



# JUST ME

**COLLECTORS EDITION**

**JONATHAN PAUL DIAZ**

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**Greetings:**

*For the Collector's edition e-books I wanted to keep them intact. I want to let them remain as how they were written by me years ago.*

*The purpose is so that you can see the evolution of my writing. Like I said I am an accidental writer. I underwent a heart breaking tragedy which brought me great depression. Before I could hit rock bottom a friend of mine told me to start writing to release the pain and keep my mind pre occupied.*

*I listened to her and I started writing stories to help me forget and move on. Writing did help me. I let out my frustrations and unfulfilled wishes through my writings. You might notice that the themes of my first few stories are quite similar. Pieces of me are in all of my stories and if you put those pieces of the puzzle together then you can see who I really am and what I went through.*

*I must admit I am not a great writer. I am more of a story teller. Please do forgive me for the syntax errors and wrong writing formats. I am not perfect and I do not adhere to the proper writing standards. I just want to share my stories and maybe one day when I consider myself as a true writer then I might have to use those formats which are needed for writers.*

*I am Jonathan Paul Diaz, I am a story teller.*

**Greetings:**

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## *Prologue*

Jonathan wiped his perspiration and took a deep breath. He was nervous and shaking all over, he bowed his head and said a little prayer. Jonathan was a fat boy yet the most intelligent in their batch. This day was their graduation ball and everyone was enjoying. He set his eyes towards the most beautiful girl in their graduating batch, Kathleen. She was adored by many and yet feared by most since she was the second most intelligent one.

Jonathan started walking towards Kathleen and everyone stood still and looked on. No one has ever asked Kathleen to dance and yet they were witnessing probably the first one to do so. As Jonathan was about six steps away Kathleen's face suddenly changed, her smile faded and shock was now written all over her face. Jonathan bowed his head but still walked forward until he was standing in front of her.

"All this time I have never spoken to you, not a single word for I was really ashamed. Today I mustered up all the courage to do so and wanted to ask you for a dance but I already know your answer just by looking at your face. So if you do not mind, instead of saying no just smile once. Just one smile...just one..." Jonathan softly says and slowly looks at Kathleen.

Kathleen's mouth was trembling and she suddenly smiled. Jonathan bowed his head again and turned around, he ran towards the door and everyone started laughing. Jonathan ran with all his might away from the school gymnasium, he ran far, he just kept running.

## *Chapter 1: Change*

Jonathan stopped running, he was soaked wet with perspiration and he was breathing deeply. His long curly hair covers his eyes as he stooped down to stretch his back.

“Hey Jonathan breakfast is ready, hurry up or you will be late for school!” His mother then hurried back inside the house as Jonathan briskly walked towards the door. It has been seven months since that fateful day when he started running. Every day he runs for one hour before he goes to school. He is now in his second semester of his first year in college.

Those seven months of running changed him physically; he is now a changed man. Gone are the days where he had to succumb to daily discrimination due to his physique. In the past even though he was intellectually gifted all the people notice is his huge built. Recently he is enjoying a life free from unwanted stares and name calling.

Jonathan barely makes it on time for his first subject and takes a seat at the back of the classroom. First day of classes were usually boring, the instructor was usually late so the classroom was noisy. Jonathan was still shy so he preferred to be seated always at the back, this day as they waited for their instructor he just stared outside the window. The room suddenly became silent and as Jonathan looked in front he saw their instructor reading a list.

“Oh good morning everyone, I am Engineer Harold Rivera, I will be your instructor in Differential Calculus for this semester. Well looking at the list it seems we have the two top students in the Dean’s list here. Where is Mister Jonathan Parker?” says their instructor as he looks around the classroom.

Jonathan shyly raises his hands and everybody looks at him with amazement. “Oh there you are number one eh, so this is a big challenge for me” Engineer Rivera adds. “So where is Miss Kathleen Rollins then?”

Jonathan was startled to hear that name and he looked around the room for the first time. It has been seven months since he saw her, and he suddenly sees her as she raises her hands and looks at him and she smiles. Kathleen had become more beautiful, he could still remember that smile from the graduation ball and now she has smiled at him again for no reason at all.

As the bell rang everyone walked out of the classroom and headed towards their next class. Jonathan was the last one to leave and as he walked out of the door Kathleen was waiting for him.

“Hi, remember me? Where is your next class?” Kathleen asks as she starts to walk beside Jonathan.

Jonathan cannot believe that Kathleen is talking to him, maybe it’s because of his new physical appearance, indeed Jonathan has become more handsome and well built. “Oh, uhhmm its on room 204, Physics” he barely says. “Me too, come on lets go together.” Kathleen joyfully says as they walk towards room 204.

Jonathan enters the room and seats again at the back; he is shocked to see Kathleen sit beside him.

“Kathleen!” suddenly someone shouted. A petite girl walks towards them and says “Kathleen you have become prettier, oh is he your boyfriend?” she says. Kathleen smiled and replied “Hello Anne, don’t you remember him, its Jonathan!” Anne stares at Jonathan and tries to remember his face. “Jonathan who? Sorry I don’t remember” she says. “Jonathan Parker, don’t you remember

him?” Kathleen reveals and Anne was so surprised that she looked closer at Jonathan.

“Oh my you changed! You look so handsome now. Do you have a girlfriend?” Anne exclaims and then giggled. The door to the room closes and the Professors enters the class. Anne rushes towards her seat and stares back at Kathleen and waives. Jonathan then looks at Kathleen and sees her staring at him smiling. He shyly avoids eye contact and slowly looks forward.

“Jonathan, can I take a look at your class schedule?” Kathleen asks. Jonathan takes out his schedule and hands it over to her. She looks at it and smiles, “Look, at my schedule, we have the same classes daily.” She said and Jonathan checks the list and nods.

As their morning classes were over Kathleen and Jonathan head towards the building exit. Jonathan suddenly stops and says “I have to go somewhere now” and he scratches his head as he bows down. Kathleen replied “Oh ok, see you after lunch then, don’t be late okay?” and she stared and smiled at him.

“You have not changed a bit” he hears Kathleen whisper and she walks away smiling. Jonathan just stood there watching Kathleen walk away. Those last words of hers revolved around his mind making him so confused on what she meant. Although still confused he starts to walk away and a smirk appears on his face. In his mind this semester is going to be an exciting one.



## *Chapter 2: Starting Small*

Saturday arrived and Jonathan had no classes, he goes to his neighbor's house and knocks on the door. As the door opens his best friend stands there munching some chips. Jonathan and Charlie were best of friends since they were five years old. "Hey you what brings you here?" asks Charlie. "I need your help" Jonathan replies as he enters the house.

"Wow you never asked my help before, this is a first. Wait it's about a girl isn't it?" Charlie asks as he closes the door. Jonathan sits on the couch and sighs, "Oh Jon! That's amazing finally we have something good to talk about, I knew it was about a girl. So now tell me about it" Charlie says and he sits down and begins to put a handful of chips on his mouth.

"Well do you remember Kathleen?" Jonathan says and Charlie stops munching. "Yeah, the girl who turned you down, so what about her?" Charlie asked. "Well she is my classmate in all subjects this semester" Jonathan reveals and Charlie offers the chips to Jonathan but he refuses. "Oh, so what is the problem with that, I don't see any problem at all unless you still have feelings for her" said Charlie.

"She has been talking to me lately but I cannot still talk to her normally. I want to but I cannot get the words out of my mouth. I cannot even look at her, I keep looking away every time our eyes meet" Jonathan reveals.

Charlie bursts into laughter and said "So you still like her, which is normal. Now tell me where do you think are you going with that attitude of yours? Do you think you will get far acting that way? I cannot help you in that aspect you should gain confidence and talk to her. Why are you so afraid anyway? Being shy and not talking to her will not get you where you want to be I tell you, open up and just talk to her normally like the way you talk to me or talk to anyone else. When you do that everything will follow, just talk to her".

Jonathan sits back and takes a deep breath and says “If it were just that easy then I could have done those months back. So I just have to talk to her, so what am I supposed to say anyway?” he asked.

“Anything you dummy! Get to know her, tell her things about you, or talk about school, anything just start small and when you gain the confidence then you should be fine already” Charlie adds.

“Yeah I think I can do that. Start small, talk about anything, what am I afraid off anyway? Let me just treat her like a normal classmate. Yes you really are a genius in these stuff Charlie, I wish they taught this things in school you know” Jonathan jokingly says.

Monday came and Jonathan was not able to even say a word the whole morning to Kathleen. They were again to part ways for lunch then suddenly Jonathan starts mumbling. “Are you saying something, I didn’t hear it” said Kathleen as she stops walking and looks at Jonathan.

“I was wondering if I could join you for lunch” he said and he bowed his head again. “Oh sure come on lets hurry so we can get sits” she answered and she hurries towards the canteen. Jonathan seemed shocked but happy at the same time and he hurried after her.

They got their food and were able to find a good spot in the canteen. Jonathan could not believe Kathleen was eating with him. “So Jonathan do you have not answered Anne’s question yet” Kathleen said as she looked at him. “What question was that?” he asks. “About you having a girlfriend, so do you?” she asks. “Oh I don’t have one, I never did actually” he said.

“I see, but is there someone you like?” Kathleen adds on as she takes a sip at her soda. Jonathan suddenly felt uneasy since in front of him was the girl of

his dreams. “No, I don’t like anyone at the moments” Jonathan lies and adds on “How about you, do you have a boyfriend?”

“Nope, I never had one, although I do like someone” Kathleen replied and Jonathan felt mixed emotions. He was happy to hear that she never had a boyfriend and in his mind lingered the mystery person that his dream girl likes. “But you know I have not seen him for a long time now, I miss him a lot” Kathleen suddenly utters which adds on to the mild pain Jonathan was feeling.

“So does he know you like him?” he asks her suddenly. She smiles and says “Well I never got a chance to tell him that, or did I ever have the chance to show it” and suddenly Jonathan felt relieved in hearing those words, he knew he had a small chance and he has to start acting at once. “Start small” he suddenly says.

“What do you mean start small?” she inquires and looks attentively at Jonathan. “Well I mean if you want to tell him you like him but you are ashamed then you can start small, what am I talking about anyway?” he confusedly said. Kathleen burst into laughter and said “I didn’t know you were funny, I thought you were always serious” she comments.

“So what is he like? I mean the guy that you like” says Jonathan. Kathleen sits back and thinks then says “He is a simple guy, I really don’t know him that well but deep inside I know he is a good guy. How about you tell me about the girl you like”.

“Well she is intelligent and very pretty” he said and Kathleen starts laughing and Jonathan suddenly realizes that he has been tricked. “Gotcha!” she said and he begins to blush.

After their afternoon classes they both walk towards the main university gate. “A while ago at lunch, that’s the longest conversation we ever had right?”

Kathleen whispers but Jonathan plays deaf and looks away. As they were to part ways Kathleen suddenly says “Jonathan start small” and Jonathan bows his head and said “Yeah I did” and Kathleen looks curiously. “Oh I mean I will” and he scratches his head and walks away. Kathleen just looks at Jonathan smiling and whispers “So will I”.

### *Chapter 3: Smiles*

One Saturday Charlie and Jonathan were hanging out in the garden; they were tired from playing basketball. “Hey Jon, how is it going with Kathleen?” Charlie asked. Jonathan smiles and says “We are talking casually, just friends or should I say classmates”. “Jeez you are too slow you should court her already, it’s been a month now you know” Charlie adds.

“Court her? I don’t know how, so master guru please teach me” Jonathan jokingly says. “Listen to me my young apprentice, just be yourself, be nice to her, ask her out on weekends. Like today instead of being with me you should be with her did you ever think about that?” Charlie asks and Jonathan looks confused. “I wonder what she is doing now?” Jonathan ponders.

“She said she has someone she likes, but she didn’t describe that person much so how am I going to compete with that?” he asks. “Stupid! Why do you need to know the other guy? Just be yourself and impress her with your capabilities. Never pretend to be someone else to try doing things that you cannot do or else it’s going to bite you in the ass in the end if you fail. So forget about the other guy, if she falls for you at least you can be sure that she likes you for what you are and not who you were trying to be. Do you understand my youngling?” Charlie preaches.

“Just be myself, thank you master you are indeed wise. Wait, how come you don’t have a girlfriend then?” Jonathan asks and Charlie begins to grin. “You see my student, I have not found a worthy woman to be by my side” and they both start laughing.

The last day of classes for the week, Anne and Kathleen were walking briskly towards their next class after lunch. “Hey Kath, you have been close with Jonathan lately, so what’s the story there?” Anne asks. “Nothing much we are just friends, well the instructors are making a big deal of him being number one and me number two, it’s like they want us to compete. Honestly I can’t do

what he does, he is like a machine, so serious most of the time” Kathleen replied.

“So it’s just friends and nothing more?” Anne seriously asked her. “Yes, just friends. Hey why is the class so noisy?” Kathleen asks as they near their classroom. They inch closer and take a peek inside and see Jonathan being surrounded by their classmates.

“Seriously I was this big, and did you know I wanted to join in athletics, I wanted to run in the 100 meter dash but they said it’s not possible since I might shake the ground when I run which might distract the other runners!” Jonathan said and all people around him burst into laughter.

“And can you imagine the announcer saying, on the first and second lane Jonathan Parker!!!” he adds and some start to cry in laughter. “And you know one time when I used to be fat I went to the beach and girls started to run after me, yeah lots of pretty girls. I ran as fast as I can you know and they were shouting ‘WAIT FOR US FREE WILLY’. I was a celebrity back then you know” Jonathan jokingly boasted. His classmates were amused and kept laughing even the two girls at the door could not help themselves.

“Hey Jon, what made you decide to slim down then if you were having fun when you were fat?” one classmate asked.

Jonathan stood up and bowed down his head, people around him started giggling thinking he was acting. “Well you see my friends, I did this because of a girl” he uttered and everyone started to be quiet and listened on. Kathleen froze and remembered what happened on their graduation ball and started to feel sad. “Hey Kath I bet it was when you turned him down during the ball right?” Ann whispered and accidentally opened the door and Jonathan saw Kathleen standing their looking at him.

Jonathan was shocked but kept his composure and said “YES! That girl in the department store one day when I was buying underwear, she told me there was no more underwear that would fit me. I could not imagine myself wearing diapers. So I ran with my only underwear, I ran far, I ran until I could fit into an underwear size that was available in the store. So every day I had to check you know”.

Everyone went crazy again even Anne could not help herself from laughing hard. Jonathan saw everyone laughing but when he looked at Kathleen he noticed she was not laughing. Kathleen knew Jonathan was lying and she felt sorry for him. “So he did that because of me” she whispered. “What?” Anne asked. “Nothing, let’s go in the professor is coming.

Kathleen hurries inside and sees Jonathan already seated. She sits down beside him but he was looking far away. Jonathan was so ashamed and he knew Kathleen overheard everything even though he was able to shift the story he knows Kathleen knew what he was talking about. Two subjects flew by without them speaking to each other. The last class of the day came and they had a big surprise.

“Okay everyone seems to be in good spirits today, I shall give you a group research then. You can group yourselves into two except for Mister Parker and Miss Rollins. The two of you shall be in one group and I shall give you a tougher task” said the most hated professor.

The professor gave the other groups their tasks and gave the two special students their own.

“Okay then you may use the remaining class time to discuss with your partner on how will present your research. You shall be graded accordingly based on content and performance to answer questions. You have one week to do that.” He adds.

Kathleen reads their assigned task and shakes her head. “So how would you like to take this on Jon?” she asked him. “May I take a look at it?” he asked. Jonathan scanned the research task and nodded as Kathleen looked at him worried. “Does he really want to challenge us or does he hate us?” Jonathan quipped and Kathleen started to laugh.

The professor noticed her laughing and said “So you think that’s easy enough then why don’t you be the ones to present first. You were supposed to be presenting last you know but it seems that is too easy for the dynamic duo”. The professor walked towards them grinning and most of the students were looking at them.

“Sir I wasn’t laughing about these I am sorry” pleads Kathleen but Jonathan suddenly stands and says “Make it three days”.

Everyone was shocked to hear him stand up to the professor, Kathleen looked at Jonathan and she saw a different expression in his face. The professor started to laugh and patted Jonathan at the shoulder. “Now now don’t be too sure of yourself, three days you sure are funny young man”

“Three days” Jonathan repeated as he stared the professor in the eye with determination.

Kathleen was shocked to see Jonathan so serious, the expression on his face was terrifying.

“Okay I shall take your offer, but if I am not satisfied with your presentation then I shall give you no credit at all” the professor snaps back and stares at Jonathan. Both of them not backing down as Kathleen gently tugs at Jonathans pants begging him to back off already.



Seeing that Jonathan would not back off the professor did the first move but did so grinning as he stepped back. Professor Richard Turner was feared by many students. He was branded to be a terror because of his hot temper and almost sadistic ways. This was the first time a student ever stood up to him and the tyrant backed off.

The other students were smiling and some of them pumping their fists in victory. Kathleen sees the others silently celebrating so she turns to Jonathan again who is still staring at the professor. The fear that once filled her mind a while ago now turned into admiration.

Jonathan finally takes a sit and takes a look again at their assigned topic. “Jon, do you really think you can do it in three days?” she asked him. He looked at her and said “No” and Kathleen began to panic. “What? Then why did you say three days then?” she asked him.

“Normally it would take three two weeks at least to do this task. You asked me if I can do this in three days? Alone I might be able to finish this in a week at most, I am sorry I am not used to working with anyone, I have been quite a loner, hearing that we would be together on this task so I estimated if we worked hard we could do it in three days, I think” he said and smiled.

Kathleen starts laughing and Jonathan starts to wonder. “What’s so funny with what I said? This is a team effort isn’t it?” Jonathan quipped. “It just that I saw you smile for the first time, I was used to seeing you smirk or pout, or being serious. You should keep smiling always, you are cute when you smile” she said.

Jonathan felt a different sensation upon hearing those words from Kathleen, his cheeks started to get warm, he felt so happy but suddenly became shy. “Well they say when you pout you exert use more facial muscles you know, so I just wanted my face to be physically fit. That’s why I seldom smile.” Jonathan jokingly reveals and Kathleen burst into laughter once more.

“Tomorrow is a weekend; do you want to do this at your house? I can come over if you want. Or we could meet here and do it in the library.” Kathleen said. Jonathan found both choices tempting and he could choose any since he shall be with his dream girl. “Ah well I leave that decision to you, I am okay with any of them” he said. “Okay lets meet here tomorrow at eight in the morning then let’s go to your house” Kathleen declares and Jonathan smiled once more.

“Okay that’s fine with me” he replied and still could not remove the smile in his face. Kathleen giggled and asked “Why are you smiling all of a sudden?” and Jonathan scratched his head and said “Well you told me a while ago I should keep smiling, I’m just being obedient you know. Am I overdoing it?” he easily thinks of a way out of his predicament which made Kathleen laugh once again.

“You really are funny, I wish we became this close before” Kathleen suddenly says as she smiles at Jonathan. He does not reply but made funny faces forming different smiles. “So what smile do you think suits me, this one, this or this one?” he asks but Kathleen just kept laughing and laughing as he did several more faces. Deep inside he did not want to stop, he was so happy being able to make Kathleen smile and laugh. He was doing something right for a change.

## *Chapter 4: Watching You*

Saturday morning Kathleen was with Anne in the main gate waiting for Jonathan to arrive.

“Kath, are you sure he is coming? For a guy being late is a big no-no” Anne said.

“Its not like we are dating you know, maybe he has a good reason for being late” Kathleen replied and looks at her watch, it was already eight.

“Hey Kath, since you and him are just friends, could you help me out and find out what are the things he likes or dislikes?” Anne requested.

Kathleen looks at Anne curiously and asked “Why? I mean what for?” Anne shyly smiles and says “I think I like him but I don’t get the chance to be with him often. Since you two are always together and you are close already so could you please find them out for me?”

Kathleen felt uneasy all of a sudden and no matter how hard it was for her to accept what Anne said she just smiled. “Sure I can do that”.

“Hey look it’s him! He looks so cool, look at him!” Anne said ecstatically. Kathleen looks towards the direction Anne was facing and she saw Jonathan walking slowly, he was wearing a pair of shades and the wind blew his curly long hair around. As he approaches them both Anne could not resist saying. “I’m falling in love with him Kathleen” but Kathleen pretends she did not hear it.

“I am really sorry, no excuses.” Jonathan said and he bowed his head in shame. Anne giggles as Kathleen just smiles along. “It’s my fault too I did not give you my cell phone number so you could have just sent me a text message” Kathleen says. Jonathan scratches his head and smiles. “Oh no need for that I don’t have a cell phone, I wanted to get one a long time ago but I only have a handful of friends” he said.

“Now you to go ahead then, I have to meet my partner in the library” Anne said and starts to walk away. “Hey Anne thanks for waiting with me” Kathleen suddenly said. “Oh I should be thanking you” Anne replied and smiled as she hurries towards the library.

“Thank you for what?” Jonathan investigates. “Oh nothing it’s just a girl thing don’t worry” Kathleen replied as the thought of Anne’s request lingered on her mind. “Your bag seems to be full of stuff; do you want me to carry it for you?” Jonathan asked her. “I just bought some snacks; I didn’t know what you would like so I got a lot. I will carry it, it’s a shoulder bag and it won’t look good on men” she answered.

“Me? I eat anything don’t you remember? Here let me carry that for you” Jonathan said and Kathleen handed the bag over as her mind suddenly realized what she has said. Flashbacks of the fat Jonathan came to her mind and she felt bad thinking she might have just insulted him.

Jonathan puts the bag on his shoulder and pretends to be gay. He flicked his curly hair and raised his eyebrows and said. “So now how do I look? Come on now let’s get going. I should have worn a dress today my oh my what a wonderful day.”

Kathleen suddenly starts laughing seeing him acting like a girl. “Hey Jon stop that people are laughing at you” she whispers but Jonathan continued his act and said “You know what I have had the worst insults thrown at me back

then, so I am already used to it, don't mind them, come along now let's hail a cab".

As they were inside the cab Kathleen thought of what Jonathan had just said. She looked at Jonathan and she somehow realized what kind of pain he had to endure daily when he was still fat. Instead of feeling sorry for him, her admiration became stronger for the man beside him.

They finally reach Jonathan's home, it was situated on a secluded village and there were very few houses there. As they enter the house Jonathan's mom greets them. "Hello, so finally I meet you, Jonathan has been talking about you ever since..." and Jonathan cuts in "Mom this is Kathleen my classmate, and we are going to do a research paper, Kathleen this is my mom don't believe everything she says"

Kathleen and his mother trade smiles for a moment then Jonathan asks Kathleen to take a seat. "Please wait here I am going to bring down my laptop and the stuff we need" he said but his mother disagreed. "No need the both of you can work in your room, I will bring you lunch later, now hurry time is gold".

"Mom! I have not cleaned my room yet!" Jonathan exclaims. "I cleaned it a while ago, so go along now and let me start cooking" she said. Jonathan scratches his head and leads Kathleen towards his room upstairs.

"Your room is nice" Kathleen quipped. "Oh you should have seen it a while ago, you can sit anywhere you want" Jonathan said. Kathleen walked around his room slowly and said "Hey Jon, how come there are no pictures on all the picture frames?" she asked. Jonathan sat down in front of the computer and said "Isn't it that when you take pictures you do so in order for you to remember good times? I took out all of my pictures and burned them." Kathleen looked at him and started feeling sorry for him again. She pulled a chair and sat down beside Jonathan who was already starting to work.

“So how would you want to attack this problem?” Jonathan asked her. “You decide, you take the lead and I will follow, anything is fine with me” she answered. Jonathan did not answer back instead he continued to work. She just watched him as he bashed the keyboard, three opened books on both sides of him.

“You know what you can relax in my bed if you want this is going to take long” he said. “No I want to help too” she answered. “Go on relax, when I am tired you can replace me here” he added. “Are you sure you’re fine with that?” Kathleen asked him. “Yup” he said so Kathleen stood up and sat on his bed and looked around the room.

She was trying to look for details about him in his room but she could not find anything of importance. She takes off her shoes and leaned on the head rest as she relaxed her legs on the bed. She just stared at the back of Jonathan’s head trying to see what was going on inside his mind.

“Hey Jon” she suddenly says.

“Yeah?” Jonathan replied without even turning his back.

“Anne likes you” she revealed waiting to see if he would have any reaction.

“Okay” he just answered and continued to work.

“She is pretty. Smart at times. She is kind too you know” Kathleen added.

“So why don’t you court her then?” Jonathan jokingly said.

“Seriously? I am a girl you know that. I am not into that stuff” she implied.

“Well then I am a girl too” he jokingly said and Kathleen started to laugh.

“She is serious about you, she even wanted me to find out more about you. What if she decides to make the first move on you, I mean girls could court men too you know” she added.

“Well I have no experience in courting or love stuff so you will have to help me tell her no in a nice way then” Jonathan said as he continued working.

Kathleen liked what she heard and started to smile. She grabs the pillow and hugs it tightly.

“Uhm what is she is persistent, what if she does not accept no for an answer? Don’t get me wrong but I am just the bridge here” Kathleen utters.

Jonathan suddenly turns around and Kathleen lets go of the pillow. “I read a story once; this guy likes a girl but was too shy so he had to ask his best bud to help him out. The girl eventually fell in love with the guy’s best bud in the end” he said and smiled then turned around and faced the computer.

Kathleen imagine that situation happening and she grabbed the pillow again and hugged it tight. She tried to smell the pillow so as to know what he smells like when he sleeps.

“That pillow has not been washed for a week so don’t sniff it” Jonathan suddenly said.

“I am not sniffing your pillow!” Kathleen shockingly replied.

“Oh okay” he answered. Kathleen continued hugging the pillow and sniffing until she fell asleep.

“Kath a little help” Jonathan said but heard no reply. “Kath?” he repeated and still she did not respond. He turned around and saw her asleep. Jonathan stood up and carried the chair closer to the bed and sat down watching her sleep. The door suddenly opens and his mother stood beside him.

“She is so pretty” he whispered.

“Would you like to eat lunch now?” his mother asked.

“Can I watch her a little bit longer mom?” Jonathan pleaded and his mother tapped him in the back. “You still like don’t you?”

“Very much mom, very much.”



## *Chapter 5: Wishes*

Kathleen woke up and looked at her watch; it was already two o'clock in the afternoon.

"We missed lunch, are you hungry now?" Jonathan asked as he was still staring at her from the chair.

"A bit, wait have you been watching me sleep the whole time?" she asked him.

"Not really, when my eyes get tired I just come and watch you a little" Jonathan revealed.

"I am a big girl now, you don't have to watch me sleep" Kathleen jokingly said.

"I could not help myself, watching you there like an angel, makes me feel good inside, makes me feel refreshed. What the heck am I saying again? Come on let's go and eat" Jonathan said and he scratched his head as he headed towards the door.

"No wait, I have to go somewhere at three, so I need to go" she said.

"Come on just a little, I want to eat with you...uhm no I mean I don't want to eat alone...it's the same thing" Jonathan mumbles and Kathleen laughs loud and agrees to eat.

After eating Kathleen packed her things and headed towards the door and Jonathan followed.

“Mom I’m going to walk Kathleen to the village entrance!!!” Jonathan shouts before he closes the door.

“Hey Jon, I’m sorry I could not help you out but I promise tomorrow I will come early” she said.

“Tomorrow?” Jonathan asked and bowed his head.

“Oh do you have plans for tomorrow?” Kathleen asked and Jonathan took a deep breath and smiled.

“It’s not important, so shall I meet you in school again?” he said.

“No, I will come here early. Thank you for the meal and sorry I was not able to help out” Kathleen said but before Jonathan could reply there was a cab which Kathleen signaled and got in right away.

As the cab sped past Jonathan, he waited until the cab was out of sight before he turned around and headed home.

Tomorrow came and Kathleen made good of her promise, she arrived at Jonathan’s home at seven in the morning. She knocked at the door right away and was greeted by Jonathan’s mother.

“Hello Kathleen, he is not here, I am not sure where he went but you can ask Charlie” she said.

“Charlie?” Kathleen repeated.

“Oh Charlie is Jonathan’s best friend they grew up together, he might be there next door” Jonathan’s mom said.

“Okay ma’am I will go see if he is there” Kathleen said and she went straight to the house next door.

Charlie was outside washing the car of his dad and he noticed Kathleen approaching so turned off the water.

“You must be Kathleen, nice to meet you, I am Charlie” he said. Kathleen was surprised in the fact that Charlie knew her name.

“Yes, nice meeting you too. Is Jon here because he is not in their house?” she asked.

“Sorry he is not, but I think I know where you can find him. Let me accompany you” he said and he led Kathleen deeper towards the village.

“Where are we going?” Kathleen inquired.

“His special place. Don’t worry you will like it there trust me” Charlie ensures Kathleen.

The suddenly reach a dead end and Kathleen starts to get nervous.

“Just follow this path, and you will find him there. Don’t be scared its safe” Charlie points to a hidden path going to the forest.

“Okay I trust you” she said and starts to walk deeper inside the forest. She walked for a minute and was starting to get scared and she wanted to go back. She said to herself to just take one step at a time so she walked slowly and her body began trembling. She suddenly stopped and her jaw dropped on what she saw.

There was so much color as different kinds of flowers were all around. There was a stream flowing silently and on one edge of the stream there was Jonathan sitting on a bench just watching the water flow by.

“This place is amazing!!!” Kathleen voiced out and Jonathan was surprised so he stood up at once and turned around.

“How...I mean I’m sorry I must have dozed off. I went out for a jog this morning but I came here to visit and I fell asleep” Jonathan reasoned out.

“No, this is amazing, it’s so beautiful here. Is this a park how come there is a bench there?” she asked.

“I made this bench so I have someplace to sit on when I am here” he answered.

Kathleen sat on the bench and Jonathan sat beside her. “Too bad we have to go back and finish the research” she said.

“You know what forget about the research for now, come with me I want to show you something” he said and he stood up at once.

Kathleen followed Jonathan as they walked along the edge of the stream towards where the water was coming from. A minute later Kathleen became more ecstatic on what was in front of them.

“A waterfall! Wow! I have to take pictures!” she happily said as she took out her mobile phone which had a built-in camera. “You can take pictures later, take off your shoes and leave your bag here. If you think this is something wait till we go inside” he said.

“Go inside the waterfalls? Are you serious?” Kathleen asked in surprise. “Come on hurry take off your shoes” he said as he took his shoes off too.

They enter a cave and the sound of water splashing was so loud inside. As they go farther inside the cave brightens up and Kathleen saw an opening in the cave where the water was flowing downwards. She was so happy that she rushed towards the water and said “Jon is this water from the falls outside?” and Jonathan nodded.

“When you place your face through the water then you can see outside” he said. Kathleen could not speak in amazement as she forced her hand through the water. Jonathan sat down and stretched his legs forward through the water. Kathleen immediately followed what he was doing and she started to laugh.

“I’m getting tickled by the water!” she said excitedly. “Hey Jon how did you find this amazing place?”

“I accidentally found this place one night as I was running” he said.

“I don’t mind the noisy water but I could sleep here you know” she adds.

“I did sleep here already” Jonathan suddenly reveals. Kathleen looked at Jonathan and asked “When?”

“On the day I night I found this place, right after the graduation ball” he again revealed. Kathleen suddenly felt a sharp pain on her chest and tears were about to fill her eyes. She could still remember what happened that night and now she understood how much pain Jonathan was in.

“Hey you wait here, I am going to take a picture of you, when I shout you force you face through the water okay?” he suddenly said and he rushed out of the cave. Kathleen still was motionless as tears began falling on her cheeks.

“Hey Kath can you hear me?!!!! I am ready!!!” she heard him shouting outside. Kathleen wipes her tears and stands up, she slowly lunges her face forward through the water. The pouring water hit her face, it was a bit strong but she forced her way through. She felt no more water hitting her eyes so she began to open them and she saw Jonathan focusing the camera towards her.

“Alright I got it! Wait for me there I am coming to get you!” Jonathan shouted.

As Jonathan arrive to pick her up Kathleen was still emotional. “Hold on to me its slippery and dark going back” he said and Kathleen grabbed his hand and Jonathan suddenly looked at her. Kathleen looked away and played innocent so Jonathan faced forward and the darkness hid his smile on his face.

They made their way back to the bench and sat down for a while to enjoy the scenery. The two of them remained silent for a while and Jonathan suddenly stood up.

“Come on lets get going” he said but Kathleen suddenly brought out her camera phone. “Since we are here can we take more pictures?” she asked. “You have already got lots of pictures” he said.

“No I mean a picture of both of us” she said shyly. Jonathan suddenly froze upon hearing those words but he sat back down and said “Alright, give me the camera”. Kathleen hands it over and she moves closer to Jonathan. Jonathan stretched his arm and tried to calculate the best spot. “I guess this should be fine, ready?” he asked and she inches closer smiling.

Jonathan suddenly takes the picture and Kathleen reacted, “not fair! I was not ready yet. Take another one” she said. She moves closer a bit more and Jonathan was ready to take the shot. “Okay on three...one....two...” then Kathleen leans her head on Jonathan’s shoulder “...Three” and the picture was taken. Jonathan looked at Kathleen but she grabbed the phone at once to see the picture. “Perfect!” she said and she showed it to Jonathan who just smiled at her.

They arrived at his home, Jonathan knocked on the door but no one was responding. He turned the door knob and opened the door. “SURPRISE! HAPPY BIRTHDAY!” everyone inside said in chorus. Jonathan was pulled and hugged by his mother as his father embraced them both. Jonathan looked back and saw Kathleen standing at the door ashamed to enter.

“Kathleen come inside don’t be shy” says Charlie. Jonathan’s mother goes to Kathleen and leads her inside and introduces her to Jonathan’s father. Jonathan was surrounded by Charlie and his parents as Kathleen was still with the parents of Jonathan.

“Let’s eat!!!” shouts Charlie and everyone settled down. Jonathan’s mother led the prayer as everyone bowed their heads. After the prayer Charlie again shouted “Let’s eat!” as everyone started laughing.

Jonathan’s father brought in the cake with 17 candles all lit and glowing brightly, “Son, make a wish” his father said. “Is it necessary? I already had my wish granted.” Jonathan said. “Then make another one” his father urged him. Jonathan looked at Kathleen shortly and closed his eyes and blew the candles.

“Hey Jon tell us what you wished for!” Charlie said. “I can’t do that, If I do it might not come true” Jonathan replied. “So tell us about the wish that was granted then” Charlie insisted. Jonathan began to smile and shouted “Let’s eat!!!” Everyone enjoyed the food and while they were eating Jonathan’s mother was telling stories about her son’s childhood.

Kathleen was enjoying what she was hearing since she was getting to know Jonathan better. Jonathan was begging his mother to stop and kept feeding her pieces of cake every time she was about to tell an embarrassing story.

Everyone was full and tired from laughing, Charlie suddenly rushed out and everyone wondered why but they all went to the living room and Jonathan’s mother continued telling tales about her son. A few minutes later Charlie came back and he was holding a guitar. “Hey Jon, Happy Birthday. Sorry I didn’t know how to wrap a guitar”

Charlie said as he handed over the gift to the birthday boy. Jonathan was speechless upon receiving the guitar but he tested it at once and saw it was fine tuned. “Charlie thanks man” he said softly.

“Didn’t you have a guitar already?” Jonathan’s mother asked. “We accidentally smashed it when we were imitating those wrestlers on television” Charlie butted in and everybody laughed. “Kathleen did you know he can sing



well?” Jonathan’s father told Kathleen. Kathleen was surprised and looked at Jonathan. “I didn’t know that. Jon can you sing for us then?” Kathleen asked him. Jonathan laughed and said “Don’t believe everything they say, they are just kidding you know”.

“Hey Jon how about the song you have been singing and singing over and over” Charlie said and once again grinned at Jonathan. “No. Sorry I can’t sing when I’m full” he answered and he laughed.

“Please. I want to hear it” Kathleen gently pleaded and Jonathan stared at her for a moment. Everyone was looking at Jonathan, Charlie was giggling like a girl and Kathleen started to speak once again. “It’s okay if you don’t want to”. Everyone became silent as Jonathan took a deep breath and started to strum the guitar.

“Is it okay if I call you mine just for a time.....” he started singing Paul McCrane’s famous hit song. Jonathan bowed his head while singing, looking at his hands as they shifted positions on the guitar. Kathleen was mesmerized with his voice, so she kept staring at him. Charlie was still giggling like a girl as he started to bring out a piece of paper and pen. As Jonathan finished singing everyone clapped except for Kathleen who was teary eyed.

“Is there something wrong Kathleen?” Jonathan asked her. “No, I was just moved by your singing.” She replied and Charlie started to whisper something in her ears. Kathleen smiled and nodded then Charlie whispered to Jonathan’s father’s ears. “What are you up to Charlie? This guitar is new you know, if you’re plotting something hideous then we just might find out how hard the wood of this guitar is” Jonathan jokingly threatened him.

Jonathan was seated on the middle of the couch, on his left was Kathleen and on his right was his father. Charlie distanced himself and stood at the back and signaled his two accomplices.

Kathleen held Jonathan's left arm as his right arm was held tightly by his father. "Charlie what are you up to?!" Jonathan asked but Charlie brought out another piece of paper and started to read.

"WISHES...by Jonathan Parker....." he started.

"Charlie!!! SHUT UP!!! PLEASE DON'T!!!" Jonathan pleaded but Charlie continued on reading.

*I may sound funny and I definitely sound lame.  
I start acting funny when I hear them mention her name.  
I wish to have the courage even to just say 'hi'  
Each time I try I fumble and I don't know why.  
Show her the special place where I relax and unwind  
This place and she have something in common, they're both hard to find  
To make her listen to what my heart wants to say  
To sing her the song entitled 'Is it okay?'  
I will cut this short and continue someday  
When all these wishes have come my way  
About her name I still cannot say  
But here's a clue, it starts with 'K'*

As Charlie finished reading the poem he ran out the door as fast as he can and everyone was smiling except Jonathan and Kathleen. Jonathan was so embarrassed and he was just staring at the ground. Kathleen was speechless and was just staring at him and she wanted to cry. What she heard was just like a confession but not done directly. She somehow felt happy since deep inside her she knew Jonathan liked her and she felt the same way too.

It was getting late and Kathleen had to go home already but they have not done anything about their research work that day.

“Jon about the research we can do it tomorrow in the library” she said.

“Tomorrow? If I were a mean professor I would count three days including the weekends so we will present tomorrow” he replied and Kathleen was shocked to hear what he said.

“You mean we have to finish the paper now? But there’s no more time I mean wait I can sleep over here if you want so we can do it. Oh my, I am sorry” she started to panic.

“Did you know that you are cute when you panic?” Jonathan commented. Kathleen froze and blushed. “Hey stop kidding now, this is a serious matter” she said but still she felt good inside. Jonathan told her to wait as he went to his room. After a minute he came back holding two folders and he asked her out to the garden.

“Here this is your copy and please read and understand this questions I made” he said and handed over the two folders to Kathleen. She scanned the contents of the folders and saw that the research paper was complete and ready. A feeling of amazement filled her mind as she smile but suddenly it was shrouded by the feeling of guilt since she had not contributed anything.

“I am so embarrassed right now” she murmured.

“What are you talking about?” Jonathan asked her. Kathleen scanned the next folder and said “It’s finished and I have not done anything at all.” Kathleen

pouted and bowed her head in shame but Jonathan sat close to her and confided “I really am not used to working in groups, I am a loner you know that. Please don’t say you didn’t help, honestly you did. Without you I could not have worked that fast, I really was amazed with myself too. I didn’t feel tired even though I rushed it, I was happy doing it.”

Kathleen looked at him and said “How did I help?” Jonathan bowed his head and smiled; he looked away and said “Well you were my inspiration. I thought about you all the time while I was doing this. For the first time I was doing something not for myself, I was doing something for you as well so I was happy.” Jonathan slowly looked at Kathleen who was again teary eyed, his lips were trembling as he forced a smile to break the ice. Kathleen suddenly inched closer and kissed him on the cheeks.

## *Chapter 6: Falling*

The following day on their final subject the Professor entered the classroom in high spirits.

“Three day; Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, so the dynamic duo shall present today. What’s that expression on your faces the both of you? Not ready?” the Professor said but he was wrong.

Jonathan stood up with a wide grin on his face and went in front and presented their research work. The professor was clearly irked with the magnificent and flawless delivery. And when Jonathan was done presenting the professor smiled and called Kathleen in front for the question and answer portion, he grinned back at Jonathan as he ordered him out.

Kathleen was the only one who would be answering questions he said. Jonathan went out of the classroom and closed the door, he leaned on the wall as he could hear the questions the professor was hurling at Kathleen and he smiled. After thirty minutes the door opened and their professor walked out, Jonathan held his head up high and smiled which irked the professor even further.

“Well done. You clearly read me this time. Don’t worry I will get you next time” he said.

Jonathan entered the noisy classroom as all the students were celebrating. The dynamic duo has slayed the dragon and Kathleen was being mobbed by the girls. Jonathan was surrounded by the boys and he was being congratulated. He looked at Kathleen and smile then gave a thumbs up sign to which Kathleen smiled back.

“Kathleen! You two were amazing! Well prepared too, I can’t believe those difficult questions he asked you but you answered them all!” Anne delightfully said.

“He is really amazing you know. He was right all the way.” Kathleen replied.

“What are you talking about?” Anne asked her.

“This morning Jonathan and I met at the library to prepare for today. Yesterday he knew we would present today because he said it’s what an evil person would want to do. Funny but I thought he was talking gibberish but he was right. This morning he told me to act dumb and nervous, we both did that. He said that once the professor sees us that way the more he would want to make us present today.” Kathleen said as Anne listened intently.

“He said he would do presentation so the professor would get pissed. He told me to act dumb and nervous as he was presenting so I did that. If the professor thinks I am nervous he would think I am the weakest link. Jonathan was right, he told me that the professor would set him aside or send him out and I would be the one answering the questions. He is really amazing that guy” Kathleen said as he once again smiled at Jonathan who was looking at her from afar.

“But you were amazing too Kath you were able to answer those difficult questions!” Anne added.

“No, it’s because of him. He prepared a several test questions and said he placed himself in the professor’s shoes and thought of the most difficult and sadistic questions. He likewise placed the answers to those questions and gave them to me for me to study yesterday. I can’t believe it myself it’s like a planned drama. It was perfect; I really loved the reaction of the professor as I answered all his questions. I wish Jonathan was inside to see them.” Kathleen sighed.

Anne couldn't help but notice the sparkle in the eyes of Kathleen as she was looking at Jonathan. "Kath, you lied to me before right when you said you were just friend?" she asked.

Kathleen looked at Anne, she was guilty and could not deny any further. "I didn't, we are just friends. It's just that I liked him ever since we were in high school" she revealed and Anne was surprised to hear that.

"What? Since high school? When he was fat? You're kidding me right?" Anne asked but Kathleen shook her head. "Are you serious or are you playing with me, this must be part of your plan the both of you huh" Anne said.

"No, it's true, I liked him since high school" Kathleen insisted. "But what about the ball?" Anne inquired. Kathleen pouted and said "It was a misunderstanding, I got caught in the moment in what he said, I did not mean to smile to say I don't want to dance with him. I smile because I was touched with what he said back then. I didn't realize that I was smiling then he ran away. You saw me ran after him but he was not there anymore so I too didn't come back to the ball" Kathleen revealed.

"I'm falling" Kathleen suddenly said and Anne looked at her curiously. "I just liked him then, I thought I lost him. When I saw him again I still liked him. Now as each day passes I'm falling in love with him."

Anne could not say a word since she was jealous. She accepted the fact that she could not compete with Kathleen since she knew Jonathan liked her too.

"He likes you too, so don't worry you two are going to end up together" Anne said with a heavy heart.

“I just wish he would take it slowly” Kathleen said softly. “Why would you want that?” Anne asked.

“It’s complicated.” Kathleen said as she stared at Jonathan who was cracking jokes with the other guys.

Kathleen went to the window and stared outside; Anne followed her and said “You really are in love with him aren’t you?” Kathleen simply smiled and said “He is so determined, he is intelligent, he is funny, and he has a great voice too” then she giggles. “I’m falling” Kathleen repeated.

“Then I will catch you” Kathleen was so shocked to hear Jonathan’s voice from her back. She stood frozen for a moment then turned around and smiled. “Everything you said that would happen did happen. You even thought in an evil manner, I mean planning things that way to embarrass the professor and make him feel so low, maybe you truly are evil” she said and Jonathan grinned and said

“What if I am evil?” Kathleen blushes and moves closer to Jonathan, she puts her arms on his shoulders and moved her face closer to his. Jonathan could not believe what was happening even Anne who was still in the classroom staring at the two.

Their lips were so close in touching each other, Jonathan closed his eyes then he felt a kiss, a kiss on the cheek. He opened his eyes and saw Kathleen giggling and she said “Last night I kissed your left cheek, now it was the right one so there is balance”.

Jonathan touched his right cheek and smiled. “Did I make your heart pound?” Kathleen suddenly asked him and Jonathan was caught speechless. She walked towards Anne and Jonathan was still there standing as he could



not believe what just happened. Kathleen turned around once more and said “Mine did. See you tomorrow” and she and Anne left the classroom.

## *Chapter 7: Just Ask*

It was a chilly day on December; they have just finished their preliminary examinations. Jonathan was busy taking pictures of Kathleen as she was playing with the stream water.

“Kath I think I want to buy a phone like this one, could you accompany me today?” Jonathan asked her. Kathleen turned around and looked at him “That model is old there are new ones available you know” she said. She stood up and fixed herself then they both went to the mall.

Once they arrived at the mall Jonathan saw the poster of a new movie, he turned to Kathleen and asked her “Would you like to go and see this movie?” Kathleen looked at the poster and then took a look at the other poster and said “I want to watch this one” and he agreed. They went to watch the movie and after two hours they came out laughing.

“I’m hungry; would you like to grab something to eat?” Jonathan asked Kathleen. “Me too, I know a great place here, come on you will like it there.” She said as she led Jonathan towards the fast food area. After they have eaten Kathleen decided to have the photos in her camera phone developed. They had to come back after an hour to claim them so they strolled along the mall to kill time. “Hey Jon lets go get your phone already” Kathleen told Jonathan.

“Okay but let’s walk slowly I’m kind of full” he said and Kathleen laughed. Along the way Kathleen stood still for a moment as she saw something she liked from a store window. Jonathan stopped too and asked Kathleen what it was but she just continued walking forward. “It’s nothing I was just admiring the design of that dress” she said as she glanced back at the store window.

They reached a store where mobile phones were sold but Jonathan was unable to choose one. “Maybe next time, I mean I will just wait until a good

phone comes out” he said. “Oh, I thought you were going to buy one now. Anyway let’s go back maybe the pictures are done” Kathleen said. They both went back and claimed the pictures.

They sat on a nearby bench to look at the pictures and Jonathan noticed that there were two copies of each picture. “Hey, they gave us two copies each” he commented. “I really had them make two copies, so one set goes to you and one is mine” Kathleen said. Jonathan became shy all of a sudden and just smiled.

“So which among these pictures are you going to place on the picture frame in your room?” Kathleen asked him. Jonathan browsed through his set of pictures and set aside three pictures but did not show them to Kathleen. “It’s really difficult to choose, maybe I will choose once I get home” he said and Kathleen just nodded hiding her frustration since she wanted him to choose the picture where she was leaning on his shoulder.

“It’s getting late we should go home now” Kathleen said and Jonathan started to panic. “Oh can you wait here a moment, I forgot to buy something for my mother. I will be right back I promise.” He said. “I can come with you if you want” Kathleen added. “No, please wait for me here.” Jonathan said and ran off.

A few minutes later, Jonathan came back hiding what he bought in his back. “Sorry to keep you waiting, we can go home now” he said. Kathleen was curious and tried to take a peek on his back. Jonathan was fast to react and kept it hidden. Kathleen gave up and started to walk towards the main entrance. “Hey Jon, I’m kind of tired so I will just take a cab from the entrance” she said.

Jonathan kept silent and just walked beside her. As they reached the main entrance they waited for a cab and Jonathan started mumbling. “Oh there someone’s getting out, I have to go now” said Kathleen as she walked towards

the cab. As she was already near the empty cab her phone rang, she immediately searched her bag and took out her phone.

“Hello?” she said.

“Hi” the voice on the other line answered.

“Who is this?” Kathleen asked.

“Turn around” the voice ordered her. Kathleen was quite spooked but still turned around. There was Jonathan holding a phone in his ear and Kathleen ran to him.

“You have a phone! Is that what you bought when you made me wait?” she exclaimed.

“No, I actually bought this the other day” Jonathan said and she looked at him curiously.

“But you told me to accompany you to buy a phone today, isn’t it?” she said.

“I just wanted to go out with you, sorry” he said softly and looked the other way. “You really are funny” she said and she laughed. Jonathan looked at her slowly and asked her “Are you mad at me?”

“No I am not mad, come to think of it I enjoyed being with you” she said and Jonathan blushed and bowed his head. “There!” Jonathan said and hailed a cab and it stopped at once. “Let’s share a cab, if you don’t mind, I want to see

where you live” he said. Kathleen could not believe what was suddenly happening but she got inside the cab and Jonathan followed.

As the cab started to move Jonathan could not hide anymore the thing that he bought, he just clasped it in his arms. They were both silent but Kathleen was hiding her smile. As they reached her house the cab stopped, Jonathan went out first and waited for Kathleen to step out.

“Thanks for bringing me home, I really enjoyed today” she said.

“Ah, this is for you” Jonathan said and he handed over the thing that he bought from the mall. Kathleen was again surprised and was totally speechless. “I have to go now, thanks for today too” he said and went inside the cab and waived at her.

The cab started to move and Kathleen was still standing there, as the cab was already out of sight she took a peek inside the store bag and suddenly ran towards her home. Once inside she went straight to her room and brought out the dress Jonathan had just bought for her. It was exactly the same dress she was looking at in the store window. She held the dress in front of her and stood in front of the mirror, it was a perfect fit and she definitely was happy.

Jonathan reached home and went straight to his room. Once inside his phone rang, he just received a text message so read it at once, it was from Kathleen.

“Thank you so much for the dress. It fits perfectly. You are so mysterious. You always keep on surprising me. There are so many things I would like to say to you but for now all I can say is thank you”

Jonathan read then re-read the text message before he replied with a short “You’re welcome”. He sat back in a chair smiling and feeling good about himself. After a few seconds he received another text message.

“By the way, next time just ask” the message read and he laughed loud and jumped on the bed smiling.

## *Chapter 8: Hidden Letters*

“Hi. Me and my mom will be going for a trip. We would be spending Christmas and New Year at my uncle’s place. Anyway, I would just like to greet you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you when classes resume.”

That was the content of the text message Kathleen sent Jonathan a day before Christmas. He became lonely after reading that, so Christmas has passed and for several days not a single glimpse of a smile can be found on his face. He could not wait for classes to resume so that he could be with Kathleen once again. Everyday Jonathan would go to his special place bringing his phone along wishing to receive a text message from Kathleen. There was only one message on his inbox and it was that message of Kathleen before Christmas.

It was December 31, the last day of the year and he was terribly lonely. Sitting along the bench and watching the water flow downstream he daydreams about her. Suddenly his phone rang and he quickly grabbed it to check. He just received a text message from the person he loves.

“Hi. Did you miss me?” read the message and Jonathan quickly replied to it.

“Very much. How are you? Is your vacation going well?” his message said. After a few seconds another text message arrived.

“Did you really miss me?” it said and Jonathan started to laugh. He punched the buttons quickly and sent his reply saying “Yes, I really miss you a lot.”

“Why?” replied Kathleen and Jonathan suddenly paused and took a deep breath.

“Because I like you and I want to be with you. I’m dying to see you” said his text message and even though Kathleen was not in front of him he felt so nervous in what he said.

“How come you never tell me? If ever I’m in front of you will you tell me those exact words?” she asked him. Jonathan looked up at the sky and was thinking deeply, he was put on the spot but he made up his mind and said. “Yes I will” and he took another deep breath and smiled.

“Then say it” he suddenly heard Kathleen’s voice in his back. Jonathan quickly stood up and slowly turned around. There she was standing before him looking at him and smiling. He began to tremble and his lips were shaking. “You’re here, I thought you were on a vacation?” he softly said in disbelief.

“Kathleen raised her eyebrows and said “Say it” and she crossed her arms waiting for him to speak. Jonathan bowed his head and whispered “I like you” and slowly looked at her. Kathleen pouted and said “What was that? I could not hear it” and he took a deep breath and said “I like you Kathleen”.

Kathleen giggled and sat on the bench. “I thought you were coming back after new year.” He said. “You kept on surprising me so it’s my turn to surprise you. I begged my mom every night so we could spend New Year here” she replied. “So your mom finally agreed then” he stated.

“Nope, I came alone. She will arrive after New Year” she revealed. “So you are home alone then” Jonathan exclaimed. “Sad thing I forgot the key, if I tell her that she would panic so I didn’t bother telling her” she said. “You can sleep over at my place, you can sleep in my room” he said. “I know” she replied.

Jonathan looked startled and raised an eyebrow and she began to laugh again. “I’m just kidding you. I know you wouldn’t let me sleep out in the cold



right?” she said and Jonathan began to grin. “Did you forget that I am evil?” he joked her.

“What?! You’re going to let me sleep outside?” she asked. “Yup, don’t worry I’m going to sleep beside you if ever that happens” he said and Kathleen smiled. “It would be better if we slept in your bed, the two of us” she said jokingly. “But someone might not be able to control their emotions so we better not” she added.

Jonathan was confused but said, “Oh I’m not that type of person, I wouldn’t take advantage of you” and Kathleen laughed. “I wasn’t talking about you” she revealed. Jonathan could not believe once again what he just heard and looked at Kathleen who was laughing. “Relax, I’m just teasing you” she said and he breathed a sigh of relief.

The two of them went to Jonathan’s and ate lunch. After eating Jonathan helped Kathleen bring her things to his room. As Kathleen enters she noticed the large picture frame with the picture she always wanted, the two of them together and she was leaning on his shoulder. As Kathleen sat on the bed she noticed several picture frames on the bedside table, she was surprised to see all her pictures.

“You framed all my pictures” she suddenly said and Jonathan turned around and scratched his head. “Well it does make my room nicer to look at” he reasoned out. Kathleen was flattered but kept it inside, instead she stood up and said “So where do you keep your manly things?” and Jonathan gave her a curious look.

She saw a small treasured chest which was locked so she pulled Jonathan’s arm and said “Open it, I want to see what’s inside”. Jonathan refused to do so and said “You won’t find anything good there, it’s just old stuff. Don’t worry I don’t collect manly things, even search my computer if you want”

“I want to see what’s inside here, if it’s nothing important then show me” she insisted. “Sorry I really can’t” he replied. Kathleen pouted and sat on the bed, she acted like a child and Jonathan laughed at her. “If you won’t show what’s inside of that chest I won’t speak to you ever again!” she threatened him. Jonathan just stood there smiling at her so she ran out of the room and he chased after her.

Kathleen went over to Charlie’s place and knocked at the door. Charlie opened the door and Kathleen quickly asked him “What is Jonathan keeping in that small chest?” Jonathan was close by and winking at Charlie. “Nothing important” he replied and nodded his head. Kathleen turned her head and saw Jonathan smiling again so she ran back into the house and went up in the room.

“Thanks man, she is going nuts all of a sudden once she saw the chest” Jonathan said. “Are you sure leaving her alone with the chest is okay?” Charlie asked. “Yup, she can’t open it whatever she does, I would like to see her try though” Jonathan replied. They both laughed but Charlie suddenly said “You know a determined person can really accomplish many things” and Jonathan suddenly felt a chill in his spine. He ran towards his home and went right away to his room.

Jonathan found Kathleen sitting in front of the chest trying to pry it open with a screwdriver. “Wait!, okay I will show you just don’t destroy the chest” he finally gave in. Kathleen moved back and still pouted at him. He opened his drawer and took a key then inserted it at the keyhole of the chest. He moved back without opening it and sat in a corner. “Open it if you want” he said.

Kathleen hesitated seeing Jonathan like that but she was really curious what was inside. She sat in front again of the chest and turned the key. Once open Jonathan bowed his head, Kathleen brought out a small stuff toy and joyfully said “Hey I had one just like this!” Jonathan looked at her and said “Yeah, Tom gave it to you before the Christmas break when we were in sophomore year” and Kathleen was shocked to hear it.

“How did you know that?” she asked. “I was going to give you that on that same day, he approached you first. It would really make me a fool if I still gave you that since you already had one” he said. Kathleen felt sad for him but continued to search the contents of the chest.

Kathleen saw dozens of letters and all on them had her name on it. “You made me letters?” she said. “Yeah” Jonathan replied softly. Kathleen gathered all the letters and set them aside. She took out their high school year book and saw two bookmarks. She opened it to the first book mark, it was Jonathan’s page, his picture was covered with black ink.

She opened the book to the next bookmarked page and it was her page. She smiled as she saw her picture and there was a small note written in red ink which said “Thank you for you smile.” Suddenly she remembered again the evening of their graduation ball, she looked at Jonathan he was still silently sitting in the corner. Kathleen took all the letters and the stuff toy and approached Jonathan.

“Can I read these letters?” she asked. “Sure, they were meant for you anyway” he softly said. “Can I keep this stuff toy too?” she once again asked. “I thought you already had one, the one Tom gave you” he replied. “I lost that one, so can I take this?” she asked. “Yeah sure take them all” he uttered. She knelt in front of him and gave him the letters and the stuff toy. “Why are you giving them to me, take them already” he said.

“No!” she shouted. Jonathan looked Kathleen who was staring at him with mad eyes. “I want you to give them to me” she said. Jonathan looked at her curiously and Kathleen said “I don’t want to take them even though you say they were meant for me. I want you to give them to me. If you could not give them to me before then give them to me now!” she stated. Jonathan took the letters and the stuff toy and looked at them and took a deep breath, he picked one letter and set it aside.

“All these things in front of me I had no courage to give them to you back then. Everything written here are all the things I ever wanted to say to you and it describes how I feel about you. Kathleen I want you to have them” he said and he gave the letters and stuff toy to Kathleen. She looked at the lone letter left on the floor and asked “How about that letter?” and Jonathan sighed. “This was the last letter I wrote for you, after the ball. I do regret writing this but if you want to read it then its alright” he said and he hands over the final letter.

Kathleen takes all the letters and sits besides Jonathan; she leans against his body as she starts to open the first letter. It took her two hours to read all the letters, some she read twice and some even more. There was one letter left, the final letter Jonathan ever wrote for her, she did not open it and she looked at him. Jonathan was asleep, she grabbed the stuff toy and hugged it tightly and leaned on him and closed her eyes.

They were awakened by the loud voice of Jonathan’s mother calling them to dinner. They both went down to the dining area but Kathleen was still clasping tightly the stuff toy. After dinner they spent time watching movies and everyone was enjoying. They did not notice the time and it was already a new day, it was New Year and they started to hear the fireworks outside. They rushed outside and looked up in the sky and enjoyed the marvelous light display.

Kathleen moved in front of Jonathan and leaned her body against his. Jonathan looked down at her and she smiled at him. She took Jonathan’s arms and wrapped around her waist and looked at him smiling. “I like you too.”

## *Chapter 9: Just Me*

January passed by so quickly and the two were inseparable since New Year's Eve. Even though they were together and already so close Jonathan was wondering if they were already a couple. He was too shy to ask her so he just enjoyed their current relationship.

One day after classes the two were going out of the campus when suddenly someone shouted Kathleen's name. They both turned around and Jonathan instantly recognized Tom and Kathleen suddenly ran towards him. "Tom! Long time no see! How are you?" she said. "Doing well, oh is he your boyfriend?" he asked and looked at Jonathan.

Kathleen shook her head and said "Silly! Don't you recognize him, its Jonathan Parker" and Tom looked closer. "Jonathan Parker? Hey Fat boy! Where's all your extra luggage? Did you leave it somewhere?" he suddenly said. Jonathan was used to those insults so it didn't bother him. "Hey Tom, you look the same" Jonathan replied.

"So what brings you here?" Kathleen asked. "Well I heard that you were still around here so I came to see you. Do you want to take a bite with me, I'm starving. Jonathan you can come too so we can recover all those fat you lost, my treat!" he boasted. Kathleen laughed and Jonathan was irked. "No, its okay, I have things to do. Both of you enjoy" Jonathan said and he turned around and left.

Tom became a common face every day as he was always present to pick up Kathleen after classes. Jonathan became jealous but he could not do anything about it since he does not know exactly what their relationship was. Valentine's Day was fast approaching and he needed to make a move already since it seemed that Kathleen was slipping away from him.

The day before Valentine's Day and Jonathan had everything planned. After classes he approached Kathleen who was busy copying notes. "Excuse me Kathleen would you like to watch the concert tomorrow with me?" he asked her. Kathleen stopped writing and looked at him, "I'm sorry but I promised Tom I would go with him, you can tag along if you want" she said.

"Oh no it's fine, I don't have tickets anyway I heard they were sold out. So you two enjoy then. I have to go I have to meet with the dean" he said and he rushed out. Kathleen was too busy writing and she didn't notice Jonathan leave.

Anne entered the classroom and approached Kathleen. "Hey Kath, do you want to go with me to watch the concert?" Kathleen laughed and said "You know what you are the third person to ask me that, I already agreed with Tom but I don't know if he has tickets yet, Jonathan said they were sold out and he could not even get them."

Anne was surprised and said "That's funny because Jonathan handed me this tickets just now." Kathleen paused and looked at Anne, "He gave you those tickets? He told me he didn't have tickets" she revealed. "Yeah so what do you call these? I told you he gave it to me just a while ago" Anne insisted.

"He lied to me then" Kathleen said. "You are stupid! Let me guess he asked you to go with him to the concert but you told him you were going with Tom right?" Anne asked. Kathleen nodded and Anne slammed her fist on the table.

"You are really amazing! Tomorrow is Valentine's Day, isn't it obvious Jonathan wants to be with you! What's the big deal with Tom anyway? Reviving the old love, so you can simply dump Jonathan on the sidelines just like that? I thought you liked him?! If you were going to treat him that way then you should have let me pursue him instead!! You are so selfish!!!" Anne shouted at Kathleen and handed her the two tickets. "Here you and Tom enjoy your date!!!" Anne added and she left.

“Wait! I was too busy with so many things I forgot it was already Valentine’s day tomorrow!” Kathleen shouted. Anne turned back and said “Yeah busy with Tom!” and Kathleen stood up. “I have not seen Tom for a long time so I am just keeping him company, he is on a vacation here for a month” Kathleen snapped back.

“Stupid! Think about what you are saying! Jonathan likes you so much and I don’t know if you are just playing with him or what. Tom comes back and you simply leave him behind just like that? So when Tom leaves do you think Jonathan will still be there? Think about it, put yourself in his shoes and see how you would feel!” then Anne slammed the door as she leaves the room. Kathleen froze for a moment and sat down. She grabbed her things and went straight home.

As soon as she got home she sent several text messages to Jonathan but he did not reply. She tried calling him on his mobile phone but all she heard was the voice of the operator saying Jonathan’s phone was out of coverage area. She called Jonathan’s landline but nobody was answering. She gave up and decided to talk to him first thing in the morning.

Kathleen rushed to the classroom early and waited for Jonathan to arrive. The bell has already sounded but he was not still there. The professor came in still Jonathan was missing. Kathleen looked around the room to check if he was there but she only saw Anne staring at her. Kathleen felt guilty and just stared at Jonathan’s empty seat.

She waited the whole day but Jonathan never went to class. She left the classroom hurriedly and went straight to Jonathan’s home. She knocked at the door for a long time but no one was answering. She decided to wait for someone to arrive so she sat by the door. An hour passed and Charlie was walking home so she rushed towards him.

“Hi, do you know where Jonathan is?” she asked. Charlie was surprised to see Kathleen and he replied “Looking for Jonathan? Today is Valentine’s day you should be with him”. “I have not seen him the whole day, I checked in the stream and falls but he is not there too. No one is at their home right now” she said. “His parents went for a vacation, didn’t he tell you that?” Charlie told her. “Since when?” she asked. “Since the first of February, he didn’t tell you that? He has been living along for two weeks now, his parents will be back on March” Charlie revealed.

Kathleen felt really terrible; she has not been talking to Jonathan lately since she was busy with Tom. She didn’t know what was happening to Jonathan, now she does not know where he is. Kathleen told Charlie the whole story and he was mad at her. “All I can say is good luck, if Jonathan does not want to be found then no one can find him. He is that way; he thinks ahead and covers all holes. Did you ever see him angry?” Charlie asked.

Kathleen tried to recall but she has never seen Jonathan mad or angry. “No I have not” she answered. “You see whenever Jonathan is mad or angry he does not show it, you will never know what he is thinking. He just goes away, I think you have seen him mad already, I’m sure of it” Charlie revealed and again Kathleen remembered the situation at the graduation ball.

“Just enjoy yourself with Tom, don’t worry about Jonathan, he is used to that kind of pain. Recently I saw him happy; never did I see him that happy when we were growing up, so I thought you really were a blessing. Hey don’t worry he is intelligent, he would understand why you chose Tom, he is used to those things you know” Charlie lectured on. Kathleen began crying and walked away.

A week has passed and Jonathan was nowhere to be found. Kathleen stopped seeing Tom and Anne never spoke to her since. She went to school feeling lifeless, first class of the day she just stared at Jonathan’s empty seat. The professor already entered but still she just kept staring at the seat.



“Listen, I would like to announce that our school won the Math Olympiad recently. Your classmate Jonathan won gold in the individual competition and he anchored the team to another gold in the team competition.”

She clearly heard what the professor said so she stood up at once and asked. “Sir, where is Jonathan now?” The professor looked at her and said “They just arrived and they are at the dean’s office. They shall present their medals to the University president later so you won’t expect him to be back today in class.”

Kathleen sat down and she could not wait to see him. Her excitement made her mind wander far away that she lost track of time. She waited and waited but Jonathan never attended their classes the whole day. She went home after their last class and could not wait for tomorrow.

The next day as she entered the classroom Jonathan was already there, she rushed to her seat and greeted him. “Hi!” she said. Jonathan looked at her and smiled then said “Hi”. Kathleen saw him smile so she thought everything was fine between them. “Congratulations, you never told me you were going to a competition” she said.

“I wanted to tell you but you were too busy” he replied. Kathleen felt a stab in her heart but continued on. “I’ve been trying to reach you in your phone but you never answer” she said. “Oh I lost my phone a long time ago, I was supposed to tell you that too but again you were busy” he revealed.

Kathleen felt so guilty already but she still tried to make a conversation with him. “Do you want to copy my notes, you have been gone for a long time you know” she offered. “No thanks, I already asked Anne for her notes. Sorry I thought you were busy so I didn’t bother asking you” he answered and smiled. Kathleen was beginning to hate herself, even though he was smiling he seemed so distant from her already.

They walked together after their last class and headed towards the main gate. “Hey Kathleen Tom is over there, so I guess I will see you tomorrow” he said and quickly crossed the street. Kathleen was caught off guard and Tom was already beside her. She shouted Jonathan’s name but he never turned to look at her, he just raised his hand and waived.

Kathleen went straight home and locked herself in her room. She saw the letters Jonathan wrote her and she read them all again. She just noticed something, written in all the letters she read, Jonathan never wrote his name at the bottom, all that was written was “JUST ME”. She started to cry and saw the last letter that she never opened. She held the letter and opened it and started to read it.

### *JUST ME*

*I knew from the start I stood no chance  
To ask you for a single dance  
Still I tried with all my might  
To dance with you in this grand night  
Seeing the shock in your face made me realize  
That the likes of me would never suffice  
A single smile I asked before I did depart  
To somewhat ease my already broken heart  
So much pain I felt, so much despair  
But in my heart you’re still there  
I know a fact that we could never be  
For the simple reason....its JUST ME.*

Kathleen sobbed profusely and she had a hard time breathing. She now understands that Jonathan loves her so much and she is guilty for what she has done.

## *Chapter 10: Why I Like Him*

Kathleen went to school Monday and her eyes were sore from crying. Jonathan was just seating in his usual seat and his eyes were covered with his long curly hair. She just sat beside him and bowed her head. Anne approached the two of them and tried to cheer them up. “Hey Kath, did you finish the assignment?” she asked.

Kathleen looks at Anne and remembers they did have an assignment and she forgot all about it. “I forgot to do it” Kathleen whispers. The closed and the professor walked towards the front. Anne rushed back towards her seat seeing the professor in front. “Anne since you are still standing why don’t you collect the assignments for me as I check the attendance, thank you” the professor said.

Anne collected the assignments of everyone, she approached Jonathan to get his assignment, Jonathan looked at Anne and handed over two sheets of paper. Anne looked at the two sheets and saw that he made two assignments, one with his name and the other with Kathleen’s name. As Anne was about to tell Kathleen about it Jonathan quickly held her hand and looked her in the eye.

Anne understood at once so she separated the two sheets since they had similar handwriting so the professor wont notice it. Anne submitted the assignments in the professor’s table and went back to her seat and glanced at Jonathan who was mouthing some words. Anne understood and smiled at him as she faced front.

Lunchtime came and Jonathan quickly rushed out of the classroom, Kathleen just sat there lifeless. Anne approached her and said “Kath lets eat lunch together, I need to talk to you” and Kathleen looked at her and nodded.

In the cafeteria Kathleen was just playing with her food, “Kathleen do you really like Jonathan?” she asks. Kathleen looks at Anne and nods her head. “Help me understand why you like him, tell me your story” Anne tells her. Kathleen sat back and bowed her head and bit her lip. “Is it because he looks handsome now?” Anne inquires and Kathleen looks at her and said “NO! I liked him since he was fat!”

“So tell me why then” Anne adds. Kathleen starts playing again with her food and started to talk.

“It was freshmen year we were classmates and I noticed him. He was always being picked at or called names but he did not care. I felt sorry for him and but you know he really impressed me because even though he was not treated well he fought back using his brain. I was jealous really with him getting those medals and awards; I thought myself maybe if I studied hard too I would be able to achieve the same just like him.

“That was the time I started to study, so when sophomore year came I was beside him on the stage, he was first place and I was second. Junior year came and I was more popular than him even though I was only second, he was first but you know how it is, they never saw him for what he truly was, they only know him because of...”

“Junior year was tough on me, I started to hang out with friends, I slumped in studying, I forgot to do my assignments but there was one time I did really forget and I approached the teacher, I admitted to her that I forgot to do my assignment and she just laughed at me. She showed me her records and I saw that I had complete assignments”

“I checked with all teachers and they all showed me I did have complete assignments. One teacher even showed me a copy, I did not recognize it at all, it was not my handwriting. I didn’t admit it since I did not want to fail; I just

laughed it out with her and said I might have gotten amnesia. I did recognize the handwriting and it was Jonathan's.

"So one day I pretended I did not have an assignment and observed him. I saw it clearly he passed two papers. He cared for me that much, I wanted to tell him I did make my assignment but I was too shy at that time already. From that time on I never forget making assignments; I made sure he saw that I made them. But still I noticed he always has one extra assignment made kept in his folder."

"If he treated me as his competitor he would not have been doing that, but he never saw me as a competitor. I wanted to get to know him better but he never looked me in the eye or spoke to me.

"There was another time when I was being scolded by the teacher and I was about to cry already, he stood up and shouted 'I am hungry' and headed towards the door. Everyone started laughing but the teacher scolded him badly. The teacher forgot about me, all of his anger was focused on Jonathan.

"He has a kind heart, he helps others study, and he helps them to understand certain lessons even though they are the same people who make fun of him. And one time Jerry Cross squeezed my butt, I was so mad. That same day I heard Jerry had been beaten up by someone. Jerry was ashamed to say who it was but I saw Jonathans fists bruised the next day. I wanted to thank him so badly but I just was too shy to do so."

Kathleen wiped her tears once again and bowed her head. "So he never changed it seems" Anne said. Kathleen looked at Anne, "What do you mean?" she asked her. "This morning, he submitted two assignments, one had your name, I was going to tell you about it but the look on his faced begging me not to" Anne revealed and Katherine started to sob.

“He still cares for you even though you treat him that way. He may have changed his appearance but still he is the same person as before. Even though you dealt him the final blow during the graduation ball he still likes you, even though you left him to be with Tom he still likes you.” Anne implied.

“Please don’t say that. I told you during that ball I did not mean to reject him. I smiled because I was touched with what he said. It was the first time he even spoke to me so I was really happy. I smiled because I was happy and not because he requested me to do so. I wanted to dance with him but he ran away. I tried to catch him but he was gone” Kathleen stated as more tears fall.

“And what about Tom?” Anne added. “Tom is just a friend. Nothing more. I just wanted to take time off from Jonathan since each day I was with him I was falling deeply in love with him. I just wanted to take things slow because I made a promise with my father that I won’t have a boyfriend until I am 18. I will be 18 soon but the more I spend time with Jonathan... I would have to break the promise I made with my dad before he died. So I just wanted to take time off. But I didn’t know things would happen this way.”

“He is drifting away from you, sooner or later he will be gone. If you do love him make things right.” Anne told Kathleen and left her alone.

## *Chapter 11: Last Dance*

One sunny day in March Kathleen went to visit Jonathan, but he was not at home. He was not at Charlie's either but she knew there was only one last place to look. Kathleen visited Jonathan's special place and found him there seated on the bench. She approached him but he didn't even turn around to greet her.

"Jonathan can we talk" she said. Jonathan didn't move an inch but answered "Okay".

"I know you are mad at me so let me do the talking for now but please listen to me" she pleaded. Jonathan stood up and walked forward, "I'm not mad anymore, so there is no need for you to explain."

Kathleen lost the momentum and was nervous; she knew he was still mad at her. "My birthday is coming up soon, I am turning 18, I will be having my debut party" she stated.

"Happy Birthday in advance" was all Jonathan said. Kathleen was struggling for words, there seemed to be a barrier already between them. "I would be happy if you could come to my party" she softly said.

"I am sorry Kathleen, but I won't be coming to your party" Jonathan said.

Kathleen started to cry and said "Jonathan please forgive me, I didn't mean to hurt you I swear."

"I think you know the way back so please leave. I want to be alone now" Jonathan said coldheartedly.



“Look me in the eyes and tell me you don’t like me anymore then I will leave!” Kathleen shouted.

Jonathan faced her and his eyes were covered with tears. “I don’t like you”.

Kathleen was so hurt that she turned around and ran away.

The day of the party arrived and Anne was with Kathleen in dressing room preparing.

“Hey Kath, you seem happy today” Anne commented. “I fell something great will happen, I just know it” Kathleen replied.

The ceremonies started and it was time for the dance. Eighteen men were lined up each holding a rose waiting their turn to dance with Kathleen. Tom was the last on the line holding a different rose, a white one.

As Kathleen danced with the each men she kept glancing over at the main entrance of the hall. There were only two men left, the seventeenth and eighteenth rose. Kathleen started to dance with the seventeenth guy but still stared at the door. She closed her eyes and prayed.

Anne went towards the door since she heard someone knocking. As she opened the door she was shocked to see Jonathan. Kathleen looked at the door but she could not see who Anne was speaking with.

“Jonathan, why are you here?” Anne asked.

“Where is Kathleen?” he simply replied.

“She is dancing, its almost over, Tom will be her last dance you should have come sooner” Anne said.

“Tom? I will be her last dance” Jonathan stated and he entered the hall and walked towards Tom. Anne followed him and handed another white rose then said “I don’t know what you’re trying to do but good luck” she whispered.

Kathleen saw Jonathan and was surprised; he had cut his hair and looked stunning. The music ended and Kathleen walked towards the two men with white roses on their hands.

“Hey fat boy, history is going to repeat itself today. So start running” Tom whispers to Jonathan but he didn’t reply.

Kathleen stood in front of the two men, and looked at them both. Everyone was excited to see who she would pick and the room became silent. He looked at Tom and smiled then moved one step closer towards him. Jonathan bowed his head and Tom smiled. Kathleen looked at Tom and said “I’m sorry” then she held Jonathan’s hand and pulled him. Jonathan was surprised and looked at Kathleen, they walked towards the center and the center and everyone was looking on.

The two of them were standing face to face in the middle of the hall, staring at each other’s eyes.

“You cut your hair, why?” she asked him.

“A pretty lady told me before that I look better with short hair” he answered.

“You still came even though you said you don’t like me anymore” Kathleen whispered.

“Why did you choose me?” Jonathan countered.

“I thought you don’t like me anymore” Kathleen repeated.

“Tom is there you can still change your mind” he said.

“You don’t like me anymore” she still whispered.

“Yes I said I don’t like you anymore” Jonathan revealed.

“Why did you come then?” Kathleen asked.

“Because I realized I was lying to myself when I said that. Kathleen I came because I love you” he finally said his true feelings.

Tears were starting to fill up Kathleen’s eyes. “I chose you because I love you too.”

She pulled his hands and placed them on her hips then placed her hands on his shoulders. The music began to play and everyone was teary eyed, some were clapping seeing them finally dance.

“I’ve been waiting for a long time to do this” she whispered. “This dance?” he asked her. “No this” she said and she moved her face closer towards his, their lips gently touched each other and finally met for the first time.

“JUST ME” she whispered and Jonathan looked her in the eye. “You read it didn’t you?” he asked her. She smiled and put her arms around his head. “I made my own version, listen closely” she said.

### *JUST ME*

*I wished from the start that you would ask me to dance*

*But I messed it up with my confusing glance*

*Those words you spoke did touch my heart, a smile in my face you did see*

*That smile was true and just for you and not for your departing plea.*

*I felt so bad when you ran away, how I wished that you did stay*

*So I saved my first kiss just for you, hoping we meet again someday*

*And so we did meet after a very long and I was surprised to see*

*After all the pain I did cause you, you still do like me*

*I promise you all my love for you and you alone*

*If ever I lose you again, id wish for a heart of stone*

*With this said I hope that you too could promise me*

*That in you heart it will only be JUST ME.*

*“I promise, Just you and me”*

**-The End-**

# **JUST ME**

**BY JONATHAN PAUL DIAZ**

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**CONTACT THE AUTHOR**

**JONATHAN PAUL DIAZ**

**[engrdiaz@yahoo.com](mailto:engrdiaz@yahoo.com)**

**<http://www.facebook.com/AJourneyTowardsNowhere>**

**+639176404799**

**+639292622599**