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Age: 13, Grade: 8

School Name: Byron Center West Middle School, Byron Center, MI

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Category: Short Story

Sunrise

Sunshine

Hi, my name is Sunny I used to live in Los-Angeles, my life is tough. I live with two older stepbrothers, and 1 older stepsister. I have an adoptive mom and an adoptive stepdad. My real mom and dad got into fights all the time because my dad would go to "work" and not come back for days. Of course, I was around 5 when that happened, so you would think that I would not remember any of that. That is where you are wrong, one day when my dad was gone me and my mom went to the park. Nice right? Wrong. I saw my dad kissing another woman. I yelled hello to him (remember I was 5 at the time and he was my dad) and my mom saw them and got really mad she turned on her heel and we walked right back to my house. This is where it gets messy. In the next week to follow my mom got a divorce put me up for adoption, because my dad paid for everything and she couldn't take care of me, my dad died of cancer, I got adopted by a nice lady and her husband, I moved to Chicago (far away from my messed up life) Started a new school, and met my best friend. A few years passed pretty quickly from when I moved and now I am going into 6th grade. My school is spilt into kindergarten through 5th then 6th through 8th. Then high school. I guess this is where we are now.

"Sunny! Hurry up we will miss the bus!" August yelled at me.

"Ok, ok! I'm coming!" I am slipping on my shoes and I grab my lunchbox off the counter. My alarm did not go off today. It is the first day of school and I might be late. "Great start. Right?"

"Yeah right, did your alarm even go off this morning?" August questioned.

"No, but I made it didn't I?" The bus pulls up and we go to our seats. We get to school and it starts to rain, and of course, I did not bring an umbrella. Oh well. I go to the counselor's office in the morning for a little bit of therapy. Then I go to class. I get made fun of a lot because of my parents.

"Bro pay attention," August whispered to me.

"Sorry," I said back to her. Today we will be learning about minerals. In my science class, we do a lot of hands on activities. My teacher tries to make the class fun and exciting.

For lunch, I had a sandwich and some soup that eventually got dumped on me. But other than that, my day was great. That was till I got home. When I walked through the door of the house both of my parents were not home, which was unusual because my mom did not work. (we are talking about my adoptive parents.) I called out but she did not answer. I put it off because I thought she went to the store and I started on my homework. Later that night when to my surprise my mom came in the door. I asked what happened and with tears streaming down her cheeks she tried her best to say that her husband, my adoptive dad, died in a car accident that night while driving back from work. When a few days past my adoptive mom got a job so she could still take care of me. That is when life started to get back to normal. A few years go by and I am in 8th grade. My adoptive mom is getting more and more depressed because I am not home a lot and losing my dad was hard on her.

"Hey Sunny, are you okay? You look a bit lost. Is everything ok?" August said to me.

"Oh, yeah. Sorry." We are studying for the Finals. The Finals test us on everything that we learned in the year. They determine if you go to the next grade, or in this case high school.

"You did a fantastic job today Sun!" August congratulated me.

"Thanks!" I said back.

When I got home my mom was in the kitchen and there was someone else there. A man was in the house! I was so confused, but my mom looked happy, so I guess it was alright.

"Hey Sunny, can you come in here for a minute? I want you to meet someone." My mom called to me as I was walking in the door.

"Ok?" I called back. As I looked more closely at this man, I saw he was holding my mom's hand. Which was weird,

but my mom looked happy, so I did not think about it very much.

"This is Noah. He is my boyfriend," My mom said to me.

I was shocked, my mom has a boyfriend! I did realize that in the past few days she had been happier, and she had seemed more cheerful since my dad died so I guess this was a good thing.

A few days later I got my Finals score, so I called August to see if she made it. The Finals are extremely important to me because my real mom wanted me to get into an ivy league school. If I did not get into high school, I would never forgive myself.

"I got my scores in my hand ready to open when you are!" August said.

"Ready? Open!" I said and I heard her ripping open the envelope and I did the same.

"I got in!" August exclaimed.

"I got in too!" I yelled back. "We should celebrate!"

"There is an end of school party being hosted at the rich kid's house, I can't remember his name though," August said.

"That's ok, I was actually thinking of going to the ice cream shop," I explained. "Meet me at 6:00."

"Alright!" Agreed August.

When August got to the ice cream shop it was a little before 6:00 so we got our ice cream and talked for a little bit.

"What are you planning on doing this summer?" August asked.

"Well my soon to be step-siblings are coming over," I announced.

"I had no idea you are going to have step-siblings!" August exclaimed.

"Oh! Did I not mention it?" I questioned knowingly.

"No, you didn't" August Laughed.

When we finished talking the moon was out and it was just a sliver so you could see all the stars. We went to a field where we used to play all the time when we were kids, we used to eat Picnics here and we used to run around and tell each other all our secrets here. The most important thing is that only we knew about it. Now it was dark and peaceful. We sat down and laid there looking at the stars and remembering all the good times. It was around midnight when my mom called me and told me to get home. I said goodbye to August and then rode my bike home. Around a month later my mom told me that she and her boyfriend were getting married. I was shocked but not as much as August was. We were spending a lot of time together at the ice cream shop and the field. A few weeks later I was getting ready for the wedding. This is the first time I will be seeing my stepsiblings. I was nervous.

"Hey over here!" August yelled me over.

"What's up?" I asked.

"I still can't believe it! Your mom is getting married!" August exclaimed.

"Yeah, and I still can't find my step-siblings," I told August.

I got a text from my mom telling me to come to help her. So, I said goodbye to August and her parents and went to help my mom.

"Thank goodness you came!" My mom said.

"What did you need?" I questioned.

"I don't know if I should do this," My mom told me.

"Noah is a great guy mom; he loves you to the moon and back. You are going to be fine," I comforted her. "Now I need to get out there to stand by your side," (I am the maid of honor.)

"Alright, but did you see your new siblings?" Mom asked.

"No, not yet," I replied.

Now, this is where it gets interesting, I have to be walked down the aisle by the best man and I do not even know who it is.

When I walk to where the doors would open, and I would walk down the aisle I see the cutest boy I have ever seen. He looks about my age, but I am not quite sure. As I walk toward him, I realized he must be Noah's son, and I instantly regret thinking about him that way.

"Hey, you must be the best man since you are standing at the front of the line," I said to him.

"Yeah, and you must be the maid of honor," He said back.

"yes, I am," I replied.

"What is your name?" He asked.

"Sunny. Yours?" I asked back.

"Elijah," He responded.

As the doors open everybody turns their head toward us, and although I have gone through this in the practice, I still don't like everyone looking at me.

"Don't worry they are just looking at me," Elijah whispered to me.

“Ok but that is just because you are what 6, 3 and I am like 5, 6,” I whispered back.

“Actually, I am 5, 9,” He informed me.

“Oh, ok I was joking,” I told him.

Just after all the people came in, Noah said something to Elijah and he smiled.

Then the doors opened, and my mom walked in with the biggest smile ever. As I look toward Noah, he had tears in his eyes. I have never seen my mom this happy it made me smile. My mom walked down the aisle and stood in front of Noah. The priest gave the speech and told Noah he can kiss my mom. It was the most romantic kiss ever.

At the reception, I got to know Elijah a lot better, and he introduced me to his brother and his sister. His brother was 2 years older than him and his sister was 1 year younger than him. His sister was Ella and his brother was Ethan. They were super nice to me.

“Hey, where were you?” August asked.

“I was getting to know my stepsiblings,” I answered.

“I had to stand by my parents and hear them talking about boring stuff like politics.” August droned.

“Sorry, I saved you before you died, yes?” I questioned

“It is ok, and yes you saved me,” August said.

After the reception was over, I went to August’s house to have a sleepover. This happened because there was not enough room in the car. (Noah and his kids went with my mom.) Me and August talked all the way to her house.

Once we changed out of our dresses, we made a fort, yes, we can still do that even though we are freshmen, it was as big as the living room would make it. I had so much fun that night, and I was glad I did because that would be the last fun time I had with August. I could not stay all night because they were leaving to go to the airport to go on a family vacation. When I got home, I was greeted with silence which was not so bad, but when I got upstairs to my bedroom, I saw Ella sleeping in my bed on MY PILLOW! I was shocked, but I thought maybe she was so tired that she just went to a room and slept. I went downstairs and grabbed a blanket and a pillow and went to sleep on the couch, but Ethan was laying there so I just laid down on the floor and fell asleep.

I woke up super early which was unusual because I got back to the house really late. I made breakfast and put it in the oven so it would be warm when everyone gets up. I decided to go for a walk so I wrote a note and put it on the counter.

As I was walking, I saw a few cars pass by they looked super expensive. I did not think about it, but I probably should have. Then I saw another car coming down the road it was speeding and came right toward me and everything seemed to slow down. I tried to run out of the way, but I did not make it.