

The Season of the Daffodils

PROLOGUE

To all who attempt to read this text,

The story you are about to read is not a work of art and does not attempt to make any aesthetic statement with its composition, events, or symbols. It is based—more or less—on a story written by Keiko Nagita and illustrated by Yumiko Igarashi in the 1970s. This same story was later retold by the same Nagita in a series of two novels and finally revised and edited in a publication named ***Candy Candy: Final Story*** (November 2010). Therefore, the present piece of fiction is anything but original.

Even as a fan-created fictional story this text is not the result of one single creative mind. In fact, it is plagued with ideas that have come from the minds of many members of Candy Candy fandom. My especial acknowledgement goes to my fellow fans from the candyterry.com forum, which was the first English-based forum devoted to Candy Candy in our international fandom. This forum was active since the mid-1990s and remained online for over 20 years. Although this forum is no longer active, the spirited discussions, shared feelings, and enthusiastic speculations about Final Story fan-translations still live and tell a story from the pages of this fanfiction. It is only fair that all due appreciation is here given to all the participants who have inspired this fic. Special acknowledgements should be given to:

- Nila B., webmistress of the candyterry.com website and friend of many years, who helped me by patiently reading the first manuscript and encouraging me to continue to the end.
- Sara Nardo, a dear fellow-fan, who read the drafts of this story and sent helpful feedback and ideas to improve the 2011 version.
- Rosemary555, whose illustrations appear on these pages, my deepest appreciation for her graphic input.
- Nuria Márquez, who created a series of wonderful 3D fanart inspired by this story. The reader can admire her work at:
<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv7f8k5fE4Y1mzXxqgAJ34w>
<http://nmarquez72.deviantart.com/>

Therefore, I have put together this story weaving my own ideas and those of my fellow fans together. Consider it as my own way to orchestrate an interpretation of the story that only reflects my preferences and personal views of the adventures and tribulations of Candice White Arday. This new and revised version of the story is here published as we approach the 15th anniversary of CCFS first edition.

In conclusion, while reading this—if you dare—you may find things you agree or disagree with, things you find unlikely to happen in a real sequel of the story that we all love. Please, do not take it personally. As an amateur writer, I only attempted to please myself, easing down the stress of my professional life. I had the daring thought that perhaps others might enjoy the piece as well, and that is why this story is here for you to read.

During the composition of this story, some research has been done regarding the customs and conventions of the 1920s and 1930s, the historical period in which the story develops. Some inspiration has been taken from books, movies, music published at the time, Shakespeare's plays and poems, photos, and encyclopedia

entries. I offer no apologies for the ideas respectfully borrowed and the images depicted, since no copyright is violated in a fanfiction that will never be sold or commercialized.

Finally, as for the rating, this fic falls mostly in the “general” category, though some sections may be considered as “mature” for strong language and some sensual depictions of love; please, consider this before reading if you do not like seeing /reading Candy and other characters depicted this way.

This been said, if you do not care for reading an “original” story and want to kill your time with a perhaps prosaic love tale full of clichés, you may continue reading. You have been warned.

Yours Truly,

Josephine Hymes