

Antonia D. & Venus K.

### Eighth Grade

It was the first day of 8<sup>th</sup> grade for Calvin, and him and his sister were on their way to school. Calvin couldn't believe he survived seventh grade, and that summer went by so quickly. He hoped he can get by with decent grades, new friends, and with his younger sister, Maddy one year behind him. He takes his first steps into the all-too-familiar school and sees his long-time best friend, Justin standing by the gym doors.

“What's with the haircut?”

Calvin should have known better. Justin always had the weirdest ways to try to get girls to notice him. Last year he thought the best way to get girls was by dressing up in a tuxedo. This year though, it is completely different! This year he thinks he can get a girl by a rainbow-colored Mohawk!

“This haircut's the way to get girls. Admit it or not I rock this haircut.”

“No, you really don't, to be honest with you. You need to stop lying to yourself. It looks like a deformed porcupine. You need a refund for that eyesore on your head.”

“Well it's better than what you've been doing. Everyone knows you've liked Abbie for years now and you've done absolutely nothing to get her attention. You at least need to change something up since being yourself hasn't gotten you anywhere.”

“Whatever. see you later.”

Calvin heads for homeroom. When he enters the classroom, he sees Abbie, a girl he has liked since well, the dawn of the modern era talking with the teacher. He comes up to her thinking this year she is going to be mine.

“Hey, I remember you from last year!” Abbie exclaims.

“Really? Were you even in my class last year?” he asked.

“Yeah, we had like five classes together!”

Justin walks in the room while the two are busy chatting. Calvin approaches Justin and sits next to him.

“What were you doing up there with Abbie?” Justin asks flirtatiously.

“Nothing that you need you need to know. We were just talking,” Calvin retorts.

“Oh really, because I think she was doing most of the talking.”

“Says the person whose hair looks like a box of crayons! Seriously dude, you’re not getting anyone with that mistake of a haircut! Well, there is one thing you might get. Dress coded!”

“Hey!”

When the class ends, Calvin and Justin go separate ways. As Calvin makes his way down the hallway, he sees his little sister walking towards him. Everyone and their mom knew that Calvin liked Abbie, which led to Maddy wanting to make Justin’s life miserable in every way possible.

“Hey, have you met your girlfriend yet?”, Maddy sneered.

She must think she’s hilarious . Calvin ignores her and goes to his next class. After that, Calvin and Justin make their way to lunch. Calvin is too busy searching the lunchroom for Abbie to talk to Justin. Not finding her, he gave up.

After lunch he finds Abbie when he’s walking down the hallway. She drops her stuff, so he bends over and picks it up to be a gentleman. He might have restrained himself if he knew what was coming next. Maddy and her 7<sup>th</sup> grade clique, which for some reason included Justin, started singing at the top of their lungs,

“Calvin and Abbie sitting in a tree, K-I-S-S-I-N-G!”

He had never hated his sister more than he had now. Everybody around them starts laughing while Calvin’s cheeks turn a tomato red.

Calvin bolts to his next class, English. Ms. Coburn, their teacher gives her class a welcome. “Hello students! I am your English teacher. These first few weeks we will be reading the play, Romeo and Juliet.”

Calvin gave a sideways glance to Abbie. Enough was enough. He had to impress her now.

“Has anybody ever read this play? Ms. Coburn asked.

Calvin trying to impress Abbie raised his hand. To Calvin’s luck, nobody else raised theirs. Ms. Coburn called on him and said a piece of dialogue.

“Romeo, Romeo, where art thou, Romeo?”

Calvin broke in to cold sweat and silently panicked. He had to say something, otherwise he would look like a complete idiot. He tried to wing it by saying words that he thought sounded poetic, but that utterly failed.

“Thou art thee thy love is though, Juliet.”

Ms. Coburn gave him a perplexed, almost amused look.

“Ok class, just make sure you can get your own copy by the end of the week.”

Calvin wanted to crawl into a hole and die. As soon as the bell rang, he bolted out of the class, in the process, forgetting his binder.

When he came back to get it, he found Abbie talking to the teacher. Just his luck. Abbie finishes her conversation with Mrs. Coburn and turns towards him.

“I didn’t know you were a man of literature, Calvin.”, she says impressed.

“Yup, that’s me,” he says. Mrs. Coburn gave Calvin a knowing glare. They weren’t talking but their eyes did all the communicating! Calvin desperately needed this to go well, or else his chances with Abbie were as good as Justin’s. Mrs. Coburn turned and went to do her stuff reminiscing her youth days. She had always hated theater, but she was willing to take it to get closer to a boy who she really liked.

“I was hoping you could tell me more about the story,” she continued.

“Sure, I would love to!”

“Great! So, I can come over tomorrow if that’s ok with you.”

“Yup! That is perfect. See you then.”

Abbie walks out of the class with Calvin soon following behind. When he made it out of the building, he noticed his sister wasn’t anywhere to be seen. *That’s new*, he thought to himself. It wouldn’t be for long though, as he found Maddy and Justin holding hands and “chatting.” *Wow, that haircut actually worked!* Calvin thought, amazed. Eighth grade was going to be a roller coaster...