By Kabita Gurung

The young girl sat alone on the wooden park bench in the cold winter night with no food and no shelter to stay warm in. She shivered as she hugged her knees, but fate brought the man and the young twenty two year old girl together. The girl peeked from her arms as she saw a tall figure approaching her from the dark alley in front. He was holding a plastic bag full of groceries and supplies. The man had a light brown hair with beautiful hazel eyes. The man wore a supreme white hoodie with a red long coat that reached his knees over it, he had a white scarf around his neck which covered his mouth and keeping his nose warm from catching a cold.

That's when the girl Olivia and the twenty nine years old man named Jay met right in the beautiful raining snow.
        Ten years later.

Olivia was already thirty two years old, Jay was thirty nine--almost reaching the 40's.
Olivia fixed Jay a cup of coffee and herself a coffee as well in a metal white tray. She went over to the living room holding the tray and set one coffee down on the table for Jay.
"Sir, I've made you a cup of coffee, you should drink it while it's still hot," Olivia said smiling brightly as usual. Jay set the newspaper down,picked up the coffee and sipped slowly.

"Don't call me 'Sir', call me Jay, Olivia," Jay said setting the coffee down and glancing at her.
Olivia nodded her head up and down gleaming in excitement.
Olivia had always looked so cheerful and bright ever since Jay had took her in from the cold winter back ten years ago. Olivia set the tray down on the table and took a quick sip of her coffee. Jay glanced at her and quickly caught something on her leg.
"You have a green vein on your leg, Olivia.."Jay said still looking at her leg. She quickly hid it with her hand and smiled. "No it's nothing, it's just a normal..thing," Olivia said before turning away and walking outside. Jay shrugged it off and went back to the newspaper.

A couple of hours later Jay woke up from the banging on his door. Jay checked the time and it was almost six. Jay yawned rubbing his eyes, he walked out of his room, went downstairs and opened the door. There stood an old woman. It was Jay's grandmother who lived right by him as his neighbor.
        "Jay, Olivia is in the hospital right now! She fainted, I saw her from the window of my
    house and I ran to her as fast as I could! You should hurry and see her!" Grandmother exclaimed.
    "Which hospital?!"Jay asked looking panicked.

        "The hospital you went to for your shot last week!" She replied.
Jay's eyes widened as soon as he heard the news from his grandmother.
He quickly bent down, placed on his white sneakers and headed out the doors past his grandmother who sighed in relief.
Jay drove in his car to the hospital, "the Medical Hospital", and had been driving for a mile already.
He reached the parking lot of the hospital and parked near the building. And got out of the car and rushed inside the building.

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Jay searched the rooms and finally found Olivia who laid there with her eyes closed, the doctor looked up at him and walked towards him. "Are you the patient's guardian?" The doctor asked, Jay nodded. "I'm her close guardian. Did something happen to her?!"Jay asked placing both of his hands on the doctor's shoulder.

The doctor took Jay's hands off him and held them as he looked into his eyes.

"Please do not panic and stay calm when I tell you everything I know."The doctor said letting go of his hands and sitting on the wheelchair. "What happened, doctor?"Jay asked trying to stay calm as possible.

"Sadly when we checked on her when she got to the hospital, she had this green unidentified vein that spreaded throughout her body, it was too late to fix that because once the green vein spreads throughout her body--it can't be fixed. That green vein is a plant tree growing in her, we have closed the curtains because the sun makes the plant grow out of her legs and arms fast. There is a way to fix it, but cannot be cured well." The doctor explained, sighing as he shook his head.

Jay shook as tears trickled down his cheeks and down to his neck slowly, he fell to his knees besides the bed Olivia was sleeping in. "I should've done something when I saw that vein on your leg. I should've stopped you from going outside, I'm so sorry Olivia .I..ugh!"Jay sobbed sniffing in tears.

Olivia slowly started squirming around, the doctor noticed and quickly left but he said, "The patient is waking up, take your time to talk with her while you can."

"Olivia! Can you hear me? Please wake up!..I really love you, I've been hiding all these feelings away from you for many years, I didn't want to say anything that time..I've been cold to you and harsh sometimes--I felt really guilty inside of me, you know? Please wake up.."Jay sobbed.

Olivia touched his head and ruffled his hair gently as she smiled. "You're here..that's all I care, because you are here, I knew you've always loved me," Olivia said.

Jay quickly hugged her tightly. "Jay, you're suffocating me..!"Olivia mumbled gasping.

He realized and quickly let go. "Sorry..I just felt too happy, I wish we had more time to spend together, just the two of us," he said. She smiled once again, her smile never faded away.

"Then we should have a honeymoon," Olivia suggested. Jay glanced at her sighing.

"The doctor said the sun makes the plant growing inside you grow out of your skin, it'll be worse..I want to, but I can't, Olivia," Jay muttered loudly.

Olivia chuckled. "Isn't it fine if we just spend the time together? I don't care about dying, please Jay..?"Olivia pleaded. Jay couldn't say no.

They both had escaped the hospital throughout the window leaving no trace.

Jay drove the car and minutes had passed, tree branches with flowers started growing out of Olivia's skin and her face fast. "You have a choice, Jay. Either kiss me and become one with me, or let me go.."Olivia said. Jay shook his head in tears and stopped the car and kissed her.

That had happened many years ago, it was rumored that the two doubled trees with flowers up in the tall hill was the same girl and man, one with each other.

Inside the tree, the man and girl hugged each other smiling happily.

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-The End-