

Cottage on the hill.

Morgan Dunlop

“Seriously! I don’t have a crush on any boys, they're all gross.” cried Violet.

“Pfft, liar, I’ve seen you giving googly eyes at jarrod.” said Mariam while giggling.

“NO! He’s the *worst*, I cannot stand him!” angrily remarked Violet.

“Yeah sure.” Mariam giggled and walked away.

Violet didn’t understand, it didn’t make any sense! She didn’t like boys at all. She tried to tell Mariam but it just didn't work. Violet begrudgingly dusted off her uniform and marched over to the gaggle of girls hiding in the secret room underneath the bushes. They were all talking about how great their crush is and their friends teasing them that they were gonna tell.

“Come on Violet, tell us who you fancy,” said Naomi.

At this point it was easier to lie, they would get off her case about everything.

“Marcus.” Violet said with a shaky voice.

“OoOh” they all said.

“I knew it! I’m gonna tell!” Said Mariam.

“Ugh” Violet thought.

The bell rang and they all stormed back to class. After the school day was done, she hopped on her scooter. “Why don’t I like boys? I’m not normal. I need help.” she thought. As soon as she got home she opened up her laptop. She typed in, ‘why don't I like boys?’ she scanned through the search results, “you don’t have to like boys? You can like girls?!” She said with excitement. She swore to keep this a secret because she was scared. High School was no place for that kind of stuff.

She walked into her school the next day. Mariam walked up to her.

“I told Marcus you like him~”

“you WHAT!? I don’t like him! I just said that so you’d get off my case about liking boys!”

“Oops! Whelp your screwed because he likes you back!”

This was going to be a miserable day. Violet sat in the bush part of her school, Marcus was a nice guy, Violet just didn’t *like* him.

Marie found Violet hiding in the bush.

“Hey there kid.” Marie also didn’t like guys and had a girlfriend. She was year 11, a year older than Violet. “Whats up, you look depressed.”

“ugh, so I don’t want to date men, the gaggle of girls wouldn’t stop pestering me about my crush! So I said Marcus and they told him” she face palmed.

“Sweetheart, that's a tough situation. I suggest apologising that your friends were being dumb.” said Marie. Marie was like a mother to Violet, she was so good if you wanted advice. She taught her everything she knows about people.

“Thanks mara.” That was Marie's nickname. She scooted home again



“Kids, welcome Cherry”

The most gorgeous girl in the world walked through the door. Violet was in awe,

“Who will take her on a tour?” The teacher asked, Violet's hand shot up instantly. “Alright, Violet.”

She took Cherry out of the room.

“So, why were you so keen to tour me?”

“uhh... I don't have any good friends and I wanted to make a good impression?”

“Hah, why'd you say it like a question?”

“I don't know, why do you keep asking questions?” Violet said jokingly.

They laughed. Violet was *definitely* in love. ‘But she's a girl!’ she thought. This was not normal at all, her school was very heterosexual. This was scary, but at this point, she could not ignore her feelings.

“I like your flannel” said Cherry.

Violet had an oversized red flannel tied around her waist. They were banned at her school but for some reason she never got dress coded for it. She blushed “Thanks”

“I think we're gonna be good friends, Violet.” said Cherry. This made Violet extremely pleased. Cherry had makeup on which definitely would have been dress coded but for some reason it wasn't. She carried round a denim bag with little rainbow themed pins all over it. It was very worn and had patches of fabric sewed over the holes. Violet thought her bag was so cool, she had a bag made out of silk with embroidery of flowers everywhere. She loved her bag, and she loved Cherry's. They finished the tour and headed back to the classroom.

“Violet, if you and Cherry don't mind, can you be her buddy for the term, I feel you and her are bonding very nicely.” Said the teacher

“Uhh, sure! I don't mind” replied Violet.

The popular girls were disgusted, they wanted to hang out with Cherry, and they didn't want some fairy drawing girl to take that opportunity away from them.

“We can buddy with Cherry!” said Veronica.

“Cherry? What do you think of that?”

“No thanks.” They were shocked.

A few weeks had passed, Cherry had become best friends with Violet. And quite frankly, had fallen in love with her. They were both bursting at the seams to tell each other they loved them. One day the setting was perfect. It was spring, white puffballs flew through the air and the secret hollow under the bush had just had pink fairy lights and cushions put in there. Violet finally gathered enough courage to slip a note in Cherry's locker that said:



Dear Cherry
Meet me in the hollow under the bush at lunchtime,
I have something to tell you, but it needs to be private.
From-Anonymous.

Violet gleefully watched her read the note and slip it in her pocket. She was so excited, but terrified at the same time. She needs to get this off her chest or she was gonna explode.

Lunch rolled around. Violet sat in the hollow while Cherry grabbed her lunch. Anxiety flooded through her. Cherry crawled into the hollow.

“So you’re anonymous, huh?”

“Yup.”

“So what is it?”

“I... I... I like you!” Cried violet, she dug her head in a pillow

“Same.” Replied cherry.

“ Really?”

“Really.” She squealed with joy.

“Secret?”

“Secret.”

“Mine afterschool for a horse ride?” Asked Violet.

“Absolutely.” replied Cherry.