

JULIANA WINA ROME

**A HEART LIKE MINE**

Publisher

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### **Thankfulness:**

My deepest gratitude is for my Lord Jesus Christ as always. I can write this story because of his blessing and I want to dedicate it to anywhere all of single women. Be patient....you will be loved someday.

# CONTENT

# 1

“Blanca...!” Mrs. Clifford called.

“What’s the matter, Mother?” Blanca answered. She came in a rush. Her hands are wet.

“Tidy up your room before you go to the college! Look..., what time is that?” Mrs. Clifford said while she pointed the clock.

“Yes, mother! I’m still washing!” Blanca said then she is going back to wash again.

“Oh, God! It seems that you can’t go to the college today. Your house works are many. You haven’t swept the floor and the yard too.”

“Yes, Mother. I’ve already meant that. I can’t leave you in a dirty house.” Blanca said.

Blanca is pretty woman but she never performs herself beautifully. She always wears modestly dress and without make-up.

Time has showed at 5.00 pm. She is tying her wavy black hair, wearing simple dress, and she is ready to go to Miriam’s house, her best friend.

It’s a big house with a large yard, where Miriam lives there. Blanca imagines if she can live just like her best friend. How lucky Miriam is. She is pretty, rich, and has a future husband that can be proud of. Soon they will get married. She has recognized him. He is handsome, kind, patient, and full of compassion. How wonderful it is to see

Miriam intimates with her lover. He kept stroking Miriam's hair and kept kissing her white cheek.

"When I can have a life just like that?" Blanca talked to herself.

Ah..., Casablanca Delia is a good name, but it is not good as my life.

When Blanca came to a big and beautiful city like London for the first time, she felt confused because she didn't know what she had to do. She brought her painful that really hurt her deeply. Her parents in Indonesia didn't want her as a family. They said that she is stupid, ugly, and useless. Even until her age is 28, she hasn't found a man that will love her just like the way she is. In Indonesia there is a conservative custom like girls between age 20 until 25 should get married. If it is not, people will make painfully bad rumors.

Her family looks down upon her, especially her parents. They often slander her with rude allusion that really hurt her. They were so cruel just like she is not their own daughter. They always adore her sister. But she has just burned all of that until out of breath. It seems that the tears are bewildered and she can't stand to live anymore. Finally with a strong heart she went to London by borrowing her uncle's money who is working in aviation office. He is her mother's brother. He handled all of letters like passport, visa, etc. She told him that she wanted to work there while she learned to practice her ability in speaking English

considering that she has joined course for couple months. She didn't know what kind of job that she will do as she doesn't have any skills. It was lucky that her uncle helped her. He really understood her. He knew about her suffered condition. He's the only one of her family who cares about her. She thought that if he didn't want to help her, she will try as hard as she can to go to London and runaway from home.

Until now she's still confused why she chose London to escape. Maybe it's because she often read Barbara Cartland's novels that describe the beauty of England in the past. She didn't ask permission from her parents, because she convinced herself that they won't miss her or try to find her.

Her money only left £75 when she arrived in London. Get off from the airport, she didn't have any wish to call taxi, because she knew that the cost must be very expensive. Beside if she called on taxi, she didn't know where she would go. She decided to go along London, a new place that she has never known before. It could be imagined how tired she was, walked in a big city and in a cold enough weather at that time. She didn't wear warm clothes. She only brought a small bag.

After she was tired walking, she stopped in a place that is revealed the bus station. She couldn't recognize it clearly because her head was dizzy. She felt cold and starving. And then she collapsed.

When she woke up, she was in a soft bed and simple room but warm. Finally an old woman with a friendly face went into the room. She brought a cup of coffee, bread, and chicken soup. She told Blanca to eat while she asked many things about her. With her limited English vocabularies, she tried to answer. Glad that old woman could understand. Blanca told her about the condition. That old woman heard her story with a sad face.

Her name is Margaret Clifford. A lonely woman as her husband has died. Even her only son died too in a plane accident after for the first time he assigned to take it as a new pilot. She asked Blanca to stay in her house all at once, because it will be nice for her to have a friend. At the beginning Blanca was confused because she didn't have any money to pay the room rent. Literally she gave it freely.

Blanca passed day by day with her. Mrs. Clifford is kind, friendly, patient, and motherly. She treats Blanca just like her own daughter and she allows her to call her Mother. Sometimes Blanca cries and imagines if her real mother as kind as Mrs. Clifford. They often jest together, go to the church every Sunday, and sometimes both of them sit in front of the bus station while seeing people pass by and eating ice cream. Mrs. Clifford's house is not too far from the bus station.

Blanca works as a waitress in a big restaurant. Her salary is only 20 pound sterling per day. That is as a side job while she studies in a college. Actually

she didn't want to continue her school. She thought that's enough for her after her graduation from Senior High School in Indonesia. But Mrs. Clifford always forces her to do that. Even the college expense is guaranteed by her with her husband pension as a soldier. And as the additional, it's provided by Blanca salary as a waitress.

As long as Blanca studies in college, she has many friends. They like her because they said that she is humorous and good singer. She often performs in her college events. Against All Odds is her favorite song. She often sings it. And if she has stood up on stage, Mrs. Clifford will sit in the first row and gives her big applause as the audience.

From all of her friends, Miriam is the only best friend. Her father is a successful businessman in Egypt and handles some oil companies. But Miriam is not arrogant girl. She often gives Blanca decent clothes and it still looks good, because sometimes Miriam only wear it once and she is easily to get bored. Miriam is one of the lucky girls in the world.

A servant who is using Egypt traditional uniform opens the door and realizing her from her daydream.

“Are you looking for Miriam?”

“Yes, right. Is she inside?”

“Yes, she is with her fiancé in her room.”

Some of servants in Miriam's house have known Blanca. That servant accompanies her to go upstairs. Miriam's room door is open and she saw them are kissing each other passionately. Realized that someone is coming, they stopped kissing.

"Hi...! Miriam is yelling. "I'm sorry..., there was an act for adult. Pretty romantic, wasn't it?" Miriam whims in funny mimic. "Yeah..., Ahmed is impatient to wait our first night anymore. Sit down, Blanca! I'll take your favorite drink. Orange juice right?"

"Thank you, Miriam."

Ahmed then left them. He lives in a luxurious apartment. He will be back later for having dinner with Miriam.

"Oh, Blanca..., Ahmed is gorgeous man," Miriam said. "His kiss is wonderful. If his lips stick in my lips, definitely he touches my breast," Miriam described it lovely. "God..., I want to give all of my body to him...but not yet, because we haven't pronounced as husband and wife."

Both of them are laughing.

"I'll bet if you have married, you must forget eating and drinking." Blanca said. "In your mind is just having sex with Ahmed. And if I am in your room, I'll take your bed and throw it up to the sea, so you can't make love with Ahmed again."

“Ha...ha...ha...!” Miriam giggled. “I’ll buy a bed again. Oh, yeah... maybe I don’t need it. I can do that in the kitchen, in the bathroom, in the living room, or even on the dinner table.” Miriam imagined amusingly.

Both of them are shaking with laughter again.

“What about your wedding party, Miriam?”

“Oh..., it’s a pity of you. You can’t watch it, Blanca...because my father has asked it to do in Egypt. All of my family is there. But I promise, I’ll send you my wedding pictures.”

“Oh, Miriam!” Blanca felt sad. “The true is I really want to watch your happy day and I really want to be your bridesmaid. Well..., that’s okay, but don’t forget your promise.”

Suddenly Miriam is crying.

“Hey..., what’s wrong, Mir? Are you happy, aren’t you?” Blanca asked confusingly.

Miriam is still crying. “I’m sorry, Blanca. Three days again I’ll go to Egypt and I will never come back in here anymore, because my father asked me to quit study after I got married with Ahmed. He asked me to continue his business which is cooperation with Ahmed’s father. I’m his only child. So I must handle it. Beside my father is getting old.”

Suddenly Blanca is glistening with tears. She will lose her best friend. She loves her very much. Then they hold each other.

Time is coming. Mrs. Clifford and Blanca go with Miriam, Ahmed, and all of her servants. Miriam's luxurious house is sold and she takes her servants to Egypt, because all of them are come from there too. She has considered them as her family.

"Don't forget me, Miriam. You're the only one my best friend that I ever had. Ahmed, please love her with all of your heart." Blanca said.

Both of them are crying while they're holding each other.

Mrs. Clifford and Blanca watch their plane takes off.

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## 2

Blanca passed the days like usual. Go to the college, work at the restaurant, and take care of Mrs. Clifford that often sick lately. Maybe she is getting older. She takes care of her with full of compassion. She is heartsick to see her in a weak condition on her bed that often makes creaking sound.

Blanca is diligent to go to the church and not forget to pray for Mrs. Clifford recovery. When she is in the church, she often sits side by side with woman that has the same age with Mrs. Clifford probably. She likes to smile and often accompanies her to go home with her limousine. It seems that she is a rich woman. Of course they haven't talked personally, because they're just ordinary friend in the same place, church. Blanca thinks that her kindness to take her home, maybe it's because she feels sorry to see her walk alone to go home.

The church location is far enough by walk. But if Blanca took the bus, it's only 20 minutes. In order to save her money, she chose walking.

That old woman is French. Her name is Madame Legrand. Blanca can see it from her accent if she speaks English. Clumsy and sometimes she forgets some English vocabularies, so Blanca often informs and corrects her sentences.

One day afternoon, Blanca is in her limousine and she asked her to come to her house.

“Blanca..., are you home?”

“Yes, Mother!”

“Who is in the living room?”

“Oh, she is Madame Legrand, Mother. A woman that I often tell you.”

“Please...help me to go down from the bed, Blanca. I really want to meet her.”

And before Mrs. Clifford wakes up, Madame Legrand has entered her narrow room.

“No, no, don’t! You’re ill, Madame! Don’t force yourself to wake up.” Madame Legrand said.

“Blanca sweetheart, please take a chair for Madame Legrand!”

Madame Legrand has sat and she looks friendly although Mrs. Clifford and Blanca are just common people.

Blanca made the tea for both of them. When she entered the room to serve it, they have been talking, sometimes is serious and sometimes full with laughter. She doesn’t want to bother them.

“Thanks for the tea, Blanca.” Madame Legrand said. She is ready to go. “It’s 6.00 pm. I would like to go home soon and accompany my grandchildren having dinner.”

“You’re welcome, Madame.”

“Someday I will invite you to my house and recognize you to my grandchildren.”

“Yes, I’d love too.”

Blanca accompanied her to the front door. After she has gone, immediately she is going to the kitchen and preparing Mrs. Clifford’s dinner.

While she is bribing her, she asks her : “What did Madame Legrand tell you, Mother?”

“Oh, many things. About her youth, her divorce that made her has a big inheritance, and about her grandchildren that really made her enthusiastic. Blanca, because of your kindness, a lot of people become a friend of yours. Usually high class people look down upon low class people. Maybe Madame Legrand is Lady Diana’s follower who never chooses a class of people in having friends.”

“Yes...., thanks to God, Mother, that we have been given good friends.”

“It’s time to bed, Blanca.” Mrs. Clifford said. She yawned. “Don’t sleep late at night if you still want to study, because tomorrow you must wake up early and start your house works like usual. I’m sorry, Blanca, because I’m ill and I can’t help you.”

“Oh, it doesn’t matter, Mother. The most important is that you must get well soon. So we can sit in the station, eating ice cream, and seeing people pass by.”

“Yeah, I miss it. Okay, goodnight, Blanca.”

“Good night, Mother. Have a nice dream.”

Blanca kissed her cheek and turned off the lamp. She washed the plate then sat in the living room to continue reading. She stopped at midnight then slept.

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