

Let Nothing Get In your Way

Mia M.

I am always alone. Some people aren't even given a chance, like me. I am blind. Everyone looks away from me. Some because they're sorry, others act like I have the Black Plague. I'm not accepted. It's that simple. I can find the problem. I just can't fix it.



Sometimes people yell names at me. My mother always says "Let nothing get in your way." But...

Sometimes I do.



It's embarrassing because my parents can't afford all the high tech stuff for the blind. And they only want me to go to the public school nearby... so I have to order all of my books in Braille... and get weird tutors and those kinds of things.

The closest "friend" I have is Pancake. He's a dog, my guide dog.



He's the only animal allowed on campus.

Because I can't see... I'm really clumsy and I'm always covered in bruises and scrapes.



And I'm always startled by sudden movements.



What the heck was that?!?

Until one day...
I was alone in the hall
and suddenly I heard
chaos...

come back here
or I'll get you.

stop!



I didn't know what
was going on...



I spoke in the scariest voice
I could manage.

"Oh God, we're
caught!" yelled about
three people. But
I sensed someone
in the corner
of the hall



Of course I
couldn't see ... so
Pancake led
me towards the
noise.

It was a person! "Do
you need help?" I
nearly screamed. "Yes,"
said a small masculine
voice. So I made my
way to the nurse
and guided her
back to him.

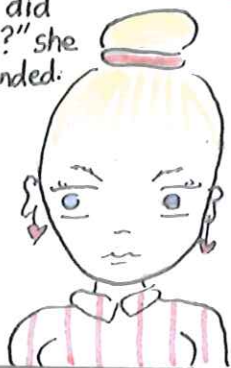
She gasped at
the
sight.



"That student is deaf!"
She yelled.



"Who did
this?" she
demanded.



"I didn't
see," I replied.
Sudden sympathy
crossed her face
as she asked
me to walk
him home
today. I
agreed.

"DEAF?"

I thought.
I was so anxious to
meet him.

Finally last period
came and I
walked to
the office.

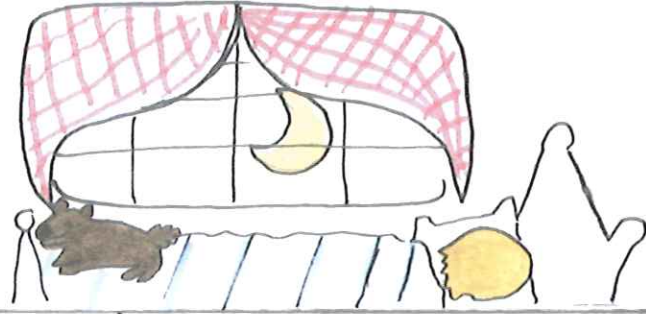


We walked home. It
was nice ... to be with
someone. We talked about
being blind and deaf.
I always had to yell
right into his ear. He
told me his favorite
class was P.E.

"Why?" I asked.
"Cause' I can hear the coach yell!" I laughed!



Once I was home, I went to bed.
Wow! I couldn't believe it!



The next day I found him.



I didn't use Pancake much. My new friend guided me everywhere I needed to go.

It was nice to have someone who...



understood, for once.

Days molded into weeks... weeks molded into months and we began to know more and more about each other. Life went by so fast, it was like a roller coaster! We were always side by side.

But then one day I was sick, so he walked home by himself.



When he crossed the road, he didn't hear the car coming...



I got a phone call right away. I broke down.



Five months passed... no sign of him. And I was alone again.
Alone.

But one day he came to school - in a wheelchair. He told me he could never walk again.

I almost started to cry but then I remembered what my mom told me: "Let nothing get in your way."

And we never did.

