

A loveletter to Nilkhet

NUREN IFTEKHAR

Dear Nilkhet,

I've never been a person eloquent with words, so excuse me if my attempt at romanticism fails to grab your attention. And why shouldn't it? Is there any meaningful assortment of words which I can pull together that you haven't heard before? You brim with the words of countless writers, poets, scientists, dictators, dreamers and what not. What am I to you but just another speck in a bustling crowd who are drawn to you like a moth to the flame.

Well I might not mean much to you but you've always meant a whole lot to me. Where shall I start? Do you know how I first fell in love with you? When I was a sickly little child who had a weekly check-up with the doctor, one that had one syringe too many for the little old me, you were my consolation prize in the end. And whatever little thing I bought from you, that old science fiction book I used to keep beside my bed even after I finished reading it or that one sophisticated book I thought I could finish but couldn't, it made my world a little bit bigger than it ever was. There is elegance to your twisty maze-like build. The roads might be a bit too narrow and they might be as scrappy and grimy as it gets, but that is unapologetically you. Do you know how graceful that makes you? It's not always easy however. You taught me how you need to be shifty once in a while. How that one shopkeeper who's confident about the price he is asking for can be made to agree to a price that is less



PHOTO: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

than a third. How there's that one 'mama' who gets hold of ones that are a bit rarer but only if you're willing to pay a bit extra.

As I grew up my love for you had an added layer of necessity. You were not just there for the stories and poems anymore. I now had to count on you to guide me through my university life. Although the textbooks I had to buy from you never comforted me as much as the Tintin books I bought from you long ago did, but it was appreciated nevertheless. And no matter what textbook it was, each title more

incomprehensible than the other, you rarely disappointed to deliver. Did you ever realise how much of an impact you were leaving on the lives of the students for whom acquiring these much needed textbooks would have been incredibly difficult otherwise?

The years rolled over, and my life changed for better or worse. But one thing that never changed is you. You were my source of happiness when nothing else was working. You were my source of knowledge when I needed it the most. So this is

me professing my admiration and gratitude to the impact you have left upon all of our life. Dear Nilkhet, we love you.

Sincerely,
One of your fondest admirers

Nuren Iftekhhar is your local stray cat in disguise; he interacts with people for food and hates bright light. He got Hufflepuff 3 times straight in Pottermore so no walking around that one. Send him obscure memes at n.iftekhhar18@gmail.com

How I met your best friend



REGINA PHALANGE

The first thing all of us have to worry about after saying "yes" to our significant others is how their best friends are going to take this. Now, this shouldn't be too hard or scary if you guys were friends before and had the chance to meet their best friend (and even better, were friends with them too) before you started dating. But if that's not the case and you're properly meeting them for the first time after you guys started dating, it can surely be apprehensive for both the parties.

Growing up through the years, we always consulted our best friend for every little thing, be it how to let your parents know about bad grades or dating advice. They have always had that special space in your heart that no one else can take over no matter how hard they tried. They are the ones who always advise you on texting your crush the fool-proof way.

But when you start dating (hopefully the crush your best friends were helping to text!), the priority list seems to shift and you take up more space on your significant other's mind than ever before. Meeting their best friends turns out to be a major issue too because, till this day, they've only heard about you through their best friend and gave them advice based on that. Remember that if you're nervous to meet them, they're probably nervous to meet you too. Being

yourself is the key point here because they want to know what sort of person you are. Try not to bring up embarrassing stories of them you've heard in an attempt to become too friendly, even though you're just trying to show that you were curious before you met them.

Now, there could be three outcomes that you have to embrace no matter how the meetup goes. One, they could actually like you and then you end up being really good friends who could help you with planning surprises and buying gifts and you can have your happily ever after with them included. Two, they could not like you and still be nice to you, at least as long as you date their best friend. The last outcome and the one that you really don't want is that they could not like you and doesn't try to hide it as well. These are the type of people who try to sabotage the relationship at the slightest chance by pointing out your flaws. But no matter which one they choose, don't blame yourself for that. They may have good reason to not like you, or they had different expectations that didn't match up.

However it turns out to be, just remember that they want their best friends to be happy and if you make them happy, they'll learn to get over their prejudices and be friendly to you at some point in future. And well, if they don't, you always have your best friend to rant about them, don't you?