

# October

I'm October. I'm an orphan. I'm twelve years old. That's all people know, they don't know that my parents died ten years ago when I was two, they don't know I saw it happen with my own two eyes, they don't know whenever I close my eyes, I see their face's, they don't know...anything.

I glance at myself quickly in the mirror. I sigh at the two big green eyes staring back at me. Everyone always says, "Oh my gosh, October you're so pretty! Your green eyes go perfectly with your red hair!" That's exactly why I don't like it. I don't want to be pretty, it attracts way too much attention, too much jealousy, too much hatred. Someone could kill you and make it look like a suicide, not caring you have a daughter who is now an orphan, the - I take a deep breath. *Relax*. I tell myself. *What happened to mom will not happen to me.* "Five minutes," announces a loudspeaker in the back of the room. I look in the mirror one more time, taking in my red hair, green eyes, and freckles and think, *will it?*

Just as I join my roommates at table five, the cafeteria doors close. The speaker booms, "You are now late. Also, Mrs. October Wildflower please report to the main office." Bewildered, I look at my friends. "Any idea why he might be calling me?" I ask. I realize Jules is missing. "Where's

Jules?" Anna, Emily, and Cammie my three-best friends in the world look at me than at each other than me again. "She got adopted." Cammie says. "Wha-" I start but then remember I should be happy for her instead. "Oh, yay," I say, trying my best to hide my sadness. "You don't have to pretend, Tobie." Anna says, "We're all sad." I know what she means. We all lost a sister of the only family we've ever known ... well at least known for 10 years.

When I get to Mr. McMartin's desk, he looks up. "There you are October." Then to a man and woman sitting on the couches he says, "This is October Wildflower." The man reaches out a hand. "Robert Sutton," he says. Not knowing what else to do, I shake it and mumble "Hi."

*Wait a minute, I think. am I getting adopted? No, no, please no., I hope. My family is HERE. I'm surprised, but I don't want to leave. Still, I don't have a choice. All I can do is watch while Mr. McMartin gives Mr. and Mrs. Sutton the forms and says, "This is your new family October."*

As I sit down in the back seat of the car, I think about how I'll never see Anna, Emily, and Cammie ever again, and the thought makes me want to throw up. "So, October." Mrs. Sutton says, "I hope you like our family, I have a girl your age, I just know you'll become good friends." Her eyes meet mine in the rear-view mirror, so I nod dumbly, "October, there's no need to be shy." Mr. Sutton's voice is loud but comforting in a way. "We care about you." I nod but, on the inside, I think, *you*

*don't even know me. If you really cared about me, why would you ever take me from my real home?*

When we stop, I look up and see a large house. Wow. I think, *it's beautiful!* When I get out, I stare at the house in awe. "This is your house?" I question. "Yup" Mr. Sutton says, "and now it's also yours." When I walk into the house, I see a large welcome sign. The house is decorated with balloons and streamers." Kendra, Leo, Macey, Aidan!" Mrs. Sutton calls. "Come meet October!" Four kids of different age's come running down the stairs. They all have the same brown hair and brown eyes as their parents. "This is Kendra" she points to the one who looks like and probably is the oldest. Then she points to a toddler at her legs, who says "Yay! Octoba!" Mrs. Sutton chuckles. "This is Leo." Then she points to a boy who looks about eight years old. "This is Aidan and next to him is Macey." Macey is most likely the one Mrs. Sutton was talking about in the car. "Well," Mr. Sutton says cheerfully "Let's go eat dinner."

At the dinner table no one talks. Mrs. Sutton tries to start a conversation many times but fails. I don't really mind because I'm too busy enjoying the food. The orphanage food was never anything fancy, just enough to get by. "Octoba" Leo says, "your mommy and daddy are dumb for leaving you." Kendra and Macey gasp, and Mrs. Sutton shoots him an alarmed look. "Leo!" She hisses. I stop eating, tears stinging my eyes. "They didn't leave me," I whisper, "They're dead." I can't handle it

anymore. I get up, knocking down my chair, and run for the door.

I lay in a hill and stare at the sky and think *why, why me?* I kick at a rock *why can't I be a normal kid with parents? Why?* I rub away the tears from my eyes then hear "October" I spin "leave me alone" I say to Macey as she comes my way "leave me alone, go back to your family. She studies me "you are my family October." She comes and lays down beside me and picks up the rock I was kicking and throws it far, for a long time we stay there staring up at the sky then she says "you're a good person, October" then she gets up and says "let's go back" she helps me up and we walk back together "maybe you are my family" I say and Macey smiles.

## Two years later

"Tobie!" I turn and see .... no, it can't be Anna, Emily and Cammie are standing two feet away "omg" I say and run to hug them "you got adopted?" I ask, they all nod "now we come to this school too" Cammie squeals! "October" Macey calls "moms here" I look at my first ever sisters "I'll see tomorrow" I say then run to Macey and Mrs. Sutton "I love you" I call back and here a muffled "love you too!"