

# CHAPTER 10

## 'BESTIES'

Outside of the gates of Saint Mary's- many flocks of rambunctious children waited for their rides- or their buses, in the first of many to come loud after school commute rushes. Hoagie and an excited Mya stood side by side, patiently waiting on their after school car ride- they did!

**"I know her Hoagie- really I do! ....She's my friend! .....I'm gonna ask mom if she can come to my birthday party Saturday!",** sang Mya- as Hoagie 'RA' 'RA' 'ROLLED' his eyes into the back of his skull.

**"Okay- if you know her, then what's her name?"**, he questioned.

**"OH- UH .....I don't call her by her name because she doesn't like for people to know it! .....I just call her- uh ...Big Shoe Lulu- because we're friends and she doesn't mind!"**, replied Mya- with a straight face- she did!

**"Your such a liar! .....Her name's Alexis!"**

**"I already knew that .....I was just trying to see if you knew her name"**

An S.U.V. pulled up within the heavy traffic and 'HA' 'HA' 'HONKED' it's horn, causing Hoagie and Mya to instantly race toward it- as if it were filled with caramel popcorn. Seated inside of the car were two women, and the car was pretty new- it was in no way a lemon. Mya got inside the car and 'SCA' 'SCA' 'SCOOTED' across the backseat until she was positioned behind the driver,

as Hoagie took a pause in-order to watch the love of his life Maria pass by. She didn't even know that he was alive- she didn't!

**“Hello mom! .....Hello Aunt Gerty!”**, greeted Mya- with a bright smile.

**“Hey there- Mya Bear!”**, sang the old woman in the passenger seat.

**“Little girl! .....What in the world are you doing with your brother's chain on?”**, questioned a much younger woman- who sat behind the wheel of the car.

**“Hoagie let me wear it!”**, she chimed- just as Hoagie hopped into the backseat and shut the door behind.

**“Good afternoon Hoagie!”**, greeted Aunt Gerty.

**“Hey Aunt Gerty .....Mom”**, he replied- with much less enthusiasm than Mya. Mya loved going to school, just as much as she loved leaving- she did!

**“Are you guys ready to have some- FUN! ...I got a whole gallon of chocolate milk, a two hundred piece puzzle and we're baking fresh chocolate chip cookies!”**, exclaimed Aunt Gerty- as she spun around to look at them.

**“YES'SSS!”** sang Mya- as they both buckled their seat belts.

The car pulled away from the school and entered the bumper to bumper traffic, as Hoagie **‘GA’ ‘GA’ ‘GAZED’** out of the window with a most depressed look upon his face.

**“MOM- I want to invite another one of my friends to my party .....Can I? .....PLEASE- OH PLEASE- OH PLEASE!”**, begged Mya.

**“What's their name?”**, asked the woman behind the wheel.

**“LULU! .....I mean- Alexis”**, tooted Mya.

With the mention of the girl's name- Aunt Gerty spun her head towards the rear, as the name Alexis **‘RA’ ‘RA’ ‘RANG’** within her ears like a bell! **“Wha- wha- what did you say her name was Mya Bear?”**, she asked.

**“Alexis”**, repeated Mya.

**“It's your party Mya Bear .....I'm sure we can make room for her”**, replied the woman behind the wheel.

**“Good- because she's my NEW best friend! ..... She kicked a ball to the moon during Hoagie's kickball game, but she only did it because I told her too! ...And the sound broke all the windows at school! .....Got me out of a science test, cause the teacher thought it was a hurricane!”**, exclaimed Mya- as Aunt Gerty and Hoagie silently **‘STA’ ‘STA’ ‘STARED’** out of their windows in a trance.

The driver **‘LA’ ‘LA’ ‘LAUGHED’** at Mya's crazy crazy claims, causing Aunt Gerty to break free of her stupor and proceed to do the same. **“WOW! ..... This friend of yours sounds like a really good kickball player ...She must be very popular”**, chimed the woman behind the wheel.

**“YEP! .....Everyone's wants to be friends with her, because she's my friend! .....They say we look like sisters too!”**, Mya sang.

**“Everyone likes you Mya Bear because you've got- ATTITUDE! .....Just like Debra when she was a child .....The apple never falls too far from the tree- you know”**, tooted Aunt Gerty.

**“Well- I got it from you and mom Auntie”**, chimed out Debra- as she glanced to her right and **‘WA’ ‘WA’ ‘WINKED’** at Aunt Gerty.

Debra looked from Aunt Gerty back the road, before she spotted Hoagie through the rear view mirror looking really really sad. **“You okay Ho-Ho?”**, she asked- with concern.

Hoagie sighed a long and dragging- **‘SIGH’**, before he looked to his mother as if he were ready to cry. **“When’s dad coming back home?”**, he asked.

Debra quickly looked to Aunt Gerty with a sudden look of panic within her eyes, it was the look of electrocution- a look of utter surprise! She remained silent while her brain attempted to find an acceptable response- she did!

**“Mom- dad said that he’s gonna buy me the new Kimby Doll Dream House- AND- a Lady Goose bike for my birthday! ..... I can’t wait!”**, blurted Mya- breaking the awkward silence.

**“I can’t wait either baby .....Well Ho-Ho it’s like this .....”**, said Debra- carefully choosing her words. **“..... Well you see ..... Your father is uh- well .....He’s very busy right now and has a lot of things that he needs to work on which require time alone to think .....But I’m sure that he’ll be at the party Saturday, so he can answer any questions that you have .....I know that he misses you guys and can’t wait to see the both of you”**.

With these words spoken- Hoagie once again looked at his mom with a sad look upon his chubby face. **“Well my friend Brent says .....When dads go away for a long time it means that your parents are getting divorced .....Does he still love us mom?”**.

**“Of course he still loves us! .....You don’t just stop loving people .....It’s just that sometimes uh- uh”**, stuttered Debra- just before wise old Aunt Gerty broke on in to help.

**“Hoagie- sometimes grown folks do really stupid things .....Just like children .....And when a child gets outta line it’s the parents job to discipline them, so that they can think about what they did wrong ...But when grown ups do something wrong- there’s nobody to discipline them so they have to do it themselves .....Your dad loves you- but right now he’s grounding himself .....But don’t you worry about it too much because the things that we truly love in life always have a way of working themselves back into our lives in their own special way”**, explained Aunt Gerty.

**“EXACTLY!....”**, tooted Debra. **“...So don’t you worry about it too much little man, because everything is going to be fine ...Plus- I don’t need my ten year old son losing all his hair like some old man”**.

**“I hope so- cause I miss him”**, chimed Hoagie- as he continued to **‘STA’ ‘STA’ ‘STARE’** out the window.

Debra’s eyes began to tear up with her son’s sad sad words. **“I know baby .....I miss him too”**.

**“Mom- next time we go shoe shopping can I get all my shoes a little bigger?”**, asked Mya.

**“WHAT!”**, tooted out Debra- stunned by the strange request, as Aunt Gerty proceeded to **‘LA’ ‘LA’ ‘LAUGH’** wholeheartedly.

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*One hour later.....*

Back at the house- Debra descended the staircase and entered into a well-furnished and stylish living room, where Mya and Aunt Gerty sat around a coffee table putting a puzzle together while 'SIP' 'SIP' 'SIPPING' from glasses of delicious chocolate milk.

Aunt Gerty sat on a small sofa, while Mya sat on the opposite side of the table 'RA' 'RA' 'RUNNING' her mouth like a car engine. The girl 'LA' 'LA' 'LOVED' talk- she did!

Hoagie sat upon his butt before a large flat screen TV- playing an awesome skateboard video game, while 'MUNCH'ing and 'CRA' 'CRA' 'CRUNCHING' upon a bag of cheesy puffs. He was big chillin' like a South Pole Penguin- he was!

Debra stepped toward them, dressed in light blue hospital scrubs, as the Chihuahua excitedly raced up to her. **"I'm off for my first day of work! .....Wish me luck!"**, she tooted out.

**"Luck is for folks that have no clue what they're doing ...You're the next best thing to a doctor!"**, chimed Aunt Gerty.

Mya leapt from the floor and raced over to embrace her mom within a tight tight hug, while the dog happily 'RA' 'RA' 'RAN' circles around them. Hoagie just kept playing the game- he did! He wasn't too happy with his mom's decision to return to work. She was supposed to be at home with them as she had always been. **"Mom you look like a beautiful princess, and I'm gonna look just like you when I get bigger, huh!"**, exclaimed Mya.

**"Of course you will Mya Bear! ...We have the same blood flowing through our veins and we both got our princess looks from Aunt Gerty!"**, sang out Debra- causing Aunt Gerty to crack a smile.

**"Stop tellin' me things like that Debra ....My heads gonna get too big for my legs in a minute, and I'll just fall on over- and won't be able to pick myself back up again!"**, tooted Aunt Gerty- while waiving a dismissive hand.

**"Me, you and Aunt Gerty- we got- ATTITUDE ..... Just like Kimby Doll- HUH!"**, exclaimed Mya.

**"You better believe it!"**, sang Debra- while tapping Mya on the nose with her right index finger. Mya 'GA' 'GA' 'GIGGLED'- she did!

**"Don't act like you don't see me boy! .....Now get over here and give your mother some goodbye sugar boy before I come down to your school and kiss you in front of all your friends and embarrass you! ...You know I will!"**, threatened Debra- as she held her arms out toward him. Hoagie paused the game- causing his skateboarder to freeze in mid jump, before he rose to his socks and 'DRA' 'DRA' 'DRUG' himself across the carpet like a big ole lump. He didn't want his mom to embarrass him in front of his friends, because she'd already done it once- and she'd do it again- she would!

Debra grabbed him, pulled him close and 'KA' 'KA' 'KISSED' him on the forehead. She then hugged him and 'SIGH'ed. **"I know you don't understand Ho-Ho, but it's time for mom to return to work ....I worked before you and your sister were born, but now- you two are much older ....And just like you enjoy playing video games with your friends, mom enjoys helping sick people get better ....Nothing's going**

to change- I promise! ....Plus with the money I earn, we can buy more video games- clothes- pizza and stuff", informed Debra.

"AND KIMBY DOLL STUFF!", tooted Mya.

"And Kimby Doll stuff!", echoed Debra.

"But-but- but ...I don't want you to work!", whined Hoagie.

"Don't make me cry- please! ....I have to do this .....Now I need for you to be strong- okay ....You have to be the man of the house and protect us women- little man ....Now give me a smile!", chimed Debra- causing him to flash a brief forced smile for her with orange cheesy puff stained teeth exposed.

"I'll watch after him for you mom!", promised Mya.

"You two have to watch out for each other .... That's what brothers and sisters do ....Now go and play ....And don't let me hear that you two have been acting up!", warned Debra.

"OH! .....They won't give me any problems- I'm from the old school ....They're not too old to go outside and pick themselves a switch- for a good ole switchin'!", sang out Aunt Gerty.

Debra stepped over and gave Aunt Gerty a peck on the cheek. "**Hold down the fort old lady**", chimed Debra- before she looked up toward a large grandfather clock. "**UH- OH! ...I think I'm going to be late!**".

Debra turned and swiftly headed for the door, as the dog raced behind her. Hoagie's breathe stopped with the loud '**THUD**' of the front door, causing his poor little achey-breaky heart to skip a beat and '**FA' 'FA' 'FALL'**

down to the floor! The truth was that things had already changed more than he could handle and he knew that more changes were to come. Pretty soon nothing would be the same and Hoagie didn't like it one bit- he didn't!

Hoagie had lost the desire to play video games, so he proceeded to head for his bedroom. "**Where are you off to Hoagie? ....Don't ya wanna help us finish up the puzzle and milk?**", questioned Aunt Gerty- as she and Mya watched him make his way up the staircase.

"**I'm going to bed early**", replied Hoagie, as he stepped up the stairs like a zombie.

Mya raced back over to the coffee table and sat back down upon her knees. "**Aunt Gerty- do you have any old boots you can give me?**", blurted Mya.

Aunt Gerty proceeded to '**LA' 'LA' 'LAUGH'**' at the super silly request- she did!

Mya then lifted her glass of chocolate milk up and took a couple of yummy '**SA' 'SA' 'SIPS'**- while P.J. went into Hoagie's open cheesy puff bag and stole a few chips. P.J. caught him slippin'- he did!

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*Inside of Hoagie's bedroom.....*

Hoagie watched from his bedroom window as Debra and her blue car backed out of the driveway and sped off down the street, disappearing right along with his last ounce of self-restraint! Tears began to '**SLA' 'SLA' 'SLIDE'**' down his chubby little cheeks like raindrops on a car windshield- they did! Hoagie shut the window blinds- closing out the old world that he'd once known.....

*.....HE DID!*

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*'LA' 'LA' 'LATER' that very night.....*

A bright and full moon radiated the clear late night sky like a giant pearl amongst a sea of 'SPA' 'SPA' 'SPARKLING' diamonds.

[*Suddenly*] A small round object flew upwards in its direction and vanished a short moment later over its surface!

**“ZONKERS’SSS!”**, exclaimed Mya- as she lowered the binoculars from her excited eyes.

Mya rested the binoculars upon a nearby desk and shut her window blinds. She then spun around in a pair of Kimby Doll pajamas and hopped back into bed. **“I knew it- I knew it P.J.! .....I told everyone but they didn't believe me!”**, she sang out- as she laid down next to the Chihuahua, which instantly began to 'LA' 'LA' 'LICK' her excited face. She pulled the Kimby Doll Comforter over her body and prepared to go to bed. She had to be up bright and early for school- she did!