

Saviour

Le Hoang Hoa Mai

"It's now, or never."

Her bottom lip was quivering every time the night breeze hit her uncovered skin. Her cheeks were stained with her tears, which she didn't even bother to wipe off.

Jennie looked down at the river. A small yet nervous chuckle escaped her pale lips before she looked up to see the dark sky with twinkling stars. Someone would find that it was such a beautiful night, 'what a time to be alive' they would say. But for Jennie, it was the other way around.

Slowly and hesitantly, she stepped closer towards the edge of the bridge. The railings were on the level of her waist which made it easier for her to jump over it.

It wasn't her first time coming to the bridge. She could say that almost every night she would come to the place. At first, she just wanted to find peace but eventually, she realized that she would only find peace if she left the world.

The world where she found herself in a dilemma. Unlike other children, Jennie never got to feel loved, even by her parents. The memory of her parents fighting with each other was still vivid in her mind even though it had been 6 years. At the end she would find herself crying as she silently wished they would stop fighting and start to love each other again.

They did stop. The fight stopped when her parents decided to file a divorce. Ever since that happened, she didn't see her father and her mother anymore as if they were oblivious to the presence of their own daughter.

She had enough. The strength to keep everything to herself it was long gone.

"I am doing the right thing, right?" She asked herself. The only thing that kept her stuck to the railings was her hands. Every time the wind blew the strands of her hair fell, covering her face. Swallowing hard, she lifted one of her legs and now, her weight was transferred to the left one which was still in contact with the ground.

"Goodbye.." Her grasp started to loosen. She shut her eyes close, the tears which she had contained finally spilled from the brim of her eyes. Her petite body was thrown forward and right at that moment, she felt as if she was flying.

She felt happy and free.

A faint smile was on her lips. She could feel her body falling, she could feel her heartbeat. In that brief moment, she could see all the happy moments she experienced back then. That was only when she had nothing to worry about.

"Have you lost your mind?!"

Jennie's eyes flickered open when her body stopped falling all of a sudden. She looked up to see the guy. He was extremely familiar to her eyes and that made her wonder who the guy was. Her gaze then fell on his hand which was gripping her left wrist with all his might. She could see his veins popping, trying his best to prevent her body from falling into the river.

"Hold on! Give me your other hand!" He exclaimed, snapping Jennie out of her thoughts.

Instead of doing what he commanded, she shook her head lightly.

"Let me fa-" She was interrupted when the guy stretched out his other hand.

"Take my hand! I don't want you to fall into that river!"

Jennie wasn't sure but still reached for his hand. Tightening his grasp on both her hands, the boy pulled her up. Beads of sweat were seen glistening on his forehead as he gritted his teeth.

She froze at the situation, uncertain how to react since she didn't expect that would happen.

"Why did you do that?" He suddenly spoke, breaking the silence of the night. Instead of looking at the girl, his eyes were glued to the ground as his fingers were busy playing with the small pebbles.

"What..?"

"I ask you, why did you do that? You are still young so why are you committing suicide? Such a coward person." He scoffed as he threw the girl the small pebble he had been playing ever since they sat across each other.

"You don't have the right to know." Jennie answered in monotone. "You should have let me die just now."

Much to her surprise, the guy laughed hysterically. His eyes turned into a straight line, his plump lips agape at her statement. Jennie couldn't help but forming a frown on her face. She wondered what was so funny about the idea.

"Jeez. Look at you. It's late at night and you're still in your school uniform. Here, wear this." Jennie shook her head as a sign of rejection. "No. I'm fine."

"Apart from being stupid, I see that you are also good at lying. Your face is pale, your teeth are chattering yet you say you are all fine? Stop lying Jennie." The guy suddenly inched closer to her. Wearing a genuine smile on his face, he draped his jacket over the shoulders of the girl.

"Stop complaining and refusing. I don't want you to catch a cold." He said as cordially as possible.

"Go home, Jennie. And remember, don't try to kill yourself again."

Jennie swallowed the big lump at the back of her throat. She raised her head, only to find herself lost in his lovely stare. He's a stranger, however, the way he treated her was as if they had known each other for years.

His dark orbs pierced into her eyes. Letting out a mild smile at Jennie's blank face. He found that it was cute to see her spacing out, confused and unsure how to respond.

"Why should I listen to you?" Jennie blurted out.

"Is that even a question?" He raised one of his eyebrows.

"Answer me."

"Because there are many people in this world who love you. You might not know it, but they do exist."

Jennie chewed the inner of her cheeks. She should have felt touched by his words but too bad that her heart had turned cooler than ice, harder than a stone. Her body felt numb to almost everything. She couldn't even distinguish what's pain and what's happiness anymore.

"Stop talking nonsense." She muttered under her breath. "All people in this world are the same. They keep on saying that they love and they care when they actually didn't. They act like they know everything, when the reality is they didn't have any single idea about it. And there is no difference between you and those people. Acting like you care when you don't even know the amount of pain I've felt." He was taken aback by her words but instead of getting flustered, he smiled widely with his lips pursed together. "I feel you, Jennie. I know how you are feeling."

"No! You didn't and you won't!" Her chest heaved. "Don't give me that smile. It's not helping at all!"

"Have you heard the saying 'the saddest people smile the brightest'? A smile hides thousand of incurable wounds. A laugh hides thousand of pains. But my smile hides one determination. Which is to make sure you didn't feel any of those." He cupped her cheeks and patted her back. It somehow reminded her someone's acts in her past.

Someone important.

"And... I'm not really a stranger. We know each other very well, Jennie. I remember you as the girl who was beside me whole my childhood, as the girl that saved me with her smile. If you are suicidal, it's my turn to help you." That moment Jennie realized that the handsome boy standing in front of her was no one else then her old friend Mark. Mark Tuan, the one she had been waiting for ever since.