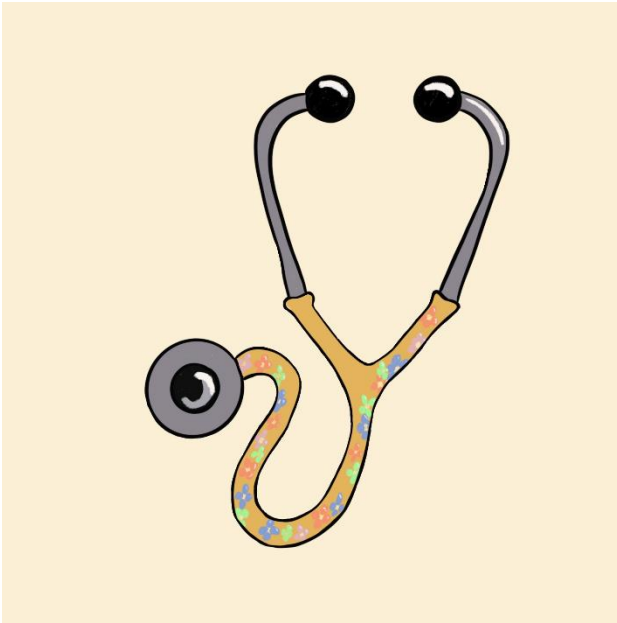


Anoushka Mabika

THE PARAGRAPH

I sat on the small bed, trying somehow to stay calm. I was done with what became a morning routine, exceedingly early that day. This mostly included showering, taking breakfast and my medications. All this was about to end, well, at least for a period. “Though not those countless medications.” I grimaced. I slowly looked around the hospital room, it was tranquil as usual. I closed my eyes, seeing the same darkness as when they are opened. Not that the room was dark, no. If only that was the reason. “I will get used to it.” I sighed. I let myself fall on the bed, feeling a sharp pain in my head. I felt like throwing-up...



No! I dreamt about this day for so long. Nothing would stop me from going home, not even the pain. I had to be strong, I had to show that I was strong enough to go.

“Why are they taking time to arrive...” I wondered nervously.

These past months has been rough. All started with my vision loss. After some time, I was diagnosed with a

brain-tumor. I got sick at a point where I could not speak, hear, or move. I often heard people describe what being paralyzed felt like. It was hard to imagine, not until I found myself in that horrible condition. My sisters told me I was in a coma for days, or months...

I don't really know much of what happened before or after the brain-surgery or even when I was brought to the hospital. It felt so weird, as if my life became some sort of movie scene. Like it was lived by some random girl.

A cold chill ran my back as I replayed that day. That very day when I woke up from the coma and suddenly, three months felt like a day ago. I can still feel it, can still see my scared little self. Confused and lost, it took time to understand that I was in a hospital. And I had just defeated cancer. 16th February...

But something frustrated me; I was not there for my 15th-birthday. At least, my consciousness was not there.

"Hey darling!" a familiar voice pulled me from my thoughts. I blinked back tears and quickly got on my elbows. I turned my head and recognized who it was, "Gloria! Finally, you are here!" I said joyfully, not hiding my relief as I hugged my two sisters and brother.