



A STORY
LIKE NO OTHER.

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The Centre for Literacy of Quebec
Le centre d'alphabétisation du Québec



SURVIVOR

I don't cry because I'm a failure
I cry because I'm in pain
When I lose my temper
You think it's just for show
But you never read my book, or flipped through my pages
Or felt the roughness burning your hands
Or the heat I give off, or swam the oceans that I cried
Don't judge my cover
I could be tough as a ruby
Do not drop me 'cause I'll shatter in a million pieces
All is left is a spitting image of me

-- Sophia--

PINK

Colour of a girl's sweater
Pink cheeks on a baby reminds me of innocence
Your face goes pink when your crush passes by you
Pink is the colour they associate with girls
The colour of the beautiful rose that looks like his lips
Pink with embarrassment, pink with hope, pink with frills, pink with thrills
Pink at heart, but tough and smart
Guys who wear pink are sexy
Pink for all the brave ones, pink for the survivors and the ones who are gone, pink for cancer
Cheers to the warriors who stayed strong, weep for all the losses
I admire pink.

Jamie, Sophia, Leah, Jaqui, Julianna

I AM GREEN WITH ENVY

I want that boy so badly
He is the boy I envy
Can't help falling in love with him
I envy that girl 'cause she is with him
The jealousy is rising inside of me
Can I control my love for him, the temptation to tell him how
I really feel, how I love him?
Will he reject me, will he laugh at me, will he appreciate my honesty?
He must accept me for who I am, but first I must accept myself
I changed my life for him because I envied him
Do I regret it?
If I have him, will another envy me?

Jamie, Sophia, Leah, Jaqui, Julianna

HAPPY

Glad
Joyful, jolly
I just want to be
Loved, respected, amazed
By whom I love the
Most

--Leah--

A LETTER

I'm sorry I wasn't there

I'm sorry I didn't get to say goodbye

I thought you were coming home

But I guess I thought wrong

Now you're gone forever, and I will never be able to tell you

How much I love you and how things will never be the same without you

You are a part of me

It tears me apart

Knowing you are gone

But then again

You are in a better place.

Love

Your big sister, Leah

ANGER

Rage

Frustrated, angry

The bars on the window make my heart flame

In fury

Solid and ugly

The beast inside me is going crazy

Outrage

--Jamie--

SOMETIMES

I feel I must always guard
Because I feel I must always attack
Sometimes I feel like an untouched bed
Because I am barely bothered
Because I am barely touched
Sometimes I feel like a cold winter day in Alaska
Because I am sometimes lonely
Because I am sometimes frozen inside
Sometimes I feel invisible
Because I loved but am not loved
Because I cherish, but am not cherished
--Leah--

Yesterday was rough
Soon it will pass, but not yet
Never, forever
--Anonymous—

FAKE

Every single day
I am forced to hear you
And your noise
--Georgia—

SMILE

I smile when I'm sad

I smile when I'm mad

I smile 'cause I'm happy

I smile 'cause I'm nervous

Smiling hides the pain

It's less problematic to explain

"I'm happy". That's all I have to say

Even though most days it's not the case

I smile because it's hard to explain to people who don't listen

Smiling never gets old

Worry lines make you old

But most of all I smile because pain and feeling bad

Is no longer an option

The world can't throw anything else at me

That I won't smile about

Taking life with a smile is better

Than not taking life at all

--Georgia--

I Am

Sometimes I feel like a jaguar
Because when I'm mad I get very aggressive
Because I can run fast and not be tired of running
Sometimes I feel like an unread book
Because no one really knows my story
Because no one will understand my story
Sometimes I feel like a failure
Because I could never keep my word
Because I always fail you
Sometimes I feel like I'm still in the past
Because time still goes on without me
Because I can't seem to move on

--Sophia--

Sometimes I feel like an unread book
Because people don't know what's inside me
Because they don't know anything about my story
Because they don't know what makes me feel guilty and sorry
Sometimes I feel like the weather
Because sometimes I am feeling happy and sunny
Because sometimes I am angry, feeling stormy
Because other times I am sad and plain, just like the rain
Sometimes I feel like a star in space
Because sometimes I feel lonely among many
Because I feel small in such a big place

--Jamie --

LOST

I feel lost in life and
Just don't know why
I'm alone in a forest at night
A wilderness
And I hear noises
And wonder what it is
I am lost at school when it's a boring class
I am lost at home when friends
Don't have my back when they say they do
I am lost when I have no one
But I know I can find my way
And when I walk out of the wilderness
Someone will be there to say
I will be by your side to the very end
And I will have learned to be strong
I feel lost in life and
I just don't know why
But when I find my way
I will walk in a new direction
I will go for my goals and dreams
I will have learned to live my life and no one else's

--Sophia--

MY POEM

In life I've known courage
We met when I stood up and told the police
About the man who destroyed me
Nowadays courage is not always here
I find courage when my brother is in trouble and near
In my life I've known fear
We met when I first went to juvvy
These days fear is telling me: you won't be able to
Go home to your family
Fear is cruel and destroys me
Fear finds me when I least want it
Fear comes and goes without warning
I've learned that courage and fear are different
When courage tells me there is hope
Fear says nope, nope, nope, there is no hope
But don't worry. I'll never leave you behind. You're mine
I wish I could get rid of fear
And get courage to tell me
Everything's going to be fine

--Jamie--

I AM NOT

I am not dead, just broken

I am not scared, just changing

Underneath the cuts and bruises

I finally gain what no one loses

I'll find you right behind your cigarette and your devilish smile

You are my crack of sunlight

I'm not scared at all

--Georgia--

10 REASONS TO LOVE ME

I may not be perfect but I always try my best
I always wish for things I could never undo
I do my best to understand people around me
I can create this poem that no one else can
I want people around me to feel my energy
I hold on to memories that I can never get back
I have unusual ideas on how to fix things that can never be fixed
I have a secret talent that I can never explain
If I were an animal I would be a lion
I am irresistible

--Sophia

FIRST CRUSH

His hands are like heaven on mine
The smell of his Axe is romantic
The sight of him is exciting
The sound of his voice was relaxing
The taste of his lips was soft, warm and comforting

Leah

If

If you only knew

That I liked you

If you only knew

That I cry for you

If you only knew

How much I needed you

If you only knew

How much I risked for you

But you will never know

If you only knew

The real me, for you think you do

But you don't

If you only knew

What would you do?

--Sophia--

LESSON LEARNED

I was happy once
But once was a long time ago
A long time ago when I was happy
Happy because I finally had something out of life
Something that I could have that no one could take away from me
It was taken away
But before that it was great and he was mine
He was mine and I loved him
I loved him more than one should love themselves
I still love him without breath in his little body
It was like I was given another chance at life
Another chance to do good
So that's exactly what I did
I cleaned up
But then I guess life changed its lesson
Now a big part of me is gone, even though he was so little
I guess life changed its mind on my lesson
I think it wanted to show me pain
Now that pain is forever
But I'll always remember
--anonymous--

APPLAUSE

You're born without a right hand

You learn to live without it

You eat and write with your left hand

Save money in the winter with only one glove

But you can't clap

--Georgia--

Life

Grateful

Complicated

Life

Confusing

Never rewinds

Always goes forward

Never can take back what has been
done

Dreams

CONFUSED

Pain, dark

One day the sun will shine

And everything will be fine

But for now I'm just a crazy storm

That doesn't know where to go

Just trying to be noticed

Will my love ever shine through?

Sad

--Sophia--

ANGRY

Frustrated

Upset, mad

You make me feel this way

Impulsive, lonely, neglected

The way I yearn to feel:

Wanted

--Leah--

LOVE

Cherish

Adore, desire

He is all I want

Amazing, desiring, wanting

He is who I love

Forever

--Leah--

WHEN

When I was little
I remember wanting to grow up
And I wondered what it would be like
And now I wish I was little again

When I was nine,
I remember playing explorer in my grampie's backyard
And I wondered what was out there in the world
And I wish I never found out

When I was twelve
I remember thinking 'what the heck am I doing'
And I wondered why in the hell did I do this
And I wish I could go back

When I was thirteen
I remember saying No!
And I wanted to mean it
And I wish that I did

When I was sitting in math class today
I remember being little
And I wanted to go back
And I wish I never grew up

--Georgia--

I AM LIKE A CLOUD

Because I float around

When I get mad I'm like a storm

When I'm happy I'm like the sun

When I'm sad it's like the rain washing away all my pain

Tears running down my cheeks, making me empty inside

I ride the cloud and try to hide the sorrows deep inside

I hide behind the clouds so they don't see the real me

I'm like a cloud, shrouded in fog, not wanting anyone to see me

Hoping you don't see the real me

Floating around, the cloud who is me

When it rains I'm in pain, can you tell?

How I am like a cloud?

Jamie, Sophia, Leah, Jaqui, Julianna