

A Whirlwind Romance

By Tamara Nguyen

~Henry~

The wind howls and rushes around my face as I head to the office for my new job. I'm getting the job I dreamt of: a well paid job, with a friendly workspace, complete with a nice boss. I'm so excited, even the overly cold weather can't wipe the grin off my face. Well, nothing *can* wipe the grin off my face until I trip. The wind blows unusually hard, and I lose my balance, grazing my hands as I put them out to stop me falling. I land in front of David Jones on Lambton Quay, and look up, and find myself staring into the eyes of a pretty young woman with flowing brown hair.

"Stupid wind," I mutter, before looking up at the girl.

"Are you okay?" she asks me, her face creased with concern. I nod. I look at her, and I notice the small name tag pin on her shirt - it's the same as mine!

~Gale (the wind)~

Hello. My name is Gale. You may know me as the wind. I know everything, because I see everything, because I am *everywhere*. I just finished supplying the energy for the Makara Wind Farm, and right now I'm trying to bring two humans together. It's something I've been doing for, let's say, the past few thousand years. I'm watching the humans right now, one of whom I pushed over.

"Do you, by any chance, do you... work here?" The boy points at the small metal name tag pin on his chest.

The girl smiles knowingly. "What do you think?"

The boy looks from her to her name tag, then back again. "Yes?"

"Obviously," the girl says, but she doesn't say it scornfully, more like playfully. "You must be the new employee." She taps him urgently. "Well, we'd better hurry up, we're going to be late!" She smiles at him, and shows him to the office (which was just as well, because he was having trouble finding it in the first place).

~Henry~

I feel a jolt in my heart when she touches me, even if it is just briefly. She doesn't seem to notice anything, though.

She looks around and says, "You're on level four. I'm on level five. Here." She shows me to the lift, then presses the numbers 4 and 5. When we reach level four, she waves

at me, with a final, "See you later!" I wave back, but then feel a cold shiver run down my spine. I realise that it's coming from a nearby open window, which I quickly close. "Shut it, wind," I snarl.

~Gale~

Shortly before the lunch break, the boy realises that he can't remember the girl's name. He goes to floor five, but she has already left for her lunch break. I'm watching from the windows, as I was shut out of the building. Feeling downhearted, the boy goes down to the cafe for lunch, where he sees the girl ordering some food. He quickly lines up behind her.

"Hi - Adelina," he says, quickly glancing at her nametag to make sure he got her name right, "Let me buy you lunch, you saved me from the humiliation of arriving late at work on my first day."

"Thanks! That's nice of you." They order, grab a table number, and seat themselves on a nearby table.

"So I was wondering if we could meet up sometime, you know, outside of work," Henry starts. To his surprise, she blushes.

"Yeah, of course! Where?"

The boy looks away before he says this, but he says it nevertheless: "Maybe... the movies?"

Now the girl looks away too, and it's clear that they're attracted to each other, but neither of them want to say it.

"So it's a date?" the girl asks.

"Well, kind of, yes, but if you don't want to go that's okay..." He trails off.

"I'd love to," the girl says. "It's a date then?"

"Yes." The boy agrees, and they pick a movie. Then they go back to their offices, but when the boy notices that I'm breezing around him he frowns and closes all the windows and doors.

~Henry~

I'm waiting outside the movie theatre, trying to look casual. I'm here early, but that should be okay. Girls are usually early. As expected, Adelina arrives around ten minutes early, and we get popcorn and Coke. The movie begins, and I find myself looking beside me every now and then to make sure Adelina is still there. When the credits start rolling, I lean over and whisper, "Next Saturday morning, at the Botanic Garden. 10 o'clock?" I whisper as the movie ends. "Sure," Adelina whispers back. I have a good feeling about me and Adelina, but let's see which way the wind blows - and hopefully this time it doesn't blow me over.

~Gale~

It's a breezy Saturday. I've been breezing about, cooling people's faces and anticipating what's to come. At about 10.00 in the morning, they appear. The girl, looking effortlessly beautiful, peering around and the boy, who appears apprehensive. They've agreed to feed the ducks, so the girl clutches a box of breadcrumbs.

They feed the ducks in the pond for an hour, laughing and joking with each other. I look and listen, and finally think it's the right time. Even though they may not understand my actions right now, they will be grateful for them later. It always works out in the end. I wait for the right moment, timing it so precisely - there - the boy throws a handful of breadcrumbs into the water, and with a slight jut, I redirect the breadcrumbs into the girl's face. She lets out a small cry and the boy, seeing what he did, says, "Oh, sorry, my hand must've slipped. Maybe it was the darned wind." He is inexperienced when it comes to helping girls, as he's never had a girlfriend before so it takes him a few seconds to realise that he's meant to help brush off the breadcrumbs. Doing so (as expected by me), he accidentally pokes her eye. "Ow," she says, then pushes his hand off to do it herself.

"Let me do it, I promise I'll be more careful," the boy says indignantly, trying to redeem himself.

"No, it's fine, I can do it -"

"I insist!"

At this point the girl looks like she's trying to bite back some insults, and she says, with a deep breath, "I said, it's fine, I'm almost done -" Once again, the boy interrupts her. "Well I can at least do the last crumb," the boy says. I know what is going to happen before it does. I see it in slow motion. The boy's hand, a bit too forcefully, reaching for the last tiny breadcrumb. The girl, who moves out of the way and is frowning as she's unable to hold in her annoyance any longer. Then the boy again. Whoes hand misses the girl and with that bit of extra force, dive bombs into the duck pond. The boy resurfaces, gasping for air. The girl helps him up, but then leaves with a muttered, "I'm sorry, I don't think this is going to work out. See you at work."

The boy is left, soaking wet and speechless.

~Henry~

At work, Adelina ignores me. She walks past me, past the office noticeboard, and out of my sight. I'm so dejected, and I only just notice that the wind has blown a flyer near my feet, nudging me to take it. I groan. Nothing from the wind is ever good. Surprisingly, it's only an advert for an office beach party at Oriental Bay. I might as well go, I need something to cheer me up.

When I get to the beach, there's around ten minutes until sunset. My eyebrows launch up in surprise before I can stop them at the sight of Adelina sunbathing in front of a big rock. Wow. I've never seen her in a more fashionable pose.

I hide behind the big rock which she's sunbathing in front of, and wait. I don't know what for, maybe a perfect time to talk to Adelina, but the wind does something unforgivable. It jabs me, hard enough that I'm thrown out from behind the rock in front of Adelina.

~Gale~

Well, he'll thank me later.

~Henry~

I land in front of Adelina, with sand in my pants. I can't think, and all that's in my head is *oh no oh no oh no* and a string of tangled curse words. She looks shocked but helps me up. Then she sighs, and gives me a tender look. "Maybe we can try again," she says. "Definitely," I agree. She smiles and leads me to a bench. We sit. As we watch the sunset, I feel the wind swirling around my ankles. I smile and murmur my thanks to the wind.

~Gale~

All I can say is *I told you so*.