

## Happiness lost and found

"Lily dear, wake up, time for school!" Lily's mum yelled up the stairs, her voice echoing off the walls of their tiny home. Lily tossed and turned in bed trying to ignore the terrible noise downstairs. Eventually she leapt out of bed and checked the time, 8:30am, she had to be at school in 30 minutes!

Lily tugged on clothes and sprinted out of the house without breakfast. Her heart was pounding so fast, her hair blowing in her face and her bag hitting her hip as she ran. Luckily school wasn't too far away and students from all directions entered the big hazel doors chatting and gossiping.

Breathing steadily Lily noticed her two best friends Annie and Charlotte. "Have you seen any of the new kids yet, I'm dying to meet them?" Charlotte said running her fingers through her hair and adjusting it into a ponytail. "Yeah, I saw one girl, she looked lonely with short hair and weird clothes," Annie answered.

Their school was beautiful, tall pillars stood proud, children bustled round and a peaceful atmosphere sat in the air. "We need our schedules!" Charlotte yelled running towards the hall. "I'm not in any class with you guys, I won't see you at all!" Lily shouted annoyed. She was a lot different to Annie and Charlotte, they were quiet and shy whereas she was excitable and popular, which is probably why they got on so well. "I've got Annie in most lessons!" Charlotte said excitedly. "We'll meet at lunch I guess," said Lily forlornly and waving they split into different directions.

Lily hung her head as she entered the classroom. She noticed the girl Annie had described, her outfit was a strange combination: black tracksuit, brown cowboy boots, pale blue t-shirt and a red cap facing backwards. She didn't seem to care that people were whispering and mocking her.

Bravely Lily took the seat next to her, the girl gave her a weird look and buried her face in a book. Then the door flew open

and a teacher strode in "Good morning class," she said, "welcome to English, you will be learning all sorts of things this term... " Lily didn't hear the rest as she drifted off.

Minutes passed before she awoke, everyone was hard at work. Leaning over she whispered "what are we doing?" The girl looked up before shifting her book over an inch. "Thanks," Lily said smiling. She didn't smile back.

Many lessons later Lily sprinted towards the lunch hall. Before she reached the table to meet Annie and Charlotte she noticed the girl again. "Hey," Lily said as she sat down, "how are you? What's your name?" Lily showered her with questions. "Sasha," was all she said.

Lily knew then she had to be friends with Sasha. Lily wanted everyone to be happy and cheerful and Sasha clearly wasn't. Just out of the corner of Lily's eye she noticed Charlotte watching her behind the pole, as Lily made her way towards her she ran off. Startled Lily ran after her, confused to the maximum. Did Charlotte not want Lily playing with other girls? Did Charlotte not like Sasha?

Lily wanted everyone to be happy, Sasha wasn't and now Charlotte wasn't so she had to make a choice – she chose Sasha. Lily and Sasha were in the same class for most lessons so it made perfect sense for them to become best friends. Lily forgot about Charlotte and Annie and based her whole life around Sasha.

Weeks passed and Lily spent her days trying to become Sasha's best friend with no progress. Lily would follow her round talking all the while but Sasha didn't really seem to listen or join in conversations, surely friendship shouldn't be this hard.

As Lily walked home that night she realised for the first time she felt lonely and she hadn't laughed or smiled at school for weeks. The sky was black as ink and the stars shone like diamonds in the sky, their twinkle reflecting the tears in Lily's

eyes. Wake up Lily! she yelled at herself thrusting her hands in the air.

Morning awoke, the sun shone through the window waking Lily. Dew sat on the windows dripping down slowly, birds flew past singing peacefully to themselves, their lovely sounds convincing Lily to get out of bed. She walked to school thoughtfully – she still didn't know how to solve the situation.

Then lunch came and she felt a hand on her shoulder. She was met by a cross face, belonging to Charlotte. "We need to talk, bring Sasha," she spoke her head hanging.

Walking towards the bench with Sasha, Lily noticed Annie and Charlotte chatting and smiling, she felt a huge pain like she had lost something important, she missed them. "Lily why aren't you playing with us, we see you with Sasha and it makes us upset," Annie said trying to smile but not succeeding.

Lily tried to explain how she felt before being interrupted by Sasha. "I understand why you are upset, but people are different some people don't need friends and some people do – I am happy on my own, Lily made a mistake and it's time for her to fix it."

At that moment Lily realised Sasha didn't need her to be happy but she did need Annie and Charlotte to be happy. "Charlotte, Annie I truly was trying to make everyone happy but it didn't make you or me happy. Let's rub this out and write a new story!"

Years passed and Lily left school with good grades and good friends. She had been through a lot at school but nothing was worse than what had happened 6 years ago. What she learned was there is no secret formula for happiness – it's different for everyone, and no-one can make everyone happy.