



IN THE ABSENCE OF ANSWERS.

Rain poured down heavily. The sound of raindrops falling on the earth thundered inside the room. Mist enveloped the atmosphere adding a touch to the mysterious place. The glass panes of the windows were bleary due to the mist and rain, making the outside hazy when watched through them.

A boy was sitting on the bed near the windows, staring intently at the window pane. His gaze was fixed on the outside but strangely nothing was seen by him. The pitch-black eyes of him were searching for something, like he was searching for an answer from somebody. Suddenly, his eyes shone brightly. He seemed to see somebody outside. Somebody that can make him happy. But, there was nobody outside. Realizing that, in an instant, the light in his eyes went away. Silent tears streamed down his eyes and flowed ^{across} ~~through~~ his face.



His thoughts ran wild. His mind went back to that night. The night that took everything from him. He ^{mumbled} thought desperately, "Why did I go there out that night? If I hadn't, I wouldn't have lost everything..." But nothing was of no use. Everything had gone.

It was a foggy November night. The streets were empty. Yellow light shone from the street lamps, spreading light to the otherwise dark and dreary streets. A boy was walking from the end of the street forward. The shabby clothes he wore made him look miserable. He walked forward, without watching where he was going. Something white flashed past him. But he did not see anything. It was a small white dog. Nothing seemed to enter his eyes as he was wholly preoccupied with his thoughts. He was deliberately walking slower. He did not want to go to that place where that man was there. "He can never be my father. But I have to

go. Because that's my home. That's where my mother is. My little sisters are. I cannot leave them. Till that man lives
 „ His thoughts were such.
 nothing can be alright. He kept on walking forward thinking about his life.

He was Adam. A mere 15 year old boy. His mother was Anne, a pretty and simple girl with a smile that can brighten any dark days. Nobody would have thought that something like this would happen to her. She fell in love with John, an English man. Adam was born to John and Anne. Before the birth of Adam, John died in a war. Anne married Rena. Rena loved Adam very much. Later as Adam grew, he ~~became a~~ resembled John a lot. Knowing that Adam is not his son, Rena's love turned to hate. The bad days of Adam and Anne started from that moment. Anne had two more children, Razi and Izaria. Adam's little sisters were very ~~no~~ much fond of their big brother. Whatever Rena said or did to make them hate Adam was in



vain. Though they seemed to hate him when their father was there, there, it was all a pretense. When alone they showed their infinite love towards Adam. In the midst of all troubles, this love and care from his mother and sister was ~~at~~ his relief. All the works in the house were on the shoulder of Adam. He was troubled to the core. The only time he could relax was when Rena was out of town.

That time, Adam would go for a walk outside the house. Often his sister would be with him and mother would stay ~~at~~ in the house. During that time ~~they~~ there was no need to pretend. His sister would cling to him and that was the most beautiful time he would have.

That night too, he went for a walk. But tonight his sister stayed with their mother. They were not going with him. So he went out alone. Thinking of his little sister, a smile appeared on his face. He ~~clutched~~ ^{box of} looked at the candies.

in his hand. Razi and Izaria ~~were so~~ loved candies very much. He specially bought it because they did not come with him. There was also some of his mother's favourite cookies.

He walked while thinking and unconsciously at some point he had increased his pace. Unknown to him he ~~at~~ had already reached his house. ^{standing} Outside the house he looked ^{at} ~~to~~ the house. He felt strange. All the lights in the house was put out. They would normally never put out the lights before he come home. He clutched the box in his hands tightly and walked forward hoping that everything was alright. He reached the steps and found that the door was not locked. His heart started beating frantically. He opened the door with his fingers and felt a ^{strong} ~~transcending~~ smell reaching his nose. He could not identify what it was. Little did he know that



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it was the smell of blood.....

..... He was met with darkness inside the room. His eyes took some time to adjust with the darkness.. The door had closed behind him quietly.. He went to the windows and opened it. Moonlight shone through the windows into the room.. He walked forward.. Suddenly he thought that why ~~it~~ ^{was} nobody there.. While walking and thinking his legs felt something.. looking down he saw something that made the blood in his body cold..

..... There on the floor laid his sister Riza covered in blood.. Next to her was Izaria.. At a glance one could say that their soul had left their body.. The box in his hands fell with a 'thud'.. His mind was in chaos.. "What happened to them? Why are they covered in blood? Why are they not breathing? Why don't my little sisters greet me when I ~~can~~ saw them? Nothing happened to them.. How can anything happen to ..

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them? The questions and thoughts that erupted in his mind ~~feeling~~ made him ~~sick~~ panic. He felt that he would pass out.

Frankly, ~~he thought~~ suddenly he remembered ~~where is~~ his mother. Where was she? That moment, he heard some sounds coming from the inside. He looked over there. But was met with a picture that became etched into his mind forever. He would never forget that image. He can never...

It was his mother. But she was not smiling. She was not breathing. She was on the floor. and Reza was near to her. His hand held a dagger. When Adam saw the scene he thought his soul had left his body. Reza was stabbing Anne continuously. Blood gushed from her body with each stab staining the walls and the floor. She was dead.



Everything on Adam's body turned colder and colder. But his eyes turned into a flame. The burning rage inside his eyes could engulf the whole house in fire. If looks could kill, the gaze stare of Adam was enough to kill Reza for a thousand times. In such a state, Adam saw something glistening in the dark. It was a metal hammer. He went near the table. He took it in his hands.

Reza continued stabbing Anne. Reza was drunk and had no sense. Anne was dead for a long time but still he didn't stop it. Adam felt a splitting pain inside his head. Each stab of Reza ~~seem~~ seemed to pass through Adam's heart. He went near Reza with the hammer in hand. But Reza was unaware of this. He kept on stabbing. When he felt Adam's presence and looked raised his head, it was already late. The hammer had gone from left.

Adam's hand.

In the morning, when the police came to the house they saw a shocking scene. Four dead bodies murdered brutally and the only living thing in that house was a boy of fifteen, with bloody clothes and a hammer in his hands. The police took him. He ~~was~~ became the killer of his family. The questions towards him was turned to nothing in the absence of answers from him. The court declared him as ~~the~~ a mad person. Instead of prison, he was ~~was~~ sent to an asylum. There he had to live for the rest of his life.

Each day in the asylum was torture. The smiling face of his mother, the way his sisters clinged to him. Their happy face when he gave them



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candies. The way they called him 'brother'. Everything made his heart crashed and each moment he thought of them, he felt his heart to be ~~un~~ covered with splinters.

He ^{was sitting} sat on the bed still staring outside. The heavy rain has calmed down. But his heart could never calm down. Like every day, his mind was filled with questions. Questions of regret. Questions of innocence. Questions asked to God for this cruelty. Along with the memories of love and care, ~~the scenes~~ along with the scene of his loved ones drenched in blood with their eyes wide open like they were waiting for their brother to come and save them, the heart wrenching questions filled his mind.

Why did he go out that night? Why did he left them there? What did my loved ones do for them to die like this? Was being single and ~~poor~~ innocent a crime? Why didn't

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God just kill me instead of them ? How can somebody
kill their own children ? If I hadn't left them
couldn't I also go & with my sisters ? ^{How can} ~~Where~~
I live without my mother ?
~~can I find my mother ?~~ How can I live again
in happiness ? None of the questions had answers.
He ^{now} had no mother, no sisters, no smile, nothing,
in the absence of answers to these questions ~~so~~ he
became a living corpse.

When the last drop of rain fell to the
ground, the remaining light in his eyes went out.
Everything went black. Now there is no need to
answer these questions. Finally he will ^{reach} ~~be there~~ with
his loved ones. A smile spread across his face as
his body fell on the bed without the soul. Rain
had ended. The questions had ended. So too Adam....