

An Origin Story

Sarah Kay: It started with a sweater.

Phil Kaye: *I was looking fly. First day of college orientation as a freshman... plus, I'm type of guy who's always trying to make a good impression.*

Sarah: He looked like a tool. And it's the first week of school, so I've got people to meet and things to try, I don't have time to waste on this guy loitering backstage at a talent show.

Phil: *It started with a freshman talent show, a chance to showcase what I know about spoken word and poetry, and try to get some people to notice me.*

Sarah: It started with a technical difficulty-

Phil: *Some sort of delay -*

Sarah: Somebody's iPod track wouldn't play.

Phil: *So I'm stuck waiting backstage when I notice this girl -*

Sarah: And he walks over, stupid sweater and all. There was nowhere to run, backstage was too small.

Phil: *And I'm nervous about going onstage, so I decide to strike up a conversation*

Sarah: Oh, sorry, I completely got ahead of myself. I totally skipped introductions.
My name is Sarah Kay.

Phil: *My name is Phil Kay. I'm from California -*

Sarah: Born and raised in NYC

Phil: *Let's see, fun fact about me -*

Both: **My mom is Japanese and my dad is Jewish**

Sarah: Not a common combination, but I think it's kinda cute. People call me Japajew -

Phil: *Jewpanese*

Sarah: Ashkenazi kamaikaze

Phil: *And come December -*

Both: **Hanukkah and Christmas!**

Sarah: Plus, you should taste my mother's brisket. Jan has matzah ball soup with noodles... brings my father Jeffrey to his knees.

Phil: *It took mom Raiko and dad Michael to raise this this lanky, cock eyed half breed.*

Sarah: Well, I think that's it. My mom, my dad, and me - oh, plus my little brother.
He's eighteen.

Phil: *My sister is a deadpan firecracker. She's only eighteen, but she keeps me on track. Her name is Sarah.*

Sarah: My brother's name is Phillip.

Both: **Anyway.**

Sarah: Where was I?

Phil: *It started with a backstage interaction.*

Sarah: It started with a backward first impression.

Phil: *Okay, well, I'll tell you where it didn't start. It didn't start at fifth grade summer camp.*

Sarah: *That's true, it did not start a junior lifeguards. Even though -*

Both: **We we're both there.**

Phil: *Matching red bathing suits, white t-shirts, visors, and our counselor*

Both: **Mr. Johnson**

Sarah: *Who probably figured that the shy girl in his morning class -*

Phil: *And the skinny kid in his afternoon class -*

Both: **Were... cousins?**

Sarah: *Probably thought we carpoled over together -*

Phil: *In between family photoshoots and fourth of July barbecues.*

Sarah: *But instead, we merely coexisted-*

Phil: *Almost met but always missed it -*

Sarah: *Spinning around like two sides of a coin*

Phil: *Look!*

Both: **We've done the research!**

Sarah: *And we swear, we're not related.*

Phil: *And we've never dated.*

Both: **And we're never...ever...going to.**

Phil: *Because what are the chances of finding with your last name-*

Sarah: *Japanese and Jewish with siblings called the same?*

Phil: *What are the odds of finding someone -*

Sarah: *who can finish you sentences?*

Phil: *Who will let you cut in line -*

Sarah: *Who knows not to just lend a hand, or an ear when you need them to give you their spine.*

Phil: *Who is woman enough to be best man at your wedding?*

Sarah: *Who will keep ever secret, save every letter, tell you how you really look?*

Phil: *Who will remember every one of your birthdays -*

Sarah: *Without checking Facebook?*

Phil: *What are the odds of finding someone who knows your poetry by heart -*

Sarah: *who won't freak out, if you're hanging out and accidentally fart?*

Phil: *Yeah. If you have a date and you need to look fresh, I will let you borrow...my hair products.*

Sarah: *And if you don't have a date, and you need to look fresh, I will let you borrow... my cousin.*

Phil: *I will always see you for the alley-ooop.*

Sarah: *I will always save you a seat.*

Phil: *I will always pick you to be my partner even though you are terrible at handball.*

Sarah: *When the fire takes all you have - my home will be your home*

Phil: *When you are old and can no longer remember my face, I will meet you for the first time, again and again.*

Sarah: When they make fun of you accent, I will take you swimming because we all sound the same underwater.

Phil: *When Ellis Island tries to erase your past, I will call you by your real name*

Sarah: When they call your number for the draft, I will enlist to fight behind you.

Phil: *And I will march with you from Selma to Montgomery and back as many times as it takes*

Sarah: We will stand together against the hoses and the dogs -

Both: **Because it didn't start with us.**

Phil: *It started with Lennon and McCartney.*

Sarah: It started with Thelma and Louise

Phil: *Winnie-the-Pooh and Christopher Robin*

Sarah: Bert and Ernie

Phil: *Abbott and Costello*

Sarah: Rosenkrantz and Guildenstern

Phil: Mario and Luigi

Sarah: Watson and Sherlock

Phil: *Pikachu and Charizard! And they could tell you what a miracle this is.*

Sarah: They could tell you how rare this is

Phil: *But they could tell you how rare friendship always is*

Sarah: The chances are slim.

Phil: *The cards are always stacked against you, the odds are always low*

Both: **But I have seen the best you and the worst of you, and I choose both**

Phil: *I want to share every single one of your sunshines and save some for later.*

Sarah: I will tuck them into my pockets so I can give them back to you when the rain falls hard.

Both: **Friend.**

Phil: *I want to be the mirror that reminds you to love yourself*

Sarah: I want to be the air in your lungs that reminds you to breathe easy

Phil: *When the walls come down -*

Sarah: when the thunder rumbles

Both: **when nobody else is home, hold my hand-**

Phil: *And I promise -*

Both: **I won't let go.**