

Outsider

Jasper

Jasper took a long breath in before he entered his first day at Capital High School. He was small for a boy in ninth grade but he wasn't old enough for it to be a problem yet. He knew that the people at Capital were known for being athletic, tough and everything else you could imagine, and he was well, almost the farthest thing from all that. When he walked in he saw the football team in the field practicing and all the other kids who had gotten to school early checking their summer homework. As well as seeing all the teachers lined up in suits and dresses at the front, he knew he didn't fit in there. Although his sister, Fiona, had told him that he would "fit in perfectly" and he would "make friends fast," he knew that was not the case.

"There's a new kid," He heard someone whisper.

"I wonder where he's from," Another said.

"I think he's Fiona's brother," Someone else snickered.

Jasper's stomach dropped. He thought his sister was popular, she had enough friends to convince him so. He didn't understand why people were laughing.

"Hey you! Your Fiona's brother right?" A senior boy asked him.

"Yes," He said in the most plain tone he could. He was already embarrassed enough to just be in the situation he was in; he didn't want to make it worse.

"You look nothing like your sister," The boy laughed and then looked at his friends who were also laughing at Jasper. He knew this was just the start of the tormenting.

Fiona

“Why does Jasper have to come to Constitution, why, why, why?” Fiona thought as they got into the car that morning. Last year if someone had asked her if she wanted Jasper at her school she would've said *“Of course my brother would love it here! This is the best school ever.”* Now though Fiona knew the tormenting that would come with being related to her and looking like Jasper. It's not that Jasper was ugly, it was that he wasn't like Fiona. Jasper was short, maybe 5'0 if that, while Fiona was tall and not just tall for a girl, she was tall. Fiona played lacrosse for the school's team which was top of its conference. Jasper didn't really like sports anymore because he would have rather been writing. The problem for Jasper is that he just isn't Fiona and he wasn't going to be up to the expectations of the school for Fiona's brother to be and she knew that.

She knew when Jasper walked into school that morning there would be stares and laughs. Due to that she could not say a word to him at breakfast when he asked if she was excited, when he offered to help with her stuff and in the car. Not a word from Fiona.

Jasper

The second week was starting to get better. Less giggles and stares, now it was just mostly people asking why he was short and hearing people whisper *“I wonder if he plays any sports?”* or just anything else commenting on his differences from Fiona.

Fiona never really noticed him in school. She always seemed to be with her friends or with boys or just doing something. Jasper would try to talk to her sometimes but he mostly got brushed off or she would say *“Hold on one second,”* and then walk away. Jasper would try to point this fact out at home but she would just say that she had gotten busy or something like that. He could tell she was lying but he honestly didn't really feel like forcing the truth out of her.

In classes he mostly tried to keep to himself. He was an amazing student, the best in every class. If Jasper wasn't in class he was writing. Who knows what he was writing, he was just writing. His most favorite things to write were stories about his life. Although lately his life wasn't interesting enough for stories other than ones about being ignored.

During most lunches he would sit alone in the bathroom. He probably could've found people to sit with but he knew if he was in the lunchroom the harassment would continue and he didn't want to do that to himself.

On a Thursday of the second week he heard a knock at the door of the big stall he was in. A girl then said "Is there anyone in here?" Jasper didn't respond, he immediately recognized the voice, it was his sister. Finally after weeks of going to the same school his sister recognized him. He just took a deep breath in.

"Fiona?" Jasper said reluctantly.

"How are you doing in there?" Fiona said.

"You know.. I could be better," He responded in a joking tone but he didn't really mean it as a joke.

"Why don't you come out okay? We can talk," She said calmly. Jasper opened the door slowly, the door made a creaking noise as he opened it and in the silence it seemed even louder.

"How are you? For real," Fiona said, she seemed like she genuinely wanted to know this time.

"I am horrible. Why did you tell me to come here Fiona? How could anyone ever think I would fit in?" Jasper couldn't help the tears slipping out of his eyes.

“I’m so sorry Jasper. I just thought you would love it here the way I love it. I wanted you to go to school with me so we could love it together,” She said, now getting teary eyed as well.

“You ignore me everyday at school. You don’t even say ‘Hi!’ in the hallways, you just walk right by,” He said now, sounding more and more resentful.

Fiona

“I’m sorry. I just,” Fiona got out before Jasper cut her off.

“You just don’t want to be seen with me,” Jasper said, he was now sobbing. Lunch was ending and people were starting to flood the hallways. Fiona’s face was starting to get hot and red like a tomato, with embarrassment. People seeing her and her brother crying together wasn’t exactly something “popular girls” did. Then she did something she didn’t think she would ever do.

She grabbed Jasper's wrist and pulled him over to her bestfriends Ally and Helen.

“This is my brother Jasper, sorry I didn’t introduce him earlier but sooner rather than later you know!” Fiona said, sounding quite excited to introduce her brother to her friends.

“Yes, hi! I’m Jasper, it’s really nice to meet you guys,” He said, adding on to his sister.

“Oh my god hey! It’s nice to finally meet you. I've heard so much about you, all good things of course,” Ally said cheerfully.

“Yes I had been trying to find a time to meet you so glad it’s now!” Helen agreed with Ally.

“I’m sorry I haven’t introduced you guys yet. This school year has been really crazy,” Fiona sounded relieved.

Jasper

When they got home that night Fiona explained that she had been too caught up in worrying about him fitting in and making friends of his own, she hadn't even thought about introducing her to her own. Although Jasper was somewhat skeptical he knew his sister did care and would push to include him more and more.

For the next couple of days Fiona introduced Jasper to more and more of her friends. Everyday he went to school he felt more a part of everything going on around him. Most importantly though, he no longer sat in the bathroom.