



By Pablito
Genre: Young Adult

I was fifteen when it happened. I was in the living room of our home when my mom began to ask questions. But I wasn't prepared to answer any of them; as I walked around the areas of the house, she continued following and talking to me. My dad who sat in the living room over hearing all of that shook his head, then got up and wondered off. However it became imminent. My mom continued to confront me with a stern look, like a bull that just came out into the arena, and I became the target.

"Well young man what do you have to say for yourself?"
I looked at her with a quaint nonchalant expression.

"Mom, I don't know what you wanted me to say. I didn't expect something like that to happen, not like this!"

What had happened was that my parents saw my school report and I got my worst grade; a C in physics. It was upsetting because my dad had worked at NASA and he was all about physics, he was a thermonuclear engineer. My dad was devastated and went to his office room.

I decided also to go to my room. I took myself off the subject by getting involved in one of my favorite video games. It was a combat game of robots that fight to the death. It had lots of aggression, total fighting, explosions and interactions with humans that had bloody and gory stuff. I channeled all my frustrations into it and amazingly but true, after some time playing the game...I felt better.

It was soon supper time and it was customary for all of us to sit at the table for dinner. Despite my embarrassment, it was my respect for my mom's effort who fixed a meal to show up at the table, with the presence of my dad. I approached the table with caution and he would glance at me for a second as we all sat at the table. It was total solitude until I spoke.

"Ok dad, I will do better. If it makes you happy, that physic's exam was actually an incomplete. I didn't finish and so I decided to take a grade for it"

spoke together, "An incomplete!"
Dad responded saying, "What kind of problem you had with the physic exam Derrick?"
I smiled casually and said, "Well its past now. I am sure I could do better than a C next time."

Dad was insisting, "No tell us, I am interested to know what the problem you had taking the test was. You're my son, and I need to be concerned"

I looked at them both and hesitantly continued, "I was talking to a girl during the exam and the teacher wanted to disqualified me. So instead of no grade, my paper was graded to that point and so I got a C grade. My test paper was less than half done. I hope you all are happy now"

I immediately left my meal, it was incomplete.

At the end of the school break I went back to school and saw Sandra McIntire. The girl that made me get a C in physics. I didn't want to talk but she came running up to me.

"Hey Derrick, guess what?"



Kiss

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I looked at her with an expression; *I don't want to play the guessing game now Sandra!* "What is it Sandy?!" I asked abruptly.

"I got a C in physics. Isn't that wonderful, I never ever got a C in physics, that's like the worst subject for me. Thanks for the little help in the exam."

She kissed me on the cheek and walked off. I was mad at her for awhile but when *I got the kiss* and saw her figure from the rear as she walked away, it was worth it I though.

Now Sandra was cute. She had silky blond hair, green eyes that sparkle like a cat's and sexy long legs but best of all she had boobs.



Yes I wanted her. Sandra was a cheerleader and she only dated jocks. I, on the other hand wore glasses, I didn't have a buzz hair cut like her jock boyfriend Eddie, I had dark hair that was shoulder length and was hitting a 120 pounds holding all my school books and a backpack.



Eddie was tall and big. He had hands like he could crush coconuts. He played football. One day I decided to go to the playing field and look at Sandra practice. Well I really didn't see much of her practicing cheerleading but I saw her smooching with Eddie. I thought to myself, *she doesn't need to practice at all in that area, she kisses like a pro.* I was salivating after that and had to come away. It

was no use getting my body worked up for nothing.

I would gaze at Sandy and not pay attention to what the teacher was saying in class. She often looked back from her seat and smiled. Then the bell would ring for the end of the last class as she runs off to see that Eddie guy. I was frustrated again and went home to play my video games. My buddies Joey and Sam would tell me that she was out of my league and accept it that I won't have a girl like that. I decided: I didn't want to be so mediocre. I wanted to venture out of "my box", challenge myself, test my metal, gain the confidence for me and set a new pace for me and others like me.

Once in a while I would see Eddie in the library.





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He usually sits at a particular area on a certain chair and desk in the library and seems contemplating on something. I would try not to disturb or notice him. One day it started to happen. Eddie who was a senior while and approached me.

"Hey Derrick, I want to have a word with you", he says.

I was getting nervous. I began to think he was getting suspicious of me with Sandy. I nervously responded, "Ah aah, hi Eddie."

Eddie came closer to me as he casted a huge shadow as I looked up at him. I was so frozen with fear I couldn't even pee my pants. He looked down on me and then his expression changed with a smile.

"I need your help dude"

Gradually I felt a total slowing down of my pulse to a normal rate as my knees become steady. I calmly inquired.

"What can I do for you Eddie?"

He was the one now getting a bit nervous as he tried to explain.

"I am good at a lot of things but I am not good at some school subjects. I want to know if you can help me in physics. Sandy said you were good at it."

I looked at Eddie seriously. "I don't know if I can help you Eddie", I told him, "You're a senior, I'm just a junior, your classes are different I could see where Eddie got his bigness from..his dad. His dad was a steelworker. He was a huge guy. But he was a very social person, had jokes for every situation. His wife used to say, "Keep it clean Albert, we have a guest now, this is not one of your work buddies who you tell those jokes to." rom mine"

He seemed to be almost desperate to need my services.

"I heard also how good you are on science projects. But I really need some help. If I don't pass in physics I will not only have a problem getting into a college with a sports program but my dad will cut me out of his Will and all of that I heard."

I knew that I could help him somewhat as I usually read ahead of text book physics.

I then told him, "If I help you, what kind of arrangement would it be?"

He shook my hand, "I can pay you a bit but what I could really do is to get you tickets to big games, even professional football and baseball games." I thought of that, and said, "Cool, when do you want to start?"

So I helped Eddie with his school work every Monday and Wednesday evenings. It took some time but I felt he was finally getting it. Eddie and I soon became friends. I visited Eddie's home to tutor him and he would come over to mine sometimes. I used to love going over to his home as I would get some fringe benefits from his mom. His mom used to cook Lasagna, my favorite food among others. It was odd that every Wednesday night she would cook Lasagna and I was invited for dinner every time. I could see where Eddie got his bigness from..his dad. His dad was a steelworker. He was a huge guy. But he was a very social per-



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-son, he had jokes for every situation. His wife used to say, "Keep it clean Albert, we have a guest now, this is not one of your work buddies who you tell those jokes to"

Then one day something happened. It was all about Eddie. He was hurt pretty bad. It was a Friday after classes, but I was still in the school compound. I heard that Eddie had met in an accident playing football and had broken his back. I ran to the scene but an ambulance had just taken him away. Rumors began to spread that he would be out of playing football for good as he would be a paraplegic. I went to see Eddie with Sandy the following day. He was in critical shape. I felt sad when I saw him suspended with straps on a bed. He couldn't talk. His mom and dad showed up a few minutes after us.

cried as his dad but I could see eyes that he affected. I didn't long as the feel-



His mom was silent in his dad's was deeply want to staying this cre-

ated saddened me quite a bit.

At this moment in need, all I could do is to console Sandy. She was grief stricken. I reminded her, "He's not dead yet. So let's think positive"

She would cry on my shoulder as I continue to console her. Every day she would go to see him. Actually a lot of people went. His entire team went to see him, his coaches, the school faculty and all his friends. But Eddie continued to be unresponsive.

I often went with Sandy to visit Eddie. Then one day she asked me a question.

"What if he is unable to walk again, what should I do?"

I had no answer to that question.

"I don't know Sandy, but that's thinking too far ahead for now."

We had just finished visiting him and I was in the car with Sandy. She hugged me. She hugged me for the longest moment. She felt good. Then she looked at me, closer and then closer we became. I could feel her breathing on my face. I began to get a funny feeling as my heart beat raised. She kissed me. I felt her soft lips on mine and even though I wanted to resist because I knew she was Eddie's girl, the other part of me yielded to this great feeling. I got enveloped with her kiss and then another. I then spoke.

"We shouldn't have done that."

She held my hand and said, "I know you wanted to kiss me for the longest time Derrick. So now you got your wish." I thought of what she said and she was right.

That night I could get no sleep. I thought of that kiss. It was *my first real kiss*. I wanted to have another one. However, it dawned on me that she was still Eddie's girl. If Eddie would have known about that, I would have been *dead meat*. But I wanted Sandy even more. I didn't care.

Now I had morbid thoughts of Eddie. I felt that I was changing into another person, all because I wanted to possess Sandy. I wanted to get Eddie out of our picture. I hoped he would not be able to walk. I wanted, no I needed Sandy. I found out that another part of me that never existed was coming out. I was not being sensitive and compassionate for Eddie. I was being selfish, possessive and maybe ruthless. I wanted Sandy at all costs. I would call Sandy every day and go over to her place. I had lots of kisses after that. We would go behind the school doors in the janitor closet for us to steal kisses; sometimes she would take my glasses and put it on to tempt me to kiss her.





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Sandy began to wear glasses like I but it was not for reading just to blend in with me. She didn't care what other people thought, I didn't care, we both were getting emotionally attached.

Sandy soon forgot about Eddie as we now seldom visited him. Two months later, I was still in love and so was she. We would go to the malls together, skateboarding, I got her hooked on video games, she began to pick out a new style of cloths for me, and every week was something new. Sandy had quit her cheerleading team as we spent more time together. My other friends were shock to see me with Sandy. They told me that I was in "dangerous territory" and it won't be long before something happens. I told them that they were just jealous. Soon, I also had lesser friendship with them and developed even more time with Sandy. I thought all of this was part of maturity. But I wasn't totally correct.

One day I got a shock of my life. Eddie called me from the hospital. He was coming out. He

said he wanted to talk to me. I asked him what it was about but he wouldn't tell me on the phone, he wanted to tell me privately. The good news he said was that he will walk again. *That wasn't my good news.* He was coming out of hospital the same day and he wanted to see me the following day. I wasn't prepared for that to say the least. I thought that maybe he would be really pissed at me for taking Sandy from him; he would refer to me as being sneaky and call me many derogatory names like I'm a "rat" and stuff like that. I would have to take it. But I thought that he wouldn't risk a physical fight under his condition. Maybe when he got a lot better he may attempt that, as I kept analyzing the situation.

So I went to Eddie's home. It was Wednesday and his mom didn't cook any Lasagna. It was a solemn environment in the home compared to what it used to be. I went up the stairs to Eddie's room and he was lying in his bed. He still had a brace around his waist and back.

"Hi Eddie", I said with a dismal expression.

He got up slowly and then said.

"I want to thank you for taking care of Sandy while I was in the hospital"





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I was surprised and maybe shocked to hear that but I kept quiet. Then he continued.

"Another person would have taken advantage of her, but you're a class act Derrick, I am proud to call you my friend"

I didn't know what to say. I felt like crap actually. It was quite the opposite he said I was. The only response I had was, "It was my pleasure, it's ok"

He then looked at me eye to eye and raised his voice a bit, "No it's not ok!"

I got nervous a bit, now I am thinking, *here comes the real thing.*

"It's not Ok Derrick, you did me a huge favor, I'll make it up to you, believe me I will"

Then I asked him, "Did you talk to Sandy recently?"

He pointed at me with his finger to come closer, "Of course, she told me everything, that's why I am talking to you. If you had taken advantage of her or even just *kissed her*, I don't know what I would have done. Or what I would have done to you. But let's not talk like that"

We talked about school, football, and so on and I left with guilt.

I called Sandy and she said she had to lie. It was the only way out of not breaking his heart she said. After all, he was in no condition to take any more hits, mostly mentally. Both Sandy and I found out something good that came about all of this. At the point when we both hardly visited him, there was another girl from school that visited him. She was in his class but she may be considered a geek of the sort. She was a cute brunette with pony tails. She liked Eddie a lot but him being a jock, he never noticed her when he played football. She visited him in the hospital every day, brought roses and stuff like that to him. When he was responsive he got quite acquainted with her but he was uncertain to break up with Sandy. He couldn't tell Sandy the truth about Jenny so he confided in me.

"What should I do Derrick? Sandy will kill me if I am with another girl. And I feel I love Jenny more"

I was happy about this because now I wanted to tell him about me and Sandy. I thought now that *this whole thing was turning into a soap opera.*

"Well Eddie, does Jenny feel the same way as you do for her", I inquired.

He looked at me as if I was a fool.

"Of course, she was there throughout my entire ordeal, she loves me dude. This is weird, but normally I don't go for nerdy girls but this one is special. She is everything I realized I didn't have with Sandy"



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So a couple days later Eddie, Sandy and me had a meeting again in Eddie's room. Eddie broke the news to Sandy. It was weird but Sandy acted jealous.

"Where is that bitch Jenny, I will poke her eyes out", Sandy yells.

I looked at Sandy rant and rave and thought *what an actress*. I felt that she was about to get an Oscar if she continues this. Eddie then spoke.

"I am so sorry Sandy, I was wrong. But honestly, I don't love you. We had fun together. You are a lot of fun. But I found out that my heart is telling me that there is something a little better, and her name is Jenny."

Then Sandy responded, "All right, Jenny can have you. Then I will have Derrick."

Eddie was startled by that response from Sandy, "That is so like you Sandy, that's why I can't be with you. You don't give yourself time to fall in love. It would have been better when I was in hospital that you both fell in love rather than something abrupt like that."

Sandy looked at me, smiled and ran over to me. She gave me a big hug. Suddenly the door slid opened from his walk-in closet. It was Jenny.

"I heard everything", Jenny said

She went over to Eddie, hugged this I then said,

"Looks like a happy ending to friends"

"Of course", said Eddie, "Sandy and I are still friends, not close friends like we used to but still friends. Next week my back-brace is coming off and I'm having a party to celebrate all of this and every one of my friends are invited!" I then got another **kiss** from Sandy. A long.. long juicy nice one!

Eddie gulped, and pulled Jenny closer, "Jen, you know you look a lot sexier without those horned rimmed glasses"

Jenny kissed Eddie a long one and then responded, "I've got contacts now so I'm just about half way from nerdy to Eddie's cool-babe, no pun on the nerd thing Derrick!"

"Non taken!" I replied.

Sandy hugged me even closer and commented, "You know, I don't think you are so nerdy looking Derrick, even with glasses, with the right type of glasses you may even look classy, even sexy. I'm gonna do a classic makeover on you"

I smiled and could enough of Sandra McIntire's kisses as we kissed again.

