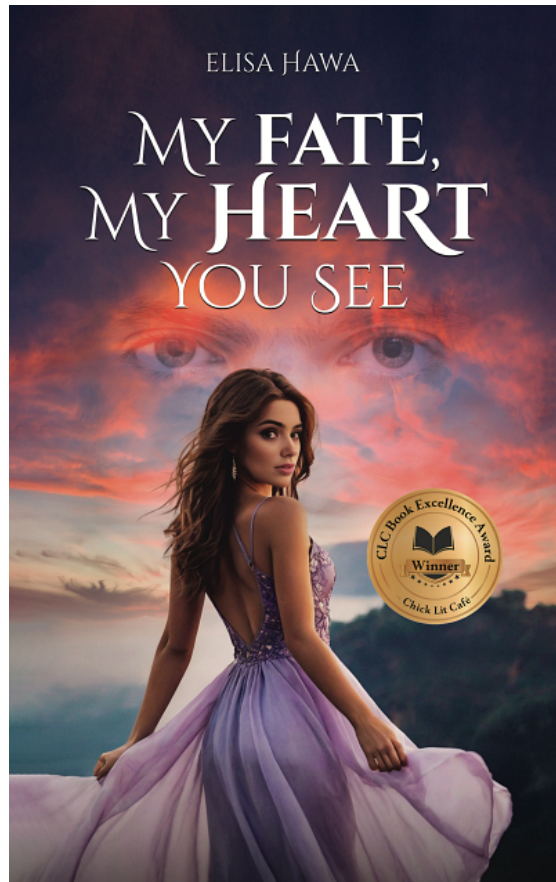




Nina Rosethorn has vivid nightmares that predict a future disaster. She embarks on a mission, only to discover they are tied to Nathan Winterstorm, her high school crush. This event eventually caused her life to end tragically or did it?

MY FATE, MY HEART YOU SEE

By ELISA HAWA

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ELISA HAWA

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CHAPTER 1

“SOMEONE, PLEASE HELP ME!” Nina was running for her life, the car headlights were relentlessly pursuing her on the deserted dark road, getting closer. Exhausted and terrified, she glanced back, only to trip over a long pine tree branch in the middle of the road. Screaming in pain, she held onto her knees and fought back her tears.

The car stopped but the silence was oppressive. She slowly glanced around and saw the car facing her at a distance, the headlights turned off. She could now see the person inside, wearing a devil’s half mask with a sinister smile. Her body shaking, she began to limp away, every step painfully slow.

A car’s engine roared and the headlights beamed, charging toward her like a bull. An evil laugh echoed into the night. Knowing there was no escape, Nina slowly turned around and stretched out her arms in front of her, just like in a horror movie. Suddenly, only darkness remained.

Awakening abruptly, she sat bolt upright, drenched in perspiration. Her heart pounded in her chest as she scanned her surroundings realizing the horrors of her nightmare had vanished. With a relieved sigh, she collapsed back onto her bed. Moments later, her phone alarm pierced the silence,

signaling the arrival of six o'clock in the morning. Exam time. Rising from bed, she stretched, slipped on her cozy kitty slippers, and grabbed her phone, proceeding towards the bathroom.

She pulled up her playlist from her phone and laid it on the white marble vanity sink, undressed and stepped into the hot shower. The hot water felt amazing and calming against her skin. She enthusiastically sang in the shower, imagining herself as a renowned singer. Despite being unsure of her singing abilities, she felt like a Grammy winner while under the rainfall.

After her invigorating shower, she dressed in her favourite cobalt blue high-waisted jeans and a baby pink blouse with puffed sleeves. She made her way to her elegantly designed, ivory white vanity table equipped with makeup drawers and a luminous mirror and gracefully took a seat. Resting on the table was an enchanting square glass trinket box with pink and white butterflies and roses. She carefully pulled out her cherished gold dropped down half-moon earrings, each studded with sparkling diamonds and her sterling silver pendant bearing a pearl inlaid butterfly encased within a golden heart.

Next, her makeup application. She chose a warm, brown hue for her eyes, a shade that complemented her dark hazel eyes and her light chestnut hair to perfection. A stroke of mascara and a swipe of a natural, pink-toned lipstick on her delicate thin lips and her transformation was complete. She admired her reflection, her eyes twinkling with joy and satisfaction.

Leaving her room, she moved towards the kitchen and was puzzled by the unusual quietness.

“Why is it so quiet in the kitchen? The blending machine should be blending by now.”

“Trinity, are you there?” she called out, scanning the room for her roommate and her childhood best friend.

Silence still lingered in the air. She headed over to the fridge, where she found a pink sticky note attached,

“Good morning, Nina,

I went to the library to go over my study notes before our Business Law exam. I will see you there. I can't believe it's our final semester this year. I'm sure you will ace it cuz you are such a DORK. Don't forget we are going to get piss ass drunk this weekend.

Good luck, Nerd”

“Who's the bigger nerd?” she thought as she giggled softly.

She quickly made scrambled eggs with two slices of toast bread and packed them in her navy-blue laptop backpack bag. Attached was her favourite keychain of a small white stuffed teddy bear, engraved with Nina Rosethorn on a beige ribbon around its neck and a pink tiny heart on its belly. It was a graduation gift from Trinity that she considered her lucky charm.

She grabbed her bag and walked out the door. With a determined spirit, she mounted her dependable crimson mountain bike and pedaled towards Spring Blooms Street. Her destination was the finest cafe in San Diego, a place she favoured slightly since it was her workplace.

The weather was a splendid symphony of sunshine, graced by intermittent soft breezes. She would shut her eyes and smile sweetly whenever the breeze caressed her face. When she reached Spring Blooms Street, a small grin appeared on her face. Her pedaling began to slow down. She was now enclosed with columns of pink Tecoma stans trees that were planted on both sides of the street. The scenery reminded her of the time when she would go hiking with her two sisters at the Jefferson Lakes Provincial Park in Vancouver back home. She found the trails to be captivating and tranquil whenever she would go and it had the same effect on her. Shortly after, the sweet and refreshing aroma of flowers engulfed her nose as she rode down the street. She'd sniffed a few times so she could take in the fragrance. Each shop hung a window planter box or a black cubic planter box out the front with numerous flowers and colours like lavender, purple and white sweet alyssum, peonies, pink roses and stock flowers with a hint of greenery. She stopped in front of a coffee shop named Cup-A-Cake Cafe. Eight sets of wood square side tables with two chairs were placed for outdoor dining. In the middle of their window, displayed their logo of a cartoon drawing of a cute smiley face slice of cake sitting in a cup, with their name curved underneath. She parked her bicycle on the bike rack, chained it up and stepped inside. The interior design was naturally stunning and simple. The walls held a soft buttermilk coloured with customized wall art designs. Each table had two pendant

gold metal cages hanging ceiling lights and small potted artificial sunflowers at the centre. Customers would have the option to either sit at a table of two or four. At the centre of the shop, stood a modern countertop, decorated with a marble top and a hint of gold and a blue-grey at the bottom. Delicious and mouth-watering baked goods and cakes were exhibited inside the window display cases and a glass refrigerator case. The back counter proudly held the coffee machines and blenders. Lastly, a simple wooden shelf hung on the back wall, displaying the choices of cups and customized mugs.

This place had always brought her joy whenever she worked here. She loved the concept of eating a piece of cake of your choice either in a cup or ordering a customized designed mug such as unicorns, mermaids, marble designs and special occasions and then pouring the coffee on top of the cake. She was immediately greeted by her boss and a mother figure, Mrs. Amy Scarlett-Scott.

“Good morning, Nina dear. What are you doing here? Don’t you have an exam today?” Mrs. Amy Scarlett-Scott said with a puzzled expression.

“Yes, I came here to get a cup of your coffee since it’s one of the best,” she replied with a sweet smile.

“Okay Dear, I will be right back with your coffee.”

She heads back to the counter and prepares a fresh pot of coffee. A few minutes later, Mrs. Amy returned with a cup of coffee to go. *“Take this too dear,”* Mrs. Amy said as she gave her a piece of chocolate cake from the counter.

“Thank you, Mrs. Amy,” she replied with gratitude.

“Good luck with your exam, dear.”

“Thank you again. Goodbye.”

Exiting the store with a bounce in her step, she effortlessly unlocked her bicycle and commenced her journey to Mira Bay University. The crisp air rushed past as she pedaled with anticipation. Upon her arrival, she carefully tethered her bike and claimed a solitary bench which was across from the grand grey marble pond fountain that was placed at the centre of the university. A mighty 6ft statue of a female mule deer named Mira, stood proudly beneath the second tier. Mira was the university’s mascot. Encircling this tranquil oasis, tall palm trees swayed gently as the vibrant flowers stood below. The university buildings, a testament to Gothic Revival grandiosity, rose in a c-shaped embrace around the courtyard. Their blueish-grey slate rooftops caught the sunlight, while their towering windows mirrored life around them. Each structure was adorned with columns and spires, adding an air of elegance and timelessness. Beyond this architectural splendor, the remainder of the campus sprawled. There on the bench, she enjoyed her breakfast and coffee before making her way to the exam hall. Nourished and rejuvenated, she entered the building and located her classroom.

As she entered, she noticed Trinity a few rows to her left, engrossed in a novel, her forest green eyes hidden behind eggplant-coloured glasses and her dark brown hair with a purple tint tied up high in a ponytail. Trinity suddenly put

down her novel and cautiously scanned her surroundings. Trinity spotted her and spoke some comforting words to her,

“Don’t be nervous. You are going to pass this, nerd.” She stuck out her tongue in a playful manner and smiled.

“Everyone, please take your seats now. We will now start your exam. Please pass these down and you may begin.” The professor instructed as he walked in and passed the papers to each individual who was sitting in the front rows. She collected the exam and passed it to the next person behind her.

She breathed out slowly so that her heartbeat could settle down. She glanced towards Trinity, hoping for some final encouragement. Trinity smiled at her and mouthed *“You got this”* with a thumb up.

She nodded and began writing.

“Our contract is officially terminated. Now, we can celebrate with drinks and Parrrrtttyyyy,” Trinity exclaimed cheerfully.

“Trinity, I can’t even think about partying right now. That was painfully draining and depressing. I don’t feel like going anymore.”

I need to regenerate myself now.” She replied.

“I agree. That’s why WE are going tomorrow night. We need to get drunk and get crazy on the dance floor with our friends. You have no choice. You are going even if I have to drag you there.” Trinity responded.

“Fine, I hate you,” she said sarcastically.

“No, you don’t. You know you love me, Nina.”

“Do I? Hmm” she said as she put her index finger on her chin. “Yeah, I guess I do. Okay, I will meet you back at our apartment. I’m going to Meadow Springs National Park.” She hugged her goodbye and went to go pick up her bicycle.

She began pedaling, heading towards the national park. It was the perfect day to go hiking with a few occasional clouds. The best part was the destination was only thirty minutes away from the university by bike.

Her mood lifted when she spotted the impressive grey and black stone monument that marked the entrance to Meadow Springs National Park brought a surge of joy. She pedaled faster, paid the entry fee, and continued down the road, the landscape dipping gently.

She finally reached the wooden arched entrance gate. The park’s name was written at the top of the arch “Meadow Springs National Park”. She hopped off her bicycle and stationed it at the bike rack. She preferred to hike from this point on. It was her way of appreciating everything around her and observing the beauty of nature.

She headed towards the beginning of the crossroads. She came across three pathways leading in different directions and each path had an arrow indication with its trail name and description. The first path to the left path was the Greenwood Trail, a multi-use trail. The second path was the Grand Abbey

Trail, a foot trail and boardwalk. The third path was Shimmering Hearts Heights Canyon, which was a recreational trail. She walked in the direction of the Shimmering Hearts Heights Canyon sign and continued walking down the path.

Soon, she was surrounded by the beauty of the forest. The trees were nut-brown and the leaves were leafy green. They stood tall as the eye could see and looked majestic where they stood. The sunlight was shining through the trees which created a warm and enchanted feel to the forest. The ground was semi-covered in grass and soil which gave the earthy smell which she loved. The sounds of birds chirping and singing are heard on the tops of the trees. As she went farther into the trail, the scenery changed.

The beauty of nature evolved into a more captivating and peaceful place. A variety of white wildflowers materialized underneath the trees and more green-toned plants were now apparent. The tranquil sound of streaming water was now heard as she got near. Bees were buzzing, crickets and birds were chirping at a distance. The stream of water was now visible as it curved and bubbled around the trees and rocks. She crossed a wide wooden bridge where the stream of water was flowing rapidly underneath her feet. She continued to follow the stream until the sound of rapid water plunging was heard.

The waterfall was grand and was plunging off a 120 ft cliff. There were large boulders and rocks close to the waterfall which was easy access to walk on and get close to the water. A variety of different types of green plants were on the sides of the waterfall. The sunlight reflected off the waterfall, creating

a large rainbow. At the bottom of the fall was a deep blue sapphire aquamarine colour. She halted for a few minutes and took in all the beauty of what she was witnessing. She then closed her eyes, listening to her surroundings. The trail proceeded to the right side of the waterfall. As she continued on the path, the number of rocks increased as did the steepness of the path and started to ascend uphill. Her legs began to feel the exercise but it wasn't excruciating. She kept on moving. Reaching to the top, a sudden gentle breeze caressed her face. She was always in awe of this scenic view whenever she would visit.

Acres of meadows stretched out throughout the grass. A mixture of purple, yellow and orange wildflowers were seen and the sweet fragrance of flowers were in the air. At a distance, a single bushy green oak tree could be seen. She walked towards the tree and stood in front. The tree was matured and wide. One of the branches was stretched out horizontally and a wooden hanging swing seat was bound to it. She sat down and glanced at the scenery in front of her. A few feet away, stood a crystallized blue lake that shimmered in the warm daylight. The stone mountains were high and proud and glazed in a silvery-white top. Gradually, she began to swing herself. Grey clouds began to form around the sun, creating a shadowy shade over the park.

She got down and crossed to the opposite side of the tree. She settled against its trunk and pulled the book "Annie of Green Gables" by L. M. Montgomery from her backpack. As she read, her eyelids grew heavy and she soon drifted into a peaceful slumber.

A deafening boom shattered the tranquility, startling her awake. Instantly, a wave of realization struck her as she knew she had to evacuate immediately. She swiftly threw her book in her bag and prepared to leave. Crowds of people were running for cover.

Only two feet away from the tree, a flash of white light strikes the tree branch. Her entire body was overcome with a powerful wave of heat and pain. The world around her began to blur and fade away.

CHAPTER 2

As she slumbered; a familiar voice echoed in the distance. She couldn't rouse herself, almost as if her body was compelling her to stay in the dream. Gradually, she recognized the voices. They belonged to her parents. ***"But why were they here?"***

"Mr. and Mrs. Rosethorn, sorry to keep you waiting. I am a neurologist Dr. Ivan Frank Garthwin. I am attending your daughter Nina. Your daughter was very lucky she was struck by a side flash and only a Lichtenberg figure on her back. Her ECG, CT scan, and blood work are all good anal. We will monitor her for 24 hours and then she can be released." He explained to her parents.

"Is the Lichtenberg figure painful? Will it be permanent?" Her mom, Chloe Rosethorn inquired.

"No, it's painless and not permanent. It will go away on its own within a couple of hours or days. But she might be in distress." Dr. Garthwin answered.

"Thank you, doctor." Her dad, Jackson, said.

After a few minutes, she heard the curtains being drawn and the beeping of a heart monitor. Trinity was there too, talking with her parents.

“Hi, Dad Jackson and Ma Chloe. How are you both? How was your flight?” Trinity’s voice sounded.

“Hi, Trinity. How is she? The flight was fine. How are you? You look tired, honey. Why don’t you go home and rest? We will look after her.” Her mom said.

Trinity sniffed as she replied *“No, I don’t want to leave her. She needs me.”*

“Okay, I understand. Just go home for a few hours, take a shower and then come back with some coffee and bagels. We will call you if she wakes up.” Her mom replied.

She heard footsteps walking towards her, *“Nina, I will be back in a few hours. You better not wake up as soon as I leave or else I’m gonna kick your ass. You hear me?”*

Then she walked out of the room. Nina felt a gentle kiss on her cheek and then her mom’s voice filled the room. Exhausted and her body in pain, her eyes were still sealed shut like an entrapped door. She had no choice but to continue to subconsciously listen.

“Hi, Baby girl. It’s me, mommy. I’m here and your dad too.”

“Hi, Nina Bee,” her dad said as she heard him place a chair near her bedside and sat next to her.

"It's time to wake up and open your eyes now," her mom pleaded softly as she felt her hold her hand.

The nurse came in a few hours to check on Nina's vitals and left. Suddenly, the swooshing of the curtains being swung open and Trinity's voice appeared.

"I've brought coffee and bagels. How is she? Any changes?" Trinity asked.

"Thank you, Trinity. No changes." Her mom replied.

"I'm sure she will wake up anytime now." Trinity said, trying to be optimistic.

"I hope so."

As her parents and Trinity were catching up on what's been going on with their lives, Nina's eyelids began to flutter and slowly began to open. She shifted her gaze up and down, unsure of her surroundings. The room was wide, shared with three additional patients. Two nurses in blue uniforms were attending to the patients as they moaned in pain or required some assistance. The medical equipment made the room loud with its beeping noise. The walls were greyish-white on one side and the bedside was teal green. The curtains were white at the top and different shades of blue greens from the midpoint down. On the other end, familiar voices could be heard. She tried to move her body but her back was tight and painful. She shouted *"Ouch."* Her mom ran to her side and held her shoulder, trying to calm her down and comfort her. Trinity appeared beside her bedside, calling for help.

“Nina, it’s going to be alright. Try not to move honey. The doctor will be here shortly.” Her mom’s comforting voice, assisted her to calm down.

“What happened, mom, dad? Where am I?” she inquired as she breathed through the pain.

“Nina Bee, you are at Harmony Grace Hospital. You’ve been asleep for almost two days now. You were at the national park when lightning struck you. Do you remember, Nina Bee?” Her dad spoke.

She had no recollection of being at the national park at all. The only clear memory she had was being struck. Suddenly, she felt a sudden pain and then her entire body was blazing like a fire. Without a reaction, she shook her head. Her dad frowned with disappointment and sadness. Two voices were heard near the entrance.

“Doctor, the patient Nina has awakened.”

“Excellent. I will see her now. Thank you, nurse.” Dr. Garthwin said.

A male doctor dressed in white came in. He was in his late 30s, had short facial hair, tall and average-built. He’s eyes were ocean blue which matched perfectly with his light blonde brown hair. He introduced himself with a warm smile as he checked her chart and vitals. She couldn’t help herself, staring at him. He explained to her that she had a Lichtenberg figure on her back that ran halfway down her spine and her tests came back all normal.

"When can I go home?" She inquired with eagerness to leave.

"We need to keep you here for observation for 24 hours. In the meantime, we could give you an antibiotic cream if it's uncomfortable otherwise it would go away on its own within a few days. But in some cases, it can be permanent." She sighed in relief.

She was glad it wasn't anything serious and she could go home soon.

"Can I get some Tylenol and the cream? My back feels like it's pulling and my skin is tight. It hurts." She inquired.

"Yes, of course. I will get the nurse to bring those to you." Dr. Garthwin said as he left the room.

A few hours later, the clanging of metal wheels was heard approaching her. The nurse came in with a white medical trolley and asked everyone to step out for a while so she could apply the cream on her back. She looked towards her mom and nodded with a smile, her mom hesitant of leaving her alone, left.

Her curiosity lingered in the air. She desperately wanted to know how her back looked. She requested her nurse to take a picture of it before she applied the cream. The nurse took the snapshot and returned it back to her. As she glanced at the screen, she was shocked and in awe that she really was struck by lightning and lived to tell the tale. The nurse gently applied the antibiotic cream and her back began to feel relieved.

The nurse placed the cream back into the trolley and took out her pills. *"Here's two Tylenol for you."* She gave her a small white plastic cup with pills inside. *"If you need anything else, press the help button."* Then left the room.

Trinity stepped in and sat beside her. Trinity noticed she was looking around, she smiled.

"Nina, your parents will be back. They left to call your sisters and get something to eat."

"Okay." Nina paused for a few minutes then asked with a grin, *"How have you been? Anything new?"*

"I should be asking you, how are you? Are you in any pain? Do you need anything?" Trinity asked in a concerned tone.

"No, I don't need anything. I'm alright. No pain." She said as she fought back her tears and forced herself to smile.

She didn't want anyone to worry about her, especially her parents. With a fake smile, she pretended everything was fine. But in reality, her back was painful sometimes and the realization that she almost died frightened her.

"You know what? I just find it ironic how after we took our exams, I said I wanted to go to the park to get regenerated and BAM! I got struck by lightning. Isn't that funny?" She forcefully laughed, making a joke out of her situation.

"It's not funny Nina. Don't make a joke out of this and please just talk to me. I have known you for long enough to

understand when you are not telling me something. So please do me a favour and tell me what's going on."

Trinity leaned over and clasped her hands together. Pleading with her eyes, they slowly began to leak.

"Listen, Nina, you scared me half to death. I thought I had lost you when they told me you were struck by lightning. Don't you ever scare me like that again."

Tears streamed down her cheeks. Her smile slowly faded as an ache pushed against her heart. She knew could no longer contain her emotions. Her eyes burned and her vision blurred. Trinity embraced her and they both comforted each other until no more tears fell.

"I love you, Trinity. I'm sorry. I didn't want you to worry. The truth is my back hurts sometimes that I want to cry. Do you know what the scary part is? I could have died, Trinity and I'm not ready yet."

"You don't need to hide your feelings from me. It would only make me worry about you even more. Don't you understand? I'm always here for you and I love you, dumb ass."

"I know. Thank you, Trinity."

Her parents strolled in with a tray of fresh hot coffee and a plastic bag. Her dad placed it on the tilting overbed tray in front of her. She glanced at the bag and her stomach rumbled loudly. She laughed embarrassingly as she placed her right hand on her stomach.

“Sounds like Nina Bee is hungry. Your mom and I thought you could eat something more adequate than this so-called food.” Her dad said with a chuckle.

“You guys are the best. I’m starving. Pass it over before I collapse.” she said.

Passing the plastic bag to her, she quickly peered inside and found six 6-inch-long turkey bacon club sandwiches with honey mustard sauce. Overwhelmed with happiness, shouted for joy and devoured one as if her life depended on it. Then she grabbed another and devoured it.

“Slow down, Nina. It’s going to drop down to your hips if you eat too quickly. But then again, you were always jealous of these gorgeous hips.” Trinity teased as she flaunted them.

“Shut up, Trinity. I’m not going to listen to you right now. I’m busy.” She replied as she took her last bite and gulped down a cup of coffee.

Trinity laughed hysterically at her childish behaviour.

“Sweetheart, slow down. You know when you eat too quickly you will get an upset stomach.”

“I can’t help it, mom. It’s so delicious. Okay, I’ll stop now. I’m done.”

“Nina, tomorrow you’ll be leaving here. Your dad and I want you to come home with us until you return back to school in October.”

"I don't know, mom. It's not necessary. I'll be fine in a couple of days or a week. I just need rest." Trying to assure her mom, she would be fine on her own.

Her mom changed her tactics and altered her tone to a loud furious voice. *"Nina Isabel Rosethorn, do not make me mad. I will ground you and don't you think for a sec that just because you are an adult, I can't. I am still your mom after all. You scared us half to death and made me worry about you. It's the least you can do for us."*

She glanced at her dad, hoping he could persuade her, *"Dad, can you please talk to her? Tell her, I'll be okay."*

"Nina Bee, listen to your mom." Her dad said, agreeing with her.

She exhaled as her shoulders dropped. *"Fine, mom. I'll stay until school starts."* She replied.

"Great, I'm off to call Mackenzie and Sofia and tell them the great news. You are coming home. They are going to be thrilled. I'll be right back." Her mom got up from her chair and glanced at her dad.

"I will leave and take care of the arrangements," dad said as he left with her mom.

They looked at each other and burst out laughing.

"I can't believe your mom. Like it's your fault for getting struck by lightning."

"I know but she knows that I can't refuse her if she does that. It's quite annoying and frustrating at the same time. Anyways, once I've recovered, you better come and rescue me."

"You bet your nerd ass I will. You still owe me a night of partying. Let's make it two since you decided to get struck." Trinity teased as she stuck out her tongue.

"Shut up, Trinity," she threw a pillow at her face but Trinity caught it with a chuckle.

It was 8:30 pm, and a male voice came over the overhead paging system and announced visiting hours were now over and everyone who was not a patient was to leave. Trinity hugged her goodbye and as she exited the room, Nina's parents strolled in. Trinity waved goodbye and left.

"Everything is taken care of. We just need to pack. Your sisters can't wait to see you." Her mom said.

"Me too. I've missed them." She replied with a loud yawn.

"Sweetie, you need to sleep. Tomorrow, you are heading home."

"Good night, mom, dad. I love you."

"We love you too," her mom said.

"Good night," they both replied.

It was morning, her eyelids began to flicker slowly at the rustling of plastic bags and her parent's voices. Her nose was infused with the fresh aroma of roasted coffee beans.

She woke up, *"Good morning"*. She said in a cheerful tone. *"God, I love the smell of coffee in the morning. What's for breakfast?"*

"Good morning sweetheart, how are you? We've got you an egg BLT on a cheese bagel and coffee." Her mom replied.

Her back itched slightly as she moved into a sitting position. She smiled at her mom and said,

"I'm alright. Just hungry."

"Here you go", her mom said as she gave her the bagel and coffee.

"Are you sure you are alright? You are not lying to me?"

"Yes, mom." She replied and took a bite of her bagel.

"Okay, I'm just making sure. I'm glad."

A few minutes later, the curtains swung open and Dr. Garthwin walked in.

"Good morning, how is the patient today?" He asked as he checked her charts near her bedside.

"I'm alright. Ready to go home."

"I'm sure you are. I'm going to check your back. Is that OK?"

She nodded and stayed still as he observed her back. He smiled widely and she tied her robe.

"If your back gets uncomfortable and painful, apply the cream and take Tylenol but otherwise you are free to go. I will have the nurse bring you your release papers and then you are free to leave."

"Thank you for looking after me."

"Yes, thank you, doctor." her dad said.

"You're welcome. It was my pleasure." Dr. Garthwin grinned and walked out as her parents followed.

"God, your doctor is so fuckin hot. If I was a patient of his, he wouldn't know what hit him." Trinity said as she stepped into the room.

"Knowing you, I'm sure you'll make an impression that he won't ever forget." She teased her.

"SHUT UP! I'll be right back. I forgot something." Trinity chuckled with a mischievous smile and stepped out.

She chuckled as she glanced in the direction her friend left.

"What's so funny?" Jackson asked as he walked in and took a seat next to her.

“Just Trinity, being Trinity.”

“I see, causing mischief where ever she goes.”

“Yup,” she nodded.

The automatic entrance door whooshed open as her mom swiftly walked in and hurried to her bedside. Her mom excitedly waved the release papers in the air and announced she was free to leave. On cue, the sound of wheels rolling was inching closer and Trinity suddenly appeared pushing a wheelchair.

“It’s about damn ass time you got released. It’s a good thing, I snatched this thing.” Trinity gestured at the wheelchair. *“Right this way, your chariot awaits.”* Trinity playfully jokes.

“I’m ready.” With assistance from her dad, she slowly rose from her bed and positioned herself in the wheelchair. *“Let’s go home.”*

CHAPTER 3

A week had passed since she returned to her hometown. Her scar healed and she was out on her balcony, unwinding on her beige cushioned sofa. She had a grin on her face as she looked at the diamonds twinkling in the sky. The full moon brightly lit the night sky. She felt an inner peace and happiness as she had the pleasure of beauty and sounds before her. The trees were glazed with the gentle light of the moon. She heard a hooting of an owl at a distance.

She absorbed the beauty of mother nature for hours until her eyelids began to grow heavy. Suddenly, the world around her slowly faded to black and she entered the world of dreams.

The sun was bright and warm. Cars and trucks were flowing with traffic while obeying the traffic lights at the four-way traffic light intersection. A group of pedestrians crossed the road and walked down the street. Suddenly, a mysterious man moved away from the group. She was drawn to him. She felt like she knew him but she couldn't figure it out. His identity was concealed. His face was blurry and only what he wore was visible. He wore an unzipped navy blue slim-fit bomber jacket, a white shirt and light blue jeans.

She couldn't shake the feeling that something unexpected was going to happen. Then suddenly, a voice called out to her in warning: "*Nina, you MUST follow him. Don't lose sight of him. You have to save him.*" Clutching her necklace tightly in her hand, she obeyed the warning and followed the mysterious man in the distance. She kept her distance on the other side of the street. He stopped in front of an unknown cafe shop and went inside. She noticed that every street signs, business buildings or store names was all unreadable. She waited patiently until he came out. Once he did, he went on his way down the street. She crossed the road and followed about a few yards behind him. As the figure crossed a busy intersection, she watched in horror as a black car made a quick left turn, came flying at him. In a split second, she shouted a warning to him "*(blank), WATCH OUT.*" The tumbling sound of metal, crackling glass and brakes reverberated in the air. Finally, someone fell to the ground. Rushing to him, she saw that he was unrecognizable. As she knelt down beside him, her tears were falling. Hoping he was still alive. Suddenly everything around her became unfocused, only a post-dial clock with no readable time and a newspaper article with no readable data were seen at the end.

The sunlight was peeking through the blinds. She had woken up. She scanned her room. Her room was exactly like she never left. A white writing desk, a small make-up table and chair, a twin bed with storage drawers and a wooden shelf containing her books, figurines and plush toys of her favourite anime. Slowly, realization dawned on her,

“Wait, wasn’t I sleeping outside on the couch? How did I get inside? I’ll ask mom and dad.” She asked out loud as she headed downstairs.

The smell of bacon led her to the kitchen, where all of her favourite breakfast food was being cooked; banana chocolate chip pancakes, mini sausages and grilled cheese sandwich with scrambled eggs inside. Sitting at the table were her parents, waiting for her.

“Good morning, Nina. We were going to call you. You fell asleep outside, so we brought you inside. Oh, by the way, your sisters will be here any minute now.” Her mom explained.

She made herself a cup of espresso coffee with milk and sugar and joined her parents at the table. A few minutes later, two loud voices made their presence known. Chatting up a storm as they made their way into the kitchen.

“Mackenzie and Sofia, hurry up and get your ass at the table already. Your sister is hungry.”

“Keep your panties on, we are coming.” Sofia shouted as she strolled towards the table with Mackenzie.

They greeted everyone with a warm kiss on their cheeks and prepared their plates as they sat down.

“Hey, Sofia, how’s married life treating you? Are you guys sick of each other yet? After all, it’s only been less than a year.” She joked.

“It’s great. I still can’t believe I’m married now. He’s still wonderful.” Sofia replied with a wide smile.

“What about you Mackenzie? Last time we spoke, you hadn’t decided which university you were applying to.”

“I have two in mind that I’m applying for. Whichever accepts me, I’m going. If both of them want me, then I will pick the one that has the better program for me but if there are hot guys there then that’s the deal breaker.” Mackenzie replied with a chuckle.

“Good luck. If you ever need help, I am always here for you and love you.”

“Love you too, Nina. Nina? Sofia and I are thinking of going to Jefferson Lakes Provincial Park in a few hours and we would love it if you could join us. We miss our adventures when it’s just the three of us. Sister bonding time. What do you say?”

A tightness from her back suddenly overcame her. It was as if her subconscious was reminding her of what happened even though there was nothing there. Her respiration rate increased and her chest felt tight. She went for her necklace and clasped it tightly. Her mom noticed her reaction and asked if she was okay. She smiled widely and reassured her mom, she was okay. She wasn’t going to let this fear control her. She accepted the invite and went upstairs to get ready. Her sisters were ecstatic and waited for her in the living room. She quickly chose an athletic clothing and her hiking shoes for her hiking journey with her sisters then rushed downstairs. She grabbed her

backpack in the hallway closet and packed up her hiking essentials. Sofia and Mackenzie stood up and hugged their parents goodbye before leaving for their outdoor adventures. It was a great day to hike. The sun was shining and warm. They arrived at Jefferson Lakes Provincial Park and took the same route they always did, the Middle Jefferson Lakes trail. It was like second nature to them. As they walked further into the forest, she fell a little behind. A sense of tranquility and joy overpowered her with every step she took. The birds chirped and flew from tree to tree. The leafy green trees stood tall and expanded beyond the eye could see. She was in her own little world and nothing negative invaded her thoughts. Her fear and worry had completely disappeared. A wide smile appeared on her face as she saw Sofia glancing back to check up on her. Sofia smiled back. She ran up to her sisters and locked arms with them.

“Let’s go, sisters. We can’t keep the lake and waterfall waiting.” She excitedly said as she guided them to move forward. They visited the lake and the waterfall and then decided to return home. *“Thank you, Sofia and Mackenzie for inviting me. This was a great idea. I am happy that I decided to come along. I enjoy being outdoors because it always makes me feel at peace. I am very relieved that I did not have to give up something I loved doing because of the incident. I love you, sisters.”*

“We love you too, Nina. We will always be here for you whenever you need us. No matter what.” Mackenzie replied.

“Sisters forevermore.” Sofia grinned and held up both pinky fingers in the air, waiting. Mackenzie and Nina couldn’t help but chuckle.

“Sofia, are we really going to do this again?” Mackenzie said with a smile.

Sofia grin grew wider and raised her pinkies higher and closer to them. She and Mackenzie linked their pinkies with Sofia’s and chanted together.

“Sisters forevermore.”

The three of them laughed and embraced one another in a warm hug. They had enjoyed their time together so much that they never noticed the orange sun had begun to descend behind the horizon. They left the park in high spirits and returned to their homes.

It had been two months since she had her first dream and each night since then she would have the same one, a mysterious man being hit by a black car and killed. After six days of dreaming straight, she was convinced this was no typical dream but rather a premonition. She was required to find out who this mysterious man was and save him, just like the voice said. She tried to figure it out on her own but found no clues about the man’s identity. She knew once she did identify him, she would be able to save him before the premonition came true. Nevertheless, nothing had altered that was not until tonight. The dream began like normal, she spotted the mysterious man, a voice warned her to follow him and save

him and he got killed by a car but this time, as she knelt down, his face slowly became clear and revealed his identity.

Her eyes flew open in alarm as she realized who it was. She couldn't believe it was him. Her mind kept asking why it had to be this particular person. After some time, she lay back down in her bed and began questioning out loud.

"Why? Nathan Winterstorm, why him? I just can't believe this. There has to be a reason. There's just gotta be."

The next night, she was sitting on her bed reading her fantasy novel when suddenly there was a knock on her door. "Come in!" she said. There was no response. She called out again, a little louder this time and the door burst open. Trinity stood at the doorway and said,

"I heard you the first time."

"Then say something. It's unlike you to be so quiet," she playfully teased her.

"Shush! I know you're excited to see me because now that I'm here, you won't be so bored anymore." Trinity grinned, and they shared a warm hug.

"What are you planning now?" She questioned Trinity.

Trinity flashed a mischievous smile and denied having any plans. She knew her best friend like the back of her hand and she knew it would either involve going to a party or hitting the dance floor which she had no interest in doing. But she knew

she'd be coerced into it regardless. No escape. She asked Trinity again.

"Tonight, we're going to Haven's Restaurant and Lounge and I've invited some friends to join us. We exchanged messages and talked on Facebook. He and his best friend went to the same high school as we did. He lives here in Vancouver and he's eager to meet you."

Her heart raced as a wave of anxiety washed over her. ***"Who did Trinity invite?"*** She could only imagine the horror if it was someone she knew and didn't want to see. Taking a deep breath to steady her nerves, she slowly asked, *"Who?"*

"Nathan Winterstorm, who's one year older than us. The guy you had a major crush on at high school. He's coming." Trinity teased.

Her face quickly turned pale and she felt like the world around her was tumbling down. She laid down on her bed, shut her eyes and positioned her arm on her right eye to relax. Her brain running wild.

"Um...Okay, this can't be happening. This can't be a coincidence, not only did I find out who my premonition was about, my best friend has been talking to him and invited him out for an outing the next day. Could it be? Or is it fate manipulating her magic here? There's only one way to figure this out. See you soon, Nathan."

CHAPTER 4

“Would you choose a dress already? You’ve tried on three dresses already and this is the fourth one.” Trinity began to become comically aggravated.

“You only have yourself to blame for putting me in this awkward situation. You deserve this. So, suck it up, Trinity. I gotta make sure I look drop dead gorgeous and I don’t humiliate myself in front of him.” She replied as she inspected herself in her closet mirror.

Her nose wrinkled and her upper lip pulled up. She went to ransack her closet again, in hopes of finding the perfect dress.

Relieved and overjoyed, she spun around with a dress and showed Trinity.

“Yes, girl. That’s it!” Trinity agreed happily.

After dressing up, they drove off to Haven’s Restaurant and Lounge. As the destination approached, she got more nervous with thoughts of how the night might unfold. Trinity saw that and couldn’t help but giggle.

“Girl, you’re a knock-out tonight! Nathan won’t know what hit him. But just in case he does turn out to be a real jerk then I’ve got your back. Nobody messes with my bestie!”

She thanked her and exhaled slowly as they pulled up in front of the place. She glanced at the entrance door and gave herself a final encouragement before heading inside.

As they waited patiently to be seated by the hostess, Trinity asked if any other party arrived and the hostess replied “no”. She eyed Trinity’s outfit and inquired if her appearance was still acceptable. Trinity had her hair half up with curls at the ends. She wore her contact lenses and a dark purple printed midi wrap dress with black heels. With doubts in her mind, she glanced at the large antique gold wall mirror to take one final look at her own reflection. She wore simple black high heels and a bright red strapped dress that shaped her body perfectly. She added all of her favourite jewellery and applied some natural makeup. She had brownish beige for her eyes and light red for her lips. She shook her head slightly and told herself, she was being ridiculous and to have more confidence in herself. The hostess announced their table was ready and to follow her. Trinity locked arms with her as they made their way to their table. When they got there, their eyes wandered around the restaurant. The seating area consisted of black squared shaped leather cushioned sofas and the tables were white with three different sized candle holders with tea lights. The atmosphere was soft due to the faint melody playing in the background and the lighting was romantic. The stairs provided access to a second-floor bar lounge. The kitchen and the bathroom were on the other side.

She stole a look in the direction of their arrival and felt her heart jump and stop. Trinity saw her reaction and knew Nathan had arrived. She smiled widely and whispered,

"It's going to be alright, Nina."

"Screw you" she responded under her breath. *"Oh my..."*

As he approached closer, she could see more details. His hair was a rich shade of dark chocolate and his facial hair was neatly trimmed. His irises were jaded and he wore a slim-fitting grey shirt that showed off his arms and chest which showed he was once fit. His appearance was exactly the same as he was in high school. His buddy was similar except his eyes were brown and he wore an average-fitting white blouse with black pants.

"Hi, Trinity and Nina, I'm Nathan Winterstorm and this here is my buddy, Jacob."

"Hey, I'm Trinity and this is my other half, Nina. I am glad we finally met and had a few drinks. It is more fun when you have more people around. Now, let's order some food so we can go to the main event." Trinity joked.

As they waited eagerly for their meal to come, Trinity began speaking to Nathan while she conversed with Jacob. She asked Jacob a few questions then stopped as her main focus was solely on Nathan. As her mind wandered, she grew silent. Suddenly, Nathan's voice sounded in the distance,

“Nina? I must say this red is the perfect colour for you and it’s also one of my favourite colours.”

There was no reaction or response from her. Again, she heard her name being called. Then the table moved slightly and felt a hand touching hers. Her premonition of Nathan getting hit by a car and then his body lying there, flashed across her mind when he touched her. Quickly waking her up from her day dreaming, she closed her eyes for a split second and looked at him.

With a grin, *“Sorry. Did I miss something? What were you saying?”* She inquired.

“Must have been quite a fantasy to ignore me. But you know, you don’t have to fantasize about it, we can make it happen for real. I’m free tonight.” He teased her.

“I bet you would like that.” She chuckled. *“We are not in high school anymore, not every girl you meet is going to be interested in having sex with you.”* She retorted quickly.

Nathan smirked and thought of something. *“Oh, really? How about we have some fun? How about we have a little wager on it. I’m going to be generous here by giving you an extra month. I’m willing to bet you that within two months, you will be begging me to sleep with you.”* He moved closer to her.

“You’re on. What’s the prize?”

She sounded confident in herself but was also frightened she would be drawn in further than she already was. But she knew

this was the only way to get closer to him and figure out how to save him.

“How about whoever wins gets to decide their prize and no matter what it is, they have to follow through.” He pulled out his hand for a handshake.

“There’s no turning back now.” She shook his hand, *“Deal!”*

“Now that’s settled, how about we all go upstairs and have a couple of drinks?” Trinity suggested.

“Agreed. Let’s get the party started!” Jacob agreed as he and Nathan headed towards the stairs.

“You guys go on ahead, I’m going to freshen up. You know how us ladies are!” Trinity announced as she gestured for her to follow.

“I’ll join you. How about you guys order us drinks while you wait? I’ll have orange juice with vodka and Trinity will have the same for now. We’ll be back before you miss us.” She said and then followed Trinity to the lady’s room.

Nathan

They went to the bar and sat down on the bar-height white leather stools. The bar was modern with hanging ceiling lights.

The countertop illuminated a light blue light and the back wall held the alcoholic bottles with coloured lights. The rest of the room felt like a nightclub but without the dance floor. There were hardly any empty chairs. They placed their orders with the bartender and waited patiently for the girls.

“Nathan, what crazy shit did you smoke today? Why in the world are you gambling around with this girl? We both know you could sleep with her right away. You’re a regular Casanova. You never lasted more than four months with any girl. Why are you toying her around?” Jacob questioned him.

“You’re right, man but knowing her type, it was a way for her to go out with me. Besides, I’m going to have fun with her, especially in my bed. Not to say the obvious, she’s hot, bro.” He replied with a smirk.

“Listen, I may not have experience with girls like you do since I’m in a long and happy relationship but hate to break it to you, she’s way out of your league and you are going to lose the bet.” Jacob advised him.

The bartender handed them their drinks and he took a sip from his beer and held it in his hand.

“Nah, man. There’s no way, I’m going to lose. No girl can resist me.” He said with a confident tone.

Nina

Meanwhile, in the ladies' room, her and Trinity were having a girl to girl talk as they retouched their makeup.

“Alright, out with-it girl. What is going on here? First, you overreacted about me inviting him. Secondly, before you came here, you were so nervous and anxious that it almost appeared as if you were about to have a panic attack. It’s still obvious you still had a thing for him. Now, you are going to fool around with him, just like that? This isn’t like you. You don’t go and fool around with guys. You are miss goody two shoes. So, spill it out, girl.” Trinity questioned her friend as she knew this wasn’t like her. Something was definitely wrong.

“Nothing is going on. Yes, you’re right. I’m still crushing over him but this has nothing to do with what just happened. I want to teach Nathan a lesson that will burst his pride, and bring him down from his gorgeous smug face.” She took Trinity by the shoulders and gazed into her eyes squarely. *“I can do this, Trinity. Victory will be mine. You wait and see.”*

Trinity tilted her head and took a second to think. She was aware that it went beyond just teaching him a lesson. She was holding back. But why? Trinity did not want to force her, so she had to trust her friend and be there for her if he ever hurt her.

“Nina, I know you are hiding something from me and I don’t know why since we have always told each other everything, no matter what. But I’m going to let this go and trust you.”

Remember what I said earlier, I got your back. Just do me a favour, promise me you will be careful and to not fall for his charm so easily.”

“Thank you, Trinity. I promise,” she said as they embraced and headed back to the guys.

As their night was coming to an end, they decided to grab one more drink. Once they finished, she wrote her number down on a napkin and handed it over to Nathan with a wink. He flashed a knowing smile and promised her he'd call her soon. She beamed as she fiddled with her necklace and soon after, Nathan and Jacob said their farewells. Then she and Trinity followed later.

As she and Trinity headed to bed, a ring tone of soothing nature sounded off on top of her nightstand. She grabbed her phone and glanced at her screen. There was a message. A grin appeared on her face as she read,

“Hey there, Beautiful. Let's hang out tomorrow around one o'clock. I will come and pick you up. Send me your address and wear something casual. Goodnight.”

Her heart was beating out of her chest as she responded to his message *“Sounds good. I can't wait. Goodnight, Casanova.”*

At the end of her message, she added an emoji of a smiley face blowing a kiss and her home address. Then pressed the send button. A wide smile still remained on her face.

The screen had her completely mesmerized. Nathan Winterstorm, her high school crush, was actually messaging her. She always dreamt of talking to him or even going out with him and now her dream was about to become a reality. The thought of being with him all alone caused her to have butterflies in her stomach. She had to take slow breaths to try and calm herself down. Sleep seemed impossible with all the excitement coursing through her veins. Suddenly, Trinity burst out laughing and she was startled out of her trance. She turned to her friend; her face hot with embarrassment.

“Shit, Trinity, you scared me. I completely forgot you were here. Were you watching me this whole time?” She asked sheepishly.

Trinity’s teasing answer made her heart skip a beat. *“Yes. So, my bestie has a date with her crush?”* Trinity poked fun.

She tried to play it cool but her excitement was impossible to contain. *“Shut up, for your information, I do. Tomorrow at one o’clock. He’s picking me up and taking me somewhere. He didn’t tell me where. Only that I have to wear casual clothing,”* she gushed.

Trinity rolled her eyes but couldn’t deny that it sounded exciting.

“Well, that sounds exciting!” she said.

As she got comfortable in bed, she could not stop herself from smiling at what was to come. *“I’m going to sleep now.”*

Goodnight Trinity,” she said, her head hitting the pillow with a sense of contentment and nervousness.

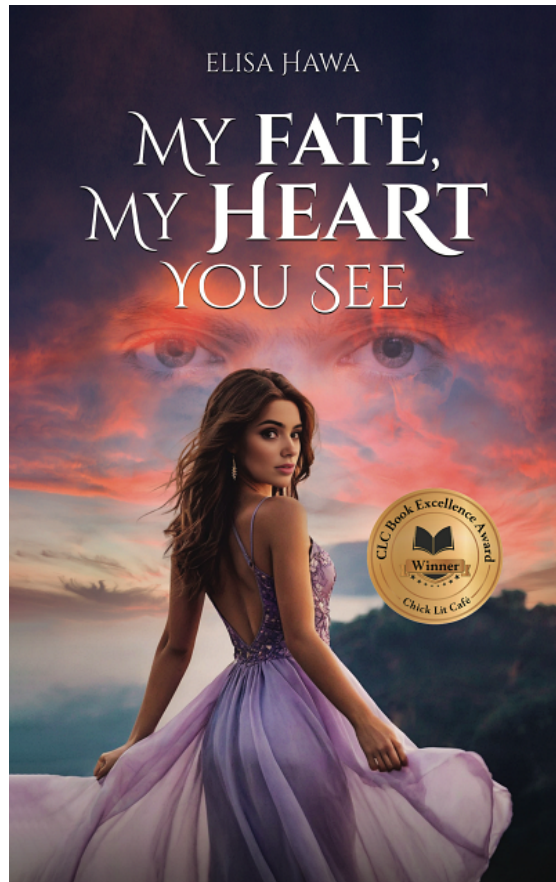
“Goodnight, Nina. Sweet dreams.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Elisa Hawa, a romance and paranormal author from Toronto. She has a background as a competitive five-pin bowler during her high school years, where she achieved considerable success. Writing became her true calling after a significant dream in her twenties, which led to her debut novel, "My Fate, My Heart You See." It took two years of hard work and perseverance to complete.

Elisa Hawa's writing process is influenced by her love for romance and supernatural movies as well as fantasy and romance novels. Through her personal growth and transition from sports to writing, she learned the importance of following her passions and dreams. Elisa Hawa hopes to continue crafting stories that engage and inspire, further exploring romance and the supernatural. She looks forward to what lies ahead, encouraging others to pursue their dreams and passions with conviction.



Nina Rosethorn has vivid nightmares that predict a future disaster. She embarks on a mission, only to discover they are tied to Nathan Winterstorm, her high school crush. This event eventually caused her life to end tragically or did it?

MY FATE, MY HEART YOU SEE

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