

Wong Carissa Lok Yee

“Are you sure he’s ok?” I whispered as tears started dripping on my face as I walked with Abba into Grandfather’s sick room.

Abba didn’t say anything. His face was as pale as mine and looked as scared as I did.

“Grandfather?” I asked in a whisper.

Grandfather looked at me closely and asked with a hoarse voice, “Bullet?” Then he sat up and said, “Bullet! You’re back. I thought you died from sickness but you’re back!”

Abba and I looked at him as if he just came back from another world.

Suddenly, a nurse came in and saw us looking really confused. She went out the room and came back in holding a file of reports about Grandfather.

“Your Grandfather has Dementia, he might not remember anything about you both but don’t worry, it’s going to get better soon.” The nurse explained.

“Grandpa... Please.. Can I rest.. For...a while?” I panted as I ran through the race track.

Grandfather shook his head. I’ve been running 10 times a day from Addis Ababa to halfway between Kidame and Addis Ababa. Ever since he thought he was still Arrow, the soldier in the emperor’s elite bodyguard, he trained me to become a more advanced runner like him.

I finally finished running and took a massive drink from a pond nearby and went over to Grandfather. Suddenly, Grandfather’s weary eyes seemed to give up and his whole body fell down on the floor with a big BANG!

Grandfather was sent to the hospital as quickly as possible. He seemed to have fainted and was unconscious. That night, Abba and I went to visit Grandfather again.

He was wheezing horribly, when he saw us, he whispered weakly, “You’ve finally came!”

Abba and I looked shocked and delightful to hear that he finally remembered us.

“When I go to heaven, just do me a favor... you always wanted to be a gold-medal-winning athlete... promise me you’ll become one some day..” With a last burst of energy, Grandfather whispered these few words in my ear.

Suddenly his harsh wheezing stopped, everything stopped.. Silence.

I knew he’d gone up with the angels.