

## **Equilibrium**

My father and my sister died two months ago in a car accident.

I don't know the details of the event but I don't even need to know...

The fact remains that they are dead and no one can bring them back to life. You may be wondering: "Wow what a strange way of dealing with a dramatic situation!".

It's not a "strange way", it's simply detachment.

I just try to continue living in the most normal way but, deep down, I know perfectly well that it will never be like that... no matter how much I may try.

However, I have two really important people in my life who manage to keep me living in this unfair world: one is my mother, the most important person in my life, the one who always gives me so much strength and courage, the one who exists... and that's enough.

Then there is Jess... my dearest friend, my best friend, my source of happiness and my fixed point in a world full of chatter and instability.

My life has changed dramatically since my father and sister died, but my mom and Jess have managed to get me back to reality. Jess above all.

I truly believe that nothing else comforts me as much as the presence of a friend, my Jess, the joy of her confidence and the immense relief of knowing that there is a person capable of understanding me. Jess represents a world within me, a world that would not have been born without her arrival, and it is only thanks to my meeting with her that this new world of mine is born. She is my salvation and I know that when it hurts to look back at the past or when the future scares me, I just need to look next to me: there, I will always find my best friend... I will always find Jess.

Currently I have recovered almost completely from the shock, the days go by normally. At school I do quite good and well... then there's Jess. We spend a lot of time together and we also share a great passion for music. I have been playing the piano since I was five, and Jess has always loved the sound of the piano. It reminds her of her parents and all the lullabies they used to sing to her when she was little.

Oh, I almost forgot... Jess is an orphan, she has never met her parents and she has always lived in an orphanage but now she is independent and has managed to create a stable life for herself, I really admire her!

Moving on, right now I am at school. Jess hasn't come today because she is sick. It's lunch time and my mother made me my favorite dish for lunch: Lasagna! Let's just say it couldn't get any better than that.

After lunch I go back to class for my science lesson but it is precisely at that moment that something happens... the worst thing that could ever happen to me.

A tall and austere policeman enters the classroom:

“Madeline White? Is there a certain Madeline White here? ”

Wait, I'm Madeline, I immediately raise my hand and as soon as the cop sees me he urges me to come out of the classroom.

The policeman tells me these precise words:

“Hey Madeline, listen to me. Your mother lost her life; she was found dead at home with a kitchen knife in her hand, we were alerted by your neighbour Catherine because she heard some strange noises. From the various checks we think it is suicide indeed. I'm sorry Madeline, I'm so sorry...”

I was shocked... Why? Why would my mother have to take her own life? We gave each other strength... Why?

I didn't even have Jess by my side at that moment...

Just then she called me, my last dear person in this stupid unfair world called me.

I really needed her support. Jess's voice was shaking, she was so saddened by my mother's death and she immediately invited me to her house.

I accepted because in the end I didn't want to go back to my damned house.

Once I arrived, Jess filled me with words of comfort.

But at that moment something came to my mind... Jess hadn't come to school today.

How did she know about my mother's death? So I immediately asked her.

As soon as she heard the question she turned pale, but later she changed her expression, she showed a strange smile, a disturbing smile.

"Jess, why are you smiling like that? What's happening?"

She hesitated for a few minutes but then, in an extremely calm and detached voice, she said to me: - "Don't you think we have achieved some kind of parity?"

I didn't understand...

"Jess, what are you talking about?"

"Madeline, now we are the same, I only have you and you only have me, I had to do things that might seem apparently irrational, but in the end we have reached this equality. Do you think it is easy to see, day after day, my dearest friend living a happy life with her family? A family that I will never have, Madeline you are the only important person for me and now I

will be the only one for you... there must be no one else. That's why I did what I did. Now we can build our new life together Madeline, step by step"

At that moment my whole world fell apart... Jess had killed my mother, and before that, my father and my sister... out of her sheer jealousy, just to achieve that crazy equilibrium of her...

I had never noticed that devious perversion that had led her to do what she did.

Jess had made my life better... now she has destroyed it.

This made me think about one thing: betrayal doesn't always come from an enemy.