

“Regret”

- ① The man bolted up in his sleep with a scream. He was gasping for air and yet his lungs did not seem to get satisfied with the air. Fear was evident in his brown coloured eyes. He
- ⑥ looked around his surroundings. His body shuddered from the cold. It was 4:30 and he felt nausea beckoning him back to bed. But his body could not obey. Horrible images of the previous dream flashed through his mind like a motion picture, distant but vivid and genuine.
- ① As he allowed himself to be swallowed by his memories, he found himself standing inside a house full of party goers, on his left was a beautiful girl. It hit him like a stone. Instantly he
- ④ knew he was at Andy’s place fifteen years ago.

- He could smell alcohol and sweat unified in the humid atmosphere. The party was like a
- ⑥ giant box with a hallowed centre. Everyone in the centre appeared to be controlled by a giant puppeteer. Invisible strings seemed to be attached to their arms and legs. He took a sip of wine. The scent of alcohol rising from his throat elated his nose. Standing beside him was Sarah. She was the most beautiful girl he had ever met with azure eyes and golden hair. He
- ⑥ glanced at his watch and like a mother hen, it annoyingly reminded him of midnight. It was time to go. He put down his wine. Both of them said goodbye to their friends rather gloomily.
- ⑥ The hot and humid air of May greeted his face. The relaxing sensation made him want to drift in the darkness. He suddenly felt a feeling of queasiness.

As he and Sarah approached the car park, he noticed that they were not alone. He could hear voices to his right and noticed two figures walking rather insanelly. They were drunk. Every step seemed to be controlled by the liquid they greedily took. He sensed Sarah’s uneasiness. It was time for them to leave. As they drove away, Sarah asked how much he had drunk. The man said “only a few” but he was lying. He could still drive. Their house was just a few miles away, the man thought.

- The man’s vision became blurry. As he was about to accelerate, he noticed two shimmering lights approaching. They looked like the eyes of a monster glaring at him menacingly. Then it hit him. Both cars were heading towards each other at fleeting speed. He quickly turned the
- ② wheels and hit the brake. But it was no use. Their vehicle skidded into the road like a weightless toy car. Everything seemed to slow down. The car turned over like a lumbering
- ⑥ beast. He heard a muffled scream from his right. He looked to his left but he could not see Sarah. There was only blood. Suddenly two beaming headlights greeted them like death.
- ⑤ There was no time for them to react. The force of the approaching car hit them head on like
- ⑥ a destructive cannon pulverising a battleship. There was a loud crash and everything went black. The man snapped back to reality, cold sweat running down his back. A single tear drop escaped his murky eyes. The man could not remember what had happened next. He could smell burning gas but he could not open his eyes. He felt something soft and wet on his hands. It was Sarah’s hands wet with blood.
- ⑤

The man stood up. He figured he could not sleep anymore. He looked through his windows and saw the sky. It was 5:30 and the sky was still dark. The only light was a gold glistening glow on the horizon. It reminded him of Sarah. How he wished to see her again. How he

- 5 3 wished to look into her blue eyes that were like a stunning ocean on a jubilant day. How he wished to hold her delicate hands again.

5 He remembered back then how he wanted to turn back the hands of time to save Sarah from her death. He looked back to his room. It was cold and dark. Yet a single object had caught his mind. It was a cerulean frame bordered with sea shells. Inside was a picture of a woman. It was Sarah. Unchanged and pure, her face remained lovely through time. Her blue eyes still rivalled the colour of the ocean. She was smiling. Sarah was smiling at him. The man looked onto his watch and noticed it was the second day of May. The man smiled back. "Happy 15th anniversary Sarah".