

Teenage Love

Walking through high school hallways. Not even sure where I'm going most of the time. Walking through high school hallways, thinking of you like it's a crime. Seeing you walk passed and then my heart skips a beat. It's such a funny feeling that I never even knew I would feel. I'm immediately snapped back into reality when I hear someone clear their throat behind me. I almost didn't realize I was in a bunch of people's ways. "What are you daydreaming about?" a familiar voice asks me. I look to my side and see Stella. My best friend of 4 years. She is skinny, pale, and sweet. Stella Marie Robinson had all the attributes of an attractive woman. I, Ruby Charlotte Jones, am the complete opposite of her. Brown hair, brown skin, overachiever. It's a wonder how we're friends. They do say opposites attract. "Or who I should probably say" she says teasingly. I tell my best friend everything. Even the fact that I've had this not-so small growing crush on one of my closest friends. Me and Stella are in our 1st period math class. Math has always been my favorite subject and I always help Stella out on things she doesn't understand. The statistical chance of him liking me back is 50/50 but I like to believe it's more 1/100. "Him" being only the coolest person I have ever met. Jack Christopher Hughes. He's been my friend for 2 years although we met when we were way younger I could list all the reasons in the world why we wouldn't work. Yet, one reason why it would. I know for sure that I'm not the only girl who has feelings for him and I hate myself for getting jealous when other people talk about him. Me and Stella wait for the bell to ring and say our goodbyes. I walk out the door and head to my least favorite class. Science. I never really understood it but at least I have friends in that class. I go to my seat and put my bookbag on the floor and sit in the chair. I get my daily check-in done while stare and sigh. The concept of love is super confusing. He should know better. Who plays with someone's feelings? I focus back on class and study for 5 minutes while Mr. Matthews talks about the materials on our test. My friend Alex walks up to me and whispers "Are you ready for the test?" I reply and say "Just barely, doing some last minute studying". He wishes me luck quickly and heads back to his seat. Mr. Matthews passes out our tests and I look at Alex and give him a sarcastic nervous look.

After about roughly 20 minutes later I hand in my test to Mr. Matthews and begin to open my laptop and work on other assignments. I've never really had trouble with school. I only really do bad if I get distracted. Which I severely am. I have had tons of crushes but only this one makes me feel so dumb. Why would this guy who only sees me as a friend want me back? Love is confusing. I look at the clock and see that it's almost time to leave. I stand up and push my chair in. Alex walks up to me and asks me "How do you think you did?". I shrug my shoulders and reply "hopefully decent". As the bell rings me and Alex walk out the door talking about our days and we part ways after turning the corner. I turn the corner and the first thing I see is, of course,

that guy that I know oh so well. That feeling comes back. My heart skips a beat. That feeling that I feel whenever I am around him. I grab my phone and pretend to be on it because I feel too nervous to talk to him right now. He sees me and says “Hi Rube”. I manage to mutter a small “Hey” and then I practically run past him. I finally get to my 3rd class after what seems like years. It’s a very boring class and arguably my least favorite. All I do is edit a bunch of my videos and upload them to the software. The bell rings and I rush out of class. The rest of the day goes by very quickly and I’m glad about it. Tonight is the big football game and I know that *he’ll* be there so I made a note to myself to look decent. After my bus ride I finally walk into my house and think about Jack once again. Thinking about it he’s like a magnet because no matter what I’m so attracted to him. I hate him for it but that’s what happens when you’re in love with a friend.

I did my homework really quickly and went upstairs to go pick out my outfit for the football game. Tonight’s theme is Hawaiian so I put my purple lei on. I grab my phone out of my pocket and call Stella. “Hey” I say as soon as she picks up. “Are you excited to see you know who tonight?” she questions. “Barely” I responded. Stella always takes me to football games so she tells me she’s on her way to my house and I finish getting ready. What I have on is my older brother’s Hawaiian shirt, black leggings, and my purple lei. It’s pretty warm out but I get cold easily so I thought it was a safe choice. I get a text from Stella saying she’s here and I leave my house texting my parents that I was leaving to go to the game. My parents were both working and my brother isn’t going so Stella is my transportation. Me and Stella are sophomores and my brother is a junior so I make him drive me places. Me and Stella get to school and we both say bye to her mom. We walk down to the field giggling like hyenas. We give the ladies our tickets and walk into the gate. I always loved our football games. They were always such a blast. We looked around for people we knew and found our close friend group. As I look around I see Jack. With a girl. “Stella” I say wearily. “What?” she asks. “Look at Jack” I say while pointing to him. My heart drops to my stomach and I stop breathing for a bit. “Oh I know her, she’s in my biology class” she says. “Still you’re not helping” I say. “I bet it’s nothing” she reassures me. “I want to leave,” I say to Stella. I stare at Jack from afar and he catches my eye. I quickly turn around and act as if it never even happened. A few of my other friends came up to me and Stella and we talked. I felt a tap on my shoulder and looked to my side and no one was there. Then I looked to my other side and I almost jumped when I saw Jack. “Hey Rube I miss you, we barely spoke today” he says with a smile on his face. Typical Jack. Stella says “hey...I think someone needs us over there so I’ll be right back”. I try to tell her to stay but she rushes off.

Me and Jack are alike standing in front of the scoreboard. At the football game. Where we became friends. “Ironic right” Jack says with a laugh. I smile a little bit and nod. I slyly ask “so who was that girl you were standing with a couple minutes ago?”. He smiles and says “why are you jealous?”. I roll my eyes and say “only in your dreams boy”. “She’s a friend, I met her a few days ago and she’s nice,” he says. “Right” I say, a bit agitated. He senses it and changes the

subject. "Wanna go walk around?" he asked me. I think about it. It would be nice but it's what he does. He acts like he is the love of your life one second and then the next he's talking to a random girl. "I'd be down but maybe later I really need to catch up with my friends" I say. He looks kind of hurt for a split second and then he says okay and walks away. Me and my friends got food and sat down on the cold bleachers. I don't normally sit down and watch the game but I wanted to get away from Jack. After seeing him with that girl I got so weird. My other friend Emily says "Ruby I swear I saw sparks fly when you guys were talking". That's impossible. He wants me to get attached just so he can break my heart. "Sure you did, Em" I replied. "I'm gonna go get a pretzel, do you guys want one?" I say. They all say no and I walk down the bleachers to the snack stand. I get in line and wait. I look around while I wait and see Jack but this time I don't stare at him. I get my pretzel and I head to the stands and I feel someone grab my hand. "Hey Ruby!" a familiar voice says to me. "Hi Abby" I say while giving her a hug. "Enjoying the game?" She asks me and I nod and we talk for a bit but I head back to my friends and sit down. The game ended pretty quickly and we won. Our football team is really good. Me and Stella are walking to her moms car and we get that after losing our breath. I'm about to get in when I hear someone yelling my name. I turn around and see Jack. Immediate butterflies. He walks up to me and he seems way out of breath. "Did you run?" I ask. "Sorta" he responds. "Look I need to tell you this or I'm gonna regret it" he says quickly. "Well hurry up slowpoke" I say jokingly. "Remember what you asked me about a week ago?" he said to me. I think about last week and shake my head no. "You asked me jokingly who my favorite person in the whole entire school was" he says. "It's you Ruby" he says while staring into my eyes. I look around in confusion and hear Stella squealing in the car. Jack takes my hand and says "I mean it". I smile and say "I guess dreams do come true".