

SHORT STORIES

AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL



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1

Paddy, as his dad always called him, shoved his daily rations in his backpack, put on his leather armor and began his adventure along the sword coast. His mind was occupied by strategies to defeat the undead, menacingly lurking at his destination. Patrick mulled over his attacks, spells and cantrips. What would be the best approach today? His mom told him, he should just try talking to someone. Talking? Paddy preferred passing without a trace. Luke, his older brother, told him how dangerous, mean and unforgiving people are at school.

“Why was mom so excited about my first day at school. She even cried. I never saw her cry. What is there to be excited about?”, thought Paddy, stomping his nervousness away in a puddle.

2

Today is Tom's first day of school. He wakes up in the morning and is very tired because he wasn't able to sleep at night. He is so excited and nervous! At breakfast he can't eat anything and when when he tries to tie his shoes his dad has to help him because his hands are shaking. Tom's friend picks him up to go to school together. When Tom enters the classroom there are only a few seats left. Tom decides to sit down next to a boy who tells him that his name is Lukas. At first Tom is very shy and does not talk to Lukas but after the first lesson Tom and Lukas play soccer together during the break. After school they go home together and Tom is happy and excited for the next day.

3

Tim stand der erste Schultag bevor und am Abend davor war er schon sehr nervös. Seine Eltern versuchten ihn zu beruhigen, aber er war einfach zu aufgeregt. In der Nacht konnte er nicht schlafen. Mit Tränen in den Augen, stieg er in der Früh in den Schulbus und setzte sich neben ein Mädchen. Sie fingen an zu reden und erzählten sich gegenseitig, wie nervös sie waren. Sie machten einen Deal, dass sie am ersten Schultag nicht von einander weichen würden und daran hielten sie sich auch.

Als Tim nach Hause kam erzählte er seinen Eltern von seinem ersten Tag und seine Eltern waren sehr glücklich, dass er eine Freundin gefunden hat und dass sein erster Schultag nicht schlimm war.

4

On Tom's first of school, he was already wide awake quite early in the morning. He started to feel nervous the evening before, and his sleep wasn't the best. At breakfast, his mother noticed how nervous he was and tried to calm him down. However, not with much success. She brought Tom to the bus stop, where he became even more nervous. Only when the bus arrived and Tom got on it, his nervousness calmed down.

There was Susi, Tom's best friend from preschool, waiting for him. Tom didn't know Susi would be on the same bus, so this was a great relief for him. After getting off the bus, Susi and Tom's parted ways, but Tom felt more confident now. And indeed, Tom had a great first day at school.

5

E

r betrat die Schule und schaute sich erst einmal um. Überall waren neue Gesichter, oberflächliche Konversationen und es roch... naja... wie halt eine Schule so riecht. Ein Mix aus Teenager-Moschus und muffigen Möbeln. Sam fragte sich, ob diesmal Anschluss in der Schule finden würde. Sein erster Eindruck von den Schülern war nicht gerade sehr vielversprechend.

Nachdem er sich im Sekretariat gemeldet hatte, musste er schnell in seine Klasse gehen. Alle starrten ihn, wie ein Alien, an, als er sich auf den einzigen leeren Stuhl in der letzten Reihe hinsetzen musste. Die Lehrerin kam sofort rein und bat ihn sich mal der Klasse vorzustellen.

Und dann passierte es... Seine Hände wurden schwitzig, ihm war auf einmal so warm und sein rechtes Bein fing unkontrolliert zu zittern an. Er begann seine Vorstellung mit: ...

6

A

nne is very excited today. It is her first day at school and she wakes up very early. She wakes her mum and dad, gets dressed on her own and drinks a glass of milk. She can hardly it anything as she is so nervous. At half past seven she and her family meet her best friend Tony at the street corner to go to their school. The two girls start to run.

At the school they get to know their teacher, their parents leave for a short time, they sing a song and learn how to write 'school'. Time passes by so fast, Anne can not believe it, wenn the bell rings and their first day at school is over. She tells ger parenta that she has to go to the toilet really quickly now before going home. Coming back from there she is giggling und laughing out loud when she is asked why.

"Oh no, i was so nervous today, i forgot to put on my underwear in the morning..."

7

T

here are a lot of questions in his head. How is the teacher? Will I find friends? Will they like me? Am I awkward? Hopefully they will like me. Hopefully I will survive this day. But the teachers should know how to read the room and should react in an accurate way to handle all these different emotions of the pupils. The teacher is the supporter and gives a feeling of security. So everyone in class is having a great start.

8

J

enna couldn't contain her excitement when it came to her first day of school. It was all she had been talking about for months. But when it came to the day of the event, she was nauseous, that's how nervous she was.

All the things she had been looking forward to turned into worries. Would she be accepted? Find new friends? All she could think about was the possibility of her being an outsider. Not even her mother's soothing words were able to calm her down.

It was only when she was sitting in class, talking to the girl next to her who had apparently been just as nervous as her, that the knot in her stomach slowly disappeared. By the end of the day she had forgotten about all her worries and was excited to go back the next day.

9

M

aria has already woken up before her alarm clock. She didn't sleep well, because she was scared of her first day at school. She can't eat anything, so she just drank a hot milk. She was asking herself, if her friend Sarah is also as nervous as she is. Maria's mother told Maria, that she has not be as nervous as she is, because every child feels the same on their first day at school.

10

I

t was Melinda's first Day, so it's pretty normal to be nervous. She didn't know what kind of, her new class members will be. She dressed nicely and was willing to show her best attitude. Mel got up very early to make sure not to be late.

Checking her supplies more than twice. Having a good breakfast would help her to start this day. Listening to her favorite music for one mode. Thinking positive, being polite and pay attention and respect will do the rest.

11

A

ll students were entering the big old school building and Emma joined the crowd. It was her first day at school after she moved to town with her parents. It was like a scene from every other high school movie: Emma was standing in front of the class while the teacher introduced her to the other students. Some girls started giggling, and Emma was wondering whether they were laughing about her. The teacher told her to have a seat – and the only free spot was next to a little grumpy looking punk style girl. Emma wouldn't have thought that she will turn out to be her best friend because now she was just ignoring her.

12

O

n his first day at school, a pupil is usually nervous. The unfamiliar environment, new faces, and uncertain expectations can be overwhelming. The young child feels a mix of excitement and anxiety as they enter the school gates. Their heart beats faster as they step into the classroom filled with curious eyes. The teacher welcomes them warmly, but their fear persists. They worry about making friends, fitting in, and meeting academic challenges. The student's hands tremble as they introduce themselves to their classmates. They struggle to find their place among the established social dynamics. The day progresses, and with each passing moment, the nervousness gradually subsides. Encouraging smiles and kind gestures from peers alleviate their fears. By the end of the day, the pupil realizes that they are not alone; everyone is experiencing similar emotions. With newfound confidence, the pupil eagerly looks forward to the next day, ready to embrace the joys and challenges of school life.¹

13

F

irst day of my first job (age 16). It was my 16th birthday and I'd been told (by my parents) to go in to the store. My grandmother had gotten me an interview so get there right after school. I did and was asked to fill out an application ... so far, no surprises. I'd filled out dozens of retail and grocery store applications by then. Then I had a three minute interview, after which the manager said "where's your tie and why aren't you in a white shirt?"

Huh? I thought I was coming here for an interview.

"No, you're starting right now. Okay, look, they keep a spare tie upstairs in the break room."

Er, can I call my parents since I don't think they knew I was starting today?

"Yeah, okay, and if you don't have a dime, I'll loan you one. Now ... let's get moving since you really should have started right on the dot of 4:00."

So I spent my 16th birthday at work ... while my family had the party. But hey, they saved me a cupcake.

¹ The name provided for this story's protagonist is Jimmy.

14

It is Anja's first day at school, normally she has a really open personality and gets along really well with everybody. Anja is five years old, everybody in her class is six years old or older, she also is smaller and feels intimidated by the other pupils. At the first lesson the Teacher talks to the pupils and asks them about their hobbies, name and age. A lot of the girls in the class like horses and drawing. When it's Anja's turn she talks about playing soccer. She used to play soccer with her dad, she has a lot of memories of her and her dad playing soccer, especially in the last summer, they played a lot at a lake near her house. It was always fun, and after the soccer game, she and her dad ate ice cream. But after the summer Anja's mother and her dad got divorced, and since then she misses him a lot. Two girls start to laugh, Anja was deepened in her memories. The teacher gives the girls a stern look and smiles to Anja.

"Let's move on with the next kid, what's your name?" she asks the boy next to Anja. Anja is still in her memories, since her dad is not there anymore, she feels alone.

The rest of the first school day Anja was really sad, and did not really talk to other kids. After the school day she walks to the entry, where she expects her mom. She sits down on a bench near the entry and waits, after ten minutes she hears a voice saying her name. She turns around and it is a dad.

"It is a sunny day, I asked your mom, if I can pick you up to play soccer near the lake" he said. Anja directly smiles, like she hasn't for a while, and runs to her dad to hug him.

15

Today is Sebastian's first day at school. Even though he does feel nervous, he also is very excited and so ready for school. He wanted to go to school ever since his older sister started her first day at school. Sebastian woke up early this morning. He wanted to take his time to eat cereals and get ready for school. He is also excited to meet Tom whom he was in daycare with since he turned three years old. He gives him comfort and faith.

16

The pupil is a little boy wondering what will wait for him, in this huge yellow building which everyone is calling “school”. He only heard his older sister and his older cousins talk about it. His sister is always happy to go there because she can draw and learns how to read. But one of his older cousins once told him that it’s like a prison, where you can not just stand up and play a game or go outside for playing soccer in the garden. That frightens him a lot. It is very hard for him to sit still and listen to other people, especially if they don’t have interesting things to tell him. But what can he do, his mum told him that everyone has to go there, So he will try it. He got a new bag and an amazing dark blue lunch bag with a sandwich in it. He even feels a little bit adult-like now. But does he really want to be an adult?

“I will never be”, he thinks and is entering the old school building with a little smile on his face.

17

Thomas was different, he was not nervous at all. He felt excited and curious. He loved his new school uniform, it made him feel so grown up. He was glad that the holidays were finally over – it was boring to spend so much time at his grandmother’s house, while his parents were off for work. He would get to meet his friends from Kindergarten again, and he already knew, that Mrs. Harrows would be their teacher. His brother Francis had told him, that she was not only the prettiest, but also the coolest teacher at school. School was not far away, so him and his neighbour Martin would walk there together – normally, but not today. Today both his parents accompanied him into class, where Mrs. Harrows greeted all her new students and their parents at the door.

18

But what else would be expected when said pupil is to be thrown into a classroom full of magical creatures as the only human? A very dainty human, just small enough to be considered a late bloomer. Height wise, that is. Despite his, some would call it, God complex, Hano is rather nervous. He knows he'll be the smartest person in the room, and he's certain of his likableness, but would that apply here as well? He's only ever gone to human (public) schools, after all. Hano can feel eyes on him while walking down the hall to his class room – 32A. Not daring to glance over his shoulder, he can only imagine glowing red eyes stalking his every step. 'Everything is fine', he mutters under his breath. In the end, magical teens couldn't be worse than human teens, right? Oh boy, how wrong he was.

19

Lucy had never seen so many people in one place before. How could she, growing up on a remote island inhabited by no more than a hundred people in general.

"You will make tons of new friends!", her mom had said time and again, the last time not even five minutes ago before she had dropped her off at her new school. It didn't really help that they had only moved a week ago, her toys not even fully unpacked. New town, new clothes, new school. Too many news in one sitting, if you asked her.

Clutching her little book bag she stood among hundreds of other children, yet she could not make out a single individual. She felt lost, alone. "You have to be strong and keep smiling, just show your friendly personality!", her mom had said before kissing her good bye. Her friendly what now? She felt more like crying than anything else, but before the tears could start dwelling in her eyes she heard a familiar voice:

"Lucy? Is that you?"

Her best friend from kindergarten was standing in front of her, smiling. What was she doing here?

"Come on sleepyhead, let's go!", she took Lucy by the hand and led her inside the school building before she could ask her any questions. Maybe things weren't so bad after all.

20

He anticipates many difficulties, is nervous about the new classmates, teachers and the new subjects. Maybe he is also a bit excited to learn new stuff and to make new friends. Usually this day starts after a sleepless night. The breakfast is skipped or just some cereals are consumed. Then with the backpack on his shoulders, packed the night before with all the new books, new pencils and pen, he starts his way to school. Maybe his mother is nervous too. She looks worried but only when her boy isn't looking. She remembers her own first day at school and all the exciting but also sad or horrible experiences she had in her time at school. She hopes for the best for her boy. She tries to hold back all the sorrows to not burden her son. He will experience a whole lot of different things than her at school. And this is the best. It will change and form him. And hopefully give him friends he can rely on for a long time.

21

Galatea has always been an outsider, and it's not just about her unusual name that admittedly is certainly on another whole level of being weird, it's also her mystifying behavior that tends to estrange the people around her. Born prematurely, she is far too small and weak for her own good, and barely survived infancy. With her milky white skin and slightly too wide divergent light blue eyes, she looks like an alien straight from another galaxy, whose mission on earth is to be as extraordinary as possible. There was a time in preschool when she very much wanted to fit in and befriend others, but no matter how hard she tried to appear normal, she always remained the weird one. This, however, is supposed to change once and for all. Today will be Galatea's first day at school, and a new chapter in her life is about to begin.

It is to no one's surprise that Galatea is especially nervous about the upcoming class, after all, she wants to do everything right. No one should think of her as strange anymore, especially not her classmates. With a packed backpack and a goodbye kiss from her mother, Galatea makes her way to the school building. When she arrived, a few pupils threw questionable glances at her, and a certain amount of them started to whisper and laugh, which didn't exactly ease her nervousness, but when a group of other pupils came forward and defended her, Galatea realized that things could actually indeed change here.

22

Though this sentence may be true of many, it was not for Jay. “Usual” in general was not at all the kind of word one would think of when asked to describe him. It wasn’t his looks or his clothes – they were quite ordinary. It was the way he looked, with a very inquisitive eye, at the world. Where other children might have been bored, he was always curious. Always interested in the most minute details. Always ready and eager to discover and learn something new. It will therefore now not surprise you that instead of nervousness, it was great excitement that he felt as his first day of school approached. He could hardly sleep and was up before dawn, so eager was he for this new adventure to begin. Finally the day had come.

23

But while nervousness might be a big part of his emotion, the little boy is also thrilled. Excitement builds up inside him. He often questioned his older sister when she came home from school. She would tell him about her field trips and the stories they read, about the games and pranks she played with her friends. And now, as he walks hand in hand with her to the little school, where he would learn to read and write, find friends and learn about the world, he could not help the big smile that made its way onto his face. Oh how wrong the poor boy just would be.

24

Little Bernard has been talking about finally going to school for months on end and yet, on this long-awaited day, he could not help but feeling very nervous and would not mind staying at home. Dreaming of the new friends and the challenges that lay ahead of him on his scholar future did not seem all that exciting suddenly.

After some contemplating, the little Berny put on his brave face on together with the new and crisp school uniform and set out together with his grandmother on their way. The way was blurry in his memory and he did not notice how he reached the big, old and slightly frightening building, where his next 6 years would be spent and where many memories and experiences would occur. In the classroom set many other boys and girls, all quiet and sharing Berny's shy and yet curious look.

Finally did the teacher come into the class room, parents and other relatives said their final goodbyes and wished good luck to the brave little scholars. It was very quiet and still. Once the teachers, Ms Donahey, spoke and welcomed the pupils, like through magic – such was her soft and kind voice, all of the children smiled and felt at home. The teachers smile and bright blue eyes promised them that it is going to be a lot of fun and there is nothing to be afraid of. Berny was glad that he decided to go to school and he could not wait to come home and tell grandma how wonderful his new teacher is.

25

Ben entered the classroom with many children already there. Some turned around and looked at him. All these unknown faces, he thought. The teacher soon entered the room. She had a friendly face.

“It's time we introduced ourselves”, she said. When it was Ben's turn, he felt his heart beating a little faster.

“My– my name is Ben”, he said. “My favourite subjects are art and PE”.

“Welcome, Ben”, the teacher said.

26

It was a Monday morning when John woke up nervously. He had dreamt badly that night. It was the first Monday after the big summer break and he was about to go to his first day at the new school.

“Fifth grade”, his parents said, “is very exciting! You’ll make new friends and will get to know your teachers.”

John was not convinced, yet, he didn’t have a choice. When he arrived at the huge school building he wanted to turn around and leave but then he spotted his friend Michael. Michael waved at him and John saw that Michael had made new friends already – he was very good in that. John took all his courage in both hands and made his way towards Michael and the other kids. Together they entered the school and an exciting new chapter begins.

27

Leon hat heute seinen ersten Schultag, weshalb er schlecht geschlafen hat. Als der Wecker klingelt, war er schon wach und macht sich auf dem Weg zum Frühstückstisch. Seine Mutter merkt, dass er nervös ist. Sie versichert ihm, dass er keine Angst haben muss, da seine besten Freunde auch alle da sein werden. Zusammen mit Julian macht er sich auf den Weg zur Schule und so vergisst er ein bisschen seine Angst. Er kommt im Klassenzimmer an und setzt sich neben Julian. Der Tag verlief viel besser als gedacht und in der Pause war seine Aufregung komplett vergangen. Am Nachmittag erzählt er seiner Mama stolz von seinem Schultag und wie viel Spaß er hatte.

28

O

n his first day at school, a pupil is usually very nervous. Tommy, a shy and timid boy with curly red hair, was no exception. As he walked through the imposing gates of Oakwood Elementary, his heart raced, and his palms grew sweaty. Thoughts of making friends, understanding the lessons, and fitting in overwhelmed him.

Tommy approached a girl named Lily, who was sitting alone and buried in a book. Her face lit up with a warm smile as he introduced himself. They instantly bonded over their love for storytelling, and throughout the day, they discovered their shared interests in reading, writing, and exploring the unknown.

Tommy and Lily became inseparable, relying on each other to navigate the complexities of school life. They brought their imaginative stories to life during recess, captivating their classmates with tales of enchanted forests and magical creatures.

Their friendship blossomed, transcending the boundaries of the school grounds. On the last day of school, they sat together under their favorite oak tree, reflecting on their remarkable journey. Tommy realized that stepping out of his comfort zone had led him to discover a true friend—one who shared his fears, dreams, and an unwavering belief in the power of imagination.

As they bid farewell, promising to stay friends forever, Tommy looked ahead to new adventures, knowing that the magic of their first day would always guide him.

29

A

fter his first day at school, Michael came home and his mother asked how it was. He told her that he was very nervous but already made new friends. His teachers are also kind and helped him to come down and even enjoy the first day a bit. In the evening he went to bed and all his nervousness was blown away, he can't wait to go to school in the morning and is excited about what will happen in the future.

30

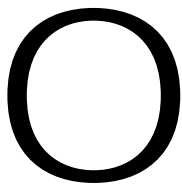
She smart. Pretty. Cool. Small.

31

A young boy is standing in front of a intimidating building. The building is at least 3 stories high, has a lot of big windows. On those windows you can see pictures and paintings of flowers, animals, creatures and even humans. Some of those pictures are quite colorful in pink in violet, in blue, in red, in green and in orange while some others are only in black and white. But the boy doesn't see the pictures and paintings on the windows. All the boy can see and concentrate on are the doors of the intimidaiing building. There are a lot of kids around his age going in and coming out of those doors, but the boy registers only the doors.

But then the boy hears a sound: a bell is ringing. The boy, now harshly awakening out of his stupor, is looking one last time at the doors before he is taking a deep breath threw his nose and is grabbing his backpack that is lying in the grass next to him. After readying himself he walks with as much confidence as he can muster to that building. That intimidating building where a lot of his near future will take place: school.

32

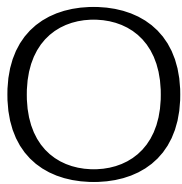


nce upon a time there was a little boy named Fred. Fred was always very curious about learning new stuff and meeting other people in his childhood. When he was younger, Fred sometimes visited new places around the village he lived. When he discovered places he liked, Fred stayed for a while and enjoyed the nature around him.

When Fred was 6 years old he went the first time to school. The pupils and young children around him were screaming and running and seemed to be really nervous on their first day. But not Fred. He was more curious than anxieted. Curious about how the lessons would be, about what his new teacher would look and behave like and what would the other classmates think about him or what would Fred think about them. While he was thinking the bell ringed and the class started. His teacher, a tall older man, dressed in a grey suit was punctual to the minute. Fred took a place at the first row in the classroom having a good view on the blackboard. The teacher, Mr. Greyman started the class by asking a question in a rough tone:

“How dare you to come in my class again?”, pointing his view in Freds direction. In this moment he passed out.

33



n the night before his first day of school, Nick could not sleep. He was plagued by all kinds of questions, circulating in his mind. Would the other kids and teachers be nice to him? Would he find friends? Would he get lost in the building that was much bigger than the kindergarten he knew? Would the subjects be too difficult?

When he did fall asleep eventually, he dreamed about his first day at school with strict teachers and unfriendly children, who did not want to befriend him. His nervousness had led to a terrible nightmare. But when he awoke, his parents were already waiting for him with a huge school cone, congratulating him on the big day. Nick got excited and as soon as they got to the school, the other kids asked him to play with them immediately. He had been nervous without a reason after all.

34

Kai was frustrated to hear his mom say this on the phone. Especially worded like that, as if he was just any other pupil and not her son as well. As if she didn't understand why he was so nervous. He wasn't frustrated because it wasn't true (it was, he was dreading this god awful first school day) but because people should mind their own business sometimes. Especially his aunt, who was on the other side of the phone and an awfully gossipy person. He was sure that his older cousins would do anything but keep their mouth shut and tease him like a little kid.

He took a deep breath and started to put on his shoes. His hands started to shake slightly and he felt a lump swell in his belly. He wouldn't be able to eat breakfast anyway. He called out a "See you later" to his mom, ignoring his mom yelling out a "When will you be back?". Taking another deep breath he went out of the front door and simply hoped for the best.

35

None of Neil's friend from preschool would be in his class. But more than the new people he'd meet, he was scared of how things would work: he'd heard about things like homework, he'd seen pupils sit in classrooms and raise their hands to answer questions on TV, but he didn't know how it would all come together. And Neil didn't like not understanding something.

So he decided, two days before his parents would drive him to school the first time, to scout it out. It was easy to steal away on his little bicycle when his mother was working in her office. He knew the way to the school; it wasn't far, and they'd often walked past it. But as he left his bicycle leaning against the fence, the hole in his plan became clear: there was no one there. No school – obviously, it was still holidays. Well, he thought, at least he could scout out the building.

He found a hole in the fence, hidden behind some bushes. As he went from building to building, exploring and trying the locked doors, suddenly he heard a large branch crack. He jumped, suddenly scared. Scanning in the direction the sound came from, he spotted the intruder: Her eyes met his and she stood up. Another child, maybe his age. She was staring him down defiantly.

"What are you doing here?", she challenged.

"I... wanted to see what the school was like", Neil answered, cocking his head to the side. "And you?"

A bright smile flashed on her face. "Oh? Me too!"

36

Trevor, however, was not nervous at all when his first day at school finally came. His entire life of 6 years at the time, he had been dreaming of going to school, learning about things like building rockets, dissecting animals, he had seen it all on tv.

And when he first entered the class room, all expectations went out the window. All kids were madly running around the room, spilling apple juice all over the place, exchanging stickers like cavemen, rocking in their chairs, screaming in what looked like enjoyment but felt like complete madness to Trevor. He had expected civilized peers, thirsty for knowledge, just like he was. But instead, he was presented with lunatics who did not even seem to care for hygiene, judging from chocolate ice cream residue on faces and grass stains on jeans. It was NOW that all of a sudden, Trevor felt nervous. How could he fit in with these people? He was so much brighter and more civilized than all of these kids would ever be. He took a deep breath. Slowly he took a step backwards and without attracting anyone's attention, he left the class room.

"Buffoons...", he mumbled. And then he went home.

37

And so was Jacob. He hadn't barely slept the night before this first day at his new school, he had not been able to eat for two whole days. Having had two cups of black coffee the morning before school had not really helped. In addition to being terribly tired, the caffeine made his fingers tremble and his knees weak. What would his new classmates say, how would they react the moment he would enter the classroom? Would they tease him? What would they call him? But whatever their reactions, this time he had to make it work! It was his tenth, no, his eleventh attempt at finally getting his Abitur, and this time he would walk out at the end of the term with his fingers forming the victory sign.

"Come on, man, courage just get it started," he said to his 65 year old self in the mirror and left the house.

38

W

hen Bel woke up this morning, she knew she had to be on time. Today was her first day at highschool and she was really exited but also very nervous. A new town, a new location and all these new people, who could become her friends. She missed her old friends back in California. Hopefully she will fit in. But back to the present moment, Bel had to check if her back was ready and not worry to much about what was going to happen today, just let everything come to her...

39

W

ell then," Teddy stuttered, "this is gonna be amazing." He added, "I guess." Sometimes things are happening for a particular reason and perhaps this could be an ultimate chance for a new beginning, even though it takes place around 3000 miles away from everything that he knew. Ted Myers and his family moved to San Francisco a couple of weeks ago. Certainly this humongous change of circumstances would not have any effects on the boy who was barely 16 years-old, those words actually came ot of his parents mouth. Lately he felt really bad about the way he treated them during the last months. He basically was afraid of moving to a strange place and just needed someone to suffer from his bad conscience. He knew that he would someday apologize but first the experience of going to school in San Fancisco would have priority.

On his way to the bus station he was wondering if somebody would notice about his Floridian origin, he would try to hide his southern accent but is this even possible?

40

On their first day at school, a pupil is usually very nervous but Elaine skips steps and smiles indifferent to the change of environment a new school entails. Gaze at the sun, dripping untouchable gold onto this tiny world, brings with it the squeals of summer time and students boasting and laughing. On a bench warmed to a degree worth roasting on, Elaine shuffles cards, their fronts painted with figures of ancient histories. Different corners provide different pictures, so does one side cascade into a waterfall made of crystal and molten words, but the other turns it into an icy stasis, letting it freeze within the confines of the paper.

One card glimmers mischievously, the image of a school and the fountain sprinkling crystal clear life bubbling to the floor. The same school with the same yard she currently rests in. Elaine delights in the contents of her game, shuffling and pulling different cards, letting them tell her the fates written in the stars. She does not feel nervous, for all that shall happen has been offered as divine knowledge to her through the cards, every step calculated, all faces and all speeches. There is no sound which makes her flinch, and no reaction surprises her out of her wits. Virtually impossible to disrupt the curtain of serenity and protection, every name and every mind known to her, she stares down a single person she has not seen in her visions.

41

Alec just moved to the small town of Mainhaven with his family a week ago, just one week before the new school year started. Now, a week later, he is standing in front of the gates to his new school, his mom who had just dropped him off already off to her own new place of occupation. Nervously he takes a deep breath and makes his way through the large gates of the school. He doesn't remember the last time he was this nervous about anything. But of course he is nervous, this is his first day at a new school after all. He is not familiar with his new surroundings and already fears getting lost in the winding corridors of the large building. He does not know any of the hundreds of children running through the halls, shouting and laughing with their friends. He does not know any of his teachers and how they treat their students. How formally should he speak with each professor? Do all of the expect to be addressed as Mr or Mrs? Or do some of them go by their first names, as in his old school?

There's only one way to find out.

42

The hallways were buzzing with other students, laughing, screaming, and gossiping. Walking through that chaos on my first day here was overwhelming, to say the least. Thankfully, though, nobody paid me any mind as I fought my way through the masses of teenagers while trying to calm my nerves.

Eventually, after getting lost a few times, I was standing in front of my classroom, but just to my luck, it had been locked. Sighing, I sat down on the ground next to it. My pulse was high, my fingers were fidgety, and I felt incredibly watched. That was until a pair of shoes stopped in front of mine.

“Hey! You must be the new guy, right?” I looked up to see the smiling face of a boy, not much older than me.

“Y-yeah. I’m Tim”, I answered timidly, watching the stranger’s smile grow.

“Well, I’m Alexander, but my friends call me Alex. Why are you sitting on the ground? It’ll still be a while until Mrs. Johnson unlocks it again. Come on, I’ll show you around!”

His hand reached for mine, pulling me up. Maybe this first day won’t be that horrible after all ...

43

The classroom was loud and noisy, but the teacher looked nice. Yes, really nice, she thought. She looked around and tried to see if others would notice her nervousness. Was she the only nervous one? She hoped not. The boy to her left looked kind.

“Hello.” she said to him with a timid voice. He turned to her. His eyes were a greyish blue and his dark hair looked tousled.

“Hey! I’m Jude! And you are...?”

“Mabel.” His huge grin helped ease her nervousnes. Maybe this day wouldn’t be so bad after all.

44

Sara recently moved from Hamburg to Berlin. She has her first day at her new school today and is excited and nervous at the same time. She is usually very open minded and has no problems getting in touch with new people. But today she seems to be a little bit afraid, that she might won't find new friends. So her partens drive her to school to give her emotional support til they reach the parking sports in fornt of the school's building.

They arrive, Sara steps out of the car and takes little steps towards the school. A lot of thoughts rushin through her head and her breath gets more heavy. As she reaches the door, another girl tips on her shoulder. She say:

"Hi, I'm Lisa. I'm new here, would you mind showing me the school?"

Sara answers: "Oh Sorry, I'm new here too."

Lisa adds: "Oh my bad, I didn't know that. But anyways, would you like to spend the first day together so we aren't alone at our first day?"

And Sara nods excited and says: "Yes for sure, I was afraid for this day, but it's cool we met so my worries got away quickly."

And so their friendships started from this day on.

45

Even more so when they are new in town. The weird curious side glances, hushed whispers, and various rumors accompanied by mocking giggles would make anybody uneasy.

But not Phoebe. This is nothing new to her, in fact, it feels more normal than anything else. With her father working in the military and moving from base to base, and her mother being the lovely devoted wife that she is, Phoebe started each of her school years in a different town and school.

She never complained about it, any of it. Because the first time she cried to her mother about how cruel the kids at St. Jude's were in 4th grade, and how she wanted to move back 'home', her mother frowned at her with a disappointed look and just said: "We have to think about Daddy's career, dear. And you're a big girl now, you can handle it".

So she did handle it, better than she expected herself. Because she knows, once the clock strikes 12 on midnight of her 18th birthday, the horror would be over and she'd never have to handle it again.

46

A

t her first day at school Jane arrives very early. She is very excited. What a day! Her parents accompanaing her toghether with her older brother. He looks very cool, because he already is a pupil.

Jane meets her her girl friend Sarah. Both are best friends from her time in Kindergarten. Both are looking very elegant. Jane shows Sarah her new shoes, Sarah shows Jane her new dress.

Detailed results for chi-squared tests

Distribution following the generic masculine:

```
table(d[d$pronoun == "his", ]$charGender)

## female    male
##      5     22

chisq.test(table(d[d$pronoun == "his", ]$charGender))

##  Chi-squared test for given probabilities
##
## data:  table(d[d$pronoun == "his", ]$charGender)
## X-squared = 10.704, df = 1, p-value = 0.001069
```

Distribution between generic masculine and singular *they*:

```
table(d$charGender, d$pronoun)

##           his  their
##  female     5     10
##  male      22      9

chisq.test(d$charGender, d$pronoun)

##  Pearson's Chi-squared test with Yates' continuity correction
##
## data:  d$charGender and d$pronoun
## X-squared = 4.4553, df = 1, p-value = 0.03479
```

Detailed results for GLM

```
glm.d.s = glm(charGender ~ pronoun +
               age +
               gender +
               Llother +
               ageEng +
               abroadDuration,
               data = d, family = binomial())

summary(glm.d.s)

## Call:
## glm(formula = charGender ~ pronoun + age + gender + Llother +
##      ageEng + abroadDuration, family = binomial(), data = d)
##
## Deviance Residuals:
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
## -1.8175  -0.9915   0.5722   0.7121   1.9647
##
## Coefficients:
##              Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
## (Intercept)    2.717149    1.773738   1.532   0.1256
## pronountheir  -1.448376    0.725573  -1.996   0.0459 *
## age          -0.061039    0.046952  -1.300   0.1936
## gendermale     0.339448    1.007669   0.337   0.7362
## Llotheryes     0.069654    0.951705   0.073   0.9417
## ageEng         0.006449    0.165027   0.039   0.9688
## abroadDuration 0.053033    0.053816   0.985   0.3244
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## (Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)
##
##      Null deviance: 57.286  on 44  degrees of freedom
## Residual deviance: 47.613  on 38  degrees of freedom
## (1 Beobachtung als fehlend gelöscht)
## AIC: 61.613
##
## Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 5
```

For more materials, go to:

