

new.

written by

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EXT. THE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Hannah (15) outgoing and confident, runs out of the car and Danielle (14) Shy and timid, stuck in her sister's shadow slowly makes her way out after.

Before walking away Danielle turns to Mary (48) Caring, single mom.

MARY

Just think of this opportunity as a new beginning.

Danielle nods and slowly walks towards the school.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY

Hannah and Danielle walk though the halls looking for their first classes.

DANIELLE

I can't find room 108!

HANNAH

Just ask someone I'm sure they'll help you.

Danielle hides closer to her sister

Hannah rolls her eyes and walks up to the first person she sees.

HANNAH (CONT'D)

Hey can you tell me where room 108 is? My sister can't find it.

Danielle looks down, embarrassed

René (15) a happy and friendly girl, smiles down at Danielle

RENÉ

Of course! It's down the hall to the left.

HANNAH

Thank you. Dani what do you say.

DANIELLE

Thank you.

(turns to Hannah)

Hannah stop talking to me like that I'm not a baby.

HANNAH

Then stop acting like one. Do you want me to walk you to class

DANIELLE

No. I'm fine.

Danielle departs and walks away. Hannah and René start to walk into the same classroom.

HANNAH

Oh are you in this class too?

RENÉ

Yeah, oh your the new girl in this class that we've been told about

HANNAH

LOL yeah I guess. Is it okay if I sit next to you?

RENÉ

Of course!

The two walk in together.

INT. MRS. ANDERSON'S CLASSROOM

Danielle walks into the classroom timidly.

MRS. ANDERSON (early 60s) a bubbly and welcoming lady turns to Danielle with a smile.

MRS. ANDERSON

Oh you must be Danielle. Class please welcome the new student I've been talking to you about

The girls in the class give her dirty looks.

Danielle hesitantly sits in her seat.

JOEY (14) Jock, kind but has a reputation to keep, smiles at her. Danielle gives a shy smile back

Theresa watches them and turns around angrily

Fades to black and sound of bell rings.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE THE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

MARY

Hi girls how did it go?

HANNAH

It was great! I met a ton of friends in my class and I'm gonna try out for the volleyball team. Plus I already knew stuff that the other kids were just learning!

MARY

That's great to hear! Dannielle how did it go for you?

Danielle keeps her head down and looks out the window

HANNAH

Danielle couldn't even find her classes she just relied on me the whole time to help her.

(turns to Danielle)

Ya know you can't keep relying on me to do everything for you what's gonna happen when I graduate and your going to be here all by your-

MARY

Enough Hannah. Danielle don't listen to her just because you had a rough first day doesn't mean it's not going to get better.

Danielle looks up and gives a half smile

MARY (CONT'D)

Hey how about we go to Texas Roadhouse to celebrate you girl's first day of school

The two of them cheer and drive off.

INT. DANIELLE'S CLASSROOM

MRS. ANDERSON

And that is how you solve the first half of that quadratic function, now who can tell me the next step? Danielle do you want to take a stab at it?

DANIELLE

Oh uh I don't think I've covered
this at my old school yet.

The three girls sitting in front of her share glances with
each other

MRS. ANDERSON

That's all good but why don't you
stay after class and we can get you
caught up

The three girls nudge each other and snicker. One of the
girls, Olivia (14) entitled know-it-all shoots her hand up

THERESA

I know the next step cause I
actually came prepared to class

Olivia gestures her body towards Danielle

MRS. ANDERSON

Now Theresa, Danielle's situation
has nothing to do with how prepared
she is for class but since you're
so eager let's hear it

Theresa's voice fades out and Danielle's eyes begin to water
and her cheeks get red as she puts her head down on the desk

The bells rings and Danielle walks over to Mrs. Anderson's
desk as the other students file out of the classroom

MRS. ANDERSON (CONT'D)

Hey I know this is easier said than
done but I want you to try to
ignore those girls, everyone in
this class has been together since
kindergarten and I know it's not
easy to fit in at this school as a
new student.

DANIELLE

Thanks and yeah I'll try

MRS. ANDERSON

Good and I want you to know I'm
always here if you need anything

Danielle gives a shy smile and they continue their extra
lessons

CUT TO:

MRS. WATERSON'S CLASSROOM INT. - DAY

Students are at each other's desks talking and laughing before class begins. Danielle enters the class and passes Theresa being extra touchy while talking to Joey.

THERESA

That's what I was thinking she's quiet and awkward

JOEY

Dude come on that's not fair, she's only been here for a month give her a break

OLIVIA

Well I wouldn't want to be seen around the halls with her imagine what everyone would think

Joey looks over to his guy friends being loud and shoving each other

The bell rings and Joey returns to his seat. Danielle smiles at him but he doesn't return the smile.

Danielle looks down with a puzzled look on her face.

Mrs. Waterson (early 60s) stern, doesn't know how to have fun, enters the class stomping in.

MRS. WATERSON

Everyone sit down! Now I read your papers on the Antebellum years in America and some of you did fantastic

She looks to Theresa and Theresa smiles back

MRS. WATERSON (CONT'D)

Where as some of you did not so good

She glares at Danielle and the three girls turn towards her as well.

Danielle's cheeks get red as she shrinks down in her seat.

Names are called as Mrs. Waterson hands back papers.

MRS. WATERSON (CONT'D)

Bella.... Joey... Theresa

Theresa grabs her paper from Mrs. Waterson (the paper is face up)

MRS. WATERSON (CONT'D)
Excellent work as always

THERESA
Thank you Mrs. Waterson I really
take pride in writing excellent
papers for you

The two exchange smiles and Mrs. Waterson continues calling names.

MRS. WATERSON
Danielle

As Danielle walks up to the front Theresa throws her shoulder into her (or trips her) as they pass.

Mrs. Waterson hands the paper back to her face down and folded to not show the grade.

Danielle looks at the paper and puts her head down on the desk.

Joey looks over at her with a sad face but his friend come over to d.

Bell rings as it fades to black.

BEGIN MONTAGE

Paper after paper has Cs and Ds on them.

Tests have the words such as "see me after class" on them.

Theresa, Olivia, and Bella walk past Danielle and being to whisper and laugh.

Hannah and Rene walk though the halls with linked arms and wave to Danielle as they pass by.

Theresa, Olivia, and Bella are seen laughing in the front of class with each other and look over their shoulders at her

Danielle puts her head down on her desk multiple times each time being a different day

Joey looks over at her with a sad face but his friend puts their hand on his shoulder and he walks out of frame.

END MONTAGE

INT. MRS. WATERSON'S CLASS - DAY

MRS. WATERSON

Alright now who is going to be starting their presentation off first

Danielle shrinks into her seat

MRS. WATERSON (CONT'D)

Danielle! Why don't you start us off.

The three girls in front nudge each other's feet

Danielle shakily stands up and walks to the front.

Her presentation of the "Gilded Age of America" is on the projector.

She takes out her note cards and begins, with never looking up and reading word for word off of it.

DANIELLE (QUIETLY)

The Gilded Age in America was a point in history when America looked well off and prosperous on the surface but was really one of the poorest and dirtiest time periods in American history.

Theresa raises her hand but doesn't wait to be called on.

THERESA

Mrs. Waterson I can't hear a word she's saying and I'm sitting right in front of her.

MRS. WATERSON

She's right Danielle you need to speak up and don't use your note cards as a crutch. Now continue.

Danielle fidgets with her skirt and continues.

DANIELLE

The poor urban, uh, areas had uh one of the um worst living conditions, um, uh

Danielle clearly struggling without the note cards as a guide glances down and stumbles on.

DANIELLE (CONT'D)
Worst conditions to uh live in.

BELLA
What did you say?

OLIVIA
Yeah we still can't hear you, you
need to speak up.

The whole class stares at her as her face gets pink and her eyes glisten.

MRS. WATERSON
See everyone this is what happens
when you don't practice before
hand.

DANIELLE
I practiced all night.

MRS. WATERSON
Well maybe you should have
practiced this morning too.

Danielle's face gets bright red and tears are running down her face.

Theresa whispers to Olivia.

Danielle runs out of the class and the three girls laugh out loud to each other.

Joey kicks their chair as a signal to knock it off.

As Danielle runs passed Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Anderson goes into her classroom and picks up the phone to dial a number.

MRS. ANDERSON
Hi this is Danielle's teacher Mrs.
Anderson... No, no, she didn't do
anything bad but I have an idea
that I think could benefit her

CUT TO:

INT. PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

(maybe title card that says "one month/week later")

Danielle is seen sitting at a new desk, out of uniform with balloons and streamers tied to them.

The white board has the words "Happy birthday Danielle" on it
Wendy (14) Friendly and outgoing walks over to her desk.

WENDY (IF BIRTHDAY)
So what are you and Joey's plans
for the big day

DANIELLE
I don't know yet he said it's a
surprise

WENDY
Ooooh mysterious I like it

The two girls laugh and the bell rings

WENDY (CONT'D)
Well lets go, me, jessie, and erica
are taking you birthday shopping!

They get up and leave the classroom