SHAN BLACKWOOD SEARCHING FOR CHOICES

An interactive story where you decide the outcome.

Searching For Choices

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REVISED EDITION

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Preface

Searching For Choices is a novel derived from the script of the Visual Novel **Love?** which was released in 2010 to Mobile and Web as a small project.

Love? was inspired by me playing other Visual Novels like **Clannad (Key,2004)**, **Hatoful Boyfriend (PigeoNation Inc., 2011)** and many other Japanese dōjin soft visual novels created for PC during 2005-2010. At the time Video Games, Anime and cheesy American shows where High school was the setting of choice!

Visual Novels for a game developer are a great way to start developing stories with the reader assuming the role of the protagonist and making choices that determine the main character's actions and the plot's outcome. At the time,

Adobe * Flash was great to develop a simple engine that allowed users to go through the story with art and sounds.

The game was put on hold due to university commitments but also the level of artwork needed would have to be outsourced which was gained with some great art pieces in the appendix.

Prologue

Set in a modern town of Danto, you play as Kai, a senior at Shinto Academy on his last term before Summer who is trying to find value in life and the yearning for romance.

The summer is just around the corner with wonder and excitement on its way but young heart yearns for a partner to experience it all with.

The town is a giant playground with beaches and parks for you and your friends to escape too. As you go through the story you will meet several characters that guide you throughout your journey of self-discovery, love, infatuation and more.

As you read the story you will face choices that change the storyline, resulting in multiple endings and outcomes.

You - "Ah, another day of the same old, hopefully something will happen today."

Mum - "Are you ready for school yet Kai?"

You - "Just give me a sec!"

You - Shinto Academy, the bane of my existence. All right let's go...

I needed to get to Shinto Academy quickly, I could not afford to be late again...

??? - "Kai! Wait up!"

You – "Eh?"

Rory – "Dude... eh... I have been calling you since you left your house, you really need to take those earphones out whilst walking across roads, there is a high statistic of..."

You – "I have come to Shinto to learn, I don't need you lecturing me!"

Rory - "Alright, what's wrong with you?"

You – Rory has been like an older brother to me for a long time now. The guy is so smart and logical, he helps me with any problem. But Rory is too shy when it comes to the ladies, a bit like me...

You – "I just want a change alright? Ah come on, we're going to be late."

In class...

Ms Carter - "OK class, today's lesson is on human biology!"

You - "I would love to study with your body."

Ms Carter - "Did you say something, Kai?"

You – "Eh, no Ms..."

You – She is so beautiful, I would love to have one chance with her....

Ms Carter – "Kai! Stop daydreaming and answer my question! Which method of changing the characteristics of a species takes the longest time?"

You – "I honestly don't know..."

Ms Carter - "OK, well see me after class and you will know."

Class – "Ohhhhhhhh."

Ms Carter – "OK, OK. Everyone get your pop quizzes out and I want silence from now on!"

You – Why does she have to be so mean? Especially for someone so pretty!

An hour has passed...

You - Cool, class is finally finished!

Ms Carter – "Take care everyone and remember your coursework next time."

Ms Carter – "Kai! Where do you think you are going, we need our chat."

You – Hopefully you'd seduce me but that is never going to happen...

Ms Carter - "Kai, you really need to apply yourself more, you have the ability to pass this class but you lack dedication, it hurts me to see a student like you failing."

You – I feel bad now...

You – "Ms... I promise I will apply myself more, it's just that... I have a lot on my mind."

Ms Carter – "These are the most important days of your life, you are turning into an adult and the man you will be when you are older, don't worry about petty things like girls and just concentrate on what's important, OK?"

You – Maybe she's right.

You – "Yes Ms."

Ms Carter – "This does not mean you are getting away with this, you have detention today!"

You – "Ah Damn!!"

Ms Carter - "Go on, see you later."

You – "OK."

In the school yard of Shinto Academy

You - So many people here, but no one notices me, everyone seems to be in their own world. Let's see who I can see...

You – Ah there's Pryce...

You – Pryce is my best friend and he's always been there for me. He is so funny and always playing pranks. He has no common sense though, so he usually finds himself in trouble with the authorities.

You - Oh he is with Jubilee...

You - He is so in love with her, I don't like to admit it but I'm quite envious... it's so silly.

You - "Hey Pryce!"

Pryce – "Hey Kai."

You - "How's everything?"

Pryce – "Not too bad, got an essay to do for tomorrow but I want to go Bubble's tonight for some drinks."

You - "With Jubilee, I'm guessing ... "

Pryce – "Yeah, Jubilee and her friends invited me out."

You – "Dude, you really need to concentrate on your essay rather than Jubilee."

Pryce – "Why are you saying that, you know it takes dedication in a relationship?"

Pryce - "Why don't you come out tonight with us?"

Pryce – "Jubilee!!"

You – Oh no, don't invite her over...

Jubilee – "Hey Kai."

You – "Hey Jubilee."

You – I don't really know Jubilee, she seems pleasant but Pryce has changed since she became his girlfriend. He has become so devoted to her, always running after her like a butler or something...

Pryce – "I just wanted to ask if it was cool if Kai could come tonight?"

You – "I might have plans tonight you know, why would you just assume that?!"

Jubilee – "Kai, I would love for you to come."

You – "Eh?"

Jubilee – "I don't really know you and as you're Pryce's best friend and he is really fond of you, I would like to spend time with you."

You – "Oh... yeah I'll come."

You – I felt so shocked at that moment in time, I actually felt that I finally made an impact, regardless how small, on someone...

Pryce - "I told you she was nice! Ah she is so special..."

Pryce – "You might even hook up with one of her friends. One of her friends has breasts the size of..."

You – "Dude!! You never change."

After the long day of tedious learning, I had to finish it off with a dose of boredom at detention...

You – "Ms..."

You – No one's here, well let me sit down and at least do my homework so I can go out tonight...

Ms Carter - "Oh I'm so sorry Kai. Were you here long?

You – "No Ms, I just came now."

Ms Carter – "OK great, seems you're more dependable than I thought. I like that."

Ms Carter – "You know, for you coming along, I will let you go..."

You - "Thanks Ms Carter."

Ms Carter - "Sit down! Not before a little chat."

You - "OK then."

You – I wonder what she wants to talk about; I don't think I have done anything else wrong.

Ms Carter – "Well I know how you are doing academically, a bit behind at the least. But I want to know more about you."

You - "Eh why?"

You – I hope this is one of those teacher/student relationship type deals. All the guys would be so jealous, please please please!

Ms Carter – "Kai! Again with your daydreaming! Knowing young men like you it's not what you think."

You – Oh.

Ms Carter – "I want to know more about you as a person when writing your end of year report."

You - "Oh OK, well what do you want to know?"

Ms Carter – "Well it seems you're quite a popular person in your year, what qualities do you think you have that has made you achieve that?"

You – "It seems I'm popular but... It's only when I fool around or make jokes, no one cares less after that..."

Ms Carter - "That sounds like that troubles you..."

You – "You don't know the half of it, I just wished people would like me for me."

Ms Carter – "I can understand. Everyone wants to fit in so people take to different strategies to do so. Yours being fooling around, but people are now taking you as a school clown and nothing more."

You – "Yeah."

Ms Carter - "And with girls?"

You - "Well it's quite embarrassing but..."

Ms Carter – "Let me guess, you're actually very shy and you don't know how to start a relationship, friendship or more, with a girl. So you joke around, eventually making girls think you're immature and they joke about you behind your back?"

You - She knows too much. How? I don't understand!

Ms Carter – "By the confused look in your face I can tell what you're thinking, how do I know? Right?"

You – "Yes."

Ms Carter – "Well it's quite simple really, I used to be a student before and I have witnessed these same scenarios."

Ms Carter – "Plus having talks with your fellow students about you, has given me an insight."

You - "Who's been talking rubbish about me?!"

Ms Carter – "I never kiss and tell!"

Ms Carter – "Well let's conclude this for another time, I have other things to attend to."

You – "OK well thanks Miss for this talk; it has really opened my mind."

Ms Carter – "Just try and be you from now on and open up more, you should be fine. Have fun tonight at Bubble's..."

You – "How did you know I am going there?"

Ms Carter - "I have ears everywhere."

On Ellis Avenue, waiting for Pryce to arrive...

You – Where the hell is Pryce? He was meant to be here like twenty minutes ago.

Pryce – "Kai! Sorry man, I just lost track of time."

You - "Whatever man!"

Pryce - "Dude, wait up! Let's talk for five minutes."

You - "Seriously it's fine."

Pryce – "There you go again, acting like I don't know you."

Pryce – "We've been friends for so long I can tell when you're upset about something, come on, spit it out."

You – "It's just that... well, I had a conversation with Ms. Carter today and what I gathered was that everyone thinks I am just some sort of school clown."

You – "I just wish I could show people the real me!"

Pryce – "Before you continue, it's not people you are talking about, it's girls because we don't care what guys think about us."

You – "Maybe you're right, to be honest, I just wish I could find someone for me, like how you have Jubilee."

You – "I know I have friends and I'm especially grateful for friends like you, but I just don't want someone with me but someone for me."

Pryce – "Dude, I totally understand you know. You will find someone, just open up more and it will come..."

You - "Why does everyone say that to me?"

Pryce – "What?"

You – "Nothing..."

Pryce – "Alright, well I would love to chat about this all day but we have a party to head to.

Pryce - "You ready to have fun?"

You - "Screw it, let's have some fun!"

Pryce - "That's my guy!"

You – As we started to head to Bubble's Bar, I felt like Pryce did understand how I felt and he's trying to make an effort with me... It's nice to know at least I can count on my friends...

Finally we arrived at Bubbles's Bar, the hot-spot for all students of Shinto Academy.

Bubble's is our hang out place, here you can meet new people and just unwind from long days. I've had many great nights here, drinking and playing pool. Hopefully tonight will go down well...

You - "What's so special about tonight anyway Pryce?"

Pryce – "Erm, I am not sure, I think it's Jubilee's friend's birthday."

You – "OK, oh there she is over there..."

Pryce – "Jubilee! We're here baby!"

Jubilee – "Hi Pryce, hi Kai."

You – "Hi Jubilee... How are you?"

Jubilee – "I'm fine, I have had a few drinks so I am ready to dance."

You – "Who wants a challenge on the dance floor?"

Jubilee – "Alright then, oh here is the birthday girl..."

Jubilee – "Guys, let me introduce my friend, Noelle..."

Noelle – "Why such a formal introduction?"

Jubilee – "I don't know, thought it would be nice to introduce you properly to these handsome guys!"

You – "What?!"

You – Noelle... She is so beautiful. Come on Kai, let's not mess this up, it's time to open up more!

Pryce – "Kai, you want to get some drinks?

CHOICE

Go to get some drinks (Chapter 2 A)

Stay with Jubilee & Noelle (Chapter 2 B)

You – "Let's get some drinks, I need to unwind from such a long day."

Pryce - "Cool, bring on the shots!"

You - "Shots! Oh damn, shots and I do not mix."

Pryce – "Don't worry, I will look after you."

Barmaid - "What would you like sir?

Pryce - "Ten shots of Sambuca please."

You – Oh no!

Pryce - "Ready?"

You – "No."

You - After every shot I could feel myself go...

Pryce - "Woooo! Ready to dance with the girls?"

You – "Sure!"

You - "Great, I will show you my dance skills."

Noelle - "OK baby."

You – Tonight is going perfect, I am dancing with a beautiful girl who seems fascinating and I am with my friends just enjoying life. I could not be any happier right now!

Noelle – "Kai! Are you alright? Pryce help me! Kai! Kai!"

???? – "Kai, I love you... More than anything in this precious world... You make me feel..."

You – Every night the same dream, I hate it so much. I feel desire and passion... I feel love in those dreams but it always has to end and then I hit reality, when will my time come?

You - How the hell did I get home? Last night... Jubilee, Pryce?

You - "Noelle!"

Pryce – "Kai!"

You – "Pryce, what the hell are you doing here?"

Pryce – "Basically you passed out last night, I didn't know you couldn't handle your drinks."

You - "Ahh damn, what about Noelle?"

Pryce – "She's fine, after we got you home, she gave me this to give to you but only to read it in secrecy."

You - A note, I wonder what it says?

Pryce – "Then I stayed the night on your floor, just checking you over in case you died or something."

Pryce – "Oh Ms. Carter knows we aren't coming in today because I gave her a ring to explain what has happened so we have an extension on our papers so it gives me some time to revise!"

You – Then as Pryce was laughing, I felt gratitude, it was overwhelming. I knew he was my best friend, but not to this standard. He is always looking out for me, protecting me and giving me advice. I take him for granted so much, quarreling

over his girlfriend and the stupid things he does but without any doubts, he is there for me... A true friend.

Pryce - "Dude, what's wrong?"

You – "Pryce, thank you so much for everything, for yesterday, for being my friend."

Pryce – Kai, when I said I was your best friend, it was not for the sake of saying it, I will always be there for you."

You – "Thank you."

You – Why I deserve you I don't know but I am definitely going to return the favour.

Pryce - "Well now that's done, let's get some breakfast!"

You - "Cool, let me get dressed."

Pryce - "Alright, I will meet you downstairs."

You – "Thanks again."

Pryce – "Don't worry about it."

You – As Pryce left, I had an epiphany. I am making girls a high priority in my life, more than my friends. I have just realised how much I really need people like Pryce around me. Friends forever eh? I'll hold that promise.

You – Oh the note!

I had fun last night and would love to know more about you. Call me.. (555-9283)

You – Whoa, she liked me. That's different. My new plan to show more of myself must be working, I can't mess this up.

After breakfast, Pryce decided to go home and I wanted to go to Greenforest Park so we made our way...

Pryce - "Well I need to go home, I will see you soon yeah?"

You – "Yeah and thanks again."

Pryce - "That's cool!"

Pryce – "See you."

You – "Take care."

I went to Greenforest Park to relax and reminisce about yesterday's event...

You – Ah I feel sick from yesterday. I drank far too much.

You – That's why the park is such a good way to recover from yesterday.

You – Relaxation now is the way, let me just chill for the day and finish off this essay.

You - "Oh Noelle!"

You - Erm should I give her a call?

You – "Love to see you again..." The note sounds like she wants to see me again. Alright let's just do it!... Oh I am so nervous.

You – Come on pick up... Please...

Noelle – "Hello."

You – "Hi Noelle, it's Kai."

Noelle - "Oh hey, how are you doing?"

You – "I'm fine, feel a bit sick from yesterday but I'm cool. You?"

Noelle - "Yeah, I'm fine."

You – " Are you going to the park today?"

Noelle - "Yeah, I'm nearly there now."

You - "Oh great, I am here now just relaxing from yesterday."

Noelle - "alright cool, I will meet you there."

You - "Speak to you soon."

The wait for Noelle was long but it gave me time to gain some composure...

You - Hi Noelle, you want a drink? I brought loads."

Noelle – "Yeah sure."

You – "So how did you like yesterday?"

Noelle – "It was a great, really good birthday celebration, thanks for coming."

You – "At least you had fun. Oh for a little birthday treat, I thought that I could help you with your project then we could go get something to eat, if you'd like?"

You - Please say yes, I just need one shot at this.

Noelle – "Yeah sure, that would be great!"

You – "Excellent!"

You - "OK, so what do we have to do for your work?"

You – As I was helping with her work, we were both working together. I felt proud using my skills to help her but I was also thankful when she helped me.

You – Everything was great, the afternoon turned from being about making her my girlfriend, to just being good friends. We can relate so much but somehow I just lost the feeling I had about her yesterday.

You – I feel that we were much more compatible as friends rather than being in a relationship. It was nice.

You – I realised that girls are more than just their appearances. I felt rather shallow because yesterday I really did not care about her, just what I wanted from her.

You – I thought to take Noelle to Ramen's after work for an intimate moment but now we're just friends, we can simply enjoy each other's company anywhere.

You – After the evening had ended, I dropped Noelle home and went on my way.

You – When reflecting over the whole event, I realised that with relationships, there's so much more than just lust and appearances. A genuine connection based on our personalities and similarities can be equally as beautiful.

You - I am proud of myself because I let go of the initial charade I was putting on at the club. I was catering to her idea of the perfect guy so much that the connection we had that day was an illusion.

You - With Noelle, I feel that I have gained something great in learning to be myself. Besides, you can never have too many friends but now I must search for my love and truly be open...

You have not found love but a growing friendship. Start again and maybe you will find what you really are after...

FIN

You – "Pryce, can you just get me a beer? I will keep the girls comfortable."

Pryce - "Cool."

You – Alright, just keep your cool and show Noelle your true side!

You - "You girls OK?"

Jubilee – "Yeah."

Noelle - "Yeah."

You - "What's funny Noelle?"

Noelle – "You..."

You – "What?! What do you mean?"

Noelle – "You... Finally coming out of your shell, I've not seen you like this."

You – Just at that point, the look in her eyes changed from a careless glance to warmth, like a stare which lasted forever. Something I have not really experienced before, maybe she is fond of me...

You - But am I fond of her?

Jubilee - "I think I will leave you two to become acquainted."

Noelle – "Alright."

Jubilee - "You guys want any drinks?"

You – "I will pay for them."

You – "Here."

Jubilee - "Thanks Kai, ain't he sweet?"

Noelle – "Yep!"

You - "Aw, you are going to make me blush!"

Jubilee – "I will be back in a moment, let me find my sexy boyfriend!"

You – "Cool."

Noelle - "You want to sit down?"

You – "Sure."

You – Now Kai, just be calm, let's take it slow and not choke up.

You - "So Noelle, what are you studying this semester?"

You – Studying, you fool. I bet this is the last thing she wants to talk about!

Noelle – "OK well, I am doing photography this year, and I have a presentation soon so I have to go to Greenforest park tomorrow to take some pictures."

You – "I love that park, you can really bask in the ambiance there."

Noelle – "That's nice, kind of girly though, don't you think?"

You –"Yeah."

You – "Other than the Academy, what other things do you like to do?"

Noelle – "Well just hanging out with friends and relaxing from school."

Noelle - "What about you?"

You - "Same thing really."

You – Except playing video games religiously, but I am not going to let you know that...

You - "So how did you meet Jubilee?"

Noelle – "Well like you and Pryce, I have known her since we were kids."

Noelle – "Ah those days, remember when you didn't have a worry in the world?"

You - "Yeah, I sure do."

Noelle - "You say that like you miss them."

You – "Nah, I am a day by day person, living for the moment type of guy."

You – Why lie to her? You know you prefer the older days.

Noelle – "Doesn't really sound like you but that's why we are talking, right?"

You – "Yup, I would love to know more about you?"

Noelle - "Play your cards right and you might."

You – ...

Pryce – "We did not disturb anything, did we?"

You - "No, we're cool."

Pryce - "Here are your drinks guys."

Noelle – "Thanks Pryce."

You – "Thanks man."

Noelle – "And thank you Kai."

You – "No problem babes!"

Pryce - "Kai, let me talk to you for a sec."

You – "Sure."

Pryce – "Dude, what's happening? Seems like it's all going well..."

You – I could tell by Pryce's grin what he wanted to talk about.

You – "It's going well, I'm relaxed and I think I'm starting to like her."

Pryce – "Just don't talk about your nerdy ways!"

You - "Dude, but that's me..."

You - "I can't believe you said that, I bet everyone thinks that."

Pryce – "No dude, I didn't mean it like that."

You – "It's cool, I'm going to down this beer, get another and show you all!"

Pryce - "OK... Well that's the spirit?"

You – "Yeah it is..."

You – Or is it, it's hard for me to even lie like this, this is not me.

You - "You coming to get some more drinks?"

Pryce - "No, I'm going to go speak to Jubilee."

You – "Fine."

You - "Could I have a beer please?"

You - "And a shot!"

Noelle – "Being rather adventurous, aren't we?"

You - "Maybe."

Noelle - "What's up? You seem down."

You – "It's nothing, just I want to know how you feel about me?"

Noelle – "Honestly, I don't know, before you just didn't seem my type."

You – "Oh..."

Noelle – "But now, it seems you're opening up more so I do."

You – "Do?"

Noelle - "Like you."

You – As soon as I heard those two words, I felt as if I was floating air, it was incredible; a beautiful, intelligent girl can like the real me!

I felt like there was only one thing to do at that moment, it was like my body just reacted to those two words.

Pryce – "Yo guys, look! Kai's kissing Noelle!"

Jubilee - "Leave them alone!"

Noelle - " You want to dance?"

You - "Of course."

You – Being on the dance floor just felt like it was just two stuck in our own world, embracing each other and having the music as a sentiment. It was perfect, I never wanted it to end. We were making the most of the night, but our time ran out...

Bartender - "Last drinks everyone!"

You – "Damn."

Pryce – "You guys want to get something to eat before we go home."

You - "Yeah sure, lets go."

Bubbles was amazing with Noelle, I really did not want it to end. Finally I have met a girl who is just perfect, everything about her...

Jubilee – "That was a good burger."

- Pryce "Yeah, so full now!"
- Pryce "Come on you two, catch up!"
- You "Are you cold?"
- Noelle "A little..."
- You "Come here."
- Noelle "I am nearly home but I don't want to leave."

You - "I can stay for a little while."

Noelle - "That would be nice."

You – I thought she would be implying something lustful but she was genuine, she just wanted us to hold each other and I did too.

After the walk we finally arrived at Noelle's...

Noelle – "Here is my house, guys make yourselves comfortable."

Jubilee - "Is it still OK to sleep round with Pryce?"

Noelle – "Yeah sure, my parents are away for the week so it's cool."

Jubilee – "On that note, I am going to sleep. Thanks Noelle for everything. Come Pryce."

Pryce – "She's calling me , so I'll see you guys in the morning."

Noelle – "Now we're alone, I am going to show you something special."

As soon as she said that she took my hand and guided me. I felt in awe, life is not like this for me, but I am ready for anything...

Noelle – "Close your eyes don't open them!"

Noelle - "Not yet..."

Noelle –"Not yet..."

Noelle – "Open them."

You – I did not know what to say... I was dazed. So much beauty around me. The night sky riddled with stars and to just turn my head to see Noelle, it felt like I was flying with her.

Noelle – "I just wanted to show you this; there are so many stunning things around us if we just stop and stare. When was the last time you really stopped and stared?"

You – "Tonight, with you... Staring in your eyes, at first I did not notice but then I looked in your beautiful eyes again and I was drawn in..."

You – "Noelle, you're amazing."

I started to kiss her again and I was feeling something that I have never felt before. I must be in love. I know it's too early but this has to be it, I never want to let go of this..

You - "I think I love you Noelle."

Noelle – "Don't say that, you don't know me that well. Just enjoy this night with me."

You – As we started to head to her bedroom, I was thinking of what she said. Does there have to be a certain time period before you fall in love? I don't, I do think I love her regardless of the time period. I just hope she does as well...

I woke up early the next day, pumped from the night before. I'm just so happy to finally be like Pryce, to finally hold someone, to kiss, to love...

You – Ah this is life, drinking some coffee and to see the sun rising, beautiful. Probably just saying this because of last night, but it always feels like this when you're happy like me. When you like someone it's like everything around just feels better, everything's more vivid.

Pryce - "Why are you laughing?"

You – "Just happy I suppose."

Pryce - "Got some action last night?"

You – "No..."

Pryce – "What are you happy about then?"

You - "What?"

Pryce – "Well if you did not have sex with her, you messed up."

You – "Dude, listen to yourself. Sometimes I don't know why Jubilee is with you when you go with that male ideology. Why do you think like that?"

Pryce – "Calm down man, I do love Jubilee but obviously I only got in this relationship because she was hot and she cared for me."

You – "When was the last time you truly showed your appreciation for her?"

Pryce - "Erm last night, we had it and she loved it."

You – "Do you know what I did last night?"

You – "I was holding Noelle and we were kissing, that's it! I was full of passion and every touch was so intense, a real intimate moment."

Pryce - "Aw, that's nice!"

You – "You're a fool."

Pryce – "Whatever, I know I am right, you're just loved up right now, you're the fool for not seeing that."

You – "Pryce... Don't worry about what I'm saying. it's probably the alcohol still talking."

Pryce – "I knew you could not handle your drinks! I will be back in a moment."

You – Honestly I knew Pryce could not understand, he is so comfortable with his relationship he has lost the initial fire from the beginning. I don't like to think that he is quite the pig when it comes to girls but sometimes I wonder, Is he in love with Jubilee or does he just love her for being there?

Noelle – "Hey Kai."

Noelle - "Do you need anything?"

You - "No, just great seeing you."

Noelle – "Yeah, it was a good night."

You - "So where do we go from here?"

Noelle - "I know what you want but I have to be honest."

Noelle – "Last night..."

You – My heart dropped. I did not want to hear what was next.

Noelle – "Was fun..."

You – Please no!

Noelle – "But that's all it was for me."

Noelle – "Fun."

You - "Why are you saying this? I thought we had something!"

Noelle - "We do... We did, it was a moment."

You - "What do you mean by 'a moment'?"

Noelle – "It's like being with you last night, it did feel amazing and intense but it's just a moment."

Noelle – "That's how I am, I like to have moments of passion, to the point my desire is fulfilled then I am done."

Noelle – "I mean I just haven't met the person I actually want a relationship with. Not yet. I do feel bad but that's just the way I am."

You – "So that's all it was to you, us kissing, us lying under the sky? Just a moment."

Noelle – "Yes it was an incredible night but how long do you think it would take before it would end?"

You – As soon as she said that I knew what she was talking about, she was looking at Pryce and Jubilee's relationship and seeing how stale it was; crumbling and decaying.

You - "But I am not like that, I... I'm not like that!"

You – "I want to have more with you; I feel that you are the one for me. I know I am a novice with this whole thing but my heart is telling me that I love you. Does that even matter to you, that I love you?!"

Noelle – "You don't love me! You love the idea of a generic relationship. You find a girl, having things in common and then you're just reacting to your emotions. Come on, grow up! Life is not like that any more, it's more complex, it's more complex for me..."

You – "You are not telling me why. You're telling me your intentions but open your heart Noelle, please tell me why!"

Noelle – "No! Just leave it, once I do that I become vulnerable. I open myself to a guy and then you throw me in the gutter when you're done!!"

Noelle – "Just go Kai, just go!"

You - "Noelle, Noelle!"

As Noelle ran into the house, It felt like the ground just ate me up and everything went black. Before I made anything any worse, I ran, ran as fast as I could. I need to go back to yesterday when everything was perfect...

You – Why me?

- You Why does this have to happen to me?
- You Am I really not allowed to love?
- You To be in love?
- You "Ahhhhhhhhhhhh!!"

I just dropped to my knees, my world has just crumbled on top of me. I could not stop the tears from falling, it seems when your heart is broken, everything else feels the toll...

You – Look... rain, it's like the world is showing sympathy for me.

You – "Why me? I just want someone, I can't stand being alone anymore."

Sonny – "Kai!"

Sonny - "What's wrong?"

You - "I can't stand it anymore, I can't."

Sonny – "Come let's get out of this heavy rain, don't worry man."

Sonny took me to his house, at that point I really did not know which way to go, It felt like life really was not worth living...

Sonny – "Here's your coffee."

Sonny – "Do you want to speak about it?"

You - "This is just my luck, I guess."

Sonny – "Well I called Pryce to get the whole scoop on the situation, that Noelle!"

You – "Maybe she's right."

You – "I mean why rush into these things? Enjoy yourself, have your pleasures fulfilled until you're really ready."

Sonny – "No, that's one girl. I understand what she is saying but it's not for everyone."

Sonny – "It's not for me. I mean I am in a relationship with Francine and everyday is passionate and I do feel fulfilled, but Francine and I are like one now, unbreakable."

Sonny – "I could never see myself without her; I loved her from the first day."

You - "Maybe you're right or you're just as naive as me."

Sonny – "Well regardless, I found my girl and you will find the one for you, just give it time."

You – "Maybe..."

Sonny – "I'm telling you it will happen, just don't expect it or look for it, let it come to you."

You – "What the hell does that mean?"

Sonny - "I don't know, it's something they say."

You – I don't really see Sonny much but I know he is a dependable friend. He is a very passionate person when it comes to love and is always true to his emotions. In the crazy game of love, I fear that this could be his heart's downfall.

You – "Well if it can happen for you, I'm pretty sure it can happen for me."

Sonny – "That's what I love about you Kai. You always see happiness in the darkest moments."

You – "Yeah, I do."

You – Or I hold them in till I'm alone...

You - "I feel a lot better now, maybe I just need to relax."

You – "Erm... I am going to Greenforest Park."

Sonny – "You sure you're OK, I can come with you if you want?"

You – "No, I am fine, thanks for the coffee and the talk."

You – I know I will see Noelle here as she said she needed to finish her project.

You – I just need to amend everything, I just want closure on this whole thing.

You – The sun is so beautiful, the sky above looks like a painting.

You – I wish my life was as simple as this, just content.

You – Oh there she is!

You – What the hell...

As I approached her I saw her kissing someone, that someone being Rory, my so-called friend, it keeps on getting better...

You - Just walk away...

You - I can't believe Rory, what the hell!

You – "Rory!!"

You – "Rory, Damn you!"

All I saw was red for Rory, I hated him for what he was doing but I hated myself more for having felt so much with Noelle. I charged at him with full force and we started brawling.

You – As I was fighting Rory, I realised something. Why the hell am I fighting him? It's Noelle I should be mad at. How can she quickly turn her feelings towards somebody else?

You – I hated him at that point, why would he do this to me?

Noelle – "Stop!"

Noelle - "Someone stop them!"

Noelle - "Stop!"

You - When I heard her screams, I came back down to Earth...

Noelle – "Kai! What the hell is wrong with you?"

You - "Me? What about you? Me yesterday, him today!"

You - "You really are heartless!"

Noelle – "Heartless? Speak for yourself! I am living logically trying to find the right person to have a relationship with, yeah there may be hit and misses but I'm searching for what I truly want."

Noelle – "You fall in love with someone in one night; completely caring about yourself and not taking any of my thoughts into account. Heartless? You're the selfish one!"

You – Damn, she's right...

Noelle – "And look what you've done, coming here and fighting with your supposed brother?"

You - "Brother?"

Rory – Yes! I was helping Noelle with her project and she told me about last night. It was obvious it was like a one night thing so that's why I approached her. I like her and she likes me, nothing to it."

Rory – "She obviously did not see you as her boyfriend so she moved on!"

Rory – "But when we spoke about you, I spoke so highly of you, not as a friend but as a brother."

Rory – "We've been through so much and this is what you think of me, that I would betray you like that?!"

You - "Rory! I'm sorry, I was not ready for..."

Rory – " I don't care! Why ,Kai? Why do this?"

You – "Rory..."

Rory – "Don't you dare touch me!"

Noelle – "Guys, you need to clean your wounds. Let me help and let's calm down and talk about this properly."

You – As Noelle cleaned our wounds, I had an epiphany over this whole ordeal. I wore my heart on my sleeve and got connected too quickly. I just wanted to be in love with someone but I never really connected to Noelle. I was blinded by my feelings, completely shrouding my judgment over this whole thing. Noelle was the sensible one, trying to find that special someone, not rushing into things to only find hurt.

You – And Rory, finally he is with someone and happy. Noelle has found the one she wants to start a relationship with, so I am sure that they have plenty in common; not just a lust for each other but meaningful similarities.

You – I feel sick to my stomach at what I did to Rory, and to hear he still stood up for me when talking to her about me. I feel....terrible.

You – Maybe he'll forgive me but I just feel terrible.

You – As we finished talking and everything was pleasant again, I left them to enjoy the end of the afternoon.

You – Let me just reflect on this whole Noelle thing. I just got attached too quickly with Noelle. For her it was just having fun, being only 19, you need to experiment, just find the one you really want to fall for instead of having hundreds of failed attempts. I understand truly how she felt about the whole situation but I just acted a fool.

Two weeks have passed since the Noelle incident. It has been hard but Rory is happy and that's all I want. Or is it? School has finished so hopefully the summer will bring me more than just fun in the sun, something to really remember...

You – Ah first day of summer break! No work, just play. Hopefully this holiday will be the best ever!

Mum – "Kai, you awake? You want some breakfast?

You – "OK!"

You – The last couple of weeks have been an emotional ride but I feel so much better about everything.

As I was going to get out of bed, the phone rang...

You – "Hello.".

Noelle - "Hi Kai, what are you doing today?"

You – "Nothing planned yet but it's a beautiful day, thought I would play some games all day."

Noelle - "You nerd!"

You – "I know, I know. Well, do you want to go to Coral Bay today?"

Noelle – "That would be great, bring everyone and we can make an event out of it."

You - "Yeah sure, call Jubilee and I will call everyone else."

Noelle - "Alright, well should we say 12.30 to meet there?"

You – "Cool cool!"

As soon as I was ready, I left the house. I was heading out to enjoy every minute of the summer...

You – Well, I've got all my gear for today and everyone is coming; oh it's going to be sweet! I've not been to the beach in a while!

You – Let me go get Reina, I haven't seen her for so long. Reina and I have been like two peas in a pod for years now. She is like the sister I never had. She went on a gap year trip to Beijing so I have really missed her.

The sun was so blisteringly hot, I needed to get to Reina before I burned away...

You – "Reina!"

Reina – "Kai!"

You - "I haven't seen you in so long! Oh have I missed you!"

Reina – "I know, this gap year has been so long, It was a brilliant trip though. I met some new friends and some guys which obviously did not work out."

You – "Same old Reina!"

Reina - "I have missed you so much!"

Reina - "It's probably been the hardest thing leaving you."

You – "I know but you're here now and we can annoy each other again."

Reina – "Yeah, you're right!"

You – Just to clarify when I say we are like brother and sister, I really mean it. For so long we have been together, enjoying each other's ways but we've also had some terrible arguments. Nevertheless, I would never change it, beyond any doubt, she is my sister.

You – And no, I have never had feelings for her in any other way...

You – "So you're ready to go Coral Bay?"

Reina - "Yup, let's set off!

Coral bay is a beautiful beach with clear blue water and glistening sand. This is where the fun is when school is closed for the summer. There's always something good happening here and everyone is dressed to impress.

Reina - "Where should we set up?"

You - "Wherever, the guys should be here soon."

It was so great to have Reina back, she seemed like she had grown up with her time away but I will always see us as the two loners on the swings...

Pryce – "Hey Kai, Reina!!"

Reina - "Hi Pryce, how have you been?"

Pryce - "Not too bad. Oh this is my girlfriend, Jubilee."

Reina – "Hey Jubilee."

Jubilee - "Hello Reina, Pryce has told me a lot about you."

Reina - "Has he now?"

You - "Nothing bad!"

You – "Enough with the introductions, let's just get in the water!"

You – 'Amazing', that's all I could think about when being around all my friends, especially Reina. I have missed her so much but this is a great day to rekindle everything lost. After swimming and having pure fun, we just relaxed on the beach, talking with each other and really enjoying each other's company.

You – When nightfall came, we set up a camp fire to relax and eat. Everyone was with their respective partners. Rory with Noelle, Sonny with Francine and Pryce with Jubilee which just left Reina and me...

Reina – "Kai, I have had so much fun tonight it really has taught me how much I miss it here and everyone here.

You – "Yeah today has been great, a superb start to the holidays."

Reina - "Looks like everyone is comfy."

You – "Yeah."

You – Everyone around was just in their own worlds, just whispering sweet nothings to each other and kissing. At that point, I felt exactly how I have always felt, lonely.

You – I seem to be happy but I am just hiding the obvious. I yearn for what everyone around me has, I just don't understand why I'm so bad, why I am so unattractive?

Reina – "You OK?"

You – "I am fine."

Reina – "Don't lie..."

You - I could not look at Reina as she would notice.

Pryce – "Reina, do you want another drink?"

Reina – "Eh, sure."

While she was not looking, I told her what was wrong. Now I whispered it but I got it out...

You – "I am unhappy."

You – "Be back in a moment."

Reina – "Alright."

I had to leave, I needed to clear my head. It angers me so much that I am feeling like this, like some baby or something...

Reina – "I hope he is OK, I know what's wrong with him and I do feel for him..."

Pryce - "What's wrong with him?"

Reina – "Loneliness."

I just kept walking , walking so much that the camp lights became dim in the horizon and I only had the moon as a guiding light... **You –** I can't take this anymore, everyone around me is happy but they forget about me, for some reason I am not relevant, sometimes I wish I was not alive...

You – No one understands me, I feel like there are two sides to me, the happy carefree me and then the lonely and unhappy me. I should open up more to my friends but I can't, they can't relate, none of them have felt like I do.

You – Screw this!

As I kept on walking towards the horizon, I saw someone.

You – "Who is that?"

There she was, just peacefully staring into the ocean. I thought I would go to her to see if she was OK.

You – "Hello, are you OK?"

??? - "I'm fine, thank you."

You – "Oh, OK."

You – I started to turn away from her and continue on walking but I just decided to talk to her. She did not look happy, so I thought I'd try helping her seeing as though I can't help myself.

You – "Do you mind if I sit down?"

??? - "No that's fine."

You – "So what's your name?"

??? – "Really? I can't be bothered with guys chatting me up right now."

You – "Oh no it's not like that, not at all. I hate all that rubbish."

??? - "Sure."

You – "No, seriously... I hate it. I am just so annoyed with the whole subject of girls and guys right now."

??? – "Just come out of a relationship?"

You – "I would rather not talk about it."

??? – "Oh OK..."

??? - "Laurie..."

??? - "Laurie Takahashi."

You – "Laurie."

You - Why does that name ring a bell?

You – "My name is Kai."

Laurie - "Nice to meet you."

You – We shook hands at that point, she seemed very distant but her name sounded so familiar.

Laurie - "So Kai, why are you here so late?"

You – "Well I am here with friends just round the corner, I thought it would be nice to go to the beach today."

Laurie – "Any good?"

You - "Yeah today was really good until..."

Laurie – "Until?"

You – I hardly knew this girl and I was going to start talking about my deep feelings. Screw it, it's not like anyone cares anyway.

You – "Until all my friends started to make out with each other."

Laurie - "Wow you have some nice friends."

You – "Ah not like that, most are in relationships with each other apart from one girl."

Laurie - "Your ex, I am guessing."

You - "No, just a really excellent friend."

You – "So I decided to go for a walk to get away from it all, sometimes when you have not got it, it annoys you."

Laurie – "Yeah, I can understand."

You - "What about you, why are you out so late?"

Laurie – "Well I have not been in town for quite a bit of time so when I come, I love to just sit here and watch the sun go down."

You – "I love that too, sometimes the fast way of life can get so distracting so it's good to just sit and stare."

Laurie - "Yeah exactly."

You - "So are you a student somewhere out of town?"

Laurie – "Not exactly."

You – "OK."

Laurie - "Have you not guessed who I am yet?"

You – "No."

You – I did not have a clue what she was talking about until she said her name again.

Laurie – "Laurie Takahashi."

You – Then I was stunned. I was talking to Laurie Takahashi, the renowned singer.

Laurie – "Yes I am Laurie, the singer, performer, whatever you want to call it."

You - "Wow! You are really famous!"

Laurie – "And that's why I like to come here and be alone from all that."

You - "All that?"

Laurie – "All the stardom and starstruck faces from people. I mean I love what I do, I really do but sometimes I wish I could be normal."

You – "Yeah it must be hectic for you."

Laurie - "You have no idea."

You – "You know what, tonight I will make you feel normal, I will try and forget what you just told me and we can talk like two normal people."

Laurie – "That would be nice."

You – "Cool, well let me tell my friends that I am here and not to worry and I will be back in a few minutes."

Laurie – "Alright, do you mind not telling them who you are with?"

You - "Oh that's fine, I will not say anything."

You – "Be back in a moment."

You – As I was walking back, I felt quite ecstatic as I had just met a celebrity and that I was having a normal conversation with her. Just made me think that famous people still have normal problems too, we are all the same really.

You – "Hey guys."

Rory – "You okay now? You seemed down before you left."

You – "Nah, I'm fine now. Just met a girl, so I am going to spend some time with her."

Rory - "Girl? I see. Well good luck."

You - "Thanks, where's Reina?"

Rory - "Oh, she is talking to Virgil..."

You - "Virgil? Please don't tell me..."

Rory – "Yes, Virgil Kobie!"

You - "Damn it, I hate that guy!"

Reina – "Kai, come over here!"

You – As I was walking towards Reina I could see Virgil's smirk face, this guy is a total fool. He thinks he is God's gift to women or something, always showing his muscles and acting like an idiot in front of girls. I can't imagine how many girls

want Virgil, it's unbelievable! I don't know what they see in him.

Virgil – Kai, how are you? Still trying to find purpose in your miserable life?"

Reina – "Virgil! Don't be so mean."

CHOICE

Make Reina see sense (Chapter 4 A)

Go to Laurie (Chapter 4 B)

You - " Virgil go screw yourself!"

Virgil - "What! Don't talk to me like that you swine!"

You – "I don't give a damn Virgil, for years you have been putting me down and now I don't care."

You - "Reina, don't be an idiot and go with this reject!"

Virgil – "Reina, if you don't shut his mouth, I will!"

Rory – "If you have a problem with Kai, you have a problem with me!"

Pryce - "Me too."

Virgil - "Is that how it is? Fine, let's go Reina...."

Virgil – "Reina!"

- Reina "No... I am staying."
- Virgil "Fine, act stuck up, you ain't even that pretty!"

Pryce – "Look at Kai, sticking up for himself."

- You "I had to show him I ain't scared."
- Reina "Very impressive!"

Reina – "Where are you going Kai?"

You – "Just don't talk to me, I am going home. Guys see you later."

Reina –"Kai!"

Reina - "Talk to me!!"

I had to go, Reina had again shown me that she will never change her ways with guys, always the jocks, the big muscle bound dudes with no brains or respect. I just needed to go home and sleep it off...

You – I am so mad with Reina, I mean, she never learns. She has been back home a day and already she is out flirting with random fools, this is why she never finds someone for her because the guys she picks are after one thing!

You – I just wish she could find someone that would appreciate how great she is. Her kindness, her loving persona, but she doesn't see that herself, all she sees is appearances and how "cool" someone is.

You – How can she be so stupid?

Mum - "Kai, you have a guest, I will tell her to come upstairs!"

You - "Hmm, I wonder who that is?"

Reina – "Hey Kai."

You – "Reina..."

You – "I have a headache, do you mind if I lay down before you rant to me how sorry you are..."

Reina – "Listen, I know you're mad but..."

You - "You think I am mad at you, I'm not..."

Reina – "Oh..."

You – "I'm... disappointed in you, I would not tell you things if I did not care, I mean you're like a sister to me. Do you really think I want you hurt?"

You - "But regardless of what I say, you still do, why is that?"

Reina – "I don't know, he seemed nice, he was attractive and..."

You – "Yeah, I know! Every time we used to go out it would be the same sort of guy!"

Reina – "Why are you being like this? It's my life! I can choose what I do with it."

You – "So I don't mean anything to you?"

Reina – "No you don't! Not when you are dictating what I should do!"

Reina – "Don't try and push me out! I am not here to argue, I came to reconcile."

Reina – "I mean that I now know what Virgil is like."

You – "Yeah after he humiliated me then threatened me, you think I just want to fight him? No, I was trying to protect you!"

You – Maybe I am talking to a brick wall but let me be clear..."

You – I could not hold my tears at that point, I was so mad at her because I just care for her so much and I don't want her to feel hurt in this world.

You – "Reina... No girl in this world means more to me than you do. For so long now, I have tried to protect you as much as I can but I can't, no more..

You – "My heart burns inside when you do these foolish things and it's like you can't see that it makes me unhappy.Where is your loyalty?! I would do anything for you just to see you happy but me...What have you ever done for me?"

Reina – "Oh Kai, I'm sorry if I don't show as much compassion as you do but I do care for you. Every five minutes when I was away I was thinking about you... whether you were OK..."

Reina – "I mean I love you... more than any of these petty guys, it's just that I need some passion in my life."

You – "I see..."

Reina - "You see what?"

You – "Why could I never be that person? The person who will give you everything?"

Reina - "What are you saying?"

You – My heart was overflowing with emotion, for the first time my mind was focused. Today has been so dramatic that I just had to really say how I felt... To not hide any more, to stop lying to myself that I never thought about Reina...

I started to remember something in the past, between me and Reina...

You - I remember when we were kids...

You - We used to play near the orchids in my garden because I had a swing there....

You - This particular day, while we were playing....

You - I was pushing you on the swing...

You - You said you wanted to go higher...

You - And higher...

You - To the point you lost balance and began to fall....

You - As you were falling, I jumped to catch you...

You - I caught you...

You - But I had broken my arm...

You - I was in so much pain...

You - But you said something to me that soothed my pain away...

You - 'You're my hero.'

You - When you said that I vowed to always save you when you're in trouble...

You - And as we become older, troubles become more complex... But I still kept that goal, to be your hero. I realised; a hero is not someone with superpowers but super intentions...

You - Not full of mystery but full of integrity...

You - And as I kept this mentality, you forgot...

You – Forgot I was your hero and moved on...

You - Leaving me that thought to dwindle in my mind...

You - That when you need me, I will be there...

You – Regardless how intricate the state of affairs, I would be there...

You - "And now, I am here again, trying to save you..."

You – "I know this is not what you're expecting, but as a friend, this is how I am so what if I was your boyfriend?"

You – "What if I were the man you wake up to?"

You - "What if I were the man to hold you when you're cold?"

You – "What if I were the man to show you appreciation in every form?"

You – "What if I were the man who would be intrigued by you every second?"

You – "What if I were the man who showed you nothing but love?"

You – "I want to be the man you deserve but also your hero."

Reina – "I never knew..."

You – "Well, now you know. I have always felt this way.."

You – "That eventually you would see how I feel about you and that you would see in your heart that I have and always will be there for you."

Reina – "Why are you saying this?"

Reina - "I'm sorry, I need to leave."

You – "Don't go!"

Reina - "Just give me time..."

You – "Don't go..."

I pulled her arm back towards me and she kissed me, I was stunned. Has she thought of me in this way before?

Reina – "Just give me time, bye..."

You - Wow, she kissed me. I... don't... know.

You – Wow....

The next thing I remembered was waking up. Was that all a dream? It can't be...

Mum – "Reina came over this morning to give you something, I think it's a note! Bye!"

You – A note?!

I need to see you now, meet me downtown at the Grand Café... I will be there X

You – Alright!

You – As I left my house my body began to be full of energy as I knew I needed to see her, so I ran...

You – I ran as fast as I could towards downtown...

You - To see Reina and make something of all of this...

- You Where is she? She is not in the cafe... Where is she?!
- You Who's that?

You – Down the alley beside the cafe, I could see a few guys hovering around someone, but who is it?

You – "Reina!"

Reina –"Help me!!"

You – "I'm coming!"

Virgil – "Oh your boyfriend has come!"

You – "Virgil!! You Bastard! What are you doing?"

Virgil – "Just making sure Reina understands that she can't take the mickey out of me..."

Virgil – "HAHAHA!"

You – As he was laughing away, I could see that his minions were restraining her. At that point, I saw her frightened gaze, staring at me screaming 'help me!' and as her hero, I would...

SMACK!!

You – My body viciously attacked... My blood red-hot to protect Reina... First Virgil went down...

KAPOW!!

CRACK!!

You – The rest followed...

You – "Reina! Are you hurt?!"

Reina – "Thank you Kai, thank you for saving me!"

She was so frightened, she leapt towards me and started to kiss me. I had to uphold my duty to always be there for her and finally, she is there for me...

You – This was the one, the kiss that really meant something. This was the moment I'd been looking for; that one kiss to symbolise how she feels about me... But nothing can ever be so perfect...

Virgil – "Get him!!"

All of a sudden, I was being kicked around like a rag doll. I could only hear Reina screaming...

Reina – "Kai! Somebody help him please! Virgil stop!!!"

Virgil – "No he deserves this! Or maybe even more.."

Reina – "Nooooo! Virgil!! No!"

You - Everything, in a heartbeat, became so silent...

You - So peaceful...

You - It was blissful...

You – Until I looked at Reina's face, I could tell something was wrong...

Virgil – "AHHHHHH!"

Reina – "Kai!!!!"

You – I looked at my stomach, red blood pouring from me. I knew the pain had not hit me yet, I had still not hit the ground from being sent to heaven by Reina...

Virgil – "Guys let's get the hell out of here!"

Reina – "Somebody help him! Please!"

You – As Reina was screaming for help, I could feel myself go... Every second became slower and slower and a tranquility engulfed me...

As I began to fall, Reina grabbed me. Even though Reina was screaming I had finally found the feeling that I deserved, to be in love...

Reina – "Don't you dare leave me!"

Reina – "I love you Kai!"

Reina - "I have tried to hide it from you for so long!"

Reina - "It's when I am alone that I know."

Reina – "Where I imagine you next to my side staring into my eyes."

Reina – "Just you... I have been hiding this because I have never known how you felt..."

Reina – "So I just go out with guys who will always be second best..."

Reina - " Never you!!"

Reina – "Now we both know, you can't leave me!"

Reina – "We have not gone through this road called life together for it to end here!"

Reina – "It won't! It can't!"

You – "I won't, this is the moment I have longed for. For you to say that you want me..."

You – " I love you...

You – "You love me...?"

Reina – "I do!"

You – "Reina, for you, my love will never die... Even, even if something happens..."

Reina - "Nothing will happen!"

You – "My love will never die, I will always be your hero..."

Reina – "Stop speaking like that, the ambulance is on it's way! Stop!" Reina - "Please don't leave me!"

Reina started to kiss me in a frenzy, just whispering...

Reina – "Don't you leave me... I love you!"

- You I have seen this before...
- You My dreams!!
- You She is the girl from my dreams!

You - I have seen this scene one thousand times...

You – This is amazing, it's like I have always known if I had just accepted it...

You - She is the girl of my dreams!

You - But what's next because it always fades to black ...?

Reina – "Kai! NO!

- Medic Let's get him on the operating table!
- Mum "Kai! Please be OK!"
- Reina "I love you!!"

Well that's that, a perfect love story where eventually I find it but I never got to know about the experience of growing with that love, growing old, having kids...

It may seem adventurous but is that not what it's all about...?

Jumping off that cliff and taking the chance that you fly and keep on flying...

I would have always loved her...

She had my heart, so regardless of 100 years or 10 seconds, the love was there. The connection was made...

Which can never be severed...

Now I would have to let go but she could not...

Reina - "Wake up!!"

Reina - "Please!!"

You - "URGHH!"

I woke up to her standing over me, she never left my side ...

Reina - "He's awake!"

You - " What happened?"

Mum - "Virgil attacked you with a weapon, I thought you were dead..."

You - "You know I'm stronger than that, besides, I had something to stay for..."

Mum - "Well I'm glad you decided to stay!"

You - "I love you mum..."

Mum - "Oh I do too!"

Mum - "Alright let me tell the doctor you're awake, I will leave you to talk..."

You - "Thanks mum."

As soon as mum left, I was waiting for Reina to say something. She just had a blank stare on her face, tears running...

You - "Reina?"

You - "I heard you, you know, while I was out..."

You - "You made me come back..."

Reina - "I never left your side, I..."

You - "Stop, come here."

I know all I could do was hold her, we did not need to say anything . I held her all night, she saved me but she had to pay a price; she had lost her heart when she thought I'd gone. I needed to make sure that I could get her back...

The next morning I was feeling right as rain so before Reina awoke, I had to show her that I will always be there...

FIN

You – "Guys, I will see you later, just going get my stuff and go."

Pryce - "Dude, don't go."

Rory – "She is being an idiot, it's just the drink. Don't worry so much."

You – "Maybe you're right but I need to clear my head from all of this."

You – And see Laurie, maybe she can shine some light on me...

You – "Bye..."

You – As I approached Laurie for the second time, I could tell she was anxious to see me and so was I... It felt nice that I was talking to someone completely out of my circle of friends, someone fresh and new. I felt angry at Reina but Laurie truly has shined some happiness on me...

You – "Hey Laurie."

Laurie - "Hi Kai, what's wrong?"

You - "It's fine, just stupid friends..."

Laurie – "Come on, tell me. Remember normal conversations, I am used to tour dates and interviews."

Laurie – "Tell me some gossip."

You – "Alright, well basically when I went back to my friends..."

You – As I was explaining the situation to Laurie, I could tell that she really was intrigued in my life and she really felt sympathy for me. I was not surprised to be honest, as her life must be so hectic and she never gets any time to think...

Laurie – "Sounds very deep, could I give you my point of view and some advice?"

You - "Please."

Laurie – "Well, it seems that Reina is just living her life, enjoying every moment and it seems it hurts you."

Laurie - "If I did not know, it seems that you like her..."

You – "No way, I just hate that guy and I know she is just going into his trap."

Laurie – "I know but that's the mistake she has to make or she will never learn."

You – "I can see what you're saying but I just feel I need to protect her, but how can I protect her if she doesn't care?"

Laurie – "You're caring too much. Let her be and take care of you."

You – "You're right..."

You – "I mean, I have always cared how people are, always trying to make them happy but I am never happy, never."

Laurie – "I hate when this happens."

Laurie – "Honest, warm, big-hearted people like you are never treated right."

Laurie – "Hey, I know we have not known each other long, but look what you have already done for me."

Laurie – "You saw me, alone, and you just wanted to see if I was all right. As your friends were fine, you spent your time with me just to make me feel comfortable."

Laurie – "It's like being a superhero, always saving everyone else but who will catch you when you fall?"

You – "Thank you."

You – Fuzzy... Floating on air, this sensation I am feeling is amazing, it feels like every breeze touching my skin is an embrace from someone and every second is euphoria.

Laurie – "I have to..."

You – "What?"

Laurie – "This...

She threw herself on me, for one single kiss...

Laurie – "Sorry."

You – "Don't be."

Laurie – "I've never met someone like you, and obviously I have met a lot of people."

Laurie - "It's just that, this may sound dumb..."

You - "No, say it."

Laurie – "It's like someone answered what I really yearned for. Just at that moment, when I was alone, I felt so alone. More alone than I have ever felt, so cold and alone." **Laurie** – "Then you just came out of nowhere, now I feel warmth, I could stay here all night."

You – "Well, let's..."

You – "Let's stay with each other tonight, like a perfect dream, where we're awake every second and it never ends."

Laurie – "OK..."

You – I have been answered also; everything I longed for so deeply has now been answered without even trying.

Life can be so puzzling and so mysterious, I don't understand how I got into this moment but I am going to embrace it and take pleasure in it.

You - Ask no questions, you get no lies; maybe that phrase is perfect as I know this is not rational or probable, but something else, somewhat incomprehensible to any mind.

Laurie – "Hold me."

You – "Are you okay, do you need anything? A blanket...?"

Laurie – "Stop, that's exactly what I am talking about, I am here to save you."

You – "Laurie, this is weird."

Laurie – "What do you mean?"

You - "Oh no, not this, I love this!"

You – "Weird, like, I have never encountered someone like you, at the precise time when I needed you most."

You – "I mean, I am alone, no one there to really be there for me, not just in making out and all those petty things but the little things like holding my hand and telling me I mean more to this world then I perceive."

You – "I am not going to ask questions or debate how weird this really is. But I am going to stay here and bask in the wonder that is before me, everything has just become so much better."

Laurie – "I know, I feel the exact same way, you see, my life is so fast. That's the only word I can put to it, I came into the business to sing, to show the world that we are all special in some way. I wanted to express my feelings through songs so everyone can connect with me and take away something special from the words."

Laurie – "That was before, now I am a huge star, all I have is businessmen around, dictating to me what to do, what I shall sing, where my money goes. It's lost the magic from the beginning and now I am just a pawn in their game."

Laurie – "But I still do it, knowing that I can bring a smile on someone's face when they're down or a loving couple can use my words to express how they feel about each other."

Laurie – "It's just that I was waiting for my time, my time to be blissful, my time to find love. To show my emotions to a person while they show me theirs."

Laurie – "I am not saying I am in love but I'm overwhelmed with emotion right now, this is also new to me, so new I don't know what it is, is it love?"

You – I did not know what to say, I have learned from before you should tread softly towards love as it can just leave you broken but this is surreal, I want to believe it but I am scared.

You – "I... I don't know."

You – "But what I do know is that, this is one of those moments in life which don't come around too often, I feel this moment is like seeing a shooting star. A wondrous passing which should never be taken for granted. I have an angel in my presence and I shall embrace you until you're gone."

We just embraced under the moonlight, with a cool breeze caressing us...

Laurie – "Tell me more about yourself?"

You – "I really don't know what to say; I am a normal guy, with a normal life. I have friends and a family, prospects in life but nothing else."

Laurie – "You say it like it's nothing."

You – "No, I am happy with everything else in my life. I really don't worry about anything else."

You – "But how can anything come close to this experience here? I mean this truly is the best night of my life."

Laurie – "Yeah I know, it's amazing. Life feels so complete right now."

You – By Laurie's expression I could tell, she is so content, finally she has gained something which she desired so much. Her life being so extravagant, mine being normal, great but normal.

You – How could I ever relate to her? What am I saying, I am here with her, she has everything special in life, but just a simple thing like holding her can be needed, despite her celebrity status.

You – It makes me think about what makes people truly happy, is it possessions? Love? Status? Depending on the person it's different but I have learned that two completely dissimilar people who met tonight - despite their differences were still searching for the same thing.

Laurie – "What are you thinking about?"

You – "Just contemplating, how do you feel about me just being normal?"

Laurie – "Normal? What do you mean?"

You - "Like an average Joe, just regular."

Laurie – "What's normal about you?"

Laurie - "I mean you're sweet, warm-hearted and caring."

Laurie – "You have treated me as another human being despite what I do."

Laurie – "In a world full of 'normal' people, separated by so many factors like race and money, it's the qualities of people like you that shine from the norm."

Laurie – "If you are talking about being normal in the sense that you're not wealthy or famous, you're wrong because I have met a person who holds qualities that no man I have ever met has." Laurie - "It's like you're a star in the sky."

You – "I am sorry Laurie, for asking stupid things, please forgive me."

You – "I was just thinking what I could offer you that you don't have. Why would you like someone like me?"

You – "But with what you just said, I believe in your words and I do feel different from other guys, it's just that you're the only one who thinks that way."

Laurie – "In what way?"

You – "That I am special, I feel uncomfortable because no one has said it, it's the thing that I have always wanted to know: are my qualities being recognised or just taken for granted?"

Laurie – "Well you know how I feel; how you are becoming more important to me every second. I feel for you so much. I know it's quick but it's like I see into you and all I see is a warm glow, radiating with integrity and honesty, compassion and kindness."

Laurie then came closer and whispered in my ear four words which were inexplicable yet extraordinary. I was dazed by the words; everything seemed tame compared to the sound of those words.

Laurie – "Stay with me forever."

You - "Forever?"

Laurie – "Forever."

You – Forever, a word to explain a period of time which is infinite. My mind was riddled with questions, trying to find a logical explanation. Contemplating what she just said, my mind was telling me that it's implausible but my heart was telling me to pursue it. Forever I will be there, body or spirit.

You – "I will, I feel that I am connected with you now so even if you're miles away just open your heart and I will be there."

Laurie – "Thank you."

You – Maybe this was illogical, just madness. You know, when people try and tell you it's puppy love and real love grows over time with persistence and commitment, to the day when you finally know. So how do I explain this, love at first sight? Falling for someone you hardly know yet feel you have known them for years. And to say such a thing as "stay with me forever" and really hold to it?

You - I mean I don't know how life works but this here is something not built on probability and averages but the mystery of chance and the unseen connection of human emotion. By inquiring within our minds before the leap, we're not embracing. By questioning, we're not accepting.

You - Dreams do come true if you let them, dreams and miracles occur every day yet we are so driven by our own greed that we are always searching for more.

Laurie – "I know we said to stay here all night but the tide is coming in, can we go round your house?"

You - "Yeah sure, let's go..."

I quickly got back to my place as the night air started to get colder, each step I took was filled with pride as this girl looked up to me as her soul mate, which felt so rewarding as it's all I have wanted...

You – "Here we are, do you want to go upstairs to my bedroom?"

Laurie – "I would like that."

Laurie – "Do you mind leaving the lights off? The moonlit sky is beautiful tonight and I would love to see it."

Laurie – "It's just that I am always in hotels in major cities and all I see are skyscrapers and billboards. This town really is a naturally beautiful place and I want to experience it as long as possible."

You – "When do you have to go?"

Laurie – "I have three days left here before I go."

You – "Oh..."

Laurie – "Don't worry though, I have one thing to do tomorrow but then I want to spend the rest of my time with you."

You – "I would love that."

Laurie – "I knew you would."

We were kissing so passionately that we were smashing up my bedroom before we fell onto my bed..

Laurie - "Ah I think I stepped on a plug."

You – "I will clean it all up tomorrow; let me see your foot."

You - As I went to check Laurie's foot, she grabbed me...

Laurie – "Uh uh, come here!"

You – While we were kissing away, I could tell it was getting more and more intense. I pulled away to look at her to make sure I was not dreaming, to make sure that this girl was real.

You – "This feels so surreal Laurie, nothing on this scale has ever happened to me, I'm so confused yet so confident, there is only one conclusion."

You – "I have fallen for you Laurie, you have turned my life into one that is now full of magic and wonder. I feel only you at this moment. I don't want this to end."

You – I could feel my heart fluttering rapidly and my eyes starting to weep. My hands could not stop shaking, I am in love. I know I am, I have never felt like this before, it's like my very material world has crumbled into pure bliss.

Laurie - "I know you can't read my mind but feel this."

You – She put my hand on her chest.

Laurie – "Can you feel it?"

You - "I can, your heart is beating so fast but it feels so warm."

Laurie – "You see, I can't explain this either but this experience I am feeling must be love, everything is so vivid and alive. When I look at you, I want to cry as I have finally found what I have yearned for so long. I want to stay with you forever so I can always feel this way. I never want to let this and you go..."

You – "You won't have to; I will be here, always next to you.

At the point I knew I was lying to her and to myself, I wanted to be there but I had to be honest with myself, she is a star, an idol to so many people and I am just a regular person. I won't be able to live like that, she deserves more. The next morning...

You - "What's wrong?"

Laurie - "I have a CD signing in town to go to but I don't want to go..."

Laurie - "Would you mind if I go?"

You - "Laurie, it's your job, I totally understand!"

Laurie - "Thanks for understanding, I told the chauffeur to go, so we can walk."

You - "Cool, I'll get ready..."

As soon as I was ready, we left to go to the record store in town. Something was telling this was the last I would see of Laurie...

Laurie - "Last night was amazing, I really needed it to get my priorities straight."

You - "Yeah it was amazing ... "

Laurie - "And I did mean everything I said yesterday, as soon as I am finished, I want to be with you."

You – "Laurie..."

As quickly as her name was coming out of my mouth, a crowd approached.

You - "Laurie, we can't do this..."

Laurie - "Why?!"

You - "Laurie, we're too different. You have a purpose in your life. To make people happy and bring joy through your voice."

Laurie - "But I love you..."

You - "I do too, but you know it's right. Say you quit singing, then what? You'd stay round mine and go to the Academy. I could not do that to you."

She began to cry so I grabbed her close while the crowd around was getting bigger and more hectic.

You - "You have shown me something that no one has, gratitude and devotion. I feel like you have saved my life, given me something to strive for...

You - "I will find you again one day but for now, grow and let the world know that yours is mine and mine is yours..."

Security Guard - "Ms, you need to go on stage now."

Laurie - "OK..."

You - "...Yeah."

I couldn't let go of her hand, was this the biggest mistake of my life letting her go?

You - "You know I do..."

Laurie - "I know..."

And then like that she was gone into the midst of the crowd. I felt a sinking sorrow in my heart for letting her go. Still, I was proud that she can get on with her life and succeed until the day we can truly reunite...

As I started to walk away, the erratic crowd began to calm and a soulful voice began to sing...

Laurie - "Until we meet again....

FIN

Appendix

1. A collection of images of the main characters as well screenshots from the game itself with locations and storyline.



Reina & Laurie

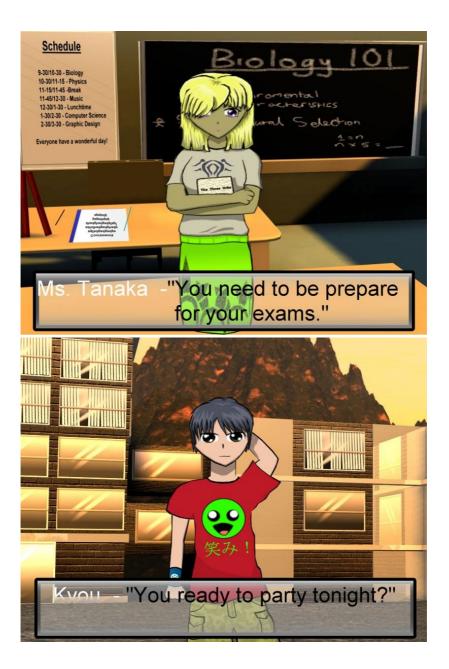


Noellle & Pryce

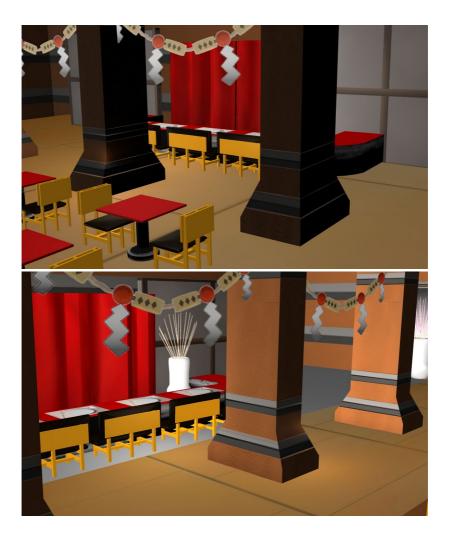


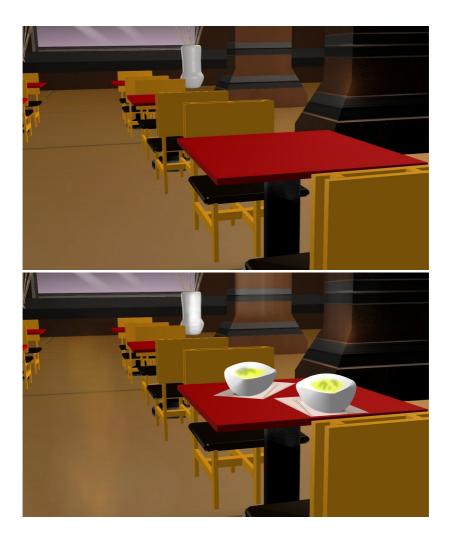
Jubilee & Rory

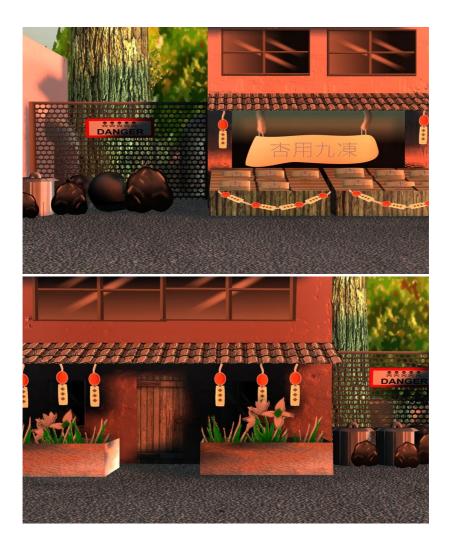




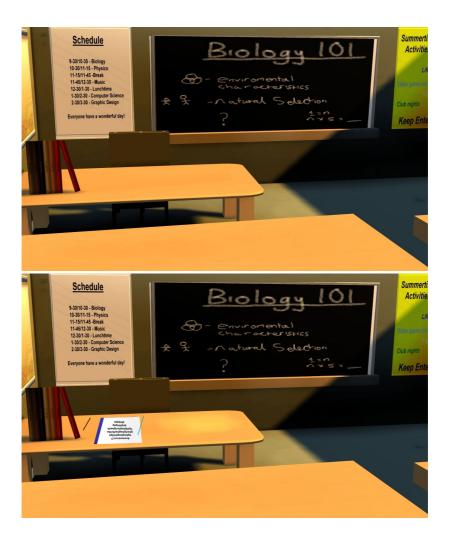


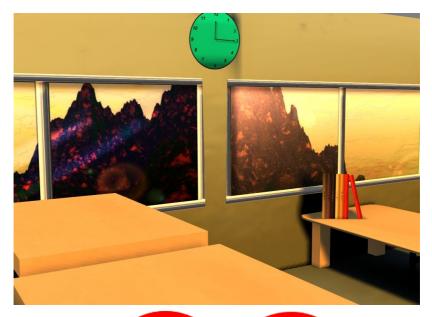












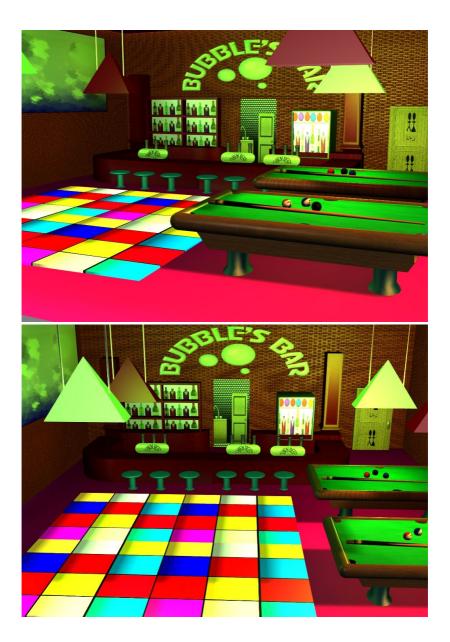
















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