

Item Code: 951

Participant Code: 062

yes, it did end differently

The first rays of the sunlight slipped through the curtain, painting the hospital room with a warm, honey yellow. Sarah sat straight on her bed. Her eyes stared out through the half opened windows. It was spring outside. The petals turned and twisted in air and finally settled on the ground.

The world was preparing for new beginnings while her own life narrowed between the walls of cancer ward.

Sarah was thirty two years old. Still young, still bold. But her life collapsed as soon as she was diagnosed with cancer.

No foot steps came searching for her.

No familiar voices were heard from the door side.



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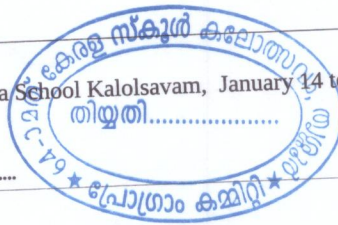
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once, she had everyone. A partner, friends and many relatives. She stood for everyone when they were in need. But no one came for her when she was in need. Just because of one mistake she did. She had been too kind to others that she forgot ~~to~~ to love herself. She tried to prove her worth to everyone who ~~needed~~ ended up never realising it.

The air ~~was~~ became heavy with regrets. She felt ~~as~~ as if the distance between her world and the outside world is increasing.

Just then, a soft wind came through the window, brushing past her. It consoled her as if it knew her for years. She closed her eyes and felt the warmth on her eyes. She thought "the day could have ended differently"

the next moment, she found herself sitting on a wooden bench. The neighbourhood ~~was~~ felt strangely comforting. The sun was brighter and the air was fresh. She sat there breathing ~~for~~ for a while.



Familiar faces walked past her, but in their younger versions. That was when she realised that she had travelled to the past. She saw a young girl in uniform coming straight at her, aiming the wooden bench. Yes, it was herself ~~in~~ from the past on the way to high school. The girl walked ~~in~~ in a rush and settled on the bench.

"Smile please.. young Sarah.." She said.

"Always remember to love yourself.. okay?"

Prioritise the people who chose you and not everyone. You are kind, brave, and confident but not everyone deserves your love."

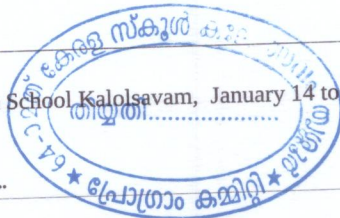
She continued in a stronger voice but remembered to appreciate her younger self because no one had done it in the past.

The ~~the~~ young girl stared at Sarah as if she wanted an explanation. Her eyes asked loud: who are you? and ~~why are you~~ how do you know my name? But for some reason, she never questioned her message. The message to love herself more.



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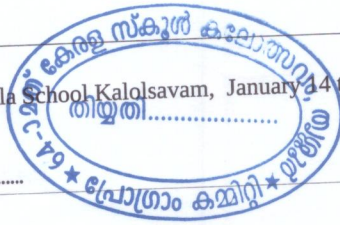
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"there comes your bus.." Sarah pointed towards the road. the young girl didn't get answers for her queries.

"There comes your bus" Sarah pointed towards a school bus. the young girl rushed without getting answers for her queries. she found a seat on the bus and ~~looked~~ glanced out to have a look at the woman once again. But there seemed no trace of anyone. It looked as if the bench was empty all the time ~~before~~.

the young girl understood that it was no ordinary meeting and from that day, she began to live for herself. ~~It~~ felt strange for her in the beginning but soon she started to experience the joy of being herself. It didn't make her cruel or selfish. But it ~~it~~ made her more kind and loving.



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the thirty two years old Sarah has now returned to the present. she was sitting on the same bed with her head leaning towards the pillow on her back, kept for support.

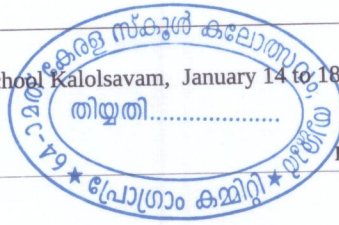
Her emerald eyes fell on the digital clock ~~on the~~ bedside table beside her. It said 7:30 AM.

The time has not changed in the future. It remained the same as it was before she left.

But something else had changed. The ~~room~~ air was no longer heavy with regrets. Her mind was no longer irritated. Peace settled in her just like the spring flowers settled on the ground, softly.

~~for~~ she stared out through the same half opened windows once again. But this time she felt as if she was a part of outside world once again, the world that was preparing for new beginnings. And not the ~~one~~ ^{one} which narrowed between the hospital walls.

~~Hours, minutes and years passed.~~ Sarah started



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sarah's life ~~so~~ began to bloom again. she regained the hope to live and that changed everything. ~~on~~ she turned thirty six this year and ~~is~~ has completely cured from all the health issues.

she continued to inspire the world with her story. what changed her life was that conversation with her younger self. she realised the impact a childhood can create in her adulthood. Her younger self lived happily believing in herself. that calmed the future self and filled her mind with hope, erasing all the regrets.

~~There~~ evening settled lightly, moonlight spilled ~~over~~ across her bedroom. sarah opened her diary and ~~started~~ began to think about everything that transformed her life.



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"Everything began with one thought- The day could have ended differently. And it did..."

Sarah's hand froze midsentence. A smile arose on her lips. ~~And~~ A wind rushed through the window and it whispered.. Yes the day could end differently. once you regain hope and start believing in yourself.