

Kang Eugene was like a fresh autumn breeze that was hard to go unnoticed. Jiwon had skipped school many times because of his health and his only friend was the lady that managed the vendor, but even he had heard of Kang Eugene's name.

As much as the name awed him, Jiwon thought he would never come across talking to Eugene. He felt safer under the shadows of bookshelves and was used to the smell of fungus from historical books. So when Eugene appeared behind one of the bookshelves during lunch, Jiwon thought he would die of heart attack.

*Whatcha doin', Jiwon?*

*Huh?*

The Kang Eugene twelve years ago had seemed not to notice he had appeared at the oddest place at the oddest times, when everyone was out on the school grounds playing. He had talked to Jiwon as if he had been his friend for years. The Kang Eugene in Jiwon's memory was a little chubby on the cheeks and had a mop for hair, but his smile was the same. Beautiful as always.

*Bread tastes better when we eat together.*

*What?*

*That way, feel better. I want to eat with you.*

Eating with someone had been the hardest thing for Jiwon back then because he had no one. And there was Kang Eugene in the flesh, saying he wanted to eat with Jiwon.

At first, Jiwon got suspicious and thought Eugene must have lost a bet. But then Eugene handed him chocolate bread—the one Jiwon loved but never got to buy—and said that he had asked the vendor lady for Jiwon's favourite. Jiwon had burst into tears when he had heard it.

The warmth Jiwon had felt changed him greatly. Eugene changed Jiwon's taste in food, his ideal career, and even Jiwon's sexual identity. In fact, Eugene had laughed just as always when Jiwon had come out to him.

*What's wrong with being gay, hyung-ah?*

Eugene had asked, patting Jiwon on the back and radiating the warmth Jiwon loved. But Jiwon could no longer confess what he had really wanted to tell him, because with that same smile of his, Eugene had continued.

*I would never see you differently just because of your taste in men, hyung-ah. I don't care as long as it's not me.*

And that was when Jiwon knew he was doomed. For life.