR CLOSING WOKE TEDDY FROM HIS TRANCE.

TEDDY
 (GETTING UP AS ALLYLAINA
 WALKED INTO THE ROOM)
 You're back
 (HE RUBBED THE TIREDNESS
 FROM HIS EYES)

HE HUGGED ALLYLAINA IN A WARM EMBRACE. SNUGGLING HIS FACE IN HER LEFT SHOULDER.

ALLYLAINE
 (BRUSHING HIM OFF)
 Yeah, and where are the kids?

TEDDY
 Oh, erm, I forgot to pick them up.
 I, we, had an unexpected visit from
 the past that shook me.
 I go pick them up now

ALLYLAINE
 You know what time it is?

TEDDY LOOKED AT THE MANTLE CLOCK. 5:30.

TEDDY
 Sorry, I'll make up for it.

ALLYLAINE
 Don't worry about the kids, Sylvia
 picked them up and called me on the
 way from work. She's happy for them
 to stay the night.

ALLYLAINE PUT HER ARM AROUND TEDDY AND LED HIM TO THE SOFA, SHE SAT DOWN AND GENTLY PULL TEDDY DOWN BESIDE HER.

ALLYLAINE (CONT'D)
 Now, why don't you tell me who it
 was that came to visit and why they
 shook you up so bad?

TEDDY
 (SOFTLY SPOKEN, BARELY
 AUDIBLE)
 It was Ben

ALLYLAINE
 Ben?
 What, how did he find us?
 What did he want?

TEDDY
 I don't know, maybe social.
 He just apologised for the
 competition situation.
 He said that he doesn't expect us
 to forgive us.

ALLYLAINE
 Well, do you forgive him?

TEDDY PAUSED FOR A MOMENT. HE PUT HIS HEAD IN HIS HANDS IN
 DEEP THOUGHT.

TO BE HONEST, SINCE BEN'S SUDDEN VISIT, HE HAD NOT STOPPED
 THINKING ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT HAD OCCURED SINCE THE
 COMPETITION AND EVERYTHING THAT HAD HAPPENED IN THE PAST.

HE TOOK A DEEP BREATH BEFORE TAKING ALLYLAINES HANDS IN HIS
 AND LOOKING HER STRAIGHT.

TEDDY
 (TAKING ANOTHER BIG BREATH)
 I honestly don't know. I guess he
 thought of it as a positive thing
 for us, and maybe, in the moment,
 he forgot of my condition.
 And nothing really happen as a
 result of the competition.
 (HE SIGHS)
 I just wish that he would have
 talked to us first

EXT. BEN IS WALKING DOWN AN AVENUE, THE TRAFFIC STREAMING
 PAST HIM IN A FRANTIC BLUR. HE IS DEEP IN THOUGHT.

HE THOUGHT OF THE GOOD TIMES HE SHARED WITH TEDDY SINCE THEY
 MET.

HE THOUGHT BACK TO THE CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH TEDDY. IT
 WENT WELL, HE THOUGHT, BETTER THAN HE IMAGINED IT WOULD GO.
 HE HOPED THAT ALLYLAINES AND TEDDY WOULD FORGIVE HIM BUT HE
 WASN'T HOLDING OUT MUCH HOPE. IF IT WAS EASY, THEIR
 FRIENDSHIP WOULDN'T HAVE GONE IN A BLINK OF AN EYE.

BEN WAS SO DEEP IN THOUGHT, THAT HE WASN'T AWARE THAT HE WAS AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE HOTEL HE WAS STAYING AT. HE ABSENT-MINDEDLY WALK IN TO THE HOTEL LOBBY, UP THE STAIRS, OPEN THE DOOR TO HIS ROOM AND WALKED IN.

INT. TEDDY AND ALLYLAINES HOUSE.

THE LIVING ROOM. THE NEXT DAY.

ALLYLAINE AND TEDDY SPENT THE NIGHT ON THE SOFA. THEY ARE AWOKEN BY A KNOCK ON THE DOOR. TEDDY UNTANGLES ALLYLAINES FROM HIS BODY AND GO TO OPEN THE DOOR, AND IS GREETED BY HIS KIDS AND SYLVIA. HE GESTURED TO SYLVIA TO COME IN.

SYLVIA

Sorry to wake you, the kids was restless to come back. I guessed they missed you.

TEDDY

Don't worry about it.
Thanks for looking after them, I hope they weren't much trouble?

SYLVIA

No, they were fine. Maddie was thrilled to have them.
We couldn't get them to sleep!
(SHE LAUGHS)

ALLYLAINE WAS AWAKE BY NOW, AND WAS TIDYING THE SOFA. SHE EMBRACE TEDDY IN A HUG, AND WAVED A TIRED 'HELLO' TO SYLVIA. THE KIDS GATHERED AROUND HER LEGS IN A GLEEFUL JOY. CHATTERING NON-STOP. ALLYLAINES GLANCES AT THE CLOCK. 8:15AM.

SHE FRETS ABOUT GETTING READY FOR WORK. AS SHE WAS LATE.

TEDDY LAUGHS AND WAVE A RUSHED 'GOODBYE' AND MOUTHED 'THANK YOU' TO SYLVIA WHO WAS MAKING HER WAY OUT OF THE DOOR.

A COUPLE HOURS LATER, TEDDY AND ALLYLAINES WAS AT THE FRONT DOOR. ALLYLAINES GAVE TEDDY A QUICK PECK ON THE CHEEK AND WAVED GOODBYE TO THE KIDS IN THE FRONT ROOM, WATCHING TV. TEDDY GAVE ALLYLAINES HER TRAVEL CUP AND GAVE ANOTHER QUICK PECK AND HUG BEFORE ALLYLAINES MADE HER WAY TO HER CAR. HE SHUT THE DOOR.

TEDDY HAD THE DAY OFF AND SO IT WAS HIS DAY TO LOOK AFTER THE KIDS.

CASPAR

Daddy, I'm hungry

ALL THE KIDS RUSHED AND GATHERED AROUND TEDDY'S LEGS, IN A CHORUS OF HUNGRY CRIES. TEDDY WAS AMBUSHED, THERE WAS NO ESCAPE.

HE HAD TO CAVED. HE NODDED HIS HEAD, SATISFYING HIS HUNGRY CHILDREN, WHO IMMEDIATELY RELEASED HIM. HE MADE HIS WAY INTO THE KITCHEN AND WAS PREPARED TO MAKE PEANUT BUTTER JELLY SANDWICHES FOR HIS KIDS WHEN THE PHONE RANG.

TWINS
(IN UNISON)
Daddy, it's for you...He says he's
an old friend

TEDDY STEPPING OUT FROM THE KITCHEN, AND TAKING THE PHONE FROM THE TWINS, WHICH QUICKLY SCAPERED TO THE PLAYROOM.

TEDDY
(ON THE PHONE)
Hello, who's this?

BEN
(ON THE OTHER END)
(TENTATIVELY) Hello...Teddy
It's Ben

TEDDY WAS HESISTANT AT THAT POINT AS TO WHETHER TO PUT THE PHONE DOWN BUT HE THOUGHT TO KEEP LISTENING.

TEDDY
What do you want?

BEN
I just wanted to check in, have you
thought more about what I said
yesterday?
Do you forgive me? Do you need more
time?

TEDDY
Well, I guessed it seems futile to
keep a grudge given how long it has
been... but you have to know that
our circumstances have changed, we
have a young family to look after.
It wouldn't be like old times, I
don't know how it would affect the
kids if we suddenly introduce you
into their lives.

BEN

I don't expect our friendship to magically be repaired or for it to be like it was when we were at school. I know you and Allylaine would need to take it slow and slowly build back my trust. You were such a good friend, in fact, my oldest friend. We've been through so much together.

TEDDY

I really need more time but since you explained yesterday that you didn't say anything about my condition all those years ago at the competition, there's really nothing to be mad at. I have the day off today but I'm looking after the kids whilst Allylaine is at work. We could meet if you're available or find another day when Allylaine can join us?

BEN

I really like to meet both you and Allylaine but I'm leaving today. So if you want to meet, can you meet me at the park at the end of your street, in about 10 minutes?

TEDDY GLANCES AT THE MANTLE CLOCK. 3:15PM. HE AGREES AND THE CONVERSATION ENDS. TEDDY FINISHES OFF THE SANDWICHES.

EXT.

BEN ARRIVES EARLY AT THE PARK. SOME KIDS ARE PLAYING ON THE CLIMBING FRAMES. HE GLANCES AT HIS WATCH. 3:20. HE SETTLES DOWN ON THE MIDDLE BENCH, BEHIND THE KIDDIE SWINGS. HE THINKS BACK TO THE DAY OF THE COMPETITION.

INT.

THE LIBRARY LOBBY, DECORATED IN GRAND GESTURES WITH BANNERS ADVERTISING THE COMPETITION. A PODIUM IS PLACED NEAR THE ENTRANCE, READY TO BE PLACED ABOVE THE STEPS FOR THE MAYOR TO ANNOUNCE THE WINNER, THAT NIGHT.

BEN IS PLACING FLYERS ON THE CUSTOMER DESKS READY FOR THE PATRONS TO GET.

MAN

Hey, Ben
Everything set?

BEN

Oh, sure, Mr Anderson
Thanks for letting me help

EXT.

BEN IS DISTRACTED FROM HIS THOUGHT BY LOUD SHOUTS COMING FROM THE ENTRANCE OF THE PARK. HE LOOKED UP, AND CAN SEE TEDDY CLOSING THE GATE BEHIND THREE RULY CHILDREN. HE GENTLY USHERS THEM TO PLAY BEFORE MAKING HIS WAY TOWARDS BEN WHICH HE COULD SEE AS HE CAME IN.

HE SITS HIMSELF DOWN NEXT TO BEN AND PLACES HIS RUCKSACK BESIDE HIM. THERE'S A PERIOD OF AKWARD SILENCE BEFORE BEN TURNS AND SPEAKS.

BEN

I'm glad you came

TEDDY

Yeah, sorry, we're a little bit
late
The kids were taking their time
putting on...well everything
(HE NERVOUSLY LAUGHS)
What did you want to talk about?

BEN

I never expected to see you after
that day that I showed up on your
doorstep.
I just had to see you even if it is
the last time.
Your kids are sweet and I can see
the resemblance

TEDDY

Well, you've seen me
(HE GETS READY TO WALK
AWAY)

BEN

Teddy, wait!
(HE TUGS ON TEDDY'S SLEEVE
TO GESTURE FOR HIM TO SIT
BACK DOWN)
I need to know
Do you forgive me?

TEDDY LOOKS AWAY FOR A MOMENT. IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THIS SIMPLE BUT COMPLICATED QUESTION: 'DO I FORGIVE HIM?'

TEDDY FELT CONFLICTED. ON ONE HAND, HE REALLY WANT TO LEAVE IT ALL IN THE PAST AND MOVE ON IN THE FUTURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE WENT TO HELL AND BACK THESE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS OVER THE MATTER AND THAT WAS SOMETHING THAT HE COULD NEVER FORGET, HOWEVER HARD HE TRIES.

TEDDY

(HE HEAVES A HUGE SIGH)

I guess I do but it will take a long time before our friendship can begin again.

BEN

I guess it's to be expected. I only came to apologise and I did that.

BEN BEGINS TO LEAVE.

TEDDY

However I like to try and see if it can be salvage

BEN TURNS AROUND, A BEAMING SMILE ON HIS FACE.

BEN

I would like that very much.

BEN SITS BACK DOWN. THE TWO MEN SAT WATCHING THE CHILDREN PLAYED IN THE PARK UNTIL THE SUN WENT DOWN AND THEY SAID GOODBYE.

THE END