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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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友達 (FRIEND)

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It was rainy that day. All I could feel was coldness, dizziness and a grace of a comforting warmth. Greetings, everyone. This is your normal high school boy, Rui Sakaratsu. Family? I am a single child with a dad, Takeyama Sakaratsu. My mom died after giving birth to me. It was quite lugubrious for my dad but "Why bother?" - he said. From what I know, my pop is a successful businessman who always goes around the country even though I never knew what he does for a living. Due to my dad's work, I have been transferring school so many times. There were times where I had to transfer two times in a month. My dad has a lot of money on him, so it wouldn't bother him too much on the fees and such. Since then, I never actually tried to make friends with anyone. I never blamed my dad for that since he bought me everything I wanted. It was a win-win situation for me.

Recently, I transferred into a new high school in Kyoto. As usual, I never expected much of what's to come. On my first day of school, I introduced myself to everyone. After that, I was assigned to sit beside a girl. I spent my time all by myself that day. Of course, who would ever want to approach a suspicious guy who transferred to a new school in the middle of a semester? As I was packing my bag to go back, the girl beside me tapped my shoulder lightly. I tilted my head a little towards her. She introduced herself to me while holding out her hands to me. Her name was Hana Koitatsu. After that sudden interaction, I grabbed my bag and left without a word. I left her hand hanging out just like that. I never planned to befriend anyone as I was expecting my pop to transfer me after a few weeks in that school. I was wrong.

Days after days, weeks after weeks, I was still in that school. It was pretty awkward for sure. Furthermore, I isolated myself from everyone most of the time. However, Hana still tried to reach me. She would randomly throw me questions. Sometimes, I really thought that she

was so dumb but the fact that she was the best student in the class still made me wonder "What is she?". A few days later, my pop left me a letter. He wrote that he had to go outstation for a few months. He also said that I was lucky that I didn't need to follow him this time as it was too urgent. I didn't know how to react to it so I just put the letter down and went on with my life. My day was getting much noisier after that. Hana started talking to me more frequently than usual. After a while, without me realising, I started talking to her. Sometimes, I felt enlightened by her words although I found her annoying most of the time. A little thing about her was that she was never good at sports. She has had asthma since she was a child. During P.E class, I would usually see her sitting on the bench while trying her best to make me look at her. She was so annoying back then.

It was around summer. The school was planning for a field trip in Tokyo that weekend. For the first time in my life, I was looking forward to something. On the day of the event, I got to school earlier than usual. The students were very excited and as we were choosing seats in the bus, Hana asked me to sit with her. How could I decline that offer? We spent our time sharing our interest and listening to both our favourite artists together. At that time, I realised that I finally found a friend. A friend whom I was really dreaming for. After we arrived in Tokyo, we were asked to get ourselves a partner and of course, I paired with Hana. We were asked to get a lookout before our activities tomorrow. We went for a walk together. It really felt like a date to me. I hoped it did too for Hana. After a bunch of walking, we went to the resort that our school booked. Hana went to the girl's room and I went to the boy's room. To be honest, I did feel a little lonely that night.

The next day, we went for a few visits to the museums. It was all about historical talks and such. I decided to sneak out with Hana. Hana

totally agreed with me so we went out with just the two of us. We went to the park to get a little fresh air from the city. It started raining suddenly. We ran our hearts out for shelter. We stopped at an alley. The rain didn't show any signs of stopping. We were cold for sure. Suddenly, we heard a noise and we saw the police were chasing after someone. At that moment, I was shocked when I caught a glimpse of the runner. It was my dad. "Why?" I asked myself while Hana was looking at me. Hana was curious about my pale face after seeing the runner and she started chasing the criminal. I immediately tried to grab her hand but I failed. At that moment, he pointed a gun out and I realised he was pointing it towards Hana. He probably mistook her as the police because it was really rainy and blurry at that time. I ran towards Hana and I hugged her. "BANG!". I froze, frozen on how warm her body was. My chest was bleeding. As my legs were going numb, I fell. Hana wrapped her hands up on me as she was screaming for help. As my vision was getting blurry, I saw my dad was getting away. He probably didn't realise it was me there. All I felt was the warmth of Hana. I gathered all the strength I had to tell Hana how thankful I was for her. How she made me feel. The shortest time of my life being with her was the greatest time after all. I wished it could be longer. Thank you, Hana.



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