

The Secrets of the Galaxy

Student: Kaylee M.

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Have you ever felt different from everyone else? Well, Aniya sure has. Aniya is an only child and lives with her father. Her mother died when she was three years old, so she only vaguely remembers her.

When Aniya walked into the kitchen Monday morning, she was a little nervous. It was her first day at a new high school and she wanted to make a good impression. "I'm ready Papa" she yelled, but there wasn't a reply. She went through the creaky floorboards into her father's room, but he wasn't there. She searched the entire house, but he was nowhere to be seen. Aniya was worried because her papa had the bus pass. Now she would have to walk for 20 minutes alone. This was not the first impression that she intended to make.

Aniya exited her house and eventually got lost in an alley, but just when she was about to feel utterly hopeless, a boy and girl approached her. They said their names were Rose and Theophilus or Theo for short. "Are you lost," Rose asked. "Yes," Aniya exclaimed. "Do you know the way to Mid-East High (MEH)?" "Of course," said Theo, "we have been going there since our freshman year." "Yeah, we know this route like the back of our hands," Rose said. As they walked to MEH together, Aniya felt this weird feeling in her stomach, and it slowly spread throughout her body. This new feeling was

hope, something she had never felt before. When they arrived at MEH the school was bigger than she could have ever imagined. She guessed Theo and Rose were used to it because they didn't say anything as they smiled and disappeared into the crowd to get to their classes. And just like that her feeling of hope slipped away and a more familiar feeling came along, fear. But little did Aniya know that this feeling of hope would keep trying until it landed in her heart forever.

First period was math and Aniya was a natural. It turns out that her dad was a great homeschool teacher and this made math class easy as pie. Hehe! Get it, $PI=3.14!$ As a result of her smarts, Mrs. Katie, the math teacher, moved her up to a more advanced class. Soon this happened with all her classes. This made teachers adore her, but it made her fellow seniors at Mid-East High jealous. The only people who still liked her were Theo and Rose. They even offered to walk her home, but Aniya denied their offer because she needed some time to think and breathe alone.

As Aniya was walking home from school that afternoon, she saw a blueish-green light in the sky. Aniya had little imagination, so she thought it was just a fancy airplane and didn't think much of it. But as it got closer, she realized it was targeting her. She broke out into a run for the forest. Aniya was fast, but what was clearly an alien mothership was faster. It quickly caught up to her and a short green blob with tentacles tied her to a chair. Aniya wasn't going to her house anymore; she was going to outer space.

When Aniya woke up, she was surrounded by beautiful stars and planets. These planets weren't anywhere near our solar system; they were planets from another galaxy that

humans haven't discovered yet and wouldn't for another 7 billion years. When the aliens on the ship realized she was awake they started pampering her like crazy. They also called her weird names such as My Lady, Our Guardian Angel, and the weirdest of all Princess Azaria of Camdenazia. Just then the same alien who captured Aniya appeared. The alien came up to her and said, "You must be wondering why we kidnapped you just to be nice" Then he told Aniya a story that she will remember for the rest of her life.

"Once upon a time there was a beautiful queen and a very handsome king and all they truly wanted was a daughter and one day their wish came true. They were so happy that they threw a party for the princess and invited the entire galaxy. They danced to the music and named the baby Princess Azaria of Camdenazia. During the party, they played the music so loud that it attracted some unwanted visitors. They attacked innocent aliens and wanted to capture the Princess. The queen and king loved her so much that they were willing to send her to Earth where she would not be captured or found. The aliens left the baby at someone's front door with a note that said please take care of her, we will be back. So, to clarify you are Princess Azaria and your biological parents are waiting for you in Camdenazia. Aniya was conflicted about rather to be happy or sad, but a smile rushed across her face anyway. Aniya once had a mom and a dad, now she will have a mom and a dad again. When they arrived in Camdenazia Aniya, or now Princess Azaria, was astonished by the beauty of her home planet. It looked like something straight out of a fairy tale. Next to a large castle stood her biological parents and her adoptive father. They were speechless and wanted to know how the last 17

years of her life had been. Azaria ignored their questions and went straight to talk to her papa. "I know I haven't been able to give you everything you deserve so I understand if you want to stay here". She replied in the best way she could think of. "Don't you understand papa you are all I will ever need, and I can't imagine my life without you in it." She wanted to make a compromise, so she suggested living with her Papa on the weekdays and with the king and queen on the weekends. This way everyone can be happy.

When she went back to school, she told Theo and Rose about what had happened. She didn't bother telling any other seniors because no one else mattered except Theo and Rose, her papa, the king and queen, and of course her adoptive mother, who has been showing her the secrets of the galaxy all along.