

# Stella; A voice within

## Break Up!

"I love you." Jake stares deep into Ryan's eyes. Ryan couldn't help but let those dimples out.

"Those charming smiles, who would resist them." He makes an attempt to kiss her and she moves backwards,

"Wait are you serious? I have a boyfriend Jake!"

"So?" He asked.

She gives a puzzled look and cuts off eye contacts with him, then she smuggles into her oversized hoodie. He keeps staring, holding himself from laughing and waits patiently for her answer.

She notices him staring and summons courage, she clears her throat and looks at the sky as if expecting answers from above.

"Um, Jake... you're my friend, we shouldn't be having emotions for each other cause I have a boyfriend, and I love him a lot. Right? I'm sorry but I can't... I'm already used to you as a good friend."

"It's fine, I... I should know my place. Good friend! I'm sorry Ryan." He hugs her tight. Carlos on the other hand was on his way to Ryan's house with some flowers. He knocks at the front door and Ryan's mom gets the door.

"Oh, hey! Carlos! How are you?" She smiles. "What a pleasant surprise, Ryan didn't tell me you were coming."

"I'm good ma'am, and I didn't tell Ryan I was coming either. Is she home?"

"Naa Ryan isn't here." Her attention is immediately drawn by two teenagers kissing in a vehicle parked across the streets. "Wait.. isn't that... oh my God!"

Carlos turns around and let's go of the flowers in his hands. He is heartbroken by the sight of Ryan kissing another man. At least that's what it looks like from afar.

"Wha- No! Jake stop! what are you doing, I told you I have a boyfriend." She notices Jake smiling and staring at something else, she turns around and realizes why Jake kissed her, Carlos had been watching them for quite a while and Jake knew that. "No! Jake what have you done," she steps out of the car in tears and runs up to Carlos, her boyfriend.

"Carlos Please wait, it's not what it looks like... Carlos!"

He heads to his car in a fast pace and opens the door angrily with Ryan constantly following him from behind.

"Babe it's not what it looks like, I can explain!" She goes up to him sobbing.

"How do you explain you in a guys car kissing? What were you even doing in his car, if you needed a ride you could've called me, Ryan I trusted you! You just broke my heart." He starts the engine of the car but Ryan turns it off and takes the keys.

"Babe please let me explain, he kissed me okay, I'm so sorry I let it happen, it just happened so fast. I'm so sorry!"

To Carlos he saw his girlfriend in another guys car kissing. Why did she let him kiss her if she didn't want it?

He stares at her and asks. "Ryan do you love me? Babe do you still love me? Tell me the truth."

Yes! Yes! Yes babe, I love you. I'm so sorry... she sobs.

"My keys."

"What?"

"Give me the damn keys!!" He yells.

Frightened by his tone, she hands over the keys to him and he zooms off. She checks for Jake but he is long gone, she wipes off her tears. "I'll kill you Jake."

"Honey are you okay, did you really choose Jake over Carlos?" Ryan's mom asks.

"What? Mom! How can you even say that... you know what? I'm going to my room, and I don't need disturbance too." She walks into the house angrily.

Ryan cries her whole eyes out and it doesn't take long before she falls asleep and wakes up the following morning. Early as 5am, at least that's what it looks like.

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That moment when you wake up in the morning, still feeling the dried droplets of sleep on your face, and your bed seems too inviting. You dread getting up, putting on your clothes, brushing your teeth, and all the other things that you've been wanting

to put off all day. This is one of those days that you find yourself thinking, "perfect, I'll just stay in bed. Crawl under the covers. I can stay like this for eternity. It's Saturday! Yey! I can stay in bed all day."

You loose yourself in dreamland thinking and smiling.... Who wants to move now? I want to wake up late and dump everything to tomorrow. Why does life have to be so boring and tiresome? What would I do now, the only guy I truly love just broke up with me.

Dating is really uncomfortable and smart. I just want to forget everything, not even consider my future.

One day someone's son would find me, cherish me, understand and love me for who I am, a Prince Charming! Or I shall find my own! A regular romantic, sweet guy who *Ofcourse* can protect me. But why can't it be today? Ryan. I need someone who understands me and can deal with crazy me! Damn it!" Sounds familiar.

She's drawn back to reality by a sharp hit on the door, it doesn't stop for a while. Suddenly it's all, gone. I wonder who or what was that! Strange isn't it? Probably one of those weird kids that just want to scare the hell out of people! Dumb pranks. But how would they have access to my house, it doesn't make sense. "I should probably go check out what's up!"

She's about to open the door when a paper slides in from beneath the door. "Hmm quite strange," she bends over to pick the paper and reads the context.

*the table behind you*

"Hmm quite strange, what's on the table? Okay!" She turns to the table curious of what's happening and a paper falls from the table to the ground. She picks it up and it reads.

*the window handle*

She stares at the window and sees a paper sticked to the window handles. "Okay what is happening."

Ryan walks up to the window and picks up the paper. "Okay I didn't stick a paper on my window, whoever is doing this, it's not funny!" As if not expecting an answer, she ignores the thought and reads the context of the paper.

*Stella*

*the return of a demigod*

"Okay this seems like a novel." Still holding the paper, a new context is written.

*the old book in the shelf*

Hmm interesting, there's a lot of old books in the shelf. It reads again

003

*written by Peter Wilson*

"Okay," she squeezes the paper and throws it in the basket beside the table.

She picks up her torchlight and opens her room door slowly, and peeps to her left for a while. Waiting for something to just, move. Wanting to know who slipped the paper into her room. She walks to the family library and begins to search..

"003? Peter Wilson... Yes! Stella, the return of a demigod." She draws it out of the shelf and blows the dust off and sits to read it.

*chaper one*

*long time ago, in an island filled with music and dances of various kinds and merries, a dark island with golds as source of light*

she flips a page and continues reading.

*a place of evil and dangerous religious practices, a witch island!*

She closes the book, a bit terrified. Then she summons courage and opens the book once more. "I'm definitely not reading this chapter." She flips the pages and stops at chapter 9.

*why do you call to me is what he says to he who invokes the presence of Stella*

"Who?" She flips pages backwards and stops.

*the god of death stands as a guard, to stop anyone who tries to free Stella from her strong binds*

"Okay this is getting creepy" Ryan's heart pounding fast, she turns to the next page. "Ohh the god of death is who asked why do you call to me, strange." She flips pages once more. "But wait! Who the hell is Stella?"

There is a moment of silence for a while and then a heavy wind blow is suddenly experienced in the room, books from different sections flying all over to the ground, Ryan is thrown off by the wind and she immediately holds firm to the heavy-weighted table to prevent herself from a wind flipping.

"Whoa! Whatever this is, I didn't mean to disrespect the name Stella, I was only curious to who she is... you hear me, curious! I'm sorry, I'm sorry for the disrespect okay, just tell me who she is!" Ryan yells.

Within few seconds the whole atmosphere is calm, and back to normal like nothing happened and Ryan falls to the ground, elbows first. "Whoa! Ouch-ouch!! hurts bad, not nice.. you hear me not nice!" She looks around, still in agony. Books scattered from all angles, "Gosh where on earth am I going to start from, how do I fix these books back in their sections, urghh!!" She bows her head back down. Amazingly, books begin floating back to their shelves and sections. Ryan is lifted up by a strong force and put to her sit, eyes on the book. The pages flipping at a fast pace. "It.. seems to be turning pages backwards." It stops. "Ending of chapter 3 and beginning of chapter 4," Ryan's chair is drawn closer to the table and she reads out loud.

*Stella(goddess of death) is said to be the second most powerful after her lover, Dame (the god of war)*

*the more they kill, the stronger they become and when both lovers unite, they are more deadly and even the god of death himself cannot stop them both*

"Okay I've had enough of this stories. This is probably just a scary story," she closes the book and tucks it back into the shelf and is about to leave when it falls down with an open page. She picks it up and reads.

*whoever reads this book must not say..*

"Say what?" She notices the write up being erased and a new one written.

*Free me and I'll give you anything you want.*

"Hmm if you can get me a Prince Charming!" She says sarcastically and a new text appears.

*"I can give you back Carlos, I can make him fall for you again and forget you kissing Jake!"*

"Wait-what? Who are you?"

*I  
am*

*... Stella*

The bulbs in the room twinkle for a second and back to normal. Frightened Ryan drops the book to the ground.

Just then she catches the fast movement of a persons shadow coupled with a wind blow on her face. The bulbs in the room go off. Ryan quickly switches on her torchlight flashing it at every direction

"Wha-what happened to the bulbs. Who's there?" It is then Ryan notices she's scared to the brim, her body trembling, goosebumps on her, her heart pounding. She

is no longer at ease."

"Hello? Anyone there?" She leaves the library and moves slowly down the staircase, every light in the house goes of one after the other. One hand on the handrail and the other with a torchlight, trembling nonstop. At this point she is extremely cautious of her environment.

"Mom? Mom the bulbs are unstable, mom! She doesn't receive a reply. I'm still struggling to believe I'm not the only one in this house, no one ever answers when you need them."

"Ryan? Ryan!" a gentle voice calls. "josh! josh is that you? Josh where are you? There's... something Strange's happening in this house,"

She runs up to Josh with a big hug and a smile.

"Josh! Gosh I'm so glad you're here."

"I'm always here Ryan! Why do you call to me? His voice deepens.

What? She pushes him back and is terrified by what she sees. A dead and rotten Josh.

"Oh no! I must be dreaming."

"Why do you keep calling me!!" He yells. Ryan is terrified and falls back at the staircase, crawling up as he comes to her. "I... I don't understand."

"Why do you keep calling!!" He sees an axe in a glass case fixed to the wall. He breaks the glass and swings the axe as he moves closer to Ryan.

"No! No! No! Please!" Ryan begs. He stops and lifts the axe to the air aiming for her head and strikes.

"Aaaaarrggh!!" She screams and covers her face in quick response to the fear in her.

"Ryan? Ryan are you okay?"

She feels a gentle tap on her shoulder and raises her face. "Josh? Is it really you?" She asked, shivering.

He sits on the staircase, next to her and smiles. "Yeah, it's me what's wrong? I heard you scream so I came to check up on you.

"Josh this house is haunted!" She sobs and gets in his arms, hold me tight Josh."

Josh leaves her in his arms for a while till she's okay, "I heard a lot of stories about this house but I thought you don't believe in ghost stories and haunted houses, so why the sudden feelings?"

"No- no! Josh you don't understand, a man was about to attack me. If you don't believe me check out the axe and it's broken... case."

He looks at the axe and the case fixed to the wall and brings out the axe from its case... he flips it as if to test it's durability.

"What are you talking about, no broken glass. Everything seems fine to me."

She gets up and places her hand on the case and is a bit confused. "I... I saw him, he-he broke the glass and took the axe in his arms and was about to hit me, Josh I know what I saw." She stares at Josh who is completely speechless, "you believe me right?"

"Ye-Yeah... I believe, you!"

"Then why do you sound like I'm making up a story, I know what I saw." She ignores the fact he didn't believe her and walks away, then she remembers the terrifying scene and walks back to Josh, "are you coming with me or not?"

He smiles and walks with her. "The house seems okay to me, you know? But... I tried knocking only to find out, the doors are actually opened. Strange right?"

"Yeah strange," Jake walks in the front door holding a pair of keys. Both Josh and Ryan turn to face him. "Jake, what a pleasant surprise! Good to see you bro."

Josh exchanges handshakes with Jake. But not Ryan, she's completely uncomfortable with him around.

"What are you doing here Jake, and how did you have access to my house keys, are those even the right keys to the front door? Those are my moms!" She seems to be annoyed at the moment.

"Well how would I know, I found some keys beneath the foot mat and tried opening the door with it but the door was already opened so, I came in. Was wondering when you had electric doors."

They both look at him in utter confusion.

"What do you think I am, a baby? How on earth does a wooden door with locks open by itself? You can't even lie!"

"Dude, more like a haunted house. But Ryan didn't you say you were attacked by an

imaginary guy?"

"That's right man, he has come to take your soul!" Jake answers Josh. The boys laugh at each other's jokes, but Ryan is too serious with the situation. "Guys quit joking, it was probably just a terrible dream. "Wait... Shuu! There's someone in, do you hear the sounds?"

"Yeah!" Jake and Josh answer. The front windows open suddenly with a heavy wind. "Uh-god! Looks like there's going to be a storm." Ryan says.

"Gosh when would you realize your house is haunted, the sky seems perfect to me so how do you explain the sudden wind?"

"Bro this is one of ghost movies scene where a ghost is found in the kitchen, oooooo!" Jake tries scaring Ryan.

"Quit it both of you, it's not funny" Ryan answers, remembering the context of the book she read earlier. The boys laugh and follow Ryan right at her back while she leads the way, tracing strange sounds to the kitchen.

"Babe you seriously need to install like a security system or something. Strange sounds coming from everywhere, damn this house is haunted. How do you even sleep at night?" Josh asks.

"Geez it's not a haunted house and I don't hear strange sounds at night, except few minutes back when I thought I saw a dead guy."

"So how do you explain the sounds we're hearing right now, Ryan?" Jake cuts in.

She stares deep at Jake trying to come up with something but is short of words, "let's keep moving." They trace the noise to Ryans kitchen and Joshs attention is immediately drawn, a knife missing from the chefs roll.

"Guys, did you notice a knife is missing?"

"Maybe the ghost took it.." Jake answers and Josh laughs at his joke. "Dude this house is so haunted." Josh says.

"Oh God, I'm done! you guys joke with everything! I'm calling 911."

She hurriedly leaves the kitchen to grab a telephone from the main living room and dials an emergency number, leaving Jake and Josh in the kitchen

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....Phone ringing.....

Ryan walks about the living room uneasy. She finally stops at the Tv, unaware of the continuous channel tunings. With her arm on her waist waiting eagerly to report her emergency, the phone gets picked...

"Hello! Emergency number, what is your emergency?"

"Yes! yes! hello? Umm I think there's someone in my house."

"Sorry, can you identify the suspect? Can you describe for us the situation of things there right now? And your location!"

"No-no! I didn't see the persons face, just strange sounds from my house and a knife is missing from my kitchen, location? Umm 213 old acen rd, house 18. Is that enough information?"

"Are you kidding? Do you think this is a comedy show?"

"What? No! Do you think I would joke with a serious issue? I'm serious someones in my house, it's an emergency!"

"Young lady this is an emergency number and you can get into serious trouble for playing pranks on authorities! Have a nice day ma'am". He cuts the call.

"What! He thinks I'm joking?" She ignores the fact her call was cut and turns off the tv unaware that it comes back on.