

My name is Bruno. Well, was Bruno. I'll explain. Since I was 3, I loved playing with dolls. I'd put dresses on them, earrings and make fashion shows. I always felt like a girl, I'm really interested in dance and drag queens, I grew up from dolls ages ago, since I'm now 12. They make me both feel a incandescent smile, it gives me the happy spirit and makes me feel free. Usually, I go on my laptop, and search up dance tutorials, it may seem funny but it's really entertaining for me. However, I'm quite scared to do anything "girly" in my neighbourhood. Everyone is so strict about LGBTQ. I remember one day when a new family came, they were both women and had a son. Unfortunately, they moved away a couple weeks later because of signs that people hung on their door and rude comments like "Lesbian idiots!" It really struck my heart, how can people be so horrible these days?

I had a cousin that was gay, his name was Dylan, but dad never let him in our house ever again after he admitted it. My parents aren't really on the positive side of LGBTQ, they think it's weird, well I don't think so. Don't get me wrong, I love my mum and dad. They're always there for me. Nonetheless, Mum and dad divorced when I was 11, a year ago. They just didn't think they were good for each other, which I do sort of agree with. There'd be arguments about why no one helps in the house and it would always turn into a huge drama. Every Monday's to Thursdays I live in mum's house, whilst every Friday to Sunday I go live in dad's house.

In school, I usually hang out with my best friend Ana. She always lifts my spirit up and makes me laugh. Woefully, I found that she was diagnosed with cancer a month ago. She said that they'll heal her, but I doubt it, she's had it for 2 month and there have been no positive results. I remember that feeling of sorrow when the doctors said she might not make it. My heart sank like a ship collapsing into the dejected sea, I was so dispirited.

One day, my life changed forever. It all started when mum got a new boyfriend, his name was Kaiden. I must acknowledge that I was quite worried about who this Kaiden was! He could be tolerant and nice to mum but maybe in reality he hates kids, or worse, he could be a kidnapper. Either way, I wasn't going to let him take mum away from me. It was Tuesday, I went home to mum and stared at my necklace she gave me when I was 7, it was so dazzling and beautiful, it was a heart and inside a picture of my mum. I always gaze at it if I have a bad day or just naturally. Besides, who wouldn't look at it, I always idolised my mum's look. She's so beautiful as a glimmering star that shines in the pitch-black sky. Anyway, I finally arrived, and there I saw him, it was

Kaiden. He was quite thin, like mum, and wore glasses. He had a short, spiky beard that he probably shaved before coming. He smiled at me, I stood in quite obvious shock. I never knew he was coming!

“Sorry, Bruno. I forgot to tell you that Kaiden was coming over for dinner!”

Mum rejoiced. I felt as my heart was beating as fast as a leopard, my breathing got heavier and heavier. This was like as if some random stranger invited himself to your house, your own private house.

“Hi there, Bruno!” Kaiden reached his hand out to give me a hand shake, but I dropped my bag and ran upstairs. As I hastily ran, tears were rolling down my cheeks. I wasn’t ready for this! I don’t know why but I just started to burst out crying when I jumped on my bed and slammed my face on my pillow. She could of told me, or texted me at least! I heard as mum said,

“I’m really sorry, I should of told him,”

“It’s alright, he’ll get used to me soon, won’t he?”

“I hope so, Kaiden,”

An hour later, I went downstairs to check what Kaiden and mum were doing. They were laughing and talking, I was so furious! Not only mum invites some random stranger to our house without me knowing, but she doesn’t even care about me anymore and prefers to spend time with Kaiden. What I mean is, she didn’t even bother coming upstairs and talk to me (like she usually does). Plus, she only knew him for about 4 weeks! I decided to call Ana, but I forgot she was in hospital. So, I tried making a get well soon card with an emotional poem. Then, I searched up some drag queen episodes and tried copying their moves and voices, it made me feel a sudden incandescent composure. After time, I felt quite drained so I laid on my bed and quietly said,

“I wish I could be a girl,”

It was 8:30, Kaiden finally left. I heard soft footsteps coming up the stairs, I knew it was mum. She always had quiet steps which you could hardly hear. However, I always hear them. She entered into my room. Exhausted, I was still laying on my bed.

“Hi there, rabbit,” she said sweetly. I stayed silent, turning my head away.

Mum sighed,

“Look, I’m sorry.” she took a deep breath in and out, “I know I should have told you about Kaiden,” she sat down on my bed, stroking my soft head. I turned around and hugged her.

“I’m sorry, mum. I should have just been nice and said hello,” I cried.

“It’s alright, darling,”

3 days later, it was Friday. I went to dad's house. You see, dad and mum are quite different from each other in many ways. For instance, mum is a perfectionist, she needs everything to be tidy and organised. Dad however, has a house filled with chips on the floor and an untidy shelf. My room is in the attic, it's boring, really boring. I tried hanging a poster of Trixie Mattel, a drag queen that won season 3 in All stars and was in 6<sup>th</sup> place in the Drag Race. I can call back when I stole dad's laptop and took it to my room, I tried finding the best picture of Trixie and printed it out. Unfortunately, I remembered how my dad hates drag queens and always says they're weirdos that don't deserve to have fame, that's why I hid it under my bed where he'd never find it. It's not like he's ever going to want to tidy up anyway, I do it. When I entered the house first thing, dad commanded,

"Go clean up your room!"

"Hi dad, love you too," I whispered to myself.

"What was that you said?"

"Nothing, I said nothing," I headed up to the attic and went to look at the poster.

"I wish I could be like you Trixie, so appreciated by many people," All of a sudden, dad called me for dinner, I thought I was meant to tidy up! I rushed down the ladder that lead to the attic. I headed downstairs and saw dad look extremely enraged.

"Sit down!" He commanded. I did as he said, the couch was so messy and had crumbs everywhere.

"I went to your room yesterday because the government were coming to have a check how I'm taking care of you," he started, "I was gonna tidy it up for you but instead I just opened the window so that fresh air comes in. However, then I saw a poster," I was slowly sweating in stress,

"What are you talking about? What poster?" He looked absolutely furious.

"DO YOU LIKE THOSE STUPID DRAG QUEEN IDIOTS?" I stayed completely silent.

"GO TO YOUR ROOM!" He bellowed. I ran up and sobbed. I felt so rubbish, as if I were a bird losing its egg. At this point, I didn't want to be alive, I just wanted to cut my heart with a knife. If I were a girl, this wouldn't have happened, dad wouldn't care that I'm into drag queens!

The next day, dad stayed muted. He didn't even want anything to do with me. So, I made my breakfast and went up to my room. Suddenly, I got a text, it was Ana. It said:

**Hi Bruno! Guess what!!! I'm all healthy, they got rid of it!**

I felt like crying with happiness,

**That's amazing! I'm so happy that you're okay, I hope the best for the future!**  
My first thought was to tell dad, but I remembered our argument. Besides, he wouldn't listen anyway.

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When I went to mum's, Kaiden was there again. I didn't really care this time but I did say 'hello', mum looked surprised but then smiled. I dropped my bag and was heading upstairs, but then Kaiden said,  
"Um Bruno. Can I have a chat with you?" I didn't know what to say. I opened my mouth but mum interrupted,  
"Well, I'll leave you both alone to talk," she stepped out and I started screaming in my head, I was so scared! What was he going to say to me?  
"Bruno," he began, "sometimes we don't wanna be who we are. Sometimes we'd be so happy if we were in a different form of life, but don't worry because if that's who you really wanna be, Then don't be scared to let it out. But remember, Bruno. That one day, all your dreams will come true, you can become who you want, you can be in any job you want and you can be any gender. The one and only one negative thing is to be over taken by your dream and to forget about your loved ones," tears were rolling down my cheeks. Those words struck my negative heart and transformed it into a positive one, I felt so blissful inside.  
"I only want you to feel free, I don't want you feeling trapped in your heart, because I know that there's that girl in it. I know that she's telling you to wake up and be who you are, and she's right," his eyes were getting watery, "Bruno, we haven't had the best start but we can start over. And remember I'm here, even though we only know each other for 2 days, I do know that you don't feel like a boy and that you wish to be a girl," I leaned over and hugged him,  
"Thank you," I whispered. Then mum stepped in,  
"Are you alri-" she paused and grinned in aw, "I see you both have got along!" Kaiden nodded as he let go of me.

It passed 2 week, dad acted normal and Kaiden and I got to know each other well. We went to restaurants together and spend a lot of time with each other. But when I went to mum's , that's when my life changed forever. I paced into the house and there sat Kaiden.

"I have a surprise for you," he informed, "your mum isn't here so when you come back she'll be astonished!" I was so baffled.

"What is it?" I asked

"I want your dream to come true, so I made an appointment for today-"

"WAIT, WHAT?!" I interrupted with complete shock, "WHEN MUM COMES SHE'LL GO BIZARRE!" He gazed at me with a tiny bit of fear.

“Bruno, I was going to say that you’re allowed to say no, it’s your choice” now I felt really bad, he only wanted the best for me. I fell silent, I could feel that my face turned red.

“Did you really think I’d just force you into this?” He asked.

“No,” I said in shock.

“Well then is it a yes or a no?” Suddenly, a silence approached.

“Maybe, I should tell mum,” I mumbled, “about... me,”

“You’re right!” He smiled. As we ended our chat, mum stepped in.

“Hi there, boys!” Kaiden looked at me and grinned.

“Mum,” I began, “I don’t know how to say this to you but I think I’m transgender,” mum looked absolutely horrified.

“What do you mean?” She cried.

“What I mean is that I don’t feel like a boy, mum! And you’ll have to deal with it, if you like it or not. It’s not an option, I know. But, I really feel like the opposite gender, and I want you to remember that I’ll always love you, my personality won’t change,” mum fell to the ground and sobbed. Kaiden went running to her but she pushed him away, causing him to fall.

“I BET YOU TALKED HIM INTO THIS!” She bellowed, “YOU-”

“Maddie, I would never do that in my life!” He interrupted, “you see, when I first came to your house, I wanted to say sorry to Bruno for just stepping in,” suddenly, my heart sank. All those horrible things I thought about Kaiden were just simple celebrations that struck into my head.

“But I heard him say ‘I wish I could be a girl’. And I could tell by his quietness that he really meant it,” mum stood up and held my hands softly.

“Do you really want this?” She asked me. I looked at Kaiden and at her. I took a deep breathe.

“Yes,”

Love can be hard, especially when we must be honest. However, remember that your family loves you, feeds you and cares about you. And if there’s something you have to tell them, they’ll always take it to heart no matter what. They might be busy with chores or they might be chatting on the phone, but all it takes is just a bit of patience, and the cognition that you’re mum, dad, aunt, uncle, grandma or grandpa will always have time for you. Because they love you. My name is now May, my dad never talked to me again or anyone who’s in my family after mum told him about having surgery, but I don’t care because I know that my mum and Kaiden will always be there for me.

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