Characters of the Story:

* Bob - An 18 year old boy who is the hero of the story.
* Amanda - The ghost girl.
* Maria - Mother of Bob.
* Allen - Bob's father
* Brad, Tom and Jack - Bob's classmates.
* English Teacher

Love is an emotional experience which enriches one's life. Anyone whose life is devoid of love cannot be happy and satisfied with his existence. Love between human beings is the basis of their social life. Love between mother and son, father and daughter, son and father, mother and daughter, husband and wife and two human beings are the most common instances of love. Our love for the almighty is the purest of all forms of love. This story is also about love but the love depicted here is the rarest of its kind. It is the emotional attachment between a boy and a ghost girl that is being explored here.

It was about 6 in the morning. The sun had risen in the sky with its rays enlightening the entire town. The silence of the night had turned into the buzz of the morning. People could be seen going about their morning chores. Some were busy doing their household tasks, some were walking fast on the streets to keep their morning routine of taking exercise going. While the entire world had seemed to have risen, Bob was still in bed half asleep and half awake. Though he wanted to have more sleep, he knew he would be woken up by his mother soon who might be busy in the kitchen right now. He could hear the morning hymns being played upon the transistor in the neighbouring house. Mr. Hamilton always started his day with the listening of the religious songs. Bob could hear the clinking sound of the vessels coming from the kitchen. He knew his mother was washing and cleansing utensils.

The melody of the song made Bob drowsy again, and he felt the urge to sleep for some more time. He changed his position and lay on his stomach. He never knew when he fell asleep again. In his sleep, he smiled as he dreamt of himself as a child weeping for the cycle that he always wanted to buy. His mother had promised that she would buy a cycle for him someday but that never happened as she never had enough money to do so. His dream had taken him far away from his dull routine life to his childhood when his mother kept him in her arms most of the time. He dreamt of the cycle that had captured his attention in the market where his mother had taken him along. The red and yellow colour of the cycle had made Bob fall in love with the cycle at first sight. He had showed the cycle to his mother and said to her quite innocently, " Mom! I want that cycle."

Mother looked at the cycle and said, ''OK my dear! I'll buy it for you some day. Right now, I don't have enough money to buy it."

But Bob was not ready to listen to any excuse made by his mother. He had cried shrilly, "Mom! I want it now."

But mother didn't pay any attention to Bob's cries and started to pull him away by holding his arm tightly. His arm pained as his mother kept pulling him out of the shop. But Bob persisted in his cries and screams. He kept speaking loudly, "Mom! buy me that cycle. I want to take it with me right now."

He felt that his mother had slapped him hard on face. It pained a lot so much so that Bob was jolted out of his dream only to see his father standing in front of him by the side of his bed.

He was shouting aloud: "Look at this idiot. The sun is all over the town but this lazy fellow is still dead asleep."

Bob realized that he was slapped by his father who had come all of a sudden from his room and seeing Bob asleep, his anger had soared up and in a fit of rage, he had slapped Bob.

"Do you want an invitation now to leave bed? Don't you want to go to school today. Do you know how much money I have to spend on an idiot like you. It's all waste. You are worth nothing."

Bob kept listening to his father's long tirade without uttering a single word with his head down all the time. He knew it was no use talking to his father who had always ill treated both his wife and his son, Bob.

"Get out of the bed right now otherwise I'm going to teach you such a lesson that you will repent being the laziest person on earth." - Father shouted again.

Without uttering a single word, Bob got down from the bed with downcast eyes and went straight to the washroom. He just wanted to run away from that situation as he knew his father wouldn't accept any excuse from him.

The father kept shouting, "See how impudent and arrogant he has become. Doesn't even deem it fit to answer my questions."

In the meantime, the mother had also reached the room and started speaking in favour of Bob.

"He has woken up. Why are you creating such a nuisance? Leave that boy alone. He knows what he has to do."

Father retorted angrily, "Both mother and son are the chips of the same block. Look here ! It's all your mistake. You have given birth to such a good-for-nothing boy."

"I have had enough from you. Stop shouting and go about your business. I don't want any uproar in my house." - The mother retaliated defiantly.

Listening to the plain and clear words from the mother, the father muttered some words in anger and went away from there.

The mother had always stood by Bob because she knew the boy had always been submissive due to his father's constant beatings. She had tried her level best to keep her marriage going but her drunkard husband had always created problems for her. When Bob was young, the father used to beat his mother almost daily after getting drunk. The mother tolerated all these beating by her husband but when one day Allen slapped Bob so hard that two teeth of the kid came out, it was all over for the mother. She picked up the ladle and hit it on the head of her husband. That was the time when Allen started to fear his wife Maria. Thereafter, so many years went by but Allen had not dared to intimidate her.

Bod had grown up to be a submissive and quiet teenager due to the atrocities of his father Alan whom Bob had always viewed as a cruel and intimidating person. Such was the effect of his father's behaviour on Bob that he grew up as a sensitive boy. Though his mother had always cared for him and protected him not only from the wrath of Alan but also from other deprivations of life. Her entire world revolved around Bob and she didn't want him to be influenced by Alan's character in any way.

Allen had never been a responsible husband and loving father. His first love was always drinking. The little money he earned by repairing cars in the local garage was spent most carelessly by him on drinking and gambling. He had never performed the duties of a husband, neither had he shown the least affection towards his son. Maria hated him most for being an emotionless fellow who never cared for his family. He was her husband merely in the name, otherwise there was no love lost between them.

After taking bath and getting ready for the college, Bob came to the kitchen to have breakfast. He wanted to give a lot of happiness to his mother. His dream was to provide her with whatever she wanted. When he saw his mother cooking food, he noticed the wrinkles on her face and grey hair on the head. It pained him a lot to see his mother growing old who had not seen any happiness in her life. Since his childhood, Bob had seen her working as a maid for other rich people in the town. Tears started to trickle down his eyes when he noticed that she was fast growing old.

When the mother came near him with breakfast in the plate, Bob tried to hide his tears. The mother noticed that something was wrong.

She inquired, "What's wrong Bob. Is there anything wrong?"

"No mom, everything is fine. It seems dust particle has got stuck in my eyes', Bob replied in an attempt to evade the answer.

"I know you Bob better than anyone else. You are my son. You are weeping for me. Look! I'm still strong and young enough to look after all your needs. You should not take to heart what Allen said."

"No mother! I'm not thinking that. Please give me a glass of water."

The mother went away to fetch a glass of water and Bob get sufficient time to hide his tears. By the time she came back, Bob had regained his composure. He at once changed the topic to the class test he had to take today in the college.

Concerned about his performance in studies, Maria asked Bob, "How is your preparation for the test?"

Bob replied, "Mom! I've studied well and I'll score good marks."

Bob had been doing quite well in his studies though his father seemed to have no idea of it. Allen regarded studies as a waste of time and wanted Bob to help him with car repairing. But Bob knew he had to study and do something big in life rather than wasting his life like his father repairing cars all the time.

Bob hurriedly went out of the house with a heavy heart. Today there were so many thoughts going on in his mind. He kept thinking of his mother who had suffered a lot all her life. Bob was angry not with his father but with himself for not being in a position to be of any help to his mother who had to fight against all odds to run the household. Bob kept walking with innumerable thoughts troubling his soul. He had forgotten everything about the class test that he had to take today. English teacher was most feared for her temperamental behaviour. Bob knew that if he didn't get good marks he would have to bear the brunt. Bob was so lost in his thoughts that he didn't even come to know when he got into the bus heading towards the college and when he reached the college. It all seemed to him like a moment.

The moment he entered the gate of the campus, he heard some one calling out loudly - " See Tubelight is here. "

Bob noticed that it was Jack standing near the college gate with Brad and Tom. The three of them were notorious in the entire college for their misdeeds. They were always together and enjoyed making fun of others. Bob knew it was best to avoid them as they were not worth attention. He kept walking without paying any attention to them but they were not ready to let him go so easily.

Brad called out aloud, "Hey Tubelight. Just come here for a sec. We have something interesting to tell you." Saying this Brad came nearer to Bob and started walking along with his right hand on the shoulder of Bob.

Though Bob was not in a mood to talk to them, but Brad made sure that escaping should not be so easy for Bob.

Finding it difficult not to speak, Bob said, "What do you want from me Brad? Please don't trouble me. I'm not feeling well today."

Brad said mischievously to tease him, "Why? What happened? I see! It must have something to do with your drunkard dad."

At the mention of his dad, Bob stopped all of a sudden and moving towards Brad, he said with a rather heavy voice, "Look Brad! My dad has nothing to do with it. Please let me go right now."

"See, how angry this tubelight has gone at the name of his ruffian father. It was only last night I found him lying dead drunk on the path leading to the market. Moreover a dog was sniffing at him. I just wondered what else the dog might have done with its leg up." Tom added another sly statement to pester Bob.

Now it was too much for Bob to tolerate. His face went red with embarrassment and anger. He looked around to see if other were listening or not. Though he wanted to punch Tom for making such a nasty comment, he knew that physically he was not a match for either Tom or Brad. They were all stronger and taller than him and he himself was quite weak. Deep in his heart, he knew if he didn't reply, they would let him go and if he replied, they could even manhandle him. He stood there with his face down all the time while they all three made all sorts of taunting remarks at him while Jack held him tightly with his hands to ensure that he doesn't go away.

Holding Bob firmly by the arm, Tom said, "Listen Tubelight! You have to do one small task for us."

Bob inquired nervously, "How? What can I do for you?"

Jack said at once, " It's not a big task. It's an easy one. As you know that stupid English teacher is going to take the test . We want you to help us a bit with that."

Bob's face grew pale with fear and he said hesitantly, " But what has the test to do with me? How can ....................... I mean how I can help you."

Brad said pointing his finger at Bob's towards Bob's face, "See Tubelight! Let me come straight to the point. You know how whimsical that wide-toothed English teacher is. You just have to write answers of the questions on a blank paper and pass that paper to us without that fat idiot noticing you."

Bob got scared at this but realising that he had no other option but to do as they had instructed, he said rather submissively, " You mean .......... means you want me to help you with cheating. How can I?.......... I mean to say it's not possible. What if I get caught?"

Jack stated rudely, " We don't know that. We only know if you don't do that, we will make sure you spend tonight in one of the dirtiest gutters of the town."

Brad interrupted, "You have no other option. Just do what we want and yes, don't make the mistake of telling this to anyone. I hope you get the point."

Bub was just dumbstruck. He was too scared to say not to them. To get out of that embarrassing situation, he hurriedly said, "I'll try ..................I will do as you say."

Jack patted Bob's back with a grin on his face and let him go.

Bob was now in a fix. If he didn't do as they wanted, he was sure to be thrashed by them. He also knew if he got caught while passing on the paper with the answers written on it, that horrible English teacher will not only humiliate him but he will also report the matter to the Principal and that meant his parents would be informed about his misconduct. If that happened, his mother would be deeply hurt and it would be like breaking her trust.

Bob kept thinking of all the possible ways to get out of the trouble that lay ahead. He kept thinking of which of the two options would do less harm. He thought hard and reached the conclusion that he would do as the three bullies had said. Bob was sure that he wouldn't be caught by the teacher while passing the paper with answers to the three rascals. There was the slightest chance of him being caught by the teacher. On the other hand, the idea of being thrashed by the trio of bullies appeared too scary to him. Finally he made up his mind about what to do.

The test was to take place in the very first period. Bob was too nervous to say anything because he knew he would be in a big trouble if he got caught by the teacher. He kept casting glances at Jack, Brad and Tom now and then. They all seemed fully certain that Bob would pass on the cheating material to them.

Soon the English teacher entered the class. He was a big guy with an elephant like appearance. He slouched to the class room with perspiration all over his face. The odour of his sweat was too pungent to be borne. It was seemingly impossible to be near to him. Moreover, when he talked, he opened his mouth so wide that the person facing him had to bear the brunt of being sprinkled over by the drops of his spit. Not to speak of students, even his colleagues changed their way if they saw him coming their way. Students secretly called him 'Spitting Elephant' due to his bulky physique and the abominable habit of spitting on people.

The teacher entered the class and surveyed every nook and corner minutely. Everybody was surprised at what he was looking for. Having completed his scrutiny of the entire class, he came to the front and shouted loudly, "Today we have a test in class. It is obvious you all have to score well or else I won't let you go so easily. The result of the test shall be sent to your parents. Those who fail in this test will have to attend extra class of one hour daily in the evening.

Nobody wanted to face this teacher twice a day as it would be nothing less than a torture. Bob desperately wanted to score well as bad marks would deeply hurt his mother. Though he knew he would score well, he was nervous due to what he was asked to do by Jack, Brad and Tom.

Bob started to write but he could not concentrate on what he was writing. The teacher stood right in front of him and Bob couldn't muster up the courage to write the answers on the blank page he had kept under the answer sheet. As the time passed, his heart started beating faster and he could imagine the three merciless bullies beating the hell out of him. He felt that he was being constantly observed by the teacher. Soon the time was over. Not to speak of passing the answers to the bullies, Bob had not been able to write his answers satisfactorily. He knew what was in store for him outside the college campus. The three bullies wouldn't let him go without beating him black and blue. He didn't dare to look at them till he sat in the class but he could sense that they were looking for an opportunity to teach him a lesson.

After the college was over, Bob walked as fast as he could to reach home. He went on foot thinking that they might look for him in the bus he used to travel by daily. But he was wrong. Hardly had he gone 500 meters from the college campus, Brad suddenly came from somewhere and stood in front of him. Bob realised that Jack was on to his right side and Tom to his back. The trio held one another's hands in such a way that they encircled Bob without giving him any chance to run away. This place used to be almost deserted at this time of the day. Bob knew that he had invited danger by coming this way.

The three bullies had made up their mind to thrash Bob for not helping them with copying. Without speaking a single sentence, the three started to beat Bob. Brad punched him on the face so hard that Bob fell down on his knees. Tom and Jack kicked Bob on the stomach and back. Bob rolled here and there in the mud to escape the beating. A few people who happened to be near somewhere reached there after having heard the screams and cries uttered by Bob. Seeing those people, the three bullies ran away leaving Bob on the ground.

One of the people helped Bob stand up. Surrounded by so many people who were speaking loudly about the reasons for the scuffle, Bob felt ashamed and keeping his head down, started walking towards his home. After going about 500 meters, Bob suddenly changed his direction and instead of going to his house, he started walking towards some unknown destination. It was already quite late, and the sun was about to set.

Bob stopped all of a sudden in front of a big house that looked deserted and solitary. He kept standing there for long. A number of thoughts ran through his mind. The events of the day had such an adverse effect on him that the feeling of the uselessness of life crept over him. It was such a powerful feeling that he couldn't leave the place, not to speak of going back to his house where he knew his mother must be waiting for him. Standing outside the house for a long, he decided to put an end to his life as it seemed to him worthless. Since his childhood, he had borne with the beatings of his father. Even in his class since his school days, he had to bear the torture of being bullied by other physically strong boys. With all these thoughts about the futility of life, Bob decided to enter that lonely house with no person nearby. He knew he could die peacefully here. It was also a coincidence that he saw a long and sturdy rope outside the house that might have been lying there for a couple of years. Sheltered by the roof of the house, the rope was sturdy enough to be used for hanging. Keeping it in his hand, Bob entered the house through a big window with broken glasses. Having entered into the house, he saw that it was not as old a building as it looked from outside. It was a big house with a number of rooms. The place where he stood looked like a hall with cobwebs and dust lying everywhere. Bob knew that it was the appropriate place for committing suicide.

Bob couldn't keep track of time because of the burden of problems and stress on his mind. He was fed up with his life. He had enough of everything. There was so much that pained both his mind and heart. His mind got diverted by the moon that shone in the sky and that was visible through the window from where he had made his entry into this deserted house. Coming close to the window, he focused his eyes on the moon that shone right on his face. Though he loved the charm of the moon, he found himself unable to appreciate its matchless beauty. Maybe he was too tense to appreciate this natural phenomena.

His thoughts now turned towards his mother who had always been so caring and loving. She had devoted her entire life to make his future. Deprived of the love and support from her husband, she had all her expectations from Bob. Her life was a tale of sorrow. Bob's eyes filled with tears when he thought of her mother's struggle. His father had never been a faithful husband. After the birth of Bob, Allen lost all his interest in Amanda and spent most of his time with women of disrepute. He had not only been disloyal to her but also started neglecting all his reponsibilities as a husband and father. Bob's childhood went without the love and support from his father whose life revolved around drinking and gambling. All these thoughts came to Bob's mind when he stood leaning against the window with his eyes planted on the moon that had illuminated even the stars around it.

Maybe it was the silence of the night and the desolation of the house that set in an overpowering feeling of loneliness in Bob. He felt that he had always been a failure. His mother had lots of hopes from him. Bob felt that he would never be able to live up to the expectations of his mother. With these and a lot of other burdens on his mind, Bob suddenly fetlt that he should put an end to his worthless life to get rid of all his problems.

Today's incidents further strengthened his notion of committing suicide. His poor performance in the test convinced him of his worthlessness. His inability to face the difficulties of life added fuel to the fire and led him to believe that he was a complete non-entity whose life and death didn't matter at all.

Bob finally decided that it was the time when he should put an end to his worthless life. His heart was beating fast, and he knew that it would pain a lot before he dies. But he was determined to take the final and most decisive step of his life. He looked here and there for a chair or a table or some other piece of furniture on which he could stand and tie the rope to the iron angle protruding from the roof. Bob now knew that these were the last moments of his life. He thought of praying to God for the last time so that his soul peacefully goes to heaven.

He kept muttering, "Please God! Send my soul to heaven."

With these words on his lips constantly, his eyes fell upon a table lying close to the door leading into the other rooms of that big house. He brought the table to the centre of the room right under the iron angle on the roof. Very carefully, he stood upon the table and tied the rope firmly to the iron angle. Now it was the decisive moment for Bob. Once again the thought of running away from there came to his mind, but he didn't listen to his inner conscious that struggled to save him from putting an end to his life.

For the last time, Bob wanted to curse all those who were responsible for his decision to end his life. The image of his foul mouthed father came to his mind but Bob turned his attention to the task at hand that was to tighten the rope around his neck. He also felt the inner urge to curse the Brad, Jack and Tom who had tortured him to the point where he just can't take it any more. He shunned away the idea of cursing those bullies because he didn't want to do anything wrong before dying. He also thought of his mother who always supported him whatever the situation might be. The tears welled up in his eyes when he thought of the problems she would have to face after his death. But Bob again diverted his attention to the rope that he had to put around his neck. Now nothing could deter him from embracing the death. He put the rope around his neck and just as he was about to push the table aside with a kick from his leg, a voice startled him, " Stop. Don't do it."

Bob looked around after being driven out of his focused attention. He saw nothing and reassured himself that it was nothing but hallucination or a sort of delusion. He again turned his attention to the task of hanging himself to death. Now he firmly tightened the rope around his neck so that he at once got transported to another world soon after throwing away the table from beneath him. He closed his once again and the moment he was about to hit the table with his leg, an even louder voice disconcerted him: "Don't take your life. It's not right."

Now Bob was certain that it was no dream or hallucination of any kind, but it was really someone shouting out. Now the chill ran through his spine. His own deepest fears surfaced, and he directly came to the conclusion that there might be some ghost around him as that building seemed to be uninhabited for many years. Seeing no one around him, Bob called out aloud, "Who is it? Is there anyone present here? Please let me die peacefully."

Now to his surprise , he got an answer in a much clearer voice that was right in front of him seemed to have come from the adjacent room.

"Suicide is no solution. If you commit suicide, God won't shower his blessing on you"

Bob was now sure that there was someone else in the house and going by the tone, he knew that it was a girl or a lady. By watching more intently, he figured out the dim outline of someone standing right behind the door leading into another room. As it was completely dark inside, Bob was not able to see properly whether it was a girl or something else. But Bob could now see someone standing a foot or two away from the door that lay ajar.

No doubt Bob was scared but gathering all his strength, he said gravely enough to sound defiant, "Who are you? What are you doing here at this time? Let me see you. Show your face to me. I can see you from here but you seem to be afraid of me that's why you are not coming near to me. You are hiding your face on purpose."

Bob had spoken all this without taking any breath to give the impression that he was not afraid or nervous in any way but he could feel the chill running down his spine. The figure came closer and stepped out of the door into the main hall in the centre of which Bob stood on the table with the rope still tightly tied around his neck. Bob began to perspire when he saw the unknown and mysterious figure come out of the dark into the hall. The hall had a big window with the broken window panes through which the moonlight entered and fell on the space between Bob and that mysterious entity that seemed to be draped in the white gown. Still Bob was unable to see the face of the lady as now he was sure that it was a young lady about 18 to 20 years of age with uniquely arranged long hair.

Having realized that there was someone else in the house with him all the while who could have noticed Bob since he entered the building. Bob wanted to get off the table, but he lay stupefied with his blood freezing with every passing moment.

The lady took a couple of steps and reached the spot where the moonlight was falling. She stopped there merely 5 or 6 feet away from Bob. Now Bob could clearly see who stood in front of him. It was a beautiful girl about eighteen years of age draped in a white old fashioned gown. Her hair were nicely arranged in such a way that they fell backwards on her back. There was something captivating about the girl who didn't in any way looked scary. Seeing a young lady standing before his very eyes, Bob came to his own and tried to move but despite his efforts to move his limbs, he remained motionless. Though Bob wanted to ask what the lady was doing in that house at that time of the night, he couldn't utter a single word.

Now it was the girl who said, "Why do you want to commit suicide? Life is so beautiful. You are blessed to be alive and killing oneself is the disobedience of the almighty God."

Lady continued to speak, "Suicide will not deliver you from your worries and problems. It will rather imprison your soul forever on this earth as God doesn't accept cowards in his kingdom. I see you are too confused to speak anything. Just get down and be relaxed. I'm not an enemy. I'm a friend. We are alike in a number of ways."

Listening to the comforting words from the girl, Bob gradually regained his cool. It took him a few minutes before he realized that he had got back his physical strength as miraculously as he had lost it moments ago. He untied the knot and very carefully got down from the table still unable to understand whether it was a reality or something else. Having got down from the table, Bob didn't speak anything for a couple of minutes. After a while, when he had become mentally stable, he got curious to know how come she happened to reach at that lonely house at that time.

Observing the lady more closely who still stood where she had been earlier, Bob knew he was enamoured of the mysterious charm of that amazingly beautiful girl. In the silence of the night, while everything looked still and quiet, Bob was in that lonely house with a mysterious girl standing in front of him.

After a while, when Bob was mentally stable, he said to the girl inquiringly, "Do you know it's not right for a girl like you to roam about like this at night ? Your parents must be worried."

The girl who still stood where she was earlier replied, " I have no family. I lost them a long time back."

"Oh ! It's so sad and tragic. How did it happen?" - Bob inquired sympathetically.

"It was I who left them for good though they loved me a lot. I was foolish enough not to understand how much they loved me." - The girl answered while Bob listened intently.

Pausing for a while, Bob again asked, "You left them but why? How could a young girl like you leave her parents?"

The girl retorted, "Just as you have decided to leave your mother all alone, I too had taken my decision."

Bob got stunned at the mention of his mother and took some time before he could ask, "How do you know that?"

The girl again said, "I also know that you get scolded and beaten by your dad. I too know about Jack, Brad and Tom. And yes ! I do know about your teacher."

Quite confused right now, Bob repeated his query, "How do you know that? How do you know so much about me?"

The girl answered unhesitatingly, "We are alike in many ways. Maybe that's why I know all about you."

Bob further asked, "Alike? How can we be alike? You are a girl and I'm a boy."

The girl now smiled a little and answered, "yes! That's a big difference between us. We are alike in that I came here a long time back just for the reason you have come here tonight."

Listening to this, Bob got the shock of his life. It again took him a few moments before he could say, "the same reason? I had no reason to come here. I came here just to seek shelter at night."

The girl said, "Don't lie. I know everything. You can't hide anything from me. Moreover we are alike because I too had come here to commit suicide. The only difference is that you got saved by me just when you were about to die but I was not as fortunate as you."

Bob was even more perplexed now, " Not as fortunate as me? But you are still alive standing in front of me."

The girl smiled again and said, " No, I'm not alive. I died 5 years ago. I too had committed suicide to free myself from the problems and worries I had not been able to bear."

While the girl was speaking all this, Bob could again feel fear chilling down his spine. He could feel goosebumps rising on his body and cold perspiration suddenly made his forehead wet.

Seeing Bob getting scared, the girl slowly moved towards him and sat down in such a way that they could both look into each other's eyes. Now Bob could clearly see the full face of the girl who said assuringly, "please don't be scared of me. I need your help. It's only you who can help me get out of this house where I got stuck after I died. You are the only person who has been able to see me. Others also came here, many could listen to me and nobody has ever been able to see me. Moreover, they ran away soon after listening to my voice. You are the man who has been sent by God to deliver me from here. I know that as I am a peace loving soul, I have never ever scared anyone. I need your help and if you help me, you'll get rid of all the problems of your life. I can say this as I can foresee events. I know you are the right person to free my from here."

though Bob's fear had waned gradually, he got a lot more confused now. He asked quite confusingly, "How can I help you? ......... means you are a ghost and I'm a human being. How can a ghost and a human being get along? That's something that has never happened before. Please let me go. My mother must be worried. My father won't let me enter the home if I don't reach home well in time."

The girl spoke confidently, "Don't worry about that. i will ensure that nothing bad happens to you. In return, you have to do as I say."

Bob requested, "Please let me go. I will never ever trouble you. I was a mistake that I came here. i promise that I will never trouble you again. I don't need your help and I don't understand how I can help you when you are not even alive. I can't solve the problems of my own life. How can I be of help to a ghost?"

The girl intervened, "You have to help me or I won't let you go. I'm sorry to say that. If you don't comply with my entreaties, I will have to be harsh with you."

When Bob realized that there was no way out for him, he gave in and said a bit softly, " O.K. Tell me how I can help you or what can I do to deliver you from this house?"

The girl retorted, "You have to help me by letting me help you. I know there are so many problems in your life. You don't get along your father. There are the three bullies who have thrashed you just before you entered this house. All in all, you have lost all interest in life because you can't keep your mother happy. I know you consider yourself a failure and that's why with the intention of committing suicide, you entered this solitary house."

Bob said admittedly, "You seem to be right. I have everything going wrong in my life. But I don't understand what it has to do with your deliverance."

The girl resumed to explain, "See ! I had the similar problems in my life when I was alive and I committed suicide to get away from all those problems. But the situation after death was even more horrifying than the problems I had been facing as an alive human. Till date, I'm repenting the blunder I made by putting an end to my life. After preventing you from committing the same mistake, now I need to solve the problems of your life. If I do it successfully and if I can change your life into a happy one, I shall be delivered from the curse of being permanently confined to this house. Then the doors of the heaven will open for me and I shall get liberation."

Though Bob listened to all this with forced concentration, he still was not able to follow what it really meant. All he understood was that the girl was a ghost who didn't mean harm. Still, he was not sure about the nature of help he would get from her. A bit curious to know more about the girl, he asked her name to which she answered, "I'm Amanda."

Bob also replied, "I'm Bob. Nice to meet you."

Amanda said, "From now onwards, I'll follow you wherever you go to make sure that you learn to be happy. By doing so, I'll be blessed by God and that will finally lead to me salvation."

Bob again got a bit nervous about being constantly followed by a ghost girl. But now as he was assured about the good intentions of the ghost girl, he didn't refute Amanda's proposal of being constantly with him.Though deep down in his heart, he had got jitters due to be in the company of a beautiful looking ghost girl.

Bob now realized that it was too late now and as his attempt to commit suicide had already turned futile, he thought of going straight to his home as he had no other place to go to and spending the night in the company of a ghost girl didn't go down well with him. Thus he made a request to Amanda, "Please let me go now. It's already too late now. Soon it'll be midnight. My father won't let me in at this time but I need to go as my mother must be worried about me."

Amanda replied, "Alright. You can go now but remember I'll keep following you from this very moment. If you get into any trouble, just think of me and I'll be there in no time to help you. And yes, don't reveal the truth about me to anyone as people will laugh at you if you tell them that you have a ghost as a friend."