

Section 1:

**#1 - Opening paragraphs (from "Ellie stood at the edge" to "too much to forgive")**

Strengths: Your opening creates a lovely atmospheric setting with sensory details like the "soft embrace of twilight" and fabric "whispering secrets". You also establish the emotional weight Ellie carries effectively.

Weakness: Unclear pronoun reference → The sentence "The decisions of her past weighed down on her like I was convincing her to apologise" contains a confusing shift from third person to first person with "I was convincing her". This makes the meaning unclear and disrupts the narrative flow.

Exemplar: *"The decisions of her past weighed down on her like voices convincing her to apologise, but she couldn't—it was too much to forgive."*

**#2 - Middle section (from "One afternoon, as Ellie helped" to "that one fatal choice")**

Strengths: You capture the tragic moment well with the slow-motion effect, and the emotional impact of Ellie's guilt comes through powerfully.

Weakness: Sentence structure confusion → The sentence "As she turned to steady the chair, a shift in her step made her fall" is unclear because it suggests Ellie fell, but the context indicates Mrs. Thompson fell. This creates confusion about what actually happened.

Exemplar: *"As she turned to steady the chair, Mrs. Thompson took a step without her walker and stumbled, falling to the ground."*

**#3 - Ending section (from "The forest path tonight" to final paragraph)**

Strengths: Your use of the sunflower as a symbol of hope and healing is meaningful, and the circular structure returning to the forest's edge provides nice closure.

Weakness: Abrupt scene transitions → The jump from finding the sunflower in the forest to suddenly finding one "on her desk" the next morning lacks explanation or smooth connection. Readers need to understand how time passed and where this desk sunflower came from.

Exemplar: *"Days later, as Ellie sat at her kitchen table reflecting on that moment in the forest, she noticed something unusual—a small potted sunflower had appeared on her windowsill."*

■ Your piece tells a touching story about guilt, forgiveness, and healing that will connect with readers emotionally. The sunflower symbolism works well throughout, and you've chosen a meaningful theme about learning to forgive oneself. However, your writing would benefit from clearer connections between events and smoother transitions between scenes. Additionally, some

sentences need restructuring to avoid confusion about who is doing what. You could strengthen your narrative by explaining the time gaps more clearly, such as how days or weeks pass between different scenes. Also, consider adding more specific details about Ellie's daily life to help readers understand her journey better. Your ending delivers a hopeful message, but you could make it even more powerful by showing rather than telling how Ellie has changed. Finally, work on making sure each paragraph flows naturally into the next one using connecting words and phrases.

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**Score: 41/50**

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Section 2:

### **The Fall**

**#1** Ellie stood at the edge of the forest, the path ahead shrouded in the soft embrace of twilight. Her dress fluttered gently in the evening breeze, the fabric whispering secrets like the wind. The air was cool, yet a heavy weight pressed on her shoulders ~~like a burden, guilt~~ [—the burden of guilt].

~~The decisions of her past weighed down on her like I was convincing her to apologise but she couldn't, it was too much to forgive.~~ [The decisions of her past weighed down on her like voices convincing her to apologise, but she couldn't—it was too much to forgive.]

**#2** Ellie and Mrs. Thompson had been neighbours for over a decade. They ~~were once just friends but over the year~~ [had once been merely friends, but over the years] this bond had turned into a deep relationship. Ellie, a nurse, often visited Mrs. Thompson, assisting with shopping and sharing stories ~~at~~ [over] tea. Their connection was deep [;] to Mrs Thompson , Ellie was like family.

One distinctive feature of Mrs. Thompson was her constant companion [—a] vibrant sunflower ~~whether it was withered or bright, Whether~~ [, whether it was withered or bright. Whether] it was a fresh bloom from her garden or a carefully preserved one from a past season, the sunflower was always by her side. It was Mrs. Thompson's token, her symbol of resilience.

Then came the fall.

**#3** One afternoon, as Ellie helped Mrs. Thompson into her favourite chair on the porch, the older woman refused her walker. "Just this once," she had said with a smile. Ellie hesitated, but ~~soon let her~~ [eventually relented]. ~~As she turned to steady the chair, a shift in her step made her fall, it seemed the world had just turned into slow motion.~~ [As Ellie turned to steady the chair, Mrs. Thomson took an unsteady step and stumbled, falling to the ground as the world seemed to shift into slow motion.]

Despite immediate medical care, Mrs. Thompson ~~passed away to~~ [succumbed to] her injuries days later. Ellie was devastated. The guilt of having allowed the accident gnawed at her heart, overshadowing years of love and loyalty. Every night, she'd toss and turn, haunted by that final moment, that one fatal choice.

The forest path tonight wasn't just a walk to process pain. It was a search for something [—] relief, redemption, maybe a reason to keep going.

As she approached the old oak where she and Mrs. Thompson had once met by chance during a morning walk, the memories returned [—] laughter, promises, long talks in the shade. And then, that day. The betrayal. Not to Mrs. Thompson, but to herself, for choosing heart over protocol.

"I'm sorry," Ellie whispered, the words catching in her throat. "I never meant ~~what I did~~ [for this to happen]. I only wanted you to feel free, like you used to."

The air was still. And then, in the corner of her eye, she saw it [—] a sunflower, proud and bright, blooming at the base of the tree where none had grown before.

She knelt beside it, brushing her fingers over its golden petals. A tear rolled down her cheek, but this one felt different. Not sorrow, not regret [—] something like quiet hope.

~~And one morning, on her desk, she found a small potted sunflower, no note attached. [Days later, as she sat at her kitchen table, Ellie discovered a small potted sunflower on her windowsill—no note attached.]~~

~~Healing, she realized, wasn't instant. It wasn't easy. But it was possible. [Healing, she realised, wasn't instant. It wasn't easy. But it was possible.]~~ Like that sunflower growing wild in the woods, it started in the most unlikely of places.

That evening, Ellie stood once more at the forest's edge. The breeze kissed her cheeks, and this time, the air felt lighter. She still carried her guilt, but now, she carried forgiveness too.