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Final task : Horror Story

Chapter 10

The next morning at exactly 7:41AM, I had pho that mother bought from the shop *PHỞ BẮN 68* that was about 4 minute--walking distance--from our home. It was poured into a ceramic bowl with a rounded spoon placed inside the soup and black wooden chopsticks from "Ryu Mei 058016 Rabbit Japanese Chopstick" on the bowl. I like eating from ceramic bowls because ceramic bowls are easy to clean, non-porous, won't hold on to bacteria, and relatively sturdy. I also like wooden chopsticks because I don't like the sound that other chopsticks like metallic or bamboo make against my teeth. It gives me goosebumps and then I wouldn't want to eat anymore.

In the middle of breakfast, mother said, "Finish up quickly before you're late." Then she made her way to the front of the house where the hallway to the front door is. And then I heard the sound of keys rattling so I took the last bite of my food and grabbed my bag. And then I went to feed Hubert, my pet bird. He's a black headed bulbul which is a bird typically located in forests in east Asia. It was a gift from father for my 12th birthday before he had to go back to work in the forest. Mother was already waiting in the car so I hurried and put my favorite pair of shoes on which are the tie-dye Crocs mother got me from the market and closed the door behind me locking it and walked to the car and entered the passenger seat. I like to look out the window and people watch. People watching is the act of observing people usually in public and their interactions. But today I felt sick from rushing my food so I closed my eyes until I felt the car stop and mother said, "Alice we're here." So I opened my eyes, took my bag and got out of the car. I saw mother driving away so I decided to go to class.

I got to my locker first because my bag was heavy and it was bothering me. Upon opening my locker I noticed that there was a dark pink square shaped box and a lighter shade of pink for the ribbon tying it together with a letter placed on the top of the box. I picked up the letter, it had a red candle wax seal keeping the letter from opening and in the middle, there was the shape of a bunny's head. In the bottom right corner of the letter was written "*Dear Alice*" so it must be for me. I opened the letter and it was :

Dear Alice,

Forgive the pouring of my heart.

I cherish math class for it was when we first met.

The moment I clapped my eyes on you, I knew you were going to be, the Alice in Wonderland.

The way you scribble doodles of your favorite bird on your paper makes my heart flutter.

I heard you solve equations, would you consider solving the problem that so happens to be my lonely heart.

I know it's shocking, the way I'm confessing my love to you. I know what you like. So please accept my offering to you. It's in the wrapped up box. I caught it for you with my own hands and made sure I didn't mess up its feathers.

I hope that proves to you how committed I am to making this work.

I love you,

So Allow me to invite you to the rabbit hole in my chest.

Yours truly, The White Rabbit. ;)

But I didn't understand. What did they mean by making "this" work? When I looked around me in hope that I would see this white rabbit, I only saw people putting textbooks in their lockers or talking to their friends or rushing to class or looking at their phones. I didn't see a white rabbit. What did they mean by the white rabbit? Could they be talking about the white rabbit from Alice in wonderland? I put the letter into the pocket. It made me feel sick. I started thinking of all the bird callings I could do. When I'm nervous I tend to mumble bird noises under my breath. Mother hates it when I mumble under my breath.

I stared at the box for a bit and decided to open it.

I unwrapped the pink ribbon from the top and lifted the cover.

At first I couldn't figure out what it was, but I picked it up to investigate it further, it was limp and damp with this reddish brown substance. I then realized it was a black-headed bulbul. I held it up to my cheek and closed my eyes. It felt cold and soft.

The girl next to me started screaming and calling for the teachers, then everyone started surrounding me and making these faces I couldn't decipher. It was like one of the faces we learned about in 1st grade when we were studying emotions. It looked like this:



Everything was so overwhelming I couldn't focus. I needed to sit down and close my eyes. It was so noisy, there were too many voices. People were close, too close. My heart was beating at an abnormally rapid pace. My knees grew weak and my head felt light. But before I could soothe myself or run away from there, static filled my vision.

Chapter 20

I woke up in my room with a ringing sound that went on for what seemed like forever. I laid there in my room thinking of what had gone down. What happened? Who could be the white rabbit? Why would they offer me that? Why did they kill the bird? Would they kill me next? I looked outside my bedroom window and saw that the sun was starting to set. I don't remember what happened after I blacked out but it was now dark out. I was trying to make sense of things but the dead bird kept appearing in my mind. I sat up from my bed and curled into a ball, hugging my legs. Then mother walked in the room with a glass of water. She said, "How are you feeling?"

And I said, "Sick."

And she said, "Drink some water", then she placed the glass of water into my hands.

And I said, "Where is the bird?"

And she said, "The school handled it."

And I said, "Okay"

And she said, "Get some rest", then mother walked away, closing the door to my room along the way.

When I heard her footsteps getting further from me, I stood up, placed the glass of water on my bedside table and went to look for the jacket I had worn today. I looked around the room until I found it in the dirty laundry basket in my bathroom. I picked it up and dug my hand into my right pocket to retrieve the letter I had read today. I reread it 5 times. I needed to think like a detective in this case. I made a list of all the clues I had at the moment.

I knew that:

- they're in my math class
- Their handwriting looks like this, Their I's have a little curl at the end kind of like this: I
And the letters are leaning to the right.

I was determined to solve this mystery. I needed to solve the mystery behind who White Rabbit is to bring justice for the black-headed bulbul.

Just then, I heard mother scream "Alice! dinner is ready" So I put the note into the drawer in my desk and walked down the stairs to the dining room where mother was already seated. I sat down across from her. Then I said, "I want to find out who killed the bird."

And mother said, "I told you Alice, the school will handle it"

And I said, "But it's my job to bring justice to this world, especially for bulbuls"

And mother was angry because the tone of her voice got more agitated, she said, "Stay out of it Alice."

I don't like it when people get angry so I ate my food and stayed quiet.

Chapter 30

That night, I was laying in bed and I didn't want to go to school in the morning. My stomach felt like it was turning and my chest felt heated and compressed like a really heavy object was on top of it so I curled into a ball on my bed and mumbled quietly. It was 12:42 AM and I decided that I needed to get to the bottom of this case so I put on a jacket to keep me warm and inside my bag, I packed a bar of chocolate, mother's house key, a word search puzzle book, a pen and my toy camera that my father bought for me. Then I quietly made my way down the stairs and to the front door. I unlocked the door and closed it behind me as I walked away.

As I walked I was thinking about my plan and it looked something like this :

1. *Walk to school*
2. *Sneak in through a hole in the fence covered by bushes*
3. *Hide in the bushes and wait until school starts so I can be at my locker before the person gets there*

Which would mean that I would have to stay overnight. But that's okay because I had packed a bar of chocolate with me in case I got hungry. It was 1:13AM by then and it was cold but I was close to school now so I walked faster. I did so because I would focus more on each step than the cold weather. Then I saw a tall building in the distance so I slowed down because I had made it to school. Step one of my plan was complete. I walked towards the left side of the building where the fences are covered by overgrown bushes and crouched down. I didn't want to stick my arm into the bushes so I grabbed a stick and poke around the bush, and then I made a circular movement with the stick and there I found the

hole that I know of. I crouched down and went through the hole. I got scratched but I made it through the hole so it was okay. Now step two is complete, now I must wait for the White Rabbit.

Chapter 40

I like night time. I like how quiet it becomes and how cold and dark it gets. I like it when it's dark and quiet because I can focus a lot better when I don't have too many things to focus on, which helps me think clearly. In the morning people are everywhere. Human beings are social creatures which makes them prone to want to talk to each other and it becomes overstimulating and my body gets weak when too many people talk to me. But at night, the streets are nearly empty, most shops and entertainment places like public parks and pools are closed and most people would prefer to stay in the comfort of their home after a long day, in the presence of their loved ones or simply in their own presence. I like night time for that reason a lot. But I also like going out at night. Mother had caught me sneaking out of the house once and she was furious because she was screaming and said things like, "What do you think you're doing Alice" and "If I catch you doing this again I swear" and then she dragged me by my arm back to our house. I didn't like how she was gripping my arm so I screamed and cried and she screamed for me to calm my temper.

But since then I had found a way to leave the house silently. Roaming the streets at night really helps when I feel sick and overwhelmed. I also like how cold it gets so I wouldn't sweat and my clothes wouldn't stick to my skin.

Chapter 50

It was 3:25 AM and my eyelids were heavy. I had been doing word search puzzles since I hid in this bush and using the nearby lamppost to see. But then I heard a noise close to the fences so I ducked down. Then I heard a thud, I looked up from the bush just enough to see but not to be seen and there I saw a figure wearing a black hoodie and they had their hands in their pockets and they also had a black hat that covered their face so I couldn't see who they were. But I pulled my camera out of my bag and I took a picture which looks like this :



I saw that they were heading towards the back of the school so I took the opportunity and crawled through the hole and ran home. It took about 11 minutes but once I got home, I unlocked the door and locked it again. When I got in, I placed my mother's house key back onto the cupboard by the front door. I took off my shoes and placed them back on the shoe shelf where they were last placed and headed for the stairs for my room. I got into my room, closed the door behind me and placed my bag by the door where I always put it. I wanted to lay down a bit before I go check the picture I had taken but because I was really tired, when I

laid down I fell asleep. I woke up at 7:20AM, which is 20 minutes later than usual but I got ready quickly and went downstairs where mother was seated.

She asked, "Did you sleep well?"

And I said, "Could've been better." which wasn't a lie

And she said, "Go to bed earlier tonight" then she stood up and left the dining room so I ate breakfast and at 8:01AM sharp we were in the car heading for school. I felt sick again so I closed my eyes and hugged my legs until we got to school. My head was pulsating, I knew what I had to do when I arrived, so that's exactly what I did. I began making my way to my locker, my anxiety growing within every step I took and finally I was in front of it again. I worked up my courage and went to open the locker but before I did so, I smelled something, a stench so foul that upon inhaling it I began gagging and covering my nose. But I needed to know, my curiosity took the best of me and I opened the locker. The stench came rushing at me, suppressing the urge to sick all over myself, I looked around the locker. The display was similar to what I had received before. A box with a letter placed on its lid. Fear overtook me and my body was trembling--but the letter, I needed to read the letter. I reached for the letter and opened an envelope similar to what I had received the first time.

In it was written :

Dear Alice,

I watched you collapse onto the floor yesterday,

I was really worried, you shouldn't be worrying me like that,

How are you feeling my love?

Other than that, did you enjoy my gift, I suspect that you do since I watched you cradle the bird.

So I got you another one, this time I made sure it looked cuter.

I hope you appreciate this gift, I stuffed it myself.

That's enough rambling on my part.

Open my gift Alice

Love, The white Rabbit

I felt sick, I felt the breakfast I had eaten rush up my throat. I was going to vomit. I reached out for the new box with a pink bow on the very top. The smell was overwhelming. When I opened it, there was another black headed bulbul. I felt a sort of vibration in my head, as if there was a whole separate heart in my head cavity.

This time, the bird had a ribbon around its neck and it seemed stiffer.

When I picked up the bulbul, it just seemed harder. then I remembered what the letter said:

"I stuffed it myself"

I felt a sudden, bigger rush of food rising up but I tried to hold it in.

I looked around to see if anyone was looking at me.

When I looked to my right at approximately 36 degrees, I saw the person in a dark colored hoodie, just like the one in the picture. And they were staring straight at me until we made eye contact. The person started walking away once they saw me looking at them.

Then the school bell rang.

Chapter 50:

I put the bird back into its original box and stuffed it back in my locker and put the letter in my pocket. I went to class as fast as I could but it wasn't that fast because there was a crowd in the hallway so I got pushed back and forth a lot.

When I got to my classroom, I took a deep breath before entering. It's math class.

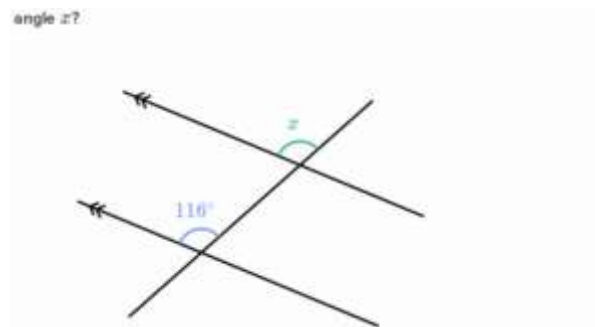
When I walked in, the same person I saw earlier was already seated staring at their phone.

I walked to my seat and sat down, still making sure I looked at them.

Mr. Kane walked in and snapped his fingers to get us to look at him.

He started by wishing us a good morning and telling us to open our textbooks to page 138 and do exercise 5, 6, 8 and 10.

We were studying geometry. We had to find the measurement for x .



I'm not actually good at math. I prefer studying the anatomy of all the different birds. But I know that if I want to be better at studying that, I'm going to have to continue studying math. But even though I knew I had to focus, I just couldn't. All I could think about is whether or not I should confront the person.

It was 8:28 when the sound of the principal's voice blasted through the speakers.

"Isaiah Amos and Alice Bui please come to the principal's office"

That's when the suspect stood up with me, that's when I knew who the culprit was.