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Dear Diary

Ramil Jayson L Soriano
Philippines

“Didin... Didin... wake up, our boss might see you sleeping while at work, wake up Didin.”

My friend Chrislyn or we often call her Ishi woke me up; I fell asleep again, because last night I had a bad dream. I just transferred from my new apartment and I stay there for almost a week now. I walked past Erwin’s bakery every day on my way to apartment, but it had meant nothing to me. It is kind of weird and creepy because my apartment is near the hospital and cemetery.

I just took this for granted because it is free and near to school where I work. The school has its own apartment for the faculty, and you can stay and live there for free, as long as you are single. My friend Ma’am Ishi, I just met her here in Devotion High, sometimes I wonder why the school has a name such as “Devotion”. I asked Ma’am Ishi about the name of the school, but she said *“Nah, I don’t care. What I care for now is my work”* then she laugh.

“By the way Ma’am Ishi, you know what, something happened last night.”

“Oh, c’mon Ma’am Didin, don’t tell me we are going to talk about that weird stuff that is happening in your weird apartment.” She said.

“Yeah, I know you won’t believe me anyway. Would you mine if you come over to my apartment after our work today?”

“Are you sure? I will go with you as long as you will treat me for a dinner tonight, why not.” She smiled.

“Do you believe in ghost Ma’am Ishi?” I asked.

“Ma’am Didin, there is no such thing as ghost. That is just a part of your imagination; don’t be like Sir Jamil who always breaks the ice here in our faculty.”

“But there is something wrong in my apartment and if you do not believe me, at least please come over in my apartment and stay with me tonight.” I said.

“If there is something wrong with your apartment Ma’am Didin, why don’t you look for another apartment?”

“Come on Ma’am Ishi, as what I have told you, I need to save my money for the tuition fee of my brother. And I need to lessen my expenses.”

“Okay, fine... I am going to attend my class right now. It is almost 4 p.m. I will see you later then Ma’am Didin.”

Today, before I go home, I need to finish everything that my work demanded of me. It was my choice to stay in that apartment, the things that I experienced in my apartment these past days was not normal. I look at my left wrist, and I notice that there is a mark, like someone holds my left wrist tightly last night. I am wondering how I had this mark. I am alone in that apartment and the last time I had a visitor was a few days ago but she did not stay there for long.

“Ma’am Didin, are you done with your lesson plan for this week? You need to finish your lesson plan until 5:30p.m. today, okay?”

“Yes, Ma’am Ayel”

Ah, Ma’am Ayel, she is the principal of Devotion High. She keeps on roaming around the school to look for a mistake of her teachers. She is demanding and strict with her teachers. Its like ignorance of the rules is no excuse, so as a teacher, knowing the rules of the school should be a given. And Chrislyn, or Ma’am Chrislyn but she prefer to call her Ma’am Ishi, she is a great teacher that sets high expectations for all her students, she has her own love of learning.

I am almost done now with my lesson plan for this week, and I still need to wait for Ma’am Ishi then suddenly...

“Ma’am Didin, are you done with your lesson plan for this week?”

“Yes, almost sir” smiled.

He is Sir Jamil, I know why he asked me about my lesson plan. Because he is not yet finish and he is looking for someone who will accompany him in our principal’s office. He is a jolly person and humorous, an ice breaker in our faculty.

It is 5:25p.m. already and I submitted my lesson plan to our principal. And Ma’am Ishi dismissed her class already.

“Lets pack up our things Ma’am Didin, here I bought some snacks for tonight.”

Ma’am Ishi is so excited to come over and stay with me tonight in my apartment. But deep inside me, my heart beat was pounding fast. Something is wrong with my apartment, something strange is happening in my apartment, something that will make you think and make you petrified. I only have few things, important things which I needed in my apartment. The apartment where I live is consists of a single room, a wardrobe, a bathroom, a hardwood floor and a chair and a table facing the window and a kitchen. Thought that I will have a normal life here but things started to get uncanny. That I experienced paranormal things it seems, disturbing things though was when I got home, put my bag and my books on the table, and I went to bathroom to wash my hands. But when I got out of the bathroom, I notice that my things were already inside my room scattered, like someone threw my things inside my room.

The second was when I woke up around 2:07 a.m. and I heard a sound of water, pouring down, someone turned on and off the metal lever handle inside the bathroom, in that moment I just

hugged my pillow tight. And last night, I heard someone, someone screamed outside my room, voices, and footsteps. I assured myself last night that I locked the front door before I sleep. I stand up and walk out of my bed, go nearer the door.

*“f*ck, what is happening here, who are you? What do you want?”* I shouted, and things became normal.

This morning, I called the owner (school) of the building to complain and told them about what happened but they refused to believe me. They said it was just someone from the neighbor or from the near hospital, and some of my friends outside the school said that I am just hallucinating but I never think so.

Ma’am Ishi and I went out of school, I checked my watch and it is already 5:51 p.m. we were dragging ourselves home to my apartment, exhausted after a tiring day. As we approaches my apartment, Ma’am Ishi keeps telling me a story about what had happened in her class, which she got mad at her students because they submitted their research late. It was supposed to be submitted last Wednesday but for her to forget what happened in her class I invited her to go to mall and eat for a while, roam around before we go to my apartment but she refused, said she was tired and better to stay in my apartment to rest or read books. I told myself that we are like pilgrims who are travelling and searching for something that will get rid of our stress for Ishi and for me to travel to a holy place and forget some things, weird things.

The nuisance in my apartment got me wondering what other things will happen tonight while I’m with my friend Ishi. Then we reached my apartment, it began to get dark it is already 6 p.m. so I fixed our things and started to cook, prepare things for our dinner.

“You have a very nice place Didin, how much do you pay for your apartment?”

“It’s free for the faculty and staff of our school, don’t you know about that? You’re working in Devotion High School for years now. You only need to pay the bills for electricity and water.”

I prepare the table while Ishi went to have a shower. After that, I went to my room and checked some available cloths for Ishi to use. She did not bring any cloths so she decided to borrow some of my blouse, shorts and a bathrobe.

“Are you done Ma’am, here is your cloths and a bathrobe. We will have our dinner after you take a bath”

“Sure, I am almost finish. Thank you Didin.”

“No problem, just tell me what are the other things you need.”

About a minute later she went out of the bathroom and I asked her if she wants to have her dinner, she said yes and we dine. While we are having our dinner, I decided to turn on the radio

and listen to music, we set the volume high since we are both listening to our favorite song from Reggine Velasquez.

*Cause you've made me stronger
By breaking my heart
You ended my life and made a better one start
You've thought me everything, from falling in love
To letting go of a life
Yes, you've made me stronger baby by saying goodbye*

"Gosh, we are a good singers. By the way, how come you said you are experiencing weird things here in your apartment Didin?"

"Can't you see, this apartment is near the hospital and cemetery, look outside the window Ishi."

Ishi look outside the window and she was stunned that it really is near the hospital and cemetery. Question and puzzled on her mind, *"Why did the school build this apartment near the cemetery, the school has plenty of money to buy a good location for them to build an apartment, crazy and weird."* Then she just laughed *"ha ha ha!"*

"Why Ishi, what's with the laugh?"

*"This f*cking house was build near the cemetery, how creepy. Aside from that, it is also near the hospital, in just a minute you can reach both cemetery and the hospital."*

"Yes, it is really weird. And it's been a long time since someone stayed here. One of the staff in our school told me that the last person who stayed here went gone, no one from our school knows where she is."

"You mean, she is missing until this moment?"

"Yes, that's what they told me."

*"Okay, that's kind of weird. So you really think that something strange is happening in this f*cking apartment Didin?"*

"As what I told you, yes indeed. So do you want to go home now Ishi?" I smiled asking.

"Ha ha ha, very funny. Like I said, I don't believe in ghost or any paranormal weird stuff."

We ate and finished our meal, feel so full. Ishi sat on the couch while I am washing the dishes. As we both listening to the radio something happened, the male singer's voice gets hazy it seems so normal, we just thought that something went wrong with the signal but we were wrong. That is just the start of our weird story together.

It is 10:30 in the evening, after all the errands we did; we ended up going to my room and have rest preparing ourselves for tomorrow's work.

"So I see that you are experiencing some weird stuff here, weird stuff when you are with someone huh." Ishi smiled, as she refers to my Boyfriend.

"C'mon Ishi, I don't have time for that. It really is true, that thank you for being with me tonight. Because I am really scared, thanks for the company Ma'am Ishi."

"Okay, never mind what I said. I am tired now, we need to get rest for us not to be late in our work tomorrow and for you not to fall asleep again while at work."

"Okay, I will just turn off the lights in the living room. Good night Ishi!"

Ishi fell asleep already as I turn off the lights. Perhaps she's tired after a long day of work. I am waiting and expecting for something to happen tonight. I checked my watch, it is already quarter to 11 in the evening and I felt so tired. I switched off the lights in my apartment and when I enter my room, Ishi already switched the lampshade before she sleep. I lay on my bed with Ishi, feels so tired, and I never notice that I fell asleep already.

Ishi woke up around 1:40 a.m., went to restroom, and switched the lights in the restroom. As she went out of the restroom, she saw a little girl with black curled hair and a white dress. She just stood near the table, staring, looking at Ishi. Her heart beats fast as she runs quickly to my room and shouted my name.

"Didin!"

"Didin, wake up, wake up Didin!"

Ishi did not close the door of my room as she runs near me.

*"Didin! Didin! Wake up! Sh*t wake up!"*

"Why, what's the matter Ma'am?"

*"Didin, I swear to God, I saw someone in the living room. She stood there near the table, sh*t!"*

"What? Who?"

*"A little girl, with a white dress! Sh*t! That freaks me out so much. I don't want to go out of this room. F*ck!"*

Ishi left the door open and I saw her eyes... petrified on what she saw, gasping for breath. She step on my bed, I can feel her heart beats fast as she hug my back. I went out of my room, while Ma'am Ishi is at my back and pointed where she saw that little girl. I did not see her (that little girl she refers to) or anything weird but I could feel something perhaps someone is looking at us.

I switched on the lights in the living room, and we went back to my room. I closed the door and lock the door knob.

“Didin, I swear I saw that little girl, there's a little girl in the living room black hair, white dress. And she was staring at me.” She almost threw up. She was terrified and ready to run out of the apartment shattering.

*“Ishi, I am here. Let's just switch the light here in my bedroom for tonight, and leave this sh*ty apartment tomorrow”* I am confused and I don't know what to do.

We went back on my bed, Ishi and I decided not to mind what just happened. But she seemed uncomfortable. Ishi closed her eyes and went back to sleep. While I just closed my eyes, feel what is happening and never went to sleep. I was relieved I did not want to sleep in my room. I thought it would all stop and I'd lastly have some serenity. I was so d*mn wrong!

2:30 a.m., time ticks fast and never notice that I fell asleep, but my spirit was still awake. In that night something is pulling our blanket, something that we cannot see, I felt that someone or something is pulling Ishi off my bed. I woke up, and grab her back and she woke up suddenly. She holds my left wrist tightly, screaming, telling me not to let her go. The light goes on and off, and the door of my room opens and slammed. The force of that something is too much for me, like there are people pulling Ishi out of my room. I'm trying to move myself, I tried yelling and asked for help but my body was paralyzed I do not know why but it seems like someone holds and stopping me from the things I need to do, to save my friend Ishi. Inside my room, I could hear this sadistic voice getting closer and closer towards me. The lights in my apartment turned off as I hold Ishi pulling her back, I notice blood from the back of Ishi, that something or someone scratch her back and she keeps on yelling! Screaming my name! She can not take it any longer so she let go of my hand as I see her dragging by someone or something out of my room. I cannot move a muscle, yelling her name “Ishi! Ishi!” Things back to normal as I run and look outside my room crying yelling her name “Ishi! Ishi! Where are you! Where are you Ishi?” checked the living room, gone to bathroom but there's no trace of my friend.

“Didin... Didin... wake up, our boss might see you sleeping while at work, wake up Didin.”

My friend Cecillia or we often call her Diche woke me up. It is almost 4 p.m. I fell asleep again here in the faculty, because I did not sleep well last night. I just transferred from my new apartment and I stay there for almost a week now. I walked past Erwin's bakery every day on my way to apartment, but it had meant nothing to me. It is kind of weird and creepy because my apartment is near the hospital and cemetery.

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I took my diary, and wrote the things and record some personal notes.

September 4, 2014

Dear Diary,

I had a bad dream last night; I fell asleep again here in our faculty. Great that Ma'am Cecillia woke me up. My dream... my dream scared me that I did not sleep well, that I am with someone in my apartment and creepy things happened. There is something ugly in that apartment where I stay, but I took this for granted because it is free and near to school where I work or maybe I am completely losing my mind. I am alone in that apartment, last time I had a visitor was a few days ago but she did not stay there for long.

It's been a long time since someone stayed in my apartment. One of the staff in our school told me that the last person who stayed in my apartment went gone; missing until this moment and no one from our school knows where she is. I invited Ma'am Cecillia to come and stay with me in my apartment for tonight, and she said she would love to and she smiled.

My dream last night... I don't know who she is but I felt really sorry of what happened to her. She was trapped there somewhere in that apartment, just like me for now but probably forever.