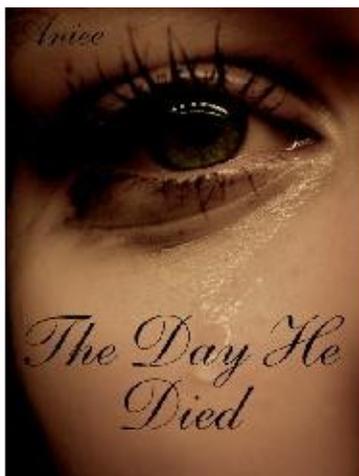


# The Day He Died (Originally called Not Another Ordinary Girl)

By : Aniee

Laurel isn't like other girls her age, she goes to a new school in a completely different country from which she once came, she can't speak the language, and most of all she misses her home. But will certain events in her new life break her, or will she overcome them?



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## Chapter 1: A new beginning

It was the first day back at school, actually no. This was a different school. When I was eight I remember how my mom always promised that we would move to France, I never really believed her, until now.

I woke up each morning to the soft fragrance of the roses outside my window, and the subtle smell of Pancakes that my father always made before heading out to work. I pushed the covers swiftly off my bed in a single kick and jumped up and pulled on some clothes before heading downstairs to get ready.

My daily routine was to take a shower, have breakfast and brush my teeth, then well. Put on my school uniform. But, today was different. I hadn't been to this school ever; I had some real preparing to do. I had to do my makeup, and my hair! And oh gosh, I had to practice some French otherwise I'd be clueless.

I looked down at my timetable and saw I had 4 classes throughout the day. For the first class I had Algebra, and then after that we had lunch. After lunch I'd have English and then Physics, and lastly at the end of the day I would do H.P.E.

When it was time to catch the bus I quickly brushed on some blush and applied some cherry flavoured lip gloss to my lips. I drooled at the taste.

The bus trip was fairly long, and I have to admit, quite boring. On the good side, I met a few people on it, a guy named Justin who seemed fairly nice, and a girl who looked about my age. By the time I got to school the bell had already rung. I cursed the bus for being late as I rushed into Algebra.

The class was quiet as I walked in. Awkwardly quiet to be honest. Thankfully the teacher broke into a chuckle and welcomed me to her class. She later introduced me to everyone and gave me a seat next to some girl who I later found out that her name was Cassie. I gave her a warm smile as I slouched down onto my seat. "Great." I thought "School once again" I excused my thoughts with a sigh as I pulled out my Algebra book and started taking notes down.

Just as I did this, a note flied past saying "Hi, what was your name again :)" I looked around for who had thrown this at me, but no one gave anything away. I replied and wrote "Laurel" on the paper, and after class left it on my desk.

I stayed behind awhile, just to see who would pick it up. But no one did, "weird" I thought to myself as I ran to my next class and barely got there in time. Today was going to be a long day.

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"Mum!" I yelled, annoyed and irritated. "Did you take my mascara, I can't find it anywhere?" She rushed into my room with a guilty smile on her face. "Where are you going?" I laughed and snatched the makeup from her.

"I have to go into town, but I'll be back tomorrow night." She said with a toothy grin. "Your father will be home early tonight, so don't worry." I folded my arms and looked at her with a filthy glare before turning back to the bathroom mirror.

"But mum, you said that we were going to go see the pictures tonight, remember?" I sighed, whilst applying the mascara. "What possibly could be that important?"

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I heard a loud noise coming from her purse, her phone obviously. I always had hated her ringtone. It was so loud and annoying, and well just plain stupid; and did I say annoying? When she first got it I use to cover my ears with my palms and tell her to turn it off. After a while, I got used to it. But that doesn't mean I like it.

She flicked her phone open and pressed it to her ear, mumbling something along the lines of "Mm, yes. Of course, no don't worry! I'll be there quite soon." And hanged up. I sighed and finished off my makeup before grabbing my bag and heading out the door. "Bye" I managed to squeak before the door slammed behind me.

"You should feel bad" I thought to myself. "You never have any time for me" I quickly cleared this thought from my mind as I waited for the bus. It took ages to come, to be more precise, about 20 minutes. As I got on the bus I breathed in and let out an annoyed huff. School really isn't going to be any more fun than it was yesterday I agreed with myself. Not normal Laurel got to stop doing that.

When we arrived at school, surprisingly we were early, and I have no clue how that even works out? I later asked a girl who happened to be walking by and she told me that first class was cancelled. So that meant I had English. I couldn't argue with that. I was quite good at English, unlike the other people in the class. Normally, we'd be studying "French" but I chose to study "English" instead, why you ask? Because I had a way better advantage then everyone else. I laughed at this.

In English I sit next to the guy I met on the bus. I believe his name was Justin. I purposely chose to sit next to him seeing as I knew no one else. After a while I found out he was born in Scotland and moved over here because it was way too cold over there. I also found out that his last name was "Dujeski" or something strange like that. I still can't pronounce it.

"Dew-Jess-Key" He explained. "That's an easier way to say it." I laughed at this. "Well, then" he said "What is your last name?"

"Prince" I laughed. "How Ironic, I know. But just because I'm from England, does not mean anything" He snickered at this.

"Well when I'm older I'd like to go to England" he explained "My grandfather lived there, he moved when he was just 3. And every month he'd send me a blog about what it was like to live there, very beautiful he would say"

This made me blush. "Well my mum didn't like it at all, she was in love with France. Long ago she told me of a time she met her true love here, and never saw him again. That's when she met dad, in England, at the time she was travelling everywhere when I was still in her stomach" I smiled at the non-existent memory.

"And now I'm here." I finished. By the time our conversation was over, so was English. I was glad for this.

Soon enough, the day too finished. And once again I walked to the bus stop, and went home.

When I got home after a long stressful day I signed onto Facebook to see if I had any friend requests, strangely I didn't. I shrugged this off. But when I looked again I saw I had a message, it was from Justin asking to hangout tomorrow because it was a public holiday. Of course I had said yes.

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Here I am, still in bed and I have to get ready and be there by 12. It's already 10:30 so I quickly get up and freshen myself off, and then I'm out.

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I meet Justin at the Theme park called "Frisson " In French this means "Thrill". When I got there it was huge. I mean, gigantic. There were massive rollercoasters in every part of the park, and heaps of arcade games.

"Shall we be on our way then?" Justin asked with a shy smile whilst grabbing me by the hand. "There's a heap to see" We both laughed and went to explore the park.

The first thing we decided to go on was the "Junkie Ride" which was this big tower that dropped when it got to the top. To be honest with you, I nearly pissed myself. It was that scary! After that we went onto one of the rollercoasters, and after that sat down for lunch.

Justin ordered Vegetarian Nachos while I had a ham and cheese sandwich with a coke. After scoffing down our meals, we went to the kids' area of the park and went on all the small kid rides, while laughing our head off.

By the time I got home it was 4. Dad was sitting down watching the cricket having a beer. "Where is mum?" I asked.

"Oh, her" he said with a distasteful face. "I don't know, she will be home when he is." I looked at him weirdly and then walked away. Why was he in such a foul mood?

## Chapter 2: A day too late

I could hear a rustling noise coming from my cupboard, so I got up to go and check it out.

I wasn't surprised when I saw my cat George scratching at the door, I must've locked him In last night when I was getting changed. I shrugged it off and headed down for breakfast.

I got to school really early today and went straight to Algebra where I sat down in my usual seat. I looked around the class to view the other students that I might've not seen before, and there in front of my eyes; was him.

I couldn't believe he was in my class. I swear to god, I had not seen him. "Hey!" Justin said as he wrapped me in a hug. "You look confused? Ha-ha, well I moved class because I didn't want to continue doing History. It was so boring. Mind if I sit here?"

I looked up into his eyes, and realised that they looked quite gloomy and deep. I shivered at the thought. "Yes of course, err I mean, no I don't mind if you sit here." I gave him a dopey smile. He smiled back.

After class Maggie, Justin and I went to the cafeteria and bought Spaghetti Bolognese for lunch. I sat there watching them both scoff it down while I sipped at my lemonade.

"How was everyone's weekend?" I asked. Maggie was the first to answer, as always. With Maggie she always had something to say, wether good or bad, she just wanted to be heard out.

"My weekend? Well, it was fantastic! I spent the weekend with my daddy up in Brookland, and I went shopping in all these fancy clothes stores, and bought this necklace. Don't you just love it?"

I nodded sympathetically, while waiting for Justin's reply. He swallowed. "Um, yeah my weekend was pretty good I guess." He blushed. "I got to hang out with this pretty amazing girl" As he said this he looked at me with those eyes, which made me melt.

"Oh, yeah! Ha-ha" I said, "Well. The holidays are coming up so that's great. I'm planning to maybe go camping. I was wondering if you guys want to join me?"

"Um â | I have to go" Justin said quickly before getting up and leaving the room. I stared at where he once was.

"That was weird, wasn't it Maggie?" She looked up from her food and smiled "What was?"

"Nevermind."

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The next day felt like it lasted forever. As usual I went to Algebra, and all my other classes after that.

But I couldn't quite understand why I hadn't heard from mum. Did mum and dad have a fight, or was she still busy at work, and that's why dad is angry? All these questions rattled through my mind unanswered.

I sighed as I walked to my last class, which was Sport. Honestly, I didn't feel like even going. I was exhausted enough as it is, and not to mention the stress I was feeling at that point. I was so worried about mum. Was she

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still alive?

I looked down at my phone, no texts and no missed calls. I held back some tears. "Where are you?" I whispered under my breath.

After class I went to the shops instead of going home. I figured I could use a break from some of the family issues.

I went to the Spa at the back of the mall and got my nails, and my toenails painted, I got my eyebrows plucked and my legs waxed. It felt good to finally spoil myself.

By the time I got home it was quite late, and dad had already fallen asleep on the couch, so I heaved myself up the stairs and fell onto my bed only to be welcomed by a deep sleep.

When I was asleep, I dreamed of being chased by a dark shadow in a dark house. Where was I? Was I still at my house? No, this place looked familiar, but I wasn't too sure.

I ran as fast as my legs could carry me, but it was no use. The dark figure was gaining on me. And then-

I was awake and breathing heavily. I pulled the blankets off my body to reveal my purple shirt and jeans I didn't bother changing out of the night before.

No, it wasn't even morning yet. What time was it? I went downstairs and looked at the clock, only to find it was three in the morning. I wasn't tired.

I opened up the fridge and took out a can of lemonade before finally going back up stairs and grabbing a book from the shelf. I might as well do something with my time, I thought as I took a gulp of lemonade and lay back down on my bed.

I awoke the next morning to my mums annoying ring tone. "What the hell" I stumbled as I fell out of bed and reached for her phone. "Hello?" I said. "Er this is Caitlyn's daughter, Laurel can I take a message?"

"Oh Laurel! Where is she? I haven't heard from her in a week." I could hear a crackling noise in the reception but ignored this.

"What do you mean? She's been with YOU the whole time. And I haven't even seen her yet, can you hold on just a minute?" I groaned as I clicked "end" on the phone. I hate these stupid prank calls.

I pulled myself up from the ground and threw myself into the shower, letting the steam envelope me. When I got out I quickly put on some clothes and raced down stairs. "Mum, are you here?" I beamed?

No answer. "Mum!" Once again, there was no reply. I ran into my dad's bedroom to see if she was sleeping there, nope. Then again, they hadn't been sleeping together since last year after this major fight neither of them told me about. Typical.

I opened her bedroom door as quietly as I could and urged myself in. "Mum..?" I mumbled under my breath. "You home?" I looked around, and saw nothing. Literally. Actually no, her bed had not even been touched from the last time she left. "Where are you?" I thought to myself.

I went back to the kitchen and pulled out some cereal and milk. I guess she just went to the mall, or to buy groceries? Atlest I know one thing, she's back from where ever she was.

## Chapter 3: The hookup

"So guess what Laurel?"

"What?" I sighed as I looked up from my research papers.

"Guess!" Maggie beamed, "Please try" She looked at me with those mysterious eyes, but gave nothing away.

"Um, you have a boyfriend?" I answered, without actually caring about what she was saying. The thing with her was, well I didn't actually like her that much. Not yet anyway, it's as if we didn't have this connection you have with a real friend. Maybe that's later to come.

"Yes!" She said with a toothy smile. "It's that guy from our class, your friend, Justin!". She smirked at this.

"Oh, that's cool yeah." I muttered, returning to writing my paper and editing a few grammar mistakes. "When did this happen?" I tried to sound interested, but it didn't work very well.

"Last night, when I was at this party, we kissed and here we are." She said fiddling with a tangle of brown hair while looking at something in the distance. Then she snapped back to me. "Aren't you happy for me Laurel?" She said with a sad smile.

"No, of course I am. Don't ever think that. I'm just really tired and I should probably get some rest."

She smiled at this. "Well okay, you could of just said so. Anyway, mum is going to come through with tea at 8, sort of late I know but she's never really planned a sleepover before. You're my first." She giggled.

"That sounds so wrong!" I laughed before grabbing a pillow and smacking her across the face. She did the same.

---

The next day I went to school quite happy in fact and went to my usual classes. "Hey Tinny" I joked while poking my tongue out at Justin. "I hear you and Maggie are getting serious?"

He looked down nervously. "Oh you heard about that huh?" He said quietly before taking out his algebra book. "It's true." He finally said as he slouched back onto his seat and opened up the text book.

I gave him the curious look, and he further explained. 'I went to Declan's party last night, and Maggie was there so we talked a bit. After a few drinks, things just got out of hand and â |' He mumbled. "Y'know?"

I could see his face going red and decided I should probably change the subject. "Yeah, oh. That sounds nice." I mentally slapped myself for saying this. "Oops, I meant. Never mind." He chuckled. "Well at least you had fun." I said before taking out a pen and nibbling at the top of it.

"Laurel? That's my pen." He started but then thought otherwise. "Keep it." He laughed while taking out his own and beginning his work. I could feel my cheeks burning. "You idiot." I thought to myself.

After class we met up with Maggie and went down to the field to have lunch. I pulled out my ham and cheese sandwich while they sat their silently talking to each other. I was very curious as to know what they were saying.

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"No, I don't think she does." I heard Maggie whisper. I listened closer, while pretending to just eat my lunch. "I guess you could always ask her, maybe she could find someone or we'll have to go with someone else."

I coughed. "Watcha guys talking about?" I questioned sternly. They both looked at each other, before looking back at me. "We were wondering if you wanted to double date this weekend."

I looked down at my lap. "I can't go." I thought to myself. "I have no one to go with, it'd be a nightmare." I took another bite of my sandwich "Sure." I finally said with little confidence. What am I getting myself into?

## Chapter 4: The three musketeers

Before I knew it the weekend was here, and as I expected I had no one to go with. I quickly jumped in the shower and shampooed my hair before getting out and changing into a floral dress with some boots. "Let's just get this over with" I sighed before brushing my golden blonde hair.

I applied some lip gloss and mascara before heading out and making my way to the Cinemas on San Delorue Street. It was quite busy there but I continued pushing past people until I got near the doors. The first person I saw was Justin.

He was wearing a sleek black suite with a tie, and Maggie was wearing a quite formal dress that reached her ankles. They looked quite the couple. But I wondered whether I should of dressed up a bit more, now I look like the odd one out.

Wait, no. Let me repeat that. I am the odd one out. I've come to a double date, with only me, myself and I. I hold back a tear as I greet them both with a hug and we make our way into the cinema.

"So Laurel." Maggie whispers across from me. "Where's your boy?" I could see Justin was pretending not to listen, but it was obvious that he was.

"He's â busy." I lied. "He said, he's sorry he couldn't make it." Finally, Justin turned around and joined the conversation. My heart sunk.

"Don't worry about it." He smiled. The way he said this made me feel like he knew that I what I was thinking. I shivered at the thought, he noticed.

"Are you cold?" He asked. Maggie playfully slapped him on the cheek.

"Gosh honey, you're suppost to ask your girlfriend that not some stranger." She laughed and poked him on the nose. He waited.

"Oh, no I'm not cold." I finally answered, after realising he was waiting for my reply. I really hate when he does that.

After the movie it started to rain, and in fact yes it was quite cold. I didn't want to admit this though. "I guess I'll see you girls at school." Justin said before giving us a slight wave.

"Bye!" Maggie screeched as she ran up and gave him a big smooch on the cheek before getting into her car. I turned away to make my long walk back home. I at this point realised I should of brought a car, but the weather was so lovely I decided to walk. Big mistake.

When I was halfway there I saw a black car parked on the street, the lights where still on. I looked to see if anyone was in it, but I couldn't see anyone. "Jackass." I whispered under my breath just as tripped over a soaked log.

I pulled myself up from the ground only to hear a rip coming from the bottom of my dress. "Noâ!" I wept as I gathered the frilly bottom of my dress and pulled it up to my knees. I continued to walk but bumped into a tall figure who smelt of light cologne. I looked up.

"Laurel." He said. "What are you doing?"

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I looked down at what I was wearing, my dress was covered in mud, and my boots soaked. For the rest of me, I just assumed the worst. "Justinâ" I gasped before falling into his arms.

"Are you alright?" He asked. "I saw someone fall over, and then when I found out it was you-"

"I'm okay!" I said, in denial. I obviously wasn't. "I just need to get home." I whispered before continuing my long journey home.

I felt a tight grip on my hand. "Wait, I'll drive.

## Chapter 5: The imagination of the mind

When Justin was driving me home I couldn't help but turn on the radio, I really did hate awkward silences.

"Err, let me get that for you" he said quickly while trying to tune it.

"No, It's okay." I said while brushing his hand away. His hands were as cold as ice. And for that split second I swear something inside of me died. He sensed that I noticed this, as we briefly locked eyes for what seemed like minutes, but was a few seconds.

"Umâ !" I stumbled for words. What should I say? Now this was defiantly Awkward, and to be honest a little freaky.

"Laurel." He said in a whisper. But it was too late, we had already reached my place and I stumbled to get out as fast as I could.

I ran to the door to get out of the rain, and turned around to find he wasn't there anymore. Scared, and panicked I unlocked the house with the keys to find no one home, so I sprinted up the stairs into my room, and locked the door.

Just as I was getting changed I heard a tapping noise at my window. I turned around and saw nothing, so I opened it and looked around. "I seriously must have mental issues." I thought as I closed the window.

"Don't be scared." A voice startled me. When I heard this, I slowly turned to find Justin standing there next to my cupboard. Except, it wasn't him. It couldn't have been? He looked a lot paler, his hair was a lot darker and his eyes instead of blue were gray.

I was about to run when strong arms held me in place, and a pair of lips were forced against mine. I tried to stifle a scream, but when it came out, everything went back to normal and he was no longer there.

That night I cried myself to sleep, and when I did eventually sleep, I slept for a long, long time. Hoping that when morning came, everything would be right again. But morning never did come, instead I was welcomed by a series of dreams after dreams.

And then, more dreams after that.

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"Mummy, mummy. Where are you mummy?" I could hear myself cry. "Mom, please I'm scared! I can't find you." I could feel the rain fall onto my face as I trenched through the gloomy forest. "Mom!?" I cried.

But there was no answer. Not even a whisper from the trees. I continued walking along the narrow path, hoping to come to a clearing and to find my mom. "Mum, don't go please. I love you." I could hear myself say. But it was no use. She was gone, and I was alone.

I could hear a soft buzzing music coming from the trees, and so I turned and started toward it. "Mum are you there?" Soon enough, I could hear her ring tone, and as I got closer to it, it got louder and I eventually found her phone. I gripped it tightly and held it against my chest before flipping it open and checking the messages. "Caitlyn, I need to know you still love me, I can't stop thinking about you. Please return my calls. ~Floyd" At this point in time I was so angered and chucked the phone on the ground. "Mum, how could you do this to

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me!" I cried with my hands over my face.

"I'm sorry."

## Chapter 6: The boy magnet

When I awoke from my sleep it felt as if I had slept forever. It felt like everything in my dream was completely real, but that was impossible.

I tried to remember what I had dreamt about that night, but nothing came to my mind, so I shrugged the whole thing off and got ready for school.

Today was a lot colder than usual, freezing in fact; that I decided to throw on my old cardigan to wrap around myself.

Luckily when I got to class I was welcomed by a gush of warm air that filled the room. I sighed in bliss. Thank god.

I took my usual seat in English and gave Justin a quick hug before pulling out my work. "How'd you sleep?" He asked. I looked at him confused, but answered anyway. "What seemed like forever."

He laughed at this, and then nodded. "Yeah, you weren't at school yesterday â" As he said this it looked like he wanted to take it back. I looked up at him.

"What do you mean?" Well that was strangely confusing, I laughed to myself.

"Nevermind." He said while giving a quick smile. Then looking down. "Um, Debbie broke up with me." He said quickly before taking out a pen and pretending to do work.

"I'm sorry." Was all I could manage. He looked at me when I said this and looked a bit sad. He then said something that I could not hear, but I assumed he was just talking to himself. He must be sad that his girlfriend is gone.

When it was lunch time we would usually meet up with Debbie, but because they were no longer going out, they were no longer friends. I knew this because I knew how Debbie was. Always changing guys.

By the time we got outside the cool air filled my lungs. "Let's go sit under that tree." I suggested.

As we got closer, I could feel the weather changing, and not for the good. "Why is it so cold?" I said, rubbing my hands together.

"Hmm." Was all Justin said as he took my hands and rubbed them against his. When we finally sat down under the tree I could see the faint frost covering the grass. Luckily Justin had bought a big jacket that we sat on, otherwise our butts would have been wet. I giggled when I thought this.

"What?" He asked with soft, but gloomy eyes. I glanced up at him and shrugged.

"Oh, nothing." I said, looking at my hands. He placed his hand in mine, and a smile sneaked onto my face. "You're wearing gloves today huh?" I asked quietly.

"Yeah. My hands are always quite cold." He murmured. I nodded in agreement. It was probably some sort of medical condition, so I didn't want to talk further about it, and neither did he.

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I reached into my purse and pulled out a wine bottle as a spur of the moment kind of thing. "You carry that around everywhere?" He asked with a teasing tone in his voice.

"No, not really." I laughed while popping it open. "Do you want some?"

I could feel his chest move against mine as he reached to take it in his gloved hand. "Of course I do." He said as he placed his lips against the opening and took a gulpful. I couldn't help watching him as he did this.

And then it was my turn to take a sip, I did, trying to look as graceful as possible. This failed, actually this majorly failed. When I tipped the wine into my mouth, it didn't exactly go where I wanted it too. Instead I could feel the cold liquid dripping down the side of my neck.

"Haha." Justin chuckled while brushing the wine off my cheek. "You're so clumsy" he smiled. I smiled back as I took a napkin out of my bag and cleaned up my neck. "Why'd you do that?" He asked. "I could have cleaned that up for you." He said whilst winking. This made my cheeks burn red.

After lunch I headed to English where once again Justin sat next to me. "What's up with that?" I thought.

Anyway, halfway through the lesson we had a new student. A foreign exchange from America who's name we later found out was David. He was quite tall, tanned and had brown hair, I guess he was alright in attractiveness department, but was defiantly not my type. At all. "You can sit next to Laurel." Mrs Duncan said with a toothy smile. He returned it.

"Hello." He said while taking my hand in his and giving it a shake.

"It's nice to meet you too." I said with a fake grin. I could see Justin looking at me sadly, maybe he missed Maggie. I think I might go and talk to her after class and try get them back together. Hopefully he will be happier then.

"You're very pretty." David said quickly while waiting for my response. I didn't reply. I just sat there staring at him awkwardly.

"You think so?" I said finally. Honestly I didn't really like guys who were a bit forward, and possibly a bit clingy; which I could tell he was.

After class I grabbed my books and pilled them into my bag. "Bye!" David said as he gripped my shoulder and left. What the heck was that about?

"So I guess I'll see you around." Justin said while pulling me into a hug, which I returned. "You're so warm." He said. I laughed.

"Well I got to go, talk to someone." I said quiet enough for him to just hear, and with that I was off.

I found Maggie in the Cafeteria sitting next to Veronica from my H.P.E class. "Hey girls." I smiled, looking especially at Maggie. "Can I talk to you Maggie?" I asked as sternly as possible. She hesitated, but nodded.

"What do you want?" She said with a chuckle in her voice. I looked over her shoulder and saw Justin sitting down by himself. Her eyes followed mine. "Oh. I see?"

"Why'd you dump him?" I asked, looking quite upset about it myself. "He really liked you."

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"No he didn't." She frowned. "I dumped him because he told me he liked someone else. I was angry. Don't you get it?" I agreed.

"So if he doesn't like you then who does he like?" I said, now curious.

"You."

## Chapter 7: The confrontation

I was startled. How on Earth could somebody as fantastic as him, like someone as boring, ugly and stupid as me? It seemed improbable. No, Laurel. Just shut up and stop being so negative, you're clearly not that bad â

I looked from Maggie to Justin who gave me a shy wave. "Are you serious?". She nodded stiffly then looked my direction and sighed. "I don't know what to do now Maggie." I whispered. "How do I face him?" She looked at me with pity in her eyes, but shook it off.

"Laurel, you're a beautiful girl, and you should be glad he likes you. Pretty much everyone in the school likes you." She replied. "Anyhow you just have to get used to it I guess. Like how I have to get use to him liking you." She breathed in deeply. "Anyway, it was nice seeing you, but I really have to go." She said before kissing both of my cheeks, I smiled in return. Yeah, really got to get used to that now I'm in France.

After my short conversation with Maggie I was determined to make me and Justin's friendship work, and maybe one day if things changed, well I guess it would be for the better. I fixed my hair in a single movement of the hand before approaching Justin where he sat. He looked up at me with those deep, blue eyes; that I really loved. He sorta reminded me of one of my best friends back in England, who looked nearly like him, except he had blonde hair and green flecks in his eyes.

With Justin he had really pale skin, sort of the like snow, and dark blue eyes that looked like the ocean on a stormy night. Most of the time he wore a V-neck shirt with formal pants and sometimes even a tie. He didn't wear glasses that much, only when he was reading, but in my opinion he looked great with and without them.

I slumped down on the seat next to him and gave him a short smile. What was I suppose to say? Should I just keep on going how we use to and pretend I never heard a thing? Or maybe I should just be upfront and explain my feelings towards him and nothing more? I pulled out a bottle of water and took a gulp before turning around to him. "Hi." I said, trying to sound as normal, non-effected as possible. "So, Maggie told me why you guys â broke up." I finally admitted while casually returning my lips the to the drink bottle to pretend that it didn't bother me. In fact, I'm not entirely sure if it does bother me, I just don't know how to react.

I guess I knew he sort of liked me, deep down I knew. He gave off a lot of subtle hints, but I just pretended they were nothing. After all I remember one time in Primary I thought this guy (Ramond) liked me, when in fact he just wanted to be my best friend. That's whom I was talking about before, the guy with blue eyes and blond hair, y'know? Anyway I guess things are different now, and I just have to deal with it. "Oh, she told you?" He said, now quite shy. I could tell he was blushing as a red shade appeared on his neck, and eventually on his cheeks. It was kind of cute I must admit.

"Not exactly." I stifled a laugh. "I asked her why she dumped you, and I guess she told me the full story. Which you didn't." I said, with curious eyes. "But I just want to let you know that it's fine with me. But. I don't know if I want to be in a relationship right now. There's so much going on in my life, that I'm confused about. Like, my mother. I haven't even seen her for weeks now." I said, as a tear fall down my cheek. He didn't wipe it away. If he did, I probably would of moved his hand.

"I'm really sorry about that." He said, now looking down at his palms. At this point I felt terrible for bringing my issues onto him, so I gave him a soft pat on the back and told him it didn't matter. He obviously thought it did as he wrapped his arms around my waist and began to cry himself. I have no idea why he was crying, but I thought I'd be best if I just hugged him back and listened to him for once.

## The Day He Died (Originally called Not Another Ordinary Girl)

"I didn't mean to do it." He said softly. Not sure who he was talking to, but I assumed he was talking to himself (again). "I'm so sorry." He whimpered. I pulled him closer and rested my head on his shoulder, giving off a quick sigh. After a while of his continuous sobbing he pulled away and looked at me. "I haven't been entirely honest with you Laurel." He said as he looked into my eyes deeply. This made me shudder.

"What do you mean Justin?" I said, now very confused. Once again. Nothing in my life never made any sense, and right now I was more confused than ever. "It's alright, whatever it is. I forgive you." I said as I placed my lips to his cold cheeks. "Let's get you home, you're a wreck." I said, trying to fake a smile.

When I got to my car I unlocked it quickly and ushered Justin into the front seat, and pulled out of the School car park. Thank god we were in College, because they don't really care if we go to school or not once we reach a certain age. Actually, some of my teachers don't mark our class role anymore. I think it's suppose to be some sort of maturity thing, any who that didn't really matter. All that mattered to me now, was to make Justin feel better. Obviously something was bothering him, and since guys don't cry much, it must be really bad.

"How are you feeling?" I asked as I pulled onto the main street, and headed past the local coffee shop and the general store, and then went left. On the first day of school Justin told me he was renting an apartment at the "Griffoure Inn" which wasn't very far from school. Soon enough we were pulling into the car park. I took my keys out and turned to him.

"Bad." He whispered. I grabbed his hand and pulled him out of the car and lead him to the room (74), which he was currently staying in. As we walked in I looked around the room to see a small, old fashioned apartment with a nice view looking out over the ocean. There was a mini fridge, and his bed all cramped into one room, and then there was another room which I assumed was his bathroom, at the moment I didn't bother to check.

I looked out of the window and saw waves roughly smashing against the shore, and clouds threatening to storm over the small town we lived in. I turned to him and decided I should probably say something as we hadn't talked since being in the car. But for some reason, I had no idea what to say. It was as if this lump in my throat was blocking any noise from coming out. Now, being here in his small room, I felt sort of claustrophobic, and awkward and all these strange thoughts that I didn't want in my head.

Justin was the first to say something, and thank god he broke this silence between us, because I certainly did not have the nerve too. "I'm feeling a bit better." He said looking out over the ocean, thinking about something that I couldn't possibly imagine. He turned back to me before clearing his throat. "Did you want a drink?" He asked quietly, averting his gaze from mine, avoiding something.

"Sure." Was all I could manage, and thankfully that was all that needed to be said. He passed over a cold can of sprite before opening his own one and taking a sip and putting it down. He then walked around his room trying to find something to do instead of talking to me, well so I assumed. No, he wouldn't do that. He must just have something going on in his life that is giving him a hard time.

And like him, so did I. I was worried where my mother was, I kept having nightmares of her dying, and now I'm starting to think that she's not coming back. Later that night I talked to my dad about the dreams I was having. "Honey. Your not like everyone else." He said, before thinking of what to say next. "You're physic. You can see things in your dreams, that most of the time, may actually be real." He said, with a single tear escaping his eyes. "It hasn't been confirmed. But, I do think that something has happened, and whatever it is, your not going to like it."

This broke me.

## Chapter 8: Kissing under the tree

In my dreams I could see her. She was so happy, applying lipstick to her lips. "Where are you going mummy?" I would ask her, fascinated by what she was doing.

"I'm going out." She would say with a cheeky grin on her face. This always lit up my world.

"Aren't you going to watch my performance mummy? You said you would."

"I'm sorry darling. I'm just a bit busy"

I remember times like those when I was very young, I honestly did think she was just busy, but what I didn't know, was what she was busy doing.

"Mummy are you going to be coming back?" I would ask with a glistening hope in my eyes, always knowing that her reply to my question would be yes.

"Yes. Ofcourse I am darling, I'd never leave you."

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The next day at school I decided to skip first lesson as I was such a mess and couldn't be bothered facing anyone. When lunch time came around, I went to the old oak tree down at the field so I could sit down in peace.

As I was getting out my vege wrap I saw a figure standing before me. "Oh it's you." I said with a sad smile. "Come sit." He did exactly that.

As usual, the weather was close to freezing but the strange thing was Justin wasn't even wearing a jumper. "Are you cold?" I asked with suspicion. He thought for a moment and then nodded, urging himself closer to me. I could feel his skin brushed up against mine, and for once in the whole time I knew him, he was warm. I noticed he wasn't wearing gloves today, infact he didn't need to.

I looked up into his eyes and for once in my life could really see the history behind them. He looked sad, and heartbroken as if something terrible had happened to him in his life, but also looked so happy and peaceful. Before I knew it I could feel myself closing my eyes and leaning closer to him, being embraced by his firm arms and the heat of his body next to mine. I could feel his breath against my face as I continued leaning in for the kiss, and so did he. His lips softly brushed up against mine before he pulled back to look at me. "Is this okay?" he asked in a whispered hush. I nodded quickly before wrapping my arms around his neck and bringing his lips back to mine. As I kissed him I could feel my heart racing faster and my body yearning for him. He picked up on this as he slowly pushed me down onto my back and continued to kiss me passionately.

Not long after that the bell decided to ring. We both quickly brushed off our clothes and walked to class, hand in hand.

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In H.P.E I couldn't stop thinking about the kiss we shared on the field that day, it was more than a kiss, it was as if he was ready to open up to me about everything. I only needed to give him more time.

## The Day He Died (Originally called Not Another Ordinary Girl)

"Hello." David said with a smile. I quickly turned around, startled by his voice. He was wearing a long basketball shirt with gym shorts. "It's nearly valentines day." He said with a smirk on his face. Obviously it was, wasn't it? "I was wondering if you wanted to be my valentines."

"No!" I said, a little too quickly. "I don't like you, alright. Please go away." He ignored this and decided to hang around a little longer, just to piss me off. I really wanted to punch that pretty little face off him.

"Is this douche bag bothering you?" Justin said as he approached. I nodded and then wrapped my arm in his. "She said go away, so I'd do it if I were you." This made David snicker.

"Oh really? Maybe you should be a bit more honest with your little girlfriend over here." He said while averting his eyes to me, too look me up in down. I swear I was going to vomit. "He hasn't told you has he?"

"Leave." Justin said, stepping forward. Justin was much taller than David, and honestly looked way more intimidating.

"Whatever, just don't come crying to me when she hates you for it." He winked, and with that, he was gone.

"What was that about?" I questioned Justin. He looked down guiltily but ignored my question. I really hated when he did that, but he must not be ready to tell me. So I shall wait.

After class I went home with Justin to his apartment, and lied down on his bed reading my favourite magazine "Vouge". He slumped down beside me and gave me a quick smile before rolling over and falling asleep. He slept for what seemed like hours, and well. Was hours. But I couldn't care less, I was stuck into the book of fashion, it was a real getaway for me.

After a couple of hours I grew hungry so I decided to write a note for Justin just in case he woke up while I was buying dinner. "Hey, Justin. I'm just going out to pick up something to eat. I won't be too long!"

When I got back, he was awake and more happy than ever to see me. "I got Chinese." I said with a cheesy grin. He welcomed me with a tight embrace which made my heart melt. "Justin, can I ask you something?" I said, now shy as I put down the food on the bench.

He hesitated for a moment. "Of course." He finally said. I walked over to him and brushed my lips quickly against his.

"Do you like me?" I asked, quietly. But loud enough for him to hear me. He looked down at the ground and sighed.

"No. I don't like you." He murmured. "I love you, Laurel." With this he pulled me to him and placed his arms around my waist before pulling me onto the bed and lying on top of me. "And I really hope you feel the same way."

I couldn't believe what he had just said. "He. Loved. Me?" Was he serious? At this time my heart felt like it was one again, that every worry in the world was fixed by those three beautiful words. I closed my eyes and softly placed my lips against his for a few seconds before pulling back and looking into his eyes. "I love you too." I said while wrapping my arms around his back. "But, I'm hungry." I giggled while pushing at his chest. He quickly jumped off the bed and headed for the kitchen. I followed.

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## The Day He Died (Originally called Not Another Ordinary Girl)

That night I didn't return home to see my miserable dad, I just couldn't face him. Instead I tried to block out the memory of mom and just move on, I couldn't let it get to me.

"Are you cold?" Justin asked as he began to shut the window. I nodded while pulling the blanket up to my chin. "That's not good." He said as he walked over and got in himself. He cuddled up to me and I rested my cheek on his arm. His body heat was amazing.

"That's a lot better." I said with a grin. He leaned over and kissed me on the nose.

"Goodnight Laurel." He said as he placed his arm back around my waist. I could feel the hotness of his body against mine, and for some reason this disallowed me to sleep, and for him I assumed that to, because he couldn't seem to take his eyes off me. "You're beautiful." He said with a cheeky grin on his face.

Nothing happened after that, even though I really hoped that something would. We both went to sleep peacefully and woke up to be welcomed by the weekend. Cheers for that.

## Chapter 9: She returns to say goodbye

When I got home I could tell my dad was angry at me, very angry in fact. "Where have you been?" He shouted furiously.

I averted my eyes from his gaze and walked over to the kitchen to pour myself a glass of water. "At school of course." I replied whilst taking a sip. He was not pleased.

"You know what I mean!" He said while grabbing me by the hair and tugging hard.

"Ow." I screamed, trying to escape his grasp, but it was just no use. I could smell the whiskey on his breath, "Not again." I thought to myself.

Ever since I was much younger he would always go get himself piss drunk, especially when he was sad and upset about something, and when momma wasn't around he would take his substance abuse out on me.

"Go back to wherever you came from, bitch!" He shouted before slapping my face in one hard blow, this left me crying and running to my room.

"I hate you!" I cried as I pounded up the stairs, into my room and locked the door. I could feel the slap was already bruising into my epidermal layer of skin. I sulked quietly as I slid down the door and held my knees to my chest. "I miss you mum." I whispered before pulling myself together and hoping into bed.

That night, sleep didn't come, and for once I was fairly happy because ever since mum went missing all I did was dream about her, being here. With me, holding me tight. I just couldn't take it anymore.

I rolled over on my bed and looked out the window at the night stars, and let the cool breeze from the window caress my face as it drafted past. I smiled at the coolness against my cheek.

But just as soon as this occurred, the weather suddenly changed, much colder in fact, and the wind seemed to pick up a notch; or two, or three! Suddenly everywhere I looked papers were flying about my room, I quickly threw myself out of bed to close the window. "Hurricane." I thought, now scared. I turned back around to get back in bed when I noticed a tall figure standing behind me.

He had long black hair, deep blue eyes, pale skin and a cheeky smile written all over his face. I couldn't believe my eyes, was it really him?

I walked forwards to embrace him only to fall through and hit my head on the bed frame. "Ouch." I sighed before looking up at him. "Justin?"

He nodded before looking down at the ground, with tears in his eyes. "I'm not human Laurel" he said quickly before looking back up at me to see my response.

Except I didn't have one, all I could do was wonder what the hell was going on. I must be dreaming, surely I'm dreaming. Aren't I?

I pinched myself. Nope. You are not dreaming Laurel. Now I was scared. "What are you?" I whispered quietly that I could barely hear myself.

## The Day He Died (Originally called Not Another Ordinary Girl)

"I'm dead." Was his response. "I'm a ghost Laurel. Don't you remember that scrunched up paper chucked on your desk on the first day? I threw that, and when your cat was locked in your closet; that wasn't your fault." He sighed before continuing. "The weather, is cold; because whenever I'm upset that's how the weather looks, and when I'm happy it's warm." He said quickly before scratching his head, and how I'm cold, and then warm? That's because it is a reflection of my emotions. I don't know why it works that way but it just does." He said, now sniffing.

"I wanted to tell you, but I had no idea how to, and I know your scared, but I just want you to know I'd never do anything to hurt you." He whispered, leaning towards me.

I just stood there shocked, emotionless, and finally got the courage to say something. "What about my dreamsâ !?"

He laughed sadly. "My doing. It's because I'm trying to tell you something Laurel, and I hope you want to know because I really need to get this off my chest."

I nodded slowly and looked at him with confusion in my eyes. "How I died, it. Well it wasn't the best." He sighed. "I was murdered, really brutally, and I've come back because I needed to give you a message. About â your mother." He frowned then looked away. "It's not good."

"Is she dead?" I asked, trying not to let tears escape my eyes. He saw this and walked over to me and placed a cold kiss on my cheek; I shivered. "Is she?" He nodded softly before pulling me into his arms.

"I love you Laurel, and I want you not to be upset, because she doesn't want you too be." He said while caressing my cheek. "She's here." I turned around quickly to see my mother standing right before my eyes, she was wearing a red dress and her hair was pulled into a high ponytail, it wasn't blonde anymore, but it was brown.

"Mum â !" I cried before running into her arms and sobbing. "Don't leave me." She brushed her hand through my hair, before kissing my head softly.

"I'm sorry darling. I'm only here to tell you that you need to move on, I can't be here long, I have to pass through." She smiled softly before hugging me again. "I never wanted this to happen, and I need to ask a favour." She said finally.

"Anything?" I replied looking at her cautiously, she showed no emotion.

"Move out, your dad cannot take this, and I don't feel happy knowing you are around him. There are many things I haven't told you about him. He's not your father." She whispered. "Your father is the mysterious no named guy who I met here in France, I still haven't found him, I don't think I ever will. But he now knows you aren't his, and now that I'm not around. I can't protect you." She sighed before pinching both my cheeks and turning toward Justin. "Look after her." She smiled at him before disappearing.

Once again, I was torn apart, but at least I knew that she was alright and wanted me to be happy again. A tear of happiness slipped down my cheek just as Justin placed a hand on my cheek and brought his lips to mine.

"Come with me." He whispered against my lips, and so I did.

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## The Day He Died (Originally called Not Another Ordinary Girl)

As usual I went to school and pretended my life was fairly normal, guess how that turned out? Luckily no one noticed a thing, especially how Justin looked at me when we were sitting at the cafeteria. "Stop it." I murmured before kicking his leg. He laughed and picked up his lasagne with a fork and took a bite out of it.

I leaned closer to him, "Thanks for letting me stay at yours, it really means a lot." I said while drinking some water. "But. I'm still taking this in, and I'm sorry if I don't fully understand everything." He nodded understandably and squeezed my hand.

"Don't worry Laurel, it's fine. I'm just glad you didn't go screaming and running for the window." He joked. I laughed at this.

"Well you never had hurt me before I didn't know, so that's how I knew you wouldn't be any different when I did know." I stated, before picking up my subway sandwich and taking a huge mouthful, it was so delicious.

After school I decided to catch the bus to his, as my car kept malfunctioning, as always and I only got it working. "Oh well." I thought just as I was about to get onto the bus.

"Wait, come with me?" Justin asked as he pulled me by the hand, I followed. "What, can't my girlfriend join me for a little cruise?" He chuckled. I blushed at the word 'girlfriend'. It made me feel, special in a way.

When we got to his car I quickly got in and clicked the belt in place before turning over to him and smiling. He smiled back, one of those dashing smiles that he always did. It made my heart skip a beat.

"I love you."

## Chapter 10: Far from home

When the holidays came all I could do was think about the camp that I was going to be holding. Maggie, Justin and I were all going to go they had agreed after hours of nagging.

On our way to the camp grounds I could see the beautiful view of the mountains, and bush land that passed us. I could smell the pine trees and grass as I inhaled the fresh air through my nose.

As soon as we arrived I bounced out of the car happily with my sleeping bag, pillow and bag of clothes and other items under my arm. I dropped it all to the ground as I twirled around and looked at the site. It was amazingly beautiful and open. Thankfully no one else had bothered to book reservations, so for now it was all ours.

I began to set up my tent with the help of Justin by my side. Surprisingly he was really good at putting it all together. Soon after completing mine he went onto his and finished it within 5 minutes. At this stage I was thoroughly impressed. He smiled his dazzling smile at me as he took a chug of water from his bottle before throwing it to me. "Here you go." He chuckled before gathering his belonging and chucking them inside the tent.

A few hours later Maggie turned up in her Green Convertible. She gave a loud honk as she greeted us with a wave of the hand. She was wearing her pink blouse with denim shorts and strappy heels. "What was up with that?" I thought to myself with a dopey grin on my face.

She got out of her expensive car and gave us both a long, heart felt hug. I could smell the strawberry shampoo on her hair as she pulled away, and gave a soft smile. "You two make a cute couple." She said lightly before averting her gaze from Justin to me. "Well, who wants to help me make up my tent?" She giggled and grabbed her things from the boot.

I looked over at Justin who was picking at his nails. "I'll help!" I said, purposely loud enough for Justin to hear. He looked up and coughed.

"Mm." Was all he managed to say. I let out an angry huff as I picked up Maggie's equipment and walked over to a spot before helping her set it up.

When night fell, so did the weather, in fact it was bitterly cold. I shivered as I removed my clothes and pulled up a night gown that just reached above the knee. It was a light blue colour with floral patterns up the side.

I then slipped into my cozy sleeping bag as I turned off my torch and settled myself for sleep.

In the morning I awoke to the smell of eggs being cooked and the sounds of birds singing above us. I quickly got changed, brushed my teeth before pulling the tent open and walking out; with my hair still a mess. "Hey Justin." I yawned as I stroked his hair, making a smile light up onto his face.

"Good morning beautiful." He said before looking up at me and pulling me in for a kiss.

"I need to go take a shower." I said quickly before slipping on my boots and walking over to the public showers. I let my clothes drop to the floor as I turned on the tap, only to be welcomed by cool water. I slowly stepped into it before soaking my hair and rubbing soap all over my body in a lather.

## The Day He Died (Originally called Not Another Ordinary Girl)

The water was refreshing and woke me up very nicely I thought as I headed out and sat down on a log before being served a cheesy omelette. " Thanks." I smiled up at Justin as I took a mouthful of the food and chewed slowly. "It's great" I chuckled before continuing to eat it. He sat beside me and ate his too.

"Oh, I almost forgot to tell you. My friend Samuel is coming over from Scotland." He said. "He's going to be here tomorrow."

I nodded and forced a smile. "Cool." I managed to say. But what I was really thinking? I'm not sure. But I just had this bad feeling about this - after all Justin isn't normal, so I have no idea what his friends are like. But maybe I'm just over analysing everything. I'm sure he's a cool guy. We shall see.

I could hear a rattling coming from maggies tent as she zipped it open and crawled out, phone in hand. "No! Just shut up okay? I told you not to bring it up!" She huffed into the phone before she hung up and chucked her mobile back into the tent. She turned around, surprised to see us even up at this time and mumbled "Sorry." Under her breath before grabbing a towel and stomping off. I sighed as I returned my plate to the bench and grabbed a cool bottle of water before taking a gulp and nervously looking over at Justin who was smiling to himself. I could see he was truly happy, even his eyes were lit up. I scooted over closer to him on the log and stretched my long legs over his.

He looked over at me and I could see a sly smile forming at the sides of his lips. I could feel my cheeks burning as he gazed straight into my eyes. He soon entwined his fingers with mine as we sat there in complete silence. It was like pure serenity, I had thought. I snuggled up closer to him and rested my head against his collar bone, I could smell the musky scent of his cologne as I breathed in his aroma. I could feel his chest racing faster and his heart beating in sync with mine. I looked up at him and smiled, he returned it before slowly closing his eyes and placing his lips softly against mine, and although we had kissed many times before, it felt as if it was the first time. I could feel my breath getting heavier as I kissed him back, our tongues dancing with the other. His hand caressed my cheek in soft strokes before bringing my jaw even closer to his. My body heat rose as I leaned into him more and wrapped my arms loosely around his neck, and with a single light he placed me up onto his lap, my legs wrapped around his waist as we continued to give each other sweet kisses. I moaned softly against his lips as I pulled back to take a deep breath before going in again.

"Um, what the hell?" Maggie yelled at us as she chucked her shampoo against my back. I immediately released my grip off Justin and got off his lap before looking guiltily at her. She snorted before shaking her head and going back into her tent to read a book.

I looked at Justin as soon as she left, and we both laughed. I knew this trip was going to great.

## Chapter 11: The new guy

"Why hello, I believe it is Laurel isn't it?" Samuel said with a shy smile on his face before looking away at something.

"Yeah so you've heard." I giggled before poking Justin in the rib who entwined his fingers with mine.

"As a matter of fact I have actually." He said a grin twisting at the edges of his lips. "He talks a lot about you." He finally said before gesturing towards Maggie. "And you must be Laurels friend." He murmured before reaching over to take her hand and shake it. Odd, I thought. He seems a bit old fashioned.

"So Justin will we be sharing tents?" He asked with a hand reaching for his bag. Justin hesitated before looking over at me, giving me a wink.

"No, need my space and all." He said softly before pulling me into a hug and continuing. "But if you need help we've had plenty of practice" he laughed then told me to go help him, I started but then gave in and nodded.

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"So Samuel." I said trying to make conversation. "How do you know Justin?" He looked up from the supplies and gave a knowing sigh.

"We met in Primary School. We were in the same classes together." He smiled before thinking back to old memories as a frown appeared on his face; and as soon as this happened he forced it back and smiled again. I could see the hurt in his eyes but didn't bother to ask what the matter was, it was probably personal.

He looked out over at the lake which was now glistening in the sun, and thank god we finally had some sun up here because for weeks it had been raining brutally, so it was fresh knowing that the rest of the week would be hot.

Samuel's gaze came back to mine before averting his eyes and adding. "We've had so many memories together, the good and the bad." I simply just nodded, because there was nothing I could say. I just didn't know anything about him.

I looked at Samuel closely as his eyes drifted from my face all the way down to my feet and back up. I could feel his gaze burning into my body as he did this, but pretended I didn't even notice. He chuckled before looking over Justin who was playing Chess with Maggie. It was obvious that Maggie was winning, and without even needing to look I knew she would win because she once told me how she had been captain of the chess team last year at the High school. I smiled at the thought.

"So Laurel." Samuel whispered "Has Justin even shown you around France yet?" This question caught me off guard as I stuttered to find the right words, nothing came out so Instead I shook my head and looked down at the grass.

As I did this I could feel his hand brushing up against my cheek, and then slowly tucking a loose strand of hair behind my ear, before pulling away and smiling. "Sorry, it was just in the way of your beaut-" He looked down. "Um face. Yeah, it was sort of annoying." He lied as he picked up his tools and continued to put his tent together. This action left me startled and confused, so I got up from where we were sitting down and headed into my tent to drift into a dreamless nap.

## The Day He Died (Originally called Not Another Ordinary Girl)

And then, before I knew it. I was awake. I unzipped the tent to be bitten my mozzies as I walked out. I could smell the scent of burning wood as I was welcomed by a warm blaze and camp fire in the middle of all our tents. I quickly walked back into my tent to grab some mosquito repellent before quickly applying it all over my arms and legs. I then turned around to walk out only to be confronted by Justin who put a single finger to my lip and pushed me over back onto the air mattress and the comfort of the blankets. He wrapped his legs around mine as he brought his warm lips down on me. I struggled but finally pushed him off and giggled. "Hey I know what you're thinking." I quickly said. "But I don 't want that, not just yet." I smiled. He nodded in disappointment but pulled me onto his chest where my cheek rested on his shoulder, and my arm around his waist. We lay there for what seemed like hours before I rolled over to fetch my bag and pull out some marshmallows. "Care to join me?" I smiled as I popped open the packet and placed one into his mouth. He laughed before grabbing my wrist and pulling me out of the tent so we could sit down on the logs near the camp fire and cook marshmallows together.

I could smell the bunt marshmallow as I turned it around in the flame, I loved cooked marshmallows as the outside was always crunchy and the inside nice and sticky and warm, I drooled just about thinking about it.

I carefully pulled the stick away from the fire and let it cool before picking it off with my fingers and putting the marshmallow into my mouth, it tasted so good. I could see Justin chuckling out of the corner of my eye which made me burst out laughing and some of my marshmallow coming out.

He continued laughing which made my cheeks flush and my embarrassment rise. Shortly afterwards Maggie decided to come and join us for a midnight snack, she was wearing her underwear and nothing else, and I have to admit she looked stunning. I smiled up at her as she sat back on the log, her legs crossed with each other.

She gave me a cheeky grin as she got out her own marshmallows and began to cook them, all the while staring at Justin who was obviously checking her out. I frowned but tried to hold my anger back as I looked away for something else to focus on, and that's when I saw it, a beautiful lake not far from where our tents where - glistening in the beautiful moonlight. I propped myself up from the damp log as I removed my night gown and dropped it to the floor before walking over to the water and letting my foot enter it to check for the temperature before letting my body enter the coolness of it all. I could hear footsteps lightly walking towards me, and the crunch of leaves beneath them. I smiled to myself as I turned around only to be caught off guard by Samuel. Immediately I began to cover my half naked body as I looked up at him. This was so awkward I thought.

He looked down at me, a shy laugh escaped his lips; which soon after brought a hand to cover his mouth. I could tell he was embarrassed also. Probably hadn't seen a girl in her underwear I guess?

Soon after this thought entered my mind he shrugged it off and removed his shirt, and embedded himself into the water to, but kept a difference from me and didn't really talk. I could see he was in deep thought, looking over at the other side of the lake before returning his gorgeous gaze back to mine. He smiled softly before beginning to finally talk. "Can I show you around France tomorrow?" He asked quietly before looking into the water and then back up at me, waiting for a response.

I coughed, "Oh yeah! That would be great." I smiled before running my hand through the water and accidentally splashing Samuel in the face. I couldn't help but giggle when he wiped the water from his eyes and grinned.

He returned my action by splashing me back in the face just as Justin walked over and asked what was going on, I gave him a sly smile before exiting the lake and pulling myself back onto the land, covering myself in wet grass before standing up and having a guilty look on my face. "We were just playing." I smiled dopily before heading for the showers with one of my towels.

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"Better of been."

## Chapter 12: When he left

As I stepped into the shower I wondered what the heck was up with Justin. Normally he wouldn't be so grouchy but I'm sure something had to be on his mind, and I really did need to find out. I thoroughly soaked my hair in water before stepping out of the shower and wrapping myself in a towel before heading back to the campsite.

Everyone was back in bed so I quickly dried myself, put on some clothes and headed into Justin's tent to lie down next to him. Surprisingly instead of feeling warm, he felt rather cold. I pulled the blanket up to his chin before turning my back to him and falling into a restless sleep.

By morning the sun was bright and shining, I could see a few white clouds in the sky, but nothing much. I sighed to myself as I slipped off my clothes, pulled up some jeans and a grey shirt. "Today is going to be really fun!" I thought to myself as I stepped out of the tent and welcomed the warm breeze. It was rather lovely to have nice weather, but things never last - I knew that for a fact. I stepped into my brown boots before sitting down on the log and having breakfast, before being greeted by everyone when they sleepily raised from their tents. I grabbed my pocket mirror and examined my appearance before seeing my makeup from last night was now smudged under my eyes, and my hair like a messy birds nest. I pulled out a hair brush from my backpack and began to comb my hair before going over to the showers to wash my face. I then checked my reflection once more, "Not perfect, but certainly better." I smiled to myself as I walked out and said good morning to everyone.

"Good morning gorgeous." Justin said, with a slight grin on his face, before averting his eyes over to Samuel and frowning. I could see something was really up, and I was so confused to why he was acting like this, it was so strange.

"Morning." I said under my breath before sitting over where Maggie is and giving her a quick hug. "Anyway, I'm going to go out shopping today." I told everyone, looking for any hesitation. Maggie seemed enthusiastic as she bounced up and ran to get ready.

"That sounds fun." Justin sighed before pulling out a book and beginning to read it. I stared at him for a minute or so. Was he being sarcastic? "Go have fun." He finally said before looking up at me, then at Samuel and then continuing to read his book - which looked rather boring by the way!

I looked over at Samuel who was pretending not to listen to the whole conversation. He was looking out past the lake, and into the beautiful mist of the mountains. I walked over to him quietly and tapped his shoulder. "Hey, you want to show me around today?" I smiled before awaiting his response.

He looked up at me, a small smile forming at the sides of his lips, a shy smile. "Um, yeah I suppose s-so" He stuttered before finally nodding and looking over at Justin for approval, who did not give it; instead took his book and left to go back into the tent.

We both looked at each other, snickering quietly before Maggie came out with her purse on her arm. "Kay, shall we go then?" She laughed before pulling out some coconut flavoured lip balm and applying it to her lips. Samuel and I stood up at the same time, before heading for his truck, and Maggie and I getting in the back. I looked over his shoulder.

"Where first?" I laughed as I slumped back down on the seat and started making polite conversation with Maggie who was picking at her nails boredly.

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"Let's get something to eat." Samuel smiled, as he turned on the engine and backed out into the main street. We went past a few famous land marks, which my eyes stuck to like glue. They were so ancient, and beautiful; I just couldn't look away. "Don't worry we will go seem them afterwards." He gestured before turning back and continuing to head over to the caf   that we were going to.

When we got there I could tell why he had said it was his favourite place to go. As we entered the Caf   a slight fragrance of peach filled the room. I looked around and saw a few people quietly talking to the other, deep in conversation.

Samuel, Maggie and I decided to sit near the window of the Caf  , letting the cool breeze of the air slap against our faces as we sipped at our Ice tea. "Excuse me guys." Maggie said politely before getting up and going into the toilets. I looked over at Samuel who was playing with his straw, a slight smile at the edges of his lips.

"Do you know about Justin?" I asked solely, making sure he was on the same page as me. He looked up, caught by a surprised and a frown filled his face.

"Yeah." He murmured before looking back down and not saying anything it all. I shrugged this off as Maggie came back and sat down again.

"Sorry about that." She chuckled before gesturing towards a stain on her shirt. "Spilt my tea." She finally said. I nodded before taking a long drink of my tea, my eyes never leaving sight of Samuel.

When we got back to the camp grounds, Justin was nowhere to be seen, I thought this was odd at first, but decided it would be a great time to see what Samuel knew about Justin.

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"Who are you?" I asked, curious as he looked away from me, I pulled his face back to look into my eyes. "Tell me please." I whispered.

He sighed. "Why do you want to know so much about Justin anyway? There's nothing good to find out about him, he's dead." He frowned before biting his nails nervously. "And he's never going to be alive again; he's never going to be able to love again." He pointed out. I gasped, was he serious? If anything Justin was the sweetest guy I knew and I loved him utterly. He looked down at his lap before taking in a deep breath. "Look, you have no idea what you're getting yourself into. You may think it's some amazing fantasy come true, but there are things that you don't know about him - things he has not told you and probably won't." He finished before looking back up at me, envy in his eyes.

I tried to force a smile in onto my face, but my eyes betrayed me. "Things like â wha-t..t?" I stuttered before looking around to see if Justin was nearby, her wasn't.

"He can't stay here. He has to leave, and very soon, and if he doesn't leave, well let's just say all hell will break loose. I'm sure he hasn't told you that has he?" I shook my head. "And, your mother. Don't get me started on that." He sighed and shook it out of himself. "He was the one responsible for her killing." He said softly before looking at me with sorrow in his eyes. "And I know you don't-"

"Just shutup!" Laurel gasped before covering her mouth, and getting up from the tent and unzipping the door to find Justin standing outside - waiting for her. Her heart skipped a beat as side stepped from him and headed into her tent, locking it as she went.

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She pulled the sleeping bag covers up to her chin as she devoured her pillow in a stream of tears, and sadness. She had no idea what to think or believe. Samuel probably was telling her the truth, but she didn't want to hear it. She didn't want to believe it.

She closed her eyes and fought back the anger that was building within her. She felt betrayed, mad, upset and most of all hurt! She let herself drift into a dreamless sleep and by morning was awoken by Justin with a concerned look on his face. "I saw you run off last night, are you okay?" He questioned before looking over at the tent lock he had broken last night trying to get in.

Laurel stared up at him, then turned her body away and closed her eyes again. "Please leave me alone." She whispered before folding her arms around each other and sighing deeply. Justin lent over and kissed her on the forehead before exiting the tent and walking over to where Samuel sat.

"What did you tell her?" He said; now angry. Samuel chuckled lightly before taking a swig of water he had by his side.

"Only what she needed to know, nothing much." He said before putting down his drink bottle, getting up from his set and standing over Justin. "She deserves to know the truth, and you have no right to lie to her, about this. About everything." Samuel argued, nearly yelling. At this point they both turned around to see Laurel, standing before them with tears in her eyes.

"How could you." She whispered under her breath before gather herself together and looking Justin dead in the eye. "Attest now I know who I can trust." She smiled sadly over at Samuel who gave a guilty smile back. With this she began to turn around just as Justin grabbed her by the arm and wrapped his arms around her.

"Please â | "He begged hopelessly as his arms were pushed away. "Whatever he said, he's lying." He assured as he awaited what was to come next. Laurel slapped him quickly before turning around and running away, into the darkness of the forest nearby. She pushed as hard as she could and began sprint as hard as her body would let her. Tears streaming down her face as she kept up a fast pace. She swore under her breath as a stitch soon began to form in her lower stomach. She clenched the feeling tightly as she began to stop abruptly. She spun around to see if anyone had followed her, but no one was to be seen. In fact, she couldn't even see from where she had come from. Satisfied with herself she sat down near a nearby tree and huddled her arms around her legs whispering to herself that it was all going to be okay.

And then. All of a sudden, her mother was patting her on the back, a sad smile formed across her face. She looked down at Laurel as she looked up, startled but comforted by her mothers presence. "Why didn't you tell me mummy?" She said, looking down at her sweaty palms. "Why did you not tell me Justin was responsible for your death?" She finally asked before looking into her mothers deep, but dead eyes.

"Because I knew how much you loved him." She said, exaggerating the 'loved' part. She sighed before dropping to her knees and sitting beside me, her hair a mess in her face. She put a cool arm around my shoulder as she began to explain further. "Yes, he killed me. But it was an accident. Besides, that's not what is the most important anyway. He has to leave soon, the Winged ones are making him. He can't stay. It was never permanent."

"The winged ones?" I asked with a questionable look upon my face. She smiled slyly and nodded before pulling out a note from her pocket.

"This here." She said, gesturing at the paper. "Is Justin's warrant to stay here for a certain amount of time. Every new passer is granted with one; whether they accept to use it or not is up to them. Justin chose to use it so he could be with you, and so he could tell you about how I died. But now that is expired he has to leave."

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She said, sadly.

I looked over at her, and gave a short smile before pulling her closer to me and hugging her. How I missed her so much. I just couldn't stand being without her. "How are you here?" I murmured, before looking into her sad eyes.

"I'm a guardian angel, I can pop up whenever I want, but only in the time of desperate need." She sighed, clapping her hands together making an echo in the forest. She scrunched up her face as she focused on a noise in the distance. "I must go, you have things you have to do." She said before kissing my cheek and disappearing. I looked over to see Justin walking towards me, his hands tucked tightly into his pockets. His face showing no emotion what so ever.

I got up slowly from the patch of grass I was sitting on and headed over to him, wrapping my arms around him and beginning to cry. "I am so sorry." I finally apologised before kissing him on the cheek and resting my chin on his collarbone. He murmured something along the lines of 'It's okay.' I looked up at him and frowned.

"I don't want you to go." I started, before his finger hushed my talking. He looked down at me and brushed his lips against mine. I began to talk again. "But I want you to know that it's okay." I finally admitted before entwining my fingers with his. "I'll always know that you'll be with me." I said, now teary eyed. He kissed my forehead and nodded simply before disappearing into the darkness. He was gone.

I looked around for an exit but saw nothing apart from trees after trees. So I took to my extinct and ran to my heart's desire, I ran and ran and ran until I was back at the camp grounds. "Where have you been?" Maggie gasped as she pulled me into a hug. "Apparently Justin and you had a fight. Where is he?" I nodded simply.

"Yeah we had a fight, but we made up." I said, before thinking of something else to say only to be cut in my Samuels voice.

"But. He has to go and see his grandma in Bali, she's not well." He said before looking at me and giving me a quick wink, I half smiled. 'Gosh I'm going to miss him.' I thought as I touched my hand to my lips and looked back up at everyone.

"He'll be back though." I smiled, hoping that what I was saying would someday be true. In my heart I felt so sickened about how I had thought about him only minutes ago, how he may have not told me the truth - but did it because he didn't want to hurt me. I smiled softly at the thought before brushing my hair through with my fingers.

"Shall we go for a swim then?" I chuckled before pulling off my dress and revealing my pink bikini before stepping into the coldness of the lake. It finally felt good to let myself go and not have any worries. But what I didn't know, was that this was all just the beginning.

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