



Sweet Betrayal

"We used to be close, but people can go, from people you know to people you don't, hnn, hnn."

"HEY! Are you even listening? Get that thing off your ears."

"Huh?" (Takes off her headphones and turns over.)

"What the heck is wrong with you? You've been rotting in bed with the thing on your head since wednesday. Something happened?"

She grabbed her mobile and headphones and walked out while chewing the same gum for more than an hour...

"Ouch!" She bumped into someone, quickly grabbed her belongings and stood up.

"Uk... I'm Sorry" She heard someone's mutter. She just replied with a nod.

After turning to leave, she saw that the other girl was still standing there,

staring at her neck. "What? Never seen a necklace before", she asked, rather

annoyed. The other girl flinched and quickly searched for something. There

was a high necked dress was covering a similar half bead necklace. Her eyes

widened, then blurred. Both of them burst into silent tears and hugged.

An unexpected reunion after 7 years. Though somehow... those 7 years didn't

seem to have left any gap between them. They rebounded instantly.



Having her ultra introverted childhood friend back at her first day of 8th grade at the new school was certainly a weight off her chest. But that jolly little girl who never used to shut up, was strangely silent. But she didn't bother to ask about it, she was too happy and excited to spend the next 5 years sitting next to each other. Little did she know... Good things never last long...

After storming out of her room, leaving her poor mother extremely worried, she went to the secret spot, somewhere only the two of them knew about, or so they hoped. Her tummy let out a growl. She remembered what her mother shouted as she walked out. "At least have a bite of something, please, you'll get sick, it's been 2 days clear, eat something". She was the poor lady's only child, and she could have no more. Even though her mother was deeply hurt and worried when the truck crashed her beloved, she couldn't care less as her father-daughter bond was too weak to even exist. Given the situation, the mother had every right to be worried for her daughter. But she knew going after her was utterly useless. So she wept in her daughter's bed whereas the daughter, upon reaching the spot sank straight to the soft, wet grass with her back and stared at the blue sky, an empty ~~cloud~~ sky, no clouds to be seen.

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"Hey look at her shirt", "Over there its him", "Dook you're blushing", "Stop it", "We're over! gossiping are we?", "Nah we're just judging", "What do you think is for lunch today", "hangout next sunday?", "Yeah"..... All those shared memories and "finishing each others sentences" flashed upon her unconscious mind. She woke up startled as she felt water on her face. She cleared her eyes and found herself staring into the most handsome face and sparkling hazel eyes. Next to him was a little girl not more than 5 dressed in a cute frock, hair down. The guy was attractively tall, with a sharp jawline and perfectly lined smile, his black shirt and cute hair got her staring without realising. Suddenly she got up and ran home. She thought about how stupid she looked in front of the handsome guy in her old t-shirt and cap. She was embarrassed, so much that she prayed to never see him again. Not that she didn't want to, but cause she couldn't face him.

That night she couldn't sleep due to hunger. She finally made up her mind to have something, After the incident she was sure to dress well before heading anywhere. She had to go out as she couldn't wake her mother at 1:00 in the night. She put on a neat hoodie,

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grabbed a hair bun and pulled it back when she realised she had cut off her long hair as punishment to herself, deep down she knew it wasn't her fault but yet chose to blame herself. She used whatever makeup she had to cover her eye bags and dark circles. She silently left her house and walked to the nearest McDonalds and got some ice cream. That was not what she had in mind! She came to have food not ice cream, she aimed a restaurant not McDonalds... So why... It felt weird ordering 1 icecream, it had always been 2.

She was walking through the city with her ice cream. She didn't know if she was allowed to at the middle of the night, but figured it would be fine as she was eighteen now. Someone called out from behind "hey, wait up". She realised it was THAT guy. She felt so embarrassed to face him, but he was rather interested in this strange young lady who earlier looked like she just scolded out of bed but now looked really cute. He walked alongside her with his own icecream. In silence, neither of them could get themselves to speak. What broke the silence was rather unfortunate, her stomach growled, her face turned red with embarrassment and he chuckled.



A few minutes after finishing her plate, she looked up and smiled at him as he paid for the meal. He asked her if she was homeless and starving. (and blame him, she ate like an animal after a whole 48 hours). She giggled and told him how she had refused to eat despite her mother insisting. He didn't question her anymore. The food got her speaking - she asked him what he was doing in the middle of the night. He honestly said that he was working his 3rd job and McDonald's and his shift ended when he spotted the purchasing the ice cream. His father was fighting cancer and his whole family relied on this 21-year-old young man to live. The little girl with him earlier was his little sister. He told her how her ~~str~~ strange behaviour shocked the little girl and his sister told him to find her and that she wanted to be friends. She found herself smiling as he spoke. They walked through the city on the full moon night and talked a lot, got to know each other well and was happy for how comfortably they could talk to each other. And then after a while he finally asked her. Asked her what was bothering her, why she was crying as she slept on the grass. She was reluctant. He told her ~~she~~ that she didn't have to force herself. "Just know that I'm here to listen, feel free to talk".

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I was 4, when she moved next door. 3 years shaped an unbreakable bond between us. We shared that bond with a necklace we picked out together. Half hours, Half mins, Half hrs. She was my everything, the reason for my smile, No, my laugh. We would always cause some kind of trouble but never rat on each other. Nothing could come in between us. She'd take a bullet for me. We trusted each other so much and at that age it wasn't a big deal. We were heartbroken when he had to leave the town post my father's death. Mom could not stand the thought of staying at the house without smelling the smoke. We promised to stay in touch, but didn't. I moved on with my life, she probably moved on with hers. But neither of us took off our necklaces. That proved useful when we were reunited at the first day of 8th grade. Turns out she too had moved to the US the previous month. We filled our 7-year gap within seconds and everything was great. Until...

10th grade exams were approaching... ever since the beginning of that academic year I've been noticing some changes in her behaviour. In the time she spent with me, in the way she walked, in the way she talked... I ignored the changes until it almost

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cost me my life...
The school we went to was a programming school. I excelled at my studies, she was an average. I was popular due to my grades and people knew as my friend, not as her. That gave her all the reason in the world to start hanging out with the popular, fashion queens. Without me knowing of course. And all the less time she spend with was because of those girls. Our healthy friendship was broken as she chose to chose fame. She started dressing differently. ~~It~~ behaving rudely. But despite all this she remained nice to me. There was a reason behind that too. Her smile was fake. The end of school meant the deadline of the most important product of 5 years of hardwork. It a project we do and the best one receive a huge sum.

I was adding the final details of my project when suddenly my laptop screen flashed weirdly. It was hacked! I lost all control. I didn't know what do for a while. There was some stuff that could never go out in that laptop. Drowsy I write and other stuff that could cause my life to fall. Mom's bank bank details and more. I quickly destroyed the laptop. force

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In inside ~~and~~ out and prayed. Nothing got out. God heard my prayers. Or at least I still didn't lose anything yet, so I think nothing got out. I panicked as I saw that my pen drive was missing. I had a copy of my project in it! I have only one copy! And the pen drive is gone! Really GONE! I failed the project and got to know that one of the popular girls won. I saw my old girl smirking at me standing among them. She fitted perfectly to the mass of studiousness. Turns out the reason she stayed nice to me was to steal my pen drive and make the job easier for the hackers that she paid by stealing my passwords....

Some got to her head. She moved on with life with her new found besties... I don't seem to see a hint of regret on her face. All those memories faded from her heart.....