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Bullying Hurts

Isabella Parks arose from her bed and walked over to the window. A fall chill washed over her as she watched the crisp golden and red leaves fall from the big oaks in their new yard. Sadness crept over her as she realized it would be the first day at a new school without Nora.

Back when the Parks lived in Connecticut, their life was always happy until one day their daughter Nora was hit by a car and tragically passed away. The whole family needed to get away from it all - all the constant reminders and the constant sadness. They had moved to a small house in Boston and the girls would be attending the Riverside School not far away.

Bella changed into some jeans and brushed her long dark hair. She made her way out the door and after she flung her backpack on, she took her two twin sisters by the hands.

While her two sisters Lily and Sophia squealed in delight and excitement, on the contrary, Isabella was overcome with fear and nervousness. What if she made no friends? What if everybody hated her? She took a deep breath as she walked into the doors of the Riverside school.

Jessica Scarlett stood in the school hall next to her best friends Cecilia and Veronica. "Hey!" she whispered. "I heard there's a new girl coming today!"

“Omg I bet she’s a total snob!” muttered Veronica with a flip of her short brown curls. Just then, Isabella parks walked into the hall.

The bell rang. Off to math class. Sigh. Who would she sit next to? Bella got into math class and found the only vacant seat was next to the blonde girl called Jessica. She heard murmurings in the hall talking about the ‘Fab Three’ or the ‘Fierce Three’ or the ‘Lions’. She assumed Jessica was one of them.

Math slowly passed by with occasional mean comments from Jessica. She caught icy blue stares from her two friends from across the room. At least nobody knew about her loss back at home. She would be fine.

For three days or more this would go on, mean comments for the ‘Lions’ but not really the girl Cecilia. She would just stand or sit there with a look of pity in her eyes. Bella was persevering fine until one day at lunch.

Jessica and Veronica approached Bella at the lunch table where she sat by herself. Jessica announced to the whole lunch crowd, “Everybody ignore the new girl Isabella! Nobody likes her! HAHA!” Bella was shocked and struggled to hold back tears. Really! What had she ever done to them?

She ran down the hall into the bathroom and crouched up in the stall. Tears rushed down her face as she thought about Nora and how mean everyone was to her. Nobody knew her pain inside.

Someone knocked on the door. Bella was reluctant but finally opened the door a crack. Standing outside of the door was Cecilia. She offered a hug to Isabella and Bella willingly took it with a deep breath. “Hi ummm Isabella, right?” mumbled Cecilia. “I was err, umm wondering if you wanted to come over my house after school. You don’t really have to if you really don’t want to,” asked Cecilia, with a nervous shrug.

Taken aback, Isabella replied, “Um, sure!”

“My mom is picking us up so we should get ready. C’mon!”

Wiping a tear off her face, Isabella almost showed a hint of happiness. She grabbed her backpack and she Cecilia walked out the school door into the crowd of kids going home. Bella spotted her mother’s black jeep waiting to pick up her and her sisters. Isabella ran over to the car and after quickly informing her mom of her going over Ceci’s house, she ran over to Cecilia’s mom’s red convertible.

Mrs. White sat in the driver’s seat with ringed blonde curls and a glamorous pearly white smile outlined with bright pink lipstick. Her matching pink nails complimented her sparkling blue eyes that Cecilia shared with her lovely mother. “Hello there dahling princess. Nice to meet you Isabella, you gorgeous girl! I am Alexandra, Ceci’s mom,” she said with a warm smile.

As they approached the White’s mansion, Cecilia and Isabella hopped out of the car and scurried up to Cecilia’s room. A pale yellow covered the walls and a

light pink satin bed cover was spread across Cecilia's canopy bed. Bella sat down with Cecilia on the white fluffy rug and they talked about school. "Hey Cecilia. Not to be rude but, why are you friends with Jessica and Veronica?" asked Isabella with tension in her voice.

"You know; Jess wasn't always mean. Not at all, actually. Sweet as an angel. But in the beginning of the summer, her older sister Sara died of cancer. It broke Jessica's heart and Jess was never the same again. It was like a fire of anger and hatred and meanness erupted inside her," explained Cecilia. "I want to support her and Veronica who was also very close to Sara also. I don't think they feel safe or secure anymore. That's why!"

"Oh!" replied Bella who was getting choked up. "My sister Nora died not that long ago. I am still so sad," said Isabella with a sniffle and a frown.

"I'm so sorry! Omg I had no idea!"

"Oh. Well that's why we moved."

"I am, seriously so sorry!"

"Well, I better get going! Thanks! Sorry! I had fun!" yelled Bella as she walked out the door.

As she walked home, she thought about how lucky she was to still have her mom, dad, and Lily and Sophia and also a new friend Cecilia. And, Jessica didn't

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hate her; Jessica was just upset and insecure inside. It was okay and everything would always be that way.