

LEAH BAILEY

## 9. STANDING UP TO THE POPULAR GIRL

Mindy was a good friend of mine, well actually, she still is. We've known each other since we were two years old. You could say we were opposites. She often saw the sky as rainy. I often saw it as sunny. She loved to sing and I loved to draw. Eventually, we taught each other to think like the other. She now loves to draw. I now love to sing and act. There was a time, however, when Mindy was underestimated, bullied, and kicked aside like a rotting soccer ball.

We were at school one day, when we sat down for lunch. A tight-skirted, glossy-haired, high-heel wearing, "popular" (I hate that word) girl, named Emma, strutted up to us-posse right on her tail. Emma glanced at me, then Mindy. She smirked and began to mock Mindy. Emma made fun of the way she dressed; the way she was overweight; and the way she flipped her head and squealed. You need to know Mindy has Tourette's syndrome, which is an uncontrollable psychological disease that causes her to have repetitive movements and vocalizations called tics. Nobody, not even Mindy knew she had it.

"I...I can't control it!" Mindy sobbed. I don't know if it was my imagination, but it seemed the more stressed she was, the more tics she had. I didn't know what to do. I had never been in a situation like this before.

Emma continued to laugh along with her posse until an athletic-looking girl, sporting a worn, blue, baseball jersey with auburn hair, walked toward us. "You know Emma," The girl said. "If you keep this up, I'll tell the principal."

Emma scowled at her and said, "Why do you always have to be such a teacher's pet, Alex!?"

That seemed to have shut her up, because I saw her and her intimidated posse walk away. The girl, apparently her name was Alex, said, "Yeah, sorry about that, I wish I saved you guys sooner." I smiled and since that day, all three of us have been good friends.

It's funny, because I even made friends with Emma. She grew out of her childish ways. Alex, Mindy, and I are still good friends. Anyway, I go to a different school now. I suppose there are ways to stand up to someone like that. But I felt the need to let you all know that's how I confronted a bully in school.