

### *Chapter 3*

“So I hear you had an incident in Mrs. Harris’ class yesterday, huh Lucy?” Melissa said with glee.

Lucy, Hayley, Maddy and Allison had all met in the girl’s washroom the next day to talk about Lucy’s episode in English class when in came Melissa and Amber. Two of the most snobbish girls in the sixth grade.

Lucy could feel her face getting red as Melissa started laughing, saying how it was all over the school about her starting her period and how she’ll be the laughing stock for the next week, if not until Summer break.

“You wouldn’t think it was so funny if it happened to you now would you Melissa?” Maddy quickly jumped to Lucy’s defense. “It wouldn’t happen to me. I’m not stupid enough to wear white when I’m about to get mine.” Melissa replied haughtily, rolling her eyes.

“Speaking of yours Melissa, I don’t recall your getting it yet. Or did you and just not bother to tell anyone?” Amber said, to the shock of the four girls, and the embarrassment of Melissa.

Melissa’s jaw dropped in astonishment. She simply huffed, turned on her heel and stomped out of the bathroom. The girls burst out laughing, Lucy paused long enough to thank Amber who simply shrugged, smiled at her and walked out.

“Can you believe that Amber Benjamin would actually stick up for you like that?” Allison said.

“I guess when it comes to something like this we woman have to stick together.” Maddy said patting Lucy on the shoulder.

”Wow. I can’t believe it happened in the middle of English class. God! You must have been devastated. I know I would have been.” Allison said.

“I didn’t know until I got here to the bathroom. I had no idea I was going to start.” Lucy said.

“I couldn’t imagine. I’ve been carrying pads around with me for almost nine months just waiting for the day. What did it feel like when it started?” Hayley asked.

“Horrible. Like someone was ripping me from the inside out. Cramps like you wouldn’t believe. I still have them, but my mother got me some Midol at the drugstore yesterday and it helps a lot. Now it’s just a bit uncomfortable but nothing I can’t handle. The only thing I don’t like is the feeling down there, it feels like... well...,” She lowered her voice to a whisper, blushing slightly.

“It feels like I’m leaking. And if I cough or sneeze it kinda gushes out. I don’t like that at all.”

“Eww. That sounds pretty gross. Do you use pads or tampons?” Hayley asked.

“Well Mom bought me both, but to be honest, I’m a bit afraid to try the tampon.” Lucy blushed again.

“It’s no big deal really. A bit strange at first because of how you put them in, and where you have to put them, but you don’t feel them if they’re in right. I’ve used them for a while now.”

Maddy said. She shrugged as if to show there wasn’t anything to it.

“You have?” Lucy was stunned.

Maddy had had her period for a little over a year and a half. She had gotten it as almost a birthday present, three days before her eleventh birthday. So she’d had plenty of time to experiment.

Lucy was about to ask another question when the first bell rang. They grabbed up their books and headed off to their classes. She’d wait until after school and talk to her in private, she decided.

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Lunch time wasn’t the greatest for Lucy. Some did point and snicker but she tried her best to ignore them. So what, most of them were probably just jealous. The girls at least. She was most embarrassed when it was a boy. Even more embarrassed still when it was one boy in particular. Evan Carter. If Melissa was the snobbiest girl of the sixth grade, Evan was the snobbiest boy, not to mention the cutest.

Almost every girl in the sixth grade had a crush on him, and he knew it too.

The four girls were sitting at a table in the lunch room eating their lunch and talking about the graduation dance and who had asked whom. Something other than ‘the big incident’, much to Lucy’s delight.

“So I hear you had a visitor in English class yesterday Lucy.” Evan said, to the chorus of a dozen snickers, as he stopped beside their table.

Lucy immediately went beet red and she froze with her sandwich half way to her mouth.

“What’s the matter? Maxi pad stuck to your tongue?” He continued to a round of laughter this time, which seemed to only encourage him.

Lucy was immobile with embarrassment; she wanted so much to be invisible. She couldn’t think of anything to come back with. So she just stared at the table feeling the familiar heat creep into her face, her ears felt as if someone was holding a flame to them. Why did he have to pick on her? Didn’t he have anything better to do?

“She got her period Evan, it’s not like she could choose when and where it would happen. If you paid any attention in health class you’d know it happens to every female. Duh! What are you, a Neanderthal? I thought every male knew how natural this was?” Allison said in Lucy’s defense, much to the surprise of the other three girls.

There was a collective intake of breath, a couple snickers, then silence descended over their side of the lunch room; everyone waiting for Evan’s come back. Some were shocked that it was Allison who’d actually spoken up against him, knowing that she’d gone out bowling and had pizza with him once.

Lucy’s head had snapped up and she was staring at Allison, even more shocked than the rest when she’d heard Allison speaking in her defense. Evan too seemed to be somewhat stunned that Allison would say anything to him.

“Yeah Evan, why don’t you go find someone else to pick on, I’m sure there’s a first grader who’s lost a tooth or something. We all know what happened and it’s old news. Get with the program.” Hayley said with newfound bravery. The crowd laughed at that one.

Evan sputtered something about being laughed at and how this wasn’t the end, then he quickly walked away.

A few people in the crowd cheered and some clapped. The four girls were all smiling.

Lucy looked at her friends with tears in her eyes.

“Thanks for that. I was so shocked I couldn’t speak.” She blinked hard to keep the tears from falling.

“Don’t mention it Lucy. That jerk needed to be put in his place, I was only too happy to do it.” Allison said.