

A ONESHOT
BASED ON A TRUE STORY

MESSAGES

By Rosequarts C.

MESSAGES

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THE BEGINNING

EVER since Rose was in junior high, she never really imagined that someone would ever fall in love with her. To her, she wasn't beautiful like her other friends and classmates, and she wasn't skinny like them either.

She was quiet and introverted; all she ever loved was listening to music and doing sketches when she had time or felt like it. She wasn't that interesting, or at least she thinks of herself that way. Then Senior High came and decided to make a few changes.

Instead of remaining silent and inactive, she chose to display her actual nature to her new set of classmates and friends. Why not? After all, she transferred to another high school in her senior year, so why not reinvent herself and show the actual Rose? The lively, boisterous person who enjoys dancing and singing, Rose.

Great things happened, and she gained a lot of friends and discovered that being herself helped some of her anxiety slip away. And it made everything much better.

She got to experience dancing on stage and being a part of their section's dance ensemble, and she felt amazing being herself. Although

she felt disappointed when she graduated, that does not suggest she should go back to how she was before. Even if she is in college, she can still be herself.

Getting used to a new group of friends, classmates, and atmosphere was difficult for Rose. Every second and minute that passes, she misses her senior high school years and wishes she could go back, but she has to accept life as it is and move on.

And so, Rose moved on with her college life in the same way she had survived senior high school. She wasn't anticipating anything in college, let alone love, and assumed that love stories only existed in the K-dramas she and her sister-in-law watched. Until she met him, that is.

They met in the second month of the New Year, 2020, and were both classmates in two subjects, one after lunch and one their final.

Rose didn't think much of him at first, only thinking about how cute he looked. He appeared shy at their initial meeting, and she assumed he was an introvert who liked to stay home all day and play games.

This is the story of how Rose and Jihoon both met—their mini-love story.

[FEBRUARY 05]

Rose entered the science classroom with her other two classmates. It was the second semester of her freshman year of college, and she was a little nervous about this subject. She has never been a fan of science. Science and Rose shared a tough connection; some lessons were difficult for her to understand, but she was still able to complete and pass them. She sat in any unoccupied seat she could find and sighed softly.

"Wow, I think we came early," Taeyeon commented.

"Yeah, but look on the bright side; we can be as loud as we want for a few minutes without anyone judging us," Rose stated, and they started chatting loudly.

A few minutes later, several of their new classmates entered, and the three of them had their mouths shut almost immediately. When Rose noticed people coming in, she instantly got out her phone to keep herself occupied. Seeing that, Jessica chuckled at her reaction.

"What happened to our loud Rose?" Jessica inquired smugly.

"She needs to take a break from being so loud," she said, her gaze fixed on her phone. They both snickered and took out their phones to kill time until the teacher showed up.

"Good afternoon, everyone! It's so nice to meet all of you. I'm Ms. Han, and I'll be your professor for this subject."

They all smiled as they listened, but before she could continue, someone walked in late, shifting their attention to him. He seemed to be lost as he entered with his schedule in his grip.

"Hello! Do you belong to this class?" the professor inquired of the newcomer.

"I don't know, Ms.," said the boy shyly.

"Do you have your schedule? I'll take a look at it," the professor remarked, and the student timidly showed Ms. Han the paper he was holding.

The first thing Rose noticed about him was his diminutive stature. His height was shorter than she is, and he appeared delicate but adorable. And because of this, she had the impression that this guy was introverted and bashful.

She then returned her attention back to her phone, as she wasn't particularly interested in him. All he was at that moment was a regular student who had lost his way. Which was pretty common for the first weeks of every new semester.

After a few seconds, the professor resumed the lesson while the boy sat in an empty seat. "I apologize for the brief commercial; let us proceed!" Ms. Han then resumed the orientation, so Rose placed her phone

in her bag and listened once again. "Last week you went through orientation with another professor, am I right?"

Everyone then nodded in response.

"Now, because you've gone through that, we'll be introducing ourselves one by one."

All eyes widened in surprise as their palms sweated and became nervous. Rose knew they'd have to introduce themselves individually, but when it was that day, she got very anxious.

"With that said, I'll go first!" Ms. Han said. "I graduated from DEL, I have 3 siblings, and my hobbies are cooking and reading books. Now it's your turn! Any volunteers?" When the professor asked, everyone looked around, hoping for someone to be brave enough to be the first to volunteer.

"Anyone?"

Rose was getting more nervous and despised how anxious she felt; her hands were sweating and her heart was racing in fear. She hates the awkward silence but also dislikes volunteering. However, fortunately for her, someone generously volunteered.

Ms. Han opted to make the introduction clockwise so that the students wouldn't have to spend too much time deciding who would volunteer next. The guy who had entered late was the third pupil to introduce, and Rose wasn't expecting too much from him, just like she wasn't anticipating much from her other new classmates.

He stood in front of the class, facing them with a somewhat confident stance. His luscious, curly hair was covering his forehead as he pushed back his glasses before he began speaking.

"H-hi! My name is Lee Jihoon. I transferred from ADY. My hobbies are vlogging and dancing." The students were all astonished by his hobbies, especially Rose, because she wasn't expecting the unexpected. "I mostly post my vlogs on YouTube," he continued.

"*Oob!* What's the name of your channel?" Ms. Han inquired.

"Woozi_UniverseFactory is my channel's name."

"And you said you dance? What kind of dancing do you do?" she inquires once more.

"I do b-boying."

Jihoon has now completely captured Rose's attention and interest. She enjoys dancing as well, but being told that he does B-boy dancing was somewhat unexpected from him. You can't judge a book by its cover, and she was completely amazed.

"Can you show us some moves?" Ms. Han requested, and everyone cheered as Jihoon nervously giggled, agreeing to a brief demonstration of his talent as he arranged the music for him to dance to.

After his introduction, everyone applauded when he grounded to a stop; he was incredible! Rose admired him after seeing what he was capable of. It was time for their next class after everyone had been introduced. But before she went, she decided she wanted to be friends with Jihoon and made the first move. She drew his attention with a tap on his shoulder, and he raised his brows and looked up with a small grin.

"Hey, you did amazing!" she exclaimed, catching him off guard. Nonetheless, he was pleased to be complimented.

"Oh, thank you!" he said, humbly bowing with a pursed smile.

That was all Rose could say to him at the time because she was in a hurry to get to her next class with her other friends. But at least she went and complimented him instead of saying nothing!

Rose and her classmates were playfully teasing her about what she had done back there as they walked to their next classroom. She chuckled and stated that she wanted to be friends with him, but they wouldn't believe her statements and were well aware of her strategy. As they walked to their next classroom, she ignored their teasing grins.

When it came to the final subject, she and her companions were once again a little early, waiting for lessons to begin. As she yawned in response to her tiredness, she began to feel sleepy. But as soon as she saw a familiar face enter, adrenaline shot through her veins, causing her eyes to widen when she spotted Jihoon in the same class as her for the final subject of the day.

When he arrived, all she could do was grin and wave. He returned her wave but was too shy to engage in conversation, as was she.

[FEBRUARY 12]

"Alright! For our first lesson, I would like you to choose your group mates for this presentation." Ms. Han went on to say, "I will allow a minimum of 4 people per group; each of you will pick a leader as well, and once that's finished, your leader will come choose a paper that has the topic you'll be presenting for next week."

Taeyeon, Jessica, and Rose immediately chose to form a team, as did the rest of her classmates. Rose observed Jihoon sitting alone in the corner, waiting for someone to welcome him to their group, while they were teaming up. So, without even consulting her two companions, she smiled and called him. He shook his head when she inquired if he had a group. That was all it took for her to beam with delight as she eagerly welcomed him into their circle.

He was apprehensive at first, but after the other groupmates agreed, he enthusiastically joined in and drew a chair for him to sit in their circle group. The two buddies smirked at him as he sat next to Rose, but she instantly disregarded them and started talking to him.

They then chose a leader, and Rose was chosen. She was taken aback by their selection because it was her first time being picked as leader, but she didn't express how nervous she was about it. Nonetheless, she accepted the role. Minutes passed by, and Jihoon was more vocal and

energetic than she had imagined during the very first project discussion, which was even better. He was a genuinely kind man.

[FEBRUARY 19]

They were given the opportunity to present their work, and while Rose talked the most as the leader, she ensured that everyone in her group did and explained something. She was nervous, but she was also proud that she had the opportunity to present despite her stage anxiety.

Rose complimented and hugged every member after the presentation, making them, especially Jihoon, smile. She expected their friendship to evolve slowly because they saw each other twice a week. But soon after their last subject, while she was riding a train home, she received a message from Jihoon.

JH: < Take care and get home safely! ^^ >

She smiled as she read his text.

RS: < You too.>

JH: < Go home, alright? No more hanging out late at night! >

**RS: < Don't worry, I'm on the train
on the way home. And you? >**

JH: < Yes, yes, I'm on my way home now. >

Their chat continued, and they discussed school projects until they ended it just a couple of minutes later. Rose realized that, after a while, every conversation they had had them flirting a little bit. Her delusional mind was loving every moment but still had an awareness of reality, which smacked her from time to time.

[FEBRUARY 22]

Rose went to one of her junior high school friends' houses on Saturday afternoon to hang out with her friends. They hadn't seen each other in a long time, and she was overjoyed to see them. And, as usual, she spent all of her savings on snacks for the movie marathon.

Rose's mother is pretty strict, so she rarely allows her to go out with her friends, and tonight she was just so pleased to be out of the house with her friends that she couldn't help but overindulge on the snacks. They talked and talked about what was currently going on in their love lives, and Rose, of course, joined in on the conversation.

"So, Rose, how have you been?" one of her friends, Cheska, asked.

"Good," she replied.

"Have you found someone?" Sheena said, causing Rose to fall silent, which immediately made everyone suspicious of her.

"Oh my, Rose did find someone!" Louise delighted in a teasing tone with the others.

"I did," she protested with a shrug, "but we're not official or anything; we're just...friends, you know."

"And that, ladies, is how a new relationship starts," Cheska remarked.

Everyone laughed, giddy with delight. Rose would occasionally converse with Jihoon throughout the hangout, but she kept her full attention on her friends, who were having a good time chatting with the food she had bought. When it was time to go home, she focused her entire attention on her phone and continued chatting with him until she was in bed at her place of residence.

RS: < I'm on my way home! >

JH: < Where did you go this time? >

RS: < Aww, I am touched! You're worried~! >

I chuckled.

JH: < Where did you go though? >

RS: < My friend's house, just bonding with my friends~! >

JH: < Is it that far? >

RS: < Nah, it's just a tricycle away. >

JH: < Alright, Sadness, take care on your way home! >

Sadness is a nickname they gave Rose. It all started with a classmate who thought she resembled a lot like the cartoon character Sadness from the movie 'Inside Out,' and the rest repeated what she called her, and she was quickly dubbed "Sadness."

RS: < I will, thanks! >

[FEBRUARY 26]

Days have passed, and it is now Wednesday once again. Rose is most happy about today because she was able to see Jihoon again. However, Professor Han was absent, and they had an hour and thirty minutes of free time, with only Rose, her friends, and Jihoon in the classroom.

"So... what are we going to do now?" Taeyeon wondered.

"We can invite Suhyun and Chanhyuk in and have them sing," Jessica proposed.

So, they took her advice and invited more of their buddies inside to kill time. Their mini-concert began in a matter of seconds after Rose summoned them. They sang their favorite songs together as Chanhyuk and Suhyn traded positions on the guitar.

Even Jihoon was having a good time, his excitement written all over his face, and Rose couldn't help but think how cute he looked, which made her smile from ear to ear.

She returns her attention to the musicians; despite not recognizing the majority of the songs they sang, she had a good time listening to them sing. As she did so, she brought out her phone to check her social media timeline when a notification appeared above her screen.

It was from Jihoon.

JH: < Psst >

His unexpected message made her snicker. He could've just talked to her because they were right next to each other. Regardless, she responded by messaging him back, imitating his message with humorous intent.

RS: < Psst >

JH: < How are you doing? >

**RS: < I'm fine! It looks like you're
enjoying this mini-concert. >**

JH: < Nah, I'm enjoying this because you're here. >

She snickered as her heart skipped a beat, but she kept her demeanor cool, acting like his message didn't affect her one bit.

RS: < Oh, is that so? >

JH: < What's your next subject? >

RS: < Math ;-; >

JH: < What time is that? >

RS: < 1:30 PM, you? >

JH: < 3 p.m. Let's meet later on after this. >

Whenever they see each other or say their goodbyes, they greet one another with a big hug, and it always brightens up their day.

Rose collapsed on her bed, fatigued, when she returned home. It was 8:46 p.m., and the school day had sapped all of her energy, both from studying and from taking public transportation back home. There wasn't a school day where she didn't feel tired.

As she lay down on her bed, she received a message from Jihoon, which instantly jolted her back up, like coffee fueling their bodies to face another day of sleep deprivation.

**JH: <Btw, didn't you tell me you
also had a Youtube channel? >**

Her body stiffened, and her lips pursed, stunned. She had always avoided discussing it. She was, however, negligent enough to inadvertently spill the truth and attempt to cover it up with conversations about projects and schoolwork.

RS: < Uh oh... >

JH: < Uh, oh indeed! XD >

RS: < I do have a Youtube channel; why? >

JH: < What's the name? >

RS: < It's a secret, of course! >

JH: < Oh, come on! Tell me~! >

RS: < It's just so embarrassing! >

**JH: < You don't have to be embarrassed;
we're both the same, Youtubers! >**

RS: < This. >

She then sent a screenshot of her channel, having second thoughts about whether or not what she did was correct. She was very shy and reluctant since all she ever posted were video edits of her stories, and not everyone is into those.

JH: < Oh wow, 3.37K subs?! >

RS: < Hard work makes the dream work! >

JH: < My channel is oozy_universefactory; I just thought of sharing that. >

RS: < Yup, I know! >

JH: < Oh, really? How? >

RS: < I tried searching your channel since I was curious and was able to find it through your Facebook profile page. >

JH: < That made me all giddy for some reason. >

RS: < Aww, someone's happy! >

JH: < Super! > < Hey, do you want to be in my vlogs? >

RS: < Ooh~ I'd be honored! If my mom allows me to go out, >

JH: < I can die in peace now. HAHAAAAHA >

They kept talking and talking. Even asked each other questions to learn more about one another. Rose discovered that they had a lot in common as they communicated more. Both enjoy spicy meals, enjoy dancing, are small YouTubers, and both play the guitar.

[FEBRUARY 28]

It was 1:48 a.m., and Rose was still awake, viewing YouTube videos until she fell asleep. Her sleeping schedule was messed up, but she had become accustomed to sleeping late and getting up late.

While she was watching, a message notification from Jihoon appeared above her screen, prompting her to pause the movie and message him back.

JH: < "I can't sleep..." >

RS: < "Aww, why not?" >

JH: < "Oh, you were still awake? ;-" >

RS: < "Yup~!" >

JH: < "I was about to spill my thoughts." >

RS: < "Then go ahead; please continue." >

**JH: < "I just miss you. I don't know; it's like a
poison in my mind. I'm sorry if I'm causing you trouble." >**

RS: < "Nah, it's fine." >

JH: < "Why are you awake anyway?" >

RS: < "I don't feel sleepy, really." >

JH: < "Don't you have classes tomorrow?">

**RS: < "Nah, I don't have classes on
Friday. On Saturday I do." >**

JH: < "Oh, we are the same!" >

RS: < "So... why can't you sleep?" >

**JH: < "To be honest, it's because of you. I was about to go to
sleep when you popped up in my mind. It took me a while to
decide whether I should chat with you or not. I am a bit shy, but
here we are." >**

RS: < "Why are you shy?" >

JH: < "Of course, who am I to chat with you?" >

RS: < "I really don't mind, to be honest." >

**JH: < "I mean, you're smart, cute, and just a very wise person.
I just wish I was like you." >**

What she had just read had completely taken Rose by surprise. It made her pleased, but she couldn't believe it. She never considers herself to be intelligent or wise. And to be told that by someone she liked was a huge compliment, and it made her heart skip a beat.

**RS: < "Woah, that is the first time someone
has ever called me wise. HAHAHA" >**

JH: < "Because it's true!" >

RS: < "Aww, thank you! This made me happy!" >

JH: < "Sadness?" >

RS: < "Yep?" >

There was a second pause, and she waited patiently.

**JH: < "I can't do this. It's just
really hard to talk to girls, especially if you're..." >**

RS: < "I'm what? Damn, you like to tease me, do you?" >

JH: < "It's just hard to explain. Sorry." >

RS: < "You don't need to apologize; it's fine~!" >

Another pause ensued. The delay was longer than intended, leading her to believe that this was the conclusion of their chat. So, she resumed watching her video when she received another notification from him.

JH: < "Uhm, sadness, I have a question." >

RS: < "Ask away!" >

JH: < "Do you..." >

And that was it. However, she waited patiently for his other responses.

JH: < "NVM, I can't do it." >

His comments made her sigh, and she sent a sticker to express her frustration. She then returned to watching, but at the same moment, he messaged her again, and the notification made her see what he sent, and she quickly realized what he was attempting to ask. When she opened the messenger, he had already removed the message that he had sent.

RS: < "I already read the message you just deleted." >

JH: < "Then by now, you have a hint
of what I'm trying to say, right?" >

RS: < "I don't want to assume anything, but...
I guess... You have a crush on me? Or am I wrong?" >

JH: < "You're right." >

RS: < "Oh, really? Since when?" >

JH: < "Since day 1, but I know you won't like me back, because
I'm not the type of person you like, and I don't have anything to
be proud of. I'm sorry." >

My heart ached.

RS: < "Why are you apologizing? And wait,
woah, since day one?! I never knew... ;;" >

JH: < "I'm sorry I confessed to you so suddenly. If you reject
me, then I understand." >

Many thoughts raced through her mind, and if Rose were to be honest, she had been interested in him since the day he B-Boyed. But her interest built gradually over time, but she kept the emotions she felt to herself.

Who would have guessed that the person she was interested in would also be interested in her? It was like a miracle that she never expected to happen. The extended pause of her joyous contemplation was mistaken for a rejection from the other line, which Rose didn't realize she was making him feel.

JH: < "And now you're not replying... I'm sorry, sadness." >

RS: < "No, I'm just curious. Why me?" >

JH: < "I don't even know. You know what they say; you don't need a reason to fall in love with someone; it's just feelings. And it's just because you are you, and I like you." >

Her eyes welled up with tears just reading it. She had met people who cared about her and liked her, but she had never seen or heard these words said to her.

There were moments when society made her feel like a total rubbish, but this simply goes to show her that even an overweight, "unattractive," insecure person can find someone like him.

Rose responded positively. She told her that she felt the same way, and his feelings were reciprocated. Jihoon had not expected that response and was fully prepared to be rejected.

They were both overjoyed, from both ends. Despite their mutual satisfaction, the story took a drastic turn. It seemed as if God didn't want their love story to last any longer.

[FEBRUARY 29]

RS: < "Hey Jihoon, are you doing WRP activities?" >

JH: < "I'm sorry, I'm sick at the moment." >

RS: < "Aww, get well soon!" >

It was at this moment that Rose should've realized that everything would go downward. A full-fledged storm will be able to ruin the future of the two couples, rather than just rain.

*(*nrp means pe from where I went to college)*

[MARCH 4]

JH: < "Good morning, sleepyhead! Wake up!"

**RS: < "Good morning! I am on the
way to school; take care!" >**

**JH: < "All right, take care! By the way, I'll try to attend classes
today. But, I don't think I'll be able to present our presentation.
My teeth really hurt. I'll just be going for the attendance and for
you." >**

**RS: < "Don't force yourself; you
should rest and get well." >**

**JH: < "No, no, I'll attend! You take
care on your way to school! >**

RS: < "You too!" >

Science classes had started that day at 12 p.m., but Jihoon was nowhere to be found. She was relieved to find him at home and resting after being concerned. This means Rose, Taeyeon, and Jessica will be the presenters for the project presentation, which she was perfectly fine with. Fortunately, they had received the highest overall score of any group in the class.

After classes, Rose received a message from Jihoon.

JH: < "Sorry, I couldn't handle the pain." >

RS: < "It's fine. Just rest and get well soon!" >

Rose was happy with his rest because his health was very important to her. She ate with her friends without having to worry about anything, then moved on to their final subject. She had gotten another message just as they were about to head to the classroom.

**JH: < "I forced myself to attend classes because I wanted to
see and hug you." >**

Rose was stunned, and the need to see him grew stronger, so she hurried to their classroom. When she arrived at their designated floor, she noticed him wearing a mask, as he appeared frail and fatigued, standing alongside the door against the wall.

It crushed her heart to see him in that position, then she dashed over to him and gave him a firm hug, which he returned. She doesn't mind if she gets the sickness from him; in fact, she'd be thrilled to take his sickness away from him if it made him feel any better.

Seeing him made her day brighter, but it also made her terribly concerned about his health. Despite his illness, he came to see her. She was flattered, but she wanted him to stay at home to rest and wouldn't mind not seeing him for a few weeks to allow him to fully heal.

It was late at night, and Rose had just returned home. She instantly resumed her conversation with Jihoon as he shared what he was doing.

JH: < "You ate yet?" >

**RS: < "Just one bread, that's all,
since I ate a while ago at 4:30 in school. You?" >**

**JH: < "Oh, alright. I'm eating a donut
to energize me up. Let's eat together sometimes." >**

RS: < "Sure! I would love that!" >

JH: < "Where would you like to go?" >

**RS: < "I don't mind eating at fast food;
even at 7/11, I don't mind." >**

JH: < "Alright! As long as we're together, that's enough for me." >

RS: < "Me too! ^^" >

Rose was bored since she was stuck at home. She had no classes today and was forced to finish her homework at home. But her mind couldn't leave thinking about Jihoon; he lived rent-free in her head every day.

She knew she shouldn't bother him, but not texting him was difficult for her, but thank God she managed to get by without bothering him with continual messaging.

[MARCH 6]

JH: < "Sadness... I have a problem. It's just that I have this recent sickness, so I really need to take care of myself. That's why I was wearing a mask before because of my lips and tongue. I just don't know how to explain it." >

RS: < "Get well soon. I'll wait for you until you get better." >

JH: < "Thank you so much; I really need to recover." >

RS: < "Then rest. Rest, Jihoon. I'll talk to you when you get better." >

They were always conversing. But he'd respond later than usual because he wasn't feeling well. Rose, of course, understood his condition. She, too, wished for him to get better so that they could go on dates and dine together at the school cafeteria, but he refused to listen.

[MARCH 7]

Jihoon didn't show up to science classes, which reassured Rose, but when she saw him in their final subject, she couldn't help but feel shattered again after seeing how frail he appeared. He appeared fatigued, vulnerable, and weak.

She hugged him the instant she saw him, and he hugged her back. Just by hugging him, she at least hoped it would make him feel even a little bit better.

Rose chose to go home with Jihoon after classes as they waited for the elevator and exited the building together while holding hands inside the elevator.

His hands were cold, and he was shaking from the cold or sickness he was still suffering from. She didn't want this moment to end, and she wished time would stop so they could hold each other's hands for a longer period of time. But tragically, it was short-lived, and they both waved goodbye as they parted ways to return home.

[MARCH 7]

JH: < "If we have time, maybe we could hang out?" >

Rose smiled crazily, loving the idea.

RS: < "Ooh! I like that! We don't have any Saturday science class, right? We can hang out at that time!" >

JH: < "Yeah, that's what I was thinking about as well!" >

RS: < "Then it's settled! Let's eat lunch together on Saturday!" >

JH: < "Yes, yes, but for now, maybe I can't because I'm sick." >

RS: < "When you heal, I'll wait." >

She was excited to have lunch with him and hoped to God that he would recover quickly. However, she was so impatient and excited that she forgot about his illness at times.

(10:13 PM)

JH: < "Sadness T-T" >

RS: < "Yes?" >

JH: < "My sickness is just crazy! T-T" >

**RS: < "Hey, just keep on fighting!
You'll get better!" >**

**JH: < "But I miss you. My parents decided
to stop my classes and let me rest for now." >**

**RS: < "I miss you too, but if that's the
case, then you should rest." >**

JH: < "No!" >

RS: < "Why not?" >

JH: < "I need to see you." >

**RS: < "But your health is very important to
me. I don't want you to force yourself." >**

JH: < "But you're important to me." >

**RS: < "Jihoonie~, you do want to heal, right?
Then you should rest at least for a week." >**

JH: < "But your hugs are my medicine. It's because of you that I have the strength to attend classes." >

RS: < "Then, if you really can't take the pain anymore, please rest, okay? I care for you, and I hate to see you in pain." >

JH: < "Do you know, when you hug me, it feels like I have the chance to study again? Because, to be honest, I've been so lazy these days." >

RS: < "Fight. Let's graduate together, and I'll fight along with you!" >

Even when she suggests going to the doctor, he always declines. He was determined to see her, no matter what.

She's not acting this way because she doesn't want to see him. She genuinely did, but she doesn't want to watch someone she cares about suffer and pretend to be fine when they aren't. Sickness, as she had warned him, should not be taken lightly.

Rose has always been eager to see him again, until that day came. It was the beginning of lockdown.

[MARCH 9]

JH: < "Sadness, is this real? We have no classes from 9 to 15?" >

She couldn't believe it since there were a lot of dates mentioned. So she sought it out on the official group page of the universities, and there it was. An announcement concerning the class suspension.

A part of her was relieved that the announcement was genuine because it meant Jihoon could finally relax and heal. But she felt bummed

that she wouldn't be able to see him again until March 15. It was torturous, but she had to do it for his sake.

[MARCH 10]

RS: < "Jihoon, did you visit the doctor today?" >

JH: < "Yup, we just got back home." >

Rose sighed in relief, thanking that he finally decided to go to the hospital to check up.

RS: < "What did the doctor say?

Is it something serious?" >

**JH: < "Yup, but I'll get better. I
just need proper treatment." >**

RS: < "Thank goodness!" >

But that was a lie, or so Rose imagined his words, "I'll get better," to be a lie in order for her not to be concerned; she had always assumed he would get better.

Ever since his visit to the doctor, his condition has gotten worse. He admitted that he kept vomiting because of what he ate. He's worn out. When he eats, it hurts. But, of course, she was completely unaware of it.

He messaged her in such a sweet way, as if he had no difficulty at all, as if he was telling her that everything would be fine and that he would heal, while in fact, it was the opposite.

[MARCH 11]

JH: < "Uhm sadness." >

RS: < "Yes?" >

JH: < "Can we repeat what we did last time?" >

RS: < "What do you mean?" >

JH: < "You know. The thing we did in the elevator." >

RS: < "Oh, you mean holding hands? Yeah, sure!" >

**JH: < "Sorry, I'm just really shy. I'm
not used to that kind of stuff." >**

RS: < "Holding hands? Really?" >

**JH: < "Yeah. I've held a girl's hand
before, but it's different with you." >**

RS: < "How so?" >

**JH: < "Other girls, they'd hold my hand because I have money.
They'd just use me as a puppet. But you're different." >**

Rose was saddened to see him writing this; it felt like torture to her. She wanted to hug, hold, and hug him some more. But, of course, everything had to go even worse.

[MARCH 12]

The country's president announced that the suspension of classes has been extended until April 12.

Rose felt devastated. She wanted to breach the rules and go to where Jihoon was. She wanted to hug him and be by his side because she knew he was in pain.

[MARCH 14 // 1:22 AM]

Nothing hurts more than witnessing or hearing a loved one discuss death. I saw him lose hope and strength in his attempt to survive.

JH: < "Sadness. I think I'm going to die." >

RS: < "No you're not. Don't say stuff like that." >

JH: < "I miss you." >

RS: < "I miss you too, and I hope you get better soon." >

JH: < "I need your hugs." >

RS: < "And I want to hug you." >

JH: < "I love you." >

Her eyes welled with tears rapidly, and she felt the urge to cry. She despises seeing his texts that are so depressing about death.

It hurts, but...

RS: < "I love you too." >

[MARCH 16]

JH: < "How about this? Don't think about me.

I mean, make yourself busy." >

RS: < "Why?" >

JH: < "It's for our sake. I know it's hard." >

If that's what you want me to do, then...

RS: < "I'll do the same as well.

Please message me if you have
something to say, okay? I love you." >

JH: < "I love you too." >

[MARCH 19]

JH: < "I'm sorry..." >

RS: < "Why are you apologizing?" >

JH: < "I just got used to apologizing, I guess?" >

I'll do it.

[MARCH 24]

JH: < "Sadness, I'll drop out of school." >

RS: < "Drop? Out of school? Why?" >

seen.

Rose didn't want to inquire further about why he was dropping out of school since she felt it would be insensitive of her to do so. As a result, she let him be. She wanted him to recuperate, so she left him alone and didn't speak to him for a few weeks.

[APRIL 14]

In the midst of doing her project, Rose thought of Jihoon again. She couldn't help herself and decided to message him to see how he was doing and to tell him how much she missed him.

RS: < "Jihoon, are you still awake? How are you?" >

He didn't respond, which concerned her. He would always respond after how many minutes had elapsed, but an hour later, nothing had changed. She then received a message, but it was from Jessica, not Jihoon.

JS: < "Sadneeeeeeeessss!" >

RS: < "Yes?" >

JS: < "Are you okay? I've heard about Jihoon :<." >

RS: < "I'm confused." >

JS: < "Wait, you don't know?" >

RS: < "No... Why?" >

JS: < "He died on April 6." >

Her heart had shattered into pieces, and her entire body had broken down. She had assumed he was resting and recuperating well all along, but she had not anticipated that this day would arrive sooner than imagined.

The pain she felt was unbearable, and she didn't hold them back. In the arms of her mother, she cried and cried after sharing the devastating news, not caring if the neighbors heard her sobs. The one who restored her faith in love... was now gone.

She didn't want to believe it, so she visited his Facebook profile page after a lengthy sob. Unfortunately, everything was true. All she could find were RIP texts from his friends and relatives. The one that wounded her heart the most was when she saw his mother's post of him with food surrounding a picture of him.

And that was it...

He was really gone...

Even after a year, she was still distraught. Even though she had her other friends with her, Rose felt lonelier than ever. It was different now because he wasn't there.

She missed him and wished to see him, to hug him, to hold his hand again as he had requested, to eat lunch with him, and to graduate with him. But there was nothing she could do now but accept reality and go on. Even if it hurts, and even if she knew it would be difficult, Rose will never forget him.

You'll always be in her heart, no matter how many years pass. And the times they shared will stay with her till the end.

THE END

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The author, Teresa, also known as Rosequarts C., was born in 2001. Although she graduated with a degree in studio art, her love for storytelling began early. During her junior high years, she decided she wanted to write her own stories, starting with lighthearted fanfictions created just for fun, most of which remained unfinished. It wasn't until the end of her junior high years that she began her first serious fanfiction project.

Inspired by stories she discovered on YouTube, Teresa eventually created her own channel dedicated to sharing her written works. She continues to create and post her stories, not minding the size of her audience but rather hoping to reach the right readers who will appreciate her imagination. Her goal is to bring joy and inspiration to her readers, the same joy she feels when bringing her characters to life.

Writing isn't her only passion. Teresa also enjoys gaming, cooking, dancing, singing, and crafting jewelry with clay and resin, creative outlets that help her unwind and fill her life with happiness.