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The **Epitome** */I'pitəmi/*

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

Unleash the epitome of creative writers

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SYNOPSIS

The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kedah branch is proud to present the first issue of its e-magazine, The Epitome, as our focus to highlight our commitment to contribute to the areas of creative writing.

THE EPITOME aims to provide a platform for writers, educators, academicians, poet, and researchers to share their ideas, findings, knowledge, and experience, particularly on various creative writing genres - personal essays, poetry, short stories, songs, movie scripts, plays, and innovative projects in four different languages (English, Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin, and Arabic).

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear readers,

It is with great pleasure and immense pride that we, the Academy of Language Studies at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kedah branch, extend our warmest welcome to all writers and readers to honor all 127 artistic masterpieces. This is indeed a tremendous achievement to commemorate our debut.

We are privileged to offer the platform for the writers to show their talents in creative writing in this magazine, which serves as a testament to our commitment to the area of personal essays, poetry, short stories, songs, movie scripts, plays, and innovative projects. Their invaluable contributions and unwavering commitment to academic excellence have played a vital role in shaping this magazine.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Editorial Board




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A LONGED VACATION

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Today is the day. The 8th of June. A date that I have particularly marked with a cute star since two months ago in my locked dusty pink diary. I am really excited for today as we will be packing up for a vacation. I can hear the rapid but cautious footsteps downstairs. Mummy is busy preparing the fried mee with some crackers and nuggets as the usual sides while daddy is probably loading the luggage. I really cannot stop imagining the murmuring sound of the waves under the vast blue sky, glimmering in the hot scorching sun. It has been a while since the three of us had a vacation as half of this year was filled with endless company meetings of my Mummy and Daddy.

The clock strikes 8 am and I am all ready in my Totally Spies shirt and the dark blue jeans in which I am going to pair with my favourite mustard and cream daisy sandals. I run in excitement downstairs after reaching for my Barbie sling bag behind my door.

"Good morning Sweetheart!" Daddy greets me with a bright smile on his face.

"Morning, Daddy! Have you loaded everything inside the car? What about my little set of Snow White sand castle that we bought last week?" I whimper.

"No, of course I would not forget the most important kit for our beach vacation!" he reached for me on the last step of stairs just to pinch my nose, ugh!

Mummy sets up the last set of tupperwares on the counter top before Daddy loads them into the car.

We set off to Pantai Tanjung Ara at 8.30 am with a short prayer led by Daddy.

"It's gonna take a while. I'm pretty sure it will be a lonely journey for me soon..." He giggles as he takes a side look at Mummy who is busy fixing her hijab.

"Eh, hello! I'm one of the best co-pilot in the world, okay! Don't pandang me sebelah mata like that!" she rolls her eyes while putting up one side of her shawl and pins it on the side of her head.

I smile in silence at the back while fixing my gaze outside of the window.

After almost 1 hour on the road, Daddy decides to stop by at the Petronas petrol station to buy some coffee.

"Sayang. We have arrived!" he pokes the right side of Mummy's shoulder to wake her up from the deep sleep that she strongly denied earlier.

"Ahh? Em, for real la?" she fixes her position as she opens up her eyes to check the surrounding area.

"Ala, you lied! Stop joking around!" She rolls her eyes and begins to close them right after.

I giggle at the back and rush to follow Daddy towards the shop.

After a while, we come back to the car and continue our journey.

"Mummy! Wake up!" I gently shake her shoulder to show her the Cheesy Roller Coaster's snacks that we bought earlier. It's her favourite snacks.

"Ahh, Darling! How sweet of you! Thank you for being so thoughtful" she strokes my hair.

"What about me? Am I not thoughtful?? It was my money though..." Daddy begins to pull a sad face.

"You too la my big baby! Always!" she smiles brightly.

"Daddy, I have a question for you!" I push myself forward in the middle of my parents.

"Later if we build the sand castle by the beach,

will you help me to build a big castle just like the one they advertise on the Snow White castle set?" I ask out of plain curiosity.

"I want a REALLY big one tau! And you also need to put the crown that comes together in the set okay?!" I urge him again with an excited tone.

"Of course, sweetheart! I will build you a REALLY big sand castle. A castle for our lil princess to reside, forever, happily ever after. Haa, does that sound promising enough..?" he smiles as he pecks my chubby cheeks.

"Can't wait to have my own castle...!!!" I move backward to secure my back on the leather seat.

"Can't wait to be the honored architect too!" Daddy raises up his hands as he speeds up the car to overtake the white truck in front of us.

"Hey, careful Abang!" Mummy quickly holds onto the handles above her head while I begin to be knocked over the other side of the back seat.

Daddy speeds up even faster as a black Hilux begins to hint at us with a few blinking lights from the other side.

The next thing I know is I can clearly hear a loud thud as our car crashes into the nearby jungle and hits one of the trees before it overturns sideways into a ditch. I can feel the left side of the back seat crushing onto my small body while Mummy tries to reach out for my hands.

"Baby!! Hold my hands!" she screams for me as I notice the dripping blood from her forehead and her stained shawl.

I try to come to my senses and reach back for her hands but all I can feel is a sudden throbbing pain in my chest.

"Mum... Help... Mummy...He...eelll...ppp...Helppp.." I try really hard to utter her name while fixing my breathing right. However, the copper taste of blood begins to soak my mouth completely and makes it even harder for me to breathe.

"No.. Nadia.. No...!! Wake up!! Please wake up!! Daddy is here...Come on! Come to your senses!"

I can barely hear Daddy's wails from his seat as he tries to unbuckle the seatbelt that tangles around his body.

I am trying. And I tried, so hard.

But it feels so much better to lie unconscious in this cramped space than to breathe out the air.

Today is the 8th of June 2006. The day of the beach vacation. With Mummy, Daddy... And.. Nadia.



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