

## Hope

The school bell rang. I neatly put away my things and went to the line. I have only been here for a week, and everyone has been saying that I made their lives better. For example, take my friend Lydia. Her family was running low on money until I came to Bellwood Elementary. Ever since then her parents were able to get back on their feet.

I walk over to the field and pick a four-leaf clover. Another example of how I am 'lucky.'

Though I bring fortune and am named Hope, I am not lucky myself. A few years back I had a vocal cord paralysis. The doctors did not know why and said it could not be fixed. Since then, I have been unable to speak.

"Hey Hope!" Lydia yells behind me. "Hi" I sign. I know she can understand me because she taught herself. She is quirky like that and somehow made me want to befriend her.

I handed her the clover. "Thank you." We walk over to the bench we always sit at and watch our peers. Those kids are entertaining to us since their favorite thing to do is argue and be idiots.

Right now, Lydia's other friends; Krista, Avery, and Lucia, who only goes by Lucy, are having an argument. Krista wants to be with some other kids. "No!" Lucy yells "You are going to play with us!" Avery nods her head in agreement.

They continue to bicker until they have convinced Krista. “All right, fine, I’ll stay.” “They’ve completely manipulated her,” says Lydia. “I have had enough” I sign “We are going to go over there and stop them.” “You can’t just do that, Hope.” I grabbed her hand and dragged her to her friends. At this point, Lydia should stop being friends with Lucy if she is like this.

“Oh great,” said Lucy “It’s the freak girl. What do you want?” “I am so sick of you treating Krista like she is a slave,” Lydia said as she translated what I was signing. “Oh no, I’m good,” Krista hesitated. “Yeah, she’s better here than with those psychos,” Lucy sassed. We all stared at her irritated.

“They are actually really nice people,” said Avery. “What!? You guys are supposed to hang out with me only!” “No they don’t,” I signed “you are just a manipulative brat!” Lucy gasped in disbelief. “Excuse me, I-” Avery cut her off. “Hope has a point. My grades are going down because you make me do your homework!”

Krista then started to bawl her eyes out. “And you showed the entire class my diary once!” she yelled angrily. Lydia comforted her.

Ever since I came here people have told me how terrible of a person Lucia was. Now I realize she’s downright cruel. The two kept saying the evil things she’d done to them. I have the urge to tackle Lucy, but I resist.

“You really are a monster you-” I cut Lydia off before she could swear. Then Lucia sighed. “I’m so, so sorry for all my actions. Can we still be friends?” Avery and Krista nodded happily and went on.

Lydia and I knew that she wasn’t sorry. We ran to catch up with them. “She’s not actually sorry,” Lydia yelled, “Lucia is using you guys so she can pick on you!”

Lucia stood there silently. “I know it’s just, she’s my only friend,” Avery sighed. “Well, she is a terrible friend,” I signed. Krista refused to respond. Instead, she was blushing, in embarrassment I assumed.

“It’s just she’s so annoying and hard to get rid of,” Avery seemed to be angry at Lucia. Lucy had a shocked expression and then they both fought each other. Lydia and Krista broke them off before they could continue.

“Why are you doing this to them, Lucy?” “Because I, I um,” Lucia did not have an answer.

I hate how in school we are taught to think bullies go through hard times and that’s why bully other kids. Sure, that can be true for some people, but not everyone. When my cousin was caught bullying kids, he said it was because, in his words, “fun to watch people suffer.” His older

sister says it was because his zodiac sign is a Pisces. I don't believe in zodiacs and think it is because of his Myers Briggs Type, ENTJ.

“What if you guys go your separate ways.” This was the best solution I could think of. “You know what, fine! I don't feel like talking to you anyway.” Lucia scolded. Then she walked away to some other students. She most likely realized she had no reason to mess with her peers.

That was it; the end of a two-year problem solved in twenty minutes or less. Krista and Avery thanked me and hugged me more than I ever had in my life. I guess I really do make lives better.