



The
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Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

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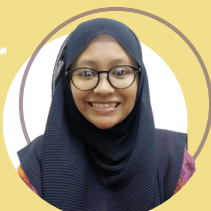
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synopsis

The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Kedah is thrilled to announce the release of the third edition of its e-magazine, The Epitome. This publication exemplifies our steady dedication to fostering creativity in language and literature.

The primary objective of THE EPITOME is to offer a platform where writers, educators, scholars, poets, and researchers can come together to exchange their ideas, discoveries, expertise, and narratives. Our special focus revolves around an array of creative writing genres, encompassing Playwriting, Short stories, Songs, Speeches, Memoirs, Literary Journalism, Humour writing, Lyric essays, Innovative essays, and Personal essays, with a goal to embrace diverse linguistic expressions, with content available in four languages: English, Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin, and Arabic.

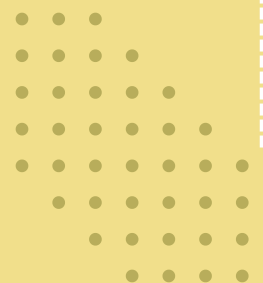




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Preface



Mr. Azlan Abdul Rahman

Head of Faculty
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UiTM Kedah Branch

Welcome to Epitome, the 3rd Issue – a collection of thoughts, reflections, and stories that encapsulate the essence of an academic's journey. As the pages unfold, you will embark on a thoughtful exploration of the human experience, woven through the threads of joy, sorrow, and everything in between.

In designing this compilation, our intention is to offer readers a mirror to their own experiences, inviting moments of reflection and connection. Epitome is not just a creative publication; it is an invitation to pause, reflect, and find quality in the shared tapestry of our existence.

Through these pages, the reader may encounter familiar landscapes of the heart and perhaps discover a transformed perspective on the beauty and complexity of academic life. Each piece within Epitome is a humble contribution to the ongoing dialogue of what it means to be human.

I extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have been a part of this journey – especially to all the contributors and the esteemed Epitome Editorial Team. Your involvement and presence surely added depth and meaning to this publication.

May Epitome serve as a companion, provoking thought and sparking moments of connection and collaboration.

Thank you for embarking on this literary voyage with us.

Editor-In-Chief



Creativity is intelligence having fun

Dear Epitome Community,

We are back for the third issue and enthusiastic to share with all of you the collection of creative writings crafted by dedicated and imaginative writers. In this third issue, we present a variety of articles ranging from playwriting to lyric essays, each offering a unique tone and style of writing. Thanks to all the creative and talented writers, we hope these pieces can inspire you in various ways.

We would like to extend our congratulations to all the inspiring writers for their valuable contributions and unwavering support. Many of these names are familiar to us, as some have been submitting their work since our first volume. Additionally, we would like to express our gratitude to the dedicated committee and reviewers for their time and expertise.

Thank you for being a part of our Epitome community.

Till the next volume,

Dr. Nur Syazwanie Mansor
Editor-in-Chief,
The Epitome

True Love's Chase

Nawal Esa Binti Yazid Esa

UiTM, Seri Iskandar, Perak

Nelly was a fancy and bubbly child who embraced fantasy, largely because her mother fed her beautiful love stories from fairy tales. The idea of “happily ever after” became subconsciously engraved in her heart and mind as she watched Disney Fairy tale videotapes her father would rent for her. Nelly grew up in a colourful world full of love. She adorned herself with dangling earrings, fancy accessories, and girly outfits, mostly in pink, red, and her favourite colour, purple. Surrounded by a loving family, her cousins would bedazzle her hair, paint her nails, and add glitter eyeshadow and lip gloss. She was enamoured with the princess fantasy and the idea of a “happily ever after.”

The many Disney Princess characters inspired Nelly to aspire to be clever like Belle from Beauty and the Beast, beautiful like Cinderella, and athletic like Ariel from The Little Mermaid. She yearned to experience the magical, mystical fairy tale moments in real life. However, little did she know that her life was about to veer far from the “happy ever after” she dreamed of.

First Love

Nelly attended an all-girls school and wasn't exposed to boys much. Yet, at her tuition classes, she met her first love, Max. Max was her soulmate, embodying everything she envisioned in “boyfriend material.” He was her prince charming, her knight in shining armour. They were inseparable and deeply in love at the tender age of 15. Max made grand romantic gestures, like arriving at her school on Valentine's Day with a bouquet of 8 red roses and a heart-shaped chocolate cake, showcasing his affection to everyone. Nelly was ecstatic. On her birthday, he compiled a fancy list titled “99 Things I Love About You,” adorned with confetti, glitters, and flowers. He noticed even the minutest details about Nelly, right down to the left side of her smile line, which he adored. He even drew a portrait of her that included that beloved smile line.

Max was passionate, romantic, and witty. He was intelligent and confident. His spontaneous and creative surprises never failed to melt Nelly's heart. But like all things in this world, it didn't last. Despite Max's intelligence, his lack of wisdom due to youth and immaturity led to trouble with a teacher at his school. This caused a rift as the teacher knew Nelly's father, leading to her parents disapproving of their relationship. From there, everything spiraled downward.

Unfortunately, Nelly's pursuit of true love with Max was short-lived, or perhaps just not meant to be. Max, a high achiever, pursued his dreams without involving Nelly. He studied law in the big city, mingling with many high-class, beautiful girls, leaving Nelly feeling like the “kampung” girl he once knew.

The Marriage

Max's departure broke Nelly's heart, and she struggled to move on. She realized that when she fell in love, she fell deep. Max had been her true soulmate, but he abruptly changed. As they say, a change of heart changes everything. This altered Nelly's view and belief in true love. However, it didn't stop her from seeking her version of true love in the future.

Nelly, a strong, hard-headed, and clever girl, had an amazingly supportive family who always reminded her of her talents and intelligence. Despite the breakup, Nelly pursued her studies, obtaining her bachelor's degree. During her time in matriculation and university, several men flirted or tried to woo her, but none compared to how Max made her feel. Her pursuit of true love felt like a downward spiral, and her emotions ran dry.

Unexpectedly, during her internship, Nelly met Ron, an unconventional match for her. He seemed genuine in his intention for a serious, committed relationship, albeit in a minimalistic manner. Since Nelly couldn't feel the way Max made her feel, she became passive in love. She married Ron, who was eight years her senior, and everything happened swiftly. Engagement followed by marriage within a few months.

Little did she know, her life was about to change.

Nelly devoted herself to becoming the loyal wife, residing under the same roof as her in-laws. Her sole purpose became pleasing her husband and his family. They had two beautiful, healthy, and intelligent children. She halted her postgraduate studies and career to raise her young family. With a bright future ahead, holding a scholarship for a PhD and a contract as an academician at a local university, things took a downward turn when her studies prolonged, and Ron faced job instability due to political turmoil. This has caused strain on their marriage and led to Ron becoming stressed and abusive towards Nelly. Bruises and broken bones marked her, plunging her into darkness. But looking at her adorable, bright children, she found the strength to leave her husband. She no longer believed in "happily ever after."

The End of the Chase

Post-divorce, Nelly transformed into a better version of herself. She completed her PhD and secured a promising career as an academician. Now, she lives her best life with her children, surrounded by an amazing family and loyal friends. The chase for true love has ceased, but it doesn't mean she no longer believes in it. Instead, she doesn't actively pursue love but attracts it. Though many men desire her, she doesn't easily fall in love. She's content with the idea of remaining single or discovering true love. For her, happiness is a choice, and loving herself is paramount. Her tumultuous experiences while chasing love taught her that perfection is non-existent. She comprehends that conforming to societal norms doesn't guarantee genuine happiness. Living through a distressing marriage was an experience shrouded in darkness and complexity. Now, she appreciates the precious freedom to explore and travel the world, discovering limitless possibilities.



The End.



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