

Chapter One: Me



I'll just straight up tell you: I'm not popular and I never will be. Picture this: a small girl about nine years old with braces, glasses, and frizzy hair. Cute, right? No. This girl is me, well *was* me.

I got bullied a lot in elementary school, so my mom decided to homeschool me. I'm sure you can figure out why I got bullied for yourself. It's been six long years and I'm still being homeschooled – without the braces, glasses, and frizzy hair. Mom says I'm “not ready to go to real school,” but my dad doesn't care whether I'm homeschooled or not. I don't know if I'm really ready or not. I guess I don't really care.

In elementary school, I was pretty reserved and quiet. However, with my friends I was a different person. I was lively and actually talked to them. I used to be super good about keeping in touch with them after I left school, but I haven't talked to my friends in years. I have no idea what they doing right now. They could have moved countries and I would have no clue.

Oh shoot – you have no idea who I am. My name is Elsie Elizabeth Gray. I'm fifteen years old and live in Landon, Massachusetts. I have straight blonde hair (the frizzy-ness calmed down), blue eyes, and I'm still short and small. My cat, Daniels, means more to me than my parents. I don't really talk to them and they don't really talk to me. It's always been this way. I love them and all – but we just don't get involved with one another's lives. ****BZZ BZZ BZZ BZZ**** Oh shoot, I'm daydreaming. Again.

I glanced down at my phone to see an unknown number. I usually don't answer these, but something just urged me to pick up the phone. “Hello?” I asked tentatively. “Elsie! It's Jenn! You do remember me, don't you?” a voice answered.

“Jenn? It's been years since we've talked! How are you?” I said, surprised. “Weeeelll, Elsie, that's actually why I called you. Can you stay on the phone? It's a long story.”

“O.K., gosh where do I start? A group of us, including myself, have gotten into a little trouble recently. The school bully, her name's Holly, has been bullying my friend group – among others – since the first day of school here. Well, a few of us saw her cheating on one of her final exams last years. we didn't know if we should tell or not, because if we did, she would be furious with us. We decided it was the right thing to do and right before finals were over, we went to the principal's office to tell her what we saw. The next thing we knew, Holly texted us all (I wonder

how she got our number, she never talked to us unless she was shooting insults at us) that she was expelled from the school and was moving to a different high school, about an hour away from ours.”

“Oh goodness! I’m so sorry Jenn, is there anything I can do?” I asked, trying to make up for all those years I should have talked to her. “Yeah, actually. My friends and I have devised the perfect plan, and we need you to make it work.”

Chapter Two: The Proposal



“Because bullies seem to be a common theme, we know that another one is just going to step right into Holly’s place and become the new queen bee. We can’t stop that from happening, but we can control who takes her place. You! It’s really a very smart plan. You will come to Landon High School this year, and take her place. Because nerds don’t associate with the popular people and vice versa, we can’t be friends. But, if you really want to make it up to me for all those years we haven’t spoken, enroll in Landon and take Holly’s spot. That way we won’t get bullied anymore! Simple, right? Elsie? Are you still here?”

“Yeah Jenn, I just can’t believe it. Why can’t you or one of your friends do it?” I replied. “Oh that’s easy!” she said, “we are happy being who we are and we are too scared to do it. I know you aren’t! you used to be so talkative and friendly.” “