



THE  
RED-LETTER DAYS  
(Short Story)

*By*

*Wilma Sharon F*

## ***DEDICATION***

*Dedicated to the author of “Fault in Our Stars”*

*John Green who inspired me and to my elder brother Alan Francis who  
motivated me to read novels.*

## ***PREFACE***

*This is a story about a girl who lives and works by herself in Hamilton, Canada; she really misses her family but never intended to visit. After a very long time, she gets a chance to visit them who were in Cumbria, England to attend her sister's marriage, she decided to stay there for a little long days.*

## Chapter 1

Everywhere silence and looks like no one is home. “Hey! Chloe there you are, you little one come to me sweetie”. Chloe is a dog, Labrador variety, golden colored shiny short furred skin, like velvet cushion.

I cuddled her into my arms she licked all over my face and looked at me. Where is everyone I wondered myself I searched all over the place in the house (the attic, the basement, the backyard almost everywhere). Chloe followed me.

I left my luggage out in the veranda seeking they’ll come to me and give a warm hug but that all didn’t happened so far. I went to the veranda where these lovely lilies bloomed. Lily, Arena blooms at early august and we have calla, little horn shaped white colored, at the center of calla a small stem of yellow colored pollen shows up.

“Hah!” With delightful sigh, I raised my shoulders and inhaled the smell deeply that kindled my childhood memories. It’s the roses over the edge of the veranda. Edward, light pinkish small roses bloomed all over the bushy, thorny herb of its. I went near it “Lovely!” my lips widened with a smile. I didn’t touched them just watched how beautiful they are.

With all this, i picked up my luggage, Chloe started rounding my feet. I am so much stressed out and tired of my long journey I planned to take a warm bath. Before that I chained Chloe to my room. “Chloe stay put, I’ll be back after the shower”. She winked her eyes as if she responded me

I went to the bath room it was like all clean and looked like it has not been used for so long but I somehow managed to turn on the geysers.

The shower, I wanted it to be checked, for its working condition. So I stood out of the bath tub and once I turned on the faucet, water stammered to come out of it so once again I closed the faucet and turned on. Then the flow was good. I took a good, relaxed, long bath.

I soaked my body completely in the warm water filled in the bath tub with lavender scented shower gel makes me feel wonderful, I made up some froth over me and I closed my eye awhile. My phone ringed and it stopped after two rings.

Hearing this she barked once and kept quiet. I’m done with my bath and dressed up, flesh colored button down shirt tucked in loosely and a blue ripped pepe jeans up to my ankle. I feel comfortable on them.

Actually I’m starving. It’s been a long journey almost 3000 miles and 5000 kilometers. It’s growling in my stomach so we moved to the kitchen, Chloe too,

I unchained her. Opened the refrigerator and stretched my arm. I took a milk carton gulped a little and pour some for Chloe into her bowl; she licked out the milk so fast as if she is hungry as I am. “Go on you hungry girl!” I smiled looking at her.

Then I went to the stove lit it, topped it with a pan heated up some bacon sprinkled some olive oil over it, seasoned it with salt n pepper. I toasted some bread in the toaster near by the coffee maker with the coffee stain left over in the jar.

The bacon is almost done and the bread too and placed it over a piece of bread, added up with mustard sauce, lettuce and with a spoon full of mayonnaise, finally I covered it with the other bread piece. So the sandwich is done gloriously.

I went for a bite. Mmmhmmmm yummy!! It’s like heavens.

Fetchd a bottle of orange juice poured half a glass. I took another bite and started walking out of the kitchen to the veranda where I can see a swing chair made of wood, a two seated type [a sofa or a sofa without a leg] hanging from the ceiling by chain connected throughout the length of the swing’s arm. It looked as a perfect place to sit and enjoy my sandwich. So I stepped towards the swing with the creaky noise and hopped in to it, I swung a little by kicking my leg against the wooden floor.

I could smell some rose scent and watched the hedges along the pathway from the veranda to the outer gate. It was cold outside but not that cold, sun rays scattered here and there over the roof top and all over the shrubs, it's the morning with a chilling breeze.

I got some fresh air and I folded my leg inside the swing chair and lay back my body over the swing and rested myself closing my eyes with a deep thoughts.

After a while Chloe came from nowhere and started making sounds. So I suddenly stretched out my legs and landed them on the floor then she licked my foot. She sniffed all over the floor for something and I understood her way of signing I took her out to the gate. At once she pooped.

“Haaaa, Thank God!” I felt good coz she didn't poop inside. Of course she won't, coz she is a well-mannered girl. Why she sniffed the floor is that she is signing me to help her open the door that's all like “Hey! You girl help me I wanna poop”.

While she was pooping, I wandered in the streets not too far from my home looking for the neighbors but I couldn't find one. All were inside their house enjoying themselves with their family members; it's the thanks giving day for them. They threw parties and loads of fun activities, eating, drinking, and dancing.



I could hear them doing all these stuffs. I'm quiet relieved from the terror of lonely. Though I like being lonely doesn't mean that, no living beings around me. (1)

(1) *Like all people in the city evacuated for a reason of some kind a disease is spreading or a giant monster attack or a zombies has took over the city. Its kind a creepy.*

I went to my bed. Im still wondering where these people gone and what's taking them so long to reach home. They knew I'll be home by now. In all this thought I was on my rolling chair swirling myself, Chloe looked with "a puppy face" (2) seeing this I melt down, "Hey sweetie! Come here" took him and make him sit on my lap. She cuddled into my arms.

(2) *Like a black grapes shiny eyes, tilted her head to left and the left ear is half folded down and the other upright.*

For the sake of my mom, I tried calling her. But the line was all busy so I threw my phone to the bed. I got up from chair and just lied down on the bed. I rolled over and stared at the ceiling where I could see a little chandelier hanging, I don't think it will glow because it's not in use since I left home for my higher studies. I can see some things which I left here was still there, where I left (some, actually not all).

I felt something strange in my tummy and my shoulder started shivering, I muttered “I saw something” to Chloe. She sat upright raising her head and turned her ears like an antenna dish towards the sound for listening; she turned her head all over the sides and started barking at the window. I tried to shut her up but I can’t handle her so I dragged her from the room,

Holding her brown colored collar belt and closed the door of my room. We both panicked but I didn’t showed to her “Please don’t afraid, calm down Chloe” softly touching her head with a smooth patting. I was thrilled by the time, kind of startled by the shadow that I saw at the window.

All of a sudden a door at the back next to kitchen shut too fast and with loud creaky noise, this time I didn’t went anywhere but towards the back of the house, I chained Chloe in the living room as she started barking again, it was annoying but ignoring that and stealthily tried to know the thing that makes us panicked.

## Chapter 2

With the knife in my hand, a safety precaution I always have pepper sprays now I have better and bigger one, I took it from the kitchen knife set. It looked little stupid to me coz I'm not gonna kill anybody and pepper spray is the best, from a distance we can spray it to the enemy's eyes.

Moving towards the back door, I stretched my hand to the door knob slowly in one hand in the other I positioned my weapon in the direction of the enemy could possibly attack. With all guts I opened it and swayed my hand forward like stabbing a person, as I expected nobody is there.

The back yard is full of dried leaves and twigs from the pine tree and maple leaves all over the ground. I heard Chloe barking so went around the house entered the living room and unchained her. I again went to the back to double-check the place. I locked the front door before leaving the living room to the back yard with her. Behind the yard it's woods, that area is prohibited to go all people. (3)

*[3] Don't worry it's not any kind of a movie to be scared of its just a woods, they restrict it to avoid kids get lost inside the vast wood land and they get bite by some kind a poisonous insects or lizards. It's a usual common reason. No big deal.*

There's nothing I found so far; I was suspicious since I entered home (no one is home, strange noises, strange shadows appeared over the window glass, sudden shutting of a back door but no one is there).

All of a sudden a guy of my age or maybe elder to me showed up from the fences around my back yard. I almost freaked out.

He looked me in surprise. "Hi! Are you new here?"

"Sort of". I smiled back, "I am Ervine Miller".

"Pleased to meet you miller I'm.....", He interrupted me "just Ervine is fine".

"Okay", "I'm Jessica Turner" and greeted him with a hand shake.

"So you are that Twittie girl of Jane". I felt embarrassed. I nodded my head. He knew me already but I'm not that aware about my parent's neighborhood.

Good looking beard and slight mustache both were trimmed regularly it seems as per his name he is handsome. He has warm skin tone, a turquoise eyes sparkling in the shiny sun rays, chestnut colored hair. He looked genuinely a nice guy. (4). He was wearing a white round necked t-shirt Denim, American

flag painted in it which is circled by tiny stars, with a faded jean, cool snickers with one hand tucked inside his pocket.

*[4] Good to all, no tricking anyone, enjoy helping others and stays in good books of others.*

He invited me for the party that has been arranged. It's a house party.

I felt like joining him but something blocked me at that moment I couldn't decide so I nodded my head like a YES, but I should think over it.

He petted Chloe lightly by rubbing and scratching her head smoothly, she too waved her tail and the back here and there with a tail in a horizontal position when we are conversing. So I guess he is a friend from a neighborhood and we as a family know him and his parents (known person and looked harmless). I know him by myself, when we were kids but there's been a break or a gap. I went Canada to do my studies and for my career meanwhile everything changed. His face gets mature and totally handsome.

He waved his hands towards me. "Be there by 10:00 P.M" and left.

It's almost evening it started chilling though the sun is still lurking from the horizon. "Chloe get in" She was crouching for the squirrel on the ground. As I

called her she turned her head and ran towards me and entered into the back door of the kitchen.

I served her some dog food in her bowl and I went to the refrigerator opened it, scanned all over the door and I found something interesting to eat I made some salsa and got some dry bread at the store room. I treated myself good.

Suddenly, I remembered about my phone call. So I went upstairs to my room and saw my undone bed, I found it. I forgot what happened in the morning, I sat in the working table pulled the chair closed to the table opened my Toshiba (grey shaded sleek laptop) to check mails and messages. None I received just bunch of bullshit ads and sales offer mails.

I cleared all the unwanted mails opened some picture folder from my drives and started looking them. I went back to my high school fun filled memories. I'm missing my friends and the fun we had.

It's too cold out and it entered into my room and filled through the open window. The window remained open but I feared to go near the window to shut it, I can't leave it open all night.

I slowly kept myself together and picked all my luggage and gadgets from there and left the room rushing through the door, locked it and dragged a heavy table from the side of my room and set it straight to the door.

I settled down in a canopy chair (modern canopy chair hood above our head little cozy to relax) near by the heater, the cold started filling everywhere I turned on the heater. I kept my luggage in the living room and planned to stay in the couch.

The couch is going to be my bed tonight; I sniffed like I got a running nose its bcoz of the cold. It stuck my finger I stretched my palms near the heater some inches away from it.

Chloe too sat near my foot on the floor, she sniffed my hand her snout was cold; she rubbed it in the rug and sat quietly, raising her brows looked at me sitting on the floor. Its evening 8:00 P.M. I remembered the party which he (Ervin) asked me to join.

I don't know what kind of party (5) it is so I didn't stressed myself much in choosing what to wear. But I need to go presentable. I can't wear too formal or too casual; I don't know who are all invited i.e. elders or our age people. But I finalized with a conclusion as it must be our age party.

*[5] Usually people throw different kind of parties like costumes party, Halloween party, farewell party, birthday parties, bachelor's party etc.*

I went to my luggage opened my travel suitcase trolley type purple colored with the airport tags on them. I scanned all the dresses, I drew them out of the bag and it was strewed, Chloe watching all this stuffs. "I don't know what to wear for the party, Chloe" as she heard her name, she raised her head a little and gave a look, at once she backed to her position.

At last I decided to wear a pepe jean ankle length but not ripped, with reddish - pink top black buttons down collared.

I went to the bathroom in my mom's room kept the door open I took a quick bath. Wearing the throb, I dried my hair with the hair dryer, combing it will help to set; I roughly combed and left it loosely. I went to the living room where my outfits are, I sat a while in the couch relaxing myself.

Then I'm all dressed up, hair is done it's up to shoulder golden beige blonde, combing it once again and curled them at the bottom a little and left some scattered fringes on the fore head it touched my eye brows, sprinkled some perfume on the sides of my neck and to my wrist, wore a pair star shaped grey Bakelite stud, glossed my lips a little, went on snickers. Everything's done, neat and clean.

I was almost ready, except one thing I can't go empty handed so grabbed some beer case from the refrigerator and was ready to leave. When I reached the door



step Chloe came along. “Sweetie! Stay home until I return” petted her scratched a little near her ears and left the home.

When I was at my house door step I heard people’s noise of oohing and aahing. I reached his house door step, ringed his door bell and waited.

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