

The Change in Heart

By- Abigail R.

Dear Ryan,

I don't know how I ever found you in this high school crowd, but I knew right from the start it was true love.

No! Why do I have to love? And be so cheesy? I have had a crush on him since the 9th grade. I don't think he even likes me back. When will I find the right man to love? "This is terrible! 2 weeks 'til prom and I still don't have a date yet. Ryan is already taken and no one else is cute. Savannah do you think there is a guy out there for me?"

"Of course there is Ash," she said reassuringly.

Savannah and I have been BFFs since pre-k. We have been through everything together, braces, broken hearts, and most importantly our parents' divorce (but we won't get into that right now). All we want is someone in our lives to make us feel loved because obviously, our parents don't care. Sorry, I digress.

Ring! "Hello class, today we will be talking about the prom showcase." Mrs. Ruliford pronounced. "Awh!" the class cried in despair because she has been talking about this all week long. Everyone is pretty tired of it by now. "There are only 20 people in the show and we have one of them in our very class! As of yesterday, Miss Ashley Thomas is performing a singing piece at the showcase!" Now how was that for embarrassing, everyone was staring at me *including* Ryan! Yea, okay so I tried out for the prom showcase, but me making it was a surprise! Now the second part of my plan. Sounding AMAZING! That's right I had a plan. So that Ryan will dump Hannah and ask me to be with him forever! I know it sounds a tad itsy bitsy bit crazy but it's a work in progress.

"One day til prom!" Sav is super excited because she already has a date to the prom, Tommy Widleston. He's not as cute as Ryan but he's okay.

"It's prom!" my mom yelled from upstairs. This is it it's time to get my man. Tonight is the night. "Ashley, you're on in one minute." said the stage manager. I walked out and sang "Never Enough" from *The Greatest Showman*, and the crowd was cheering as I finished.

After the show, I saw Ryan standing with Hannah as I talked to Savannah. They seemed to be arguing, but we could only overhear bits and pieces. "Are you kidding?...so what if you like that song?... what do you mean!" Hannah was turning red. "Just cause everyone thinks she's cool now? Whatever!" Hannah was on fire and she was screaming her head off.

They parted ways, Ryan heading towards me. My plan worked! I finally got him. "Hey, Ashley you sounded great. I love that song..." Ryan smiled. "Hey, so I was

wondering if you'd want to go out sometime? Ya know, if you're free?" I opened my mouth ready to say yes, but as I was looking into his eyes I saw something that stopped me. It looked almost like...regret? Was that what Hannah had meant? Was he asking me because everyone thought I was cool now? Not because he liked me?

"Ye... um..." "The next letter is s," he told me. "Um, Sav can I talk to you for a second?" "Sure," Sav said questioningly as I pulled her to the side. "What's wrong?"

"Well um, I don't know. Is this right? Maybe he's not the one. I look into his eyes and see regret. Almost like he regretted breaking up with Hannah. I'm gonna say no."

"What!" Sav yelled. "Yes, I'm going to do it. I only need my best friend in the whole world to make me happy." I walked back over to where he was standing.

"Hey, Ryan. I'm sorry but I'm going to have to say no." I pronounced. "What!?!?" Ryan cried.

I don't need a man I am totally fine with being single. I actually kind of enjoy it! I'm a free woman. And Ryan was not very nice anyway. I should date a man for his personality, not his charming looks.