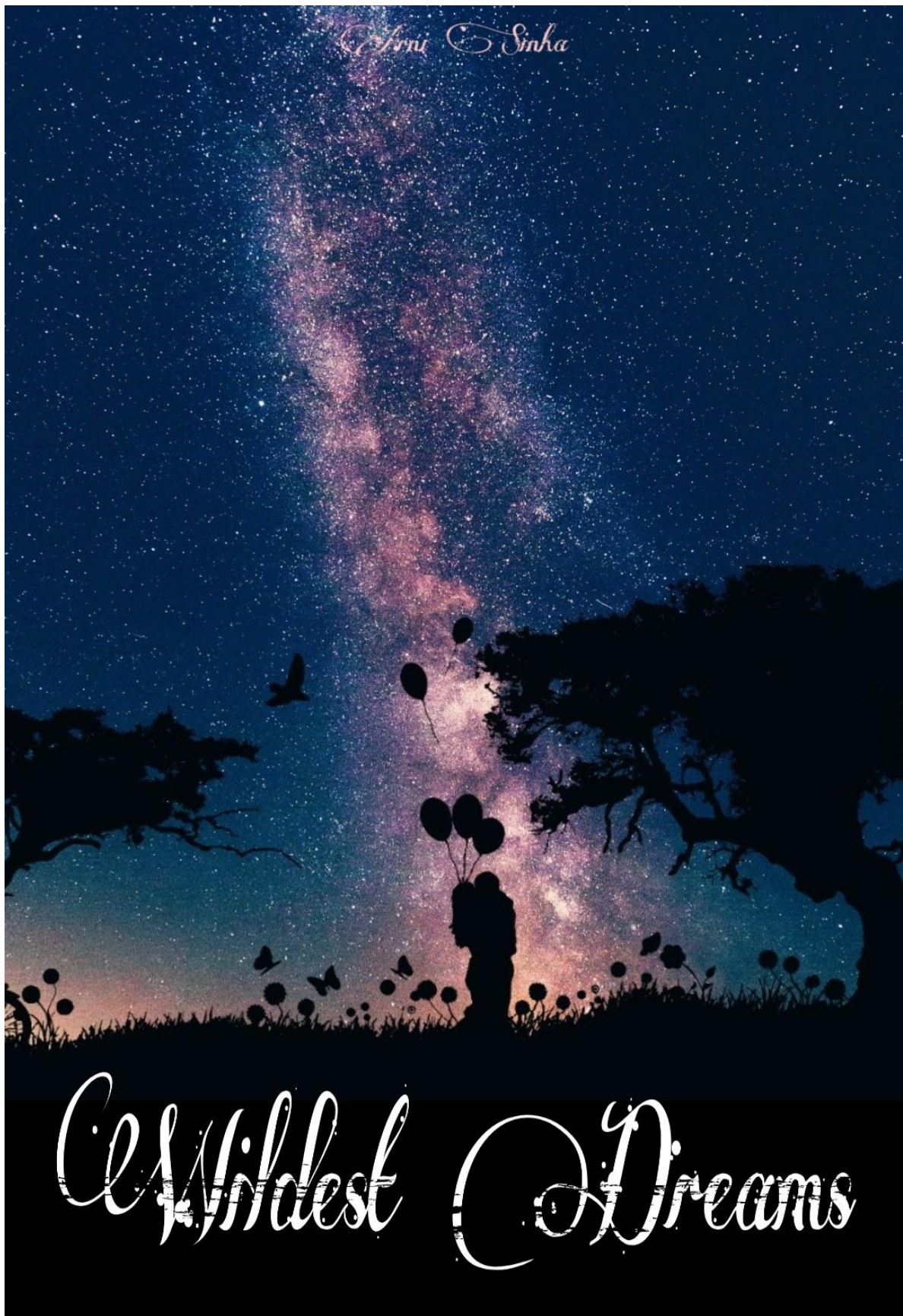


*Arni Sinha*



*Of Wildest Dreams*

### **Note**

*I have taken a song which is sung by the characters. So please do not come and tell me that I have copied it. It's just that the song was too relatable for my characters that I decided to add this to my short story based on its lyrics. The song credits goes to Taylor Swift, the original creator.*

*Other than that, if there are any mistakes, feel free to comment*

*And if you like it, please share and vote.*

*Hope you like it!*

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### **Epigraph**

*Say you'll remember me.*

*- Wildest Dreams*

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### **Dedication**

*The dandelion of my heart .*

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**Genre**

*Romance*

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**Date**

*Published on August 6, 2020*

*Thursday.*

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## Story Description

Imagine a place by the waterfall, where two hearts are meeting, away from the cruel stares of the world.

They are like two heartbeats and one soul; but the twist of fate leaves one with a broken heart.

---

Ignis and Elio were like a yin-yang of fire and ice - united by love in spite of being polar opposite of each other. They were the typical soulmates who knew how to value each other and put each other's happiness before anything else.

Then what happened, that led from a perfect date on top of the cliff to a suicide down the waterfall?

What pulled these two apart, that now, the other one has to go back in the past to find the answers?

We do not know that as of now. But all we know about is Ignis' diary, that will bring the torn couple together; maybe not in reality, but definitely in their wildest dreams.

# **Chapter 1:**

# **The Last Dance**

**The last dance**

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***"It isn't time that's passing by  
It's you and I, you and I."***

***- The Topaz, Ruskin Bond.***

---

***Because sometimes, Love cannot save its own love***

*Present day*

*February 20, 2020*

*South Africa*

*The warm rays fell on the hard rocks of the cliff as the strong gust of winds was blowing. Ripping the rocks right through its centre was the white foamy waters of a waterfall. As it made its way down the cliff, the waterfall took a fierce, raging form which was mesmerising yet dangerous. The undeniable beauty of the landscape couldn't suppress the malevolent feeling that lingered in the air---- threatening to destroy everything that seemed happy.*

"Come here quickly, Elio. You are going to miss the view."

"Aren't you a bit exhausted by all this climbing?" Elio asked while brushing away the black cascade of hair that fell over his eyes.

"No. Mountains never tire me. They have always been my fascination." Ignis replied, spreading out her arms wide, embracing the air to which she was very familiar; that felt like home.

The scenery before them was magnificent. The sky was splashed with a tinge of crimson, occasionally mixed with lavender, and the white cotton like clouds gave the artist's finishing touch. The mountains seemed calm, but one could feel the strong lust with which it pulls its admirers to itself. The wind blew occasionally, and sometimes, a bit strongly, which often made Ignis' red dress flow in the air as if it was just like a scene out of a typical Hollywood movie, with the mountains as the perfect backdrop, and she, the Queen of the Mountains.

Ignis stood there in awe; it wasn't just the beauty of the place that drew Ignis there; it was the tranquillity, the peace that she craved for, and the missing piece she was always looking for.

"I wish I could stay here forever. Away from the noises, from the rush, from the problems of life. Away from everything."

"You want to go away from me?" Elio asked jokingly, pretending to be offended by her words.



"You never know. We have high dreams, thinking of doing this and that, but in reality, I guess, Life has got other plans for us." Ignis replied without shifting her gaze. The eyes which were earlier full of awe for the scenery, now held a dazed look.

Elio didn't expect a reply like this. Was something wrong? Did he mess something up? He couldn't recall anything he has done lately that could make Ignis feel like that. Maybe it was the effect of the place and nothing else, Elio wondered.

With silent steps, he walked and stood just behind Ignis. The vibrant smell of strawberries from her hair was refreshing. He could never get tired of it, any day, any time. If only he could be this close to her for the whole day.

No, scratch that. Not just for the day. For the whole life he wanted to be with her, and beside her.

Elio softly planted a kiss on Ignis' cheeks and wrapped his arms around her waist and rested his chin on her shoulder, as they stood by the edge of the cliff, looking at the beautiful landscape that held itself like a queen.

Pointing at the clouds which were floating in the sky having a perfect, pure white colour, Ignis said, "Remember when we had decided that we would colour the walls of our room midnight blue and paint the ceiling like the night sky with twinkling stars in it?"

"Yeah, and that we would fit a small galaxy projector and go off to sleep while staring at the night sky."

Elio smiled at the thought. He had been planning about their future since years now. And as Ignis talks about the little dreams they have had planned, he couldn't help but wonder how their future would be; to promise her the happiness of the world, and take her away, far away from these ignorant people, to have her all by himself; because not all people understand who Ignis really is.

As Elio was lost in these thoughts , Ignis unclasped herself from his arms and walked towards the waters which was so calm that it felt as if it wasn't flowing at all.

She bent down and felt the cold water wet her fingers as she put her hand in it to feel the soft flow. The cold water seemed to put out the fire inside that was burning her. Playfully, she splashed the water.

Finally, she was back. The fun-loving, cool Ignis was back.

Elio observed her. He knew how much she liked waterfalls. And that is the reason why he planned to come here to spend some time with Ignis, with the mountains as the witness; giving another chance to their lost love.

Elio observed the upliftment of Ignis' mood and decided to make use of it.

"Excuse me Miss."

Ignis looked at him with narrowed eyes and said, "Yes?"

"May I have the honour to dance with you?"

A broad smile came on Ignis' face, making her delicate features more beautiful.

"Umm....only on one condition."

"And that is?"

" I will sing the song that we used to sing a lot earlier. The song that became ours."

"As you say, Your Highness!"

Walking towards Elio, she smiled a soft smile as a cue to follow her lead and held Elio's hand as she whispered softly, like a breeze passing between the branches of a tree, whispering the wonders of Nature.

***"He said, Let's get out of this town***

***Drive out of the city***

***Away from the crowd."***

Elio followed her lead as he held Ignis close to him.

***"I know heaven can't help us now***

***Nothing lasts forever..."***

Ignis paused for a moment to take a deep breath, and then looking at Elio again, she continued,

***"But this is gonna take me down  
He's so tall and handsome as hell  
He's so bad but he does it so well  
I can see the end, as it begins  
My one condition is...."***

Ignis looked lovingly at the man of her dreams but gradually the emotions seemed to fade away. Because she knew, this could never be their reality, however hard they tried. She sighed and continued, as if she was pleading for one last request....

***"Say you remember me  
Standing in a nice dress  
Staring at the sunset, babe  
Red lips and rosy cheeks  
Say you'll see me again  
Even if it's just in your  
Wildest dreams"***

Elio looked into her eyes. He knew something was upsetting her. But what? The blue orbs of hers always reflected the ocean. And by ocean, he meant, her mysteries. But today, it seemed like, the ocean was empty, as if there was no water in it which held her storms.

But Ignis was in a completely different thought. She knew she didn't have much time for all these. That's why she agreed to come to this place, her favourite place, one last time, and the last dance she always wanted to. After that, she would be free from the everything, including herself. She was hurt, and she felt the pain literally surge up to her throat as she stopped herself from breaking down in front of Elio. She didn't want to do this. She just did not. But it seemed like, fate did not really leave an option for her and Elio.

***"I said no one has to know what we do***

***His hands are in my hair***

***His clothes are in my room***

***And his voice is a familiar sound***

***Nothing lasts forever..***

***But this is getting good now"***

***"He's so tall and handsome as hell***

***He's so bad but he does it so well"***

Ignis' voice reflected the love she had in her heart. She couldn't do this, her heart couldn't take the pain any more. This time, she was giving up. Giving up on hope. As she thought these, Elio, narrowing the gap between them, slightly bent his head towards Ignis.

***"And when we have our very last***

***kiss***

***My last request it is...***

*Say you'll remember me  
Standing in a nice dress  
Staring at the sunset, babe  
Red lips and rosy cheeks  
Say you'll see me again  
Even if it's just in your  
Wildest dreams"*

Closing Ignis in a tight embrace, Elio tried to dismiss the thoughts that came to his mind on hearing the last few lines of the song. Thoughts of separation, of losing her. He had lost her once before; he won't let that happen again.

Taking a deep breath, he called her name in a low, deep voice. There was a strange heaviness in his voice as he took the name. It was as if he was having a lot of difficulty in forming his thoughts and putting words to them. He wants her to be his forever even if death pulls them apart.

*"You see me in hindsight  
Tangled up with you all night  
Burning it down  
Someday when you'll leave me  
I bet these memories  
Follow you around."*

They were close to the edge. The waters seemed to roar as it descended down the height of the cliff, but other than that, everything was calm. Ignis' dress blew and like a princess she looked so mesmerising, that Elio couldn't stop for a second to stare at the rare beauty that managed to make him fall. Her beauty; it was none less than the nymphs or the Indian beauties in the stories who had invincible kings go on their knees for them.

Ignis took Elio's face into her slender fingers, and caressed his cheeks gently. She could feel the smoothness of his skin, and sometimes the stubble, pricked her tender hands now and then, reminding her of his masculinity. She could never get enough of watching his face. And maybe this guy was the reason why life seemed tolerable in the last thirteen years. But, in her mind, she knew, it is too late now. Even if death came to her and granted her to live with a little more time, she knew she would even have to reject that.

She was approaching the dead end now. It wasn't just the end of the cliff, it was the dead end of the of the seemingly happy life of hers. Getting out of her thoughts, she sighed and continued till the last line,

***"Say you'll remember me***

***Standing in a nice dress***

***Staring at the sunset, babe***

***Red lips and rosy cheeks***

***Say you'll see me again***

***Even if it's just in your...."***

As the horrific view unfolded before Elio much to his bewilderment ,Ignis lost her balance and slipped.

***"Wildest dreams...ahhh!!"***

It was just in the nick of the moment when Elio caught hold of Ignis' arm.

Time had stopped then and there for them. Ignis was holding Elio's extended hand, which was at the moment, like a cord that formed the link between her and Life. Both Elio and Ignis looked at each other. Elio's eyes reflected the fear that throbbed in his heart while Ignis' face bore no sign of panic or anything of the kind. She was as calm as the Mountains were. Was she taken aback so much by the incident that left her expressionless or was she not affected by it at all? Was the latter by any chance possible? Why was it that Elio couldn't find a glimpse of fear for life in her at all?

Elio tightened his grip and pulled her back.

"Damn." Elio muttered under his breath as he wrapped Ignis in a tight bone-crushing hug. As he closed his eyes, the whole incident played in his memory in a flashback. To say it was terrifying would be an understatement. It was just a matter of a second; he would have lost -----no, nothing. Elio pushed away the thought from his mind. He won't let his stupid mind have such non-sensible thoughts.

He pulled back from her and looked at her.

"Are you fine?" He asked as the tight grip on Ignis shoulders slowly loosened.



Ignis nodded her head. She didn't move her gaze from Elio's face. She noticed his care for her. Like always.

Elio let go off the breath he didn't know he was holding.

"I got so scared for a second."

He was sweating till now.

Ignis stared at Elio for a moment. Her eyes were in search of something. Maybe some answers. Maybe something else.

"What if I had actually fallen off the cliff, Elio?"

Elio instantly looked at her with a shock on his face. Did she really say that? Why? To tease him? No. She didn't seem in a mood to joke. Or...or was it to get her answers ?

"What?!" Elio asked, looking at Ignis intensely, his brows furrowed.

"I mean if you weren't here, I would have slipped down to my death."

He didn't want to know what could have happened. He didn't have the courage to hear those words and neither wanted to have anyways.

"Don't say that, Ignis. I don't want to know."

Calming himself down, he continued, "All I know is that I need you, I want you to stay beside me, always, irrespective of what happens between us."

Ignis, as if not registering at all what Elio said just now, absent-mindedly continued, "The mountains look beautiful. It would be a blessing to die here. What more could I wish for than this?"

"Okay, stop. Don't say that again. Ever. I can't think of losing you, Ignis."

Elio spared a glance down the cliff. He wanted to look away anywhere but at Ignis. This feeling that he was having in his heart was way too overwhelming. The deafening noise of the enormous amount of falling waters caused a fear in his mind. These mountains, the cliff, the raging waterfall -----all these which attracted everyone had an antagonist side to them. And often this went overlooked.

"I don't know why this view of the waterfall is seeming so frightening to me all of a sudden." Elio thought.

This incident left them out of breath. They closed their eyes for a few seconds while their fingers were entangled, their heads rested against each other's.

"Thank you." Ignis murmured.

"For what?"

"For being in my life, for making the world a more bearable place to live in. Thank you for everything."

"If you put it like that, then babe, I will have to spent my whole life thanking you."

Elio held Ignis' chin and lifted her face up, so that he could see the deep blue eyes that felt like home to him.

Ignis' eyes were like a portal to her soul. One needed to carefully observe those ocean eyes to read what's going on in the mind of this girl.

But today her bright twinkling eyes seemed dead and opaque. And Elio could see that. The eyes that spoke a thousand words had nothing to say today. Was she hiding something or had something happened which left her bereft of her transparency?

Elio didn't want to spoil the moment so he thought of asking about it later.

Ignis looked away from Elio and pushed him back. She couldn't face him any longer. Every second that she spent with him gets etched in her memory. She knew that they weren't destined to be together. She had accepted her fate. But these were the moments, that made her heart shatter again and again. Now it has reached a point that even love couldn't fix the broken pieces of her heart.

With the pain in her chest as if a knife has been plunged into her, she turned in the direction of the waterfall and walked towards it.

Though the summer rays kept the temperature high, the winds had a temporary chilling effect. Ignis rubbed her hands over her arms to warm herself, all the while walking towards the waterfall. It was as if the beauty of the waterfall has hypnotised her.

Elio was doing what he usually does while being with Ignis. He stood and watched her. She was a mystery, a burning secret that attracted its onlookers towards it only to make them more inquisitive. In these thirteen years, he only got to know how she is, but why she is like that, he couldn't figure out as of yet.

The mountains gave Ignis a sense of serenity but could they fill the void in her heart? Could they relief her from her pains, which with time, was turning to be fatal?

Elio was having his own share of pains, which gave birth to a fatalistic fear in him. But being a master at masking his emotions, he didn't let Ignis know of it. He would do anything to protect his girl, to keep her happy. Even if he had to smile when in reality he was filled with sorrow ,he would do it.

"Hey Ignis, I forgot to tell you something."

"I am listening."

"You are looking very beautiful today."

Ignis smiled while she was still facing the sky.

"Oh really?"

"Undoubtedly."

Elio looked at the waterfall once again before he looked away from there and took Ignis' hand.

"Let's go now."

As they were walking, Elio started, "You know what, the song.....I mean our song... is the best one I have ever heard. The fact that the words, the feelings, were real makes the song so special to me."

He was trying to distract himself and Ignis from the horrifying event that just happened. He didn't look at Ignis even once when he spoke. He didn't want to have eye contact with her. The reason was quite clear. Ignis brought out the vulnerable side of him which he was always able to shield from the world's piercing stares.

"By the way, it's 4 now. We have to get back home before it gets dark. Oh damn! Shit....We have to walk down the steep rocks again. Next time when you want to have a view from the cliff ,you would have to....."

Elio noticed that Ignis was not beside him. She wasn't there for quite sometime. But Elio noticed it now.

His eyes scanned the whole place. Ignis was nowhere to be found. He was about to hype up when he turned around and saw something.

Ignis was standing at the edge of the rock. She had gone towards the end of the cliff. Again.

"You have got to be kidding me."

As the sun was setting, the mountains, which previously looked divine , now had a semblance of an incarnation of a devil in conspiracy. The top was tinged reddish-brown, and the sky - it was like an artist's palette. Along the horizon ran a soft pink that merged with orange and yellow near the burning star. Below the horizon, it darkened to form a deeper shade of light blue. Some white clouds were also floating, making the view complete and portrait-worthy.

But still, something was off.

Something was there in the air that didn't feel right.

Ignis was observing this view maybe, Elio thought. Maybe that is the reason she went there, again.

"Ignis"

No reply.

"Ignis!! What are you doing there?"

Again no reply. What was happening? Why wasn't she replying? Could she not hear?

"IGNIS!!!"

This time Ignis responded. She turned around and was facing Elio. But still she didn't utter a single word.

Elio gestured to her to come back. Back to him.

But it seemed she was in no mood to listen. She stood where she was and slowly raised her arm in front of her as in a gesture telling Elio to come and hold her hand.

Elio couldn't figure it out what Ignis was up to. His facial expressions were similar to those of a confused person.

He walked towards her. Elio wanted to go away from that place right now but it seemed Ignis had some other plans.

Ignis had a soft smile on her face, which at other times looked sweet, but now, seemed mysterious and somehow instilled a disturbing feeling in him. When he reached out for Ignis' hand to lead her to come away from the edge, she passed on a piece of paper to him.

What was written on it? But before that, when did she write it? How did she get a paper here? Elio's mind was clouded with all these questions.

But one thing Elio didn't know. Ignis had the paper in her hand all this time. It was with her even before they came here.

As Ignis handed Elio the paper, the small smile turned into a sad one. A sad smile that didn't reach to her eyes. A smile that was not Ignis'. A smile that said something but it couldn't be interpreted. Ignis' fingers brushed against Elio's. Slowly and slowly, he felt her hands leaving his.

Elio couldn't understand anything. He could perceive the things that were happening, but beyond that nothing made sense to him. As if, everything was happening too fast.

After that, everything seemed to play in slow-motion.

With small steps she moved backwards, her gaze still fixed at Elio. And so was her smile.

Calmly, Ignis closed her eyes. Taking a final deep breath she took another step to her end; to her fall.

A cold, chilling wind blew at the moment. And that was it. It helped Elio to come out of his trance. He needed to be in his senses to register what was going to happen next. But unfortunately, he couldn't stop what was going to happen as Fate always has her way through petty humans.



Like the waters, she fell down, unaware of the final destination. But Ignis knew one thing - this fall was going to liberate her pained soul, and unleash her from the ever-ceasing cycle of suffering and happiness.

The waters were raging. The sky seemed to break down on seeing whatever that was happening. The wind went frivolous.

And as she fell, she felt the embrace of Freedom she had wanted for so long. The air beneath formed the carriage that would take her to the other world, where sorrow wouldn't dare to touch her again. And maybe her dreams to live in with Elio come true in that world.

Memories of Elio and her replayed in her mind and finally, she closed her eyes, before she was welcomed by the mountains, her keeper.

And in a matter of seconds, everything that was raging, calmed down.

Elio was at the edge now, motionless and almost lifeless. There was no sight of Ignis, as if she vanished into the thin air. All that was left of her now was the note in his hand.

Elio screamed out; the pain similar to the one the world would suffer when it gets ripped apart.

## **Photo credits**

*Instagram: alcoholandroses*

*Instagram: why.always.us*

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*Thank you for reading.*

*Please rate and review.*

*Stay tuned for the next part.*