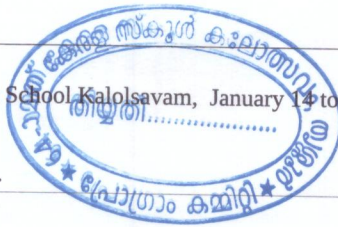




during a Christmas Eve....

"For God's sake, please make it fast Helen. If Mathew find us, we are dead." "Girl I am trying, but I couldn't find it yesterday, and today, things are the same too." Helen's pale, lean hands were shivering when she responded to Mandy, helplessly. She was sweating. Mandy was examining the surrounding through the half opened window and her poor eyesight didn't allow her to visualize everything there. "Holy Mother, Here it is." Helen's thrusting. Screaming made Mandy look back and she saw a crumpled sheet of an old diary, that too, torned here and there. in Helen's hand. They ran to the courtyard only after making sure that the room was spotless. Helen's tiny ankles were bleeding as she ran down through the broken wooden stair case carelessly. but her mind was far beyond this world to consider that Scar.

'Helen Christina Joseph', the seventeen years old sensitive teenager was unable to recognize the loud inner voice inside her head. Those voices were filled with mixed emotions. She wasn't sure about whether she should be happy or sad. "what's written on the paper?" Mandy was curious, yet tensed about the sheet of paper as she is seeing Helen like this for the first time.



Helen Smirked as usual. "Do you know how I ended up here"?

Massy shook her head by hearing that unexpected question.

"I was abandoned by my family" - and Helen laughed loudly after saying that. Massy saw a sky shedding its tears as rain in Helen's eyes. Even though she was laughing it off. "and Albert uncle found me somewhere, crying all alone and took me here, to Sister Annie. Matthew, her assistant, told her to not take responsibility of me as our orphanage don't take girls below eight. but Sister Annie desisted it and now here I am, after almost ten years" Helen stopped talking and a wall of silence grew between Massy and her.

Helen decided to visit Albert uncle, her best friend during afternoon as Albert's home was near her orphanage. Just a half mile walking distance. and he was decorating the Christmas tree when she entered to his place. "Girl don't you have anything to study but wandering here and there?" Albert mocked her. "I got something from Sister Annie's letter bag uncle I was trying to get that since last Friday." "What's the matter Helen?" She exploded into tears when she told him everything. "So, you are telling me that was a piece of letter from last year, from your mom that they are ready to get you back by this Christmas eve right?"

"Yeah and finally they got to know that no loving sister kills her

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Own Brothers. Helen ran back to her place after saying that.

It was a Christmas Eve - ten years ago. Helen, papa, mama and her baby brother ABY was travelling to Belgium from England for Christmas Celebration. And Helen was taking care of ABY when their parents went to buy tickets. ABY went missing while Helen was playing with her doll and later they found out that he was kidnapped. Her arrogant parents blamed her, beat^{ed} ~~to~~ death till she ran away and didn't go after her. She wiped her warm tears during her way back by thinking about her past. "If I was careful enough, that day and my life could have ended up differently" - She told herself several times.

"Where were you Helen? Sister Annie is looking for you." Mummy ran towards Helen when she came back. Helen's body and mind was tired from all the chaos, self-blaming, guilt and her life. She cries to sleep every night, the burning in her eyes and heart was unnoticed by everyone even by Mummy. The grey lines around her eyes, always soaked cheeks and swelled lips tell her story evenly.

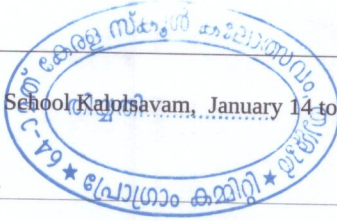
"Did you check by letter box?" The rude, strong, frightening face of Sister Annie was calmer than usual today. Shiny white hairs on her head were waving by the wind.

"Yes and I got a letter". Helen tried her best to not cry but she couldn't help herself but cry.



The Slightly Cwaving wind and rain drops portrayed Helen's Complexed mind. "child, you don't need to cry. nothing is your fault. you were too, infant just a baby at that time. but i don't think your family just abandoned you because of that incident. if they did so, they don't need to write me every month, or sent you a present for every Occasion." "WHAT?" Helen exclaimed and gasped by hearing that. "i thought they all were from Uncle Robert". "No darling. your parents searched for you that night, the whole of England. but you were here, this small village near Belgium City and they couldn't find you. your mom was paralysed as she lost both her kids and the police could find out Aby after a week, but you - not till last year." "Aby ~~are~~ with them?" "Right."

Helen's mind was exhausted and she couldn't believe what she heard. So i stayed here, blamed myself for everything, made my life a living hell all that for NOTHING. "your mom recovered from her coma few months ago and now all of them are here for you, to get you, to apologize to you for everything." mummy told Helen by hugging her tightly.



Mama, papa And Aby Came Out of the Destroom and they all hugges hes, teass fell down from all the eyes and that Scene Created a warmth in every mind. Stood there.

"When we get to know that you were here last year, we tried to reach you as soon as possible but the strong legal procedurs and Verifications took us one more year to finally meet you" Joseph, hes papa was Crying Just like a little kid when he completed the sentence.

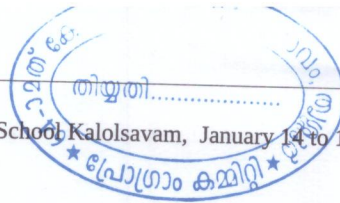
"We never abandoned you darling. I am sure that my mind was filled with your memories when I was at camp, for the past nine years." "Don't cry mama"- Helen hugged hes Uncle Albert, Sister Annie, Mussy and all hes mates wes with hes during Helen's depature.

A Similas cold wind that passed hes ten years ago has now covered hes with a mesmerizing feeling. And that is life. It gets you places where you are not supposed to lie and tests your patience. Just like god tests every human being. Out there and you have to wait, hope and pray for the good. Helen was in a world of thoughts during hes way back home.



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She looked above the sky, at the starry ground of sparkling souls. And just like that her world too, is shining now. What bigger present could I ask you Santa, for this Christmas. As you gave me the 'once-lost' present to me once again. Helen giggled and fell asleep on her mama's lap without dropping a single tear. And that was too after ages. Helen got her Christmas present for a lifetime in the form of peace.