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Summer of 18

Summer break finally came to an end. The long holiday bid a goodbye that surely would be missed by students. It left the untold stories of blistering summer and marked as the beginning of school life along with early autumn's wind.

Mia was only 18 years old with her close friend, Alexa. Together, they faced the problem as what looked like a test of their friendship. It had been a week since school started and Mia felt something wrong during that time. Alexa seemed to ignore her. Every time she talked to her, the responses were always short and forced. She thought it would be just at the beginning because she might be adapting from the long summer break. In fact, it only created a distance and she was confused with Alexa's actions. The growing distance became clearer as one of them hadn't made an effort yet to solve it.

Of course, as time flew fast, she couldn't hold it anymore. She needed help. That was the reason she sat on the bench in the school's park Tuesday afternoon.

"Have you tried to send her a text?" asked someone beside her. Mia let out a big sigh as the question escaped from the person's mouth. At least, the burden on her shoulder was relieved after she took a chance to talk about this.

"I just...don't know, Cassie." Her voice was small but clear enough.

"You don't know how to do it or you don't know why you don't do it? Mia, I know it must be hard for you and Alexa but you can't let this go too far." Cassie turned her position to face Mia, her tone filled with seriousness. "If you really can't talk to her, then send a text." Mia let the words sink into her head. She thought Alexa didn't want to talk. Would she even reply to her texts?

Mia could never imagine that it affected her mood in her studies. It was way too much. She was upset with herself because she didn't have the courage to approach or even text her. She was just scared if Alexa might end up getting mad at her because she would keep asking what was wrong. Mia then remembered Cassie's words, *"You can't let this go too far."* She immediately imagined the end of their friendship, she shook her head and pushed the thought away. She didn't want that to happen.

Mia stared at Alexa's seat in front of her. She was talking normally to her seatmate. There was a bitter feeling inside her watching the scene. They got

separated because of the seat arrangement and she wondered why it happened at the same time they weren't on a good term. Just what the hell was wrong?

It was Friday evening Mia fastened her steps as she came out from the school's gate. She needed to be home as soon as possible. She was planning to text Alexa later on and that was why she prepared herself to be ready.

"I'm home" she greeted while taking off her shoes and she went to her room immediately.

"Come down when dinner is ready, darling" her mother said from the kitchen.

"All right, Mom" she replied as she went up to the stairs. Mia put her bag on the chair and then took a quick shower. She felt relaxed and it made her tiredness disappear. She then took her phone that was on the table and sat on the edge of her bed. Letting a big sigh, she started to text Alexa. Yes, she was all prepared for whatever happened.

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Monday came so quickly and school started early. Mia waved goodbye to her parents as she departed for school. She was in a good mood today and the beaming sun accompanied her along her walk. It was undeniable that she couldn't wait to arrive at school. She'd never expected her energy could be at this rate.

It was finally a break time. Students started to run away to the canteen, they couldn't bear with hungry after class. Mia approached Alexa's seat slowly.

"Hey" her small voice made the girl turn her head.

"Miaa" she stood up and quickly hugged her. Surprised by the sudden act, she let out a chuckle and wrapped her arms around her shoulders. They didn't care about the eyes that stared at them confusingly.

"Why were you late? Glad Mr. James still let you in" asked Mia after they released the hug.

"I was waking up late." Alexa made a pout and Mia rolled her eyes upon hearing that. "Anyway, let's go grab some snacks." Alexa quickly changed the topic and slung her right arm on her friend's shoulder. Mia snorted at the words but she eventually agreed.

"It was funny right that I was so childish, making us drift apart," Alexa said once they sat on a bench after school.

"Me too" Mia replied but Alexa quickly responded,

"No no, it was all because of me, Mia," Alexa then continued, "I was so stupidly jealous of your relationship with your friends. I saw your posts on Instagram when you spent the summer break, you looked so happy without me. We didn't have a chance to meet because you were at your grandma's house. I was so lonely and that made me think that you would start to make new friends without me. I really have no idea why I'd do such a thing." Mia remembered their texting 2 days ago. They let out their confessions. She didn't expect the reason but she finally realized that she and Alexa hadn't spent the holidays together because she was away.

She continued, "When you finally sent me a text, asked me if I was mad. I couldn't answer it immediately. I don't know how to start. I was afraid that I did anything wrong and I realize that I was freaking dumb for being jealous over such a thing".

Now that they finally talked about it, both Mia and Alexa felt more relieved. Mia smiled lightly knowing their struggles of friendship. They were 18, what could they expect? Their story might be cliché since they happened to experience their teenage life but again it was another story where anything could happen. One thing that she was glad for, the friendship settled in a way that she didn't expect.