

Georgia W.

Careless

One afternoon, Gretel was walking home after school. She made sure to keep her head low so Jean her “ex-friend” wouldn’t see her. She didn’t get her attention. She got someone worse, Lexi. Lexi flipped her long, dark braids and walked to her. Gretel watched as her shiny braces shimmered in the sun.

“Gretel,” Lexi said, glaring at her.

“Nice braces,” Gretel said.

“Are they working yet?”

Lexi’s smile quickly faded away.

Gretel kept walking keeping her head high this time.

A while later Gretel stopped at a bench to finish her sandwich. Her house was far away. Her mom can’t pick her up cause she’s way too busy. But Gretel doesn’t care. She likes walking along feeling the cool wind graze against her peachy white cheek. As Gretel arrives home, she comes to see her mom packing all her dad’s stuff. Gretel’s mom looks up, “Gretel!”

“Mom, what’s going on?”

“Oh, nothing, why don’t you go up to your room with Levi.”

“OK, but do you need help with anything?”

“No, no just go to your room.”

“OK,” Gretel said with a puzzled look on her face. Gretel slowly walked up the stairs. As she arrived at her room Levi was sobbing.

“Levi, what’s wrong?”

“Daddy is leaving!”

“Why?”

“Momma and him got in a huge fight last night.”

“What, so they’re divorcing?”

“I don’t know what that means!” Levi said, sobbing. Gretel sat down holding Levi in her lap.

“Shhh, it will be OK.”

Everything started to settle down until they heard mom yell, “Get out of my house, get out of my life, get out of my family!”

Then Levi’s crying picked up again. Gretel doesn’t know what happened that night because her and Levi fell asleep. But sooner or later Gretel woke up. It was 8:00 am. “No, I’m going to be late for school!” It only took five minutes for Gretel to get out the door. And, of course, when Gretel got to school there was Lexi waiting to bully Gretel. Gretel just kept walking. But Lexi unzipped her back pack. Everything flew out including her diary. Three hundred and sixty-six embarrassing pages of Gretel’s life.

Lexi’s mouth formed an o-shape with her evil look on her face. She ran to pick it up. As soon as she did, she started flipping through the pages until she found one titled “My Secret Crush”

Gretel 1-18-18: I like this dude named James Amerillo.

He has green glasses. I think he likes me.

Yesterday he asked me to be his partner in math.

I said yes. We had fun.

I think we got a 60 on that assignment.

That may explain why he never wanted to be my partner again.

Everyone started laughing. But James was in the front so blushed I thought he was a cherry.

Callie my friend ran up to me and hugged me. She glared at Lexi. I was crying so hard my head hurt.

“Come on, Gretel, let’s go to the bathroom and get you washed up. I hate that Lexi.”

Me and Callie arrived at the bathroom but instead of getting washed up, I threw up.

Callie ran to go get the nurse. I waited in the nurse for hours until my mom came to get me. When she finally arrived, she didn’t look mad about having to come get me. She looked happy. We drove home that day wondering is this all true or is it just life. All mom said is, “It is our life Gretel and let’s live it while we can. Those words stuck in my head that night. I ended up falling asleep. But it was weird like I kept hearing “our life.” “Live it while you can.” Of course, that changed everything, so I went on with life using that phrase. Well, I bet you can guess what happened to Gretel after that important day. She moved to Michigan. And started a company that helps kids who may not have a dad or mom. She got married and had 4 kids. Gretel does know one thing though. Even in the darkest day. No matter what happened always remember, it’s your life, take advantage of it. Just live it while you can.