



LOCK INTO HER EYES

TABIA TAHSIN

The teardrops run down And fall on her nose She cries in dark corners Where nobody goes. You can follow the tracks From her eyes to her chin Years upon years Of letting them win. And her eyes tell a story Of anger and pain You think that she is happy But just look again. And the scars of her past Hidden under her clothes Are a roadmap to places That nobody knows. Her smile is now painted She is a master of disguise And you can see it all Just look into her eyes.

But Beware!
Everything's about to change.
The world that only saw the pain
Will now see the strength.
She won't be any flower
Picked for beauty, left to die.
She will be wild!
Difficult to find, impossible to hide.
And you can see it all
Just look into her eyes.

KIDWA ARIF

7:30 AM, Sunday.

"Oh &%\$#! I'm late again."

Anik blames the alarm on his phone for failing to wake him up at 7 AM despite him snoozing it 3 times. He decided to skip shower since it will take him at least an hour to reach his office in Gulshan from his home in Shegun Bagicha thanks to the morning traffic. He calls for a bike in one of the five ride-sharing apps installed on his phone and stuffs his face with a buttered toast while waiting for his rider to pick him up.

Anik is twenty-five year old male who works in a fairly well-known corporation in Dhaka. He joined right after he graduated. Anik had been dreaming for this well-paid job since he was a first year student. He is, therefore, a very happy person on paper.

He reached his office at around 8:40 AM, fifteen minutes early. But he was glad he came in early. He planned on getting a headstart in his work so that he could finish by 8 in the evening. He could not reach home before 11:30 the week before and he wanted to change that.

He was a good person. Or at least he thought he was. Growing up, he always dreamt of making a lot of money which he will use to do good. This was how he reasoned with himself when he decided to study business. However, in the last year or so, he has been finding it extremely difficult to find time outside work. But he understands that pressure is always high at the beginning of someone's career. Once he gets a few promotions, he'll be able to make more time for himself. However, he has still decided to try and get out of his office fast. Not to change the world or anything but just to find some time for himself. He doesn't even remember the last time he hung out with his friends. Or watched a movie on something other than his phone while sitting in his Uber ride on his way home.

Anik stopped thinking and chuckled. His priorities changed to "somehow make time to go to the movies" from "make a difference and make the world a better place". He went back to trying to concentrate on finishing his work.

The day, like every other day in his life, went fast. He went through numerous meetings, presentations, reports and what not. After finally finishing all his work, he found out it was already 10:00 PM. He sighed and decided to call a car instead of a motorcycle to go home. He deserved this much luxury.

He reached home at around 11:30 PM. He took a shower and had dinner alone. He had asked his family to not wait up for him. He regretted that a little now. After dinner, he dropped to his bed, trying to sleep. He needed to get up at 7 the next day. When setting his alarm, he felt a little pang of sadness in his heart. He tried to ignore that and told himself, "I'll finish my work earlier tomorrow," and sunk into deep sleep.

7:30 am, Monday.

"Oh &%\$#! I'm late again."

