

## Chapter 17

"We arrived several days ahead of the wedding. Day, do you want to go somewhere?"

Considering that Aon's wedding was almost ready, Day and Mhok's arrival can be said to be quite sudden. Day recalled his impression of Songkhla in his memory and began to think about what he could do and what else he wanted to do but had not done yet.

"Let's find a place to live near the beach, bro. I want to watch the sunset."

For the first two days after arriving, they stayed in the city not far from the train station because they hadn't fully decided on their itinerary yet. In the end, Day asked Mhok for help to adjust the accommodation location according to the road between the original residence and Aon's wedding venue.

Mhok took the young people on a bus to a beach, which was the only way to get to the wedding venue. They booked an affordable accommodation closest to the beach. When we got there, it was already afternoon and the sun was about to set. They were going to find something to fill their bellies and buy some snacks in case they were hungry at night.

"Let's go to the beach and play in the water together, brother."

the young boy invited, shaking his boyfriend's hand like a child. He smiled and pulled Mhok with him. Although he said he was going to play in the water, Day decided to sit on the beach. The waves that washed up on the beach gently lapped his feet, and he looked up at the sky slowly changing colors.

Since Day's eyesight began to decline, looking up at the sky has become a habit for him. Because even though his vision was blurred, he could clearly distinguish and imagine the colors of the sky. For example, now, the beautiful blue gradually turns into orange.

"Brother, you know, since I started losing my sight, I have the ability to distinguish people's voices. Just by listening to the voice, I know the personality of the person speaking." Day said.

"Really?"

"No, I'm kidding."

Mhok's voice sounded so serious that Day accidentally laughed. Who would have that kind of super power? If there is any special ability, it might be the ability to see the beauty and brokenness in life.

"I was just going to ask you what kind of person you think I am?" Mhok said jokingly.

"An asshole," Day said, laughing.

"It's not good to talk about your boyfriend like that. Such bad boys must be punished."

Mhok pretended to complain, then lowered his head and kissed Day on the cheek. Day was secretly surprised, and he was worried that someone would see it. He looked around quickly, but he suddenly realized that if anyone was looking, he couldn't see it.

"I'm very shy, you know?"

"What are you shy about? I'm not shy at all."

"But I'm just shy. What's so hard to understand?" Day complained, but Mhok just smiled.

As the sky turned crimson, Day picked up his phone and handed it to Mhok.

"When the sky becomes more beautiful, we can take selfies together," Day said.

"If you want to secretly look at my face when I'm alone, just tell me. Don't be shy." Mhok said jokingly, and Day patted Mhok's shoulder gently.

"Who wants to see your face?"

"Then who sneaked up on me when I was sleeping, with my face so close that I felt like I was kissing, but thought I didn't know who it was?"

Day's face immediately turned red, he always thought that Mhok didn't know about it that day. Does this mean that Mhok actually knew all along that he was secretly watching him that day? Day was embarrassed and patted Mhok gently with his hand. Mhok tried to pretend to protect himself and laughed, but he did not continue to tease Day.

"Dey, did you hear that sound?" Mhok tried to change the subject.

"I heard it, but even if I heard it, how would I know what it was? If you know, tell me."

Day was blunt as he continued to tease Mhok by tapping him with his hand, scolding him for knowing but pretending not to know.

"Full Moon Party."

Mhok replied, making Day forget everything else for a moment. Images of colorful lights, cans of beer, and people from all over the world dancing came to mind. The sky was starting to get dark now, which meant the party was going to start soon.

"Brother, you know, when I was a professional athlete, I was strictly prohibited from drinking. Even if I drank some secretly, I could never let the coach know. I have never been as drunk as these people."

"Neither do I. I'm a very good drinker."

"That's great. I want to have a good drink today. Since you can drink, just wait and drag me back to my residence."

The young man laughed loudly, stood up, and pulled Mhok with him to the full moon party. Even though Day couldn't see, the gorgeous lighting made it easy for him to picture the scene in his mind. Mhok was responsible for buying the tickets and getting the drinks, and the two of them walked around the venue with the drinks in their hands and drank.

The sky had completely darkened and was illuminated by the surrounding lights. Here, Day doesn't feel any different from others, because no matter how good your eyes are, it's hard to see clearly in the dark. Tajia was intoxicated by alcohol in the dark, swaying to the rhythm of the music.

Day met a lot of people here, not only Thais but also foreigners. Mhok and Day kept holding hands to avoid getting separated. Day loudly told everyone he met that Mhok was his boyfriend. No one knows them here, and even if they do, it doesn't matter.

By two o'clock, the party was over. The music stopped and the neon lights came on. At first, Mhok invited Day to go back to rest, but he saw two new friends, Michael and Denis, vomiting on the beach. He took Day to care and see if he could provide some help.

Denis was so drunk that he lay down on the beach and fell asleep. Mhok was sitting on the other side, quietly drinking the last of his beer. Only Day and Michael were left chatting. Michael was British, probably in his twenties, but Day couldn't tell what he looked like.

"I had always thought the Full Moon Party only happened once a year. Nobody has ever told me that people in Thailand get to enjoy it every month!" Michael said.

"Are you gonna stay for long? A gap year?" Day asked.

"Nah, actually, I am a pro cyclist, or was... I don't do that anymore "

"How so?" Day asked curiously. Michael was silent for a moment, picked up the beer placed on the sand, drank it in a big gulp, and then lifted up his trousers to show Day. Since there was not enough light in the middle of the night, Day couldn't see clearly, so Mhok got closer and quietly told him that Michael's leg was a prosthetic leg.

"Yes, I lost my leg."

"You know what? I am a national badminton, player as well, or...was. i don't play anymore"

Day felt a strange feeling inside of him, thinking that what Michael was going through was no different than the emotions he was feeling now.

"Injury?"

"Umm, my cornea, i'm going to blind soon."

Michael raised his beer again and took a swig. They should have said words of sympathy to comfort each other, but when they heard each other's pain, they said nothing, as if their pain did not need any explanation to understand each other.

"At first, I couldn't admit it, the fact that I had become disabled. Didn't move for a year, my other leg became twig, I never wanted to wear a prosthetic leg"

Michael looked back on the past with a soft smile, and Day smiled because he could feel the similar experience. When his eyesight first started to deteriorate, he also locked himself in his room, unwilling to go out to meet people, escaping from reality and falling into a self-created predicament.

"Then what made you change your mind?"

"Well, I fell for a girl, on Tinder. Her name is Irene. I just simply thought that i could stand a better chance going with the leg than in the wheelchair."

Day listened intently, trying to catch something in the narrator's tone and facial expression. From the tone of his voice, he believed Michael must have been smiling broadly when he talked about the girl. He himself inadvertently thought of the man drinking beer next to him. Mhok sat quietly, and he even had to try hard to see if Mhok had accidentally fallen asleep.

"Did you succeed then?"

"Almost! The light was already off, but I just got into a wrong position. Once she found out, she immediately ran away, leaving me hanging like that in the hotel."

The last sentence made both Day and Michael laugh, and Mhok couldn't help but laugh too. That may sound funny now, but Day believes Michael couldn't have laughed at the time. This is just like his life, when he recalls some painful things, he will feel like a joke.

"Did you two ever get to talk again after that day?" Day asked with interest.

"No, she blocked me, but to be honest I've never been angry with her. If it hadn't been for her, I wouldn't be seeing a beautiful scenery like this.

Michael stood up on his own, and although he didn't look very agile, it was almost unnoticeable unless you looked closely. Day's new friend raised his hands in the air, pointed to the sky, and yelled.

"Look I'm still alive!"

The person in front of me showed a big smile. Even though Day didn't see it with his own eyes, he could feel it intuitively. Day also decided to stand up, raise his hands to the sky, and shout like Michael did.

"You're right! I'm still alive."



When Day said these words, his eyes filled with uncontrollable tears. He lost a lot during this time, lost his eyesight, lost many precious friendships, and lost many things on the journey. But one thing he never lost was his life, he could still breathe, and there was a future waiting for him. Even though the future may no longer be as bright as he once hoped, the world before him hasn't completely dimmed with the loss of his vision.

Day yelled again, knowing full well that those words that seemed meaningless also had meaning.

He is still alive...