FINISH HIM U

ight now, I am holding my Glock 17 pistol at a point in between his eyes; he knows what I am capable of, that I never miss. He had to surrender; let his guard down instantly; if I falter I might risk my life. It's my turn to pull the trigger.

We both knew the rules of this game; so, there should be no hard feelings at professional level. We have faced each other at gun point before. It's now or never. It's an irony of life that I have to shoot him, finish him off with the very gun he had gifted me.

They called him my nemesis, my target or the one who should be eliminated. There is no mistake about it, though we became friends, trusted each other; I had to turn the tables on him right now. I do this with justification for betraying our friendship knowing it will cause endless pain.

There is no way of telling this story without revealing the secret why he chose me as his partner. We both used to work for one of the country's leaders in drug trafficking. We were looking after each other and became skillful in this trade, so earned reputation in our own underworld community. They knew two things about us. They knew that we were inseparable and we never miss our targets. They told we were equals. But I always believed I was smarter. And maybe I was right about it the whole time. Because I hold the gun today aimed at him and he has become my target.

"What has happened to us?" finally he broke the silence.

"You tell me," I replied.

"You know about it better than me. Don't you? You are not the person we thought you were. So, I am the one who should look shocked and amazed, not you. But I have to give you some credit for your acting. It was world class. Well, perhaps, if it wasn't for your bad looks you could have been a real actor," he smiled at my bad joke.

Usually he is the funny one. But it looks like the situation has turned his serious mode on.

"Do you want to know what gave you away?" I asked him thinking he must be curious to know how I found out his secret mission to eliminate me.

"I have no Idea. I think you have gone insane. That is the reason. Why else would you play this bad joke on me?" That was his answer. I never expected him to deceive me this way. "Come on my dear friend, you ought to know better. You knew what was in store for you from the beginning didn't you? What were you thinking? You thought you could get away by fooling everyone? You thought you were smarter!"

I said all this while pulling the safety lock of my gun, letting him know how serious I was about finishing him off!

"Okay, Okay.... calm down.... I'm...sorry. But I can explain. I know I have been tricking you and everyone for a long time. But, it was for a reason. I hope you will understand it one day. Now, before you finish me off, will you let me know what was it that gave me away and how did you find that out?"

At this point I was a bit surprised by his courage and his bravery. And it made me