



Eva was walking **firmly** (with determination) back to her hostel. My dad was watching her with a **strange** (difficult to understand) look in his eyes. I did not know what he was thinking. It made no difference to me. I loved Eva and would marry her as soon as possible.

We sat in the car and went out of that blind school. I wished my father should meet Eva before I marry her. But the meeting had failed. My father angrily said, "You can't marry her like that. She is blind..." This made me **furious** (very angry). "Then do something so that she can see" I shouted.

Dad was confused. He had thought of Eva as a blind, helpless **creature** (person, જીવ) who had stolen my heart.

"What are you going to do?" I asked **bitterly** (કડવાશથી).

Dad didn't reply. A terrible attack of coughing shook him. But fortunately he could control the car. Neither of us spoke till we reached

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home. I left the car silently and entered the house. I went to my room and threw myself on the bed. I felt that my father would never understand me and my feeling. But my mom understood me. She had met Eva some weeks back and had liked her very much. Although she hoped that I would change my decision. Mom came into my room. "Of all people Eva understands me the best. She says I have brought sunshine in her life. Now if I left her, she would sink back in darkness." I said to her.

"Your father cared for your happiness more than you know. Don't get angry with him, it is bad for his health." She said lovingly.

"Oh, sorry! Is he really sick?"

She came nearer to me and whispered, "Now I should tell you, your father has lung cancer... you have heard him cough - so be careful what you do." She turned and left my room. I was **stunned** (shocked and surprized) and puzzled.

Do you think the news of his father's sickness will make any effect on the relationship of the boy & Eva ?

Two months later Eva and I were sitting on a stone-block near her school. She was **excited** (thrilled with emotions). She wanted to tell me something. I put my hand in my pocket to make sure that the ring was there. Her dark glasses looked at me. She touched my knee softly. "You look sad," she said.

"Sad ? But you can't see me !"

"Yes, but I can feel you are sad. What's wrong please tell me."

My voice was serious as I said, "Dad is seriously ill. We went to the hospital and saw him. The doctor didn't look happy. I know dad hasn't much of a chance."

"How terrible !" she said and sat still. I looked at her and felt happy. How can I leave this angel ? To me she was perfect. I took her hand and slipped the ring in her finger."

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Her surprised face looked up.

"Wh...what is that?" she asked.

"A ring," I said. "Don't you know, you and I are getting married?"
My voice was full of excitement.

With her other hand she felt the ring. Suddenly she pulled it off and put it on my knee.

"No," she said. "Let's wait a while!" her voice was shaking.

"Wait? What for?"

A bright smile **lit up** (shone) her face. She looked happy and beautiful like an angel.

"Till I can see the ring... I want to see the ring." she muttered

I stared at her. It was a cold evening but I felt sweat on my neck.
"What do you mean?" I asked.

"That's what I wanted to tell you." She said, "I'm going to the hospital to have new eyes. Someone who is dying has **donated** (gave in charity) both the eyes to me. I have no idea who it is... but God bless him. Even I don't understand why that person is donating eyes to me?"

Would the boy become happy? How can you say so?

I just stared at her. My heart was beating hard and loud with unspeakable joy. But sorrow was equally great.



One month later I was going back from my farm. The oranges in my basket looked beautiful and yellow in the sun. I was eager to see Eva waiting for me at my home. But suddenly I stopped looking at a grave..... He was looking at me from under the ground. I knew he was there. "I must say thanks," I said with a stream of feeling into my heart. "You always had a kind heart and you really showed that with your last breath. Each time Eva looks at me with those lovely eyes... I feel your caring presence... I love you, dear Dad!"

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Do it Yourself

Q.1 (A) Put a (✓) against the nearest meaning :

1. Donate:

<input type="checkbox"/> to help	<input type="checkbox"/> to give money
<input type="checkbox"/> to give something	<input type="checkbox"/> help
2. bitterly :

<input type="checkbox"/> angrily	<input type="checkbox"/> in disagreement
<input type="checkbox"/> in insulting tone	<input type="checkbox"/> with a feeling of dislike
3. excitement :

<input type="checkbox"/> happiness	<input type="checkbox"/> too much of happy feelings
<input type="checkbox"/> full of love	<input type="checkbox"/> eagerness
4. sink back in darkness :

<input type="checkbox"/> become unhappy	<input type="checkbox"/> unable to see anything
<input type="checkbox"/> from light to darkness	<input type="checkbox"/> become blind again

(B) Answer the questions :

1. When do you feel unspeakable joy ?
2. What makes you furious ?
3. Whose caring presence do you feel ?
4. What makes your face lit up ?
5. What type of a creature are you ?

Q.2 (A) Arrange in order. Write appropriate numbers in the box :

- ☐ The father did not want his son to marry a blind girl.
- ☐ She went to the hospital to have new eyes.
- ☐ Father was hospitalized for the treatment of lung cancer.
- ☐ His mother met Eva.
- ☐ Eva did not accept the ring.
- ☐ Father donated his eyes to Eva.
- ☐ The son and the father went to see Eva.
- ☐ She wanted to see the ring.

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- ☐ Eva's eyes reminded the presence of a caring father.
- ☐ Eva got married.

(B) Explain the meaning of these expressions. What do these sentences mean ?

1. But the meeting had failed.
2. I have brought sun-shine in her life.
3. I want to see the ring.
4. But I can feel you are sad.
5. But sorrow was equally great.
6. You always had a kind heart and you really showed that with your last breath.



The doctor to the patient: 'You are very sick'

The patient to the doctor: 'Can I get a second opinion?'

The doctor again: 'Yes, you are very ugly too...'