



CHAPTER ONE

-Matt January 2010-



Ever have a feeling inside your mind and heart that is unforgettable? Sometimes you feel that feeling comes inside you when you're extremely happy then leaving the second you feel agitated. Well, this feeling I am feeling at this moment is a feeling that can't leave me. It is extreme happiness that is stuck inside me. I think that.... I am in love.

I know it's too deep for me to say that I love her especially for me; as a young seventeen-year-old guy to say, but what can I say? I know I have strong feelings. I know I care for her deeply every time I am around her. When I am away from her I think about her, and I am always wondering how she is doing. It is a feeling I have never felt before. I can't explain how I am feeling. It hurts, but it is also a general feeling of happiness that never stops.

I always thought she was rather interesting ever since we met as children. As I grew up with her, I liked her more and more as each day passed. I admitted to myself how much I liked and cared for her. I just never figured out until recently that I am in love with her. I always thought being in love was something adults only knew about. I didn't think that I could have strong feelings for someone at such a young enough age.

I remember the day as if it was yesterday. It was about five years ago, this coming April. The day was so cold and wet that my hands and feet were numb. The sky was split in half. One half was blue mixed with gray

where rain poured down aimlessly over my head. The other half of the sky had a bright blue tint, and a bright light shining through. I hoped that the brighter and more promising side would overshadow the disgraceful side of hurting rain and vanishing happiness. If only my hoping became a reality, it would make me feel better about being hit by the rain.

I came over shivering as I calmly knocked on the door of her house. The door creaked open with a high-pitched squeal from that one girl as she looked at me from the doorstep.

“Oh, my God, Matt! It’s about time you’re here!” Jackie screeched once again.

The high-pitch sound of her voice made me feel like a small child running away from a monster hidden in the dark. This feeling vanished when I saw her glimmering eyes shine, making my heart pound hard against my chest so hard I could hardly breathe. The softness look of her hair made me feel warm.

The warm feeling, I normally felt when I walked through the door had faded away in the rain. I felt lost, but I knew if I followed Jackie, she would lead me into the right direction. In the distance, I heard a loud conversation. The loud, obnoxious conversation turned into an argument. I took a quick glimpse inside the kitchen, and realized that Jackie’s parents were beginning to yell at each other back and forth. Jackie grabbed my hand and dragged me into the living room.

The gentleness of her hands pushed me slowly on the couch. I sat on the edge of the seat. As she knelt in front of me, I grew worried. My heart beat so heavily from true likeness, but I felt awkward as well.

“Matt, I’m scared.” She said bowing her head so low that she nearly hit the floor.

I lifted her chin up carefully and spoke. “Why? What’s going on?”

“I... just don’t know what to do.” She said while wiping her eyes.

“Jackie, what’s wrong?”

She got up from the floor, and sat next to me on the couch. She wrapped her arms around the upper part of my waist, and cried in the

middle of my shirt. More blood rushed throughout my body. My hands grew numb. I tried to hold her, but I was too scared.

“I feel like any minute my parents are going to get a divorce. I’m so scared! I don’t know what to do! What should I do, Matt?” She exclaimed with a tear falling down her cheek.

At this point, all my feelings clashed down right in front of me. All my feelings of happiness and courage clashed. My calmness and respect I had for her went right through me. To see her fall apart, made me feel weak, I knew I had to stay strong and keep a straight face so I could help her. I gathered up my confidence, and let her know that I was there for her. I softly grabbed her arm with my right arm, and rubbed the middle of her back with my left hand and held her close.

I paused, then self-assuredly spoke, “Jackie, there is nothing you can do.

“Matt, it hurts. This pain hurts me deeply.” She deeply cried over my shoulder.

“I know it does. It’s really hard. I can’t imagine what you are going through right now.”

The daze of her green eyes were so beautiful. That gaze of hers brought back so many memories that we shared during our friendship. When remembering those memories of our friendship it also reminded me of the nickname I gave her, “Green Beauty.”

I have to say that her eyes are so over powering, and magical. In certain lighting, you can see the constant color changing. When she is extremely hurt, or suffering her eyes are a deep green, that can hypnotize.

“Matt, thank you. Thank you so much for being here for me. It really means a lot to me.” Jackie whispered to me feeling reassured.

I didn’t say anything. I just smiled down at her, and hugged her a little bit tighter. It seemed like she felt accomplished at the fact that she thanked me. Her eyes widened as she looked at me. She automatically let

go of me, and folded her hands in her lap. When I looked at her I saw her face turn red.

“I am sorry.” I whispered to her gently.

“It’s alright. That was my fault.” She said back.

I smiled at her. I got up, and looked outside the large picture window. I heard the pitter patter of how calmly the rain fell against the window. Holding Jackie like that isn’t normally something I would do.

“Are you alright, Matt?” Jackie asked confused.

“I am alright.” I responded back holding back my nerves.

I wished I could tell her how I was feeling. I knew for a fact I was miserable. I didn’t like to see her suffering, and there was really nothing I could do about that.

As I stood there in silence, and Jackie was sitting on the couch trying really hard to cut back on her crying, the conversation in the kitchen became louder. I grew worried. I constantly heard Jackie’s mother screaming at the top of her lungs saying how much her father never cared for her, and never listened to her.

“This is too much.” She whispered underneath her breath.

“I know it is..You are going to be..”

“I know... I know I am going to be fine! Thanks Matt! Ugh! I need to be alone! Just leave me alone!” She said mocking me.

“That was kind of rude, Jackie.” I calmly spoke.

“Matt, I don’t have time for this!”

After she said that I decided to walk out of the room. I realized she just needed her alone time. It was awkward for me that she pulled me in the living room, then a couple minutes later I walk out leaving her alone. I really didn’t have anywhere to go so I decided to wander into the kitchen where her parents were arguing in.

“Hello there, Matthew.” Mrs. Walker cheerfully spoke.

“Good evening, Ms. Walker.” I replied back.

“Are you alright there, Matt?”

“Yeah, I am okay... I am just a little tired.”

“I guess we will continue this conversation later.” Mr. Walker said grabbing a beer from the refrigerator, and then walked out of the room.

When Mr. Walker left the room, it brought instant silence in the room. I felt a little uncomfortable just standing there saying nothing. She dropped the silence by apologizing that her and Mr. Walker were arguing. I responded respectfully saying that it was “alright.” I did however mention that it did upset Jackie. Mrs. Walker nodded her head understanding what I was telling her.

Mrs. Walker started talking to me about Jackie. To be quite honest, I preferred standing there in silence. It was very awkward.

“You know I have to be honest with you, Matt I know this is a really hard time for my family right now, and I know how much you care for Jackie. Believe me I can see it in your eyes that you do. Since Jackie is suffering a lot I want you to come over more often. I want you to keep a sharp eye on her. Can you do that for me? Can you make sure she is safe?” She pleaded to me.

I took a big sigh, and spoke, “Ma’am, I don’t think I should be in the middle of this.”

“I know. I know this is asking too much of you, but I have no one to ask. Can you please help me?”

“Yes, Mrs. Walker. I can help you.”

Her eyes widened, “Thank you so much.”

I just froze after this conversation. I felt really embarrassed. Jackie’s Mom knows how I care for her daughter.

“Well, dinner is ready why don’t you tell Jackie, and wash up.” Mrs. Walker said tending to the food.

“Yes, Ma’am.”

I decided to walk back to the living room. Maybe just maybe Jackie was feeling better, and might want my company. I wasn’t sure what was

going to happen next. When she showed her temper, I never know what to do.

She raised her head as I walked into the room and said, “Why don’t you care about me anymore?”

“Jackie, I don’t understand why you would ask me this question.”

“You just walked away from me, Matt.”

“You asked for me to walk away. You wanted me to leave you alone.”

“It doesn’t mean I actually wanted you to go. I wanted you to stay.”

“Then why did you ask me to leave you alone?”

“Just forget it, Matt! Forget it! You don’t understand, and I don’t think you ever will!” She snapped.

To tell you the truth, I really didn’t feel like arguing with her. I knew she can put me in my place even when it’s not even my fault at all. Since she was in a sensitive mood I wasn’t going to make matters worse.

“Well, Jackie your mom said that dinner was ready.” I said trying to change the subject.

“Oh, so you are trying to change the subject, huh?” She mentioned very snobbishly.

“Jackie... please I really don’t want to argue with you now let’s try to be happy, and enjoy the time we have tonight.”

“What can I possibly be happy about? Everything is going wrong! I can’t stand it anymore!”

“I am here for you. I will always be here for you, and I know that I walked away from you and I am sorry. I will always be your best friend and be there for you no matter what.”

Suddenly it seemed like her anger faded away out of her face. Her face glowed with an expression of happiness. The good thing was that I didn’t tell her that I liked her. I knew for a fact that it was way too soon to tell her that. I held my hand out to help her up, and we made our way to the dinner table.

At dinner, it was pretty hectic. In the beginning, it was pretty fun talking to her mom about some really small, stupid stuff. As soon as her

dad walked in, and wanted some food everything crashed down. I could just tell by looking at Jackie that she really wanted to either leave the table or sit there and cry. She was trying so hard. She kept looking down hoping if she would pray it would stop. Even I know praying to God won't ever help.

"So..Um..Matt..That's your name right? I have a question for you. What the hell are you still doing here?" Jackie's father asked drunk and kind of slurring his words a bit.

"Well, I.." I said not finishing my sentence.

"Leave him alone, Steven! Go back to drinking your beer!" Mrs. Walker abruptly spoke up.

"Don't talk to me like that woman! I was simply asking a question!" Mr. Walker snapped back.

"No, you were simply making him feel uncomfortable for being here." Mrs. Walker said.

"Well, it serves him right. Doesn't he have his own family to be with? Why is he here eating our food? Is he my daughter's stalker or something? Does he plan on doing something he shouldn't do with her, because I will kick his ass right now if he does?" Mr. Walker exclaimed.

"Steven!" Mrs. Walker exclaimed back.

I really wasn't paying any attention to what Mr. Walker was saying to me. I actually blocked him out. I was busy eating my food, and seeing what Jackie was going to do about the whole situation. She really didn't do much, but I did see her cover her ears with her hands hoping she can zone out her father's rage, and closing her eyes trying not to cry. I saw that Jackie wiped her cheek, and whispered that she can't handle this. She abruptly got up from the table, and ran away to another room. That moment she left the table it told me that dinner was done, and I need to go back home. I knew for a fact that Mr. Walker might tell me to get out so I took it upon myself to get up from the table, and push my chair in.

"Thank you, Mrs. Walker for having me here. It was a good dinner, but I have to go home now it's getting late." I spoke while getting up, and walking towards the door.