

Ecstasy

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Sitting in front of his computer while immersed in the chat room, Murphy, an innocent teenager and sometimes subject to temptations, was the youngest as well as the most spoilt child in his family with a parent denying him nothing. When he saw a letter—E, his curiosity was aroused just like a cat. Therefore, he asked other key pals on the Internet what it was. It was said that “E” could rid one of worries as well as troubles, thus making one happier. And it happened that Murphy was dumped by his girlfriend, so he decided to give it a shot.

It was an evening. Murphy, dressed in his Sunday best with a mixed feeling of anxiety and thrill, was waiting for his new-made key pal—Mark, a playboy who had tried “E” before. When Mark arrived, Murphy thought to himself, “He appears to be in low spirits.” After some chit chat, they decided to leave for another key pal’s house to have “fun.”

On arrival, Kevin, the house owner with “E” to sell, came to greet them, but he was not going to get involved, only offering a place and other “necessities” for fun. When everything was set, music began to play. Then what they had to do was wait for “E” to take effect and make them “high.” But Murphy was a rookie, not knowing how soon the drug would take effect and what kind of feeling and consequence he was going to get.

“How soon will I feel the E taking effect?” asked Murphy.

“It depends! But now that you are a rookie, I think it will take effect pretty soon. If you want it to take effect more quickly, just get moving around or dancing to the music,” Mark replied.

After about thirty minutes, Murphy began to get a feeling of thrill from his lower body and so did Mark. As time ticked away, they got “higher and higher.” Mark, standing behind Murphy, taught him how to shake his head to get “higher.” After a while, Murphy couldn’t control his body which was shaking like a mechanical toy. When the music was strong and loud, he ran like a wild dog as if having been kept in a cage for ages. But at this moment, he was released. However, they stopped all of a sudden. “E” took effect to the utmost and threw both of them into a point in which they probably would not have recognized their parents if they had appeared in front of both of them.

Taking a seat on the sofa, they went into their own world without being able to know anything around. Unlike Murphy’s personalities in his daily life, he became very talkative in the world of his own. Sometimes he was murmuring; other times, he was talking nonsense to Mark. Since Murphy had no friends to talk to in real life, this could be an otherwise way of releasing emotion. It was during this period that he felt great sense of contentment and belonging. It was

because of this sense of feeling that he forgot his being dumped by his girlfriend. Lost in such a “wonderland,” Murphy could imagine a magic world in which he could fly and achieve everything with a flip.

Mark, lying aside, was not affected or maybe he was unaware, for he was long lost in the “K” world. He was quite enjoying it as could be seen from his relaxed and contented expression. Shortly after the “E” gradually lost its effect, they also came to their senses little by little. But for Mark who didn’t have enough “fun” and Murphy who still wanted to try the “K,” they decided to take one more.

“E plus K will definitely make you feel as if you are in a paradise,” said Mark. Just breathe some through your nose and don’t swallow it; I guess you are sure to love it.”

Not feeling bad about the “E,” Murphy thought it wouldn’t hurt to try something else. Therefore, Murphy used a straw to take a small “sip” through his nose. But before he knew it, he was just like riding a rocket into the outer space, feeling so “high,” which he had never experienced. In the meanwhile, unconsciously his tears were rolling down his cheek, not because he was feeling sad or sorrowful, but because he thought in mind, “What if I would never have this kind of feeling?”

After a journey to the outer space, Murphy was pulled back to the earth. The sun was rising. For people who were in the dark for a long time, light was a nuisance. But it was time to go. Murphy, not quite sober, was still in a trance. He seemed to hear the music playing even if it had stopped for a while and what he saw was still a world with everything imposed by magic. After

saying goodbye to Mark, who looked like a drunkard, Murphy went home on his motor.

On the way home, Murphy tried to keep himself as sober as he could while riding his motor. As he was approaching his home, he began to feel more and more depressed, because everything he saw was what it was supposed to be in a real life—people rushing to work, a bus crowded like a sardine can and the hustle and bustle of a city life. What an infernal sight to see! It was near a crossing that he felt like falling into a bottomless black hole. To lift his spirits, he sped up to get a feeling of thrill. When passing through a steep slope, he was riding his motor like a pirate ship. But much to his excitement, he was scared out of his wits and lost control of his motor. Into a pillar he bumped. With an expression of seemingly pure ecstasy, he died—of misery.

“I’m sorry. I did not mean to hurt you. But we female are treated so. It is a rule.” Mom said, and I guessed Tom explained all.

Hearing that, I remembered and finally understood the words Henry

explained to me. "She was educated so. It's not her fault. It might not be fair for you, but it isn't unfair for her."

Because she was educated so, she practiced Chinese traditional sexism as responsibility. What's more, because she was treated so, she thought it was normal for me, too. It was not her fault.

I understood, coming to realize the difference between *my fair* and *hers*. I turned to her, giving her a hug. At the very moment, I thought I smelt the fragrance of carnations.