

31. *Amersfoort*

February 2013, flight from Frankfurt to Seattle. I am tired and I want to collapse, but watching the movie *The Words* inspired me to write my book. So, gathering all the energy I have, while listening to the snoring of two really big guys next to me, here I go. My memory at 38000 ft continues.

Early in the morning, after a sleepless and devastating night in Zwolle, I woke up tired. I lay half-asleep in 'Tiblets' small, old bed. I stretched my arms to hug 'Tiblets but couldn't reach her. Confused, I opened my eyes and saw she was not in the room. It was Monday morning but 'Tiblets had no school that day. I started wondering where she could have gone. As sometimes the case was, 'Tiblets didn't tell me everything, so I figured she would be back. Relaxed, I went back to sleep.

She came back from a visit to her doctor and we ate lunch. We reflected on our short love life and how it was now about to come to an end. After a depressing and emotional conversation, we headed to the train station. As we walked to the station, both of us were puzzled that our love story was about to end. 'Tiblets was unusually quiet and somewhat absent. Yet, both of us took it bravely that day. All the crying of the night was over. It was now back to the business of continuing another adventure in the last chapter of our love story. Secrets seemed to chase my love life. As intense as it was, secret love was probably one of the most incredible experiences in life. But this one was coming to a painful end.

We boarded the train and sat next to each other. While admiring the flat landscape of Holland with the cows grazing on the endless grass fields crisscrossed with manmade creeks, we looked back at the incredible journey only known to the two of us. Yet, we kept asking, "Why is it ending this way?" Why did God end it this way while we loved each other so much?

For the first time, 'Tiblets told me that she had not only gotten used to me as her boyfriend but that I had made her love me. For a woman that was so strongly committed to her boyfriend, these words