

In Limbo

It was a just another day at St. Dorian's Hospital. Nina stared at her window and waited patiently for the nurse. It had been the same routine for a long time after all.

Soon, after a couple of minutes, the nurse came smiling into her cabin. As per schedule, she prepared the medicine and injected it into her, opened the window and fixed the curtains, and then took the iPod and put the earphones inside Nina's ears. Still smiling, she opened her patient's favorite playlist, and music, sublime and sweet, flowed into her ears.

"There is a light that never goes out" by The Smiths- the first song of this playlist actually defined Nina. The beautiful light that never went out, despite having faced so much trouble. The sparkle in her eyes reflected her vitality. But, alas, she too could never return home again, and now desperately wished to find her way to anywhere she could go. For the dark walls were closing in, and sometimes even death seemed to be an enticing lover whose allure one could not avoid.

The track changed soon, and came forth another beautiful song – "Fool again" by Westlife. It was so beautiful that it managed to bring tears in Nina's eyes every time she heard it. Yes, she had been a fool, and had not seen the betrayal coming. She had not been able to read the signs, and now was stuck in paying her price. Now she thought inwardly again- Life was really a ticking time bomb, you would never really know when things would go wrong. And as it happened to her, one tiny decision changed everything, and the world was never the same again. She not only lost him as a lover, but also a true friend as well. She in deed had been a fool, and now even her parents were no longer there to sit by her side and help her.

"When you try your best but you don't succeed

When you get what you want, but not what you need"

Nina became even more emotional after hearing this song. "Fix you" by Coldplay always had a special place in her heart. Because it reminded her of her parents. Despite all quarrels, scolding and disagreements, her parents had been her rock, her protection. Even if they did not agree with her decisions, they always were there to heal her broken heart, mind and soul.

"Lights will guide you home, and ignite your bones, and I'll try to fix you".

The last lines reminded her of the risks she had taken, of the choices she had made. Some had been good, but others had left her broken, and during that time, her parents stood with open arms, anxious for their child. As a rising pilot in the air force, Nina had rarely known fear. Always different from the start, she had never let anyone's opinion change her life. She too had loved and lost, and had considered love not to be her cup of tea, till she met Allen, A shy young professor at one of the leading colleges. Despite their different ideals, they were very compatible.

True understanding had been made and they were soul mates, united in love. Till their stubbornness got in the way and nearly broke everything apart.

However, soon, Allen tried hard for a reconciliation, inviting her to his house for dinner. But Nina had her flaws, and pride was one of them. She refused his invitation and soon after work, she got into her car, and began driving towards home.

She did not know how the little girl came in the middle of the road, she did not know how her brakes failed, and how her car was overthrown into the river. That was the last clear memory she had.

The next day when the nurse would play her favorite playlist again,(after all music therapy was supposed to work), these memories would come back again, and the world would no longer be a hazy dream with grim shadows and slow monotonous voices for the girl in that vegetative comatose state, but a universe filled with life , color and music.

That accident changed her life, but never her thoughts. Every day the same playlist would go on for, as it had been for 6 years, but the same memories came and went. And a painful thought would recur in her mind. What if she had accepted that invitation? She might have had a different and a happy life.

But for now, she was doomed to live in limbo, as her memories, stuck in replay mode, assaulted her day after day. Every day.

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