**MY KUYA’S BEST FRIEND**

(One-shot Story)

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"Kyaaah~! Ang guwapo mo AJ!"

"Number 20 crush kita!"

"Waaah! tumingin dito si AJ! Tumingin siya dito!"

"Uwaaaa! Oo nga! Tumingin siya sa akin!"

"Anong sa'yo?! Sa akin siya tumingin noh!"

"Sa akin kaya!"

"Sa akin! Gaga!"

"Sa akin nga eh! Feeler!"

"IKAW! IKAW ANG FEELER! Saakin nga eh!"

ABA. Nagturuan pa kung sino ang feeler sa kanila.

Eh parehas lang naman sila! :P

Itong mga katabi kong to, ang sarap nilang pilipitin sa leeg! -\_\_\_\_-

"HOY MGA CHUVANEZ EKLAVOO MAGSITIGIL NGAH KAYOH! SA AKING BYUTI TUMINGIN SI PAPA AJ! STARSTRUCK ANG GWAPO SA FEZ KONG PRETTY AT SA AKIN MAPUPUNTA ANG KANYANG MGA HOT PANDESAL-- ARAAAY!"

Humabol pa tong baklang palaka na to sa tabi ko, ang manyak! Ayun sinapok ng mga girlaloo.

Tss. Asa naman silang type sila ni Kuya AJ!

Ako nga, hindi niya matipuhan, sila pa kaya?

ASA DIN NAMAN AKO.

Oo. Asa din naman ako. Tss. Hindi ako mapapansin niyan. Kasi little sister ang turing niya sa akin.

Little sister LANG.

Si AJ, I mean "KUYA" AJ, ay ang best friend ng kuya Luis ko. They were best friends when they were 13, I was 11 that time. And that time, may gusto na ako sa kanya.

Eh 16 na ako ngayon! 18 na sila!

Sus ginoo, limang taon!

\*\*FLASHBACK\*\*

(5 years ago)

"Kuya Luis Kuya Luis who is he?" tanong ko sa kuya ko while tugging his shirt.

Naglalaro ako sa sala namin ng isang puzzle game. Binubuo ko ang puzzle ng picture ng Winnie the Pooh. I was about to put the last puzzle piece to complete my work when two sweaty boys in their jersey uniforms entered the house.

"Ah, AJ kapatid ko, si Nicole. Nicole, he's kuya AJ. He is my best friend."

"Hello Nicole ^^"

"He-- He-- Hello.. K-Kuya.. Kuya AJ.."

"Nicole I want you to talk to kuya AJ muna ha, while I get clothes for me and him kasi you see oh, basang basa kami, kakatapos lang ng game ng kuya eh. I'll get back here soon."

"Okay kuya ^^"

I offered a seat to Kuya AJ, tapos nung umupo siya, tinabihan ko siya.

Hmm, bakit ganun? He's all sweaty pero ang bango niya pa rin! \*claps claps\*

"Nicole how old are you?"

"Huh? 11. Ikaw?"

"I'm 13 like your kuya Luis. ^^"

Nyee?! Bakit ang cute ng smile niya?!

Waaaahh!

Bakit.. Bakit.. Bakit parang..

Waaah, my heart! What's happening?! Why is it beating so fast?!

I put my hand on my chest. Waaahh huhuhu where is kuya Luis?! I think I'm going to die! Am I going to die?!

I held my cheeks and they are so hot! O baka naman malamig lang ang kamay ko?

BAKA BOTH?!

"Are you okay? Why are you so red?"

 O/////////O I'm blushing?!

Tss, Kuya AJ idiot! You're making me blush you jerk! T\_\_T That's why I'm so red!

Mas matanda ka sa akin but hindi mo alam, ako ang may alam! Tss stupid. >.<

Change the topic na! Hindi ako makahinga huhuhu kuya Luis T^T

"Uhm. N-nothing. Gusto mo ba ng juice?" I asked.

"Ipagtitimpla mo ba ako?"

"Yes ^^ But you see, my timpla skills aren't so good. Kuya Luis prefers Yaya Rosa's juice than mine."

"Yeah, it's fine with me. Kahit matabang o maanghang pa yan, I'll drink it. Ikaw gumawa eh!" tapos ginulo niya ang hair ko.

HMP! Bakit? Pangit ba hairstyle ko? I'll tell Mom we should visit the parlor more often. ^\_\_^v

Pero waaaah! He'll drink it?! Kahit na I always accidentally put salt, instead of sugar, dun sa juice? Hindi ko kasi alam ang histura ng salt at sugar. They confuse me! >.<

"Really?!"

"Yes!"

I ran to our kitchen, got 2  glasses, and got the pitcher from the fridge. Nagtimpla na kasi ako ng juice a while ago and pinuno ko yung pitcher namin.

Dinala ko na sa kanya ang baso niya. I don't know how he will react. Hindi ko tinitikman ang juice na tinitimpla ko for others. I'll just taste it if I made it for myself.

I'm waiting for him to try my juice when suddenly..

"WAAAAAAAAAAAG!"

Huh?

O\_\_\_O

O\_\_\_O??

Kuya Luis?

"Don't dare drink thaaaaaat! >\_\_\_<"

"W-Why? O\_\_\_\_O??" - Kuya AJ

Kuya Luis went downstairs and kinuha niya ang glass from Kuya AJ's hand.

T\_\_\_\_T Huhuhu the juice.. I made that!

"Luis what's wrong? Timpla ni Nicole yan and--"

"And hindi mo dapat ito inumin."

"Bakit naman? Akin na nga yan let me try it."

Kukunin sana pabalik ni Kuya Luis yung juice but too late..

Nainom na ni Kuya AJ! ^\_\_\_\_^V

"What? What can you say about Nico--"

"IT'S GREAAAAAT! ^\_\_\_^"

SEE?! It's great daw. ^\_\_\_\_^

^\_\_\_\_\_\_\_^V

Great? O\_\_\_\_\_\_O

O\_\_\_\_\_O?? GREAT?

"G- G- Great?! T-Talaga?!" I can't believe it!

"Yeah Nicole your juice isn't that bad. Luis you gotta try it too."

"Hah! No way.. There's no way I'm going to try that.." Kuya Luis said with his hands raised.

"Kung ayaw mo di wag! Hmp sarap kaya! Sabi ni Kuya AJ it tastes great!"

I saw Kuya Luis' eyes open wide, and wider, and wifer pa nung inubos ni Kuya AJ ang juice ko.

"Nicole can I have another glass?

"S-Sure!"

At magmula nun, everytime bumibisita si Kuya AJ sa bahay, I always timpla juice for him. ^\_\_\_^

(Kahit na si Kuya Luis hindi pa rin makapaniwala -\_\_\_\_-)

\*end of flashback\*

"AND GOAL BY NUMBER 20, FORTALEJO! FOXTROT WINS! CONGRATULATIONS!

Napatigil ako sa pagmumuni-muni when I heard the announcer. I threw my gaze to Kuya AJ's direction just to see him.. Looking at me..

>////<

He has this bright smile while waving at my direction.

"OMG I'm so kilig talaga! You see the famous AJ Fortalejo is looking at me!"

"Ohmy gosh girl oo nga! You're so lucky! OMG!"

"OMG kinikilig ako! Gusto ko siyang ihug!"

OMG! OMG din girl! Kinikilig din ako at sa sobrang kilig ko gusto na kitang sakalin! =\_\_\_\_\_\_= Ang landi mo!

HALIPAROT!

Nakita kong papalapit na si Kuya AJ sa amin kaya naman napatayo ako.

"Congrat--"

"CONGRATULATIONS sweet AJ!"

Arrgh! Hindi ko pa tapos yung congratulations ko sa kanya, naunahan ako ng lintang katabi ko!

"Oh, thanks Melissa ^\_\_\_\_^"

Napatingin naman sa akin si Kuya AJ nang plano ko na sanang umalis.

 “Oh congrats kuya AJ :)" I said with a simple smile.

"Andito ka pala sa school namin. Wala kang klase?"

Okay? Ganyan ba siya mag-thank you? T^T

"Uhm out na ako sa school just in time nung magsisimula ang game ^^"

"Oh.. I see. So, mauna na ako sayo ha. May aasikasuhin pa ako eh."

"S-sure.. Go ahead.."

OUCH.

Okay. Little sister na naman ang role ko.

|Next day|

"Wake up~~ Wake up~~ Wake up sleepy head.. Wake up~~ Wak--"

"Oh shut up stupid alarm clock.. -\_\_\_\_-" I said with eyes still closed.

Kinapa ko ang alarm clock ko at pinatay ito. But then maya-maya lang..

"Wake up~~ Wake up~~ Wake up sleepy head.. Wake up~~ Wake up.. Oh you wake--"

"Shut up will you? Agghh" Pinatay ko ulit ito.Still with eyes closed.

After 2 minutes..

"Wake up~~ Wake up~~ Wake up sleepy head.. Wake up~~ Wake up.. Oh--"

"OH SHUT UP WILL YOU?!" still with eyes closed, kinapa ko ito at itinapon sa sahig. I heard it break down.

Nagtalukbong ako ng kumot and balik sa tulog.

Saturday ngayon but why does it have to wake me up so freaking early in the morning?!

"It's not so good to break a helpless little creature."

Napabalikwas ako ng bangon when I recognized that voice..

O\_\_\_O!!

"Waaa what are you dong here Kuya AJ?!"

"I'm here to wake you up. Hindi ka magising ng kuya mo. Kawawa naman si Luis sinipa-sipa mo na."

Did I really do that?! Well, how would I know?

"But Kuya AJ why so early?!"

"Ay ganun? early pa pala sayo ang 11AM.”

OMG nakakahiya. -\_\_\_\_\_-

"See you downstairs." He said before leaving.

But before he closed the door..

"Oh Nicole, nga pala.. Ang cute cute mo pag bagon gising ^^"

Tan tananan.. Here comes my heart na naman, na parang binomba.

For a couple of weeks, that has been our routine. He'll wake me up in the morning, ihahatid ako sa school ko, tapos susunduin ako.

But I never felt SOMETHING.. You know.. Something nakakakilig..

Kasi he's doing it for his LITTLE SISTER.

Many days have passed and nakakatext ko na din siya. Hindi ko siya nakakapuyatan, because he said it's bad for a student na magpuyat lalo't high school pa lang ako.

Dumating ang araw na talagang ikinabigla ko..

"Nicole, I cannot fetch you this afternoon. I have.. A *date*."

"Oh.. O-Okay.."

Nasaktan ako nun. Super. Not because he can't fetch me, but because..

HE'S ON A DATE WITH SOMEONE.

And it really pains my heart. </3

Okay lang sana eh.. Kung ako yung kadate niya.. Eh hindi eh!

Nang maghapon na, I saw his car parked in front of our school gate. Nilapitan ko ito and I saw him talking to someone with his phone.

"Oh, okay so set na lahat ha. I want it to be perfect. I trust you... Ah-huh... Hmm okay... Oh okay I'll see you later."

Binaba na niya ito when he saw me.

"H-Hi Nicole ^^"

 "Hello. What're you doing here?"

"I've come to fetch you."

"What? But you told me kaninang umaga..."

"Oh that? Yeah I do have a date.. At susunduin ko pa ang date ko ngayon.. ^\_\_\_^"

"Oh.. Well I'm fine.. Go on and fetch her.. Baka naman pinaghihintay mo siya nang matagal naku bawas pogi points ka na! ^\_\_\_\_^"

"No.. I'll make sure hindi ako bawas points.. PLUS POINTS PA!"

Hay naku, kung sa akin, isang smile mo lang 100 points ka na.

"Come on Nicole hop in!”

So sumakay ako sa kotse niya. Mabaet ako eh!

Only to find out that we're taking a different way. Hindi ito ang pabalik ng bahay.

"Uhm Kuya AJ?"

"Relax ka lang. ^\_\_\_^ Malapit na tayo..”

He stopped the car after a couple of minutes. He opened the door for me. Oh what a gentle man!

CASA BELLA.

Diyan kami bumaba.

"Come on, *jolie dame." (beatiful lady)*

He offered his hand.. At tinanggap ko ito.

Teka nga teka nga..

WHUH IZ THUH MEANIN' OV THIZ?

Pumasok kami sa isang empty restaurant. As in waley na tao! Walang tao! and I can see the faces of the staff..

They've been expecting us.

My heart beats faster and faster as we reach a table.. For two.

May mga nakahanda nang pagkain doon. Maya-maya lang, may inabot siyang long-stemmed rose.

*"Pour vous, mon amour." (For you, my love)*

*MON AMOUR?!?!*MY LOVE?!?!

 He held my hand. >/////<

Tatanungin ko sana siya about sa pagsasalita niya ng French at about dun sa *mon amour*na yan kaso..

Bigla akong napahinto nang may marinig ako.

***Heartbeats fast***
***Colors and promises***

Heartbeats fast?? Oo ganyang ganyan ang nararamdaman ko ngayon.

***How to be brave***
***How can I love when I'm afraid to fall***

Paano nga ba? Paano ba ako magmamahal.. Kung takot ako? Sa takot ko, limang taon kong tinago sayo.

***But watching you stand alone***
***All of my doubt suddenly goes away somehow***

Isang kita ko lang sayo.. *Nawawala lahat.* Kilig at tuwa na lang natira.

***One step closer***

Isang hakbang mo na lang.. Isa na lang..

Sinabayan na ni AJ ang kanta..

***"I have died everyday waiting for you***
***Darling don't be afraid I have loved you***
***For a thousand years..***

***I love you for a thousand more.."***

Nakatingin lang siya sa akin at nakangiti habang kinakanta yan.. He's looking directly into my eyes..

I WAS ROOTED TO THE GROUND.

[AJ's POV]

***Time stands still***
***Beauty in all she is***

Limang taon.. *Limang taon din ang hinintay ko magawa ko lang ito. Magawa lang ang bagay na ito para sa pinakamagandang babae sa paningin ko..*

***I will be brave***
***I will not let anything take away***
***What's standing in front of me***

Magiging matapang na ako. Hindi ko na hahayaang lumipas muli ang limang taon..

Dahil ang babaeng nasa harapan ko..

Ay ang babaeng pinakamamahal ko.

***Every breath***
***Every hour has come to this***
***One step closer***

Sabay kaming napangiti at kumanta.

***"I have died everyday waiting for you***
***Darling don't be afraid I have loved you***
***For a thousand years..***

***I'll love you for A THOUSAND MORE.."***

***And all along I believed I would find you***

***Time has brought your heart to me***
***I have loved you for a thousand years***
***I love you for a thousand more***

***One step closer***
***One step closer***

***I have died everyday waiting for you***
***Darling don't be afraid I have loved you***
***For a thousand years***
***I love you for a thousand more***

***And all along I believed I would find you***
***Time has brought your heart to me***
***I have loved you for a thousand years***
***I love you for a thousand more***

Natapos ang kanta at nakangiti pa rin kami.

Haay. Mahal na mahal ko talaga itong makulit na babaeng to.

[Nicole's POV]

Hinila niya ang isang upuan para sa akin.

Hindi ko alam ang sasabihin ko. Waaaaa anubey >////<

"Nicole.."

Napatingin naman ako sa kanya mula sa pagkakayuko ko.

***"Je t'aime.."***Sabi niya.

O\_\_\_\_\_O

Bigla kong naalala ang prof ko sa French subject..

*"Class, je t'aime, it is pronounced as 'zhu tem'. Je t'aime which means.. I love you."*

At dahil hindi ko alam ang isasagot ko, nagsmile na lang ako sa kanya.

"Gutom lang yan! ^\_\_\_^"

Biglang nawala ang ngiti sa mga labi niya.

Agad ko namang binawi noh!

"Joke lang!*I love you too*."

Biglang lumaki ang mga mata niya at napatayo sa upuan niya.

"Di nga?! Nicole totoo ba yan? Wag kang magbibiro ng ganyan!"

"Oo nga totoo!"

Lumapit siya sa akin at hinwakan ako sa kamay.

"Ows?! Hah?! Hahaha. HAHAHA YESS! Sabi mo yan ha walang bawian!"

"Oo nga kulit. ^\_\_\_\_^ Ikaw din ah, walang bawian!"

"Never ko nang babawiin yun!"

"So ito pala ang sinasabi mong date?" - Ako.

"*With the girl I love.*"

>////<

"Nakakahiya naman AJ! Nakauniform pa ako oh!"

"Hahaha okay lang yan. Kahit nakapantulog ka pa, maganda ka pa rin.. ^\_\_\_^"

"AJ, kelan pa? Kelan mo pa ako.. *minahal?"*

"Kahapon lang. Joke! Nung.. 11 years old ka.. 13 ako."

OMG parehas kami!

"Actually, ako din eh. Minahal na kita nun." Sabi ko naman sa kanya.

"Ha?!?! Haaay nakakainis naman Nicole pinatagal ko pa ng 5 years! T^T"

Natawa na lang ako sa kanya.

Grabe. ANG SARAP NG FEELING. CLOUD 9. HEAVEN.

Bigla akong niyakap ni AJ at sinabihang..

"Mahal kita. Mahal na mahal.."

Napasmile naman ako. "Mahal din kita."

"Will you be my.. Forever?"

O//////O

Hindi na ako nag-isip. Sagot na agad!

AJ naman tinatanong pa ba yan? Automatic yan!

"Of course, yes. ^\_\_\_\_^"

Sa sobrang saya niya, kumawala siya sa akin. Sumigaw-sigaw. Tapos niyakap ako ulit.

MAS MAHIGPIT, at ramdam ko ang tibok ng puso niya. ^/////^

Maya-maya..

"Nicole, tumingin ka sa paligid."

Ginawa ko naman ang sinabi niya at..

WAAAAAAAA!

Yung mga empty seats kanina, biglang napuno!

Sa sobrang in love ko, saya ko, at pagkagulat ko.. Hindi ko na sila napansin.. >\_\_\_<

Mommy, Daddy, Kuya, at ang mga friends ko! Mga pinsan, ayun! Tapos andun mga kaibigan ko! Pati pamilya at kaibigan ni AJ andito din!

WHAT A SURPRISE.

Bigla sila nagpalakpakan lahat. Napaiyak naman ako sa tuwa.

At mas natuwa talaga ako nang makita kong masayang masaya silang lahat para sa amin. <33

*-----*

*Sabi nila, kapag daw masyado nang matagal ang paghihintay mo, itigil mo na daw. Kasi imposible nang magkatuluyan pa kayo.*

Buti na lang pala at hindi ako naniwala dun.

Kasi kung nagpaanod ako sa kasabihang yun, hinding hindi ako magiging ganito kasaya.

I will never find my true happiness..

And I will never be with..

My Kuya's best friend.

**----**

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