

The day she was happy again

Today's Paiges 16th birthday but she isn't happy at all. Two and a half years ago everything changed and a year after the first event, things got even worse. Both events took place on her birthday. Both made her sad, angry and depressed.

Two and a half years ago on Paige's 14th birthday, her parents were shopping for her present but they got into a car crash. So when Paige and her twin brother Jake saw the news on TV, someone knocked at the door. It were policemen. They told them, that their parents were involved in the car crash. But the siblings weren't ready for what the police told them next. "I'm really sorry for both of you but...Your parents...they're...They are in a better place now." Both of the teenagers just nodded and closed the door. Jake and Paige didn't realize it immediately. Now they were just in a shock case. Paige sat down in front of the sofa and starred at the black screen of the TV. After some time Jake sat next to her and he wrapped his arms around her. They started to realize that their parents are gone. Forever. And so they hugged each other. For hours.

The next few weeks, they were in a pretty horrible mood but time after time things got a bit better. Life became kind of normal again. They had a daily routine again. But after a year, a month before their birthday someone knocked on the door. And this knock on that door made things worse than they already were. Some people from the youth welfare service were standing there.

In the last year nobody was interested in their case and people told them to stay at their old home and they should live, like nothing happened. Their grandparents and relatives paid the bills for the big house. And now after a year they want to talk to them? Emilia Clark, a small thin woman with dyed brown hair, introduced herself as the psychologist in their case and she's going to help them with their problems. But Paige thinks it's to lake to talk about all of this. They handled the situation pretty good alone. And she already knows that she's not going to talk with her. Then there's a man. Big, rich and definitely someone the twins never going to trust. He introduces himself as Jack Hines, a lawyer. He wants to talk about the money Paige and Jake are gonna get. Jake knows something bad is going on but he doesn't know what yet.

The youth welfare service and the kids talk about the situation the whole evening. Well, it was rather like the twins just nodded and listened while the adults talked like their whole life is hanging on a cliff. They told them that they're going to have to pack all their stuff and they have to move into an orphanage because they're under 18. So yeah, in the next two weeks they packed all their things and said goodbye to their old home.

Life in an orphanage was strange. Paige and Jake went normally to school and everything but it was just so different. Everyday kids between the age of 3 and 18 came and the next day some were gone. And now Paige was going back to the orphanage after school. She just can't call it a home. It's like a psychiatric clinic. Theoretical she should be happy because she has a home and it's her birthday but it's just not the same without her parents. So when she comes into her room she has with her brother, it's empty. Jake's whole stuff is gone. Everything's gone. She can't believe her eyes. "No, please god. Don't do this on my birthday. Just don't. Let this just be a dream. I dare you to!" Paige cries out loud. This just can't be happening, she thought.

That was a year ago. In two damn years she lost her whole family. Everyone she cared about was just gone. Jake never tried to call her or texted her or just did something so she knew he was okay. But nothing happened. No call. No message. Nothing. She knew she was alone. After her 15th birthday she realized it real quick. She tried to phone Jake time after time but it always just was the mailbox. So now she's lying in her bed and thinking how this all even could happen. Was it rainy on her 14th birthday? What would have been her present if her parents didn't die? Was something strange on her 15th birthday? Did Jake know he would get adopted? Who adopted him? Is the family nice, super cool or is the family super strict and he has to be some kind of a genius? But one question she asks herself everyday is: Does he even remember I exist? Did he forget about me? She doesn't know.

And that's probably why she stands up at 6:30 a.m. on a Sunday, to do her homework which is due tomorrow. And it has to distract her. She doesn't want to think about the past years. But why did it even happen on her birthday? Both things happened on that date. Maybe this year also something bad is going to happen. Like the orphanage is going to close and then she has no home. She just shakes her head about that thought. "I just can't stay positive

anymore. But I have to. For mom. For dad. For Jake. For myself.” She whispers to herself. She focuses on her homework again. Like she did the past year. After Jake was also gone, she tried to make friends. And failed absolutely. Paige forgot about making friends quick and focused on the important things, like her grades. She turned into a little nerd. And she started to read books. Which she had sworn never to do. But after Paige finished everything she had to do, she didn’t know what to do with herself. So she dumped down on her bed again and starred at the ceiling.

Paige didn’t really know how much time went by and she thinks she fell asleep for a short time. But her phone was ringing. Maybe that woke her up. “What?!” Paige didn’t even try to be polite. This whole birthday thing just sucks. “Em, Paige? It’s me, Jake. First of all: Happy birthday, little sis. You don’t know how much I hoped you would pick up. Damn, I’m so happy right know. Wait, Paige? Are you there? Paige?” Paige was there but she couldn’t do anything. She couldn’t talk and couldn’t move. She has to think about how to breathe. And then tears started rolling down her face and she tried to talk but no one could understand her. “Hey, hey. Are you crying? Please don’t cry. I thought you would be happy if I call you. I’m sorry maybe I shouldn’t have stalked Google for some information about you. I’m sorry“ Jake wanted to hang up but then he heard Paiges voice.”Jake? Happy Birthday! I’m sorry if you thought I would hate you. Oh my god, I could never hate you. I just thought I lost you. Forever.” Jake let out a sigh of relief. “It’s good to hear your voice again. Love you.” He said with a smile on his face. I finally found her, he thought. “I missed you too, bro. Love you too.” Paige was so happy she couldn’t stop thinking what would have happened if Jake hadn’t searched for her number. They really had to tell everything what happened in the last year. Yeah, Jake had probably more to tell than Paige but she didn’t care. She had her brother back. After Jake and her said goodbye, she looked at the time. 1:48 a.m. Wow, she didn’t know they talked that long and that much. Jake told her that his adoptive parents didn’t tell him were Paige where. ”I always thought you are coming anytime soon and when I asked when you would come and so, they automatically changed the subject.” he said.

The next few days Paige was really excited but a real smile was still not on her face. It was good to talk to Jake again but it would be extremely nice if she could hug him and talk with him in person. But now she’s going to get her

maths test from last week. "Paige Parker? Ah, there you are. I have to say I'm a bit disappointed. I mean, I know you can do it better." Mr. Ferry, our maths teacher, said when he handed Paige her exam. She really knows much but maths just won't get in her head. Jake was always good with maths. Yeah, so Paige got a F. And she's disappointed in herself too because she also knows she can do better even if math sucks. The rest of the day she's mad at herself and when she leaves school she really has to keep herself calm, not to throw the exam in the next bin. But after all she said herself, she stops next to one and looks at the test. Should she or not?

"Hey, man. Isn't that her? There next to that bin?" Max asked. He's Jake's best friend and is mostly there to keep him away from illegal things. Again. But let's not talk about that. Jake is really searching for every dustbin but it's always the wrong one. He just wants to say Max it isn't her, when he sees a girl with fire red hair next to a bin, with some paper in her hand. Looks like she wants to throw it away but then she shakes her head and looks up. Directly into Jake's ocean blue eyes. He tries to unscramble her face but he just sees her ocean blue-green eyes. Jake is walking to her and Paige's exam slips out of her hand when she runs to him. Jake takes her in his arms like the day the police told them their parents died. Jake looks down on Paige's face and sees some tears rolling down her face. He wipes them away and she looks up at him. But her tears don't want to stop rolling down her face. Jake looks at her with a big smile on his face. "The prettiest girl I've seen since the Andersons adopted me. And the prettiest smile I've seen in a while." Jake whispers and Paige hugs him even tighter. But Jake's true it is a beautiful and real smile and Paige can't even stop it. Jake now knows things can only get better and Paige just wants him to stay forever.

Max who is watching everything from distance has also a big smile on his face because his best friend finally got his twin sister back and Max knows how much it meant to him, to see her again and never let her go again.

After a time Jake and Paige free themselves from each other and still have a big smile on their face. "I want you to meet someone." Jake says and points in Max' direction. "Your brother?" Paige asks. Jake just shakes his head and takes her by her hand.

Max looks up from his phone and sees Jake and his twin walking up to him. "Hey, I'm Max. Your brothers best friend. At least one of them" He introduces himself and shakes Paiges hand. Before she answers, he sees something like regret in her face. "Hey, I'm Paige. Jakes twin." She says with a cute smile. And if Jake likes it or not, that was the moment Max knew this girl was going to be his future wife and mother of his 3 children.

10 years later:

Paige wakes up to the scent of freshly baked pancakes. She gets out of bed and goes into the kitchen. "Mommy, look what I draw! Isn't it beautiful?" Mateo welcomes her. "Wow, I'm proud of you, Teo. Every time you get better." Paige says with a smile on her face. Mateo smiles from one ear to the other and goes into the dining room and sits down on the table. Max looks at the two people he loves most and wonders why she took him. "Do I also have to draw something and hold it under your nose so I can get your attention?" Paige turns around and smiles even happier than she already does. "No, you just have to cook and...Hm, I don't know...maybe you could sing something nice. Yeah, that would be pretty interesting to look at." Paige says and gives him a kiss on the cheek. Max's really happy Jake didn't say anything when they told him, they were together. Probably was Paige more excited than me about that message, he thought. But he is lucky to have a woman like Paige by his side. "Em, Max? I think we have a little problem." Paige says with a strange voice Max never heard before. He looks into the dining room where Teo is running around like he is a plane. "Dad, I think mommy peed her pants." Max son says and he looks at the ground then to Paige. She looks like she's afraid and he knows exactly why. When she gave birth to Mateo, she had struggles. She doesn't want to have it a second time. "Hey, honey look at me. Everything's going to be alright, ok? You can do this." Max tries to calm her down and she nods. "Teo can you call the ambulance, please? Antonella wants to get out of mommies stomach." He tells him and shuts everything down in the kitchen. He goes back to Paige and tries to calm her down as good as he can. "You know what's funny? Our daughter is born on our anniversary day. So happy 6 year anniversary, Paige. I love you." Paige doesn't even have to answer Max can read everything out of her face. How much she wants the baby out of her and how much effort it took her to where she is now. But especially he can see all her love.