

Beautiful coincidences

Seoul National University – 7.55 AM

As school officially started, Lexi rushed to class, barely making it in time for introductions. She wasn't a fan of social interaction, she fled her social life back home and she wasn't planning to get one here either. She barely survived integration week, being mandatory for freshmen. Her sole focus was herself and she was planning to make the most of it, for as long as her stay in Seoul lasted.

She took a seat in the front row, put down her Literature books and grabbed a pen for notes. The classroom was an escapade itself: People from all around the world joined this English course; she almost forgot that she was in a foreign country herself. Professor Jenkins, just like his students, bore a different ethnicity: a British man in his late sixties, old of age but with a vivid spirit. His love for Literature might just be the reason he was so full of life, even when life itself has started giving up on him.

"Good morning class, my name is Abraham Jenkins and I will be teaching your English course" he presented himself while scanning the students "You will be seeing more of me than you'd like to this year, so I suggest you make the most of your classes. Literature is not about reading or writing, nor copying or memorizing; it's about feeling. Literature is art, a reflection of your state of mind; let it be your mirror and guide you towards your inner scholar" he finished his speech as he handed out the semester's program to the first row and asked for it to be passed around to the rest of the class.

After doing so, Lexi carefully observed her calendar: Mornings only, perfect. Although sleeping in would no longer be an option, she was glad she could enjoy the rest of her day to the fullest.

"Before anyone of you asks: no, you will not have homework. You're adults and you came here to learn, therefore I hope that you will not disappoint nor be disappointed. Furthermore, your essays will determine whether you'll pass my course or not when you take your final exams. However, for the enthusiasts amongst you, a bonus research paper on the book of your choice might earn you extra points. Remember, I want you to portray what you feel from the content, not what the book wants you to feel" he abruptly spoke his mind before dismissing the class.

SNU Library – 10.13 AM

The first class was already over. Lexi walked around campus to accustom herself to the school. She spotted the library and went in to check for a certain book she has been meaning to read for a while now. She couldn't find it, but instead she found something more interesting ... more like someone.

"Okay seriously, are you stalking me?" was the first thing her mouth blurted, in an audible tone making the librarian shush her with a gesture. Lexi bowed her head mouthing an apology in Korean.

"I could say the same thing about you, I was here first" David whispered, amused at the little scene of embarrassment he just witnessed before him.

"I didn't know that you go to school here, I didn't even notice you on integration week" she argued, trying to lose the stalker tag "You must be a senior, since your presence wasn't required".

"Very smart, but I am not a student anymore. I am currently preparing a research paper and I needed some references. I used to go here though, before being transferred abroad on my second year" he explained further.

"Impressive, I guess you were a bright student to earn a transfer from an elite university to another one abroad" she stated, waiting for his confirmation before being interrupted by an elderly voice.

"And he is still the brightest on my list, I regretted sending him away the minute his transfer was cleared. Lee Jae Suk, it's been a long time" said Pr. Jenkins, unaware that he just involved himself in a dual conversation.

Lexi stood there looking at the two gentlemen catching up before she realized that she was rudely staring. Unable to finish her talk with David, she excused herself and left the library.

External Dormitory – 12.30 PM

Lexi got home just in time for lunch. Although, she missed her mom's cooking the most, she settled for instant noodles and sat in front of her computer in the living room, not knowing what to do next.

That's when she remembered the bonus research paper, and decided to start working on it. She went back to her bedroom, picked up a *Dan Brown* book and started reading. Giving up on her lunch for the sake of her paper, she grabbed her computer and started typing her thoughts.

Conspiracy theories were always her favorite topic, she loved the headache and the multiple guesses; although her logic was sometimes at fault, she was glad that she could think of something different than what was depicted in the books, and that's what crowned her essays.

Before she knew it, it was almost midnight. Reading books was so consuming that she'd often lose track of time, mostly on the expense of her meals. She saved her work, turned off her computer, and went to bed.

SNU Campus – 01.06 PM

It's been two weeks now since Lexi started her course. The classes were intriguing, catching her full attention by day, and essays piling up on her computer desktop by night. She has read five books so far and wrote three essays, ready to be handed over. However, she didn't want to come off as the teacher's pet, and preferred waiting until the deadline.

It has also been two weeks since she last seen David, his research has been keeping him busy and out of sight. She dialed his number to check up on him, but didn't know if she should go through with it.

As she tried to make up her mind, her phone displayed a text message: "Hey stranger, long time no seen. Wanna meet up for Coffee?"

Smiling at her screen, she immediately texted back: "I'm on campus. Where are you?" to which she received an instant reply "I am in the coffee shop across the street".