

2008-2009
CBC Writing Competition
Senior Level Entry
Category: Fiction
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The Finding

“We have given you everything, you are a special girl who deserves the best. He is trash! He doesn’t deserve you! Why do you want him? Huh? So he can come and mess up what we’ve given you?” This is what she has been hearing being screamed out of her mother’s mouth for the past two weeks. But the worst of it all were the words that kept replaying in her head over and over, “He is trash, I can’t even look at you!”

Janie is the strait A student with four AP classes, plays three sports, has a part time job, and is friends with everybody. All of the students and even their parents, at SunHawk High School know who she is and they would all have good things to say about her. She has everything a teenaged girl should have, grades, looks, friends, and money. The only problem is that everything she has came easily to her. She has always had good grades, the lowest GPA that she can remember is a 3.6 but that along with everything else, wasn’t too much of a struggle to obtain. She is naturally athletic and was born into a good Christian family who wanted the best for her. She looks perfect, well almost.

The only thing that hadn’t gone according to plan was her boyfriend Trystan. He is too old, not rich enough, and has way too much “baggage” with his bad past. Toward the end of her sophomore year Janie met him through mutual friends. The first thing that went through her mind when she saw him was “That is the strangest boy I have ever seen, yet still very attractive.” Talking to him was different than with most people, she didn’t waste her time with small talk. Of course she didn’t tell him any big secrets or anything but she felt like she could. They slowly started talking everyday before school and occasionally on the phone until the point where Janie found herself looking forward to school more than usual.

Although they shared nothing in common, they became best friends and despite his bad past she said yes when he asked her to be more than a friend on the last day of school. When Janie first introduced Trystan to her parents her mom didn't care for him because she knew about his family and he was already graduated from high school. She didn't say anything to Janie though, because she figured that it would just be a summer boyfriend and it would all die down. "They don't even have anything in common, she will get bored of him eventually" Janie heard her mother say over the phone one day, but having "nothing in common" was the same reason why she was so interested in him.

He was what she wasn't; he would have to work for everything that he got. He wouldn't have any college of his choice to go to, he wasn't even for sure if he had the option of going. He was what she wasn't and she was what he could never have. Their differences didn't bring their friendship down it just strengthened it, they taught each other new points of view and helped each other understand other types of people. She was intrigued by his different kind of life. After the summer was over they were even better friends, which made people wonder and made Janie's mother worry. Her friends would wonder why would such a good girl have a loser boyfriend who is graduated and not attending college? Everyday the more they worried and the more she fell in love with him until now when she is a senior in high school and is being forced to grow up herself.

Janie watched Trystan as he grew up and had to live on his own. He worked constantly and struggled at first to live on his own but then slowly he took care of himself. She was so proud of him because against all the odds he turned out to be a good guy that took care of himself unlike his parents. Later she graduated high school and went to a small expensive private college close to home and lived in an apartment paid for by her parents. For four years Janie and Trystan stayed together with her parents hating him more each day for not being the rich boy that they wanted their daughter to fall in love with.

Janie decided to move from the small town that she was going to school in to the hustle and bustle of Washington D.C. to get her master's degree in civil engineering. At first she loved the city. Everywhere she

turned there was something exciting to be seen and new person to meet. Everything seemed to be going perfect especially when Trystan asked her to marry him. She was overflowing until she told her parents her new plans. Just like always they still didn't approve of Tyrstan but that didn't stop her from being with him.

A year before their scheduled wedding, Janie's parents flew down to confront her for the last time. "We know that we have never had the same ideas as you do when it comes to Trystan and you, but we strongly believe that you are making a mistake and we aren't going to make it easy for you. Since you are getting married and having your own little family we don't find it necessary for continuing to pay for your tuition. We still will always love you no matter what you do but we are going to make this wedding as hard as we can on you" Trystan listened as she led the play by play for him. "So basically we are on our own, we have no money and I still have school that I have to go to." Janie told him.

Not long after they started to continuously argue about if Janie should still be going to school when they could barely afford to pay their rent. Eventually the wedding was called off because he wanted her to put her "unrealistic" dreams aside and she realized that he wasn't what she wanted all along. They unwillingly admitted to themselves that staying together wasn't what they both needed and Trystan moved out. Janie thought she hit rock bottom, she felt like she could no longer go back to her parents for help, and she lost her best friend and the person who meant the most to her.

It wasn't until after she moved into a rundown apartment, took out student loans to finish college and completely restarted her life that she realized that this is what she wanted all along. Her entire life she was given everything and that was why she clung on to Trystan because he wasn't given anything and he worked for what he had; that was what she wanted all along. She wanted to feel like she accomplished something close to impossible.

Getting good grades and winning state wasn't impossible she had already done that, but being poor and in debt then finally overcoming it all, wasn't impossible but it was the hardest thing she had ever done and she was

proud. She knew that she was striving to achieve this since high school and that was why she was so attracted to Tystan; he had done what she always wanted to. He came from being on his own with no money, from addiction in his family, and from a broken family and even with all of those against him he still managed to be successful. Janie saw that, as being far more impressive than getting good grades, being popular, and having a good job. Before then that was all she ever saw herself accomplishing. But now after having to go in debt and take care of herself, she wasn't resentful towards her parents but rather liberated. She new that she had it in her to accomplish anything that she wanted completely on her own.