



**The Key to
Their Hearts**

**Written and
Illustrated By:
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This may seem like just another typical love story, but I promise that this one is different. Meet Alice, a twenty-four-year-old millennial girl who faces many struggles with online dating, gender roles, and her own lack of self-esteem. Her love story began seven years ago, in her town's auto-body shop, at which she has been a frequent customer ever since she got her license.

Every couple of months, for the last seven years, Alice found herself at this auto-body shop, getting her car an oil change. Every time she came in, she would be greeted by the same young man who works at the front desk. Each time she saw him, she was smitten by his good looks, professional mannerism, and his smile, which always melted her heart.

She never thought to ask him out, mainly because she was too afraid of rejection. She also thought that it was awkward for a girl to ask a guy out, since it was usually up to the guy to make the first move. Additionally, she was concerned that she would catch him off guard, since people are often accustomed to chatting online before getting together in person. Instead, she would just enjoy the brief moments she saw him and then joke around with her friends about how she would marry him some day.

One day, however, one of Alice's friends went to get her oil changed at the same shop. She met Alice's crush and found him to be just as attractive and charming as Alice led him on to be. The friend told Alice that she had met him and that she later found him on an online dating website. She said that if Alice did not make a move soon and ask him out, she was going to ask him out for herself.





Alice was not mad at her friend over the ultimatum. She knew he was fair game, and at least her friend gave her first dibs. She was actually relieved and surprised to learn that he was single and on an online dating site, looking to change his relationship status. She then realized that this was her chance and that she did not want to watch someone she knows enjoying what could have been hers, so she planned to ask him out.

Alice wondered if she should find his profile online and ask him out there. That would be the easiest way to get this over with. Then, she remembered how horrible her experiences with online dating had been and did not dare make another profile. This brought her to a pause, and a few months went by without a move from Alice, so her friend messaged him online just as she said she would. Alice panicked and called the shop to make herself an unnecessary oil change appointment for the next day, just so she could ask him out before he ended up with her friend.

When the next day came, she walked in very nervously but with a determined mindset. Then, she looked up and saw that he was not there, and that she had made her appointment on his day off! Alice panicked and thought that she had lost her chance. She sat in utter disappointment. When it was time to pay for her oil change, she quickly improvised and grabbed one of the shop's business cards and wrote her name and number on the back of it with a message reading: "Want to grab a drink sometime?"

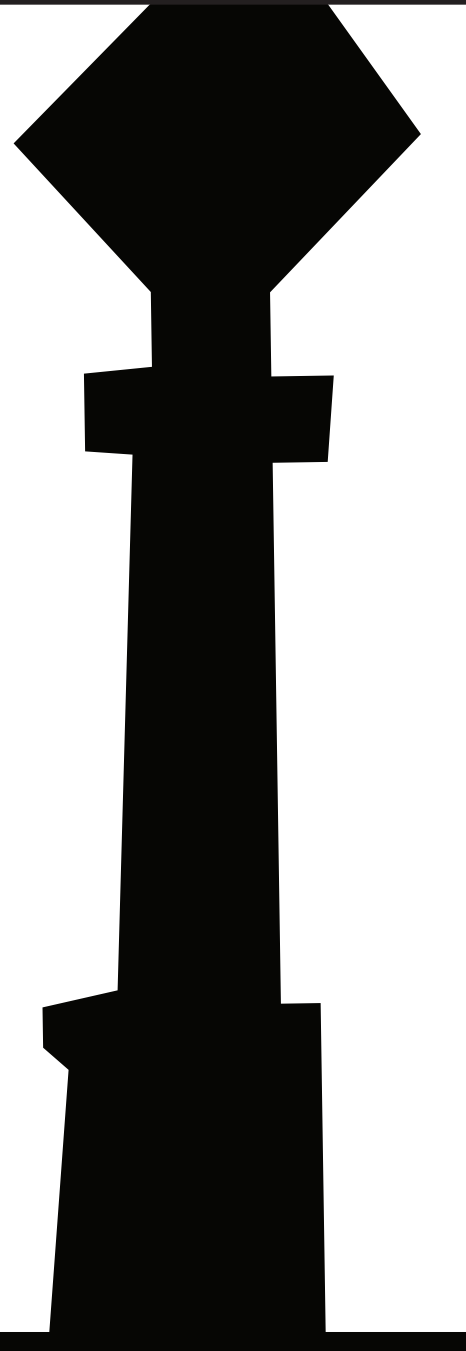
Then, she shyly asked the man behind the counter to give the note to her crush. He smiled and said, "Of course." Alice left the shop with a smile on her face and butterflies in her stomach. She was so proud of herself for actually going through with asking him out, for she had almost left the shop without making some kind of move. "Maybe it was a blessing that he wasn't in today, because maybe I would have chickened out," she thought.





The next day she had been so busy that she forgot about the note she left her for crush. As she started making dinner, she noticed a text message from an unknown number that had been sent to her phone. It was from the young man she had a crush on! He had accepted the invitation to grab a drink with her, and was looking forward to it! She replied to his text and they arranged to meet that Saturday night at a local bar.

When it came time for the big date, the girl took a deep breath and stepped out of her car once she arrived at the bar. She looked up and could see him waiting for her by the front door. Their eyes met and they both exchanged a smile. Her heart melted into a puddle and she continued to walk up to her dream man. He greeted her with a hug and the two of them walked into the bar, not knowing that they would be there for hours that night.



They both felt extremely comfortable with each other and talked about anything and everything. He was impressed that Alice had asked him out, and that she did it in person and not over the computer. He had never had a woman ask him out before. This was a first for both of them. Everything about her was impressive.

He found himself in awe with Alice after getting to know her. He thought she was beautiful, smart, funny, motivated, and down to Earth. He had not met a girl like this before. Most girls he had met seemed to have too many issues, or were lazy, or would flirt with other guys while they were out on the date. Alice was different and he wanted to know everything about her.





As the night came to an end, the young man walked the girl to her car and insisted on seeing her again. Alice was more than happy to accept! She could not believe that her dream man was actually interested in her and thought it was silly that she had wasted seven years waiting to ask him out. The young man vocalized how happy he was that Alice had left him her number. Neither of them wanted this night to end.

Truthfully, the young man was happy, and he was more than just interested in Alice. He had been wanting to find someone to love, but had given up and thought it was impossible until he met her. He thought to himself, “you’ll find someone when you least expect it” might be an accurate saying after all.

A few months have gone by since their first date, and the two of them have been inseparable. Because of their great chemistry, life has felt effortless and natural for them together. They have endlessly enjoyed getting to know one another. What was once a fantasy for Alice has now become her reality, and she had been the missing link in his life as well.

Who knows where their relationship will go from here? It is still early, but maybe they will stay together and get married one day. Either way, it is nice to know that there are two people out there who deserve each other and have found one another. It's funny how life has a way of working out sometimes.



Are you sick and tired of reading far-fetched love stories that would never actually happen in the real world? Are you a millennial who is torn between meeting people online or through face-to-face interactions? If so, then you are not alone. Meet Alice, a single, twenty-four-year-old millennial, who faces many struggles with her love life because of today's social media craze. Join her, in this non-fictional love story, as she transitions from a shy young lady into a bold new woman, simply because she strays away from today's norms.