

The Girl With No Hobbies

Kaya, a 16 year old girl, timid and self-conscious but highly intelligent, didn't have any interests or other activities that she really enjoyed. The only thing she liked was going shopping with her best friend, Sophie. You wouldn't really call that a hobby though, would you? Sophie was a person that she felt particularly close to and someone who she could talk to about her worries and things that were troubling her. She felt that she could talk to Sophie about virtually anything and she would listen attentively. They had known each other for nearly 7 years, as they were at high school together and went to revise in the library when preparing for GCSE examinations.

One morning in March, the whole of year 11 were called to assembly in the main hall, where they were told that their GCSE examinations were to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 crisis that was spreading around the world like a swarm of bees. All the pupils were very disappointed about this, especially since they had been working excessively hard over the last few years, for it to come to nothing. This news affected Kaya particularly because she was the top pupil, always scoring 8 and 9 grades. She was classed as an over achiever by many. This was devastating news and a melancholy feeling came over her and her family, because she would not be given a chance to prove herself in sitting the exams. Her teachers were assessing her on what they thought her predicted grades would be, so she was praying that she would beat all the others.

A few weeks later, after the school closed and everywhere across the globe was sent into lockdown, Kaya was Face Timing her friends everyday 24/7. Her mother suggested that this was not the best idea and she should go outside and get some fresh air on her face, as it would do her good. Kaya went for a brief jog, but she didn't really enjoy it. She did it just for her mother's sake. As lockdown progressed, Kaya became very bored and the only pastime she did was talk to her friends. Into the third week of lockdown, her mother put a stop to that and told to her to go and do something useful for a change. Her mother bought her a painting kit, with delicately fine paint brushes, thick cream paper, and a vast array of paints in the most eye wateringly bright colours Kaya had ever seen. She decided to paint up in the woods near her house, as they would be a perfect, calm setting for her first painting.

Bright and early the next day, Kaya set out towards the woods, the early morning mist just lifting over the tops of the tall trees. In the distance, she could hear a medley of birds tweeting and the odd bark of a dog, otherwise, the woods were as quiet as a mouse. Kaya propped her easel up on a hill and she found a big, silvery boulder to perch herself on. From there, she had a perfect view of her town, with a few wispy clouds in the distance, and lots of bright coloured flowers in her neighbour's garden.

Kaya found herself extremely relaxed while painting and immediately lost herself in the new found interest she was working on. After her picture was complete she sat back and admired it, and considering it was a first, she was

rather proud of it. It had a blaze of colour from the flowers, forest green for the countryside and tanned brown for the brick houses; it was quite a motley effect. Kaya found that painting was something that she instantly loved from the first moment she had completed her picture. Her mother was very proud that she had finally got off her retched phone and was doing something that didn't involve technology for once. Even in the rain, snow, storms, you name it, Kaya was out there everyday with her easel and paint set, no matter what the weather was doing. So, Kaya is no longer the girl with no hobbies, but the girl with hobbies. Painting will always be something that Kaya will cherish and she'll have her mother to thank for giving her an interest in showing off her creative side that she never even knew existed.

Written by Emily Vines 15/06/2020