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Childhood Friends

Nothing is more painful than losing a loved one. Or did they? It just might be the start of something entirely new. Bill Walker, a freshman in high school, wears a red dashiki, brown jeans, black tennis shoes and has tanned brown skin with a full head of curly hair. Alisha Walker, his sister, is also a freshman. She wears a striped pink and blue shirt, a black skirt, white boots, and has long black hair tied into a ponytail with a heart shaped pin on her head. Bill and Alisha sit side by side under a tree confused, lightning pulsing in their veins. "What happened to us?"

Back in 6th grade, Bill and Alisha moved to a new school from another state. The thought of not being able to regularly see their friends and other relatives hurt them. The only ones they had were each other (and their mom). One day at their new school, 1 girl came up to talk to them. "Hey! Are you the new kids? What're your names?" said Yainna Madison. She had curly black hair wrapped in a hair bun, black glasses, and caramel skin. She was quite small, with a height of only 4 foot 8 and wore a gray skirt, black shoes, and a yellow shirt with the drawing of a bee on it. Bill was instantly blown away and immediately had a crush on her, while Alisha was happy that someone finally talked to them. Fast forward a week later and they become best friends with Yainna. They also have the same exact classes. For the first time, Bill was trying many things to impress Yainna and ask her out. However, he never mustered up the courage and 1 semester later, he still didn't make any moves. Alisha made more friends over the school year while Bill only had a select few friends. February 13th 2014, science class, the students were tasked with mixing materials based on a page in the textbook. Everyone in the class did the experiment correctly

except for Yainna, who didn't even look at the textbook. "I can make my own unique formulas by myself!" she said. She ultimately failed the assignment and her concoction was taken away from her. However, she snuck a small portion of it in her pocket. Bill goes home that day thinking of ways to ask her out. He finally comes up with an idea. "There's a field trip to a popular volcano attraction on February 14th, the exact same day that Valentine's day takes place!" he exclaims. He starts writing down notes of what he'll say that day, planning his confession. Alisha barges in the door with a smug look on her face. "Are you gonna ask Yainna out for real this time? I don't really understand why you hesitate all the time." Alisha sighs in annoyance. "What if she doesn't like me?" Bill's lack of confidence shows. "Always assume the girl likes you! You'll never lose! Well, unless she rejects you." "Such good advice..." Bill groans. "Well, good luck tomorrow! I'll be there to tea-, I mean, root for you!" Alisha exclaims. "You were about to say tease weren't you." Alisha then shuts the door with a cheerful grin on her face. "Guess I'll have to see what happens tomorrow..." says Bill. Bill heads to bed and has trouble sleeping, thinking all about the next day. On February 14th, Bill and Alisha get ready for the day and head to the school bus that will take them to the popular tourist attraction field trip to Mount Expansion. The class that Bill, Alisha, and Yainna are in is a group of 30 students that were tasked to separate into 10 groups once they arrived and they are required to contact their teacher every hour. Naturally, Bill, Alisha, and Yainna decided to be in a group together, splitting up with the rest of the class. Bill is anticipating the right moment to ask her and waits almost the whole trip looking for the right opportunity. Alisha is talking to Yainna when he notices that he is having trouble talking to her. "Ah, Yainna! I just realized that I left my phone on the bench back at the entrance! I'm such a klutz!" Alisha acts out like an actor in a play. "I'll go with you to find it," says Yainna. "Oh no! It would just trouble you to come with me!! Stay here and have fun

without me...” sighed the dramatic Alisha. “You’re a terrible actor... but thanks sis,” whispers Bill. Alisha even walks off in dramatic fashion. She winks from a distance. Bill is finally alone with her. He finally says the words. “Yainna, I have to tell you something” “What is it?” Yainna leans her head in curiosity. “I...I...like you.” Bill stutters in embarrassment. “Why?” Yainna questions with a flustered look on her face. Bill sweats in confusion. He never really thought of a clear reason why he liked her other than her looks. He tried thinking of something that doesn’t sound generic or fake but nothing came to mind. He blurts out “I like your personality!” and Yainna starts getting a disappointed look on her face. “What do you like about it?” and Bill froze, not knowing what to say. “I-” all of a sudden, the ground starts shaking. Both of them are puzzled. “The volcano...” Bill gasps. The volcano erupts unexpectedly. “6.5 magnitude earthquake and volcano eruption detected! Evacuate now! I repeat! Evacuate now!” the announcement repeats constantly. Bill and Yainna run to the exit, where the whole class is waiting as well. Hot lava shoots through the tourist attraction gates and slowly envelops the area. There is a bridge connecting one of the exits to the park. Since that’s the only exit that isn’t covered in lava, Bill and Yainna run across the bridge but the high intensity earthquake shakes the bridge making Yainna lose her balance and fall to the ground. Her leg is sprained and she can barely get up. She looks down and sees a huge geyser enveloped with lava shooting up right below her. Bill makes it across the bridge but notices that Yainna is hurt and runs to help her. Alisha notices that Bill is running to save Yainna while a geyser is about to hit her. She grabs his torso with both of her arms, preventing him from moving. “LET GO OF ME!” Bill yells while struggling to break from her grip. “You’ll die if you run over there!” Alisha yells. The geyser eventually rises high enough, enveloping Yainna. The bridge burns away, showing no traces of her. Bill looks in horror as one of his only friends is gone. The entire class proceeds to evacuate,

running towards the shelter to safety. Fast forward to Bill and Alisha's freshmen year, Alisha still feels guilty for letting Yainna die and Bill feels even more guilty and will never move on. "Looks like there will be a thunderstorm today," Bill notices as he checks the weather on his phone. They arrive at school and notice a poster on the wall. "Stolen lab materials. If you find the culprit, report them to the dean's office." Interested, they waited until their classes were over and investigated the science lab, with permission from their new science teacher of course. They look around but then they hear a crash through the window. They then hid under the teacher's desk, trying not to be seen. Bill looks and sees a person in a black cloak, making a concoction. The mysterious thief makes 2 substances and quickly leaves and they follow close behind the thief. The thief runs towards a tree, looking through the materials. "Stop right there!" Bill and Alisha say simultaneously. They both tackle the thief at once and the thief retaliates with a superhuman kick, sending both of them flying into another tree with broken bones. They manage to get her cloak off, revealing a 5 foot 5 girl with black glasses and curly hair tied into a hair bun. "Yainna!?" Bill and Alisha are astounded. They managed to take 2 of the girl's concoctions and are holding one liquid bottle each in their hands. They also forget about the forecasted thunderstorm. A bolt of lightning strikes the tree, hitting Bill and Alisha. The girl runs away but Bill and Alisha feel a sudden surge in their bodies, reacting to the combined mix of the concoction and the lightning. When the jolt stops, they realize their wounds are healed and look at each other, realizing that their bodies aren't the same as before.