

“Do you really mean it?” Words were forced out as if my mouth was a metal mould with a narrow slit.

“Yes, machang,” Ashan replied avoiding my eyes. Probably he did not want to see the anguish in my eyes.

“But why??” I asked, this time with more force.

“She said that she noticed your interest in her, but somebody had told her that you have been running around with other girls ...” Ashan still avoided my eyes.

For the first time I realized the pain of unrequited love. The pain was unbearable as Jace was the only girl who delved into an unknown depth of my heart, warming it every time I saw her. The deeper the feelings the more acute the pain was.

At the end of the class Ashan took leave of us telling that he had to see his parents in town. On the way to the boarding place, one mate suggested that we have lunch at a restaurant in town as he sensed the pain in my broken heart. As all agreed, we moved to the restaurant. We entered one of the best restaurants in town. The scene I saw there made my feet locked and I was not able to speak anything. Without expressing any word, I turned back and withdrew from the restaurant. I felt my other friends after me, calling out my name, but I walked as fast as I could, back to the boarding house afraid to see what I saw, again.

The horrendous scene appeared in front of my eyes as a scene in a movie. Pinkish long fingers of Jace were romantically wrapped around another man's fat strong fingers. That other man looked familiar, so familiar that I

could not have been mistaken. Was this real? It was Ashan who was lovingly holding her by the hand.

“How could he do this to me? He knew I was in love with her, she is mine, only mine.”

Though I haven't proposed to her yet, I live with her, we have dreams together, Jace is my wife to be. I rushed into the church where I saw Jace for the first time. Hearts are brought together by God. That was what I believed in and I was arguing with God about His decision about my life and my love.

“Is this the punishment you, give me for not attending church willingly God? Why did you give me so much pain God, if she would never be mine, why did you make me fall in love with her?”

God did not hear me as usual. I wanted to cry until I exhaust myself as I did not want to breathe again. Then a sudden thought of discovering the true nature of that fiend of a friend overwhelmed me. I remembered his password which I set for him a year ago when I was formatting his laptop, which he had not changed yet.

I found out that Ashan and Jace had been having their relationship for six months. Seeing it made me feel that the blood flow of my body sped up and I started having palpitations. According to their chats, Jace really loves him, she loves Ashan for revealing the darker side of his “best friend”- that was me. “He” Ashan writes in his chats, “is carrying on with several girls at the same time. He will then have you for a while and ditch you. His love is superficial. He is a womanizer.”