

# Geyluv – college essay



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Honorio Bartolome de Dios' Geyluv tells the odd love story between Mike, an attractive Manila-based journalist, and Benjie, a gay project director of a non government organization. Geyluv, or Gay Love, in English touches sensitive socio-political issues that are far beyond literature. In some way, Geyluv challenges the Philippines' conservativeness and the society's untold discrimination against members of the third sex. The Philippines is a conservative country.

In fact, even up to this day liberal ideas including sex education, artificial contraceptives, divorce and gay and lesbian rights remain foreign to a significant segment of the Catholic-dominated country. Fortunately, de Dios was valiant enough to use his pen to illustrate a vivid picture of the society's strict yet said view of the third sex. Needless to say, same-sex relationships are kept hidden inside the "shame vault" of the Philippine society.

Just like Herman Ville's classic masterpiece, Moby Dick, de Dios used a powerful one-liner to stir his readers' curiosity. While Ville has his "Call me Ishmael," de Dios has his "I love you Mike." Simple, yet strong; short, yet descriptive. The four-syllabic phrase, "I love you Mike" sends a clear and direct message to the readers. This is the short story - this is as real as it could be. Geyluv's main protagonists were also so ideal and realistic - so full of personality. Mike was a handsome bachelor.

He is attractive, intelligent and full of masculinity. However, deep inside him is a carefree feminine voice. On the other hand, here is Benjie. De Dios described Benjie as a "bitchy gay." He doesn't care whether you respect him for being a gay. He's a gay and "eat your own ears," he would say.

However, Benjie's bitchiness is actually a defense mechanism aimed against the entire discriminating society. When everything has been said and done, Benjie is a caring, harmless and lovable partner.

While it's hard to assume anything regarding de Dios' sexuality, the way he wrote Geyluv was so intense and realistic that one might think that he's just voicing out his own personal issues. De Dios' sexual preference is his business and being gay doesn't make him less of a person. Geyluv was written in a semi-narrative form as if you're reading letters from Benjie to Mike and from Mike to Benjie. The writing style de Dios used in writing Geyluv was simple and conversational, yet effective and powerful.