

5 Stages of Relationship



KIM SARA

Christmas Story

5 STAGES OF RELATIONSHIP

KIM SARA

This fanfiction is a work of fiction and is intended for entertainment purposes only. The characters depicted in this story are based on real individuals, Taeyeon and Tiffany of Girls' Generation, but the events and interactions portrayed are entirely fictional. This story is not intended to reflect the actual lives, behaviors, or relationships of the individuals involved.

I do not own any rights to the names, likenesses, or any other attributes of Taeyeon, Tiffany, or any other real persons mentioned. All rights to these individuals belong to their respective owners and management companies. This work is not endorsed by or affiliated with Taeyeon, Tiffany, Girls' Generation, SM Entertainment, or any related entities. Readers should be aware that this is a fictional narrative and should not be taken as factual or representative of real events. Any resemblance to actual events or persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

Kim Sara
www.kimkimsara.com

*For Sone and Locksmith.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

*with love,
Kim Sara*

TABLE OF CONTENT

Table of Content	5
Stage 1	6
Stage 2	16
Stage 3	27
Stage 4	39
Stage 5	52
About the Author	63

5 Stages of Relationship

STAGE 1

THE ENCOUNTER



The window was foggy due to the different temperature between two different spaces. The cold breezy night outdoor, where all the Christmas decoration lit up the pavements; and the warm cozy cafe where Taeyeon sat comfortably in one of the brown couch next to the window. The hot chocolate she ordered was still steaming. She was excited to be in this cafe tonight, ever since she graduated from University, it was so hard to meet up with her best friends. Especially now they were in their thirties, it was definitely not easy just to fit the schedule. But one thing hadn't changed, They always managed to secure their time for one Christmas dinner — well, not really a Christmas dinner because it never happened during Christmas night, though. She stole a glance at the clock on the wall, showing it was ten to seven, ten minutes before their appointment schedule. She was here thirty minutes earlier than scheduled because she was too excited. She then took her phone and took a picture of her hot chocolate before sending it to the group chat she had with her best friend.

Taeng: sent picture

Taeng: I am already here

She then put her phone back on the table and looked around the cafe. The cafe was not empty, but it was also not full. There were some people who had their laptops opened, some people enjoying their coffee while playing with their phones, and there was this one pretty woman sitting in the table next to her who was reading a book, a sight rarely seen these days where most people would have their eyes glued to the screen of their smartphones. Taeyeon unknowingly put her attention to the woman. Long jet black hair, her skin seemed really smooth, she didn't wear too much make up, her lips covered by pinkish nude lipstick shade. She was in a dark red sweater with patterns of white small deer making several lines. Taeyeon was sure that it was not the first time she saw the pattern, she then checked the sweater she wore and chuckled noticing she wore the same sweater as the woman except for the color. What she wore was dark green instead of dark red. She shook her head in amusement, among 50 million people in South Korea, she bumped into this woman who wore the same sweater as her in this cafe. She smiled at the realization while thinking that it would be cute if the woman was apparently her soulmate she hadn't met yet. She was about to look at the woman again when a ding from her phone took her attention away. She unlocked her phone and saw a reply in her group chat.

Yul: Taeng, my friend is already there

Yul: I told her to join your table

Taeyeon furrowed her eyebrows, she didn't remember any of her friends would bring another friend for today's dinner.

Taeng: Your friend? You didn't tell us you're gonna bring friend
Taeng: And how can she know which table I am in? She doesn't
even know how do I look like

Taeyeon kept looking at her phone, waiting for Yuri's explanation, when a husky voice greeted her ears.

"Excuse me."

Taeyeon looked up and her eyes met a beautiful pair of smiling eyes. It was so dazzling, she couldn't even blink.

"Are you Taeyeon?"

Taeyeon blinked her eyes couple of time trying to keep herself together, and put her focus to find out who was the woman in front of her. Long jet black hair, beautiful eye smile, smooth fair skin, pinkish nude lipstick shade, dark red sweater with pattern of white small deer. It was the woman she previously observed. The woman was even more attractive up close.

"Uhm, are you Taeyeon?" The woman asked again after not getting any response from Taeyeon.

"Ah, yes. And you are?" Taeyeon wasn't sure she knew this woman in front of her. Couple seconds ago this woman was a total stranger she saw in a cafe.

"Ah, thank God I am not greeting the wrong person." The woman's face was full of relief after got Taeyeon's confirmation. "I am Tiffany." The woman bowed at Taeyeon, and Taeyeon was surprised with the respectful manner. She immediately stood up and bowed at the woman as well

"Do I know you Tiffany-ssi?" Taeyeon asked uncertainly as she believed she didn't have any friend named Tiffany. She straightened her body and Tiffany mirrored her.

“Well, I am Yuri’s friend. She told me to join your table.” Tiffany chuckled after explaining herself. “It’s awkward, isn’t it?”

Taeyeon chuckled along as she gestured Tiffany to join her table. “Feel free to choose where you’re going to sit.”

The couch was a long U-shaped, circling around a rectangle table. It fitted eight to ten people. Taeyeon sat at one end of the U, and she scooted to the middle so Tiffany could choose either side. To Taeyeon’s surprise, Tiffany decided to sit next to her.

“Do you mind?” Tiffany asked Taeyeon as soon as she took the seat.

“No, not at all.” Taeyeon tried to answer coolly, masking her excitement of getting to know the woman she checked out not long ago. “By the way, how could you know that I am Taeyeon?”

Tiffany seemed to hold her laugh as she showed her phone screen which showing a picture of Taeyeon in a frog costume from Halloween years ago. “Yuri sent me your picture.”

Taeyeon groaned as she stared at the picture Tiffany showed. The picture Yuri sent to Tiffany was not her best picture. If Tiffany were gay, and they met through dating app, with that picture Tiffany would definitely swipe left.

“She could’ve sent you my better picture from instagram but she chose to send that picture instead. Annoying.” Taeyeon mumbled in annoyance, earning a soft chuckle from Tiffany.

“Anyway, do you prefer silence or talks?” Tiffany asked again.

This time Taeyeon couldn’t hold her laugh. “What do you mean, Tiffany?”

Tiffany also laughed. Maybe she found her question was weird or maybe Taeyeon's laugh was just contagious. "I mean, if you prefer silence, I would just read my book in silence and you can do whatever you wanna do. But, if you prefer talks, we can—you know, talk. And get to know each other."

"Oh my God, this is hilarious." Taeyeon couldn't seem to stop her laugh. "I wish girls I met on blind date would ask me this question as well." She then went pale after spilling her last sentence. "I-I mean guys..." She immediately corrected herself.

This time, it was Tiffany's turn to laugh. "It's okay, Taeyeon. We're on the same boat." She then playfully winked at Taeyeon.

"Really?" Taeyeon couldn't hide her surprised expression. Why did everything feel like a destiny? She straightened her seat and leaned in a bit towards Tiffany. "You are gay?" She whispered carefully, ensuring the latter would not feel judged.

"Girl, please." She chuckled. "I think everyone in Yuri's circle is either gay or confused. There's a chance they're bi, but definitely not hundred percent straight." She threw another wink at Taeyeon, earning a laugh from the latter.

"Now that you mentioned it, I think you're almost right."

"Almost? Yuri has straight friends?" Tiffany raised her eyebrows.

Another laugh escaped Taeyeon's lips. "Yeah, in today's dinner, you will meet all Yuri's straight friends."

"That high probability of meeting Yuri's straight friends, but the first friend I meet is not the straight one. Interesting."

Taeyeon really loved the amount of laugh she had tonight. Tiffany was really easy to be with. She didn't need to think

about small talks, within short period of time she was able to make herself comfortable around the other woman. She never believed in the magic of Christmas before, but today, she was thinking whether this part of her life is because the work of Christmas' miracle.

“So, where did you meet Yuri? Dating app?” Taeyeon tried to reason herself, there must be a reason why Tiffany was here tonight. Maybe Tiffany was one of Yuri's match on dating app.

“Nooo,” Tiffany groaned. “I met her in a tea tasting session couple of months ago.”

Taeyeon furrowed her eyebrows at the unexpected answer. “Tea tasting? Yuri is into tea?”

“She's into my friend, Jessica.”

“And Jessica is into tea?”

“Jessica is into Yuri.” Tiffany laughed at their weird conversation. “Gosh, it's amusing. Long story short, Yuri matched with Jess —my friend, in dating app. Jessica wanted to meet up with Yuri but she was afraid it would be awkward. So she asked me what kind of date that has a lot of thing to do just in case it wouldn't work. But the date should be romantic enough, just in case they hit it well. So I suggested tea tasting.”

“Ah, I see. That answered my confusion.” Taeyeon smiled, silently felt relieved that Tiffany was not a woman Yuri dated. “But why are you there in the middle of their date?”

“I wanted to watch and tease them.” Tiffany grinned playfully, earning yet another laugh from Taeyeon.

“Gosh, you really are something!” Taeyeon bursted out her laugh. “How was the date though? It ended well?”

“I think they are dating now. Not sure whether they take it into relationship or no, but they’re dating.” Tiffany answered confidently.

“I can’t believe Yuri never mentioned about this!” Taeyeon gasped in surprise. Yuri never mentioned about dating someone either in their private chat or in the group chat. She couldn’t believe she needed to find out about this from a stranger she just met today.

“Did she not also mention that she would bring Jess tonight?” Tiffany asked carefully.

Taeyeon had her jaw opened upon hearing the question. “She would bring her date?”

Tiffany chuckled at Taeyeon’s expression. “Yah! Why do you give me that kind of response?”

“How can she leave me — her single gay buddy, become the only single in today’s dinner?” Taeyeon covered her face with her two hands. “She’s really mean.”

Again, Tiffany couldn’t help to laugh at the sight in front of her. “So everybody is in a relationship?”

“Well, there is Sooyoung who is engaged to Kyungho — her fiancé. Soonkyu is dating Henry. Yoona is dating an actor, sorry I can’t spill the name. Hyoyeon is dating a DJ. Even Seohyun our maknae is in a relationship with a lecturer.” Taeyeon mentioned all of the participants for today’s dinner in one single breath. “So, I thought only me and Yul who’re going to be singles!” Now Taeyeon massaged her forehead. “Apparently I’m going to be the only single tonight.”

Tiffany shook her head in amusement before tapping on Taeyeon’s shoulder to get the latter’s attention. Once Taeyeon turned her head, Tiffany pointed at herself.

“I am also single, you know?”

“No waaaayy!” Taeyeon exclaimed. It was surprising for her to know that the beautiful woman in front of her was still single. There must be a long queue of other pretty women — or handsome women waiting to be her girlfriend. “A person like you? Single?”

“Yah! What do you mean by that?” Tiffany pouted at the response she got.

“I mean, look at you! You’re easy to see, easy to adore, easy to talk to. How come you’re still single?” Taeyeon didn’t mean to be cheesy, but she still hardly believed Tiffany was still single.

“I am not easy to get.” Tiffany beamed a smile at Taeyeon. Her eyes turned into two beautiful crescents. And Taeyeon was dazzled by the sight.

“And for your information, the reason I am here tonight is because Yuri said she’s going to introduce me to her single friend.” She wiggled her eyebrows playfully.

“Who?” Taeyeon was still dazzled.

“Of course you, silly.” Tiffany chuckled while shaking her head.

Taeyeon’s jaw dropped and Tiffany laughed at that.

“Yah! Why are you like that?”

“What did you say?” Taeyeon tried to gather her composure. Today might be really when Christmas really did its magic.

Tiffany let out a huff. “It’s embarrassing, you know? Yuri is supposed to be the one who introduce us.”

“Are you saying that we’re supposed to be like in a blind date?” Taeyeon blinked her eyes repeatedly.

Tiffany tilted her head, hands pointed to Taeyeon then to herself. “What do you think? We’re two people who have not

met before. Meeting in an appointment arranged by a third person. It sounds like a blind date to me.”

Taeyeon could feel her face got warm, she must’ve blushed at Tiffany’s explanation. She shook her head to straightened her mind. “And you’re okay with that?”

Tiffany shrugged. “You’re cute.” She smiled wide. “I don’t mind.”

If previously Taeyeon felt her face got warm, now it felt hot. She was never really good at receiving compliments. She was always awkward and shy every time she received compliments, especially from someone whom she thought beautiful.

“In addition to that,” Tiffany continued to talk, which Taeyeon was really grateful for. “We already wear couple sweaters.” Tiffany pointed at their sweaters which exactly the same sweater, only differed in color.

“I—“ Taeyeon exhaled and inhaled, trying to sound as normal as she could while she was trying to calm her heart which started to skipped some beats. She didn’t know why her heart behaved that way. Maybe because the overwhelming information she got from Tiffany. Maybe because the woman she imagined to be her soulmate couple of minutes ago also swung same way as she did. Maybe because Tiffany was so beautiful that every time she smiled, Taeyeon was mesmerized by the beauty.

“You...?” Tiffany waited for Taeyeon to finish the sentence.

Taeyeon took a deep breath, her last resort to calm herself. “I can’t believe Yuri sets me up with a very beautiful person.” She squeaked, earning a hearty laugh from Tiffany.

“That’s cheesy, Taeyeon.” Tiffany tried to muffle her laugh. “So, are we on a date now?”

Taeyeon smiled at the offer, ignoring the tingling sensation in her tummy and the warmth on her cheeks. “Sounds good to me.”



STAGE 2

THE ATTRACTION



One by one, all Taeyeon's friends started to come. Every time each of them arrived, they couldn't help to wonder who was the beautiful woman sat next to Taeyeon, wearing same sweater as Taeyeon. And every time they asked the question, Tiffany would take initiative to introduced herself properly and referred herself as Taeyeon's date. Taeyeon was surprised at first but she was also being thankful for Tiffany's bubbly personality, it wasn't hard for the woman to adapt and adjust to Taeyeon's friends. And silently, every time Tiffany mentioned that she was Taeyeon's date, she could feel a breeze in her chest. It felt good and she liked it.

"So how long have you known each other?" Sooyoung, the tallest woman who usually led the group to choose the menu, didn't even bother to order anything as she was intrigued by the new person in their circle.

"To be honest, just couple of minutes ago." Tiffany answered with a chuckle.

"Yah, Taenggoo! Did you kidnap random woman in this cafe?" Soonkyu gasped in surprise after hearing the fact.

Taeyeon laughed at the response. "In fact, she was a random woman in this cafe minutes ago." She looked at

Tiffany and Tiffany understood what she meant. That was a fact, couple of minutes ago, they were just a stranger who sat in different tables.

“Unnie, are you that desperate to get a girlfriend?”

Seohyun, the maknae had worried look all over her face.

“You know, Taeng is always hopeless romantic, maybe she really is desperate to have a girlfriend, Hyunie.” Hyoyeon, answered on behalf of Taeyeon, earning a glare from Taeyeon, making the people in the table laughed.

“So, Taeyeon is a hopeless romantic?” Tiffany seemed curious about her date.

“You need to be careful, Tiffany.” Yoona who was in charge to choose the menu to replace Sooyoung, joined the conversation. “Taeyeon Unnie is an expert in making women suffer from diabetes.”

The table filled with laughs again after hearing Yoona’s remark.

“How old are you, Tiffany?” Sunny was the one who asked the question.

“Oh my, I hate that question.” Tiffany faked a sigh. “I just turned thirty-four last August.” She answered anyway.

“Ah, I should’ve addressed you as Unnie then.” Yoona covered her mouth, noticing she didn’t use any honorific to Tiffany before.

“Aish, I am still the oldest here, I guess?” Taeyeon pouted after finding out Tiffany’s age.

“How old are you?” Tiffany put her attention back to Taeyeon.

“Also thirty-four. But my birthday is in March.” Taeyeon still had a pout on her face.

“It’s okay, Unnie.” Tiffany emphasized the word unnie and had a teasing smile on her face.

The rest of the women laughed at Tiffany's remark except for Seohyun. "You weren't joking when you said you just met couple of seconds ago?" Seemed like the youngest was intrigued by that.

"We are on a blind date set-up by Yuri." Taeyeon answered the question.

"Really?" Hyoyeon raised her eyebrows, doubting what Taeyeon just said.

"Yeah," Tiffany chirped in. "I arrived here early, and Yuri sent me message telling me that her friend had also arrived. She asked me to join the table."

"And how could you know Yuri?" Sooyoung's eyebrows knitted into one.

"Yuri is dating my best friend." Tiffany explained briefly. She didn't want to repeat what she told Taeyeon earlier.

Loud gasps filled the table. Of course it came from everyone in the table except for Taeyeon who already knew it a bit earlier.

Sooyoung eyed everyone in the group. "Any of you knew that Yuri is dating?"

"I just found out from Tiffany before you guys came." Taeyeon shrugged, explaining her lack of surprise.

"That answers why Yuri haven't been tagging along every time I am with Henry." Sunny chuckled.

"Did Yuri Unnie also asked you two to wear same sweater?" Seohyun raised the question as she eyed Taeyeon and Tiffany, didn't seem to get distracted by the fact that her other unnie was dating someone.

"This is totally a coincident." Tiffany giggled. "To be honest, when I entered the cafe and saw Taeyeon who wears same sweater, I was thinking that it would be cute if that woman was the one Yuri would introduce to me."

“Aaawww, that’s cute.” Yoona cooed, earning a side glare from her other friends. “What? I really think that is cute.” Yoona defended herself, letting out loud huff.

“You know your voice is annoying every time you do that, Unnie.” Seohyun stated candidly, making other women in the table muffled their laugh.

“Where is the crazy Yul, anyway?” Hyoyeon stated as she looked at the time in her phone.

Tiffany unlocked her phone and made a few tap before answered Hyoyeon. “Jess said she had arrived five minutes ago.” She locked her phone and shrugged. “Maybe they’re making out before coming to us.”

Everybody went silent after Tiffany’s remark, and it didn’t go unnoticed by Tiffany. “Gosh, am I being too blunt?” She covered her mouth, feeling guilty for speaking to bluntly in this new circle of friends. Hyoyeon was the first who cracked a laugh, followed by the other.

“I love your bluntness!” Sooyoung laughed animatedly. “Taeng, you really need to date her.” She smirked at the laughing Taeyeon who sat next to Tiffany.

“We’re technically on a date, you know?” Taeyeon replied as she stuck out her tongue childishly.

“Hi guys!” A familiar voice joined their conversation. All head turned to the person who just greeted them, a tall tanned woman with a wide grin on her face. Next to her, stood a feminine woman who somehow seemed quiet.

“Your lipstick smeared.” Hyoyeon remarked as soon as she noticed Yuri’s presence.

Yuri immediately took out her phone from her jeans and opened the front camera while the woman next to her blushed hard upon receiving Hyoyeon’s remark.

“Yah! My lipstick is just fine!” Yuri gestured a punch to Hyoyeon, making everyone laughed. “Anyway, this is Sica.” Yuri finally introduced the new woman and the gang greeted Jessica. “My girlfriend,” She announced and received silence from her friends. All of her friends just stared at her with their jaw hung opened. “Come on, guys! Don’t do that!” She sulked and finally her friends burst into laughs.

“We’re surprised, Unnie.” Seohyun chuckled as she stood up and introduced herself to Jessica. “I am Seohyun. Nice to meet you, Sica Unnie?” She seemed unsure on how to address Yuri’s new girlfriend.

“Nice to meet you too, Seohyun.” Jessica smiled warmly at Seohyun. The moment she smiled, all the shy and quiet aura she held before vanished and replaced by immense friendliness. Other women followed Seohyun to take turn introducing themselves to Jessica including Taeyeon. After everyone got their turn, Tiffany scooted closer to Taeyeon, giving Jessica and Yuri some space to sit next to them.

Yuri took a seat and grinned wide when she saw how Taeyeon and Tiffany wore same sweaters. “Dude, are you dating now? You wear same sweaters!” She commented delightedly.

“You set us up for blind date, remember?” Tiffany playfully rolled her eyes.

“I didn’t remember telling you to wear couple sweater, though.” Yuri continued. “Seems like you guys are destined to be together, huh?”

“Enough about me and Fany, Yul.” Taeyeon jumped in, afraid that Tiffany might feel uncomfortable with the tease. “I think the folks here have plenty of questions for you and your Sica.” Taeyeon smirked at Yuri before turning her head to her other friends which had burning curiosities painted on their

face. And just like what Taeyeon said, right after she finished the sentence, Yuri was immediately bombarded with questions.

“Fany, huh?” Tiffany’s husky voice intruded her ears.

“Huh?” Taeyeon was taken aback with the sudden question shoot at her from the woman next to her.

“Nice nickname.” Tiffany chuckled and winked at her.

Taeyeon’s face flushed, after realizing what Tiffany meant. “I am glad if you like it.” She grinned in answer, trying to mask her shyness. Tiffany only beamed a smile as an answer and joined the group to question and tease the new couple. Taeyeon smiled at the sight, soundlessly thinking to herself, if Santa were real, maybe Tiffany was the best gift she ever received during Christmas. What a serendipitous event it was? Getting set-up for a blind date to a very attractive woman like Tiffany. Santa must’ve been in a very good moon this Christmas that he delivered Taeyeon’s present earlier.



“See you tomorrow, Tiffy.” Jessica hugged her friend before stretched her hand to Taeyeon. “Once again, nice to meet you, Taeyeon.”

“Nice to meet you too, Sica.” Taeyeon shook Jessica’s hand.

“Please take care of my best friend. Don’t you dare breaking her heart.” Jessica stated with a smile, but somehow Taeyeon shivered at the warning. She could sense that Jessica really meant it. Taeyeon only smiled in answer.

“Yah, Sica. It’s only our first meeting. Don’t blackmail her.” Tiffany giggled while shoving her best friend, earning a cackle from Jessica.

“I will be the one who knock her head if she hurts your best friend, Sica.” Yuri chimed in.

Taeyeon rolled her eyes at the way her buddy tried to look courteous, earning a knock on the head from Yuri.

“Anyway, we’re off now.” Jessica bid farewell to Taeyeon and Tiffany before taking Yuri’s hand and left the cafe hand in hand. The rest of the group had also gone home, leaving the remaining two women in the cafe.

“So...” Taeyeon’s voice trailed as she turned her head to Tiffany who stood next to her. “Can we continue our date?” She grinned nervously, silently wishing Tiffany would agree to the idea.

Tiffany dashed a smile, showcasing her eye-smile. “I am glad you ask.” She replied keenly.

Taeyeon’s grin turned into a smile, feeling relieved that Tiffany seemed to like the idea. During the hours they spent with Taeyeon’s friends, Taeyeon found out how good Tiffany was in adjusting to the environment. She didn’t seem awkward, she went with the flow. She didn’t even try to hide the fact that they were set-up in a blind date by Yuri, to the point that made Taeyeon thought Tiffany was happy with the set-up.

“Anything you wanna do?” Taeyeon took her sling bag and put her phone inside it.

Tiffany looked at Taeyeon. “I wanna know you better.” She answered innocently. But it was enough to make Taeyeon turned pink.

“Let’s just stroll around.” Taeyeon replied as she led the way to get out of the cafe. The cold breeze hit their face once

they stepped outside the cafe. Taeyeon immediately rubbed her hands together, trying to look for some warmth.

“Are you sure you want to stroll around?” Tiffany laughed quietly.

“You’re not cold?” Taeyeon continued rubbing her hands.

“I am fine.” Tiffany replied as she stepped forward and walked down the street, while Taeyeon tried to catch up with her.

“Anyway,” Taeyeon chirped once she managed to match Tiffany’s steps. “I don’t think we had proper introduction earlier.”

Tiffany cackled at that. “Yeah, the way we met was not ideal.” She nodded in agreement. “I am thankful enough you didn’t ignore me when I suddenly came to you and asked whether you are Taeyeon or not.” She shook her head in amusement. Maybe her brain was playing the scene they did some hours ago.

“So, hello.” Taeyeon jumped to the front and blocked Tiffany’s way, earning a laugh from the latter. “My name is Kim Taeyeon, nice to meet you.” She bowed a bit to Tiffany, making the latter laughed harder.

“Well, hello Taeyeon.” Tiffany replied in excitement. “I am Tiffany Young. Nice meeting you too.” She also bowed down. And both women laughed at what they just did.

Taeyeon stepped aside and positioned herself next to Tiffany while walking down the pavements. “Tiffany Young.” Taeyeon mumbled Tiffany’s name. “I think you’re the only person in my life who has Young surname”

“My surname is actually Hwang.”

“Huh?” Taeyeon turned her head to Tiffany and looked at her in confusion. “But you said your name is Tiffany Young.”

Tiffany smiled at Taeyeon's confusion. "Are we in getting-to-know phase right now?" She teased the older girl, earning pink tints on Taeyeon's cheeks.

"That's the purpose of a date, right? To get to know each other?" Taeyeon cleared her throat.

"Can I assume you've taken an interest in me?" Tiffany wiggled her eyebrows at Taeyeon.

Taeyeon chortled in response. "I thought, the moment you agreed to continue our date is a sign that we both have taken interests in each other." She smiled at Tiffany, ignoring the heat she felt on her cheeks. She knew she must've been blushing. To her surprise, she also saw pink blush tinted Tiffany's cheeks.

"I am indeed interested in you." Tiffany threw her gaze away from Taeyeon, as if she tried to hide the blush on her cheeks.

"We're on the same page then." Taeyeon concluded. "Fany," She called out the younger woman and Tiffany turned her head. Taeyeon smiled and stretched her hand toward Tiffany. "Wanna hold hands?"

Tiffany didn't say anything, but she smiled and took Taeyeon's hand in hers. "I really wanna get to know you, Taeyeon." Tiffany stated firmly. "I have a feeling that I will like you a lot." She turned her head to Taeyeon and grinned. "Do I sound creepy just now?"

Taeyeon giggled. "N'ah, it sounds like a music in my ears." She stated, receiving a playful slap on her arm. "Why do you have that feeling, though? We barely know each other."

"That's the thing." Tiffany looked up to the dark sky above them. "We just met today, but I feel so comfortable around you." She swung their holding hand playfully. "I feel like I

don't need to pretend to be someone else." She looked at Taeyeon and dashed a wide smile.

Taeyeon smiled at the sight of Tiffany dashing her smile. She felt like she really needed to thank Yuri for setting her up with Tiffany. So far, the time she spent with Tiffany was pleasant. She didn't feel like Tiffany faking anything, she was also comfortable to be herself around Tiffany. Of course there were moments when she was dazzled by Tiffany's attractiveness, but the ease she felt around the other woman made her able to be herself.

"Just so we're on the same page, there's something I wanna ask you," stated Taeyeon.

"Shoot away," Tiffany replied.

"I don't know whether Yuri told you or not, but when I agree to a date, that means I am really looking forward to take it to a relationship." She grinned sheepishly. "So, if you're not up to a committed relationship, please let me know in advance."

"Great!" Tiffany exclaimed, making Taeyeon surprised at the sudden exclamation. "I'm tired of casual dates and people looking for just fun." She huffed before once again beamed a smile at Taeyeon. "You have no idea how long have I been yearning to be in a relationship."

Taeyeon laughed at the unexpected response. "So, I think we're on the same page."

Tiffany nodded in answer. "Can we get to know each other now?"

"Tell me what do you want to know about me, Fany" Taeyeon replied excitedly. They started to exchanged questions to each other, and the smile on Taeyeon face never fell off. Even though she never believed in Santa before, this

time she silently asked Santa, for this woman next to her was really her Christmas gift.



STAGE 3

THE DISAPPOINTMENT



One week felt like a flash for Taeyeon. It was December 17 already, exactly one week before Christmas night. She opened her katalak to find a name that had been on the top of her chat list this past one week: Tiffany. Ever since the blind date that Yuri set-up for her and Tiffany, they exchanged their contact and not a day was spent without them talking or chatting to each other. Both women openly showed their interest to each other. When they wanted to see each other, they would ask the other person's availability. There was no push and pull. Only simple pulls, dating in your adulthood was surely different compared to when you were teenagers.

Taeng: Are you free today?

Taeyeon put her phone on her working desk without locking it, waiting for the reply from Tiffany.

Fany: Aside from gym schedule at 10am, I am free.

Fany: Where are you taking me?

Taeyeon smiled at the second message she read. This is one of the traits Taeyeon liked from Tiffany. The latter didn't beat around the bush. She was straightforward, so it was easy for Taeyeon to understand what was in her mind.

Taeng: Up for a cup of coffee in the afternoon?

Her phone rang while she waited for the reply, flashing Tiffany's name on the screen.

"Yes, Fany?" She immediately picked up the phone.

"Hi Tae. I am too lazy to type." Tiffany's voice filled Taeyeon's ear. Taeyeon chuckled at Tiffany's explanation.

"Where are you?" Taeyeon had a smile on her face. The smile that always rose every time she talked to Tiffany.

"Home, reading a novel."

"The baby boomer is having her quality time." Teased Taeyeon.

"Yah!" Tiffany yelled. "Just because I love to read, doesn't mean I am a baby boomer." She ended it with a huff.

"Kidding, Fany." Taeyeon laughed at the response. "So, up for a coffee this afternoon?"

"Will 3 pm works for you?"

"Sounds good." Taeyeon nodded at the offer. "Any cafe you would like to visit?"

"What about Midlevel?"

"Ah, the one near SNU?"

"Yes! I crave for some sweets. I heard their cream-filled waffles are great." Tiffany sounded lively.

Taeyeon smiled wider. "Alright, Midlevel at 3 pm?" Taeyeon concluded.

"Wait, will you go directly to Midlevel from your home?"

"I plan to go to Yuri's place first. Why?"

“I will fetch you, then. I need to drop Jess in Yuri’s place.”

“Sounds great. So, see you later?”

“See you soon! Bye, Tae.”

Taeyeon hung up the phone still with a smile on her face. She put her phone back on the desk and opened her laptop. She still had couple of hour to watch some youtube videos before preparing herself to go to Yuri’s place.



Taeyeon keyed-in the code and the door lock opened. She then opened the door and stepped into a studio apartment unit. She looked around but the owner of the unit was not inside.

“Yuri-yah,” She called out her friend’s name but no one answered her. She slid out her phone from her jean’s pocket and called her friend. It took several ring until the person picked up her phone.

“Where are you?” Taeyeon immediately asked once the phone was answered.

“Mini market downstairs. You’ve arrived already?” Her friend asked back.

“Yup.” Taeyeon took off her shoes and walked towards two seater sofa in front of the TV. “I will just lounge about here. Bring some chips, will you?”

“Yah! Why are you bossing me around?” Yuri protested, earning a laugh from Taeyeon.

“Kidding, Yul.” Taeyeon still laughed.

“Whatever. You’re annoying.” Yuri answered with a scoff.

“You love me nonetheless.”

“No, I love my Sica.”

“Ewww! Love sick teenager!” Taeyeon laughed again.

“Shut up!” Yuri laughed along. “I will come upstairs in a bit. I am hanging up the phone now. Bye, shorty.” Yuri ended the call.

“Aish!” Taeyeon stared at her phone screen. “How can she hang up after calling me short,” She sneered before opened katalak app and tapped on Tiffany’s contact.

Taeng: I am at Yuri’s

A reply came fast.

Fany: It’s only 12. You’re there already?

Taeng: Yes, gonna have quality time with Yul

Fany: You guys are so cute!

Taeng: Need to spend more time with her before Sica steals her away from me :(

Fany: LOL, silly. You speak as if I won’t steal you away from her

Taeyeon chuckled at Tiffany’s last reply. She loved how Tiffany could be very straight forward.

Taeng: You speak as if I will allow you

Fany: I know you will. Just you wait and see :p

Taeyeon cackled again. It was only one week, but why did it feel like she and Tiffany had known each other for a long time already? The way they chat, it flowed naturally. There was no silence when they talked over the phone. Talking to Tiffany also felt effortless. Taeyeon didn’t need to rake her brain just to keep the conversation going. It felt as if they were destined to meet each other and clicked since the first hello.

“Why are you laughing like that?” Yuri’s voice took Taeyeon’s attention away from her phone. Her friend just got inside the unit, hugging a paper bag in front of her chest.

“Chatting with Fany.” She answered quickly and moved her thumb on top of her phone screen.

Taeng: Looking forward to that! Now, I am gonna spend my time with Yul. Don’t be jealous

Fany: Okay, cutie. See you soon!

Taeyeon locked her phone and watched Yuri who was putting whatever she bought in the mini market to the fridge.

“Want some help?” Taeyeon jumped off of the sofa and walked towards her friend.

“No need.” Yuri replied short as she handed a bag of chips to Taeyeon.

“You really got me this?” Taeyeon laughed as she took the bag and stood next to Yuri who now took plain yoghurt pint from the paper bag.

“Yoghurt?” Taeyeon couldn’t stop herself to ask while raising her eyebrows. “Plain yoghurt? Since when are you into yoghurt?”

Yuri finally finished with her business and closed the fridge. “Why are you so nosy, Taeng? The yoghurt is not mine. It’s Sica’s.”

Taeyeon mouthed an oh while skipping her way back to the sofa and threw herself there. “You really seem into her.” She commented as she opened the bag of chips.

Yuri took free space on the sofa and snatched the bag from Taeyeon. “She’s adorable, you know?” Yuri took a fistful of chips before giving back the bag to Taeyeon.

“What do you like from her?” Taeyeon took one piece to her mouth.

Yuri didn’t answer right away. Instead she took her time while smiling wide like a fool. “I don’t know.” She finally answered, still with the wide smile on her face.

“How come you don’t know?” Taeyeon clicked her tongue.

“I really don’t know. At first, of course because she was beautiful. But after I met her, it felt effortless to talk to her. Everything just flew naturally.” Yuri chuckled.

“And then?” Taeyeon had a full interest to know further as what Yuri described was exactly how she felt about Tiffany.

“And then, I found out she never dated a woman.” Yuri grinned sheepishly before taking a chip into her mouth.

“So what?” Taeyeon shrugged, didn’t understand how would that be a reason Yuri was into Jessica.

“I was disappointed, you know.” Yuri pouted. “She might’ve just confused and only needed me to answer her confusion about her preference.”

Taeyeon nodded, understanding Yuri’s stand point. “But you still date her, though.” She stated the fact.

“After knowing that she was never with a woman, I started to keep my distance from her.” She paused to take another chip. “And guess what? She took effort to make me comeback to her.”

“And that conclude that she’s into woman?” Taeyeon really didn’t understand where Yuri’s story was going.

“No, but I appreciate that effort and no one ever put that much effort for me before.” Now a dreamy smile was plastered on Yuri’s face. “So I thought, why don’t I give her a chance, and we agreed that if ever Sica find out that she’s totally straight, she will need to let me know as soon as

possible. So we won't drag ourselves into unsettled relationship."

"Isn't that risky? We're no longer in our twenties, Yul." Taeyeon couldn't help but to be worried of Yuri.

"There's no love without risk, Taeng. There's a chance of being one-sided, there's a chance of messy break-up. Aren't we all becoming vulnerable when it comes to love?"

"And you will to take the risk?"

"Worst case, even if me and Sica are not love match, I may learn something about myself and what I am looking for in a partner." Yuri paused and smile. "So, yeah. I am taking the risk."

Taeyeon nodded, absorbing what Yuri said. Taeyeon once experienced heart break many years ago. And since then, she stuck to fun and casual dates. No relationship. No strings attached. Until almost all of her friends started to get settled with their partners, she started to feel alone and insecure. She realized that she also wanted to have what her friends had. So, she started to gather her courage to pursue love once again. And when she decided to look for a partner for real, Tiffany came into her life. It was a sweet coincident. Maybe, she also would like to take the risk for Tiffany. She smiled at her own thoughts. Maybe all this time, Santa really listened to what she wished.

"Why are you smiling like that, Shorty?" Yuri flicked Taeyeon's forehead.

"Ouch!" Taeyeon finally put her attention to Yuri while rubbing her forehead. "I just thought what you said was beautiful." She pouted.

"N'ah, I don't trust you." Yuri jeered at her friend. "You must be thinking about Tiffany. How's thing with her?"

Taeyeon cheered up upon hearing Tiffany's name being mentioned. "We're so clicked!" She excitedly answered. "You really are a genius match maker!"

"I know right! When I met her the first time and found out that she swing that way, the first thing I thought was, this person would be a very good match for my Taeng!"

"Since when am I your Taeng?"

"Ew!"

"Ew to you too!"



The bell of Yuri's unit dinged and Yuri immediately jumped off of the couch to opened the door.

"Hi Sica!"

Taeyeon could hear the excitement in Yuri's voice.

"Tiffany! Taeng has been longing for you."

Taeyeon gasped upon hearing Yuri's voice.

"And she mentioned you guys haven't kissed yet. She's dying to kiss you." Yuri continued

Taeyeon jumped off of the couch and ran towards the door.

"Don't listen to her nonsense!" She half shouted while running, earning laughs from the people who was gathered by the door. When she finally got to the door, she immediately shut up and her eyes lit up in excitement seeing the person in front of her. Tiffany was in white turtleneck sweater, topped with white coat.

"Hi, Tae!" Tiffany greeted.

"Hi, I missed you." The words smoothly flew out from Taeyeon's mouth.

“Hi Taeyeon, can you see me?” Jessica waved her hand in front of Taeyeon’s face.

Taeyeon blinked her eyes couple of time before turned to head to Jessica. “Oh. Hi, Sica!” She finally greeted the other woman, though absentmindedly.

Jessica playfully rolled her eyes upon receiving Taeyeon’s greetings. “I think Taeyeon is really into Tiffany, babe.” She talked to Yuri.

“Babe?” Tiffany and Taeyeon asked in unison, didn’t expect Jessica would call Yuri babe.

“What? Never see people in relationship calling their partner ‘babe’?” Jessica seemed unbothered by the response, earning a chuckle from Yuri.

“You guys are gonna have a date, right? Go away now. Let me and Sica have our quality time.” Yuri pushed Taeyeon out of the unit while pulling Jessica inside at the same time.

Taeyeon chuckled as she let Yuri pushed her away. “Have fun lovebirds.” Taeyeon remarked right before Yuri closed the door. Taeyeon then turned her head to the woman next to her and offered her hand. “Shall we?”



The Midlevel cafe was not too packed when they arrived. Seemed like most of the customers were SNU students. They were either focus on their laptops or were with their friends, hung out and discussed about project the lecturer gave to them. Taeyeon and Tiffany chose the seat by the window, having their time chatting, while observing their surroundings.

“I feel young again,” Taeyeon stated before she sipped her iced milk tea.

Tiffany chuckled at the remarks. “You speak as if you’re in your fifties.”

“Well, I will be 35 next year. Fifteen more years to fifty.”

Tiffany laughed, and Taeyeon laughed along. Taeyeon loved it every time Tiffany laugh. She felt somehow appreciated. Her friend always said that her joke was lame, but Tiffany always laughed at her jokes. Even when the latter said her joke was not funny, she would still chuckle.

“Do you plan to get married, Tae?” Tiffany asked as she rested her back to the chair.

Taeyeon almost spitted out her milk tea when she heard that. “Are we on the stage where we’re allowed to question that already?”

Tiffany tilted her head and put up a confused face. “Is it a topic we shouldn’t talk about yet?”

“Well,” Taeyeon took her time to think. Whatever answer she would give to Tiffany shouldn’t affect much on their relationship as they were still trying to get to know each other. But deep inside Taeyeon’s heart, she had already taken a deep interest to the woman she dated. She really wanted this to work, especially now literally everyone in her circle was dating someone already. “I just thought that question would be asked after we become official.”

Tiffany nodded while her eyes never left Taeyeon’s “On the contrary, I thought the question should be asked before we decide to continue further.”

“Why so?” Taeyeon leaned forward, getting interested to understand Tiffany’s point of view.

“What’s the point of being in a relationship if we don’t share the same dream?”

“Dream?”

“I am a woman, Tae.” Tiffany smiled, the beautiful smile Taeyeon was fond of. “My dream is to get married and build a family.”

Usually Tiffany’s smile would make Taeyeon smiled along, but not this time. Even though Tiffany’s smile still charmed her, but the words which flew out of Tiffany’s mouth got her thinking. If that was Tiffany’s dream, would it mean that their relationship wouldn’t go anywhere? “You still have that dream even though you swing that way?”

Tiffany nodded undoubtedly. “Yes, I don’t see my preference would hinder me to achieve my dream.”

“You sure?” Taeyeon was unconvinced.

“Positive.” Tiffany was still persistent. “You sounded like you don’t want to get married. Am I right?” She now furrowed her eyebrows and eyed Taeyeon with serious expression.

Taeyeon let out a heavy sigh. “I give up the idea of getting married since long ago, Fany.” It was the first time she found incompatibility between her and Tiffany. And unfortunately, this incompatibility was something principle for her. She had been skeptical about marriage since she stepped into her thirties. She just wanted to manage her expectation as real as she could. Marriage for her was more like a fairytale, not a reality she could achieve.

Tiffany exhaled after hearing Taeyeon’s answer. “I guess, it’s gonna be a huge roadblock.” She smiled at Taeyeon, a bitter smile this time. “It’s a big deal for me, Tae.”

Taeyeon tried to put up a smile as well, resulted in a defeated one. “Yeah, I understand.”

The silence engulfed them. It was uncomfortable, it was unfortunate. Taeyeon thought their first meeting was

magical, she almost believed in the magic of Christmas, but today, she started to doubt it all. Maybe Santa was delivering the wrong Christmas present to her. Or maybe Santa was not real at all.



STAGE 4

THE ADJUSTMENT



Taeyeon absentmindedly played with the lock button on her iPhone. She kept pressing the button causing the screen to lit up and blacked out each second. Every time the screen lit up, only the lock screen wallpaper showed up on the screen, no notification showed. She pressed the button again, to light up the screen and that was when her phone was snatched from her grip.

“I hate to see you like this.” Yuri was now the one who held Taeyeon’s phone, prevented the latter to play with the lock button again.

Taeyeon groaned before throwing her back to the couch rest. But she said nothing at Yuri. It had been like this in the past two days. Taeyeon would come over to Yuri’s place after work, did nothing but staring at her phone, as if waiting for someone to call or to text her. But to no avail, there was nothing from the person she had waited for. On the first day, Yuri didn’t do anything about this, but today, she got tired of watching Taeyeon acted this way.

“It’s not like you’re having a break-up, Taeng.” She tried to knock some senses to her short friend. “How long have you

known each other? Two weeks, right? Why are you acting as if you just ended a two-year relationship?” She continued.

Taeyeon pouted as she stared blankly at the ceiling. “I failed to manage my expectation, Yul.” She sighed loudly. “I even almost believed that Santa is real and Fany is the Christmas present he has prepared for me.” She closed her eyes as she exhaled. “What a stupid thought, I gave up on the idea of marriage but I almost believed that Santa is real.”

Yuri chuckled at what Taeyeon said as she returned the phone back to her friend. “Just contact her if you don’t want to let her go.”

Taeyeon opened her eyes and took the phone. “N’ah, she said there’s no point of being in a relationship if we do not share the same dream.” She stared blankly at her phone locked phone screen. She actually wanted to do what Yuri told her to do. These past two weeks had been delightful for Taeyeon and she didn’t want to end it like this. Even though they could not end up as lovers, she still wished that she could be friends with Tiffany. Tiffany was kind, she had a good sense of humor, they clicked well since their first meeting. It would be her loss if she lost a person like Tiffany.

“You guys are in your thirties. Act like adults, would you?” Yuri flicked Taeyeon’s forehead.

“Ouch!” Taeyeon rubbed her forehead. “We are doing exactly what adults do, Yul. We understand the roadblock. We have different visions about life. So, we don’t waste each other time and put it to an end.”

“That’s great! If you already put it to an end, no need to act like you’re broken hearted then.” Yuri scoffed.

“I am not broken hearted!” Taeyeon retorted. “I just feel it’s a shame to lose someone as attractive and as jolly as Tiffany.”

Yuri chuckled at how Taeyeon countered. “Taeng, you really like her, right?”

“Who doesn’t like a girl like Fany?”

“Are you sure, you really want to end it? You don’t want to try?”

“What is there to try? I really have no plan to get married or to build a family. I can’t do that, Yul. We both know there’s no such future for lesbians in this country.” She hurled.

“I know there’s no such future for people like us here.” Yuri calmly replied. “I am not questioning your plan or her dream. I didn’t ask whether you would like to try changing your view on marriage.”

Taeyeon furrowed her eyebrows. “I am lost.”

“What I asked was whether you’re sure you want to end it? You don’t wanna try to discuss further with her?”

Taeyeon didn’t say anything, as she tried to absorb Yuri’s advice. Deep down, she knew she didn’t want this to end. But, she also didn’t want to waste her time trying out a relationship that had different goals. She let out a loud sigh again. “I think I need more time to think.”



“So, you’re saying that you and Taeyeon is done?” Jessica concluded what Tiffany just told her as she applied her night cream.

“She doesn’t want to get married, Jess.” Tiffany whined in Jessica’s bed.

“So, it ends?” Jessica reconfirmed.

“What’s the point of continuing this if it leads nowhere?” Tiffany asked back.

“You keep beating around the bush. Just answer with yes or no, would you?” Jessica rolled her eyes.

“I don’t want to.” Tiffany mumbled, as if she was unsure about her answer.

Jessica finally smiled at the answer. “I knew it.” She concluded as she put her night cream on the vanity and get on the bed, next to Tiffany. “I’ve never seen you this restless over something that is unofficial yet. What’s so special about her, though?”

“I don’t know. I feel like we’re really clicked. Every time I’m with her, I feel like I can be myself. Talking to her is also very easy. You know that I no longer have too many criteria for a girlfriend, right? I only need someone who is easy to talk to. And Taeyeon is so easy to talk to. I can talk about anything to her. So I was really disappointed when finding out that she had given up the idea of having family.” She answered with a frown on her face.

“So, Taeyeon decided to end this because you wanna build a family and she doesn’t?” Jessica asked.

“Well, not really.” Tiffany’s answer was hesitant.

“So you ended it?”

“Uhm, nope.”

Jessica sighed. “So who ended it?”

“No one...” Tiffany let out a huff. “But! She stopped contacting me after that day. So, maybe she’s the one who ends this.”

“Aish, Tiff...” Jessica slipped herself under the duvet and laid down. “You’re saying that you assumed Taeyeon wanted this to end because she stopped contacting you after that conversation?”

“Isn’t that an obvious clue that she doesn’t want to continue this?”

“That’s your assumption.” Jessica winded it up as she closed her eyes. “Maybe you should contact her and talk this out with her.”

“What’s left to talk about?” Tiffany pouted as she mirrored Jessica’s position.

“Everything about you and her. At least, if you both want this to end, you guys get proper closure and won’t be bothered with ‘what if’ questions later on. Now, I wanna sleep. Good night, Tiff.”

Tiffany stayed quiet for a while, thinking that Jessica might be right. If it really ended, at least she would get a proper closure. “Good night, Jess.”



It was almost midnight and Tiffany could not sleep. Her mind was occupied by Jessica’s words earlier. She took her phone from the bed post and she opened katalk app. She scrolled down a bit to find Taeyeon’s name. She opened the last chat she had with Taeyeon which was two days ago. She read last few lines on the screen.

Taeng: Need to spend more time with her before Sica steals her away from me :(

Fany: LOL, silly. You speak as if I won’t steal you away from her

Taeng: You speak as if I will allow you

Fany: I know you will. Just you wait and see :p

Taeng: Looking forward to that! Now, I am gonna spend my time with Yul. Don’t be jealous

Fany: Okay, cutie. See you soon!

She frowned after she read. She still remembered the giddy feelings she had when she typed that she would steal Taeyeon away from Yuri. It was two days ago, and here they were, being all awkward after finding out their views about marriage. She closed her eyes, remembering good times she had with Taeyeon. It was only two weeks since they knew each other but she knew, she really liked Taeyeon. She opened her eyes again and looked blankly at the screen of their last chat when suddenly a new message popped up.

Taeng: Hi

Taeng: Are you asleep?

A small smile rose on Tiffany's face. Her thumb immediately typed a reply.

Fany: Not yet

It didn't take long before her screen switched to Taeyeon's caller ID. She immediately tapped on the green phone icon to pick up the phone.

"Hi," Tiffany answered.

"Hi, Fany." Taeyeon sounded awkward.

"I thought you ghosted me." Tiffany replied with a chuckle, earning a soft laugh from across the line.

"I was about to say that as well, you know?" Taeyeon replied a bit more cheery this time.

"Why are you not sleeping yet, Tae?" Tiffany asked. She wondered whether Taeyeon also couldn't sleep because of their conversation two days ago.

"I keep thinking about you." Taeyeon laughed again, maybe she thought it sounded cheesy.

“Yah!” Tiffany laughed along. “Is that the best pick up line you could come up with?”

Taeyeon laughed at Tiffany’s question. “I mean it, though. I thought about you, about us, about our conversation two days ago.”

Tiffany frowned at that. She didn’t know what to feel. Part of her was happy because Taeyeon contacted her again, part of her felt wary, afraid that this phone call would be the last call she had with Taeyeon if Taeyeon decided to put a closure on what they had. “I would assume you’ve come into conclusion, that’s why you call me. Am I right?” She tried to sound normal.

“Well, not really.” Taeyeon let out a sigh. “Actually, I call you because...” She paused. “Please don’t laugh if I tell you why.”

“Spill it.”

“I call you because I missed you.” Taeyeon squeaked, and Tiffany couldn’t hold her laugh. “Yah! I told you not to laugh!”

“I missed you too, Tae.” Tiffany smiled when she uttered the word.

“If you missed me, why didn’t you contact me?” Taeyeon whined.

“Because I thought we ended already.” Her smile turned into a frown.

“That’s actually the reason why I haven’t contacted you these past two days.” Taeyeon replied. “I also thought we ended already.”

“I don’t want to end it, though.” Tiffany bit her lips. She didn’t know how Taeyeon would react to that. Even though Taeyeon said that she missed her, it didn’t mean the older girl still wanted to continue what they had.

“Me neither, Fany.” A smile could be heard from Taeyeon’s voice.

Tiffany took a deep breath, feeling relieved that at least Taeyeon felt the same way. “Can I say I am glad that it is not one-sided?” She chuckled.

Taeyeon chuckled along. “Anyway, I think there’s a lot to talk about. I mean, about us, about our views in life, about our relationship. And I don’t want to talk it out on the phone. Can I see you?”

Tiffany smiled. She remembered what Jessica told her earlier. Her best friend was right, they needed to talk it out. “Sure, should we talk in either my place or yours? I think we need some privacy to talk it out.”

“I agree. What about your place? Tomorrow evening, after work?”

“Sounds good to me.”

“So, see you tomorrow?”

“Yes, see you tomorrow.”

“I think I can sleep now that I’ve heard your voice.”

Taeyeon chuckled.

“Yah!” Tiffany laughed while her heart beat faster.

“Cringe!”

Taeyeon laughed along. “Let’s sleep, Fany-ah. I can’t wait to see you tomorrow.”

“Okay, then. Good night, Tae.”

“Good night, Fany.”



Tiffany opened the door of her unit and greeted by Taeyeon who was in her work attire: simple white blouse and

a pair of grey ankle pants. The older woman brought six-pack of beers, with a wide grin on her face. “Just in case we need something to let loose.” She stated playfully before Tiffany stepped aside and let her in. Tiffany then took the beers so Taeyeon could take off her shoes.

“You’re not driving?” Tiffany asked as she walked to the fridge and put the beers inside.

“Nope, I took taxi.” Taeyeon replied as she put her shoes in the rack. “Can I use the bathroom?” She asked permission and Tiffany showed where the bathroom was. It didn’t take long for Taeyeon to wash up before she got out of the bathroom looking refreshed.

Tiffany was sitting on a couch, two cans of beers were situated on the coffee table. She patted the space next to her, signaling Taeyeon to take a seat. Taeyeon took the seat next to Tiffany and rested her back on the couch.

“How’s work?” Tiffany asked, noticing weariness on Taeyeon’s face.

“Surviving.” Taeyeon chuckled before straightened up her seat. “Trying to finish up the new product before end of year. I wanna take some days off for Christmas and New Year. How about you?”

“It’s been slow. The holiday atmosphere is taking over the office already.”

“I envy you.” Taeyeon faked a sigh. She then turned her body to Tiffany and pouted. “I missed you.”

Tiffany laughed at the sudden cuteness. “You’re so cute.”

Taeyeon smiled and stretched her hand to hold Tiffany’s hand. “I mean it.” She paused and looked at to their holding hands. “I really enjoy the time I spend with you.”

“Me too, Tae.” Tiffany smiled. “I never met someone who clicked since the first meeting.” She closed her eyes and

exhaled. “So, I when I knew you do not plan to build a family,” She opened her eyes and looked at Taeyeon. “I was disappointed, and at the same time I was also sad. Even though I don’t know whether we would last long or not, I also don’t want to waste my time working on unsettled relationship.”

Taeyeon frowned. She concurred Tiffany’s statement. She also didn’t want to be in unsettled relationship. “I understand. That’s why I want to talk with you. Whatever outcome of our conversation, at least I want to understand your stand point, and I want you to understand mine as well.” She gently squeezed Tiffany’s hand.

“So, why you don’t wanna get married?” Tiffany finally asked.

“Because we can’t get married. Same-sex marriage is not legal here, Fany.” Taeyeon pouted. “I also haven’t really came out to my family. All of my friends know I am gay, but my parents don’t know. I don’t know how to break the news to them.”

Tiffany stayed silent. That was not a new reason for her. She had heard the same reason from her ex-es before. She knew that coming out to friends was one thing, and coming out to family was a totally different thing. And most of the time, the only reason why gay people gave up the idea of building a family was because they didn’t want to come out to their family. And Taeyeon situation was the same.

“I am not afraid to come out, Fany. But I can’t help to think, is it selfish of me to pursue my happiness at the cost of my parents’ happiness? I gave up the idea of marriage not because I don’t want to build a family of my own, not because I really don’t want to spend my life with the person I love. It’s because I don’t want to sacrifice my parents’

happiness for my own.” Taeyeon smiled sadly as she finished her explanation.

“Let’s say, you won’t get married. So, what are you gonna do if you finally meet the love of your life?” Tiffany understood Taeyeon’s position. But she also wanted to understand Taeyeon’s outlook on the future.

“I am going to make a living together agreement with my partner.” Taeyeon answered seriously.

“Living together agreement? Like cohabitation agreement?” Tiffany ensured.

“Yes, it’s not as strong as legal marriage. But at least outlines the rights and obligations of each partner towards each other.”

Tiffany nodded at Taeyeon’s explanation. “Well, do you know why do I hold on to my dream to get married and build a family?”

Taeyeon shook her head.

“As naive as it might sound, my main reasons are of love and companionship. Marriage provides formal commitment for partners to build life together, to share experiences. I am a woman, Tae. I also need reassurance. And to know that my partner is dedicated to the relationship by formalize it in form of wedding, it gives me a sense of safety, trust, and emotional well-being.”

Taeyeon didn’t say a word, letting Tiffany continued her explanation.

“And at the end of the day, I want to have a family of my own. Me and my partner might — or might not adopt a child, but the point of building a family for me is to have a place to belong, a people to be loved by, you have a partner to share your life and feelings together.” Tiffany finished her explanation.

Both women then stayed silent, each of them tried to comprehend each other's opinion and recognized each other's feelings about the revelation of their views on marriage.

"I don't think our views are different." Taeyeon was the first to break the silence. "We both want commitments. I also want to have a place to belong, Fany." She smiled at Tiffany. "I think the only difference here is, you want it in the form of marriage, I want it in the form of cohabitation agreement."

"Yeah, you want the less binding one, huh?" Tiffany joked, sticking out her tongue to Taeyeon.

"Yah!" Taeyeon laughed and playfully slapped Tiffany's thigh. "Do you still see our views toward marriage is a roadblock for our relationship?" Taeyeon asked carefully. After listening to Tiffany's explanation, she believed they shared similar view towards life. But she didn't want to assume.

Tiffany smiled while shaking her head. "I think our views are very similar. In short, we both yearn for life-long commitment, don't we?"

Taeyeon gave a nod as an answer, before chuckled softly. "Gosh, it's the first time I talk about this matter before even official yet."

Tiffany let out a chuckle as well. "Hey, I told you I am gonna steal you away from Yuri, didn't I?" She playfully smirked.

Taeyeon smiled at Tiffany's remarks. "I am glad we talk it out."

Tiffany mirrored Taeyeon's smile. "Me too, Tae."

Taeyeon shifted her gaze to two cans of beer on the table and clicked her tongue. "Poor beer, we don't need you to let loose."

“Yah!” Tiffany laughed at the sudden mention of the beer.
“You, silly.”

Taeyeon chuckled as she stood up. “I guess, we can call it a night, then.”

“You’re leaving already?” Tiffany frowned.

“I still need to work tomorrow, Fany. Let’s have dinner tomorrow?” Taeyeon offered and it brought back a smile on Tiffany’s face.

“Deal.” Tiffany approved. She then stood up and walked Taeyeon out from her unit.

Taeyeon wore her shoes and opened the door of Tiffany’s unit. She held her step and turned around to face Tiffany and smiled. “I almost forget.”

Tiffany tilted her head in confusion. “What is it?”

Taeyeon didn’t say a word, instead she leaned in and pressed her lips onto Tiffany’s. It was just a quick peck, a simple kiss. But it was enough to paint pink blushes on both women’s cheeks.

“Th-that’s unfair.” Tiffany stuttered, earning a soft laugh from Taeyeon.

“What’s unfair?”

“I wasn’t prepared.”

Taeyeon smiled and closed the door. “Are you prepared now?”

A shy smile and a nod from Tiffany. And it’s all it took for Taeyeon to lean in one more time, planting another kiss on Tiffany’s lips.

Maybe, Tiffany was really Santa’s present for Taeyeon this year.



5 Stages of Relationship

STAGE 5

THE COMMITMENT



Taeyeon eyes glued to the screen of her phone. The screen showed the group chat she had with her best friends. The notification sound kept ringing so she opened the group and noticing there were some new bubble chats on the screen. The bubble kept adding up, seemed like her friends were discussing about something. She read the seemingly never ending chat in the group.

Syoung: Guys, wanna spend Christmas Eve together?

Sunny: You're not going back to your parents' home?

Syoung: My parents are traveling abroad. They will celebrate Christmas in Europe. Me and Kyungho thought it'd be nice to celebrate with you

HYO: Cool! I am in!

Yoong: Count me in, Unnies

Yul: Where? When?

HYO: December 24. You don't know when is Christmas Eve?

Yul: I know the date!! I wanna know what time exactly?

Syoung: 7pm. Let's rent a villa

Yul: Can I bring my girlfriend?

Syoung: Ofc. The more the merrier

Syoung: So, you're in?

Yul: I am in

Syoung: Sunny? What about you?

Sunny: Just asked Henry, we will come

Seohyun: I am also in. My parents are out of town. I will come with my boyfriend

Taeyeon blinked her eyes. Every year, she spent the Christmas Eve with Yuri because their parents lived outside of Seoul, while the other girls usually spent Christmas Eve with their parents. But this year, suddenly everyone stayed in Seoul and they would celebrate Christmas together. She smiled and typed a reply.

Taeng: So everyone brings partners?

Syoung: Yup

Yul: Yes

HYO: Ofc!

Sunny: Obviously

Seohyun: Yes, Unnie

Yoong: Not sure. If he doesn't have schedule, he will join

Syoung: Will you come, Taeng?

Taeng: OK, I am in

She then closed the app and called Tiffany. It took three rings until Tiffany picked up the phone.

"Hi, Tae." The husky voice greeted Taeyeon.

"Hi, are you busy?"

"Nope, I am playing around with excel sheet." Tiffany chuckled.

Taeyeon giggled. "Just a quick question, are you free for Christmas Eve?"

“Well, Jess said she was going to celebrate it with Yuri. So yeah, I am totally free.”

“Great! Wanna join me and my friends? We’re celebrating Christmas Eve together. Everyone will bring their partner. Sica will also be there.” Taeyeon excitedly told the other woman.

“Is it the friends I met during dinner?”

“Yes!”

Tiffany hummed, before replied. “Will I be your plus one?”

Taeyeon could feel her cheeks warmed. “What do you expect? You are my date.”

Tiffany laughed softly across the line. “Do you notice that we’re gonna be the only one who’s not in a relationship during Christmas Eve, right?”

“Of course I am aware of that. Why?”

“You won’t sulk because your gay buddy will have Jess with her?” Tiffany teased by bringing up Taeyeon’s upbringing during the dinner when they first met.

“Yah!” Taeyeon chortled. “I am gonna be fine. I am going to bring my date, so I won’t sulk.”

“Sounds good then. Do you want me to fetch you, Tae?” Tiffany offered.

“N’ah, I will fetch you.” Taeyeon smiled wide now that Tiffany agreed.

“Okay, then. See you soon, Tae. I miss you already.”

The smile never left Taeyeon face. “I miss you too, Fany. See you.”



Taeyeon pulled over her BMW in front of the apartment lobby with a smile on her face. Her smile grew wider as she

saw familiar woman who stood up in the lobby, eyeing her car. She opened the window and greeted the person.

“Hi, pretty.”

Tiffany laughed at the way Taeyeon greeted her and walked towards the car. She then opened the door and let herself get into the car, taking the seat next to the driving woman. Once she got inside the car, she laughed, noticing the outfit Taeyeon wore.

“Yah! Why are you wearing that sweater?” She commented in amusement.

Taeyeon wore dark green sweater with patterns of white small deers making several line. The sweater she wore when they first met.

“Ask that to yourself.” Taeyeon stuck out her tongue to Tiffany who the same sweaters, with the color of dark red.

Both women chuckled at how they coincidently wore the same sweater again.

“Anyway,” Tiffany stopped laughing and leaning in, planting a soft peck on Taeyeon’s lips. “I missed you.” She pulled away, with a shy smile on her face, and a faint blush on her cheeks.

Taeyeon was not in a better state, hue of red was visible on her face. “I missed you too.” But the smile never once left her face. “Shall we?” She asked excitedly, and got a nod from Tiffany as an answer.

“Everyone is going to bring their partners?” Tiffany asked while playing with the car’s head unit, trying to find a song she liked from the Christmas playlist.

“Yes, literally everyone will bring their partners.” Taeyeon continued to drive as she stole a glance at Tiffany. “I am glad you agreed to join. Or else, I would be the only single there.

Gay and single.” She let out a loud huff, earning a hearty laugh from Tiffany.

“So, that means I will meet the actor Yoona dates?”

Tiffany finally landed her decision on the song and rested her back to the seat.

Taeyeon gasped playfully at Tiffany’s question. “Don’t tell me you’re gonna ditch me over an actor!”

“You know I am gay, Tae.” She faked a scoff before taking one of Taeyeon’s hands which was not holding the steering wheel. She then interlaced their fingers, making Taeyeon smiled at the warmth of her hand. “Even Chris Evan won’t turn me straight.”

“What about Chris Hemsworth?”

“Nope.”

“Lee Dongwook?”

“Ah, he’s handsome. I like him.” Tiffany nodded in agreement.

“Will you turn straight for him?” Taeyeon wriggled her eyebrows.

“N’ah, he’s not a woman.” Tiffany shrugged, earning yet another laugh from Taeyeon.

“What about Kim Taeyeon?”

Tiffany turned her head to Taeyeon and smirked teasingly. “If she asks me to be her girlfriend, I will immediately make babies with her.”

Taeyeon bursted out laughing upon receiving the answer. “How many babies we will make?”

“None, you don’t own penis, silly.”

Taeyeon laughed hard at that. No matter how silly their conversation was, she could feel the warmth in her chest. She loved the amount of laugh she had, she loved the time she

spent with Tiffany. Once again, Taeyeon thought, maybe Tiffany was really her Christmas present.

Taeyeon and Tiffany finally arrived at the villa Sooyoung rented. It was huge, it even had quite a large car park. There were five cars parked in front of the villa already. Taeyeon knew most of them. Seohyun's Hyundai electric car, Sooyoung's Hyundai, Yoona's Mercedes, Hyoyeon's Genesis, and Yuri's KIA. Taeyeon parked her car next to Hyoyeon's. She then turned her head at Tiffany. "You're ready?"

Tiffany giggled. "It's not my first time meeting them, Tae,"

Taeyeon chuckled, "Yeah, you're right." She then turned her body to the back, reaching out for couple bottles of wine she bought for the dinner.

"How many do you get?" Tiffany noticed Taeyeon's difficulty in taking the bottles.

"Five." She got three bottles in her hands.

Tiffany mirrored Taeyeon and took the remaining two bottles. "So I won't come empty handed." She grinned at Taeyeon, earning a smile from the latter. They got out of the car, bringing the bottles of wine with them. Once they got inside the villa, all heads turned to them.

"The new couple is coming!" Hyoyeon was the first who announced their arrival, followed by series of tease from the other friends.

"Guys, we're not an item yet." Tiffany clarified.

"Ah, Taeyeon is finally bringing someone?" A tall man appeared from the kitchen, bringing a plate of chicken florentines on his hands. Sooyoung followed him from behind.

“Hi Fany!” The tall woman greeted cheerfully. “Taeng managed to kidnap you, huh?”

“Yah! I am not kidnapping anyone!!” Taeyeon protested while putting the bottles of wine on the table, before taking the rest from Tiffany’s hands and put it on the table as well.

“You should introduce Fany to everyone, Taeng.”

Sooyoung remarked as she looked around, noticing everyone is in the living room already.

“Well,” Taeyeon grinned nervously. She couldn’t remember the last time she brought someone with her, especially during special occasion like Christmas Eve. “This is Tiffany, she’s going to be my girlfriend soon — if she won’t reject me.”

Everybody laughed at the way Taeyeon introduced Tiffany, including Tiffany who immediately introduced herself. “I am Tiffany, soon to be Taeyeon’s girlfriend — if she will ask me later.”

The laugh went even louder after Tiffany’s introduction.

“I am Kyungho. Sooyoung’s fiance.” The tall man who was bringing chicken florentines introduced himself.

“I am Minjun, Hyo’s boyfriend.” The blonde man who sat next to Hyoyeon mentioned his name.

“This is Henry.” Sunny poked on the cheek of a cute looking man next to her.

“Sunny’s boyfriend.” The man continued.

“I am Kyuhyun.” The handsome man who wore checkered vest followed. “I am single.”

“You’re annoying, Oppa.” Seohyun pinched the man’s arm, earning a laugh from the latter. “He’s my boyfriend.”

“Jessica, your turn.” Kyungho noticed that Jessica hadn’t introduced herself.

“I am Tiffany’s bestfriend.” She replied with a smile, earning a silent oh from Kyungho and the rest of the men in the room.

“Where’s your boyfriend, Yoong?” Taeyeon noticed the absence of one male in the group.

“He’s in the bathroom.” Yoona replied and as if on cue, the bathroom door was opened and a tall handsome man stepped out of it.

Tiffany gasped at the sight of the man.

“Oppa, your turn to introduce yourself to Fany.” Yoona stated once the man got out of the bathroom.

“Ah, my turn?” The man smiled confidently as he walked towards Tiffany and offered his hand for a handshake.

Tiffany shook the man’s hand. “H-hi I am Tiffany. Tiffany Young.” She stuttered.

“I am Lee Dongwook. Nice meeting you, Tiffany.”

“N-nice meeting you too.” She kept stuttering, while the other men in the room groaned.

“Dongwook always steals the thunder.” Kyungho snickered.

“Why? You wanna flirt with Tiffany?” Sooyoung glared at her fiancé, earning a defeated grin from him.

“Don’t blame me. I am a famous actor.” Dongwook replied with a playful smug face, earning unison groans from the rest of people in the room, including his own girlfriend. “Kidding, kidding.” He chuckled before sitting next to his girlfriend.

“Alright, food is here. Wine is also here. And everyone is here. Let’s have our dinner.” Sooyoung announced and everyone started to take their seat in the dining table.

Tiffany took initiative to pour the wine to the glass for everyone, and Taeyeon helped her to do so. Once everyone’s

glass is filled with wine, Sooyoung raised her glass and smiled widely. "Merry Christmas, my dearest!"

"Merry Christmas!" Everyone raised their glass and shouted happily.

Taeyeon smiled wide at the sight before her eyes. This Christmas is indeed special. She was happy that she still had her best friend around with her. She was happy that she got the chance to celebrate Christmas with them. She turned her head to the woman next to her, who apparently also looking at her. And her heart felt even warmer. She was happy, this year Santa got her a very beautiful Christmas present.



Taeyeon stepped inside the bedroom, already in her loose t-shirt and a pair of comfortable sweatpants. She grinned at the woman who was sitting on the bed, wearing her pink pajamas. "I hope you don't mind with the sleeping arrangement. I didn't know the arrangement is to sleep with own partners." She stated as she walked towards the bed.

"You should be thankful I am here. Or else you will be sleeping alone while the other girls have their partners to cuddle." Tiffany stuck her tongue.

"Are you saying that you will cuddle me tonight?" Taeyeon smirked teasingly as she slipped herself under the duvet.

Tiffany rolled her eyes. "I am not cuddling with someone who is not my girlfriend."

Taeyeon giggled at that. "I hope you don't mind with all the teases we got from my friends and from their partners."

"I don't mind. But, you should've told me that Yoona's boyfriend is Lee Dongwook!" Tiffany huffed. "I must've

looked like a silly fangirl. I stuttered every time he talked to me! It's embarrassing." Tiffany pouted.

"I kinda gave you clue when we were in the car."

"When?" Tiffany raised her eyebrows.

"When you said Chris Evan won't make you straight."

"You only mentioned his name. You didn't tell me that he's Yoona's boyfriend."

"I only wanted to make sure that you won't turn straight after meeting him." Taeyeon laughed, earning a slap on her shoulder. "So, still gay?" She ensured.

"Totally gay. Especially towards you." Tiffany chuckled as she leaned in to peck Taeyeon's cheek. "I also like the way you introduce me."

Taeyeon groaned at that. "Don't remind me. That was embarrassing."

"This is Tiffany, she's going to be my girlfriend soon — if she won't reject me." Tiffany mimicked how Taeyeon introduced her to her friends' partners.

"Shut up." Taeyeon covered her face with her hands only to earn a hearty laugh from Tiffany.

"So, when?" asked Tiffany.

Taeyeon uncovered her face. "When?"

"When is soon?"

Taeyeon blushed when she finally understood the question. "What do you think? How soon is soon?"

"Next Christmas?"

Taeyeon pouted at Tiffany's answer. "Really? I thought you're the gift Santa prepared for me this Christmas."

Tiffany smiled at Taeyeon's statement. "Then you should make me your Christmas present."

Taeyeon's eyes immediately twinkled, hearing what Tiffany said. "Do you want to be my Christmas present this year?"

"Nope." Tiffany answered.

Taeyeon frowned dejectedly.

"I don't want to be your Christmas present this year. I wanna be your Christmas present this year, next year, the year after, and so forth." Tiffany continued with a smile and blushes on her face.

Taeyeon grinned wide. "Is that a yes?"

"A yes for what?" Tiffany smiled teasingly.

"A yes to be my girlfriend?" Taeyeon smiled, ignoring her warming cheeks.

"Ask me first."

"Fany-ah, do you want to be my girlfriend?"

"Yes."

Both woman stared at each other with a wide smile on their faces. Hues of reds decorating their cheeks, and their hearts covered with warmth. Taeyeon was the first to lean in, capturing Tiffany's lips with hers. This time, it was not a simple peck. This time, she took her time to feel the softness of Tiffany's lips on hers, registering it to her senses. Her heart beat loud, she could hear it in her own ears. When Tiffany returned the kiss, she shuddered at the feeling, but the warmth in her heart never faded. Silently, in between the kiss, Taeyeon thanked Santa for giving her the best Christmas present she ever received.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kim Sara — known in the fanfiction community as ‘kimkimsara,’ is a passionate writer and devoted fan of Girls' Generation (SNSD). With a playful spirit and a love for storytelling, Kim Sara first debuted under the name ‘srstaeny’ before rebranding to a cooler moniker that reflects her vibrant personality.

Though not a native English speaker, she embraces her writing journey with humor, acknowledging her grammar mistakes while inviting readers to enjoy her creative expressions. A self-proclaimed moody writer, Kim Sara crafts her stories based on her whims and feelings, often inspired by her ultimate bias, Taeyeon, and the rest of the SNSD members.

When she’s not writing, you can find her fangirling over her favorite songs and music videos from SNSD, struggling to pick just one. With a heart full of admiration for the group, Kim Sara continues to share her love for Taeyeon, Tiffany, and the entire SNSD family through her engaging fanfiction.