

VOLUME 3

SHORT STORY WRITING CLUB

A story is magic of a moment.

Edgar Allan Poe



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Introduction

First, I want to say well done to all the writers whose work is here in this magazine. You have achieved something special. You have all worked hard on coming up with ideas and turning them into wonderful stories. In addition, you did this in English! You should be very proud and pleased with your hard work.

Next, I would like to thank everyone who has supported my students, whether that be family, friends or teachers. When you read this, please read these stories appreciating the effort and passion the writers put into them, but most of all, thank you for reading.

A special thanks to Abdulkadir Okan Kavak for his front cover design and Esma Yener for designing our poster.

Editor

Cameron Beale

SHADOW NIGHTMARE

Hayat Koç

Prince Onyx breathes loudly. He is so troubled because of the news. He stands up and goes to the military district. He needs to talk to best friend, Soldier Aron.

Aron is one of the elevated guardians of Shadow Aphaea. He is in the training area. He is practising with his new sword. When he sees someone coming. He understands who he is. Onyx always walks with hard steps. Everyone can understand he is coming by the sounds of his steps. Onyx looks like a typical Shadow man. He has dark, wavy hair and grey eyes. His face shape is very sharp. To be honest, he looks scarier because of his muscular body.

Onyx looks at his friend very stressed. "What's going on Onyx?" Aron asks. Onyx moves back his hair and starts to talk. "Did you hear the news?"

"No. I'm testing my new sword. What happened? Is there any other attack?" Onyx shook his head up and down. "It's going worse Aron." Their eyes connect for a second.

"Do you want to see your father, or must we go quickly?" Aron asks. "I will see my father later. Let's go and check." He answers.

While riding horses to the attack area, both think about the situation. Shadow Soul's uprising has become very powerful now. No one knows how it started. Suddenly, they come underground and attack people. Shadow Souls are perilous creatures. They are so insatiable, and they want more powers. That's why they attack the people and turn their souls into shadows. People know they are not safe.

Onyx sees the soldiers when they arrived. He jumps down and goes to the area. When Aron talks to the soldiers, he is looking around. He sees a beautiful young woman in the corner.

She looks terrified, and she is non-stop crying. Onyx walks there very slowly because he doesn't want to scare her. "My lady are you okay?" he asked softly. She looks at who he is, and suddenly, she stands up. "My prince, I apologize. Please forgive me." She tries to show him reverence, but Onyx held her arms softly.

"Please don't my lady. Are you okay?" he asked again.

The woman shook her head up and down.

"Only me." She said, her tears flow down her cheeks. "Only I could survive. My whole family is... is-" She starts to cry worse. Onyx feels very sad and hopeless. He pulled her into a hug.

How many minutes she cried, they don't know. When she feels better, Onyx looks at her face. "You need to go to the Night Palace." He says very softly. "Soldiers will come with you."

The young woman is against that. "No, I don't want to go." She said.

"I must look here, my lady, I must research what is happened." Onyx says.

"Please, my prince, I can wait you. Also I can explain what happened."

"Miss, I must protect you, please-"

He stops because of the young woman's eyes. Her eyes are wet. He doesn't want the lady to start crying again because of him. "Okay. You can stay. But you must stay behind me, is it okay?" he says.

"Yes sir," the woman answered. After her answer, Onyx walks to the house it is ruined now.

"What's your name?" Onyx asks.

"Nesta, my prince," she answers Onyx didn't talk more; he gave his full attention to the ruined house. "Aron? Are you inside?" he asks.

"Yes. Onyx, you must look here." Aron shouts from inside the house.

"I'm coming," Onyx answered. He put his step on the fallen column. "Be careful, Nesta." He holds his hand to prevent her from falling. When they came to the entrance, Onyx felt creepy powers. I am very powerful. When they get there, they see the wild shadow power residues. Everybody feels its creepy power. "They are more powerful now," Aron said.

"Yes," Onyx says. "And they are more dangerous also."

Every part of the house was destroyed and scattered. Onyx put out of his ring and opened the magical runes. He uses magic to catch the shadow residues, but the shadows fight him. Onyx forces himself. He tries to use all his power. His hair flew and changed color. His eyes disappear. You can only see the grey color in his eyes. He screamed because of using his whole power. Finally, he can catch the shadows in his ring.

He breathes very fast and loudly. "We should go back to Night Palace," He said.

Nesta was speechless at the magnificent of the Night Palace. Also, she is scared. Soldiers are everywhere. People aren't smiling. The atmosphere in the palace is very tense. In addition, royal women looking at her with contempt. Onyx, brings her to healers. King Koa is waiting for them in the throne room. His wife, Queen Melantha, is worried about them. Onyx is her son, but she loves Aron like her son also. When Onyx and Aron entered the throne room, they show them reverence the King and Queen. "Are you okay?" Melantha asked both. Suddenly, she saw Aron's right shoulder. "Aron! You are bleeding." She screams.

Aron turns his head and looks at his shoulder. "It's okay my Queen. Just a small scratch." Aron answered, but this didn't stop the Queen. She came next to Aron, and she looked at his scar. She uses her magical powers to heal Aron. Melantha put her hand to Aron's face.

"You should be careful, son," She said softly.

Onyx tell them everything. He gives information about Nesta. His mother says she would look after her. King Koa is very stressful. He looks out from the window. "Did wizards find anything, Mely?" He asks his wife. "Well," Queen Melantha whispers. "They think about Shadows, and in their opinion, we have a few options," she says.

"The first option is to use an ancient charm it calls *Ameombra*."

"How can we use this charm, Mother?" Onyx asks. Queen Melantha breathes loudly. "We need some items to make a charm," she said. "Firstly, we must find an *Ortus Seal*. King Torryn, The First King of Aphaea, made this seal for using Sunlight. Secondly, we need a diamond crystal. Thirdly, King Metehan's Crown. Fourthly, Pureblood Shadow person's blood. Finally, One of the Divine Being's blood." She completes her sentences.

"For the love of Moon Mother! How can we find Divine Blood?" Aron shouts.

King Koa looks very thoughtful. "One for Light, one for dark, two bloods and diamond crystal for connecting," he said. After a few minutes, he looks up, "Onyx and Aron try to find Divine Blood. I

will take the crown and seal. Mely, can you find pureblood families?" Queen Melantha shook her head up and down.

They have all the ingredients except the divine blood. King Koa bring the crown and seal. Queen Melantha found the pureblood. Her job was so easy. Because Nesta is a member of Merikh's. Merikh's is one of the ancient pureblood families. They looked everywhere for Divine Beings but only found it after two months. Aron and Onyx managed to take its blood after a tough fight. After a week, Palace Wizards connected all the items and made an *Ameombra*.

There were very few people in the courtyard of the Ruined Castle. A team of three members of the Palace Wizards, as well as Aron and a few high-ranking guards. Among the nobles, the king, queen and of course, Prince Onyx were there. Queen Melantha will use the *Ameombra* Charm. The full moon was reflecting on the surface of the lake in the courtyard over the Ruined Castle, increasing the energy of the area. This would give power to the *Ameombra*.

A few minutes before midnight, Melantha took a few steps forward. As the most powerful witch in Aphaea, she was the only one who could successfully complete the ritual. Melantha lifted *Ameombra* to the level of her heart. "Great Mother Moon, do not take away your power from us. The Shadows under your protection, a hybrid of Light and Darkness, are attacking our people with their wild spirits. Send us your compassion and help to protect our people." she prayed.

The Queen closed her eyes and directed the magic power within her to her heart and then to the amulet she held in her hand. The amulet began to tremble as it received the energy from the queen. The light of the full moon hit the Sun Seal. The dark energy in Metehan's crown has been revealed. Light and Darkness flowed into the middle diamond. As they met, the blood mixed into the diamond. *Ameombra's* power was rising as the whispers of the Palace Wizards floated into the air.

The wind blew hard and blew the cloaks. The screams of birds in the forest were heard. The energy emitted from the Charm spread so much that even a normal person could feel it.

The snarling, savage sounds of the Shadow Souls filled their ears. Souls were drawn towards the *Ameombra*. But they didn't go from the charm to the underworld as they all hoped. Instead, they circled and circled around those present. Soaring through the air, they entered the Charm's areas and, trembling with rage, tore it to pieces.

The next morning, everyone woke up to an apocalypse. Shadow spirits attack the city one after another as if to take out last night's anger. He didn't even care about the elderly, children and pregnant women. Some people died in their sleep. That's why King Koa sent all his soldiers to the city. As emergency bells rang in the city, survivors began to be evacuated.

The Shadow Army is everywhere and they are fighting against the Soul's. The war was becoming increasingly bloody. The army had suffered great damage. But they were all fighting with all their might until the last drop of their blood.

King Koa went to his wife immediately after ordering the city evacuation. He whispered as she looked at her tenderly. "You have to go too," he said.

Melantha shook her head rapidly as she cried. "I won't leave you." she objected. But she knows she has to go.

"I already gave the order," King Koa says. The husband and wife, who had lost nothing of their love despite the years, hugged each other tightly.

Onyx went to see Nesta before the palace was evacuated. He was in a much better situation than when Nesta brought him here. Neither of them spoke for a while. Finally, Nesta broke the silence. "What will happen to you when we're gone?" asked.

Onyx took a deep breath. "I am a soldier of this country, Nesta. It is my duty to stay and fight for you," he said.

Nesta made a futile effort to hide her teary eyes. "When this is all over... If we both survive, can we go watch the sunset?" asks.

Onyx smiled hopefully. "I'll do everything I can to ensure we have a chance together. I promise."

The young man took a few steps forward and bravely closed the distance between them. He wrapped his arms around Nesta's waist. And he left a feather-light, affectionate kiss on the young woman's lips.

The Shadow Souls had entered the Night Palace, but neither King Koa nor Onyx intended to stop. They wanted to attack them while they trapped them in one place. After weeks of attack planning, they walk to the palace with the rest of the army. There was dead silence in the city. Traces of the damage left by the Shadow Spirits covered the entire city. The hearts of both those fighting and those left behind were beating rapidly. This was their last chance. The soldiers managed to enter the palace, albeit with losses. They left behind a terrible, wild atmosphere. What happened today would be written on the pages of history. There was a smell of blood inside the palace. The chilling sounds of the Shadow Souls were echoing throughout the palace. The survivors were still fighting among the lifeless bodies of their friends with whom they had fought shoulder-to-shoulder a few minutes ago. Onyx lifted his head for a brief moment and looked around. While watching perhaps the last moments of his soldiers fighting bravely, he realized something. The only way to permanently defeat the Shadow Spirits was to imprison them underground, and they needed a counterforce that would allow them to cross borders. A power from them. *We need to sacrifice ourselves. We need to turn Shadows also. We need to become a Shadow Soul like them.*

He unleashed all his powers. The immense power spread, spread, spread in the throne room, straining his mind, soul, and body and pushing them beyond the limit. He hit the fighting soldiers. It hit the walls. And from the corner of each of them came a great cry of agony. Under the influence of this power, each of them lost their bodies, their minds were damaged beyond repair, and their souls were mixed into the wildness of the shadows. A terrible silence spread around as everyone there who fought for their own people turned into shadow spirits.

Nesta had been struggling with anxiety, curiosity, and longing for weeks in the safe haven of Emerald Aphaea. When he felt she could not stand it any longer, he decided to talk to the Queen and went to her with determined steps. She did not forget to show reverence to the Queen. And she walked towards her with small steps.

"Your Majesty, excuse my boldness, but I can't take it anymore. I... I need to know. So I want to know what's going on. With your permission, I'd like to return to Shadow Aphaea." she said.

"Nesta, my beautiful girl. There's no way I'm letting this happen. This is too dangerous. Do you want to die?" Queen answered.

"If Onyx..." Nesta couldn't hide the tears flowing from her eyes. "The Shadow Souls murdered my entire family. If Onyx is not alive, then yes, my only wish is to die, your majesty."

The Queen didn't know what to say. Her eyes also filled with tears. She knew that no matter what she did, she couldn't stop the girl and maybe she didn't have the power to stop her. She shook her head slowly.

Nesta smiled hopefully. She quickly left the room and ran towards the stables. She had no preparation, but she didn't care. All she could think about was Onyx.

Nesta, who arrived at Shadow Aphaea days later, was about to faint from exhaustion. She continued her journey without stopping, except for stopping at the inns along the way to eat something. When she entered the city, everything was in ruins. There was a strong smell of blood around. The eerie silence of death was enough to make her body tremble.

As she looked around, she felt her heartbeat accelerate, and her heart tremble with fear. She didn't want to stop any longer and quickly rode her horse towards the palace.

She could barely move her body, shaking with fear, curiosity and longing, inside the ruined palace. She visited all that remained of the palace. As she walked, her fear grew and her body began to tremble. Tears were flowing non-stop like rain. Finally, she entered the throne room. Despite all her trembling, a violent chill passed through her body. The floor of the throne room was covered in small pools of blood. The king's crown was broken and its pieces were scattered on the ground. Even though Nesta knew they weren't here, she could still hear the wild whispers of the Shadow Souls. The palace was empty. There was no Shadow Soul or any soldiers, but most importantly, there was no Onyx.

THE PRICE OF POWER

Fatıma Zehra Kanpolat

He woke up with pain all over his body; then he opened his eyes with difficulty. He couldn't see anything in the dark, and he was cold. He searched his mind to remember where he was. What happened? How did he get here? Then he remembered the moment he jumped from the hole and fell. His body was still in pain. *I have to stop going into every hole I see*, he thought; then he started to stand up, but his legs were shaking, and he was screaming in pain. He felt like all his bones were broken. When he managed to stand up, he saw that the hole he entered was very high up. It seemed impossible to climb. He asked himself, “God, what was I thinking when I walked here?” He realised he was in a big trouble. He had to find a way out now. He couldn't climb up; he had no choice but to walk the cave path. He began to walk slowly into the darkness. He walked trembling with ‘cold’, actually fear. He was in despair and felt helpless. He wanted to cry, but he had to be strong. He had to face his fears and move on. He continued walking for a while; then he heard a voice. He listened carefully; it was like the voice was calling him. As he got closer, he could hear the voice clearly. Yes, he wasn't wrong; the voice said, “Aeson, come here, come here...” He couldn't believe what he had heard but kept following the voice. After a while, he saw the path shining. As he walked, everywhere became brighter. When he came to the end of the tunnel, he saw a yellow crystal.

When Aeson saw the Crystal, he thought, *I've never seen anything like this; it is wonderful*. Then he felt something interesting he couldn't explain; it was like the crystal pulling him towards itself. He reached out his hands to the crystal and took it. Everything went dark when he took the crystal in his hand, and Aeson felt himself falling. He started shouting, "Help! Help!" But kept falling. After a while, Aeson heard the sound of the wind; he opened his eyes and looked around and couldn't believe what he saw. He wasn't in the cave. He was back in front of the hole where he entered the cave. It was still morning, and it looked like nothing had happened. He asked himself, “What was going on here?”. What he saw was so realistic, but everything around him looked normal. He tried to stand up but had a headache and couldn't move properly. He tried to forget his pain. Then he thought, *where is the crystal? I...I... take it, but it isn't here; this is nonsense. Maybe I am sick. I should rest*. He decided to return home, and he started walking in the forest. While walking, he thought about the crystal. When he reached home, it was almost noon. He saw his mom on the front porch. She was cleaning when she saw Aeson. She looked at him carefully.

“Are you okay, my son?” she asked. “You look so weird.”

“Not really, Mom. I feel so tired, and my mind is confused about ...”

“About what?”

“About a crystal... yellow and very beautiful...”

“Honey, I don't understand. Can you explain everything?”

They sat on chairs on the porch. After Aeson calmed down a bit, he told in detail everything he saw. How he entered the cave, and what he did next. His mom listened to him carefully and thought about it for a while. Aeson tried to guess what she thought, but there was no emotion on her face.

“ Maybe everything you saw was a dream. Are you sure you didn’t hit your head somewhere, or you didn’t fall? ”

“ I can’t remember something before this situation. Yes, you are right. Probably, I fell, and I hit my head on the ground. ”

“ How do you feel now? If you feel bad, I can prepare a healing mixture for you.”

“ No, I am a good mom. I feel better now. ”

When they finished the conversation, Aeson’s father came to the porch and looked at them.

“ Aeson, Bridget, is everything good ? ” he asked. “ You were talking so excited. ”

“ It’s been a long time since we chatted, so we talked a little excitedly, ” She said.

“ Okay... I will hunt so that I will be in the forest all night; don’t wait for me, ”

“ Be careful, Dad,” Aeson said.

“ This is very strange, Theon; you would never go hunting at this time.” She said.

“ Don’t be worried, darling. I will check the traps and collect prey.” He said.

“ If you say so...” She said.

Then, Theon left, and Aeson and Bridget watched him enter the forest. Aiden looked at Bridget; she seemed worried but tried not to show it.

“ If you want, we can have dinner.” She asked.

“ Yes, it will be good. I am so hungry.” Aeson said.

After dinner, Bridget told Aeson to go and rest. Aeson went to his room to sleep but couldn’t because he was thinking about his father. *This is so meaningless; who goes hunting at night?* He thought. So he can’t sleep all night. Later in the night, he heard a loud noise. He went towards the door to check what happened. He opened the door slowly and silently. He looked through the door and saw a few men in front of their house. He was worried about his mother. He quietly crawled to his mother’s room. She was awake and was looking around.

“ Mom, Mom... ” Aeson whispered to Bridget. “There are few men there. I think they are trying to get into the house. What are we going to do?”

“ Take your dad’s knife from the wall, and I will take my bag too, then we will escape through the window. ”

While Aeson took his dad’s knife, his mother opened the window. First, Bridget jumped out of the window, and then Aeson jumped out. They started to run into the bushes, and they hid there. They can see in the house from there. At that moment, the men entered the house and started searching everywhere. They talked with each other loudly.

“ Where is the crystal? Find it quickly!” Said a man in a black cloak.

“ Sir, our men are looking everywhere but can’t find the crystal.” said a soldier.

“ This is impossible! We saw the child in front of the cave. He must taken the crystal. Where is he? Bring that boy to me now.”

“ Sir, there is nobody at home.” Said another soldier.

Aeson and Bridget were shocked by what they heard.

“ This can’t be true; it was all a dream,” Aeson said.

“ Shhh... be quiet; they can hear us,” Bridget said.

All the men left the house, and the man in the black cloak started shouting angrily. At that moment, Theon appeared.

“What are you doing here, Kyros?” Theon shouted.

“It’s been a long time since I saw you, Theon. Where is the crystal?” He asked.

“I don’t know what you are talking about, but you should never come here,” Theon said.

“Hah... When I beat you, you will beg me for mercy.” Kyros said.

They started to fight. First, Theon swung his sword at Kyros, but he ducked and managed to escape. Kyros kicked Theon in the stomach and made him fall, but Theon didn’t give up and stood up. They continued to fight for a while, and then Theon plunged his sword into Kyros’ heart and killed him. Then, all the soldiers attacked Theon. He couldn’t fight with all of them.

“Mom, we have to do something. They will kill him.” Aeson said.

“We will do. Don’t panic. Take the bow from my bag, and I will take the knife,”

Aiden shot two men with an arrow. And Bridget stabbed a soldier in the stomach and killed him. Theon was fighting with a soldier, and Aeson saw another soldier coming from behind him. Aeson tried to shoot him, but he couldn’t. The soldier stuck his sword into Theon’s back and started running away. Aeson ran to his father and started crying, then Bridget also came and held her husband's hand.

“Bridget, protect our son and tell the truth about us. Baruch is waiting for you at the big waterfall in the forest; go to him, and he will tell you everything.” Theon said.

“No...No... I will not leave you here, Dad.” Aeson said.

“I...I... Love you and...” Theon said.

These were his last words. Theon died in Aeson's arms. Aeson screamed in pain, and Bridget began to cry.

"Son, we have no choice but to do what your father says," said Bridget.

Aeson did not answer. They buried Theon, took a few items from the house and set off.

On the way to the waterfall, Bridget told her son the truth about their family.

“I don't know how to say this, but there is no easier way to say it... So, your father was the son of the king of Lyrinthia. While I was pregnant with you, there was a rebellion in the country, and your father went to stop it. While your father was there, your uncle Silas killed the king, your grandfather. When your father returned, he found his father dead, and his brother had become king. He fought with his brother, but he almost killed us. So we hid in this forest with your father and started living here.”

“Why you didn’t tell me this before? I had a right to know!”

“Please understand us, dear, we had no choice, we wanted to raise you normally,”.

“Still, I will never forget it,” Aeson said.

And they kept walking. Aiden didn't speak at all the whole way. After a while, they reached the big waterfall and saw Baruch. Baruch greeted them and introduced himself to Aeson.

“Young sir, I am Baruch, your father's tutor. Where is sir Theon?” he asked.

Then Bridget told him what happened.

“I'm very sorry for what I heard, sir Theon told me that he would bring you back immediately. If I had known, I would have come with him.”

“Theon said you would tell us everything that happened,” Bridget said.

“About a month ago, King Silas ordered all his men to find the legendary yellow crystal. I also informed Sir Theon about this situation. It was not a coincidence that you lived in that forest; Sir

Theon knew the location of the crystal and settled there to protect it. Today, he would get the crystal, meet me, and fight his brother. He heard that Aeson took the crystal while you were talking."

"But I didn't get the crystal; I don't have it; everything is ridiculous," Aiden said.

"Yes, you have the crystal; it is in your heart, now a part of your body," Baruch said.

"But how can this happen?" asked Aeson.

"Yes, it is; your father's new plan was to raise you and make you king, but I promise I will do it for him," said Baruch.

"So what do we do now?" asked Aeson.

"Now, there is a blacksmith I know; we will go there, and he will make a special magical sword for you," Baruch said.

"Why is a special sword needed?" Bridget asked.

"Because if we want to use the crystal effectively, we need it," Baruch said.

Then they went on a long journey. They came to the blacksmith Baruch had mentioned, and the blacksmith made the special magical sword. Then they went to Baruch's secret hideout, where no one could find them. Aeson began to practice with the sword. Baruch explained how to use the sword and the crystal's energy properly. Aeson spent months trying to learn how to use the sword. He tried many times to transfer his energy to the sword but failed. One night, Baruch came and woke up Aeson and Bridget.

"King Silas found our place and said we should leave this place immediately."

"But I still haven't learned how to use the sword," Aeson said.

"We have no choice; we must go," Baruch said.

"So where will we go?" asked Aeson.

"We will go to the palace," said Baruch.

And they set out, killed the guards at the palace gate, and sneaked in. They entered and began walking through the corridors of the palace. But the guards caught them and took them to the King.

"I see who came to my palace! You stupid boy, you think you can beat me," Silas said.

"But I have something you don't have," Aeson said.

"Hah... are you talking about crystal? Poor thing, you don't even know how to use it yet," said Silas.

"Come on, if you can, kill me with that useless sword, but you can't; now, you will pay with your life for stealing the crystal and coming against me," said Silas.

Aeson got very angry and clenched his fist. Then Aeson suddenly felt a power within him. He took his sword in his hand and focused, lifting his head and looking into Silas' eyes. Then he jumped towards the throne. But he jumped higher than an average person could. Then he saw Silas's eyes looking at him with fear. He swung his sword at him and stabbed him in the heart.

"Now, you paid the price for what you did with your life," said Aeson.

FROM BOUNTY HUNTER TO HERO

Ege Arda Ünal

The cave was getting narrower as he went further. He was questioning himself about why he had accepted this mission. However, the loot he would get from this was high. In his final battle, he had lost all of his armor. If he wanted the new ones, he needed this job. He pulled himself together and continued on his journey. After a long journey, he saw the sparkle of the talisman he was looking for. He got closer to the talisman but didn't touch it. There could be traps around. He started to examine the area. After about 1 hour of examination, he didn't find any traps. He was starting to get tired. He took a risk and picked up the talisman from its spot. Nothing happened. He had reached the end of a long and tiring journey. However, at least he had finished this journey without fighting any monsters. Actually, it wasn't considered completely finished. He needed to return from the path he had taken. He was about to turn back and continue on his way when he saw another exit. He didn't have any information about this exit, but he thought it was better than the other one. He entered this path, and a few steps later, he saw that a door opened into an area. He entered the area, and rocks started falling from the ceiling with a very loud noise. He dropped the candle he was holding and started running into the darkness to avoid being crushed. After walking a bit further, he heard some sounds. At that moment, he realized what the sound was coming from. It was the sound of a golem!

He had to remain quiet. He couldn't fight the golem with the bad armor he was wearing. What he was afraid of happened to him. He understood that he was under attack from the golem's growling and threw himself to the side. The golem's attack had missed him. He drew his sword from its sheath and turned toward the golem. He couldn't believe his eyes. There was a mystical golem in front of him. He had never encountered a mystical golem before. He remembered something he had read about the mystical golem in the Monster Book called the Enchiridion. "Mystic golems have a curse: they can read the mind of the person in front of them." He began to hear some whispers. Then, the whispers he heard turned into a loud noise. He was trying to stand in front of the golem one moment and trying to understand the noises the next. Finally, he began to understand the noises:

"Bounty hunter Negan, I know you. You've killed hundreds of golems until now. But you have no chance against a golem like me. I'm inside your mind. You can't defeat me."

Negan was bewildered by what had happened. The one in front of him was a very powerful monster. Despite successfully dodging several attacks in a row, the last attack hit him squarely in the back. Negan, who had fallen to the ground, tried to get up but couldn't succeed. Everything was over. He had been a bounty hunter for about ten years since he was 16 years old. He had become one of the best bounty hunters in the empire. He had taken on and successfully completed more than a thousand missions in the past ten years. Even the emperor had heard of his fame. In fact, he was even expecting an empire mission in the near future. However, he didn't need to think about these anymore. In a matter

of seconds, he would close his eyes to life. Was this the end of everything? Was he going to give up after a single strike? He was not a loser; he had always been a winner. He cleared the noise in his mind and tried to get up. He succeeded in getting up with a painful cry. He made eye contact with the golem. He could sense the power of the magic in the golem's eyes. He couldn't harm it. He needed to break the magic first in order to be able to harm it. He swiftly maneuvered behind the golem. He struck the golem with all his strength using his sword. However, it had no effect. The golem was entering his mind again.

"You can't injure me with a piece of metal," The golem said. "I will avenge all of my golem siblings. Say goodbye to the empire! I know that you want to meet the emperor. Don't worry, he will get to know you. A dead arsonist in the cave..."

"I'm not an arsonist; I'm a hero! I have never harmed an innocent in my life. People trust me. I rescue them from monsters like you."

"Are you rescuing them like you saved your family? Your family was dying, but you couldn't do anything. You were scared."

"Shut up!"

Negan, with all his might, leaped onto the golem. His eyes were filled with tears, attacking desperately without seeing anything. Then, a gleam caught his attention. The talisman he had looted for the mission was gleaming. Wait a minute, this talisman was magical! Maybe he could destroy the golem's magic with this talisman. That's why the golem was guarding it. He took the talisman from his pocket and put it around his neck. The voices in his mind started to decrease. The golem was also backing away. While the golem had retreated, he could run away. However, he didn't run away. He looked at his sword, and thanks to the talisman's effect, the sword was gleaming. The sword had been affected by the magic. What the golem had said about his family had angered him. He advanced towards the retreating golem and delivered a blow to its chest with his sword. Golem fell to the ground. Negan watched as the magic in the golem's eyes disappeared. Then, Negan felt a pain in his chest. The talisman was unusable and burnt. He quickly took out the talisman and threw it to the ground. He had to get out of here. He looked at the unusable talisman on the floor. He required it for his mission. There was nothing to be done. The mission had failed. He didn't know if there were any other golems so he couldn't check for loot around. He exited the cave using the long and exhausting path he had entered initially. The sunlight hurt his eyes. He had been in the cave for about 8 hours.

He sat down under a tree. He was in a difficult situation. He needed to take the talisman to the merchant. He had been taking missions from the merchant for a long time. The failure of this mission would strain their relationship. As if losing his armor in his last battle wasn't enough, his house had also been destroyed. He looked at the several gold coins in his pocket. He could stay at a hostel for two days with these coins. He had nothing left for the after. He had to take on a big mission. He was very tired; he could get some rest. As soon as he closed his eyes, he fell asleep.

He woke up due to a sudden noise. He immediately got up. There were knights around him. He felt that he was in danger. Just as he was about to draw his sword, he saw that the knights were royal cavalry. The commander at the front of the cavalry spoke,

"Sir Negan, the princess is waiting for you."

He was confused. It was the first time someone from the royal family had summoned him. However, why was it the princess waiting, not the emperor? He wondered why the princess had called him.

They arrived at the front of the palace. He was going to meet the emperor and the princess. Perhaps he would receive a mission from them. When he entered the palace, there was a sense of sadness in the atmosphere. It felt like a funeral atmosphere. They went all the way to the emperor's room. Then, the commander and the knights left him alone. He was in front of the door. He knocked on the door. He heard the princess say from inside, "You can enter." And Negan entered inside. When he saw the princess in the emperor's attire in front of him, he was momentarily stunned.

"Good day, Sir Negan; the royal family needs you," the princess said.

"Of course, my princess, I would be honored to help," Negan said.

"I'm no longer a princess; call me queen now. I lost my father last night. He was killed."

Negan was confused. Most likely, the queen would ask him to find her father's killer. He could do this. He had never met the emperor before. But this was important on behalf of the emperor.

"I understand, my queen. I promise you; I will find the killer and take revenge," Negan shouted.

"Yes, you must find the killer, but don't kill the killer. Bring the killer to me alive," the queen said.

"As you command, my queen. I will find him and bring him to you," Negan said.

"I trust you, hero," the queen spoke.

Negan bade the queen farewell and left the room. He went to the commander to get information about the emperor's murder. He got the details from the commander. According to Negan's assumptions, the killer who murdered the emperor should have been someone from the palace because no one from outside the palace had entered the palace yesterday. He went to a tavern to think about the information he had received. While eating something, he heard that something related to royalty was being discussed at a table behind. The queen had told him that the people did not know about this death. He tried to listen to their conversations, but it was not completely understandable. He had only one thing to do.

Negan drew his sword and approached those who argued. One of them drew his knife and leaped at Negan. Negan cut the throat of the man who leaped at him in a single move. The tavern owner was about to draw his sword and approach Negan when he saw the royal knights outside and changed his mind. Negan turned to all the people in the tavern and told them to leave immediately. Although many people didn't want to leave, they had to leave when they saw the royal knights in front of the door. While the man Negan had cut was dying on the ground, the other two men were looking at Negan with fearful eyes. Negan turned towards them.

"What do you know about the events in the palace? Tell me now, or your fate will be like your friend's," Negan shouted.

One of them said he didn't know anything about it, while the other was avoiding eye contact. Negan understood that the man avoiding eye contact had something troubling going on. While Negan was focused on the man, avoiding eye contact, the other man reached into his back pocket and quickly drew his dagger. Before Negan could turn around and retaliate, the man harmed Negan with his dagger. The dagger was stuck right into Negan's shoulder. Negan thought that the other man might also attack, took a step back. However, the man didn't attack; instead, he escaped through the back door. The man who was stabbed with the dagger was about to run away, but Negan stopped him and brought him down. He was about to draw his sword and kill the man, but he changed his mind. He called out to the knights at the door and told them to arrest this man. He removed the dagger from his shoulder and quickly bandaged the wound. He turned to the commander and told him that all entrances and exits around the tavern needed to be sealed off. Then Negan left the tavern to follow the man.

When he went outside, the man was nowhere to be seen. He couldn't have gone too far. He looked around. He saw a man climbing onto the roof of an abandoned house in the distance. Negan was running towards that place. But he wouldn't be able to catch him if he went on the ground. So he climbed from the outer wall of one of the nearby houses to the roof of the house. When he got closer to the man, he saw that he was the guy from the tavern. The man entered the abandoned house. It hadn't been used for years. There was definitely something going on in this house. Negan also entered from the roof into the house behind the man. The inside was dark. Only a faint light was seeping through the windows. Most of the windows were covered with boards. Sounds were coming from the lower floors. A group of people were talking to each other. He felt there were about 10-15 people. Negan thought about calling the commander and the knights but later changed his mind. He tried to understand the sounds coming from below. The sounds were like whispers, hard to understand. However, in the end, Negan heard a phrase. "Kill that man."

Negan looked for a place to ambush. He saw a broken table and hid behind it. A few minutes later, five men entered the room. They all had swords in their hands. This would be difficult for Negan, but he could defeat them. The men started to spread around the room. Negan slowly drew his sword from its sheath and attacked the man approaching the table. He professionally wounded the man in the leg, and before the others could understand what was happening, he jumped on another man and incapacitated him as well. There were three men approaching him right now. Following an extended battle, Negan successfully killed the men. Then, as he headed toward the door, he felt a sharp pain in his shoulder. The place where the man in the tavern had stabbed him with a dagger was hurting a lot. But he had to continue; he was very close now, he couldn't give up. He had to do this on his own. He couldn't prove himself to the emperor in time, but now he had a great chance to prove himself to the queen. He stood up and walked out through the door. He went down the stairs to the lower floor. He was surprised by what he saw.

There were photos of the emperor and his family on the walls. There was a red cross mark over the picture of the emperor. There was a red cross mark over the picture of the emperor. They were planning to kill the entire royal family after the emperor. While looking at the pictures on the wall, he heard an explosion from the lower floor. A bomb had exploded on the bottom floor. He quickly went down to the lowest floor. The floor was on fire. There were corpses everywhere. When he looked at the clothes of the corpses, he saw that some of them belonged to the knights. The commander had launched an attack inside. The killers had also detonated a bomb. Negan, who was looking at the corpses on the ground, couldn't see the commander. The flames were rising, and the inside was filled with smoke. At that moment, he saw someone trying to exit through the door. It was the commander! He ran towards the commander.

"Commander, are you okay?" Negan shouted.

"Forget about me; the killer is escaping; catch him." The commander pointed with his hand.

Negan looked at the place the commander pointed to. Someone with a mask on their face was stumbling, trying to escape. Negan immediately started running toward him. The man tried to speed up when he saw Negan running. When he realized he couldn't escape, he drew his sword and swung it towards Negan. Negan dodged the attack. However, he felt a pain. When he looked, he saw that one of his fingers was cut off. Without giving the man a chance to make a second attack, Negan severed the man's arm in a single move. The killer fell to the ground.

"It's all over, killer. You can't escape from me," Negan whispered.

Negan took off the man's mask. Negan was shocked by what he saw. He was the older brother of the emperor hidden behind the mask.

“Why, my lord?” Negan asked.

“Why are you asking me why? Don't you understand? It was my right to rule the empire. My brother stole this from me.” Killer shouted.

Negan was confused, but he had a mission, and no matter what, he would bring the killer to the queen. He bandaged the killer's wound with the cloth from his pocket. He couldn't let him die because he had promised the queen. He tied up the killer and took him with him, heading towards the palace.

When he arrived at the palace, the queen was waiting for them in the garden.

“I was waiting for you as well. I knew I could trust Negan,” the queen said.

The queen requested a sword from the knights. Negan offered his own sword. “My sword is at your command, my Queen.” The queen took the sword and turned to the killer.

At that moment, the killer shouted, “Wait, princess, this empire was rightfully mine.”

“This empire was never yours, coward,” Queen shouted. “Do you think I don't know? My father had told me everything. The kingdom was in danger that night. While my father and grandfather fought for the kingdom, you ran away. The kingdom was surrounded by monsters. We lost thousands of our soldiers in the battle led by my father. After the war, when the kingdom had turned into hell, you shamelessly returned for the crown. Did you really think you deserved the sacred crown? You were born a coward, lived as a coward, and now you'll die as a coward.”

The queen raised her sword, and when she brought it down, the sword was stained with the traitor's blood. The queen turned to Negan to give back the bloody sword. Negan reached out to take the sword from the queen. At that moment, the queen whispered in Negan's ear, “You are my hero.” And the queen kissed Negan...

THE DISSATISFIED KING

Reyhan İyiiiş

Once upon a time, a king lived in a country's palace. This king was wealthy. Nevertheless, he wanted more than what he had and always wanted more. He wanted to rule not only his own country but the whole world. He wanted more of the money he had. He was unhappy because he was always dissatisfied. The king could not understand that the reason for his unhappiness was dissatisfaction.

The king tried so hard to be happy. The king thought he would be satisfied and married a woman. The king got along well with his wife in the first years of his marriage. Recently, the king began to dislike his wife's appearance. That's why he had a bad relationship with his wife. The king's wife loved the king very much and wanted this situation to improve. The king asked almost all the wise people in the country how he could be happy. There's no place left he hasn't gone.

One day, the king's brother came to visit the palace. The king told his brother about his troubles. The king's brother told the king about a little-known wise man. The king called his men and ordered them to find that wise man. The king's men eventually found the wise man and brought him to the palace. The king told the wise man all his troubles and asked what he could do. The wise man was intelligent and immediately understood the king's real problem. The king's real problem was that he needed to learn how to be content with what he had. The wise man said, "To eliminate unhappiness, you must find a happy man. You will be happy when you wear that man's hat." The king said, "I will finally be happy."

The king called his men to him. The king ordered his men to "Find the happy man!" The king's men traveled all over the country but could not find a happy man. All the men in the country had problems and were unhappy, too. Some were unhappy with their spouses, some with poverty, some with homelessness, some with their useless children, and some with their jobs. As the king's men desperately returned to the palace, they heard the prayer of a man from an old house. The man inside the old house was praying, "God, thank you. My health is good, I have a house and enough money, and I love my wife and children very much. I am so happy with what I have." The king's men immediately went to the old house and knocked on the door. The king's men burst into the house when the happy man opened the door. The king's men noticed that the happy man had no hat. The king's men took the happy man to the palace.

"To be happy, I needed the hat of a happy person. Where is your hat?" said the king.

"I do not need a hat to be happy. Because I have a wife who loves me, I have a house where I can sleep. I have a job where I can earn enough money and feed myself. These are enough reasons for me to be happy. A person who knows how to be content with what he has and appreciates what he has can always be happy," said the happy man.

The king thought for days about what the happy man said. The king also shared this issue with his wife. The king realized he was very dissatisfied, so he was unhappy. The king began to be thankful for what he had for the rest of his life. He realized how much his wife valued him. His relationship with

his wife improved. A few years later, the king's first child was born. The king continued to add happiness to his happiness.

A NEW LIFE CAUSED BY AN ACCIDENT

Buse Beyza Bal

One day, a group of four girls go on a world tour. They start making preparations for this trip.

Firstly, they selected the first country to visit wherever to go.

Secondly, they had difficulty arranging days off because they worked in the private sector, which had terrible working conditions. But they did not give up, and they arranged their accommodation after they started planning places they wanted to visit. Some sites are schönbrunn Palace, St. Stephen's Cathedral, and Sigmund Freud Museum. Next, they wanted to see these places the most compared to other places.

Finally, the day of the trip came, and the girls set off by car towards the airport. While they were going fast during the journey, they made a sudden maneuver to avoid hitting the cat in front of them, and they had an accident. A group of doctor friends in another car arrived at the scene before the medical teams. Thank god, there were doctor friends in this group, and they gave first aid until the ambulance reached the stage. The ambulance arrived, and the girls were taken to the hospital quickly. If first aid had not been given early, their condition would have worsened. When the girls woke up, they learned about this situation and went after the group of friends who helped them. After they woke up, flowers were sent to their room. When they did research based on these flowers, they saw that the people who helped them were doctors team and went to the hospital where they worked to thank them and they went to the hospital to thank them for the flowers they received, the doctor teams were asked if they were okay and were examined to make sure. After thanking the doctors for this thoughtful behavior, they started attitude and chatting with them. They became friends.

Then, 'Why did you have an accident?' the doctor Selim asked.

'While we were quickly going to the airport to catch the flight we had arranged for the holiday, we noticed the cat in front of us late, and we had an accident while trying to stop the car,' Ayşe answered.

Hearing this answer, the doctor's team was distraught and mentioned that they also had a holiday plan.

After, 'Come on, let's join us on this trip,' the doctor Buray said.

And then, the girls were delighted, but they said let's think about it for a while, and if we decide to join this plan, we will call you. Do not worry about it. They said we believe that you will accept this offer. We look forward to adding you to our plan. And at the end of the day. The girls agree among themselves and decide to call the doctor's team to say that they accept the offer.

Finally, Ayşe calls the doctor Buray.

The conversation goes like this: Hello Doctor Buray, how are you?

'Fine, thanks, and you?' , Ayşe answered.

'Fine, Burak. Let me get to the point quickly. I called to tell you that we accepted your offer,' Ayşe said. We are excited about the plan to be made.

'We are as enthusiastic as you,' Buray asked.

Afterward, the girl's group and the doctor's team finally decide to meet.

Then, buray sends the place to meet here, and ‘We can not wait to see you there, Thank you for accepting the offer,’ He said.

‘See you there, we will be there!’ Ayşe answered.

After this conversation, a nice meeting takes place, and the holiday plan is decided to be in Italy/Florence for this time. During the session, a rapprochement begins to be felt between Buray and ayşe, and it is almost time for their group of friends to go on vacation. Although going to Vienna was a disappointment for the girls after months had passed since the accident, since Florence was in second place on the world tour plan list, the girls accepted the offer made by the doctor team and then started preparations. Meanwhile, Buray and Ayşe started to travel together, and it became clear that they had a relationship. Their very happy friends organized a dinner at a place to celebrate in Florence and had fun the night they went to Florence. After vacationing here for a month, Buray realizes that Ayşe is the love of his life and proposes to her in the Boboli Gardens, one of the most famous places in Florence.

‘Buray, you are the turning point of my life. I’m glad you came into my life. I am so happy to have you!’ ayşe said.

‘Sometimes bad things can lead to good things. Thank you for changing my life,’ Buray said. The two decide to stay in Florence, where they meet and spend a life together. They give hope to everyone.

LOVE IN ANATOLIA

Bahattin Arman Akarsu

Once upon a time in Anatolia, little cute sweets. There was a town with wide rivers and lost among the mountains. People lived happily together in the village. Sometimes, even if there were small fights, the problems were resolved immediately. While everything was going well in the town, No one knew the love of these two lovers. Ahmet, son of the village shepherd Ahmet, was a young man with hazel eyes and short hair. He loved helping people, and people loved him back. During the summer months, he worked as a shepherd alongside his father. His father was named Semih. Semih loved Ahmet and trusted him. And there was Seniha, the girl Ahmet loved. Seniha was the daughter of the village chief. Seniha also liked Ahmet. Seniha and Ahmet were close childhood friends.

Seniha was a beautiful girl with black eyes and long blonde hair. Seniha and Ahmet were still talking sometimes. One day, Ahmet decided to tell Seniha about his feelings for her. Seniha was very surprised when she heard this because she thought Ahmet saw her as a friend. When he listened to this, he couldn't speak because of excitement. Ahmet stayed where he was, and he thought Seniha was angry. Seniha paused and said, "I like you too. But if my father hears about this, he will get angry, and we have to hide it from him," Seniha said. Ahmet stopped and said, "Don't worry, we will keep it for a while and explain it to him at a convenient time. Seniha was very happy, and she and Ahmet walked towards the village square. There, they saw Murat, who used to visit the village in the summers. Murat had a wealthy family. Her family and Murat owned fertile lands in the town. Murat has liked Seniha since his childhood. Seniha and Ahmet didn't look at him very much, but Seniha didn't feel well. Seniha and Ahmet leave later. But Mehmet, the market owner of the village, saw them. While Ahmet was returning home happily, Mehmet suddenly appeared in front of him. Mehmet said, "Ahmet, stay away from that girl." Her father doesn't want to see that girl with you. You will find the village chief in front of you. It leaves you and your father unemployed.

"I love you, but not with that girl. Ahmet said thank you for warning me."

"Ahmet Said, but I love Seniha, and I don't want to leave her. Mehmet Said you know, I Warned you." While Ahmet was returning home, he dreamed of Seniha. A long time passed, and Seniha and Ahmet loved each other, and this caused gossip in the village.

Seniha's father also started to hear these rumors little by little. But he didn't want to talk to him for a while. Seniha sometimes went to work as a shepherd with Ahmet.

The two of them loved spending time together here. Seniha's father did not want this situation. Because he thought Seniha should marry a rich man.

One day, he decided to talk to Ahmet, But Seniha shouldn't have known this. Because if she heard this, she might hate him

He thought and decided He would talk when Ahmet was alone.

One day, when Seniha left Ahmet's side, Seniha's father came to Ahmet.

Seniha's father said stay away from my daughter Ahmet said why?

Seniha's father said, "Because it is not suitable for you,"

Ahmet said, "but I love Seniha."

Seniha's father said, "If you don't stay away from him, I will make you regret it."

Ahmet didn't care much and thought he could be with Seniha. He didn't mention this to Seniha so as not to upset her. But at the same time, he was thinking, can't I be happy with Seniha? After a while, there was a knock on the door of Seniha's house. Those who came were the land-rich Murat and his family. They came with gifts in their hands. Murat and Seniha's father had a long conversation. Seniha, however, was thinking about Ahmet and would go to Ahmet when the guest left.

Meanwhile, Murat came to Seniha to talk. Seniha looked at him and spoke with Murat for a while. After a time, Murat and his family left home. Seniha's father loved Murat, And he wanted marry him to Seniha, But he had to talk about this with Seniha.

One day, he called Seniha and said, "Look, girl, I know you love Ahmet, but he is unsuitable."

Seniha said, "Dad, what do you say? Why not?"

Seniha's father said, "Look, girl, he's a shepherd, and you should marry a more prosperous man."

Seniha said, "But father, I loved Ahmet."

Seniha's father said, "I'm thinking of someone for you, and Seniha said Dad, I can't believe you." Seniha got up from her in anger, and He went to Ahmet. She wanted to talk about his conversation with his father.

He went to Ahmet and said to him, "My father Ahmet wants to marry me to someone else."

Ahmet said, "I know."

Seniha said, "Why didn't you tell me?"

Ahmet said, "I didn't want to upset you and thought I could convince your father."

Seniha said, "You can talk to my father. Maybe you can convince him."

Ahmet said, "I will try."

Ahmet went to Seniha's house to talk to her father. His father opened the door and was surprised Ahmet wanted to speak, but Seniha's father did not listen. Ahmet told this to Seniha, and Seniha wanted to talk to her father again.

Seniha said, "Dad, okay, but who do you want me to marry?"

Seniha's father said, "Murat!"

Seniha said, "He is my friend."

Seniha's father said, "Over time, you will love him as much as Ahmet. Murat is a good person."

Seniha said, "But I love Ahmet"

Seniha's father said, "I don't think. If you want, send him a letter and see if you get a response."

Seniha said, "OK, Dad."

Seniha sent a letter to Ahmet, But somehow, this letter never reached Ahmet. When he never heard from Seniha again, Ahmet did not want to disturb them again. Seniha was very upset but thought her father was right. And she agreed to marry Murat. Murat was pleased about this, But Seniha still loved Ahmet. Seniha and Murat got married. When Ahmet heard about this, he moved away from the village. No one heard from Ahmet again. Over time, Seniha tried to reach Ahmet but failed.

TO GET LOST

Samet Aslan

Ömer is a kid about ten years old who lives in an ordinary village. However, Ömer is a different kid because he is not afraid often. Mostly he plays away from home and alone in nature, because he doesn't have any friends in the village. He is never afraid to be alone in the forest. Ömer's father Faruk is happy because of Ömer's bravery but he expects more than that. He always wants Ömer to take responsibility and argues with his wife Zeliha. Zeliha is afraid that her son will get hurt. But Faruk thinks if Ömer does something by himself, he becomes more powerful.

Faruk has so many farm jobs and wants Ömer to help him. Already Ömer wants it. Because he loves the animals. He wants to spend all his time with them. Faruk gives an easy job to Ömer at the beginning. The animals should be taken to the field every day and should be brought back. The animals know the way and they can return to the farm gate by themselves. So it's a simple job for Ömer. Nevertheless, Zeliha is nervous because of that.

One day Faruk didn't come with Ömer because he had an important job. Someone had an accident in the village and Faruk should help them. For that reason, Ömer went to take animals by himself. When Ömer arrived at the farm gate he saw something strange. The animals aren't there. It can be the first time they return. Ömer thought, 'what is the problem? Why they didn't back? Should I say to my mother?' He is confused. He thought about looking for them. He decided to don't inform her because he thought she wouldn't allow it. So, he went after animals to find them.

He walked on the path. He knew the road because he mostly played there. He walked to the end of the path. There is no way anymore. It could be dangerous because he had never gone further before. He thought, "What should I do? What's the most that could happen?" He wanted to make his father proud. For that reason, he decided to continue down the road.

Ömer walked for a long time but couldn't find anything. There was no trace of animals. It was starting to become scary. Ömer understood something happening wrong. He should have already found them. The sky was slowly starting to darken. He should have returned home by now. He looked around. He didn't know that place. He couldn't recognize it. He tried to return by the same road. He walked for a long time but couldn't recognize anywhere. He asked himself, 'Where am I?'. For the first time in his life, he was afraid. He couldn't see the sun anymore. The sky was completely dark. He remembered the stories about the forest. He had heard that wild animals lived there. He was definitely in trouble.

He thought about the situation. He couldn't return home tonight. It was impossible. He should spend the night in the forest. He should make a fire. His father had taught him how to make a fire. He chose a suitable spot on the forest floor and lit a fire there with the dry wood he had found. He was hungry but he didn't whine. He sat by the fire. He looked at the sky. It was a full moon night. The moon looked very beautiful. He thought about his mother. He should let her know. She wanted the good things about him every time. Ömer heard a sound at that moment but couldn't be sure. He thought 'Is there something there.' He looked around but couldn't see anything strange. He thought 'I guess, I heard wrong.' However, he heard again. There was something. He heard the sounds of leaves. He was horrified. His hands were trembling. He started to run. He was running with his all power but he didn't know where he was going. He just ran...

He was tired after running for a long time. He stopped and looked around. He asked again 'Where am I?' He was so far from his camp. He was sure about that. He sat under a tree and took a deep breath. He thought 'What was it? Was it a pig or a wolf?' He relaxed because he thought he had been saved. However, he no longer had the fire. This was dangerous because animals are afraid of fire. Fire could save him. He tried to make a new fire but he couldn't. He was so tired. He lay down to sleep.

A few minutes later he heard a noise. He was so scared. He thought 'Again, same thing.' He thought that running had no meaning, and decided to approach the source of the sound. He crawled quietly and looked. He was very surprised. It was a sheep. It was his father's sheep. He ran and hugged the sheep. Touching a living thing made him feel very good. The warmth of the animal had greatly relaxed him. He slept beside the sheep that night.

He woke up in the morning to the sound of talking. Opened his eyes and He saw his father. They had found him. He hugged his father and didn't think anything. He returned home in his father's arms, feeling very relaxed.

DEEP SILENCE

İpek Bostancı

David and Isabelle are a couple who have just turned 19 and are starting their university life. The couple, who attended the same university abroad as they dreamed of, started making great plans together. The time comes and goes; there are 1.5 days left until the university opens, and since David and Isabelle still couldn't decide where to live, they moved to the country where their university was located. So they went to America and started looking for a house. They started living together but could not find a house with their desired features. They gave up hope of living together and started looking for a dormitory. When they were looking for a dormitory, they found a nice house according to their expectations, and they called the house owner from the notice on the house. An older woman with a lovely voice answered the phone and said she could rent her house to them. The couple was pleased with this situation, did everything necessary to rent the house, and even shopped. Days passed.

The school was open, and since their homes were very close to the school, they could go there without getting tired. The couple, who got along very well with their friends at school, organized a barbecue party together for a weekend and started making preparations. The meeting started at 18.00, and their friends brought something to eat and drink, and they sat at a beautiful banquet table. Realizing that a fork was missing, Isabelle went to the kitchen to get a fork. She noticed darkness passing in front of the living room door, but due to the tiredness of the day and the tension of starting a new life, she thought it was an optical illusion and returned to the garden nervously. She didn't tell anyone about the events so that no one would get nervous. 2 hours had passed, and it was getting dark. David went to the cellar to get wine and heard clinking. It's like someone was punching the ground from underground. He dropped the wine in his hand to the ground with his fear reflex at that moment he dropped it, everyone ran inside to David but like Isabelle, David didn't say anything so that no one would worry and saying that it had slipped from his hand, they bought a new bottle and went to the garden together.

In the past, Isabelle suspected something was happening, but she did not reveal anything to anyone. It was 1 a.m., and because a few people were drunk, they stayed at David and Isabelle's house for the night; some guests slept in the guest room, and some in the living room. Isabelle woke up early to prepare breakfast when David also woke up, and David stayed with Isabelle. They were about to talk about the evening's event when they heard a knock and got nervous. They started to get scared; neither showed their fear to each other. David told Isabelle to stay in the room and went downstairs. David, who took a baseball bat in his hand and slowly descended the stairs, saw that the person making the noise was their friend, Steve, as he was heading towards the kitchen. Taking a deep breath and relaxing, he put the baseball bat aside without Steve seeing it. Then he saw Steve and David and screamed in fear. Everyone who heard the scream woke up, and Isabelle, thinking that something had happened to David, immediately ran downstairs. Later, when they realized that Steve was screaming out of fear, everyone calmed down because nothing bad happened. Isabelle said, "If we are all up, let's have a nice breakfast and enjoy the weekend." When they heard this, everyone's morale lifted, and they started to prepare breakfast together. The men went to the market to buy bread and a few other things they needed the girls started to prepare breakfast while chatting but Clara suddenly cut her hand with a knife, although it wasn't very deep, the condition of her hand was not very good a few drops of blood fell on the ground and when the other girls saw this, they couldn't stand it and went to bring an emergency aid kit and went out to the garden after Isabelle bandaged Clara's hand, she told Clara to go out and went to get a mop to

clean the floor when Lily came back in, she was still preparing the remaining food. Then, when Isabelle came to the kitchen with the mop in her hand, Lily said to Isabelle, "How fast are you, Isabelle, you cleaned the floors immediately?" however, Isabelle had not cleaned the floor but there wasn't even a drop of blood. Isabelle was starting to get really nervous now she calmed down later and thought that maybe she didn't realize that she was mopping the floor because of the stress at that moment. By the time Isabelle thought about this situation, Davids had come home and they brought the breakfast items to the garden table and started eating together while we were laughing happily during the conversation, suddenly Steve and David started laughing by saying, "You spilled ketchup on yourself, my friend, you're like a child." but David was allergic to ketchup but Isabelle understood that it was not the ketchup on David, but Clara's blood spilled on the ground. Isabelle couldn't take it anymore and started screaming. Everyone was scared, and they asked Isabelle why she was yelling. Isabelle told me everything that had happened since yesterday, and David, who heard this, started to talk about his own experiences. Just then, the lights inside started to flash. Everyone shouted and tried to escape the house, but they couldn't open the door. The lights of the whole house suddenly went out, and the house fell into deep silence.

LENORA

Hicran Ötker

Lenora is an unbelievably beautiful girl, 16 years old. She lives in a small house with her father. Since his father is a ship captain, they live in a safe place by the ocean. Her father went to the ocean about three days a week. Lenora often goes to her father. She loves the ocean very much. Her eyes are blue like the ocean and her hair is black as night. Lenora always dreamed of sailing her father's ship alone and being able to go wherever she wanted. One day, Lenora told her father Morgan that she wanted to learn how to sail a ship.

Then she asked, "Can you teach me?"

After thinking for a while, her father said, "You know, sailing a ship is not an easy thing. I was about your age when I learned to use it. I thought you were old enough to learn. I am happy that you are so willing."

Lenora was glad to hear that. She was excited because his father said that they could start classes tomorrow morning. The weather was nice in the morning. Lenora was so excited. When they got on the ship, she asked how long it would take to find out.

Her father replied, "You must work hard to learn quickly, but this time will take longer than you expected."

Then, they started lessons.

She was going to the ocean with father about 4 days a week and learning new things from his father. Exactly 5 months later, Lenora became a good ship captain. Her father now allowed her to sail the ship alone. One day, Lenora went on an ocean voyage alone again. Lenora could not go far from shore because her father would not let her go behind those rocks. She thought she was a good enough ship captain now and decided to go behind those rocks. In fact, she had difficulty passing through the rocks and her ship was slightly damaged, but it was usable. Then, when she got behind the rocks, she was really surprised by what happened. She could never control the ship and the current was carrying her away. She understood why her father did not allow it now and was sorry. The ocean waves dragged her for hours while day was turning into night. She thought she would never be able to escape. After a while, she saw an island in front of her. She tried to drive the ship towards the island and as soon as it got a little closer to the island, she jumped off the ship. She started swimming towards the island with all her strength. She knew she had no choice but to get there. She succeeded. When she arrived at the island she fainted from exhaustion. When she woke up it was sunrise. Her ship had been swept away by the waves because there was no ship in sight. She did not know whether she should be happy to be saved or sad to be lost. She could no longer return home because she had no ship. Then she started researching the island.

While walking in the forest, she suddenly heard a voice, "Hey! Who are you? It is obvious that you are a foreigner. How did you come to our island?"

Lenora slowly turned around and judging by the bow and arrow in his hand, she saw a young man who had come to the forest to hunt. She told how she ended up on this island.

Then Lenora asked him, "You are the only person I see here. Do you live alone on this island?"

“First, I want to tell my name. I am Daniel. Of course, I don’t live alone here. I live with my family on the other side of the island. Nobody lives on this side; it is normal that you haven’t seen anyone.”

“I am so glad to hear that someone lives here. Before you came, I even thought that I would live and die here alone.”

“We must go home now, Lenora. You look very hungry and thirsty. You can stay in our house as long as you want. I am sure my family will be happy to see you. They are very hospitable.”

“Thank you for helping me, Daniel. Maybe, they can find a way for me to return to my own home.”

Lenora and Daniel got along well with each other. Daniel gave information about the island along the way. There was an enormous difference between the two sides of the island. There was a lovely town on the other side, and there was a great rush of preparations in the town square. Lenora asked Daniel the reason for this preparation. Daniel said:

“There is an old wise man who is respected by everyone living in our town. His name is Austin. I heard he was going to organize a contest.”

Lenora was curious about the competition, but she could not ask because they arrived at Daniel’s house. Daniel lives with his mother, father, and younger sister. They also have a very smart dog. His family was welcoming, and they greeted Lenora lovingly. They prepared delicious meals for her. She had some cuts on her face and arms, so they dressed her. Lenora asked Daniel’s father, “When can I come back home?”

“Unfortunately, you won’t be able to return this week. The ocean waves on the side of the island are quite strong. You should stay here for a while.”

In fact, she loved this island very much, so she was not upset by this situation. She was just wondering about her father. It was evening. Daniel and Lenora chatted for a while, while watching the stars. Then they lay down on their beds and went to sleep. When they woke up the sun had already risen. After having a nice breakfast, they started walking towards the town square. Because they wanted to learn the details of the competition. From what they learned; it was a fishing contest. There was a fish in ocean that was thought to be extinct, and the old man saw this fish several times. If anyone caught this fish, the old man’s huge ship standing on the beach would be given to him as a gift. This did not interest Daniel very much, but Lenora wanted that ship to be hers. She was aware that this contest required a lot of luck, but it was not impossible. They both loved fishing anyway. They would have fun and compete. Lenora would not be bored during her stay here. From then on, they often went fishing in Daniel’s father’s boat. They could catch a lot of fish, but they couldn’t that fish. The two friends went to the library in the town and did some research on fish together.

They learned a lot about that fish. It mostly comes to the surface towards the morning, that is why they never see it. They went fishing early the next day. They saw the fish after about 2 hours, but the fish was not caught by the hooks. As soon as Lenora saw the fish, she jumped into the water and started swimming. Finally, she caught the fish. She got into the boat with Daniel’s help and put the fish in a bucket. She could not believe she had achieved this. She did not know how she found this fish among the thousands of fish in the water. She guesses the fact that this fish species lives closer to the shore made it easier for them.

They immediately took the fish to Austin's house. He was very happy when they gave the fish to Austin. Why was he so happy about a fish? Lenora wanted to ask but was hesitant. "Is the ship on the beach really mine now?"

"As I promised, of course it is yours now. I don't use it anymore because I am getting old"

"But this is a valuable ship. If you don't mind, may I ask why you are organized such a competition, sir?"

"All my relatives lost their lives 12 years ago. I do not have any relatives currently living. I had to give this ship to someone now. My family are ambitious and patient. I wanted to give this ship to a person like them, who is ambitious, patient, never gives up, and believes that she will succeed."

"I am so sorry for your family loss sir, my condolences."

"Thank you, brave girl, good luck with your new ship."

"What would you do if I didn't catch this fish?"

"This fish is actually a rare fish found in the ocean. Since I said there was only one, no one thought it would be possible to catch it. Some did not try at all, and some gave up after a brief time except you. But I felt like someone would bring this to me."

"I really could not believe how this happened."

After chatting for a while, Lenora and Daniel went to the harbor and toured the ship. They were incredibly happy. They went home in the evening. Daniel's father told Lenora that she could come home now. They were sad to be leave, but Lenora promised to visit often. The morning of the next they, Lenora set off on her new ship. While passing through the other side of the island, she remembered her situation a while ago, but this time she was not drifting. The ocean was calm.

When she arrived home, she immediately went to his father. When he saw her, he hugged her and started crying. They couldn't believe that they were reunited with each other.

"I looked for you everywhere, honey. You made me so sad. Please don't do anything like that again."

"I promise that I won't go anywhere without your knowledge again, dad"

Lenora told her father one by one what she experienced. Her father liked the new ship more. Later, they visited Daniel and his family frequently when the ocean was calm. Lenora's father and Daniel's father got along very well. When they met, they used to visit old man Austin.

As a result, a sad event led to strong friendships.

SUPHI

Orkun Çerçi

It was a rainy day in 2000s London. Jannet walked on a street. She wore a long, brown coat. She had black eyes and red hair. She is charming. Her hair looks wet because she has no umbrella. Also, she looks mysterious. She stopped in front of a house. The house's owner was Suphi. Jannet knocked on the door, but Suphi did not open the door. Jannet knocked on the door again, but nobody opened the door again. So, Jannet worried about Suphi. Jannet, for the last time, knocked on the door. This time, she was hopeful. She believed that Suphi would open the door. However, unfortunately, Suphi did not open the door, again. The house was very quiet. Jannet looked through a window, but she did not see anything. She walked to the phone box and called the police department.

She said to the police, "My boyfriend did not open the door. I am worried about him."

The police officer said to Jannet, "We will come, right away."

The police officers arrived at Suphi's house. They opened the door, but there was nobody in the place. Jannet started crying for Suphi next to the police officer. At the same time, Jannet started thinking, "Where is the Suphi? What happened to Suphi? I hope Suphi is okay."

"Where is Suphi? Where is Suphi?" she thought, but she could not find an answer. After that, she decided to go to the Suphi's room after the police left. While Jannet was wandering around the room, a note caught her attention. The police could not see this note. The note said, "Don't worry about me, Jannet. I am travelling. I will come back as soon as possible." However, Suphi could not have written this note because this handwriting does not resemble Suphi's handwriting. Everything had become too complicated. Jannet started to get worried. Jannet started thinking again, "Could Suphi have died or been kidnapped?" Jannet could not think clearly. What should Jannet do?

She started to examine the note. At the same time, she is thinking. She could not find anything in the note. She put the note on the table, and after that, she started walking around the room. Jannet's foot hit a button. The button had a T symbol on it. Jannet could not believe her eyes. This button was Tom's button. Tom was Suphi's best friend. Also, Tom loved Jannet, and Suphi loved Jannet. However, Jannet chose Suphi, so Tom and Suphi fought for Jannet. Tom lost the fight and moved from London. However, it looked like he came back for revenge.

Jannet did not know what to do. Maybe she had to go to the police. However, if the police cannot arrest Tom and if Suphi was kidnapped, this is very dangerous for his life. Because of this, if Tom is scared of the police, he will kill Suphi then escape. Jannet decided not to call the police. Jannet decided to call Tom.

"Where is Suphi?" Jannet asked. "What did you do to Suphi?"

"Hahahahha, is your boyfriend Suphi?" Tom asked.

"YES, he is," shouted Jannet. Also, Jannet started to cry. "Tom, why did you choose Suphi? Why not me?"

"What are you talking about? What do you mean by choose?" Tom asked.

"DON'T LIE TO ME!" shouted Jannet again.

"I found your button in Suphi's house," Jannet said.

"I did not do anything to Suphi. He is my best friend," said Tom.

"I arrived in London 3 hours ago. What happened to Suphi?"

"I cannot find him. I knocked on his house's door, but he couldn't open the door," said Jannet.

"WHAT? I'm coming to Suphi's house right away. Wait for me there," said Tom.

Almost 40 minutes later, Tom arrived at Suphi's house. He looked at the button, it was indeed his button, but he hadn't been to London for a long time. "WHAT HAPPENED TO SUPHI?" they were only thinking about this question.

While Jannet was looking around, she saw Suphi's favourite poetry book on the bookshelf. She took the book in her hand. At that moment, a paper fell to the ground. This is a love letter.

"I love you so much, but you more love Jannet than me. Please give me a chance."

Jannet was shocked. Her boyfriend was cheating on Jannet. Tom was very sad about this incident. He tried to cheer up Jannet. "Don't worry, let's find Suphi, and we will ask him what happened," he said. Jannet suddenly started checking Suphi's drawers. She found a notebook. Phone numbers were written in the notebook. She began to check her notebook. There was a heart next to the name Ayşe. Jannet started to cry.

Tom suddenly called Ayşe but nobody answered the phone. Tom called a few friends and learned Ayşe's home address. Actually, Ayşe is the ex-girlfriend of Suphi in high school. Jannet and Tom went to Ayşe's house. Tom knocked on the door. However, nobody opened the door. They walked around the home. There were colourful flowers and a small hobby garden in Ayşe's garden. They looked around, and Tom found a note on the table. "CANDY STREET NO:111." They were very surprised when they saw this address because there was an abandoned candy factory.

They went to this factory. The walls of the factory were covered with moss. There were stray dogs walking around the factory. They started to worry about Suphi. What did Ayşe do to Suphi? Is Suphi alive? They entered the inside of the factory. The factory has a bad smell, like burnt candy. They arrived in front of the warehouse department. They looked at a lot of candy boxes. These boxes are huge. They walked a long time after that they saw a woman but a woman lying on the ground. Tom was shocked. Tom shouted, "SH- SHE IS AYŞE!" Ayşe was covered in blood.

Tom quickly ran in behind boxes, and he saw Suphi. Suphi's hands were tied. Tom walked towards Suphi. However, Jannet was not here. Tom heard a sound like the sound of a gun, and he felt a pain in his head. His eyes slowly darkened. He fell to the ground.

A few moments later.

Tom woke up. He was worried about Jannet. Did the criminal catch Jannet, too? Tom looked at Suphi, and Tom was completely shocked because his best friend died. Tom heard sirens –police sirens.

The police officers arrived at the incident area. They arrested Tom. Tom felt shocked. The police found a gun in the factory. Tom's fingerprints were on the gun. Tom said to the police, "I did not do anything. If you want, you can ask Jannet."

However, Jannet said, "Tom killed Suphi because they fought in the past " Tom understood everything at the moment. However, he could not do anything.

Three days later.

While Jannet was drinking tea, she thought about the last week. Suphi cheated on Jannet with Ayşe. Jannet caught Suphi. She killed Ayşe after she made a plan. She placed notes at Suphi's house and Ayşe's house; after that, she called Tom. Tom found and believed the notes. She and Tom went to the factory together. She called the police and reported Tom.

Finally, she put Tom to sleep and escaped the factory before the police arrived at the factory. After that, the police arrested Tom. Everything was okay for Jannet. Jannet had only one problem – GUILTY CONSCIENCES.

A BLOND WOMAN

Zeynep Ela Çamur

Hi! My name is Alice. I am living alone in a small village. People see only my eyes because I have big blue eyes like my mother's. My hair is black and also down to my feet. In addition, I am too short and a bit fat. I love my town, but I must go to another town like where my parents lived. So I must get out now if I want to be here on time. I am always punctual, and I am always the best. Everyone finds me too stubborn, but I just want to be better than now because I need to find my parent's killer. No one wants to live alone, but sometimes they must do that. So that is my reason. However, I don't know who my family's killer is because when my parents died, our neighbour took me. A few days later, they left me in another village. After I never saw him again. Actually, I remember one thing about the killer: she was blond. Now, that is the reason why I don't like blond people.

I always wear a necklace which was given to me by my mother. My necklace nearly falls when I come to that town, but I catch it. When it happens, I feel something strange. Then I enter a bar. A boss who has that bar says, 'What are you doing here? No one wants to come here.'

Then I say, 'I want to find my family's killer, so I am here. What is the problem?'

After that, a man turns his back with big, confused eyes and says, 'It is impossible. How can you still be alive.' I can't understand why I haven't to be alive when I think he is starting to tell a story from this village: one day, a girl who has blond hair spreads terror. When I heard that word, I feel strange again.

Then I ask, 'Blond?'

He says, 'Yes, what is the problem?'. I know again why I don't like blond people. When I do not answer, he suddenly continues and turns his left side. When he turns, I can't believe my eyes. His left side is not there. When he finished the story, I feel like a horror film.

Right now, I want to flee this village. I all of a sudden flee the bar. The man who doesn't have a left side, he follows me.

Then I say, 'Why do you follow me.'

He says, 'You and I can find that blonde in order to get revenge on her.' I don't know. Do I want revenge? Yes, I need that.

After I ask him, 'How can we revenge our vengeance?'

He answers me with a big smile. When I heard that plan, I say, 'It is not possible. You don't have to do this. We may find another plan.'

But he says to me, 'I need to do this. I can't wait for this. I want to do this, please don't stop me.' When I think of another plan, he always says repeatedly. I can't tolerate his sound anymore. Then, I accept his offer. Afterwards, we are walking together. We can't go too far because we must be near the village for our goal. We know what we are doing when we see her and when we will use our plan. Now we need sleeping places for the night. We walk a lot, then find too bad places but enough for us. It isn't a hotel or a hostel. It is a wreck.

It sounds scary, but we don't have another choice. The next day we decided to see all the village houses. When we start, that man is tottering with his artificial leg. So we are slow When the sky turns

nearly black, we say, "Let's go back." But I see a house in my old memory, or maybe I just feel like it is not true, but I want to see there. So we will see everywhere in the house similar to previous houses and find nothing there. When we return, I trip over something on the floor and fall. Then, a wood parquet is broken. After I've seen an old wooden box under the parquet. I took the box. Then I blew into the box so that the dust would go away. When I opened that box, I found some old photos and a missing letter which was written by my mother. I am shocked, and I am looking at all the photos. This is a girl who has straight blond hair in the photos.

Then I ask, 'Who is this? I can't seriously know that girl and why that photo is here.' while the man opens the letter. I am not ready to hear that, but I must listen to him now. So I listen; *This letter is for my little daughter.*

Suddenly, I ask myself again, 'What does it mean? Am I have a big sister?' He also continues to read still. *I love you so much and don't know how I can say to you. I am overthinking about that, but I can't find any idea. However, you must know that reality. You have a sister who is older than you. She is a bit stranger than other people but don't forget any time she is your sister. Maybe I will tell you about talking but I can't...*

Then he says, 'It is final; the other part is not written.' Afterwards, he wants to look at those photos while I think about my older sister. I am very interested in her. For example, where is she now? Is she alive like me, or has she already died like my mother and father? I feel nervous now. Is she safe, or does she need help? I don't answer that question, and it is hard for me.

He says, 'She is that blond?' with a loud sound.

I say, 'It isn't possible she is my sister she can't do what you tell me.'

He says, 'We can find her easier now. It is better for us.'

I say, 'Okay, maybe you are correct and I am wrong. We do our plan.'. Then we wait that night in there and after five days more. I feel bored when we are starting the sixth day, and he does too.

Then I say, 'We wait this night again, but I don't want to stay here anymore. He agrees with me, so he can't say anything. He nods his head and ratifies me. This day also we wait again. When the sky is going black, we think tomorrow we may go. She never comes back here, and Why she come back to her family house? Why does she want to remember her family? If she wish to, she probably did that. A few minutes later, we hear something like a squeak. We get scared 'What is going on here?' I say. Then we start to run out of the house.

That thing says wailfully, 'Please don't go.' She groans and then says, 'I need help.' I suddenly stop there. I think I know that sound.

He says, 'We do not wait. She wants to you. Why are you staying? We must make our plan.'

I say, 'Yes, certainly!' Then we just run to the hole while she follow us still. She thinks she will catch up with us, but it hasn't happened. We entrap her. She can't understand anything. He suddenly casts petrol on her.

Then she says, 'You are my sister, and I have always thought.'

After I say, 'However, you never chase around after me.'

'Please believe me, I always chase you,' she says. She may be telling the truth; I might believe her after I stop him. He nearly fire my sister. When I go, my sister's there, and he follows me.

He says quickly, 'Do not go. She lies to you.' As soon as I go my sister is there she catches my neckless I can not understand. Why does she want my neckless? After that, I feel a sting. Something is

changing in my body. Then I want to eat meat, but it is not like regular meat. I need humans to eat, I guess. What am I saying now? All of a sudden, I start eating that man.

He says, 'You take after your sister.' It means my sister ate human meat before. I have just finished my meat, but I am still hungry.

My sister tells me, 'I eat my mother and father like you.' Then she continued, 'So this neckless was made for you by a witch who knows our mother because she does not want to take after me,' She said with a big laugh. 'However, you take after me.' I can not believe she might be the devil. On the other hand, she does not know I am a sister of the devil. While I think this, I am starting to eat my sister. She wants to oppose me, but it does not happen. So I take my revenge now. However, I am still hungry.

FRIENDSHIP

Çağla Sütüçen

Had two close friends named Yasemin and Selenay, who lived in Ankara. Yasemin and Selenay met in high school. They would go to the movies together, go on picnics, chat, go on vacation, and cook together. They were always spending time together. They were very happy. Then one day, Yasemin had a traffic accident and became paralyzed.

While Yasemin was in the hospital, Selenay came and wished Yasemin to get well soon. Selenay was very sad about Yasemin's situation, cried, and did not know what to do. Selenay always took care to be with Yasemin and made her happy.

In reality, Yasemin did not have a stroke, this was just a trick played on Yasemin to gain time for Selenay because the real person who hit Yasemin with the car was Selenay then drove away, leaving Yasemin there.

Selenay was also very sad, she was constantly crying, angry at herself, and feeling regretful, but unfortunately, what had happened had happened and there was nothing she could do now. She kept blaming herself and said, "I wish I had been more careful, this wouldn't have happened," both when talking to herself and when talking to her mother.

Selenay acted as if she didn't know about anything. Because she knew that Yasemin would try to find the one who hit her after she got better, and that happened because Yasemin was a girl who never gave up on her decision. Days later, Yasemin recovered and said to:

"I have to find the person who crashed me, are you with me?" Selenay said.

"Yes, I'm always with you," she said.

They went to the scene and asked the people living there if they had seen the accident, but no one had seen it except for one person, Selenay's mother. Selenay was going to pick up her mother and the accident happened during this time.

Selenay's mother was very sad, she was crying all the time, and she couldn't eat, both because her daughter crashed into someone and because the girl was Yasemin because she loved Yasemin very much. Selenay's mother promised Selenay that she would not tell that she hit Yasemin.

Yasemin never gave up on this job and tried tirelessly and without giving up to find something that stood out to her. But Selenay always prevented her, and as Yasemin got closer to solving the case, Selenay stopped Yasemin again.

Days later, one day Yasemin went to Selenay's house to meet. Since Yasemin had the key to Selenay's house, she opened the door and went to Selenay, but there was something Yasemin did not know, Selenay and her mother were talking about the accident and Yasemin started to secretly listen to them at the door of the room.

"We need to tell Yasemin everything now, it's time for her to know the truth," Selenay's mother said.

"Mom, no! I can't lose Yasemin, she will never know that it was me who crashed her with the Selenay," she said.

And then Yasemin couldn't stand it and suddenly entered Selenay's room. Selenay and her mother were shocked and did not know what to do. When Selenay and her mother accidentally dropped the cups in their hands in surprise, they broke. Yasemin was also very surprised, sad, and angry.

"Why did you hide it from me?" Yasemin shouted.

No matter how hard Selenay tried to talk to Yasemin, she couldn't succeed. After shouting, Yasemin quickly slammed the door and left. Selenay also went after her, but she could not catch Yasemin.

After that day, Selenay called Yasemin many times, but Yasemin never answered Selenay's calls. No matter how many times Selenay went to Yasemin's house, Yasemin never talked to her. And they never spoke again. Because no matter what, honesty is everything for Yasemin. Thus, another friendship ended.

BOSPHORUS

Zeynep Ozberk

I woke up in the sunlight. I am sure Africa is a hot place. I should get out of bed because I have an important mission, maybe it is a little bit scary. Anyway, I should prepare. I wear my clothes; a long black dress and sandals I think I become beautiful. I am leaving home... It is bad to wake up in different houses all the time. The weather is so hot... I know where the man is but I am still worried. I feel a strange uneasiness. I keep walking.

I think I see him. He is tall. He has long black hair, long beard and black eyes. He looks like he is trying to hide but fails. I walk towards him. He walked towards me. I say "hello". He only looked me. He says... "the car is waiting for us, we should go". We got in the car. We started to move forward. We were in a desert. I saw a big house in the distance. I think I am afraid of what I will see. We probably arrived. We got out of the car and started walking. Door opened. My hands shook. I feel sad. I want cry. There are a lot of people here fleeing the war. They are looked so bad. Babies, kids... I realized that the World is a very bad place, this was not my first understanding. I looked at the man next to me. He was as surprised as I was. I think we need to get over our shock because we should take these people to Russia. Everyone needs to build a separate life because they don't have a life anymore. Our men put everyone in the cars. We will go from Morocco. Russia's ships will wait for us there, sea transportation will be safer for us. We will pass through the Bosphorus and reach the Black Sea I hope...

I feel nervous because these people are innocent and they trust us. I don't like my job. I am an agent working for Russia and so is that man. Now we are sailing on the sea. There are many hopeful people next to us. I wish they knew they were going to die. Russia's aim is to take these people captive and join the war. We are just part of this game. But there is something strange about the man. He looks like different. Looks at people with hope. But he knows that, these people are toys.

I slept for about seven hours but I feel tired. I think we came to Istanbul. I always loved this city. I went out of the ship. The man was talking with someone. I started listening but all I hear is "We can start in five minutes". What could we start in five minutes?

I went to the man and I ask. What will we start? The man just looked at me and said protect yourself. I feel nervous again. I looked the sea. The Bosphorus was visible. I took a deep breath. Suddenly I saw ships advancing rapidly in front of us. The area around the ship was filled with other ships. Turkish soldiers pointed their guns at us. I immediately bent down and took my gun. I did not understand what was happening. I heard footsteps behind me. He was that man. He grabbed me by the arm and lifted me. Another ship approached our ship. The man jumped onto the other ship.

Soldiers started to enter our ship. I could hear the babies crying. I understood at that moment. The man was not working for Russia. He was a Turkish agent. The man held out his arms to me, waiting for me to jump on the other ship. At that moment I only thought about thinking crying children and hopeful people. It was very difficult for me to betray my country. But I was going to do this. I extended my hands to the men. He grabbed me and pulled me onto the ship. The man took my hand and told me I did the right thing. I guess I trusted the man. At the moment I did not care about what would happen in the future, I just watched sea. I knew I did the right thing so I was at peace...

THE ALCHEMIST

Begzada Annayev

There was an empire in ancient times. The empire's Emperor, Jabir, was intelligent and clever. This empire was developing day by day. Science was the Emperor's main idea to improve people's lives. People knew how to create the country. So they needed new things. There were philosophers, physics, mathematicians. By the way, the chemists were the leaders of them. Because most young people become a chemist. A chemist was called an Alchemist. They were searching for new substances. At the same time, they tried to find a way that could change iron to gold, and others tried to find an aqueous liquid that made the drinker ageless. Chemistry is more than just a subject about what you see. It is the world within what you cannot see.

Courtois was one of the most famous of them. He had a lot of skills in the science of alchemy. At that time, several elements had already been discovered and the alchemists had studied their characteristics. Also, they found how to melt heavy elements such as gold and platinum. To make it, they mixed hydrochloric and nitric acids in 3:1 by volume, respectively. This mixture is called an Aquaregia because those elements are considered the initiator of all aspects with their cost and beauty.

One day, Jabir dreamt of being immortal. Afterwards, he told Courtois about his dream:

"Would you find a substance? I want to be an immortal".

Courtois was thinking about the Emperor's question, and after that, he answered:

"I have no choice; instead of 'YES'; I will find it".

Because he knew that "What did Emperor do if someone says 'NO' his question". However, Courtois knew one more thing: that was the Jabir's imagination. They were childhood friends. The Emperor thought about his empire's future life, immortal. That is why Courtois began new work with his colleagues.

One day, when organic alchemists were working on a new project while extracting potassium and sodium from algae, Courtois' old cat accidentally spilt sulfuric acid into that mixture, and a violet-coloured cloud evaporated from the separation funnel. The resulting gas was condensed into pungent scene dark crystals. They were surprised by that situation. Jabir and his colleagues didn't see this substance before. Firstly, they thought that the new substance was poisonous. After many experiments, they analysed all the characters. That was the first discovery of solid iodine. Something discovered by accident, these days it is used for people's health.

Many workers were studying organic, analytical, physical, inorganic and biological chemistry.

When inorganic alchemist Brand hoped to find the Philosopher's Stone or a way to turn ordinary elements into gold. After the reaction, the environment was very bright. He thought that his product was a dawn bringer. He was surprised because he felt he had found the stone he had dreamt of. Then he learnt that the gradual combustion of the new white substance in contact with the air glows in the dark. It was the first discovery of phosphorus.

Emperor Jabir wanted these situations. He thought looking forward to one substance would be discovering many other elements, minerals and substances. At that time, around seventy elements were discovered by alchemists.

One day in days, Jabir called Courtois to his palace and asked him about his question:

"Tell me! What did you do?".

Courtois funny answered:

"We could not find a medicine for being immortal, we found how to resurrection after die".

The Emperor Jabir was satisfied with the life he had lived. He assured Courtois and all other science lovers of the empire's future.

MURDER IN THE SCHOOL

Sude Ünlüaslan

It was a Friday morning. Jack was getting ready to go to school. After breakfast, where they talked about the festival they would go to at the weekend, Jack said goodbye to his mother, unaware that he had kissed her for the last time. His father dropped him off at school as usual. Everything was normal until lunchtime. When everyone went down to eat, Jack wasn't there. At that moment, they were startled by the sound coming from above. The voice came from Jack's classroom.

When they entered the classroom, Jack was lying on the floor covered in blood. Everyone who saw him like that ran away from the classroom screaming. There was only one teacher who could remain calm. He calmly called the ambulance and the police. Soon the authorities arrived at the school, but despite all the interventions, Jack could not be saved. He had been shot in the head multiple times. His little body couldn't stand it. The principal informed his family with difficulty. His father came to school first. He had dropped her off at school in the morning without knowing that he had said goodbye to her. He was in shock. He could not react to the incident. Soon his mother came running to school. The young mother, unlike the father, hugged her son. He was crying. The authorities could not separate the mother from her son for a long time. Nobody understood what was happening. The class was closed by the authorities. The school was closed for 1 week. As a result of long investigations, no evidence of the killer was found in the classroom. There were no known eyewitnesses. What was left behind after many years of litigation was a devastated family. Who did this to Jack? Why did he do it? While everyone thought the case was starting to close, 6 years later someone revealed a brand new detail about the incident. A detail that will make everything clear.

An eyewitness. She saw the incident. She knew the killer. She was there that day. She was the daughter of the school official. The day the incident occurred, he went to school to help his mother. She happened to be at the front of the class while everyone else was at lunch and saw everything. She was 14 years old when the incident occurred. She was very scared. The only thing she could do that day was to escape. This is how 6 years of silence began. This incident she witnessed haunted her for 6 years. She didn't know the reason for the incident, but she knew who the killer was. She couldn't say anything to anyone. She was able to tell his mother for the first time in 6 years. She was the only one who could save Jack that day. She blamed himself for years. When they finally found out the killer, everything became clear. Killer: Jack's guidance counselor was Simon. His mother understood everything at that moment. Two months before the incident, Simon met Jack's mother for the first time. He knew it was impossible the moment he first saw her, but he still couldn't stop himself. Simon arranged a few more meetings with Jack's mother. Now he started to disturb his mother. He was obsessively in love with his mother. He thought it was over when his mother talked to him, but Simon wasn't giving up. The obsessive lover wanted to hurt his mother. The easiest way to do this was to hurt Jack. He didn't mean to

kill Jack, but his anger was too much. He was the one who called the authorities after the incident took place. He was there when everyone else was there. That's why it never occurred to his mother that he might be the murderer. After the events ended, he immediately fled the city. His regret was increasing day by day, but he never thought of surrendering. They started looking for Simon after the testimony of the eyewitness who saw him. But unfortunately they were too late for Simon. One year after the incident, they learned that Simon committed suicide. He couldn't live with it. There was nothing they could do anymore. It was all over, his mother and father could not continue as before and they parted ways. But they continued to meet at Jack's grave every Friday.

THE PORTRAIT

Eylem Dur

In 1800s James works in a small company in England where antique paintings, watches, etc., are researched and sold. Company managers want to expand the company in the next 2-3 years. For this reason, they want to speed up sales by assigning different places and different tasks to each employee. When company managers evaluate general sales, they realize that among antique paintings, those with a single female figure are the most in demand. (This is perhaps due to the significant influence of the Mona Lisa on our society.) The task the company gives to its employees is very simple. Each of them will go to a different town in England, identify certain old houses there, meet with the owners, and after receiving permission to stay for 5-6 days, they will identify all the antique items in the house (if possible, female portrait) and persuade the owners to sell it at a reasonable price.

James's destination is Whitby, a small town in Yorkshire. Having researched the house and its owners in advance, James obtains the following information: an elderly couple in their 80s and their 11-year-old grandson Timothy live in the house. However, he found no information about Timothy's mother and father. He started the 4-hour drive, hoping to find out when he got home. At the end of 4 hours, he met the old couple and made them fall in love with him. The old couple consider James, who is in his 30s, very similar to their deceased son and treat him warmly. When James learns they lost their son, he feels deeply sad. This sadness is for an 11-year-old boy left without a father and two parents experiencing a child's pain. "What about his mother?" He thinks to himself and directs this question to the old couple. The old couple says that Timothy's mother is alive, but she ran away years ago, saying that motherhood wasn't for her and leaving little Timothy to them and the two pale servants working at home. This cruel woman's name is Anastasia. The name of this Russian woman has never been mentioned in the house since she left Timothy. The old couple (Mr. and Mrs. Smith) warn James about this when he meets Timothy.

On the morning of the next day, James finally meets Timothy. They have a great time together for the next two days. Timothy doesn't leave James alone, even while working on the clocks. They soon became a very good couple, and Timothy sometimes replaced James with his dead father. In the following days, James realizes that he cannot find the type of female portrait he is looking for at home and plans to leave home four days later, taking the two antique chain watches he has. He sends a fax to notify the company about this situation. Timothy, who reads the writings on the fax, quietly approaches James and tells him there is such a painting at home, but it was taken to the basement. Hearing this, James gets excited and asks Timothy to take him downstairs. His grandparents normally told Timothy that he couldn't go to the basement. Timothy, hesitant at first, cannot upset him and takes him down. James is faced with exactly the kind of painting he is looking for. However, the women in this painting aren't just anyone. This woman is Timothy's mother, Anastasia. James stared at this painting, which was painted by a master painter 30 years ago. Suddenly, the desire to see this woman, whom he knew to be such a cruel character, was violently revolving in his mind. This desire continues in the coming days. During his stay at home, he finds himself staring at Anastasia's painting in the basement room almost every night. 2 days before he leaves, he tells Mr. and Mrs. Smith that he wants to buy the painting. His

goal is to buy the painting of this woman he will never see, hang it in his house in London, and fall asleep looking at it every night. He believes that this will give him peace. He will never tell the company he works for about the existence of such a painting because if he buys it and gives it to the company, the company will sell the painting for profit and maybe even put it on display for the whole of England to see. Even the thought devastates James. He wants the painting just for himself; he wants it to be special for him. Mr. And Mrs. Smith aren't thinking of selling the painting anyway. The reason for this is so that Timothy will never forget his mother's face, no matter what age he gets.

James can't sleep at all, and tonight is his last night at home. Meanwhile, he hears some conversations from Timothy's room. He silently walks into the room and sees Anastasia, an older but more attractive and beautiful woman than the one in the painting, hugging Timothy. James is stunned. It turns out that Anastasia, secretly from Mr. and Mrs. Smith, comes to see Timothy once or twice a week when everyone is asleep. Timothy has kept this fact a secret for years because he promised his mother. Shocked by what he learned, James doesn't know what to do. Timothy explains to his mother who James is and why he is here. And he says that James will return to London early tomorrow morning. James takes Anastasia out into the garden for a bit of talk. James asks her why she left Timothy all those years ago. The answer he receives is enough to destroy him and his feelings at once. James realizes that the innocent feelings he had at that moment were only towards a figure he saw in the portrait. Anastasia tells James that she lost her husband years ago, that Timothy was three years old, and that she left him with his grandparents and settled in a distant town with her lover. She says that currently, she is still living a secret life with her lover and comes and visits Timothy from time to time. Anastasia has been for years and still believes that his grandparents will take better care of Timothy. James, shocked by how easily the woman explains these things, begins to question himself, "Did he look forward to meeting such a simple woman for days?"

It is now time for James and Anastasia to part. It's about to be morning. While Anastasia sets out to return to her lover, James, saddened by his disappointment, returns to Mr. and Mrs. Smith. He will make them an offer. During these seven days, he stayed at home. He and Timothy formed a deep bond, and they wanted to spend more time with each other, just like father and son.

For this reason, James asks Mr. and Mrs. Smith if Timothy can stay with him for 3-4 days every week. Although Mr. and Mrs. Smith are hesitant at first, they accept it upon Timothy's insistence. They haven't seen their grandchild this happy in a long time. In the morning, James said goodbye to the entire household and bought only two antique watches on behalf of the company. He no longer wants to buy Anastasia's portrait, neither for himself nor the company. When James, who returns to London again in 3 hours, goes home, he looks at the wall in his living room that he has been keeping empty for a long time to buy and hang a painting. This business trip made James realize something very important. Paintings, portraits, and drawings never change the essentials; they may reflect to a certain extent but never the whole.

THE PACKAGE

Mert Cığır

We were among dim lights. There is a haunted man in the upstairs who looks around. He looks like he is waiting for someone. The bartender watched him for ten minutes. Then he gestured to the waiter with his head. The waiter went to the man and took something out of his inner pocket, and handed it to him. I know this man from somewhere, but I can't remember.

He passed us with threatening eyes. I turned to my friend, and after joking about the man, we put money on the table and left the bar. There was a strange feeling inside of me; we continued down the street. Suddenly, we heard the police sirens. My friend started running, but I didn't know where he was going. I caught him after three streets. When I turned my head and looked down the road, the police were handcuffing the man in the bar.

The man yelled to my friend, "You fool, why did you come here?"

One of the police shouted, "It must be the other one!"

My friend gave me a package and ran. I didn't know what to do so I ran to my home. After about fifteen minutes, the sirens fell silent. I stopped and took a breath; then I took a deep breath cursed at my friend . I threw the packet into the canal and finally arrived home.

MURDER IN THE SUBWAY

Hazım Şahin

Once a day, While I was going toward the metro, I saw a murder. A man (Actually, he ~~is~~was a killer), was shouting at other people in front of the subway. I couldn't believe my eyes. After that, the killer started to escape by car. Fortunately, a few moments later the cops arrived there but the killer already escaped from there. And the cops started to chase the killer. And I so wondered why to be a murderer. So I also started to follow the killer. But the killer was so far from me and unfortunately, he had managed to escape from the police. If I find him before from the police, I can ask "Why did you kill them?" but he can kill me too. Even if I was going to find the killer.

This job would be very difficult but I was determined. I would do anything to find him. Firstly I followed the cops because now it was the best thing I could do. Firstly the cops went toward the top of the subway. The cops searched many streets and buildings during the day but didn't find him. At and of the day the cops finished the search for the day. Of course, I will be searching for a killer during the day. But how was I going to do that, where was I going to look, I didn't know anything. Suddenly I remembered my uncle is a special agent. I called my uncle quickly. And he agreed to help me. I met him at the biggest park in this city. After that, my mother called me, asking me, "Where are you and why you didn't come home".

I lied to her and said to her I was sorry for not calling her more before. In this way, my uncle and I started searching for the killer. Firstly I showed my uncle where became to murder. My uncle investigated the murder scene for a few minutes. And then he tried to find camera images from a friend. But the camera images to kept secret for now, so he didn't find it. Because of this, we went to Dahmer. Dahmer was very talented in computers. He was exactly a hacker. When we arrived at Dahmer's home, he already left the home. Afterward, we waited for him in front of his home till he came home. When he came to the house, we talked about this situation to him. And we wanted from him to help us. He accepted this but he had a condition that it was such a difficult condition.

When we wanted to help from Dahmer, he had said he had a condition. This was a difficult condition. He was wanting to five thousand dollars. It is such a lot of. Money that neither I nor my uncle had that much. However, we accepted his condition. We thought we could find this money somehow. But it wouldn't be like that. Anyhow as a result we managed to find camera images thanks to Dahmer, and we started our job. Firstly my uncle guessed that the killer can where to escape. hen he finished he found six places. After that, we were going to the first place, the old train station. We had arrived at the old train station, the cops were already there. So until the cops left there, we wandered around the old train station. The police left after 3 hours. And also we went into the station. A little further, it was getting dark on the inside. So we had to use our flashlight. We walked through the dark tunnel for 1 hour. Finally, we found nothing, so we again walked for 1 hour to get out of the dark tunnel. Like the

police, we couldn't find anything. And then we set off to go to the second destination, well industrial area. While we were going to the industrial area there was an accident on the road so, there was a traffic jam(it was very long). Because of the traffic jam we were going to be late so, we thought of something. I think we were going to do that I was going to get out of the car, and I was going to there by walking. But if you are on the highway, it is so hard to get out of a car. Eventually, I overcame it to pass to the highway. All I have to the now, walking about 25 kilometers. As I toward to walk to the industrial area, I saw the cops. Also, they are going to industrial areas. I became to this situation because we were going to the correct place. But we have to find him before the cops. So I started to run. But they had cars. When I arrived at the industries area my uncle hadn't arrived yet, but the cops had already arrived. And the industries area was very crowded at the moment.

However, I don't know where I will start to research. But I had to start researching somewhere urgently. I could have followed the cops, but I was afraid the cops would follow me. However, I followed the cops until my uncle came here. As my uncle came here, I was still following the cops. But we didn't find anything. My uncle and I decided that we were going to research the industrial area after researched to another place. Because there it is so big. Except that, if the cops didn't find anything, we don't need to look there. So now, we were going to thirst places. Well, Franklin Square. Franklin Square is the most dangerous in the city, so while we were going there, we had thought about this situation. However, we decided to go there. We didn't know that it was the worst decision of our life. When we arrived at Franklin Square people had already looked to us because they wanted to rob us. As we went forward toward the Street, the crowd was increasing. That's when I started to get scared. And then someone jumped into our car. They forced us out of the car. And they took our everything: phone, wallet, car. Fortunately, they didn't take our clothes. However, we didn't know what we would do now. And we started running. Just run. Toward to exit of the square. And we wouldn't go there even if the killer was there. Now, we were going to a police station. we left from the police station after explaining this situation. But when the police asked why you went there to us, we couldn't say anything for a while.

So the police started to suspect that my uncle said " We were going to Rifle Park, and we had wanted to shorten to road. So I went toward the Franklin Square."

Of course, this was a lie. But this lie had saved us. We went to rent a car because we would use a rental car until the cops found our car. Of course, if they find. Anyhow we went to a shopping mall in order to buy a new phone afterward as we rented a car. We would plenty need a phone. As soon as we got a phone, we went to Dahmer again, we asked him to send us the palaces again. And at first, he said to us " You should leave this job because this killer is actually a serial killer. And he killed thirty people before. But nobody knows what is the name. Even cops." Frankly, when I found out he was a serial killer I was so afraid. And he had killed thirty people. Suddenly I saw that Dahmer was written in the murder article in the newspaper. And I think, also my uncle had seen that. "Jeffery Dahmer" exactly this was written in the newspaper. We looked at each other for a while with my uncle. And then Dahmer shot my uncle with his gun. While I was watching to fall my uncle, I had became to terrible. I had thought I would die. I got carried away for a long time, and then I fainted. When I woke up Damher was carrying my uncle's body. He had dug a tall hole for my uncle's body. And I fainted again. Exactly I had fainted six times that day. Finally, when I woke up I was tied. So I didn't do anything and he was smiling in front of me. Actually, he may not be doing it. I wanted to leave here but I was so afraid. Suddenly, Dahmer said:

"Don't necessarily be afraid, I don't kill young people."

However, I was still so afraid. But then I asked a question to him:

“Why did you kill my uncle? I think I had to shout a bit. And he said that:

“Hey dude, are you aware I am a killer? And I kill everyone except that, young people children and babies. He said. And he continued:

“As I was eight, my father killed my mother and my little sister. And I had sworn to myself, that I was going to kill everyone who look like my father. Firstly once a day, I took his rifle and shot my father in the head. And, so far I have killed thirty people who look like my father.” He had said but I couldn’t listen to this part of the story because I had already fainted again. But the killer was continuing to tell the rest of the story:

“Well, your uncle was one of them, so I killed him.” He noticed that I fainted again after he said this. This time, I had fainted for a long time. So that, approximately 12 hours have passed. I am hungry because it’s been a long time, actually, I am so hungry. When I woke up I could smell steak on my nose. Dahmer had prepared for us. I was checking up on my around in order to find something. But there wasn’t anything for I was able to use. So I just waited from where I lay. Dahmer started to talk about my uncle:

“I said that your uncle had killed someone before for long years.”

“I don’t believe you.” I said and he started to another story:

“Your uncle and me, when we were children we are very close friends. We always wondered about it together. Even, he was my only friend. And once a day, probably we were eight, the next neighborhood of children approximately four children attacked your uncle. This for children were almost fourteen. Your uncle had stolen their ball. Because of that, they had attacked him. And when I saw that, I ran toward there quickly to help your uncle. And then when I arrived there I hit one of them because your uncle was almost dead. And in this way, they had started to hit me. After they beat us for a long time, finally they had left us. But both of us were very terrible. When they found us, a lot of my bones were broken. And approximately we had ten months stayed in the hospital. In this way, I and your uncle became blood brothers.” He said.

However, I had been shocked because even though my uncle and I were very close, he never told me anything about it.

“At first time, I was listening to this story even though my uncle and I were very close. Alright, what will happen now?” When I asked that, I saw that he called the police.

“What are you doing now?” I asked

“Firstly, I called the police and when they come here they will find you.”

After he said that, he pointed the gun at his head and pulled the trigger. And I had fainted again.

When I woke up, I was in the hospital. Two inspectors were standing in front of me and I could see the journalist outside from the window.

INNOCENCE

Asude Zehra Aksu

It was a casual day in California. It was a busy morning and people were trying to go to their jobs. Emma was still at home, Emma's father Cedric prepared a beautiful breakfast for Emma. (Emma was a good family girl and her father was a man who devoted his life to his family after getting retired.) Emma, even though she was late because of the fact that she didn't want to upset his father, was having breakfast by taking the risk into consideration. Then, she kissed her mom. (Her mother who never talked after Emma's sister died.) And then, Emma left house hastily to go to the job. While this was happening, her mother was looking from the window beside the bed where she wasn't reacting to anything. Emma was listening to music and her earphones were on, she was dreaming of falling in love till she got to the metro station where she'd get off. Meanwhile, somebody got in the metro and Emma couldn't take her eyes off of him.

Emma was very charmed and after getting off the metro, she wanted to meet him. David didn't refuse Emma's kind offer. Emma and David decided to meet after the work and then bid farewell to each other. Emma was very late, when she came to the work, she was already fired. Emma was very sad, she worked hard to get that job. She was very angry with herself. While talking to David, she didn't realize how fast the time passed by. She felt like this for the first time. She got packed, she left the workplace, she sat down in a coffee shop and called David. After the telephone talk, David was seen in front of the coffee where Emma was sitting. Emma was, one more time, found herself in the feelings that she couldn't understand. They sat down and talked for a long time. And, David offered a job to Emma. Emma was first shocked, then, she thought that all of these was a sign and then accepted the offer. The next day Emma started a new job. Even though Cedric found that rapid change weird, he trusted Emma so much. But, Cedric was overwhelmed with his doubts. He decided to find out who Emma's new boss is. After days, Emma and David got on well with each other more and more. Meanwhile, Emma was away from home, even she wasn't caring about her father. One day, her father couldn't stand this and followed her after Emma got out of the workplace. And then, he saw that Emma was in a personal car of someone. Cedric called for a taxi and then followed the car. But, when they got out the car, he saw that the man beside Emma was the killer of her sister. Cedric was very scared. How could it be possible? He wanted to say that Emma's sister was dead and he wanted to take Emma back home. However, they said that they didn't know Emma's sister was dead. How would Cedric tell that lie to her. He couldn't help thinking if Emma wouldn't believe in him or if David would hurt Emma. Cedric came back home and cried with his wife Olivia when he told what was happening. Olivia's eyes were looking as anxious as never before. Cedric needed to do something, but what would he need to do? Emma came back home. She realized that something was wrong. Cedric decided to talk to Emma. He told Emma to be calm and told her everything from the beginning. Emma couldn't believe what she heard. She didn't know what she was supposed to feel. She only left the house. She only was walking in the street. Was David somebody like that? It was the first time that she felt as lonely as this time. She found herself in front of David's house.

David said that, "He wasn't related to any of the things that she told and her father must have been confused." He proposed Emma to stay with him for a while. Emma didn't know who to trust but the idea that David was a killer was very absurd. How could it be? David treated Emma very nice and kind. Emma didn't want to think more, she was very tired. She fainted because of her sadness. It was already morning when Emma woke up and David was preparing breakfast for her. Emma started to cry again. David came to make her relieve.

Emma pushed him back and screamed by saying, "Leave me alone." David wanted to hug her obstinately. Emma, finally, couldn't take it more and let herself to David. After that special moment that they spent together, nothing was the same for Emma. Emma was now, fully devoted to David. She decided that what her father said was so absurd that they couldn't be real. David was the man she loved. Yes, he was the man she loved, she understood. She was in love with David. Emma started to stay at David's house. Her father was coming to David's office everyday to see Emma, but the security guards weren't letting him in. Emma was not aware of the fact that her father came because David was hiding this fact from her.

It was a weekend and Emma just got up. When she went to the saloon, David was talking on the phone and Emma listened to the conversation involuntarily. Emma learned that fact which David was hiding. She was very angry. How could David hide this even though he saw how sad she was? Emma was feeling very bad. She left the house by saying nothing and called her father anxiously. Her father said, "That he was waiting for her at home and told her that she needed to be calm". Emma went home by taxi and started crying as soon as she saw her father. She was very regretful.

Her father calmed Emma down and told her "we will talk everything later on, we don't have much time, we need to leave the house." Emma didn't understand what was happening and they got in to the taxi. Cedric, Olivia and Emma was going to get into a plane and leave the city to build a new life away from everything and everyone. While they were going to pass through the ticket office, David appeared. (David found the taxi's plaque with the camera he set up in front of Emma's house and followed them.)

David had a gun and he was seeing the red. Emma was very scared. Cedric was going to protect her daughter. David was seeing red. A bullet came out of that gun in that chaos. Somebody was shot. Who was that? Olivia. Olivia made a dive to protect her daughter. Meanwhile, policeman appeared in the scene and David was arrested. David, who they couldn't prove that he was the killer of Emma's sister years ago, was going to the jail this time. Her mom was laying in Emma's arms. Olivia was already gone when the ambulance came. Cedric was trying to be strong. He needed to be strong for her daughter. His daughter needed him. After that painful day, Cedric told everything to Emma. Years ago, David was in a relationship with Emma's big sister. And David killed her in an angry moment. And then ran away by destroying the proof. Cedric couldn't prove in any way that David was a killer. Emma now learned everything and they wouldn't stay in this city anymore. Father and daughter left the city to build a new life.

A COLD NIGHT IN THE ENGLAND

Selahattin Kutluhan Yalçın

It's a cold night in England, Mr. Charlie sitting on a chair in the office. Today work was very tiring, so he wants to go home as soon as possible and wants to sleep. Finally, he finishes work and goes home. He brushes his teeth, wear pajama and goes to bed. He went to bed and someone knocked on the door. He opened the door its Sully Charlie said, "What happened! Are you aware of the time?"

Sully said, "I'm sorry but it's an emergency, we have got a case."

Charlie said, "About what?"

Sully said, "It's murder."

Charlie said, "I'm going to change my dress, wait a second."

They went to crime scene and see a woman. She is Gabriel. She was killed in a horrible way. Charlie wore gloves and started to look for evidence. He looked everywhere but he found nothing abnormal compared to the other cases he had solved. This murder was very professional. He asked to Sully, "Do you find anything?"

Sully said, "No, it's a very professional murder, I think we will have difficulty."

Meanwhile Jaq was coming. Jaq is the sister of Gabrielle. She was very sad and angry. She asked to detectives, "Do there find anything?"

Detectives said, "No, we didn't find anything. But we may find soon?"

Detectives leave the crime scene and go to the restaurant for breakfast and talk about murder Charlie said, "I think it's very interesting, this murder is different from others. We look everywhere and we find nothing. This is verry interesting. What do you think?", Sully said, "I think we need to leave this case we can't find any proof." Charlie said, "What, are you serious? Is it that easy? I am going by."

Charlie went to the office and thought about the case, but he didn't find anything. He is going to the crime scene tomorrow early. He went to the cream scene and knock the door. Jaq opened the door. "Hi, what happened? Do you find anything?" Charlie said "Sorry I didn't find anything, but I will. Can I look Gabriele room" Jaq said, "Yes, you can."

Charlie entered Gabriele room and looked for proof at that time Jaq was come, "do you want to eat something?" she said. Charlie said, "Yes, it would be good. I need a break." Jaq and Charlie do breakfast and talk about Gabriele. Charlie asked about Gabriele love affair Jaq said, "She hasn't had a boyfriend for a long time but wait, I remember someone sent letters." Charlie said, "What, are you serious? Why didn't you tell me before? That's very important. Do you remember who send it?" Jaq said, "No, but I can find the letters." They went to the Gabriele room and looked for letter, but they didn't find anything. It's late, Charlie needs to go. Charlie said, "I need to go, if you find anything call me quickly."

Charlie went to the office and saw Sully. Charlie said, "I found some letters about case." Sully shocked and asked Charlie "Which letters? About what?" Charlie said, "I don't know. It's about Gabrielle's boyfriend or her flirt" Sully said, "Where did you find the letters?" Charlie said, "I didn't find but Jaq told me, she remembers some letters somebody sent letters to Gabrielle she trying to find it." Sully congratulated Charlie and went to the room.

Sully went to the crime scene quickly to find the letters. Jaq opened the door and "Charlie was here nearly 2 hours ago, will you always come?" Sully said "Yes, I know, I know but he told me about some letters. I am excited about it I can help you find the letters." Jaq took him inside then they started searching for the letters together. They looked everywhere but they didn't find anything. Time was late. Sully had no intention of going. Jaq said "I'm going to sleep when you're done you close the door and leave." Sully said "Okey" and continued searching. He looked everywhere again and finally he found the letters in the secret compartment of the wardrobe then he quickly took the letters and left the house.

Its morning Charlie came the office and called Jaq he asked about the letters Jaq said, "I can't find anything, but Sully was here all night ask him." Charlie was surprised because Sully didn't go anywhere without asking him.

Charlie went to Sullys room quickly; Sully was sleeping on the chair Charlie was woke up him quickly, Sully was scared he asked,

"What happened" Charlie said,

"Why you didn't tell me you went to look for letters"

Sully said "I am sorry I'm forgot, why you are angry I didn't do anything bad."

Charlie said "No, I'm not angry but I am shocked because you didn't do anything without asking me."

Sully said "Yes, sorry I forgot I will let you know next time."

Charlie asked him "Did you find anything"

but Sully said, "I didn't find anything." then Charlie went to the room and he was upset because he was angry at his friend.

Charlie was leaving the office meanwhile he went to Sully's room to apologize. He went to Sully's room Sully was not here. He was leaving the room, that time he noticed something, there was a painting in Sully's room but this painting looked very crooked. Charlie wanted to fix it, he tried but it didn't move. He tried to understand why the painting wasn't moving. He was lifting the painting a little bit, he saw something under the painting, he took it. It is some letters, he opened the letters and started reading the letters. He was shocked because these letters were the letters he was looking for. He didn't understand, why didn't Sully say he found the letters? He quickly went to the Sully's home and "What is this Sully, why didn't you tell me?" he said. Sully didn't know what to say, he was shocked "I was going to tell you, but I forgot sorry bro." Charlie was very angry "Sorry? Are you serious how can you not say something so important." Charlie was taking the letters and he left Sully's home.

He went home and he started reading letters. Charlie noticed something interesting about letters. The name of the person who sent the letters was Mr.S, Charlie didn't understand who Mr.S was. He started reading the letters, the sender was talking about an office in pudding street. He was shocked because his office was in Pudding Street and the only office in Pudding Street. He was starting to understand, the sender's nickname was Mr.S and his office was in Pudding Street, the murderer was Sully.

He didn't know what to do, his best friend was a murderer. He had decided he would do the right thing, he needed to catch Sully and he did this. He went to the police station and complained to Sully. He did the right thing, justice was served.

ALAFIA

Abdulkadir Okan Kavak

If you have found this note, read it carefully, and after reading it, open the wooden box between my arms. In this note, I passed a brief summary of our lives and how we got to this situation. I didn't have a lot of time, so I couldn't give too many details. **AS I SAID, DO NOT OPEN THE BOX BEFORE READING THE NOTE.**

In our childhood, we heard many different stories about Alafia Stalkers. In every different story we are told, the Stalkers left our underground city to find new water, food, hope, and life, that living space called Alafia and mentioned in the legends. Still, they have yet to return, and these stories were based on facts. Like every child, my little brother and I dreamed we would become a stalker and save our underground city.

Years have passed. We grew up, and Our underground city's system began to break down. Our food started to become insufficient for us, so many people were stealing each other's food to live. Crime rates increased. People made much more durable doors and walls for their homes to protect themselves from cannibals. My brother and I were worried that city life was worsening because we had an old mom, and we had to protect and help her. For a long time, we thought there was nothing we could do now except pray for the city to heal. However, our thoughts changed when we saw the new stalker call. The government published the stalker call, and more details were said to be announced in the city square. We were both excited and uncertain. This was not published for 15 years, and No one who went on this mission had returned, but now we had a better option than praying, and we had to do something now.

We went to the city square and registered our names for the Stalker auditions. Many people were applying, but we were so lucky compared to many people because many people's bodies had so many health problems due to insufficient food. We passed many physical and mental exams prepared by the government with high scores. Now, we made it to the last five groups, and we were selected. There was both joy and fear within us. We realized our childhood dreams but had to succeed on Misson, unlike other stalkers. We were subjected to a long and arduous training for one year. The government promised to protect our family for a certain period, which gave us some relief.

Before leaving the city, we said goodbye to our mother and close friends. Then we were taken by the authorities to the exit of the underground city, and then they went. We checked our equipment, and then we got into an elevator. We went up for a long time. The elevator door opened. The big Iron Gate we heard about in Legends was before us. We stood for a while and looked at each other's faces. But at the end of the minute, we passed the door. I can't forget our fear when we saw the earth's surface; it was there that we realized the seriousness of the mission. This was the moment our journey began.

We had a converter that could create food from the stones and sand on the ground, but we couldn't use it on all surfaces. We also carried oxygen tanks with us that were designed to last us for five months. These tanks were for use in sand storms. We were given a few cutting tools and a special weapon with six bullets for self-defense. But our most important thing was our map and plan information list. The notes given to us contained some critical clues about the earth's surface. We needed to use these clues as carefully as possible.

We had to act quickly since we had five months ahead of us. During these five months, we tried to find some signs and clues to find the Alafia gate based on our information notes. We continued to

move forward for months. When the sandstorms started, we would find a cave or covered structure and stay there until the sandstorm passed.

After three months, it seemed like we were rowing our boat in vain. We were starting to run out of time and tubes, and we began to feel more irritable and argue with each other more often. All the signs we found and followed did not lead us to what we were looking for.

We stopped advancing because if we continued searching for a little longer, these tubes would not have been enough for us to return. We started looking for a place to plan our return route and avoid the sandstorm. We found a ruin made of iron piles on the hill behind us and entered it. Because it was dark, we lit the gas lamp, spread the map on the ground, and discussed our return plan.

Two hours later, we noticed an abnormal smell inside and started looking for the cause of the smell in the ruin. My brother suddenly called me out. When I went to him, I encountered a rotten body lying on the ground. We both bent down to the body and turned its face to us. It had a stalker coat and equipment from 15 years ago, but the thing that caught our attention even more was the large wooden box that was standing between its arms. We put aside our surprise and fear, pulled the box out of its arms, and took it to our equipment. When we opened the box, we experienced the most critical moment of our lives. There was clean, pure water in the box, bottled in a special glass. We looked at the water that had been in the bottle for a long time and didn't talk. The Storm had started, and it didn't seem to stop. We decided to stay here until the Storm stopped because we had enough supplies for a while.

One day passed, two days passed, and three days passed, but the Storm didn't calm down. Our supplies were starting to run out. But it would be suicide for us to go out before the sandstorm ended. So we had to wait. At the end of the day, all our supplies were gone. We only had the water we found here. But we didn't intend to touch it. Because if we could get it to the city, we would have proved to people that there was an ecosystem here where we could live. And maybe the government would send another team and think more about this situation. If we could get the water to the city, we could also change the fate of the underground city. At the end of the day, our converter device also stopped working. And we couldn't produce any food.

And on the 10th day, which was the worst day of my life, we decided to drink the water. Because we were about to die. We split the water in half and poured it into our flasks. Just as I was looking at the water with hesitation, my brother got up and ran towards my bag. He started looking for something in my bag. I didn't understand and asked, "What are you doing?" Then he turned to me with the cutting tool he took out of my bag and started running and started hitting me with the cutting tool in her hand. I took out my gun from my pocket and shot him twice in the head. And now my brother's bloody body was in my hands. I was in shock and couldn't react for a long time.

Yes, he tried to kill me, and I shot him with the gun in my pocket, but the real question was why the gun was in my pocket and not the bag. The answer to that question was scary to me because I had thought the same thing. I thought about killing him to drink more water. I didn't touch the water, and I didn't try to stop the bleeding from the blow to my stomach because I didn't think I deserved to live after feeding these monstrous feelings.

We had so many goals. We thought we could find water and the New World in **Alafia** to live like our ancient ancestors. Unlike others, we believed each other. This shouldn't have ended like this, but it's too late now.

I did not have enough time. Probably, I will die in a few minutes. I Lost too much blood. Even if I stop the blood, I can not protect myself from the dangers and toxic Air outside. My brother is still in my arms. The Storm still going, and these walls have started breaking.

Finally, I want to say one thing, and this will be the last word in my note. I learned a lot in my journey to find Alafia, but the most special one is that humans can find clean water, clean sky, clean

oxygen, trees, grass, and the New World, but when people find these, they will lose again again and again because people always lose essential things because of their selfishness. This is the **Destiny** of ...

END.

