

## One Step Forward and Three Steps Back

By Camryn S.

The girls finished helping me get ready, it was still casual but they wanted to make sure I look good before meeting up with him. They gave me the camera and I was on my way to the coffee place. I got there and walked in and I automatically saw his face, he's smiling as if he's happy to see me or something. I walked towards the table and he tried to go in for a hug but I refused and just bowed respectfully before sitting down across from him.

"So how have you been doing?" Mark asked awkwardly, he looked happy though.

"I'm doing okay, I'm currently moving in with my friends room so that I won't feel so lonely, how about you?" I looked down at my hands.

"I'm doing okay as well, practice nonstop which is really tiring," Mark got up and went over to the ordering place and came back with two coffees and handed one to me.

"I'm assuming over a year spanned your coffee order hasn't changed," He smiled.

"Yeah, wow you still remember my order?" I laughed, but also felt really shocked.

"Honestly I think I still remember a lot," He took a sip of his coffee.

He remembers what? How much does he remember? I thought he would have someone new by now so he wouldn't remember... me. Should I bring the camera to his attention?

"Um so when I was packing my stuff up I found my camera and decided to go through it, I don't know why I still have this footage but I thought you might want to see it," I felt nervous and awkward I think it was showing.

"Oh yeah sure let me see," He smiled.

I walked over to him and pressed play on the footage. Here I am watching old footage of when I was dating him but he's just my ex now. Mark's smile just grew each time a new clip was shown. Then a clip of him kissing my cheek and acting clingy came up and Mark just turned red but he was still smiling. Then the last video of him and I came up and his smile just dropped so quickly, he fell into a sorrowful look. The footage stopped and I went back to my seat and just studied his sad face.

"So um are you dating anyone?" He tried to act less sad and more curious, it showed.

"No, I've tried to but I keep letting things get to me, what about you?" I looked down.

"No one, well my company is faking my relationship status so now majority of people believe I'm dating a female idol," He rubbed the back of his neck.

"Dang they care more about public attention than how their idols feel," I just traced my coffee lid with my finger, he looked ruff.

"Yeah, it feels overwhelming, now I can't date anyone I actually have feelings for because of that crap," I could tell he feels irritated.

"Oh do you wanna walk around?" I looked outside. It's so pretty, especially the cherry blossoms, and reminds me of happier times.

"Yeah yeah let's go," He smiled.

We walked outside and started to walk down a trail we used to go down on. He was beside me, and whenever I caught him looking at me he'd look down at his feet. We walked a good bit until I realized the place we were at is where we had our first date. I think my eyes widened when I realized the whereabouts because Mark was looking at me concerned. We walked to a bench and sat down while talking.

"Do you remember this place?" Mark asked.

"Our first date," I whispered as I bit my lip.

"Yeah... Can I tell you something?" Mark looked at me like he's dying to tell me.

"Yeah of course," I looked up nervously.

"I've missed you a lot," He tried to look away.

"Oh.. Mark I umm," I felt panicked, I didn't think he'd miss me honestly.

"I'm sorry for breaking up with you. I thought I was protecting you from crazy people," I could tell he felt regretful and sorrowful.

"It didn't protect me Mark, it just hurt me more than any crazy person could do," I kept my head down, in fear that if I looked at him I might fall apart, I fumbled with my hands.

"I know I know, I didn't think that thoroughly if I could take it back I would but the past is the past," He put his hand on top of mine.

"You're the reason I haven't been in a relationship with anyone in over a year! The pain of hearing those words kept coming back," I stood up and I felt frantic.

"Can we just try again?" He stood up.

I couldn't even answer, I just started to walk away from him. I knew he started to follow me and I heard him trying to get my attention. I soon felt him grab my hand which got my attention. I have so many questions to ask him but I just couldn't get the questions out. As much as I do want to try again with him I'm scared he'll pull that crap all over again and I can't handle that twice!

"Sorry if I upset you just forget everything I said okay," He was out of breath, I tugged.

"Okay, can I go now," I felt so many emotions. Anger, sadness, happiness.

"Let me walk you home at least," He conveyed. I raised an eyebrow.

"Fine," I signed. We began walking together and it was awkward and silent for about 15 minutes. Did he forget how I hate awkward silence? Just ask a question, come one Jae just ask!

"Mark, do you still love me?" I asked bluntly.

"N- no of course not," He sucks at lying.

I stopped walking and so did Mark. I started going through my camera footage and saw footage from today because it showed Siyeon walking up to me along with some of the other girls. Thanks Handong for filming this you weirdo, I smiled looking at Mark.

"Here watch," I showed him the video.

*"My ex boyfriend Mark," I spoke strongly.*

*"If he's your ex then why do you still have footage of him?" Yoohyeon softly spoke*

*"I miss him, I still love him, I still love someone who broke my heart over a year ago wow," I sounded close to crying.*

I turned off the camera and looked at Mark.

"That video was from today, I guess Handong accidentally or purposely filmed it," I laughed at the thought of Handong filming me.

"Yes," Mark whispered, I felt confused.

"What?" I asked, what do you mean, yes.

"Yes I still love you," Mark looked at me smiling.