

# Lila

### **Chapter 1: Never**

Lila had never fit in, she was always the odd one out, the last one picked. Never in her life had she been accepted. Never had any one asked her to play with them at recess or even tried to be her friend. Sometimes she would hear people whispering about her, saying things like, "What's wrong with her face?" They never told her those nasty comments in person but knowing that people still talked about her behind her back made it worse. No one had ever complimented her. Just saying something as simple as "I like your T-shirt," would've brightened her day.

### **Chapter 2: Family**

Her mother had never looked at her and been content or her father held her hand in public. In fact, whenever the whole family went out, they pretended not to know Lila at all. Instead, they were a family of three. Her sister was a straight A student, on the cheerleading team, and popular. In short, the perfect daughter. Lila's mother was the best surgeon at the local hospital. In her mother's eyes Lila didn't exist. She was just some animal living in the house. Something to be clothed, feed, and loved. Well, supposed to be loved. Her father was a professor at the local college and he was not around much. Sometimes if Lila stayed up late, she could hear her parents talking about how freakish she looked and how they were disappointed that she wasn't like them. She wondered why she stayed with these people, who claimed to be her parents. Why didn't she just run away? Far away? Away from her troubles and doubts? Away from the bullies and the mockery? Away from the glares and the pointing fingers attached to laughing kids? Then she remembered what her mother had told her years ago, "I clothe

and feed you, I also provide a roof over your head. I do this because I must, not because I want to." Then she had just walked out. No hug, no kiss on the forehead, not even a smile. She had just turned around and walked out of the room.

### **Chapter 3: Special**

Lila truly was special, but I mean we're all special if you really think about it. The thing was that Lila wasn't just special she was extra special. Lila was born with a skin disorder called, Vitiligo, which causes loss of skin pigment. With this disease, it made it hard to fit in with her "perfect" family. When she was little she used to wonder why people stared at her like people stare at exhibits in a museum. Instead of their eyes filling with wonder and curiosity, they filled with judgement and fright. The first time she figured out she was different was when her Pre-K teacher, Ms.Red, squealed, "Get that THING away from me!" Lila was curious why she didn't address any of the other children as "that THING", and why her parents where the only ones who didn't stay to see their child's first day of Pre-K. The more Lila thought about it, the more it made sense. Her parents were embarrassed of her. It all made sense now, the room in the attic, the no answering the phone rule, and the no standing or sitting with us in public ordeal. She was different, she was special, and in all her new classmate's eyes, she was a "freak".

### **Chapter 4: The Mistake**

Lila was sitting at the kitchen table when she heard her mother come through the door laughing. Since no one else was in the house, Lila's heart over filled with hope that her mother might finally be happy to see her. Then, just as Lila turned

the corner, she saw that her mother and sister were not excited to see her. Instead they were focused on a new puppy. Suddenly Lila broke into tears. When her mother noticed, her bright smile turned into a deep frown. All of a sudden Lila screamed at the top of her lungs, "Why don't you love me for who I am?" Her mother was shocked because Lila had never yelled at her before. With a snobby tone she replied, "You were a mistake. You were supposed to be beautiful like your sister, Abigail, but no, you're just special." After her mother had left the room, Lila ran up the stairs with her wet hands rubbing her already red eyes. When Lila made it to her room, she slammed the door not even caring that she knocked her hats off the wall. Then she jumped onto her bed and weep until there were no more tears. Then she had a thought, "I have to get out of this place, I just have to."

### **Chapter 5: The Plan**

As Lila sat on her bed waiting for dinner to be finished, an idea formed in her head. She was going to get out of this house, even if it was the last thing she did. Before dinner she filled a backpack with all the necessary things like food, water, and clothes. Just enough to get to the next town which was about twenty miles away. It was mainly a farming community, but she was convinced that she could find a family that would love her for who she was.

### **Chapter 6: The Escape**

That night after dinner, Lila wasted no time in getting to bed. She wanted to wake up at one in the morning, so that she could escape while the rest of her family slept. As she lay there in bed, she started to think more about what she was doing and began to doubt herself. She had never done anything like this before. As she

drifted off to sleep, she remembered the horrible looks her mother and father had given her over the years and became more convinced than ever. She was going to do it ... she was going to run away.