

Kayla L.

Summer on the Prairie

It was literally the worst day of my life. I woke up in the seat of my dad's rusty van and heard my parents listening to the radio. I slowly got up so my parents couldn't hear me and took a peek at the back. There were suitcases, coolers, and bags of food. Just as I was about to turn back, I tripped over my backpack. "Annabeth, are you awake?" asked my dad. "Yes", I replied "Are we going on vacation?". "Nope, it's something even better." said dad. Suddenly it hit me, we were moving! I got so overwhelmed that I had the urge to jump out of the car and run back home. After about 17 hours of anxiety and twisting my hair around, we finally made it to our new home.

I looked outside, and all I saw was our new house, a water pump, and a strange shed that smelled horrible. We took our belongings to the front porch, and opened the door. This was nothing like home at all! It had no AC, no TV, and no internet. We checked upstairs and there was no toilet either! I saw a flicker of irritation come across my mother's face but she quickly hid it. "We'll have to use the outhouse then." said mom. But before I could ask anything, mom and dad were joking about when they were younger. I waited until they were done, and made my sour expression. "Well aren't you going to explain?" I asked. "Honey, we are going to stay here only for the summer since your father's company needs him to complete the new building", said mom. The whole summer? My heart sank. What about my friends Chloe and Mia, or my journal? I threw myself on my bed, and cried myself to sleep.

The next morning, I looked at myself in the mirror to see how red and puffy my eyes were... just great, I thought. I groggily trudged to the dinner table and sat down. I waited there for more than 10 minutes, where was the food? After a few more minutes, mom came down and handed me a list without a word. It said: get eggs from chicken coop, get some carrots, and water the garden. When I arrived, I didn't notice that there was a garden, but I did what she asked. As soon as I gathered all the materials, I turned the list over, I needed to boil the carrots and fry the eggs. Soon this became a routine for me. My job was making breakfast and gardening. After that, I could pretty much do whatever I wanted. Whenever I went into the meadows, I felt so relaxed. I read on the soft grass, watched the baby deer, and picked flowers in the field. Maybe this wasn't such a bad place after all.

One day, I went out to do my chores and noticed it was preferably cool. The plants weren't drooping and the chickens weren't hiding. After I did my chores, mom appeared behind me. "Annabeth, since it's not hot today, would you like to go horseback riding at the fair with dad and me?" said mom. "I would love to!" I replied. We changed our clothes to jeans, tank tops, and sneakers. We hopped into the car, and drove past many amazing views. We saw valleys, meadows, and forests. It was a lot more peaceful than the big city

we lived in. Finally we arrived to the fair, and it looked amazing! There were games, rides, and food. We spotted a stand that sold fried butter sticks and bought a few. It tasted gooey and cheesy. We even came across a dunk-a-person game and I dunked my dad. Then we went horse riding which was the most amazing of all. I picked a white stallion named Star and climbed onto her soft back. As soon as she started to trot, I felt like I was flying. When Star started to canter fast, I heard a soft voice behind me, and I swirled around to see who it was. I saw a pretty Asian girl that had long, black hair, a friendly face, and chocolate brown eyes. "I love your shoes", she said. "Thanks", I replied. "What's your name?" I asked. "Lori", she said. We rode our horses together and talked about our favorite things to do. Lori and I had a lot in common. She had moved here, she used to live in a city, and she loves horses. After we rode the horses, we walked around and ate snow cones together while our parents were chatting. "Lori, do you want to be my friend?" I asked. "Of course!" she exclaimed.

Since then, we became best friends and hung out until I left for home. Before I left, we hugged and gave our phone numbers to each other, so we could call every weekend. When I got into the car, I glanced back and realized that the best thing could start with the worst.