MEMORY I CAN’T FORGET

The church is softly lit with discreetly placed rose shaped lamp holders, and sunlight is filtering through the brightly colored tall glass windows. It smells of lilies. Jack is waiting at the altar, with his best man, Tim, his brother at his side. The church organs start to play. Jack starts to turn back. Tim restrains him. Jack nods and stares stiffly ahead.

Lillian slowly comes through the aisle, her father at her side. She is petite, with golden blonde hair and soft brown eyes, a perfect foil to Jack’s tall, dark and broody look. She is carrying a small bunch of pink rose and baby’s breath posy in her hand. She comes and stands beside Jack.

Finally, he looks at her. His eyes soften and his mouth breaks into a smile. He can’t help it. She is so beautiful. And only Jack knows how truly beautiful she is inside.

“Hi.” Jack says softly.

“Hi,” Lillian answers as softly. He takes her hand and kisses the back of it.

Then they turn back together to face the alter. The wedding begins.

Afterwards, Jack and Lillian go back to the hotel where they are to have the reception. Lillian changes into a dress of swirling chiffon in soft shades of blue, her hair left loose. Bridesmaids help her change.

As she comes down the stairs and joins the party, everybody is struck by her beauty and comment on it, including Tim who wishes he would be so lucky so as to find somebody like her.

He still can’t believe that he and Lillian are married; that he has finally got her for himself. “Maybe this is all a wishful dream. Maybe I will wake up and find it is not true,” he thinks.

Jack goes to her without taking her eyes off her. He feels that he will burst with happiness.

He goes to her at the foot of the stairs and takes her hand. They kiss. The crowd cheers.

Lillian whispers to his ear. Playfully nibbles .Suddenly Jack throws back his head and laughs out loud. He grasps Lillian in his arm as the band begins the first waltz, and they lead the dance floor.

 Jack wants to go away right then. Lillian protests. She wants to keep back every moment of this day in her memory. Jack relents.

“You are right. And when we are old and have lots of grandchildren from lots of our children, we can tell them the story of our love.” Jack says.

While dancing, Jack remembers back the first day he met Lillian.

It is a long day for Jack and when he comes out of his office, where he works as a stockbroker, his mood does not improve.

It is windy and wet, the streets glistening wetly under the streetlamps. There is very little traffic or transport on such a day.

He curses under his breath when his car refuses to start; he has a date and he does not want to be late. After several attempts he gives up and goes in search for a cab, a near impossible thing in this weather and at the rush hour.

By the time he reaches the concert hall, he knows he is late.

He rushes in to the foyer of the Hall where his then girlfriend was supposed to wait at the foyer; she is not there.

Jack curses while punching her number. He feels he is becoming more and more un-enamored of her tantrums recently. He had hoped she would understand his compulsions, but her constant demand for attention is taking a toll. They argue over the phone. She has waited long enough and refuses to come back. Jack decides to go on his own.

Jack goes inside and takes his seat as the lights dim. He looks at the program.

It is a solo piano concert by somebody named Lillian Cornway. Jack is not much into classical music but Rita thinks it very chic to attend these programs. Jack sometimes attends them to humor her, though today without Rita he is not sure whether to leave or to stay.

Jack is irritable. He feels it is a wastage of time. Then the stage lights come on.

Jack thinks it is a vision. She is the most beautiful creature he has ever seen in his entire life. Her hair shine like spun gold and her hands, long fingered, tapered, seem to him like a pair of swans, gliding over the piano keys with the lightness of a fawn. The music that she makes, its melody is like he has never heard before. Jack knows he has to have her then.

After the concert, Jack goes backstage as Lillian is about to leave. She is busily taking leave from the organizer.

Jack introduces himself. They start up a conversation. Jack drops her home.

Lillian softly whispers. Jack comes back to the present with a snap.

He tells her about his reminiscences. Lillian says she had thought Jack was the devil, with his flashing dark eyes and your intense dark looks.

Lillian is apprehensive that this happiness might not last. She is too happy and thinks she does not deserve it. Jack reassures her. Lillian wants to know whether they can be this happy always. Jack knows they will be.

“The kiss, the kiss.” The crowd began to chant.

Jack laughingly obliges.

Lillian then throws the bouquet over her head.

They run laughing, hands clasped together, to the car parked on the portico. They are to go spend a week at the lake house Jack’s father owns and has graciously offered them for their honeymoon. Tim, who has stacked up food and logs enough so that they would not have to step out for anything for seven days, has prepared the house for their stay. Later, when Jack is due for leave in about a month, they plan to take a cruise.

Jack drives the car, Lillian beside him. They enter the highway.

Jack and Lillian talk about their romance, how they felt about each other and their future together. Jack wants at least three; Lillian wants to go on performing while having a family. They banter back and forth and at one point Jack turns to look at her. Lillian cries out in terror.

Jack looks back at the road and to his horror his car is about to collide with another smaller car head on. He swerves quickly but ends up in another lane, right in front of a truck full of steel pile. The truck slams on the brake and comes to an abrupt halt. Steel piles fly everywhere. Jack stops too. Shaken he gets out of the car and goes over to the other side.

Lillian is slumped, her head on the dashboard. Her neck is bleeding, turning her soft blue dress into a deep, dark shade of red.

Jack tries to revive her with shaking hands. He is crying. Lillian does not respond.

Jack shouts for help, sobbing. The truck driver comes down by this time, takes one look and pulls out his phone to ring 911.

Jack reaches out to pull Lillian over. The trucker stops him. Lillian might be having spinal injury. It is better to wait for the ambulance.

Jack crouches down beside Lillian and gently takes her limp hand. He continues calling to her. The blood seems to gush out from her forehead as well, dripping on the floor of the car.

Sirens can be heard. The ambulance and the police arrive.

Lillian is quickly assessed and put on a stretcher. They load her into the ambulance. Jack comes over from where he and the trucker were talking to the policemen. He gets into the ambulance as well.

Jack waits on a bench outside the ER, slumped, his head on his hands. Tim hurries through the corridor and sits beside him. Jack looks up. Tim touches his shoulder. Jack shakes his head.

They talk about Lillian’s condition. It is not good; she is up for surgery. They think it is her spine.

Tim gets up and moves towards the coffee machine. The doctor approaches. Jack stands up.

The doctor wants to talk to Jack.

Jack, the doctor and Tim sit talking in a small office. Jack is in shock, he can barely respond. Tim does most of the talking.

Lillian is brain dead. Her brain stem is damaged irreparably. Tim wants to know if anything can be done to revive her and receives a firm negative. Jack wants to see Lillian.

The doctor signals a junior resident, who ushers him out of the room.

The doctor turns back to Tim. He needs a favor from Jack.

Jack and Tim talk privately in the office. Jack is incredulous. They want Lillian’s heart, which is healthy and living, for donation.

“They are going to take Lillian’s heart? That belongs to me.”

Tim tries to make him understand that she is effectively dead. Her organ can save the other person’s life. Jack is adamant about it belonging to him. She is there. He saw him. Tim tells him it is only the body which will be left in a limbo between life and death for eternity. Jack has to let go of her for closure.

Jack shakes her head. He cannot believe Lillian is gone. Tim wants to know what would Lillian want Jack to do? Hover in a limbo? Or, what would she have done herself in this situation? Jack loved her because of her giving nature in the first place. Jack smiles at that. He say that wherever she goes, Lillian makes beauty, and music and art. Tim says then Jack should allow her to make beauty one last time and not to obstruct her this opportunity of a lifetime. “When she donates her heart, and allows another person to live, she creates the ultimate beauty, don’t you understand?”

Jack looks at Tim. He is ready to sign.

Angelina, a 24 year old woman is lying in her bed in the same hospital. She has dark hair and deep green eyes, with a full mouth and flawless complexion. But now her beauty is faded due to her failing heart. She turns towards the door when to people enters the room. They are Dave, her childhood friend and Jane, her mother.

Jane is excited about them finding a donor at last. Angelina smiles weakly. She can have the surgery as early as that very afternoon.

The nurse enters and they prepare to leave. Her mother says that when she wakes up Angelina will be a new person.

Angelina is being prepared to go to the operating room. She is put on a trolley and as she is wheeled away, Dave comes forward. He bends down to kiss her cheek.

“Come back new, Angel.” Angelina says she does not feel like an angel. Rather the opposite. She feels like death personified. Dave is shocked. Angelina reminds him that somebody has had to die so that she can live. Right now, somebody is mourning the loss of a loved one ad Angelina feels guilty that she is going to receive the gift of life. Dave is at a loss for word. They wheel her away into the OR.

Jack sits beside Lillian, holding her hand. He talks softly to him, telling her how he loves her, and a part of her will remain, no matter what. A team of medical staff and Tim enter the room. Tim tells Jack that it is time.

Jack looks up and silently stands aside. They begin to prepare Lillian for the operating room. Suddenly he grabs the scrub top of a surgeon and becomes aggressive. He wants to know about the recipient The surgeon replies that it is against policy to name the recipient. Jack is inconsolable. They take her away. Jack wants to accompany her to the OR and has to be forcibly taken aside.

Jack determinedly strides through the corridors and enters a room labeled ‘Transplant counseling Office.’ He goes in and goes through the files on the table. He picks one up. It reads Angelina Blackwell. But before he can read any further, a medical staff comes in and makes him leave the room.

Angelina opens her eyes. She is back in her hospital room. Dave and her Mother is by her side. She smiles weakly at them. Jane tells her that the surgery has been a complete success. She is going to be ok. Dave tells her, there will be a long recovery process, though. The doctors will explain it to her. Angelina nods and closes her eyes.

Jack slouches on his living room couch. The room looks disarrayed, newspapers piled up, dirty dishes on the coffee table. The bell rings. He starts. The bell rings again. Tim comes in and looks around. He is concerned about Jack. He tells that Jack needs to start living again. He urges him to join work. Jack refuses. He has gone into deep depression. He does not want to carry on any more. Tim reminds him of Lillian, how she would not have wanted Jack to be the way he is now. She was the most dainty and precise person ever.

Jack tries going to his office. Hr remains distracted. He sees images of Lillian everywhere.

The coffee stand at the corner of the street, the lake where they would feed the ducks, the subway, everything reminds him of her.

Jack is at his office, talking to a client when a woman enters. She is blonde and petite. Jack gets out of his chair and hurries to her. She turns; she is not Lillian. Jack is reprimanded by his boss for his loss of concentration and erratic behavior.

Jack goes out and sits on a park bench. People all around him seem to be happy. A young mother, again, blonde, runs with her toddler, laughing. The image of happiness all around him is too much for Jack. He is about to leave when he overhears a couple next to his bench. The woman professes to love her man forever, even in another life. Jack is arrested. He starts to ponder. He leaves thoughtfully and goes home.

Jack opens his eyes and squints at the morning sun coming in through the window to his room. He sits up, goes to the bathroom and looks at his reflection. He clearly needs a shave, his eyes are bloodshot and his hair is a mess. His eyes catch something behind him in the mirror. He whirls back, but there is nobody. He hangs his head over the sink and groans. He feels he cannot go on without Lillian. He remembers what the woman at the park said to her boyfriend. Another life. Jack is thoughtful. The name comes to him, suddenly. Angelina Blackwell. All he has to do is look for her.

Jack looks up and stares at the mirror. He reaches for the tube of shaving gel.

Jack sits at the computer, searching for Angelica Blackwell and her whereabouts.

Angelina is sitting on a sofa, across her counselor, Dr. Irene. The doctor explains that it is quite usual to experience what Angelina is going through right now,. Transplant patients often feel a kind of – psychological rejection of the body part that has been replaced. Her psyche is treating her heart like a foreigner, something that is not ‘her,’ not entirely.” Angelina says that lately she has been having some other strange feelings. She suddenly feels that she has to learn the piano. She has never been interested in classical music. And piano? Come on! How stuffy is that? The doctor explains that her brain and her body, with the new heart, is just synching up. Maybe she had it in her all this time, but it never surfaced. Brain is an area which has been hardly explores. We know so little about it. Angelina is not convinced. The doctor advices her to allow her body and mind to have more time to synchronize. Then Angelina talks about her recurrent dream about a bride. The doctor asks her to explain.

She sees the bride , all in white, carrying a bunch of pick roses. She seems to reach out to Angelina, but she wakes up.

The dream is so vivid that, when Angelina goes to the bathroom and when she looks up at the mirror, she expects to see the bride instead of her own image.

The doctor asks her some questions about the dream. Does she recall the features? Her coloring? Anything that might identify her? Angelina can only say that she is a bride in white, with pink roses in her hand.

The doctor concludes then that must be her. She is the bride. She asks Angelina about her love life. Is there a boyfriend? Anyone before or after the surgery? It seems to be a projection of the wishful thinking of her subconscious mind. Angelina replies she has been too busy with her degree. And, anyway, who would want a woman with a failing heart in the first place? She seems bitter. The doctor advises her to go on with her life as normally as possible. It is only a matter of time.

Jack dreams in his sleep of Lillian. She is in her bridal dress, with pink roses. She is smiling and extends her hand towards him. He moves forward eagerly to take it, only to see she is another. The face is not clearly seen, but she is dark and tall. Jack sits up on bed.

Jack talks to Gary, his friend, who works at the hospital where Lillian died. He needs a favor from Gary. He wants to know the details of Angelina’s whereabouts. Gary refuses.

Jack meets Gary at the hospital. He convinces Gary to get him the details of her address.

Gary and jack meet outside on the sidewalk. He hands Jack a slip of paper. The slip contains Angelina Blackwell’s address. Jack is grateful, but Gary wants him gone as soon as possible. He is scared that he might lose his job because of this.

Jack packs his things while Tim phones. Jack tells his brother about his decision to move out of town and relocate where Angelina stays. Tim protests, saying this is madness. Jack refuses to listen.

Time comes over and tries to reason with Jack. Jack needs to find the person who has a part of Lillian. He feels compelled to know. Tim asks him about his job. Jack says he has already resigned. Tim is shocked and sad. He is also angry and asks if jack thinks this is the way to get Lillian back. He urges once more to Jack to accept that she is gone.

Jack’s father comes to meet Jack. He tries the same way. Jack knows that he cannot get Lillian back but he has to meet the person who has Lillian’s heart. he has to find out what sort of a person the recipient is. He has to know if Lillian would have liked her. Jack’s father understands. He advises Tim to lay-off. This is jack’s way to dealing with his loss, and they have to give him space. Tim is not happy, but he accepts it.

Jack prepares to leave. He puts his apartment up for rent.

Jack leaves town. He sets off not in the car he had with Lillian, but a smaller hatchback. He does not want to keep any memory that might remind him of Lillian’s death.

He arrives at Angelina’s town. He takes up a studio apartment on rent.

Jack works on his laptop and with the help of the address provided to him, locates Angelina’s house.

He looks up the phone book and gets her land line number.

He tries phoning her a couple of times, but each time loses his nerve and puts down the phone before Angelina answers it.

The first time he sees her is when she is coming out of her apartment building. Jack has been waiting at the newsstand opposite the building, pretending to look through the magazines, when she comes out. He is struck by her beauty, which is so different from Lillian’s. Angelina crosses the road and gets into a cab and drives away.

Jack gets into his car and tries to follow her, but loses her in the traffic. Dejected. He comes back to his one room apartment. He phones Tim and they talk. Tim wants to know how Jack is doing. Jack tells him that he has seen Angelina. Tim urges him to come back now that he has accomplished his mission. But there is nothing in the old city for Jack. He still needs to know Angelina from closer quarters. She is not what he had expected. She is beautiful in her own way, but very unlike Lillian. She is tall, dark, with blue eyes. She also looks very determined. Tim tells him not to look for Lillian in her.

Jack puts down the phone. He is angry and sad; still grieving for his lost love.

A few days of following later, Jack finds out Angelina works as an assistant lecturer in the college. Her subject is creative writing. Jack enrolls himself as one of the students.

The first day of the class, there are about twenty students, from different age groups and ethnicity. Angelina enters the room. She introduces herself with a smile and proceeds with the introduction with the rest of the class. When she comes to Jack, she seems to falter a little. She asks him his name. Jack says his name. Angelina stars at him for a moment, recovers her poise and goes on. She wants to know why does he want to be a creative writer.

“I don’t.” Jack replies bluntly. Seeing Angelina’s dazed look, he smiles and goes on. “I think, creative writing is a great way to learn about people, about human nature, how they react to difficult – I mean – different situations and so on.” Angelina smiles at this. She says Jack has banged right on the head. Creative writing is all about people, their joys, their sorrows, their strengths, their weaknesses. It is also about love. Jack says it is also about hatred, and anger and violence. Angelina nods, a bit grimly, and goes on with her lecture.

After the class is over, Angelina starts gathering her books. Everybody except Jack leaves the room. He offers to carry them for her.

Startled, she looks up. She hadn’t noticed him. she smiles and thanks him for the offer but refuses.

Jack takes the books from her hands anyway. He says she should not tax herself after what she has gone through. Angelina is suspicious and a little defensive.

They start walking down the long corridor of the college. Jack says her surgery is common knowledge. Angelina says she has got ambivalent feelings about that. Sometimes she feels like a freak. Jack reacts sharply. Angelina is surprised at his vehemence. Jack reminds her that another person’s heart is beating inside her now and that person would not have wanted to think that she – or he – was a freak. He also says that Angelina is lucky to have a second chance and Thank God for that. Not everybody has the luxury of that. He is obviously speaking about his loss but Angelina doesn’t know that.

They reach the car park. David is waiting for her. He picks her up from work every evening. Seeing them, he approaches and says hi.

Silently, Jack hands over the books to David and walks away in angry strides, without another word. Dave wants to know about Jack. Angelina explains he is one of her new students. Dave comments that he seems weird. Angelina is tired and gets into the car.

Angelina and Jack continue to meet during and after class. Sometimes, they stroll till her car arrives, mostly driven by David, sometimes by Jane. Sometimes, they have coffee together. They sit at the park bench, having ice-cream and chatting. Jack is fascinated by her. He has never seen a woman like her before, who is strong-willed and independent in her thoughts. On her part, Angelina feels a strange connection to Jack, which she cannot explain. She feels happy when she sees him. This disturbs her as this is a new feeling for her.

They talk and argue about various subjects – life, love, future and hope. Sometimes, Angelina feels apprehensive about her future; she is not sure about the changes within herself. Jack reassures her. He can sometimes see a fleeting glimpse of Lillian, but mostly he is fascinated by her personality, which is so unique.

At times Jack feels despondent. He remembers Lillian, wants to be with her. Angelina’ presence makes him happy. That in turn makes him feel guilty. Angelina gets confused when jack talks about lost hope, and having no second chance. It seems contradictory to her – Jack says she is the living proof of a second chance and then goes on to say that there is no such thing. He also seems skeptical about Loves’ durability.

One day, Angelina talks about a little girl who says at her neighborhood, who stands under her window every night.

 Angelina studies late into the night. The child comes and stands beneath her window silently. Angelina calls her inside; she shakes her head in denial. After some time, her single mother comes home with her boyfriend after partying. The child goes inside with her mother. She has been standing under Angelina’s window for some simple human company. Angelina feels she is as lonely as that child sometimes. She does not know who she is anymore.

She confides this daily incident and feeling to Jack. He does not think she should stay up late and tax herself thus. Angelina is surprised at Jack’s seeming callousness. She cannot understand how her heart condition gains preference when she has been talking about a lonely child and her own lonely feelings. Jack is suddenly somber. He remarks that one can only wish for happiness but can hardly control it. Each one is lonely in their own way. Angelina notices his change of mood, but keeps quiet.

Another day Angelina confides she wants to take up piano lessons. Jack is startled at this. He wants to know more. Angelina is not sure, but she has this feeling that she needs to play the piano. Jane thinks it is silly. Jack is brutal, suddenly. One has to have music within oneself, he remarks; one cannot simply learn it by taking lessons. Angelina retorts one cannot be a litterateur by taking creative writing lessons either. Jack remains silent.

He remembers Lillian, and the first time he saw her. He cannot trust himself to speak.

 Angelina’s eyes fill with ears, but she resolutely does not allow them to fall. Quietly she takes her leave. Jack curses.

Angelina takes a cab back home. She is too upset to wait for David.

Jack is upset as well. He does not understand why he has been so cruel to Angelina. But more than that, he is at a loss to understand why seeing her hurt bothers him to this extent. He is not aware that he has started to fall in love with her.

Angelina goes to her mother’s place. She is happy to see her, if a bit anxious.

Angelina goes in and dumps her books beside her on the couch. Jane comes and sits beside her. Angelina starts to cry suddenly. Jane is concerned and wants to know what is the matter. Angelina realizes she loves Jack and thinks he hates her. Jane comforts her. She wants to know who is the man. Upon learning he is a student, Jane is confused, but Angelina set her right. Jane is relieved that Angelina is not in love with some underage teenager.

Angelina starts to cry again. Jane passes her some tissue then determinedly puts her aside to get up. She goes to the kitchen and after some time comes back with two steaming mugs of coffee. They talk and Angelina tells her mother all about jack. What he looks like and how the first time she saw him in her class, it seemed as if she had known him for long. Even the name seemed familiar. It was so uncanny that afterwards she went to the records room and looked him up. She thought maybe he was a former student or a member of the faculty whom she had seen but not noticed before. But he is new in town, and this was his first class. She describes how they started talking and gradually got closer.

Angelina remembers the good times. They take strolls around the park, have coffee at the campus canteen during recess, argue fiercely, and run along the lake. Angelina’s ears flow freely at the memories.

Angelina tells her mother that Jack is one person she can confide to. Sometimes it feels that she is more than one person really and her life is divided into two halves, one before and one after the surgery. Even if Dr. Irene says it is usual, she is not convinced. She feels there is more to it than that.

 Angelina recall’s Jacks parting words and breaks down. She is sure Jack hates her.

The doorbell chimes. Jane goes to the door and opens it. Jack is standing there. He introduces himself. Jane tenses her jaw; he has hurt her baby after all. Jack wants to see Angelina, but Jane is not sure about that. Jack says ‘Please.’

Angelina comes up from behind Jane, her tears dried up. Jack looks at her and extends his hand. He is holding a single long stemmed white rose. He apologizes for his behavior earlier. He says he is sorry; he did not want to be cruel. Angelina smiles and accepts the rose.

There is a moment of awkward silence, and then Jane gently suggests that maybe Jack should come in. Jack is hesitant but they persuade him to go in.

From then on, Jack picks Angelina and drops her back after work. They are happy and together almost all the time.

Jack phones Tim. They discuss his options about locating at the small town. Tim is skeptical as he believes Jack will not fit in after his fast life in the LA, but Jack is strangely content. Tim warns Jack about playing a dangerous game.

David comes in. he was out of town for a few days and is not aware of recent developments. He has come to pick up Angelina and drop her to College. But Jack has already taken her. David is jealous, but he does not make a fuss.

David quietly does some background checking on Jack through his computer. He finds out Jack’s hometown and address. David also finds out about Lillian’s accident.

Jack and Angelina get closer. Every day they arrive and leave the class together. Then one day, Jack kisses Angelina. She is confused an runs inside her house.

Jack comes home thoughtful and spends a sleepless night.

The next day, he asks Angelina to take the weekend off with him. Angelina does not know what to make of it.

She asks Jane. Jane urges her to take the plunge. To follow what her heart says.

Angelina goes back to Jack the next day and says yes to the trip. Jack says they can book a cabin at the mountain. Watch the sunset together. Maybe fish a little, relax, generally. Nothing too special, but he thinks that Angelina works too hard. She needs to take time off.

Angelina is thrilled about the mountain trip, she packs excitedly and talks to Dave about it. She has never seen the mountains before as it would put pressure on her weak heart, but now there is no reason why she can’t. Dave is absolutely livid and tries to dissuade Angelina from the trip saying it is still too dangerous for her, but she wants to go.

Jack goes to a jeweler and chooses a ring for Angelina. He is sure that he wants to marry her. He loves her.

They go to the mountain. Angelina is ecstatic. She finds everything beautiful, the air, the sky, and the waterfall, even the bushes. Jack feels very indulgent towards her.

They go back to the cabin after dark. Angelina is tired, but happy. Jack is happy to see her so delighted. He takes out the ring and proposes to her. Angelina is very taken aback. This is totally unexpected to her. Jack says he loves her. She is the most hard headed woman he has ever known and she makes him mad sometimes, but he loves her all the more because of it. Angelina smiles at this. She says he makes her mad too and there are things that she feels she does not know about him, but yes, she will marry him, because she feels that she knows Jack on a more basic level.

Jack hugs her, and then kisses her. One thing leads to another, and they make love. Jack is surprised to find that Angelina is a virgin, but that makes him even more proprietary about her. “She belongs to me, and none other.” He thinks to himself. Angelina stirs beside him. She calls out her name. She says this is her anniversary. She got her new heart one year from this day. Jack enigmatically remarked that this is the day he lost his heart too.

Angelina quizzically looks at Jack at this enigmatic comment, but lets it pass. She is too happy. They fall asleep together.

The next day, Angelina wakes up before Jack. She looks smiling down at him for a few moments, and then goes to the kitchen area to put on the coffee. Her phone rings. It is David. He wants to know if Angelina is ok. Angelina tells him about her engagement to Jack. Dave is furious. He wants to know what does Angelina know about Jack anyway? Angelina is puzzled at Dave’s reaction; she thought he would be happy for her. She says all she needs to know about Jack is that he loves her.

Dave shouts at the other end of the line. He declares his love for Angelina. He has always loved her, but she has never noticed her. Who is this Jack who has all her attention now? He then proceeds to tell Angelina everything that he has learnt about Jack, including Lillian’s death and subsequent heart donation. He thinks Jack has an agenda; money perhaps. Bu he is not who he claims to be.

David hangs up. Angelina slowly sits down at the kitchen table when Jack emerges out of the room. He comes up and kisses Angelina, but gets no response. Puzzled, he looks down at her. Angelina asks him point blank about Lillian.

Jack slowly draws himself away from Angelina and sits down. She asks him again. Angelina has tears in her voice. It kills Jack, but he cannot lie. Not to her. He tells her the truth, about his love for Lillian, his wedding day, the accident, her death. How he was devastated by her death. Angelina is angry. She listens to everything then collects the car keys and leaves the cabin.

Jack runs after her but she is gone. He curse, comes back and phones for a cab.

Angelina is back home. She tells everything to Jane. She has often wondered about Jack’s interest in her since all her life she has been ignored by men; she has always been too intellectual for their tastes, not to mention her heart condition. Then Jack comes and sweeps her off her feet only to find out that he loves a dead woman. How can she compete with that? She does not even know who she is now, Angelina, or part Lillian, part Angelina? Jane tries to console her, but she is helpless. Angelina is humiliated as she feels like a substitution.

Jack is miserable. He is alone once again. He decides to go back to his hometown and start over. As he starts to pack, he comes across some books that Angelina has lent him. He opens them and sees her hand written notes on the margins. He suddenly knows he has to see her one last time.

Jack shows up at Angelina’s doorstep. Jane confronts her and says he has hurt her enough. She accuses him of looking for his dead wife and that he would take whatever part he could of her , he had loved her so much.

Jack denies it. Yes, at first he was curious when he sought her out. He wanted to know what sort of a person has got Lillian’s heart. But then as he met her, and then went on meeting her….

Unnoticed by both of them, Angelina has come down and listening to every word from behind the door.

He sees Angelina as a smart, intelligent woman. She is brave beyond word, and so beautiful, it hurts every time Jack looks at her. She is funny and witty and – nothing like Lillian at all. She can stand up to him, throw a temper tantrum that drives him in a tizzy, can be stubborn as hell and sometimes she makes him so mad that he does not know whether to shake her or kiss her and – he loves her. I loves her so much that he is ready to let go of her. He then gives Jane the books and tells her that he will bother Angelina no more.

Jack turns to go, and Angelina comes into the room. She calls out his name.

Slowly Jack turns. He looks at her with hunger and grief in his eyes, but keeps silent. Angelina comes towards him. She loves him too.

They kiss. Jack tries to speak but words does not come out. Smiling, Angelina puts a finger on his lips. Her mother always says, ‘Good memory is the seed of happiness but happiness is the seed of misery already passed. Remember, not to let your memory stop you from living now.’

They get married. This time it is at a registrar’s office, with Jane, Tim and their father.

Afterwards, they drive back to LA.

They visit Lillian’s grave. Jack puts a bunch of pink roses on her tombstone. Angelina puts down a single pink rose. They hold hands, looking down at her. Then Angelina moves forward and kneels down near the grave.

“Thank you, Lillian, for giving me your Heart. I will take good care of him, I promise.”

Jack and Angelina walk back, holding hands, towards the ornate gate of the graveyard. A new life awaits them.