Hidden

By Victoria George

“She has to be in here! Why can’t I find her? Maybe she looks different now. UGH! oh wait here she is!”

 You must be very confused about this, let me bring you back to the beginning. It all started when I changed schools last year. My Dad had gotten a new job in Washington which was a big move from Pennsylvania, but there was a bonus in it for me. This was a new school where no one knew me. I could be who ever I wanted to be. It was a breath of fresh air after a not so great year. Most kids don’t want to move but for me I could for once become popular and a jock. It was the perfect plan to change my image and to keep my secret. I hadn’t told anyone yet, and I didn’t plan on it. This was a big thing, and I didn’t want to get bullied for it. Which meant not telling anyone.

But let's go forward a couple months. I was popular, a football Jock and had great friends. It was a little hard every day having to pretend to be someone I wasn’t, but that’s what I had to do. My team had just won the game of the season, and gone back to the locker room.

“Hey guys did you see the cheerleaders out there tonight?” That was my friend John he was always checking out the cheerleaders. In the locker room it was of course hard to talk about girls. But I did it.

“Yea man they were looking good out there.” I never knew exactly how to talk like them sometimes but as time went on it became easier.

“Hey Luke,” (that’s me) “I heard the dance girls get out at this time… and you still have no girl. You want to come with and check them out?”John was always trying to get me to date someone.

“Um sure, I guess I could go” I replied hesitantly. So we went down to the other side of the arts wing to the dance studio. When we got there all of the ballerinas were walking out in there tutu’s and pointe shoes. They were all giggly whispering to each other as they stared back at us. I always liked dance, but that didn’t match my image I have created for myself.

“Hey man we should get you a girlfriend. But we will get you a cheerleader, not one of these dancers.” Could Jack be any more obsessed with girls? I went along with him anyway.

“Yea man.” I agreed But didn't really know how to pretend that I was interested in that. “Hey, I have to head out. My family is forcing me to go to dinner with them... so... gotta run.” Of course this wasn’t entirely true. I just wanted to get home and do some thinking.

This is where I was before… “She has to be in here! Why can’t I find her? Maybe she looks different now. UGH! Oh wait; here she is!” I had been searching through the year book for a half hour trying to find that girl we saw. I figured that at this point I should get a girlfriend. It was all part of the plan I had made before I moved. The first step was to tell the principal that I was interested in football, so she would introduce to the team. The second step was to get onto the team and start hanging out with them. The third step was to become a starter, so I would be well known around the school as the new kid that was awesome at football. Luckily for me I can pick up things quickly, so I asked my dad to teach me football. Fourth step was to get a girlfriend to keep my cover. I was now at the fourth step, Which meant finding a girlfriend, and I had chosen my girl **:** Eliza Adams. I just had to come up with a plan to become her boyfriend. As you can tell I like to make plans, this just ensures that nothing will go wrong.

 “HONEY DINNER!” My mother hollard at the bottom of the stairs. Our new house was much bigger than our old one and much nicer. It even had one of those things that are in the walls so you can talk from room to room. Mom didn’t want our new amount of wealth to change our lives, so she didn’t use it. Dinner was always nice for the most part.

 “Nice job tonight son. You have been playing so good it makes me wonder why we didn't sign you up when you were little.” My Dad liked to talk to me about sports and things like that, since that was the first time I was into that kind of thing. He was so proud of me being a starter.

“Hey Luke! Who were those girls you and John were staring at after your game?” My little sister morgan asked. She always liked to bring up things that she knew would bug me. I had forgotten that she had dance class after them. Which means she was probably watching me.

“Could we not talk about that Morgan”, I replied hastily.

“No, Luke it’s ok you don’t need to feel uncomfortable. I think it is about time you started dating a girl”, My dad put in. My parents were always saying to me how I should get a girlfriend. The thing was, they never even thought about me dating a boy. That is why I decided to keep it a secret. I just didn’t think that they would accept it.

 After the awkward dinner, I went back to my room and planned more. I spent a lot of time in my room since that was where I felt most comfortable. It was where I did all my thinking.

 “Hey ,who is that guy staring at us?” This was the first time I had seen Luke up close. “That’s the new guy,he is a starting football player.” I always asked my friend Lindsey who people were. She knew everything that went on in the school. She had to since she wrote the gossip column for the paper.

“I wish someone like that would actually talk to us”, I replied “

What do you mean?”, Lindsey asked.

“Well when do you ever see the football players talking to people that are not either Jocks or cheerleaders”, I added.

“I guess you have a point”,Lindsey replied sadly.

When I went home that day I wrote in my journal about how different life would be if Jocks talked to everyone and there were no cliques at all. How different the worlds would be if we all acted how we really felt. If there were no labels at all. That night I saw a shooting star and wished that my story would come true. I wondered how many other people in the world felt the same way, and how many people thought nothing about it. Why had we come up with these labels in the first place were they to make some people feel better about themselves and to tear others down ? I also wondered who decided to bring others down just boost their self esteem up even higher. Could someone be so self involved? This made me feel empowered to change this problem. I knew it would take time but I was up for the challenge.

 That next day I decided to go up to her. I had it all planned out in my notebook and in my head. I would approach her after school at the west wing exit. I would tell her that I was having a party and she should come by with her friends if she wanted to. Then I would talk a little and let her wonder why I would invite her. That was exactly what I did. It was very well researched. The Only problem was getting my parents to let me have a party. I knew I could win dad over if I said it was for winning that big game. I had the party and she came, we talked a little but she had to leave early. I started to wonder if I was way over my head with all of this, I knew that there was no going back now.

It's almost like my wish on the star was really coming true. One of the football players that was staring at me and my friend the day before asked me to go to his house for some party! It wasn't really my thing, but I needed to try to get out there.

“Hey you came!” Luke yelled as he walked toward me.

 “Yea, and I brought my best friend Lyndsey,” I replied. I had never been to a party like this before and didn't know what to do. I felt really out of place. There was one thing going through my mind the whole time I was there: I didn't know why he thought to invite me. But I knew I couldn’t judge Luke right off the bat just because he was a football player, so I decided to look into it more.

 I thought that maybe I would talk to Luke more and try to get to know him better.

“HEY LUKE! Come over here,” I hollard across the halls like I had never done before.

“Hey! What’s up Eliza?,” He replied like it wasn’t a big deal that I just yelled extremely loud over the crowd in the hallway just to get him over here.

“Um do you want to hang out later tonight?,” I asked kind of hesitantly. This was a big deal to me. I never put myself out there at school.

“Well actually I can’t hangout tonight because I failed a test and have to retake it. So I have to study like crazy just to make sure I can play in the next game.” That made me upset, so i had to come up with a plan quickly.

“It’s a math test, why?,” he replied like it was crazy for me to ask him about it.

“Well maybe I can help you. If you want of course,” *I* Responded.

“That would be amazing! Come to my house at 5:30 and you can have dinner with us then we can get to work.” All I could think about was if this was a good thing or a bad thing. On one hand it was exciting to be invited. But on the other hand he is popular and is totally different from me. We live on two different planets.

 “Lyndsey! Guess what just happened to me!,” I screamed into the phone.

“Eliza, it’s 12:30 nothing could have just happened to you,” Lyndsey complained.

“Yes, but it happened after school, and I thought I wasn’t going to tell anyone

but I really want to know.” I didn’t know if I was going to tell Lyndsey because she was the

gossip queen but I had to she is my best friend.

 “Okay what was it? Oh and please make it quick, I’m tired.” Lyndsey didn’t like to stay up late. Neither did I but I woke up and knew I had to tell her…

 Knock! Knock!

“I’ll get it!” Morgan yelled racing to the door. The worst thing I did was tell her ahead of time that Eliza was coming.

“MORGAN! Let me get it please.” I screamed from upstairs.

 When I drove up to his house I was amazed. Who would have thought there were such big houses in our town. I had never been down his road before that day. It was full of huge house. When I approached the door I heard a little girl yelling and we I thought was Luke.

 Before I could get down the stairs Morgan was there.

“Hi! You must be Eliza. My name is Morgan.” Whenever Morgan met new people she would talk like a sweet little girl.

 “Hi morgan, you look familiar. Do you take dance class at the studio in school?” Eliza looked like she had talked to little kids all the time, and she was very nice to Morgan.

“Yes, I see you dancing and wish I could be like you,” Morgan added in her sweet voice.

“Hey,” I said walking up to Eliza

 “How about we all go to the table; I think dinner is ready.” So far in the night, everything looked like it was going fine.

 As we walked to the table I noticed there were a lot of expensive things all over; trinkets, paintings, sculptures; I even saw a fountain. My house was nice but not this nice. I wished my house was like this but with it just being me and my Dad it was a little hard getting him to agree with design things. Anyway, when we sat down at the table it looked like they were just an average family.

“You were not waiting on me were you?,” I Asked, concerned since everything was already laid out.

“No, of course not. It’s so nice of you to be concerned about us,” Luke's Dad answered. Then I saw him kind of wink at Luke. This made me feel better because I thought maybe Luke was nervous too.

 After having to suffer through an awkward dinner with my family, We went to the den to study. After that night I realized that Eliza was really outgoing and funny when you get to know her. After thinking about it for a while, I realized she was like me and acts differently around people at school.

 I never knew someone that was so different after spending time with them. Once Luke let his guard down, he wasn’t just some annoying jock. He was a real person that cared about things other than sports. He really wanted that good grade on his math test. Usually I didn't act myself around people from school.

 After that we hung out a lot more, at his house, at my house, at the library, the frozen yogurt store, and at the park . One thing I realized was that whenever Luke was with his friends he didn’t speak to me as much or even talk to me as much. When he wasn’t around his friends we really understood each other and were similar. But the moment the team came around Luke was different. Which made it look as that I was just desperate. Whenever I would try to talk to him in the halls he wouldn’t say much back. Which also made my friends not believe that we were close friends. It was like my school life, that was already different from home, was getting even more different.

“Luke!,” Eliza called down the hall for me.

“Hey look Luke it’s your little stalker girl,” all the guys murmured laughing. *“Could all football player make their way to the gym for a brief meeting.*

*Thank you.”* I was literally saved by the bell, more like the secretary's

announcement but what ever.

“I’ll meet you guys there, I have to put my books away,” I yelled down the

hallway as I walked toward my locker where Eliza was standing.

“Hey!”

“Hi, don’t you have to get to some meeting?”

“It can wait a couple of minutes.”

“But I don’t want to be the reason coach gets mad at you.”

“Don’t worry about it. Do you want to go to the library to hang out for a few?:”

“Can’t, I have class.”

“But it’s study block, how could you have class?”

“I’m taking an online French class.”

“Do you ever think you take too many classes. Also aren't you taking a spanish class?”

“Yes I am talking Spanish but It’s important to know many languages. I’ve gotta go, sorry I’m going to be late!”

“Will you meet me for frozen yogurt after school?”

“Sure, see you later,” Eliza yelled running down the hallway toward the media center.

“Hey Lyndsey guess who is going for frozen yogurt with Luke after schoo,!” I whispered into her ear in French.

“Eliza there is no way. I can clearly see he doesn’t like you. I mean look how he ignores you in the halls, just saying,” Lyndsey Said loud and clear with a snarky tone. There was only one other kid in the media center , but I still felt embarrassed. I could also understand why she didn’t think I could have a guy that likes me. It really made me question how good of a friend she was. But I didn't say anything because she was one of the only friends I had, considering I wasn’t exactly out there at my school.

 “I’m starting to think we come here to often.” Eliza said walking toward me from the counter.

 “Why so you say that”

 “I think it’s a little much when the cashier knows your name.”

The conversation went one for a little bit after that...

:”You know I’ve never had a girlfriend before you.”

“Wait, we are dating!?”

“Well I thought so. Was I mistaken?”

“No, NO, I guess I just hadn't put a label on it yet. But I’m good with this.”

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| Lyndsey | Eliza |



“Hey look at this!

“What lyndsey gossip column? I rather not, we are not in each other's worlds anymore.”

“Eliza just look at it. She added a new section to it.”

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| **This Week's Gossip Column****By**- Lyndsey Jones |

* I heard that Mr.Davidson might be fired for not teaching correctly. Why is the school board trying to get rid of the funniest teacher?!
* Could the school get anymore cheep! From my understanding they are getting rid of all janitors to save a buck.
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| The newest couples |

The newest couple of the school is a big surprise to all: ELiza Adams and Luke Collins. Who would think a shy little ballerina and the new starter on the football team would get together. In my opinion it won’t last but who am I to comment on this. Oh wait I’m the gossip column my job is to comment on this. |

“How could she say that!,” I raged while stomping over to her.

“Hey man what’s up with the gossip girl column lying about you dating that stalker dancer girl?,.” All my friends questioned.

“Well actually I have been seeing he,.” I commented hesitantly.

“No man you can’t that is social suicide. You can not date her.”

“I don’t have to listen to you guys, I can do what I want.” I had never stood up to a jock before that time, but it felt good.

“But you are part of this team and you are suppose to listen to us we are one big unit we don’t make any decisions that will hurt the other part of the group.” I couldn’t believe my “bestfriend” was telling me I had to run my life decisions by the team.

“Are you serious! YOu don’t run my life.”

“You know what man It’s all good I don’t want you to be upset just forget about it and focus on the game.”

“Hey how was your day?” I wondered hoping something could make me feel better.

“I got into a fight with my teammates, and it ended really weirdly.

“How did it end?,” I asked, intrigued.

“Well we were arguing and then John just stopped it because “he didn want me to be mad”. But I think itś just because we have a game later, and he wants to win.”

“Oh well I’m sorry about that, my day wasn’t too good either.” We talked for a while then left since it was getting late, and I had homework. The whole time I was doing my homework all I could think about was why Luke was so different around me then he acts around his friends. I knew it wasn't just a guy thing, I could tell it was deeper than that. But I didn’t know at all what he was hiding. I was now determined to find out.

 I often wondered if I would have to live my whole life as someone else. I also wondered if I were to come out how it would happen and what the effect would be. This was always a scary, and it’s but a frequent one too.

 *Ring Ring Ring* “Oh come on Luke; pick up your phone.” I understood it was a saturday morning and he slept in but it was 12::30 how late could he sleep?!

“Hello?”Luke finally answered but sounded half asleep.

“Hi, what are you doing today? Because there is something I want to talk to you about so I was wondering if we could meet up.” I wanted to talk to him about why he was so different and open when we weren't at school, and why he was totally different when we were at school. “ I’m free today. Want to meet up at the park?” We often met at the park or at frutti Tutu the frozen yogurt shop. “That would be nice see you at 2:00. Bye”

 I wondered what she needed to talk about. I had no clue what it was but I hoped she wasn’t breaking up with me. If she broke up with me my plan would have failed.

 “OVER HERE!” I yelled across the field.

“Coming!” This was my chance to figure out why he was so different from home to school.

“So what did you need to talk to me about?” He asked intrigued.

“Well, I have an observation i would like to share with you. So here it goes.” I decided to just be very straight forward just to get it over and done with. Also I didn’t know how to be cool about it. “I have noticed that when you are at school you act very different from when you are out of school. I have looked very deeply into this and have concluded that you are hiding something, and as your girlfriend I would like to know what it is.”

I took a very deep breath to process what Eliza had just told me. It was mind boggling since I thought my plan was perfect and It would never come to this. I knew I had to tell her; if I lied she would be able to tell.

“Okay this is huge and has never been told before. Before I tell you I would like to apologize in advanced. Also please try to think about the situation in my point of view.” I was trying to break it to her easily. ““Alright this is it…” I told her everything from why I kept the secret to my plans on keeping it. After she got mad.

 After hearing he had been lying to me and why he would drag me along in this relationship thinking that he liked me the way I liked him but in reality he didn’t feel the same way at all. I told him that in rage, then before he could answer Iran away crying. I was upset and angry at the same time. I couldn’t even listen to him anymore. So i ran to my car and drove away crying.

 I was so angry at him I did something I regret for a lifetime. I called up my ex-best-friend, Lynsey, and told her I had a cover worthy story...

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| **Breaking news in the gossip world****By- Lyndsey Jones** |
| As we all know from my last paper there is a new couple in the school.(Or should I say “was”). My inside source tells me the break up occurred because Luke acted different at school than he did at home. Eliza got suspicious and questioned it. come to find out Luke has been hiding behind an act; he is actually gay and didn’t play football before he came to. The luke the whole school knew is actually a fraud. |

I had basically just made Luke's life miserable. I was the inside source that gave the information to the news article that started all of Luke’s bullying. But at the time I was just in rage. I was so mad that he strung me along in his little plan to keep his secret.

 I couldn’t believe that she did that. I thought that Eliza was different, but I guess not. I thought I could trust her, and look where that got me.

 Eventually the bullying got bad. Luke was non-stop bullied by the football team. I knew that I had to do something, but I didn’t know how. I usually was just in the background. That was where that ended. I couldn’t watch him get pushed around and hurt emotionally and physically. At that point I didn’t care about what he did to me. I just wanted to help him.

 “Hey Luke, you like that one?” Luke's ex best friend yelled down the hall pointing at some guy walking to class.

“Could you just leave me alone?!” I could tell Luke was feeling helpless and enraged . What bugged me most about the bullying was that the teachers saw it happening and did nothing about it. Well, of course, except for Mr.Tinsel. He stood up for Luke ,but he couldn’t do everything. After waiting a few seconds, John walked up to Luke and stood very close to him.

“What did you say?! Are you actually talking back to me?” I couldn’t watch this go one anymore.

“Stop it! You don’t need to judge him and make fun of him just because he isn’t as girl obsessed as you are. Oh and you know what, it’s people like you that I hate because they feel so smug just because they have the label of “Jock“and make other people feel bad just because they aren't exactly like you and all your friends. So just leave him alone! Okay?!” Maybe I had said a little too much but I was really angry at the time.

“Oh look it’s your little cover up story.” I couldn’t believe how John was acting.

“I’d rather be his cover up story than watch him go through this.” Mr tinsley walked out at that time and stopped it. I hated how john would stop if a teacher told him to, but not if a classmate did. After that day I looked more into bullying. After researching I brought it to Luke, to share it with him.

We realized the more I reacted the more they kept going. It was like I feeding the fire that was burning me down. I also realized that the bullying felt worse just because of the pier fact that i was embarrassed. But with Eiza (my new best friend) by my side I didn’t feel as embarrassed. I didn’t have to worry about what everyone else thought of me. I was only what I thought about me. Of course having a friend by my side made it better though. Don’t worry I didn’t just let them keep bullying me. I found a way to get rid of that. I decided to by what i called bully watchers (Which were cameras around the school). this made it so the principle could see and hear what was going on in the halls so she could see if someone was getting bullied. If someone was to bully a kid they got serious consequences.