

“Gilbert, catch this!” yelled Alex, who was running in full speed with a football. Gilbert tried to catch but failed, he tripped over a foot of the opposing team member that was trying to block him. There the whistle blown, and the game was over. Alex and Gilbert’s team lost, and Gilbert believed it was his fault.

“Alex, I...I am really sorry. I don’t...I don’t think I can carry on, I want to quit.” sniffled Gilbert.

Alex did not reply but looked at Gilbert’s knees, he left and returned, carrying a first-aid box. “Let’s not talk about a thing before your wound is treated, okay?” Alex asked as he poured disinfectant onto a cotton ball. He carefully dabbed the wet cotton ball onto Gilbert’s bleeding knees, while Gilbert stared at Alex without uttering a sound. Gilbert’s eyes were fixed on the Alex, and was not even blinking.

Cleaning a wound with disinfectant should be painful and stinging, but a wave of warmth flooded Gilbert so that he felt no pain. Alex removed the packaging of two bandages and lightly stuck them on the wounds of Gilbert’s knees. “There you go! How ‘bout some ice cream for the poor little guy?”

“Sure, that’ll be great! Thanks Alex...” he said softly with a sweet smile on his face. Alex gave him a cheeky smile and reached out his hand to lift Gilbert up. They both got themselves vanilla ice-cream but Gilbert’s one tasted a lot sweeter than Alex’s or any other vanilla ice-cream he has ever eaten.

Ever since, Gilbert never see Alex the same. He was certain that himself was romantically attracted to Alex.

Gilbert and Alex met at the age of ten, they were not just best friends but brothers. They studied in the same secondary school, studied biology together. Alex stuck around Gilbert like the pocket on the back of his pants; while Gilbert understood Alex just as he knew the back of his hands.

“Gilbert, how’s your test result?” asked a fellow classmate. “It’s acceptable, but I believe I can do much better, I got 73 out of 80.” replied Gilbert. “Again? Score the highest again? Oh come on, Gilbert!” Alex interjected. He looked down at his own paper, carefully folding the right corner of it, where the marks was written. Gilbert saw his act and said nothing, pretended not seeing it but had a plan in mind.

After school, they walked home together, Gilbert asked Alex “How’s the test? Haven’t heard you say anything about it.” With a long sigh, Alex replied “Ugh...I failed the test, the third time already. I can’t help but think that I should stop pursuing my studies in biology, and give up my dream of becoming a scientist.”

Gilbert expected this answer from Alex, he finally proposed his plan to him. “Hey bro, don’t you ever quit! Biology isn’t as hard as you think, maybe you are facing some obstacles in your studies and have no one to clarify those concepts for you. Why don’t you come to my place like twice a week to revise on Biology? It can be today too, if you wish.” suggested Gilbert.

“Really, Gilbert? Oh my god yes! Let’s go to your place then, now!” exclaimed Alex. Alex followed Gilbert to his way home, and they studied Biology together. Gilbert’s plan was friendly but evil. It was friendly because he truly wanted to help Alex with his Biology, but it was evil because he wanted to

spend more time with Alex and perhaps Alex would someday feel his love for him. To see Alex all day everyday, having him come over to revise at his place was simply the best idea no one can doubt with.

One day when they were revising, Alex raised questions about the concept he had trouble understanding. “Gilbert, do you think being gay is a choice or is innate, and do you think it is possible to make gay people straight? This chapter here in the book talks about sexuality, and it says that being gay is not a choice but determined by the gene of the gay person. It also says that it is not very easy to make gay people straight, what do you think?”. Gilbert was shocked, he never expected to be asked such questions, especially by a guy he was attracted to.

“I...I guess I agree with t...the book. I mean...being g...gay isn't a choice after all, is it?”, Gilbert stuttered, his hands shivered so much that he had to hide them under the table. Alex seemed surprised by Gilbert's answer, and explained “No, I think gay people just chose the wrong path at the crossroad. There's Adam and Eve, not Adam And Steve! Symbolizing a male should be with a female! To me, I think it is unethical to be with the same sex. Oh, but that's just my opinion, I don't discriminate.”

There was a long silence, Gilbert did not say anything, so did Alex. “Alright Gilbert, I think that's it for the day, thanks and I'll come again on Friday, see you at school!” packing his school bag and raised his right arm and fist clenched in front of Gilbert, Alex was trying to break the silence. After a few seconds of delay, Gilbert raised his right arm and fist clenched just like what Alex did. Their fists bumped together; “Boom...bro first, Ha! Bye Gilbert!” said Alex cheerfully.

“Bye...Alex, bye” Gilbert replied so softly that it was almost inaudible. He was sitting still in his own chair, clenching both fists this time, eyes wide opened with tears streaming down his pale little face.

It was not what Gilbert planned. What he had planned to do was to spend almost everyday with Alex, and tell him how he feels at the right time. He could never do it however after hearing what Alex thought.

Gilbert filled himself a glass of water and wanted to flush the negative feelings down his throat, but he carelessly dropped his glass onto the ground. Just like his heart, the glass broke into many small pieces, scattered on the floor. A broken glass cannot be put back together, so as one's heart; once broken, it cannot be fixed.

Still, Gilbert pretended he was fine at school. He hid his emotions so well that even Alex did not notice. They still hung around and had fun together, but Gilbert did not enjoy it at all, those tiny shards of glass were still there in his chest, reminding him that his love for Alex should forever be a secret.

It was getting close to Winter and Alex invited Gilbert to a Christmas Party. “It sounds cool, Alex; but I'm not sure if I can come on the 25th, you know, the holiday homework and whatnot.” rejected Gilbert, who was still suffering from the heartbreak. “Christmas holiday is long, you'll have plenty of time to do the work. Please come, I'll have something big to announce and I want you to be here!” explained Alex, with an obvious fake frown on his face. Gilbert could not refuse thus replied him “Okay. I'll come.”

On the day of the party, Gilbert was sitting on the couch with Alex, eating some dry and hard as rock gingerbread man cookies. A few friends of Alex were also invited to the party. Some of them were playing video games while the others were discussing the Christmas gifts they want. The doorbell rang and Alex jumped up, "Here comes the surprise!" fixing his hair as he spoke.

Gilbert turned and peeked at the door, he saw a girl standing in front of Alex. "Merry Christmas Alex!" shouted the girl. "Ooh, Alex, a girl?" a friend of Alex asked sarcastically. "Yes...guys, this is the surprise I told you. This is Nancy aka my girlfriend." the blush faced Alex said.

"Congrats Alex, what a surprise! Hi Nancy, nice to meet you!" another friend of Alex reached out his arm and half-hugged Alex as he congratulated the couple. Alex and Nancy smiled as in reply, they held their hands and walked towards the couch.

"Nancy, this is Gilbert; Gilbert, this is Nancy. Gilbert's my very best friend, Nancy, I wanted you two to meet since day one!" said Alex feverishly. "Hi Gilbert, I'm Nancy, it's nice meeting you, Alex talked about you a lot!" Nancy greeted Gilbert with a friendly smile. "Hi, nice to meet you Nancy, pleasure meeting you too." Gilbert replied listlessly.

Knowing Alex's thoughts on homosexuals has already broke Gilbert's heart, but getting such a big surprise on Christmas while self-healing from the heartbreak was unbearable for Gilbert. He left after seeing the couple kissed under the plastic mistletoe, without saying goodbye.

"Gilbert. Hey Gilbert, what's wrong? I called you so many times but you never picked up!" Alex asked worriedly. "My phone died, that's why." Gilbert made an excuse and wanted to escape from Alex.

The green light of the traffic light was blinking, Gilbert dashed to the other side of the road before it turned red. Alex however, did not reach where Gilbert was standing and was hit by a taxi. "Alex!" screamed Gilbert, who witnessed the accident.

Alex was sent to the hospital immediately, Gilbert accompanied him on the way to the hospital. Alex's parents thanked Gilbert's company but asked him to go home first because Alex was not yet awake. Gilbert wanted to stay but there was no reasons for him to do so.

The day after the accident, Gilbert went to school as usual. Brian, a friend of Alex came to Gilbert and gave him a silver USB. "Please give this back to Alex, we stole it off his laptop on Christmas party for fun. We wanted to see would he freak out when he found that his USB was lost..." said Brian regrettably. Gilbert took the USB home and curiosity drove him to see what was inside it.

Once plugged into the computer, Gilbert saw different folders titled different months. He opened and read through some of the documents inside the folders and realized those were diaries of Alex. Gilbert was surprised, his name appeared almost in every single diary of Alex. He copied all diaries except those mentioning Nancy to his computer and read them everyday, it was as if he was trying to go through the precious memories of him and Alex together.

Gilbert received a call from Alex's mother, telling him Alex finally awoke, but was diagnosed with amnesia. Gilbert rushed to the hospital and looked at Alex, who remembered everything before Christmas Party; he remembered Gilbert as his best friend, his dream of becoming a scientist, the time he spent at Gilbert's home revising Biology, but not Nancy. Gilbert thought to himself, "Could it be god helping me out, to kick Nancy out of Alex's life?"

Just as he was thinking, Nancy walked into the hospital and sat down next to Alex's bed. She wanted to grab Alex's hand but Alex withdrawn his hand immediately and asked, "Who is this, I mean who are you, do I know you?". Nancy did not reply to his question, she just turned and had her back facing Alex, sobbing with her hands covering her mouth.

Gilbert felt sad looking at Nancy, he knew what it felt to be heartbroken. He wondered why he was not happy to know that Alex could not recognize Nancy, which was something that he dreamt of happening.

He loved Alex, and so did Nancy. If he could not be by Alex perhaps Nancy could. He handed Alex the USB and told him to read everything.

Three weeks after reading the diaries, Alex finally recognized Nancy and gave her the tightest hug. The couple were in tears and suddenly they looked over Gilbert, Alex gestured Gilbert to come closer to him, and said "Gilbert, thank you. I love you."

"Love you...too." Gilbert answered in relief; the unspoken has finally been spoken.