

1007 SIDE STORY (LOU): IN THE PAST

"Mama," A young boy that was no older than four looked at his mother with tear in his eyes. He stumbled toward his mother after he was being bullied by his other siblings. "Why they don't want to play with me?"

Annelise had this beautiful smile on her lips, she was calm and collected when she carried her son in her arms. "Mama said not to play with them, right?"

She wiped his tears.

"But, why? I thought they are my brothers?"

"They are, Lou. They are your brothers."

"Why I can't play with them?"

"I am sorry, Lou. It's mama's fault." Annelise kissed her son and hugged him a little bit tighter. "Why don't you play with mama?"

Lou looked at his mother, he didn't want to play with his mother because she had been sick and couldn't run as fast as him, but the sad look on her eyes made him nod.

"Don't cry, mama." Lou wiped his mother's tears, in which Annelise didn't even realize it. "I love you, mama. I am sorry for not listening to you."

"It's okay, my dear." [www.loveelwood.com](#)

And since that day, little Lou would only watch from the sideline, while his other five brothers played happily. In this way, he wouldn't upset his mother and he wouldn't get bullied. They couldn't call him 'pretty' anymore, because they told him that he looked so girly. [www.loveelwood.com](#)

Lou was confused about why his father didn't love him and his mother and why he lived in a big house with his brothers, while he had to live in a rickety house that the roof looked like it would collapse in any moment.

Lou also didn't understand why there were a few men, who came to their house at night often. Lou didn't like it, because every time these men came, he had to wait outside.

Mother would give him a warm blanket, a book to read and snack to eat. Most of the time, he would fall asleep and when he woke up, he would already on his hard bed, while his mother would have a piece of meat for them to eat.

Father would come, but it would be very rare, sometime they looked happy together, sometime they would fight, sometime he would hit his mother and Lou hated it when he hurt her, sometime, he would get hit too.

But, there was no meat the next day when his father left, actually there was no food for a whole day, because his mother would cry and do not want to get up from the bed.

There was a day when Lou had to gather coins and give it to his mother, so she would stop crying, because he knew his mother needed money.

He was little, but he was well aware that they were very poor, thus money was very important.

When his father left and his mother wouldn't get up from the bed, there was money on the table, but also a few coins here and there.

After Lou gathered all the coins, he would hand them to his mother. "Look, mama. I found more coins. Can we buy meat?" he asked, but his mother would cry even more, while hugging him.

Lou had to feed himself during that day, therefore he didn't like it when his father came. He liked it more when those strange men came, because at the very least, he could eat meat the next day.

And tonight, just like any other night, a man was inside with his mother. Lou had seen this man for more than a handful of time, he came very often recently and made his mother smile often too.

Lou liked it when his mother was smiling. She looked beautiful.

But then, suddenly the door was opened when Lou was snacking, he looked up and saw the man smiled at him.

"Do you want to come inside?"

Lou blinked his eyes and looked at his mother. "I should be here until you left." He hugged the blanket around his body. He didn't want to upset his mother.

"Don't worry. It's okay." He ruffled his head and Lou liked it.

Since that night, whenever he came, Lou was allowed to stay inside the house and he came often. For some time, it was only this man and his father, who would come to check on him and his mother.

Until one night when Lou felt his body was on fire.

"What happened with him? Do I need to call a healer?" the man asked in worry.

"Don't worry, just leave. You don't need to worry," Annelise said hastily.

"How can I not worry? He suddenly fell ill." The man argued. "Come, I will take him to the healer." He went ahead and was about to carry Lou's body, but then he frowned. "He is burning!"

"It's okay," Annelise pleaded with him to leave.

"You don't need to worry about money, I will pay." The man insisted.

"No. Please, just leave." Annelise knew something, this was not an illness that a healer could heal. No one should know about this.

"Why? I don't understand you, Annelise, don't you worry about your son?"

"I am. But, for now, please just leave," Annelise argued back.

And while they were having an argumentation, Lou wailed in pain, he could feel his body was burning, his vision was blurry and suddenly fire appeared around his bed.

"What the hell is that?!" The man jumped away to avoid the fire, but to his surprise, he watched how Annelise handled the situation and everything unfolded. The secret that no one should know about this.

The fire was being put off and Annelise took a magic stone, as she performed her magic.

She was a magic user, without a doubt. So did her son.

This piece of information finally dawned on the man and he stumbled back. Fear crept into his eyes.

During this period of time, magic was taboo in this Karam continent. Magic users were the descendents of devils, they said.

All magic users should be killed, because they cheated the power of the God.

"You... you are a magic user..."

"Paul, please... don't..." Annelise was crying at this point. "No. Please.... you said you love me..."

"People should know about this. People should know that there is a magic user in this village." Paul shook his head. "There are magic users in this village. He is a magic user too, right?"

"Paul, please, don't do this..." Annelise begged him.

However, the man turned around, he was determined to let anyone know about this, but before he could reach the door, his body was being burned. He felt his knees and wailed in pain, as the fire burned his flesh.

The fire burned this unworthy hut as well, turned everything into dust.

Lou remembered, the red color of the fire was so bright, this was the brighter red that he had ever seen and when his mother walked toward him and hugged him, he fell asleep in her arms.

The next day, his fever had gone down, so did their dirty hut.

From that day on, Lou and his mother lived in his father's big house. They got their food and no men would come to see mother again, but his father's wife was so mean to the two of them, so did his other five siblings.

Only years later Lou learned that his mother was one of his father's mistresses, but she was the only one, who bore a child for him.

His father fancied Annelise, until he did not.

"Don't use your power. Never show your power to anyone. Not anyone should know about this, understood, Lou?" Annelise would emphasize this word over and over again in every morning they woke up and Lou would nod his head obediently.

"Yes, mama. What if they knew?" Lou was curious.

"They will separate us, do you want that?"

Lou was scared, he shook his head profusely and hugged his mother. He only had his mother in this world.

However, the same thing happened, his father learned that his mother was a magic user. [www.loveelwood.com](#)

"Father, where did they take mama?" Lou was confused because he couldn't find their mother in their tiny room. "Abella said your men took her, where did you take her? I want my mama."

His father knelt down in front of him. He put his hands on his tiny shoulders. "Look at that." He nodded at the fireplace. "If you can move it, you will be able to see your mother."

Lou blinked his eyes innocently. "I can't, how could I?"

His father stood up and took a little stone from his drawer and handed it over to Lou. "Now, do it."

The stone in his little hand turned so warm. He could do it. He could burn this entire room and the man that he called as father with this tiny little stone, but his mother made him promise not to do it.

"I don't know how. What are you talking about, father?"

"You don't know how?"

Lou shook his head.

His father made him to keep the stone with him and send him to the room. "You are not going to see your mother until you showed me the power you have."

"What power?" Little Lou asked. He kept his promise to his mother not to divulge the secret. [www.loveelwood.com](#)

However, his father closed the door in front of his face. After that, for the next three days, there was no food, there was no water to drink and there was no fire.