

The Last Library

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Jeanlee Wallang Villaruz is a dedicated hospitality professional and educator, currently serving as Program Chairperson of the Hospitality Management Program at Mountain Province State University (MPSU) since 2024. She holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration and earned her Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management from the University of Baguio.

Before joining the academe, she honed her craft in the hospitality industry through hands-on experience at Baguio Country Club and Le Chef at the Golf Club, Camp John Hay, where she developed her operational expertise and

commitment to service excellence.

She is a certified holder of Trainers Methodology 1, which reflects her strong foundation in competency-based education and training. With her specialization in barista craft and bartending, she has become a sought-after trainer and mentor, conducting skills-enhancement workshops, industry seminars, and mentorship programs that equip students and professionals with practical, globally relevant competencies.

With her academic endeavor, industry experience, and unwavering passion for service, she continues to inspire the next generation of hospitality professionals while championing MPSU's vision as a culturally grounded, and innovative institution.

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Every afternoon after school, twelve-year-old Lara walked past a café where people spoke more to glowing screens than to one another. Students no longer carried heavy backpacks filled with books. Instead, they wore smart glasses that summarized entire novels in minutes. Homework was completed with artificial intelligence, stories were generated with a single prompt, and even bedtime tales came from voices that had never lived a childhood.

Lara was different. She had never owned a real book.

Their town library had closed years ago because almost everyone believed printed books were unnecessary. Yet every time Lara saw an old photograph of libraries with towering shelves and children turning crisp pages, something stirred inside her. She wondered what it felt like to hold and read instead of scrolling through one. One rainy afternoon, rambling through a forgotten part of town, she stumbled upon a little wooden building, hidden by tangled vines. Faintly visible on its faded door were the words: Public Library Inside, dust floats in rays of

sunlight. Hundreds of books stood quietly on used-looking shelves, waiting as if they were expecting someone.

An elderly woman emerged from behind a desk.

"I have not seen a child in ages," she smiled.

Lara's eyes sparkled. "May I borrow a book?"

The librarian looked at her with glitter in her eyes.

"I thought no one would ever ask that again."

She handed Lara a faded library card and placed a thick adventure novel into her hands. It felt heavier than she imagined, not because of its pages, but because of the countless meaning it carried. For the first time, she realized that books were not simply containers of information, they were journey written beautifully.

The next day, her classmates asked why she looked so vibrant.

"I found something AI cannot replace," Lara said.

"What is it?"

"The feeling of discovering a story"

Soon, curiosity spread. One friend visited the old library. Then another. Within months, children who had grown up surrounded by artificial intelligence also learned the quiet joy of turning paper pages.

Technology hadn't failed, but people remembered that AI could give us answers, but books could teach us more than anything. The library was alive again.

As Lara checked out another book, she smiled, knowing that every page she turned kept a piece of humanity alive.

And on the library door hung a simple sign: "The future may be written by a world filled with artificial intelligence, but the heart of every human is still shaped by those who choose to read."