

The Love of an Angel

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Submitted: May 17, 2004

Updated: August 9, 2004

All she needed was guidance...she never knew she'd fall in love in the process...

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1 - Tragedy Needs Healing

It was nighttime and a man and a woman were laughing while driving home from an office party. They had so much fun dancing and talking and this pleasure was carried to the car. The road was desolate, save for the few people trying to make their way home from a long, hard day at work. The man and the woman recollected the experiences that they had at the party with each other.

Woman: "Wow honey that was a great party. I can't remember the last time I had that much fun!"

Man: "I know. Usually the parties we hold at my office are boring, but they sure did overexceed my expectations tonight."

Woman: "And did you notice how your boss was being so friendly to you? Someone's getting a raise."

She winked and smiled and the man shook his head in disagreement. He looked over to the woman in the passenger seat.

Man: "No I don't think that was his intention. I think he just wanted to get to know all of the employees that practically run his company for him."

They both laughed at the truth of the man's statement.

Suddenly a car sped around the corner. When the headlights caught the attention of the woman through her peripheral vision, she let out a cry of terror.

Woman: "Honey!! Watch out!"

The man looked in front of him and saw a car coming straight towards them. He noticed too late...he was unable to swerve away from the other car and they collided head-on.

When the momentum of both cars came to a stop, the couple's car had flipped and landed upside down. Broken glass was scattered around the scene. There was no movement in the car of the couple. The driver of the other car recovered from the shock and stumbled out. Under the rays of the dim streetlight, he bumped into a civilian that was observing the scene. Words apparently were exchanged between the two men, but the driver started to run away in extreme confusion.

Sirens flashed. The paramedics retrieved two bodies from the ruins in the center of the intersection.

That night, the phone rang in a suburban household. A girl walked down the stairs slowly. She appeared to be about seventeen. The ringing of the phone ceased when she picked up the receiver.

Girl: "H-Hello...?"

She was rubbing her eyes to wipe away the sleepiness that had come over her.

There was a man on the other line. His voice was deep, but difficult to hear because of the commotion that was in the background.

Man: "Are you the daughter of a Mr. and Mrs. Yamaguchi?"

Girl: "Yes, those are my parents."

Man: "I am Sergeant Takahashi of the Tokyo Police Department. I called because there has been a terrible accident involving your parents."

Girl: "What! Are they all right? What happened?"

Man: "According to witnesses that we interviewed, your parents were in their car when a highly intoxicated man swerved around the corner which triggered a collision. The drunk driver had already escaped by the time the paramedics and police arrived."

Girl: "Oh my God... what happened to my parents?"

She said as her voice trembled with fear of what she was about to hear.

Man: "Your parents were..."

He was reluctant to finish his sentence. The anxiety built within the girl.

Man: "They were... killed instantly. I'm really sorry to have to tell you this."

The words processed in her brain and she felt an enormous pressure against her chest as if a large weight had come down crushing the life out of her. Every fiber of her being grew weak. She unclenched the grip she held over the phone. It fell in, what seemed to be, slow motion and hit the floor hard.

Girl: "NOOO!! Mom... Dad..."

She wept hysterically on the wooden floor of her living room.

A week later, she and her aunt attended the funeral of her beloved parents. The girl had never seen sunshine ever since that night. It was as if a dark cloud had been pulled over her world. The caskets were aboveground and pictures of her mother and father were placed on top of them with flowers arranged around them. All the people attending had tears streaming from their eyes. The girl sat in a chair staring at the coffins. Tears rolled down her cheeks non-stop. The priest delivered a sermon in remembrance of the girl's parents and as the people began to leave, they paid their respects to the mother and father and gave their condolences to the girl. She continued to stare at the pictures of her parents when the rain began to fall. Her aunt touched her shoulder gently.

Aunt: "Come on, let's go."

The girl nodded and looked at the grave one last time as the coffins were lowered into the ground. She

followed her aunt towards the car. The girl's aunt put her arm around the girl's shoulder. Her aunt held her close under the umbrella to shade her from the rain. They got in the car and drove off. The girl's stare was fixated on the raindrops sliding down the car window.

They finally arrived at the house after what seemed to be an endless ride. The girl walked in alone ahead of her aunt with her head pointing down towards the flooded pathway that led towards the front of the house. She walked slowly up the stairs and when her aunt walked in, she placed the car keys on the side table and watched as the girl solemnly walked into her room. The door shut and the aunt let out a sad sigh. The girl fell to the floor and yelled at the top of her lungs.

Girl: "WHY GOD?! Why did you take them? Now what am I supposed to do huh?! Answer me that! What am I supposed to do...help me..."

Her plea was cut short by the ever-rushing sobs coming from deep within her.

Through the clouds in the heavens, a man in a white robe examines the circumstances. He watched the girl cry and he felt the pain that was in her heart in his own. He called in his secretary.

Man: "Would you send Sam in here please."

Secretary: "Of course sir."

The large double doors creaked as a young man entered. He looked as if he were about the same age as the girl as he slowly came into view. He wore a white suit with white shoes and as he walked closer to the man, his spiky brown hair, slightly pushed forward, gleamed in the divine light of the room. His eyes twinkled with an innocent, blue brilliance.

Boy: "You wanted to see me sir?"

Man: "Sam, come here and tell me what you see."

The man pointed toward a wall that took the shape of a feathery cloud. Sam walked over and peered into the cloud wall where there was the sight of a girl crying on her bedroom floor.

Sam: "I see a girl crying...what happened to her?"

Man: "Her parents lost their lives in a car accident. She is lost right now, Sam. I need you to help her. She could use your guidance."

Sam nodded in concurrence to the man's suggestion.

Sam: "Yes, of course sir."

Man: "Go now."

Sam left the office and transported to the house. Sitting in a tree close to the girl's room, he peered through the window and saw the grief-stricken girl.

Sam: "Aww....It pains me to see people like this."

He disappeared and materialized inside the room. He put his arms around the girl and embraced her tenderly.

Sam: "It'll be ok. Don't cry."

Realizing a strange person had suddenly placed his arms around her, the girl's eyes enlarged and she let out a piercing shriek.

Sam fell over as the girl jumped to her feet and stepped away from him.

Girl: "Who...who are you?"

Her stuttering was generated by panic.

Sam stood up and brushed himself off. The girl continued to stare at him with her hand on her mouth, still in shock.

Sam walked closer to her and smiled.

Sam: "I'm Sam, your guardian angel."

Girl: "My...what?"

Sam: "Your guardian angel. I'm here to help you."

Girl: "My...my guardian...angel?"

Sam nodded. The girl crossed her arms and her words unexpectedly seemed to be filled with pride more than fear.

Girl: "I don't need your help. I can get by on my own, thank you very much."

Sam: "Oh, then when you said, 'What am I supposed to do, help me', I suppose you were just blabbering random words right?"

Girl: "You...heard that?"

Sam: "Yes Megan, I heard that."

Megan: "How do you-"

Sam: "Know your name? I'm your guardian angel, remember. I know everything about you."

Megan: "Well even if you are my guardian angel, I still don't need your help. I was just saying things to cope with my loss. That's all."

Sam's eyebrow rose with disbelief upon hearing what Megan said.

Sam: "Really... "

Megan: "Yes, really."

Sam: "Well if that's the case then I'll leave."

Megan: "Sorry to have wasted your time, Sam."

Sam: "Ok then, I'm leaving."

Megan: "Ok good-bye."

Sam: "I'm going now. Sure you don't need anything?"

Megan: "Yes Sam, I'm sure. You can leave now."

Sam: "If you need me don't hesitate to call."

Megan: "I won't Sam. Good-bye!"

The resonance of her voice was portrayed by annoyance.

Megan's aunt had heard the scream from before and she now heard Megan talking to someone. She walked up the stairs briskly and opened the bedroom door.

Aunt: "Megan, are you all right what happened? Who were you talking to?"

Megan: "Oh, nothing major happened. I was just talking to Sam."

Her aunt was confused when she looked around the room because she didn't see any other being besides herself and Megan.

Aunt: "And Sam is...?"

Megan: "My guardian angel."

Megan expressed her remark nonchalantly, expecting her aunt to know exactly what she was talking about.

Aunt: "Your... guardian angel?"

She replied doubtfully.

Megan: "Yea, he's right over-"

She turned around only to reveal an empty space where Sam had been standing.

Aunt: "Who now?"

Megan glanced around the room searching frantically for the boy that had been in her room just recently.

Megan: "He was here a minute ago! I swear!"

She began to search her entire room. She looked under her bed, behind the curtains, and in her closet. Her search ended without success.

Megan: "Where did he go?!"

Her aunt looked at her with a bit of apprehension. She felt Megan's forehead as if Megan had caught some sort of illness or was overstressed.

Aunt: "Sweetie, you're a little warm, maybe you should rest for a bit. It's been a hard day for you."

Megan was exhausted from her frantic search so she decided to regain her strength.

Megan: "I think it'll be good to take a nap for a little while."

She got into bed and pulled the covers over herself. Her aunt sat next to her and kissed her on the forehead.

Aunt: "Get some rest, honey."

Megan smiled. Her aunt exited the room and shut the door. When the hinges stopped moving and the knob was undisturbed, Megan turned to lie on her back and placed her arm underneath her head. As she lay there staring at the ceiling, she began thinking about the commotion that occurred earlier.

Megan: "Pft... If Sam is supposed to help me, why did he make it look like I was crazy in front of my aunt?"

Suddenly a voice came from the other side of the room.

Sam: "Did you call?"

He was sitting on top of Megan's tall clothes dresser looking down at her with an optimistic, chaste smile upon his face. Megan sat up and peered through the darkness towards the direction of the voice.

Megan: "Sam! No I did not call you!"

Sam: "Well I heard, 'Sam', and 'help me' in the same sentence so I just figured you needed me."

Megan: "I don't need you. I said, 'If Sam is supposed to help me, why did he make it look like I was crazy in front of my aunt?'"

Sam: "Oh, well then, do you still need my help?"

Megan: "No! Now go away, I'm trying to sleep."

Sam: "Fine then, feel free to call anytime!"

He gave his usual upbeat grin.

Megan: "Alright! Bye now!"

Sam raised his hand and gave a slight 'see you' type wave along with a flirtatious wink.

Megan sighed. She readjusted herself in her bed to make herself comfortable. When she closed her eyes, she fell asleep almost immediately because of fatigue and began to dream. A vision of her parents the night of the accident appeared. They were dressed very elegantly, as is the dress code in order for them to attend a company party of her father's.

Mother: "Now Megan, be sure to go to bed on time."

Megan: "I will, Mom."

Father: "Not too late, we wouldn't want you to be asleep all day tomorrow. We're going to the lake bright and early."

Megan: "Yes Dad. You two have fun now!"

She smiled and they each gave her a kiss on both sides of her cheeks. She knew she was loved and was very grateful for having such adoring parents.

Father and Mother: "Bye Megan! We love you!"

Megan: "Love you too! Bye!"

Megan waved and shut the door, locking the dead bolt behind them.

Then the scene changed. It was an image of her mother and father in their car. They were laughing and her father was behind the wheel. A car swerved around the corner and collided with her parents' car. Megan was tossing and turning in her bed because of this horrible event that was playing out in her dream.

She mumbled, "Mom, Dad, no, NO!" Her screams became louder, "MOM! DAD! NO!"

She was awakened by the shock in a cold sweat and she was breathing vigorously. She needed comfort and for some reason the first person she called to was Sam.

Megan: "Sam, SAM! Where are you? I need you!"

Sam appeared instantly upon hearing Megan's call.

Sam: "Yes, you rang?"

He saw her breathing hard as the perspiration fell from her forehead. Seeing Megan like this, the tone of his voice went from cheerful to sympathetic.

Sam: "Aww, what's the matter, what is it?"

He walked over to the bed and sat next to her. Megan began to weep. She remained silent.

Sam: "Come on, you can tell me.

Megan looked over to Sam and with that charming persona that he had, she felt safe telling him.

Megan: "I-I had a nightmare."

Sam: "What of?"

Megan: "My parents, I saw them, I saw the accident. It was so horrible."

She buried her head in Sam's chest and held him tight. Sam was surprised because not too long ago she seemed irritated by his presence. He wrapped his arms around her, hoping to make her feel safe.

Sam: "It's ok. Everything is ok now. I'm here with you so don't worry."
He said in a quiet voice. Megan's head was still burrowed in his suit jacket.

Megan: "Sam, don't leave. Please stay with me, at least until I fall asleep."

Sam: "Sure, of course I'll stay. I'll always be with you."

Megan: "Thank...you..."

She drifted asleep in his arms. Sam smiled and gently kissed her on her head.

Sam: "Good night Megan. Sleep well."

He softly placed her head on the pillow and draped the covers back over her body.

He disappeared.

2 - Healing Requires Work

Sam returns to the heavens. He goes to his boss's office and knocks on the large, white double doors.

Boss: "Come in."

Sam walks in.

Boss: "Ah, Sam, back so soon?"

Sam: "Yes, she fell asleep because she was really worn out. I feel something for her tragic loss. A feeling...that's somewhat new to me."

Boss: "That is only because you have never had a case like hers before. You're still a little new to this guardian angel job. Trust me, you'll get used to it."

Sam: "Yes sir."

The boss brings up an image on the cloud wall of the girl resting peacefully. Sam walks over to join the boss in watching the pleasant scene. Sam smiles. Megan is sleeping in such tranquility. The boss sees Sam slightly smiling. It makes him grin as well.

Sam: "What a calming sight, huh?"

Boss: "Yes, it is. It gives you a wonderful feeling to know you did that. Am I correct?"

Sam: "Yes, it touches my heart."

Megan begins to toss and turn once more. Sam gasps.

Boss: "Well, it seems like she is dreaming again. Why don't you go down there and see if everything is all right. Besides, it might do her good to see a friendly face the moment she wakes up."

Sam nods and disappears. The boss peers through the wall as Sam reappears in the room and pulls up a chair right next to Megan's bed. He watches her and places his hand on her head. Megan opens her eyes gradually and groans. The Boss smiles and sends the cloud away.

Megan: "Hunh...uh...Sa...Sam?"

Sam: "I'm here, don't worry."

Megan: "What time is it?"

Sam: "Close to sunrise, I believe."

Megan: "Have you been there all night?"

Sam: "Not necessarily."

Megan: "Oh."

Megan's aunt has all ready awakened. She comes to the door and knocks. Sam watches the door open.

Aunt: "Morning sweetie, did you sleep well?"

Megan: "More or less."

Aunt: "That's good. Want some breakfast?"

Megan: "Yes please."

Aunt: "What would you like?"

Megan: "Umm..."

Sam is still in the chair. He whispers to Megan.

Sam: "Chocolate chip pancakes!"

Megan: *turns to him* "Shhh..."

Her aunt gives a funny look.

Aunt: "What?"

Megan: "Huh? Oh, nothing. May I have some chocolate chip pancakes please?"

Sam: *cheerfully* "Yes!"

Aunt: "Sure."

Her aunt leaves the room and Sam turns back around to face Megan.

Megan: "Is she not able to see you?"

Sam: "Nope. You're the only one."

Megan: "Why is that?"

Sam: "Well, I am only YOUR guardian angel. So only YOU can see me."

Megan: "Oh, I see."

Megan looks out the window to see the beautiful sun shine throughout the clear blue sky. She sees a mother and father bird with a baby bird inside a nest. She sighs.

Sam: "What is it?"

Megan: "I guess I'm still not used to being without my parents yet. Although, I do feel this sort of...emptiness in my heart. I know something is missing."

Sam puts his hand on hers. She looks up into his bright glistening eyes. It sends a sense of warmth and care deep down inside the soul of her body.

Sam: "I know it's hard to get over it. That's what we have to try to do, together." *he smiles*

Megan returns the smile.

Megan: "Thank you, Sam."

Her aunt calls from the kitchen.

Aunt: "Megan, breakfast is ready!"

Megan: "Coming!"

She slips her slippers on and exits the room. Sam follows. Megan walks into the kitchen after going down the stairs. Sam slides down the rail. He reaches the floor but slips on the rug at the bottom.

Sam: "OW!"

Megan turns around and sees Sam on the floor. She laughs when she sees the smiling Sam on the ground.

Aunt: "Honey, are you sure you're all right?"

Megan: *looking at Sam* "Yeah...I'm sure."

She goes to the table and sits down. Her aunt has practically prepared a feast of breakfast foods. Megan is amazed.

Megan: "WOW! Thank you! It all looks so good!"

Sam joins her at the table. Megan begins to pile things on her plate. Sam reaches for a grape on her plate, but Megan smacks his hand away.

Sam: "Ow! Aww...you're so cold."

He whimpers and pulls his hand away. A few minutes later, he tries it again. Megan slaps him away once more.

Megan: "Stop that!"

Aunt: *looks up from her plate* "Stop what?"

Megan: "Oh, uh not you. I was talking to..."

Aunt: "To who?"

Megan: "Uh...never mind."

Sam: *whispering* "Heh, I bet she thinks you're nuts."

Megan gives him the look of death.

Sam: *stops smiling and gulps*"Sorry, sorry. Sheesh, so sensitive."

Megan continues eating. After breakfast, Megan helps her aunt clean the dishes.

Aunt: "Megan, why don't you go take a bath. It might help you feel better."

Megan: "O.k."

She goes back upstairs and grabs a towel from the linen closet. Sam tags along. She walks to the bathroom and Sam walks in too.

Megan: "Excuse you!"

She pushes him out.

Megan: "And if I catch you in here, I'm gonna make sure you'll never walk again!"

Sam: "Why, I promise I will not invade your privacy. I am an innocent little angel after all." *he smiles and a halo appears above his head*

Megan grunts and slams the door in his face.

Sam: "How rude."

He sits on the floor and leans against the door with his legs in Indian style and his arms crossed. A few minutes later, he hears Megan singing. He presses his ear against the door. Her voice is heavenly and soothing. Sam smiles. About an hour later, Sam grows restless. He looks at his watch and moans.

Sam: "Gosh, what's taking her so long?!"

He bangs on the door.

Sam: *in a whiny voice* "Are you done yet?"

Megan: "Almost! Don't get your panties in a bunch."

Sam: "What? I don't wear...panties. Yuck."

Megan: *holds in a laugh* "What a dork." *she thought*

She opens the door and Sam falls back. He is looking up at her from the ground.

Sam: "It's about time your majesty. You were spending an eternity in there! What is it with girls and mirrors?"

He gets up.

Megan: "Pssh..."

She walks past him and goes to her room. Her aunt calls from downstairs.

Aunt: "Megan, I'm off to work. I'll see you when I get home o.k.?"

Megan: *yelling back* "O.k. Bye!"

Her aunt leaves. Sam is sitting in a chair at Megan's desk looking at the pictures on display. He picks one up. A man, a woman, and a little girl are in the picture.

Sam: "Are these your parents?"

Megan: *turns around to face Sam and looks at the picture* "Oh, yeah." *she walks over and takes the picture in her hands. She looks at it* "That's Dad's boat. He loved that thing so much. My mom didn't like it at first, she said it was too expensive, but she grew to love it in time. I was practically raised on that thing from being on it so much..."

Sam looks at her. A tear begins to develop in her eye.

Megan: "Oh, I'm sorry, this must be boring to you."

Sam gets up from the chair and walks over to her. He wipes the tear from her eye.

Sam: *in a gentle voice* "No, it's not boring to me at all. I enjoyed it."

Megan: *smiles* "Heh." *she sniffles* "Sam, what about your parents, what are they like?"

Sam turns and walks towards the window. The birds are still in their nest.

Megan: "Sam?"

Sam: "I...never knew my parents actually. I was an orphan."

Megan: "That's so sad..."

Sam: "I spent my whole life looking for them, unfortunately without success I'm afraid."

Megan: "Sam, how did you die, if you don't mind me asking?"

Sam walks over to the bed and sits on the edge of it. He clasps his hands together and stares at the floor. Megan sits next to him and looks at the sadness that has befallen his cheerful face.

Sam: **quietly** "One day, I was walking around town searching for clues about my parents. I felt weak and collapsed. A Good Samaritan called an ambulance and I woke up later in a hospital bed. That Good Samaritan was sitting next to me, waiting for me to wake. The woman called the doctor in to inform him of my consciousness. He pulled her outside for a brief moment. He updated her on my wellbeing. I saw her through the window of the door. Sadness overcame her. She came back in and told me what the problem was. Apparently I had a severe case of leukemia and had it have been found prior to this incident, they could have treated me. The woman cried despite the fact that we had only met a few hours before. I never gave up hope that I'd find my parents. She was the closest thing I ever had to one. I got out of my bed and embraced her. I felt a certain closeness to her. I told her everything would be all right. I tried to comfort her. She asked me where my parents were. I told her I was an orphan and had no parents. This gave her more sympathy towards me. She let me stay in her house. Unfortunately, about three months later, I fell severely ill and died. That was about two years ago."

He looked over to Megan who had a sad complexion. Megan began to cry. She wrapped her arms around him. Sam returned the embrace.

Megan: **in a quiet voice** "Sam..."

Sam: "Yes..."

Megan: "I'll find your parents for you..."

Sam holds her tighter.

3 - Work Equals Play

It's a beautiful Monday morning. The sun is shining, the birds are chirping and Megan is still in bed. This day is also Megan's first day back to school since the death of her parents. Her alarm clock rings at 6:00 AM. She slaps her hand around her nightstand and eventually hits the snooze button. Sam appears. He sees that Megan is still in bed. He walks over to the window and opens up the curtains.

Sam: "Rise and shine milady! It's a wonderful day for school! You need an education ya know."

Megan opens one eye. She looks at Sam and groans. She pulls the covers over her head because her tired eyes are sensitive to the bright sunshine. Sam sighs.

Sam: "Must we do this the hard way?"

Megan doesn't budge.

Sam: "Very well then."

He walks over to the bed and pulls the covers off her. She whines and curls up into a ball, placing her pillow over her head. Sam shakes her to try to get her up. She still doesn't move.

Sam: "That's it, you asked for it."

He grabs her legs and pulls her out of bed, causing her to fall to the floor. She sits there with her messy hair covering her face. Her arms are crossed. She looks angrily at Sam. Sam smiles innocently.

Sam: "Morning Sunshine!"

Megan doesn't respond. Instead she gets up, walks right past him, and goes downstairs.

Sam: "Pff, fine, don't say good morning. I see how it is."

Megan has her back to him.

Sam: **thinking to himself** "She must not be much of a morning person."

He shrugs and follows her downstairs. Megan goes in to the kitchen and sees a wonderfully prepared breakfast. Sam enters soon afterward.

Sam: **smiling** "I made breakfast!"

He raises his hands with joy. Megan thinks to herself: "I hope it's all edible." She sits down and Sam pours some orange juice into her glass. Megan nods in approval, or thanks, Sam couldn't tell but he accepted anyway.

Sam: "Uh, Megan what time does school start?"

Megan swallows what's in her mouth and takes a sip of orange juice.

Megan: "7:15, why?"

Sam: *nervously* "Umm...it's all ready 7:05."

Megan: *goes wide eyed* "Oh no!"

She gets up and runs to her room to get dressed as fast as possible. When she is done she searches frantically for her school bag. Sam watches her and points to a corner of her room. Her eyes follow to where his finger was pointing, her bag was there. She quickly grabs it and bolts downstairs out the door. Sam tries to keep up with her. He is breathing hard because he apparently is out of shape. Megan arrives just as the late bell rings. She walks into her class.

Teacher: "Ah, Miss Yamaguchi, so glad you're back! Please, take your seat."

Megan nods and walks to a seat in the back. Whispers are heard as she walks down the aisles to get to her seat. Sam comes in gasping for air shortly after Megan sits down. Megan looks around to see if anyone noticed him. No one did of course. This reassured her. Sam joins her in the back. The teacher is lecturing.

Teacher: "Now, WWII began in 1939..."

Sam gets bored and begins to tap on the desk.

Megan: *whispers* "Stop that!"

Sam looks up at her and stops. A little later, Sam begins to make popping noises with his mouth. Megan glares at him. He stops. She looks away. He starts to do it again.

Megan: "STOP IT!" she said out loud.

All the kids in class turned around and looked at her.

Teacher: "Excuse me Miss Yamaguchi?"

Megan: "Nothing sir, please by all means continue."

She laughs nervously and smiles as if nothing has happened. The teacher starts to talk again. Two kids are whispering to each other and looking back at Megan.

Girl: "Her parents were killed in a car accident about two weeks ago. It must be so hard for her."

Boy: "Yeah, it must have made her crazy too. Look, she's talking to that empty desk."

Megan: "Sam, stop bothering me. You're making it seem like I'm insane!"

Sam: "Not that you don't all ready seem insane."

Megan: "What?!"

Sam: "Nothing, sorry I'll stop, I promise."

He smiles and Megan looks at him suspiciously. Sam motions her to pay attention to the lecture. She turns away. About an hour later the lunch bell rings. Sam had fallen asleep during the class. He hears the ringing and wakes up with a jolt. He was drooling and he wiped away the saliva that had developed by his mouth. Megan is standing next to him. He smiles. She rolls her eyes and walks away.

Sam: *in a whiny but curious voice* "Whaaaat?"

He gets up and follows. Megan goes out to the courtyard and joins her friends at a table. Sam pulls up a chair and listens to the girls chat.

Megan: "Hey guys! How have you been?"

Kristy: "US? How have YOU been?"

Megan: "I'm fine, I guess. I mean it's hard, but I know my parents would want me to be happy no matter what."

Pricilla: "Well you know we're always here for you. You can talk to us about anything."

Megan: "Thanks guys."

She takes out her lunch from a bag in her backpack. She takes a bite of her sandwich.

Megan: "So, what's been happening in school as of late? Notice any cute guys lately?"

Sam leans in interested-like. He thinks to himself: "Oooo, now the juicy girl talk!"

Kristy: "Well, there is this new guy. His name is Julian. He's in class 1-B. He's so hot!"

Pricilla: "Yeah, every girl thinks so."

Megan: "Ooo, I'm gonna have to meet this 'Julian'."

Kristy: "Speaking of, there he is over there." *she points*

Pricilla: "Oh my gosh, he's coming over here! Quick act like I said something funny."

They all laugh for no reason, going along with Pricilla's plan.

Julian: "Good afternoon ladies. What's so funny?"

Kristy: "It's nothing." *she gradually stops laughing* " Oh hey Julian, this is our friend Megan."

Julian looks at Megan and smiles. He takes her hand and gently kisses it.

Julian: "It's a pleasure to meet you Megan."

He smiles and Megan blushes. One of his friends motions him to come over. He holds up his index finger to indicate that he will be there in one minute.

Julian: "Well, it was fantastic seeing you again girls...hey what are you guys doing Friday night, have any plans?"

Megan: *stutters* "Uh...n...no... we have nothing planned."

Julian: "Great! One of my friends is having a party. I would like for you three to come. I promise it'll be fun."

Girls: "Sure, we'd love to go!"

Julian: *smiles* "Good! I'll see you later then."

He winks at Megan and walks over to his friend.

Kristy: "Oh my God! He's so hot!"

Pricilla: "I can't believe he actually invited us! I mean that is so incredibly awesome!"

Megan: "Yeah, I can't wait to see him again. You guys are right, he is cute!"

Sam sits in the chair with his arms crossed. He is staring at Julian laughing with his friends.

Sam: "Pff...what does he have that I don't? Hmph." *he pouts*

The bell rings to signify the end of lunch. The three girls walk to their classes and Sam walks behind them with his arms still crossed and looking at the ground. The girls go their separate ways. Megan goes into her classroom. She sits in her seat and Sam plops himself in the desk behind her. Just then an obese boy comes in. He walks right to the desk behind Megan and sits on Sam, thinking the desk is empty.

Sam: "AHHH! I'M GETTING CRUSHED!!"

He is gasping for air. He disappears and reappears next to Megan. He is breathing really hard. He looks over to the boy in the desk.

Sam: "Stupid Shamu."

Megan laughs. The boy gives her a funny look. She stops, although, she does giggle under her breath and mouths the words, "I'm sorry." to Sam. Sam nods his head in annoyance and sarcasm. After school, Sam and Megan are walking home.

Sam: "Can I ask you a question?"

Megan: "Yeah, go ahead, ask away."

Sam: "Are you really gonna go to that guy's party on Friday?"

Megan: "Why?"

Sam: "I don't know I just get a bad feeling about that guy."

Megan: "What feeling? What is it?"

Sam: "I don't know...something just doesn't...seem right..." *he looks down*

Megan: *stops walking* " Aww...is someone jealous?"

Sam: *looks at her* " No! Why would I be jealous of THAT guy? He's nothing special..."

Megan: "I think you're jealous. Aww...poor little Sammy is jealous!" *she says in a mocking voice*

Sam: "Fine, don't believe your guardian angel. See if I care." *he takes a step forward*

Megan: *sees the serious look on his face and moves next to him* "Don't worry, I'll be all right. I know how to handle myself."

Sam: "I hope so..."

Megan: "Tell ya what, you can come with me to make sure everything's legit. Deal?"

Sam: "Even if you said I couldn't go I still would anyway." *he smiles*

Megan: "I know." *she laughs*

They walk home together, side by side as if they had known each other for years. They continuously have a smile upon their radiant faces.

4 - Play Has Consequences

It was now the Friday of Julian's party. Megan, Kristy, and Pricilla are at the local mall shopping for the proper attire for this occasion. Sam walks around with them, unknowingly to Megan's two friends. They walk into a shop entitled "Hot Fashions." Sam reads the sign as Megan and the others walk in.

Sam: *sigh* "Great, more girly stuff."

He catches up to Megan who is skimming through the sales rack. She holds up a baby blue blouse and a short black skirt. She shows it to her friends.

Megan: "Hey guys, how about this?"

Kristy: "Oh my gosh, that's so cute!"

Sam: "Eww! Megan, isn't that a little...revealing?"

Megan looks over to Sam. She motions him to be quiet.

Sam: "But...fine...."

Pricilla: "You should totally buy that outfit Meg. You'll blow Julian's mind."

She laughs.

Megan: *looking at the outfit in the mirror* "You really think so?"

Sam shakes his head "no" as Kristy and Pricilla nod "yes" in unison.

Megan: "It's settled then. I'll buy it."

They walk over to the cashier and buys the clothes. Megan's bill comes out to \$80.73. Sam's jaw drops and his eyes practically fall out of their sockets. He faints slightly.

Sam: "Sheesh! 80 bucks just for a skimpy little piece of cloth that's barely eligible to be classified as a shirt and a skirt that wouldn't even be long on a three-year old! What has this world come to?!"

He becomes dramatic.

Later, Megan, Kristy, and Pricilla go their separate ways. Megan and Sam are walking back home. Megan has a big grin on her face as Sam has a worried look on his face.

Megan: "I'm so excited! I can't wait until tonight!"

She is so happy that she can barely contain herself. She finally notices the expression that Sam has. Her happy meter drops a few points.

Megan: "Sam, what's the matter?"

Sam: "Oh...nothing, nothing. Everything is just peachy!" He says sarcastically.

Megan: "Sam, seriously, what's wrong?"

Sam: "I don't like that Julian guy, and that outfit you bought doesn't help the situation."

Megan stops walking. Sam's legs pause shortly after.

Megan: "Come on Sam, he has never given you a reason not to trust him so what's the big deal?"

Sam: *looks at Megan* "I just have a feeling..."

Megan: "Sam, a feeling isn't much of an incentive to act upon. There's no evidence that he's a bad guy, so just listen to me when I say you have nothing to worry about."

Sam: "A feeling is plenty a reason to act upon something. I have kind of ... an angel's sixth sense, if you will. I know people, and trust ME when I say he's not a good guy. Don't trust every guy who acts like a gentleman and kisses your hand upon meeting you."

Megan: "Sam, I'm not naïve! I know what I'm doing so stop trying to run my life for me!"

Sam: "Fine..."

He disappears.

Megan grunts in frustration. She storms home. She opens the door to her room and slams it shut after entering. She throws her shopping bags on her bed and looks into her mirror.

Megan: "He certainly does know how to kill a moment."

She begins to get dressed. While she prepared she kept thinking about nothing else but Sam. She didn't understand why she did, she just...did.

Later, the door bell rings. Pricilla and Kristy are standing there all jazzed up for the little get-together that Julian had invited them to.

Kristy: "Wow Meg! You look so great!"

Pricilla: "Yeah girl! You look awesome!"

Megan: *smiles* "Heh thanks! So do you guys!"

Pricilla: "We're gonna take my car."

Megan: "All right."

Kristy: "Come on let's go. Let's not keep Julian waiting." She says while grinning.

They get into Pricilla's car and drive to the party. When they arrive a lot of cars have been parked in the drive way, the street, and even on the lawn. The bass of the music vibrates the ground so that the people standing are able to feel it in their feet. The three girls walk in and look for Julian. So many people had shown up, flooding the halls of the house. It was nearly impossible to move. The girls walk past all the partying people. Then they turn to their right and see Julian on the other end of the room. He smiles, nods, and waves. They walk over to him.

Julian: "Hey! So glad you guys could make it!"

Kristy: "Wow! This party is so cool Julian! There are so many people here!"

Julian: "Yeah, I don't even think my friend knows most of them."

He shrugs. Pricilla and Kristy flirtatiously giggle. Megan smiles a little. She felt a deep concern for the whereabouts of Sam. She hadn't seen him since that afternoon. Julian turns his attention to Megan. He smiles.

Julian: "Wow Megan, you look fantastic tonight!"

Megan: "Oh, heh. Thanks. So do you!"

Kristy and Pricilla see them "bonding."

Kristy: "Well, we're gonna go get something to drink. Would you guys like anything?"

Megan: "No thanks. I'm fine."

Julian raises his cup to show that he was all set on the drink situation. The two girls smile and then they go to get their drinks. Julian sees the solemn look on Megan's face.

Julian: "Megan, what's the matter? Are you not enjoying the party?"

Megan: "I'm enjoying myself very much. There's nothing really the matter with me. I'm all right."

Julian: "Why do I get the strangest feeling that you're not telling the truth?"

Megan: *shrugs* "I'm telling the truth so I honestly don't know why you would have that feeling."

She laughs slightly.

Julian: "Nope. I still don't believe you. Very well then, *he puts down his cup* let's go some place quiet

so we can talk.”

He holds out his hand.

Megan: “All right.”

She takes his hand and they walk upstairs to a vacant room. Julian shuts the door as Megan sits on the bed. He joins her.

Julian: “So, what’s on your mind?”

Megan looks to the floor in silence with worry taking place as her dominant emotion.

Julian: **in a quiet voice** “Come on, you can tell me. The only way to solve your problems is to talk about them.”

Megan: **sigh** “Have you ever been so mad that the anger you have inflicts pain and sorrow onto another person that you deeply care about?”

Julian: “Well, we all get angry. So did you get in a quarrel with your boyfriend?”

Megan: “Oh, no. I don’t have a boyfriend.”

Julian becomes interested.

Megan: “This person is just a really close friend and I’m afraid that I hurt his feelings.”

Julian: “Why would you say that?”

Megan: “Because ever since we fought this afternoon, he just never came back.”

Julian: “Don’t worry. I’m sure he’ll come back. It would just be dumb to not want to be close to a girl like you.”

He moves closer.

Megan: “It’s just...now I feel awful about this whole thing. I know it’s my fault.”

Julian: **in a seducing manner** “Well, I know a way to make you feel better...”

He moves in close and begins to kiss Megan’s neck. She goes wide-eyed and pushed him off.

Megan: “What are you doing?!”

She gets off the bed.

Julian: "Come on, you know you've wanted it from the beginning. Making up a story like that to get my attention, well baby, you got it!"

Megan: *smacks him right across the face* "You stupid jerk!"

She storms out of the room and finds Kristy and Pricilla. Megan had tears flowing down her cheeks.

Kristy: "Megan, what happened?"

Megan: "I want to go home! I've had enough of this stupid party!"

Pricilla: "Ok, ok calm down. We'll go now."

They go to Pricilla's car and drive away. Megan was quiet through the entire car ride home. She stares out the window. They arrive at Megan's house.

Megan: "Thanks guys..."

She shuts the door and goes into the house to her room. She flops herself on her bed and breaks into a sob.

Megan: "Why am I so stubborn that I don't listen to Sam? Where is he now? I miss him..."

Her face is buried in her pillow and she mumbles some more words. Sam appears. He hears her saying his name repetitively as she cries into her pillow. He walks over to her and rests his hand on her shoulder. She gets up and sees his angelic figure. It makes her smile. She gets off the bed and hugs him. Sam rubs his hand up and down her back in a calming motion.

Megan: "I'm so sorry Sam. I should have listened to you."

Sam stays quiet.

Megan removes her head from being buried in his chest. She looks into his eyes. They seem to calm her. They have the appearance of a tranquil ocean. Sam smiles. He hugs her tighter and Megan accepts the embrace.

Sam: "I guess this is a bad time to say 'I told you so?'"

Megan: *laughs slightly* "Wow, you do know how to ruin a moment."

They continue to hold each other.

Sam: "Come on, let's get you to bed."

Megan nods. Sam goes down stairs to make a nice, hot cup of tea to calm her nerves as she gets dressed into her pajamas. He returns upstairs and gives the tea to her.

Megan: "Thanks."

She takes the tea and begins to drink it. Sam stayed by her side throughout the entire night.

5 - Consequences Build Strength

Megan is lying on her bed staring at her ceiling. The day after the incident with Julian, she was determined more than ever to find Sam's parents. She kept thinking of her promise to Sam and how she denied his advice. She gets off her bed and walks to her computer. She begins her search on the internet.

Megan: "Hmm...let's see..."

She types things into the search database.

Megan: "Location is Tokyo, Japan. Year that the child was found is 1989. Name of the child is Sam...umm...Sam... Hmm... what is his last name?"

She thinks a little while. She eventually remembers that Sam never told her his last name.

Megan: "Sam! Sam where are you?"

Sam appears.

Sam: "Yes your highness, what may I assist you with on this fine afternoon?"

He is bowing as he speaks.

Megan: "Heh...cute..."

She says sarcastically. Sam smiles sweetly.

Megan: "No, but seriously, what's your last name?"

Sam looks at her suspiciously. He raises his brow.

Sam: "Why...you're not doing anything illegal or voodoo or something like that?"

Megan: "No, not anything like that. I need it because I'm searching for your parents and I need to insert the child's last name."

Sam: "Oh, well if that's the case then my last name is...umm..."

He looks as if he were in deep thought. Megan rolls her eyes and sighs. Ten minutes later...

Sam: *jumps up from the bed* "I got it!"

Megan: "It's about time."

Sam: "I don't have one!"

He has a big goofy grin on his face. Megan falls over.

Megan: "What do you mean you don't have one?"

Sam: "Well, technically I have one, but it's not my real one. It's the one that the woman I lived with had. She never knew my last name and neither did I so I just used her name."

Megan: "Sam, did this woman have any children of her own?"

Sam: "She told me my smile reminded her of a child she once had. I think that's why she let me stay with her. The child she had apparently was taken from her so when she received word of my homelessness she did all she could to provide me with the life she couldn't for her other child."

Megan begins to think. She drew a conclusion in her head.

Megan: "Sam, what was the woman's last name?"

Sam: "Kawamaru."

Megan types "Kawamaru" in the space provided. A web page appears. It has the name of an orphanage that apparently had information on a Jodi Kawamaru.

Megan: "Ah hah! Eureka!"

Sam looks confused.

Sam: "What? Is that a good thing?"

Megan: "That's a very good thing!"

Sam: "Oh, ok. YAY then."

Megan: "Sam, do you know what any of this means?"

Sam: "I'm still trying to figure out what 'eureka' means."

Megan: "Ugh, this means that the woman you lived with gave up a child."

Sam: "Yeah, I just said that."

Megan: "It means that there's a possibility that her child didn't die."

Sam: "Uh huh. What are you getting at?"

Megan: "That woman's child may be you!"

Sam's expression goes blank.

Sam: "Wh...what? You mean I had been living with MY own mother all that time without knowing?"

Megan: "I'm saying that there's a possibility."

Sam sits on the bed with a dazed look.

Megan: "Come on, let's go to this orphanage and see what we can dig up."

Megan grabs her coat and removes the paper from the printer containing the information about Sam's theoretical mother. She goes out the door and Sam follows. They go into the business part of town where the orphanage was located. They look all around for the address listed on the paper. Megan asks for directions from a person on the street.

Megan: "Excuse me sir, do you know where I can find this address?"

He points across the street to reveal a dingy, old building. From the looks of it, it had been out of use for many years. Megan walks up to it. She peers through a window but is unable to see anything through the glass because of its dull appearance.

Megan: "No! This can't be the right address. It just can't be..."

Sam: "Well, we took a shot and we could only hope for the best. It's ok, really."

Megan: "But I made you a promise Sam."

Sam: "It's fine, don't worry about it."

Sam puts his arm around her shoulder and they begin to walk away. Sam looks down at Megan and sees how sad she had become. Sam tilted her head up to face his. He pulls back some hair that fell over her eyes and puts it behind her ear. He smiles. A faint smile emerges on her face.

Sam: "Aww, why the long face?"

Megan: "It's just, I know there is more I can do. I will find them Sam. I made a promise and I intend to keep it."

Sam: "Wow, such determination. Ok, you just keep trying then. I know if you set your mind to something it's hard and pointless to convince you otherwise."

Megan: "Oh, thanks."

Sam laughs and Megan joins in. They go home and Megan automatically goes to her computer. Sam follows. He sits on her bed and waits for her to finish. About a few hours later Sam is lying down

throwing a ball up and down playing one-man catch. Megan is still hard at work on her computer.

It has now officially become nighttime. Sam had fallen asleep. He was snoring loudly, occasionally talking to himself. Megan paid no attention to the sleeping beauty. All of a sudden...

Megan: "YES!"

Sam shot up faster than a lightening bolt.

Sam: "Huh...?"

He was still groggy and his eyes were barely open. Megan turned to him.

Megan: "I found a lead!"

Sam: "Wow, that's...great..."

He drifts back to sleep.

Megan: "Wake up Sam!"

Sam: "I am awake...I'm just resting my eyes."

He falls asleep once more.

Megan: "Ugh..."

She prints out the information and places it on her desk. She goes into her bathroom and prepares herself for bed. She returns to her room and sees Sam all sprawled out on the bed. She whines and pushes him over. He rolled over like a log. She got into the bed and shut off her light. Periodically throughout the night, the two fought over the blanket.

The next morning

Megan wakes up and turns over. Sam is not there. She walked around the house, but he was nowhere to be found. She shrugged and got dressed. She grabbed the pile of papers she had printed the night before. She begins her search again.

Megan: "Hmm...there was another place that had info on that woman."

She goes to the listed address and finds herself in front of a large corporate looking building. She walks in and asks the secretary for assistance. The secretary directs her and Megan follows the instructions exactly. She walks into a big room and goes through giant double doors. A man in an all white suit was sitting on a revolving leather chair. There were giant windows behind him that overlooked the entire city. The sun shone through with a magnificent beauty. The man hears the door close. He turns to point in Megan's direction.

Man: "Hello young lady, how may I be of service to you?"

Megan stands close to the door on the other side of the room.

Megan: "Umm...my name is Megan Yamaguchi. I was actually wondering if you had any information on a woman."

Man: "Well come here and have a seat and I'll see what I can find."

Megan hesitates.

Man: "Come on, I don't bite."

Megan walks to the chair in front of the desk and sits down.

Man: "Now, what is this woman's name?"

Megan: "Jodi Kawamaru."

The man's eyebrows go up as if the name was familiar to him. He remains quiet. He entered the name into his computer.

Man: "Ah hah."

Megan: "What is it?"

Man: "Did this lady once have a child?"

Megan: "Yes, but it was taken from her for unknown causes."

Man: *quietly* "Oh, I'm sorry."

Megan: "I'm actually trying to find the parents of a close friend of mine who was abandoned at a very young age."

Man: "That's so sad. Give your friend my sympathies."

Megan: "I will. But did you find anything else about the woman?"

The man looked at the computer.

Man: "There is a home address listed for Ms. Kawamaru."

Megan: "Oh good he'll want to know that!"

Man: "He? Excuse me, but what did you say your friend's name was?"

Megan: "Oh, it's Sam."

The man's eyes go wide.

Megan: *looks at him* "What? Does that mean something to you?"

Man: "No, it means...nothing...noting at all. Here is the information you requested. Good luck in your search."

Megan takes the papers that the man handed to her.

Megan: "Thank you very much Mr..."

Man: "Natsume..."

Megan: "Well thank you Mr. Natsume."

Mr. Natsume: "You're welcome Miss Yamaguchi. Please visit again."

Megan nods and walks out. Mr. Natsume laid back in his chair.

Mr. Natsume: "How could she possibly know Jodi's child...my child?"

6 - Strength Takes Discipline

Megan goes to the residence that was listed for Jodi Kawamaru. She finds herself in a middle-class neighborhood of apartments. She walks up the stairs of an apartment building and knocks on the door. A woman with long brown hair and green eyes answers the door. She appears to be the age of forty or so. She looks at Megan.

Woman: "May I help you miss?"

Her voice is of a gentle nature. It is calming to listen to.

Megan: "I apologize for bothering you. My name is Megan Yamaguchi. Would a Ms. Jodi Kawamaru live here by any chance?"

Woman: "Why, child you're looking at her."

She smiles sweetly.

Megan: "Oh, great! Then maybe you can tell me a few things."

Jodi: "Well sure, come on in sweetie."

Megan walks in as Jodi insists. She removes her coat as Jodi shuts the door.

Jodi: "Would you like some tea dear?"

Megan: "Oh yes, please."

Jodi nods and walks into the kitchen. Megan begins to look at the photographs mounted on the wall. Jodi comes back and sits on the recliner chair. Megan sits on the couch perpendicular to it. She picks up a glass and adds a sugar cube to it.

Megan: "Thank you."

Jodi: "Don't mention it. Now, what can I do ya for?"

Megan: "I actually came to ask you about a child you had. His name is Sam."

Jodi: "Sam?"

A tear began to develop in her eye.

Megan: "Ms. Kawamaru?"

Jodi looks up at Megan.

Jodi: "My little Sam..."

She looks over to the side table and picks up a picture frame containing a picture of Sam. She looks at the picture with much sadness dawning upon her.

Jodi: "Yes, Sam lived with me for a while. I had much sympathy for that boy. He was the sweetest child anyone could have ever known. He didn't deserve the fate that was given to him. He knew of his illness. Even so, he still always had a smile on his face."

Flashbacks of her life with Sam flooded her mind.

Megan: "I understand that you once had a child taken from you for causes unknown. Is that true?"

Jodi: "How do you know about that?"

Megan: "Well, when I began my search for you I ran into a Mr. Natsume. He told me about your child."

Megan couldn't tell her that Sam told her this information because it may seem a little odd to her.

Jodi: "Mr. Natsume? Do you mean Gabriel Natsume?"

Megan: "I didn't catch his first name."

Jodi: "What did he look like?"

Megan: "Well he was tall and he had blonde hair and blue eyes."

Jodi: "I see. How did you come across him again?"

Megan: "Well, I found some information about you on my computer and that led me to this big corporate building. I met him there."

Jodi: "Hmm...That's interesting."

Megan: "How so?"

Jodi: "You're never going to believe what I'm going to tell you."

Megan: *smiles* "Try me."

She figured with all else that has happened in the past months, nothing Jodi could say will be too extravagant.

Jodi: "When I was about twenty-one or twenty-two, a great sadness had befallen me. I didn't know what to do. Constant visions of suicide flashed throughout my mind. Then an angel, a guardian angel, came

to guide me. He was sent to help me with my severe depression. Over time, we grew extremely close. My sadness left me and I was the most happy I had been in a long time. He made me feel safe and so comfortable. He always made me smile. Then we fell in love. Our falling in love was inevitable. We had an instant connection from the start. That angel...was Gabriel Natsume.”

Megan gasped and went wide-eyed.

Megan: “How can that be? I just saw him the other day.”

Jodi: “Megan, did you notice anyone else in that building, other than yourself, the secretary, and Mr. Natsume?”

Megan: *thinks* “No, now that I think about it I didn’t see anyone else come or go.”

Jodi: “If you were to go there again, you would find nothing.”

Megan is still shocked.

Jodi: “Gabriel and I were so in love that we actually had a child together. Gabriel’s superiors strongly disapproved of our actions so they removed the child from my custody and banished him from seeing me or the child. Years later, what I saw in that child, I saw in Sam. So I took him in. Unfortunately a short while after, he became ill and passed away. I know he’s with his father now, so I don’t worry as much.”

Megan: “Wow! This is so much to take in. I find it so hard to believe. How was he able to come back and speak with me?”

Jodi: “He must have broken some rule to talk to you here in the human world.”

Megan: “I have to tell you something.”

Jodi: “Sure, what is it?”

Megan: “A great time of grievance came into my life also. My parents died in a car accident a few months ago.”

Jodi: “Oh, I’m so sorry.”

Megan: “I was lost and didn’t know what to do. That’s when...that’s when Sam came to me. He was sent to be my guardian angel and he was supposed to guide me as well.”

Jodi: *gasped* “My Sam is your angel?!”

Megan nodded.

Jodi: “Oh my...”

Megan: “That’s why I came here to find you, because he has done so much for me. I wanted to repay

him by finding his parents for him. And I strongly believe that you, Jodi, are his biological mother.”

The scene cuts to Sam in his boss’ office. That is where he had been the entire time Megan was talking to Jodi. His boss had his back turned to him.

Boss: “Tell me Sam, do you have feelings for this girl?”

Sam remained quiet.

Boss: *looking over his shoulder* “Sam?”

Sam: “What would it matter if I did or didn’t?”

Boss: “You know it is highly frowned upon to fall for the person you’re helping.”

Sam: “Is that why you did it?”

Boss: *becomes frustrated* “That is of no concern to you!”

Sam: “I’m sensing a little hypocrisy here.”

Boss: “Do not try to compare my situation to your current one.”

Sam: “I get it. It’s ‘do as I say, not as I do’ right?”

Boss: “I have had enough of your lip.”

Sam: “That’s only because you know what I say is true.”

Boss: “If I find out that you and that girl have fallen in love, I will banish you from ever seeing her again.”

Sam: “You know nothing of love...Gabriel.”

Sam disappears. The boss grunts in anger. The scene changes to Megan racing home. She barges in the front door and runs into her room. Sam is standing there gazing out the window. Megan tries to catch her breath.

Megan: *panting* “Sam, I found your parents!”

Sam: “Wow! That’s fantastic!”

Megan: “But there’s something I have to tell you.”

Sam: “What is it?”

Megan: “Your mother is Jodi Kawamaru. She admitted that you are the child that was taken from her all those years ago.”

Sam sat on the bed. He couldn't believe what he had just heard.

Sam: "You said 'parents' meaning you found my father as well?"

Megan: "Yes, your mother had gone through a time period of great sorrow. Your father was sent to her to help her with her problem. So he was a guardian angel, just like you."

Sam: "Really? What happened to him?"

Megan: "Well, they fell in love and gave birth to you. Your father's superiors didn't agree with the whole concept so they removed you from Jodi's care and banished your father. He was forbidden from ever seeing her again. He was also never to return to the human world. He was exiled to spend all eternity in the heavens."

Sam: "Wow...that's way too much to take in."

Megan: "I know, that's what I said."

Sam: "Did my mother say what my father's name was? I might have seen him up there."

Megan: "His name is Gabriel Natsume."

Sam gasped. He rose from the bed, but unable to recover from the shock, he fell back down. Megan sat next to him.

Megan: "Sam, are you all right? Do you know that man?"

Sam: "Yes. He is my boss. He is the one who asked me here to help you."

Megan: "That's great! So you really do know your parents. You met them without even knowing!"

Sam looked at Megan. He had a serious, but calm and charming look on his face. Megan smiled.

Megan: "Heh, what is it Sam? What's with that look?"

The smile stayed on her face.

Sam: "I want to tell you something."

Megan: "Go ahead. You have my undivided attention."

Sam looks into Megan's eyes.

Sam: "Over these past few months, I have found myself...falling for you..."

Megan's eyes enlarge.

Megan: "Sam, isn't that against your rules?"

Sam: "I was never really one to follow rules."

Megan laughs slightly. Sam smiles. They move closer to each other. In that passionate moment, their lips touch, engaging in a kiss.

7 - Discipline Reveals Truth

Megan and Sam are in the bedroom sitting on the bed. Megan was leaning against Sam's chest as Sam has his arms wrapped around her with his head rested against the headboard of the bed. He was looking up at the ceiling. Megan's eyes were closed but she wasn't sleeping nor resting her eyes. She was merely thinking about the current situation she has gotten herself into. She didn't want Sam to lose his privileges of coming to the human world. She sat up. Sam read her body language and realized something was troubling her.

Sam: "Megan, what is it?"

Megan: "Sam, this whole thing worries me."

Sam: "How come?"

Megan: "Well, if your boss, I mean, your father finds out what is going on, won't he forbid you from ever coming here again?"

Sam: "Don't worry about him. Sure he might try, but I won't let him."

Megan: "But, if something does happen, I would feel as if it was my fault and I can't bare that thought Sam."

Sam: "Don't feel guilty. It's not your fault. After all, it takes two to tango, remember?"

Megan: "I can't imagine my life without you now..."

Sam: "..."

Sam kisses her forehead and embraces her. Being cradled in Sam's arms gives Megan a sense of happiness and serenity.

Sam: "Don't worry, everything will be o.k. I promise."

Megan: "Sam, you know the saying 'like father, like son?'"

Sam: "Yes."

Megan: "Heh, isn't that kind of what's happening now?"

Sam: "I guess so."

Megan: "But what I don't understand is why would your father assign you to me if there was a possibility that what happened to him would happen to you?"

Sam: "Maybe he thought we weren't as alike as he was afraid we were. He probably thought that I wouldn't find myself in the same troublesome situation as he did."

Megan: "Oh...well Sam..."

Sam: "Yes..."

Megan: *smiles* "I'm glad he sent you."

Sam: *returns smile* "Me too."

Gabriel is watching this scene from a vision in a cloud wall. Frustration builds deep inside him. This emotion is mixed with joy, sadness, and sheer disgust. He devises a plan within his mind and figures out a way to put that plan into action. He calls his secretary into his office.

Gabriel: "How fast could you get an approval of visitation from the main branch?"

Secretary: "As soon as possible sir."

Gabriel: "Thank you."

The secretary nods and walks out. Gabriel continues to review the circumstances at hand. He watches Sam and Megan together happily. He removes the image from the cloud and begins to do some paperwork. The secretary comes back into the office and hands Gabriel a slip of paper. He nods in approval and sends his secretary away. He motions for another image to appear on the wall. This time it was of Jodi. She was preparing some tea in her kitchen. Gabriel smiles and disappears. Jodi is humming a song as she places a tea bag in her hot cup of water. Then she hears a familiar voice from behind her.

Voice: "That was our song."

Jodi turns around. A figure was in the shadows. The figure moved out of the dark and into the light.

Jodi: *gasp* "Gabriel, I should have known you'd come sooner or later."

Gabriel: "Well then I'm guessing you know what's been going on lately."

Jodi: "Well, I know a few things."

She smiles.

Gabriel: "Oh, how I've missed your sweet smile."

Jodi: "It's been so long."

Gabriel nods. They walk towards each other and kiss as if all those years hadn't passed.

Jodi: "I've waited for your return. I knew you'd come back to me."

Gabriel: "I came to talk to you about Sam."

Jodi: "What about Sam?"

Gabriel: "I assigned him to guide this one young lady."

Jodi: "Oh yeah. She came to me. She said Sam wanted to find his parents so she set out to look for them as a return favor for all that he had done for her."

Gabriel: "So you spoke with her? Did you tell her...about us?"

Jodi: "Well, I had to. She already had everything set. She's a very bright girl you know."

Gabriel: "So then you know of their relationship."

Jodi: "I know that Sam is her guardian angel. Why what else is going on?"

Gabriel: "They...fell in love with one another."

Jodi couldn't believe what she had just heard. She took a step back and sat down on a chair.

Jodi: "You mean they did what we did?"

Gabriel: "It's the same situation."

Jodi: "What's going to happen to them?"

Gabriel: "Well, I'm the head of the guardian angel branch. So the choice is up to me."

Jodi: "Gabriel, you're not going to separate them are you?"

Gabriel: "That's the only appropriate consequence."

Jodi: "No! Don't do that to them! I know how it feels and so do you!"

Gabriel: "Jodi, listen. I know what will happen. But you have to understand that this is highly frowned upon. A guardian angel can't fall in love with the person they're protecting."

Jodi: "Who said he had to be a guardian angel?"

Gabriel: "What are you trying to say Jodi?"

Jodi: "All I'm saying is what would have happened if they let you stay with me? Would things still be the

same as they have turned out to be? You remember when we fell in love don't you? Remember how happy we were together?'

Gabriel: "Of course I remember."

Jodi: "Then you can imagine how Sam feels. Do you really want him to suffer as much as you did when you were taken from me?"

Gabriel: "I try to forget that pain. I see what you're getting at. I do not wish my son to share that same hurt as I did."

Jodi: "So you know what you have to do, so do it."

She placed her hand on his. He nods and looks at her. She smiles.

Gabriel: "I must go now. I am not allowed to stay any longer."

Jodi: "I understand. You live under strict rules that you must follow."

Gabriel: "You know, after all these years I never stopped loving you. I wait for the day that we will be together again."

Jodi: "I know. I pray for the same. Goodbye Gabriel and watch over Sam for me...for the both of us."

Gabriel kisses her gently on her lips and slowly fades away. Jodi sighs and a tear falls from her eye and rolls down her cheek.

8 - Truth Accompanies Courage

Out in the city at 2:00 am, spectators gathered around a local motel. Police caution tape was surrounding the building while sirens flashed and buzzed. The people in the crowd and the residents of the motel wondered what was going on. A man was inside his own room staring at pictures in the daily newspaper that lay rested on his lap. It was an old issue, but he kept it in his possession because he felt a certain attachment to the story on the front page. The headline read "Drunk Driver Kills Couple." He concentrated on the date and he suddenly remembered something about that day. Visions flooded his mind.

Late one night the man returned home from work. A trainee at his company had made an error that could have wiped out the entire data system. The man had to stay late to repair all the damage. He walked up the front door step and gave a sigh of exhaustion. He loosened his necktie as he turned the key in the lock of the door. He placed his briefcase and keys on a table next to the staircase and proceeded upstairs. He did not hear his wife so he figured she had gone to sleep. He walked into the bedroom quietly so he would not wake her. Then the scene that appeared in front of him was one that horrified him more than anything ever did. His wife was in bed with another man. He ran out of the house, got in his car, and peeled out of the driveway. He did not return to his home that night. The next day he went to work. The image of his wife burned in his head. His boss walked into his office.

Boss: "David, do you have a moment?"

David: "Sure sir, what is it?"

Boss: "As you are well aware, that error that was made yesterday had proven fatal to this company's funding and reputation."

David: "Yes, sir."

Boss: "And I don't know if you're covering for someone else because this error seemed to be one that a man of your intellect would never commit."

David: "No sir, it was my doing."

He wanted to cover for the trainee because he did not want to put his life in jeopardy. The trainee had been leading a harsh life so David just wanted to give him a chance.

Boss: "Well despite your efforts in restoring this company, I'm afraid that I'm going to have to let you go David."

David: "But, sir I-"

Boss: "You have until the end of the day to vacate your office. I'm sorry David."

The boss left the office. David could not bare the news he had just received. His legs gave out and he collapsed in his chair.

Later that day when all his things were packed and loaded in his car, he took one last look at the building he had spent twenty years of his life in, and drove away. He had nowhere to go. He couldn't go home and see his wife. He couldn't handle that right now. So he drove to a nearby bar and decided to drown his sorrows in alcohol. When he finished his first drink, he still felt as miserable as he did when he started it. He ordered another one. By his tenth drink, he was rambling nonsense to the bar tender.

Bartender: "Sir, I think that's enough."

David: "N-no, I'm fine...gimme anada one..."

Bartender: "No! I can't do that sir."

David grew furious.

David: "Fine! I'll juss go ta anada bar!"

Bartender: "Sir, I don't think you should drive."

By the time he finished his sentence, David was out the door. He started the car and drove out of the parking lot. His vision was impaired and he could barely keep the car straight. He quickly made a sharp left and as he swerved into traffic, he collided with another car head-on. Minutes later, he emerged through the rubble of shattered glass and bent metal. He stumbled away from the scene and bumped into a man observing the accident.

Man: "Hey where are you going?! You just hit that other car you maniac!"

David gasped. He reeked of alcohol.

Man: "Are you drunk?!"

David did not answer. He began to run as fast as he could away from the accident. Then reality hit. David was back in the motel room sitting on the edge of the bed. Sirens were still flashing outside his window.

David: "Why? How could I...?"

He broke out in tears. Apparently, his mind had blocked out the whole night from his mind. He walked over to his nightstand and pulled out a gun. He walked out of his room into the parking lot. He aimed the gun at his head.

Police officer: "Put down your weapon!"

David had tears flowing down his cheeks.

David: "I...killed those people!"

The police officer continued to persuade him. David was hysterical now.

His voice became quiet.

David: "I...killed..."

His knees grew weak and he fell to the hard-hitting pavement. The gun fell out of his hand and the police charged after him. They cuffed him and placed him in the back of a squad car. The media recorded the scene and gave their last reports as the car drove away towards the police station. The report was shown as breaking news and interrupted a late night program that Megan had been watching because she was unable to sleep. A news anchor began to speak.

News anchor: "We interrupt this program to bring you breaking news. A few months ago, a fatal car collision left two people dead and another person missing."

Pictures of Megan's parents came on the screen followed by footage from the news archives of the totaled cars in the blocked off intersection. Megan's eyes grew wide. She moved closer to the television and turned the volume up.

New anchor: "Police have finally captured the man responsible for the accident and have taken him into custody."

Just then, the phone rang.

Megan: "Who could be calling at this time?"

She walked over to the phone and picked it up.

Megan: "Hello?"

There was a man at the other end of the phone.

Man: "Miss Yamaguchi?"

Megan: "Yes, that's me."

Man: "This is Sergeant Takahashi. I have called to inform you that we have found the man guilty for the lethal collision your parents were in."

Megan: "Yes, I just saw the news report on TV."

Sgt. Takahashi: "We questioned him and he didn't seem to have memory of it until recently. When he hit your parents' car, he suffered a minor head injury that caused him to lose memory for that night."

Since the injury wasn't fatal, we figured his intoxication played a role in his temporary amnesia as well."

Megan: "What's going to happen to him?"

Sgt. Takahashi: "He will be tried and we'll see what the jury decides."

Megan: "Oh...alright."

Sgt. Takahashi: "Oh and Miss Yamaguchi..."

Megan: "Yes?"

Sgt. Takahashi: "We told him that the people that he killed had a daughter. When we told him this, he insisted immediately to talk to you. We will let him at your consent."

Megan thought about this decision. How could she face the man who killed her parents? Then she thought of Sam and knew that talking to the man would be the right thing to do.

Megan: "I'll talk with him first thing in the morning."

Sgt. Takahashi: "Very well. We will be awaiting your arrival. Good-bye Miss Yamaguchi."

Megan: "Bye."

She hung up the phone. Her mind was flooded with questions and images of the past few months. Then, her mind was focused on one thought...Sam. She wondered where he was. She called out for him.

Megan: "Sam...Sam where are you?"

Suddenly Sam appeared.

Sam: "Hey, what's up?"

Megan smiled and slowly walked up to him. She wrapped her arms around him. Sam held her closely.

Megan: "Sam, the police found the person who caused my parents' death."

Sam: "Oh...really?"

Megan: "Yeah. They said he wants to talk to me."

Sam: "And what did you tell them?"

Megan: "Well, at first I was doubtful of my decision and wondered how I would be able to confront a man who caused such a tragedy."

She looked up at Sam. His blue eyes were locked with hers.

Megan: "Then, I thought of you and realized it would be the right thing to do."

She smiled.

Sam: "So, when are you going?"

Megan: "First thing in the morning."

Sam: "Ah, I see."

Megan: "Sam?"

Sam: "Yeah?"

Megan: "You'll go with me...won't you?"

Sam smiled.

Sam: "Of course."

Megan: "Good."