

Short Story Title: Who's her lover?

Theme: Suspense

Who's her lover?

The summer season was on its way. The sun was splitting the rocks and everyone was already dressed in their summer overalls. Bethany knew already that this summer wasn't just going to be about the sun, sea and beaches. It was going to be all about the "lucky duvy" couples walking down lover's lane hand in hand. At sixteen years of age, Bethany knew that this summer wasn't going to be like any other.

Just two weeks to go for the summer holidays, Bethany was walking to school. The heat of the sun leaned on her and she was feeling hot in her pinafore uniform. At the school entrance Bethany could already see girls from her year holding hands "snogging", hugging and swooning over their boyfriends. Bethany was hoping that one day she would meet the love of her life that would accept her for who she is. She was never in a relationship with anyone yet before but why? Was it anxiety? Was it her school life? Nobody knows why...Bethany is a really good student. She receives top grades in all of her exams and is a popular girl in school. But her schoolmates still don't know why Bethany isn't in a relationship if she's really popular.

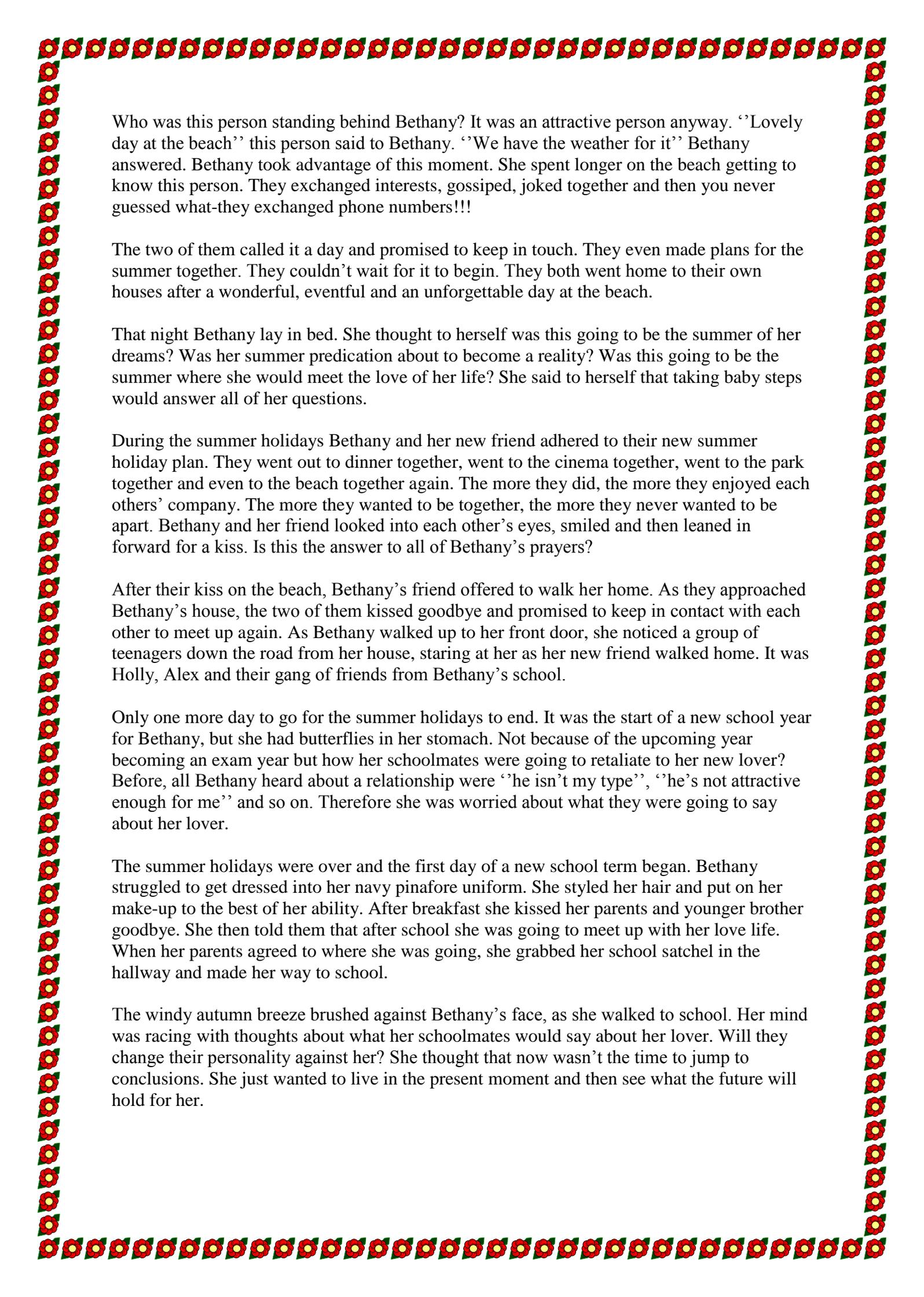
Approaching the school gates Bethany could see her school mates of both genders, waving at her. "Hey Beth" they greeted. "Have you found a boyfriend yet?" one girl Holly asked. Bethany shook her head. "No I'm afraid not" she replied. "Soon you will find Mr Right" a boy Alex said blowing kisses at her. Bethany just laughed and made her way to school.

The two weeks have past full of ongoing schoolwork, education and summer exams day in and day out. The summer holidays finally arrived. All of the students busted through the school doors racing home to start all of their summer holiday plans. Bethany could see already from the crowd couples throwing their arms around each other and saying "a whole summer with you babes".

A couple of days into the summer holidays Bethany went down to the local beach. It was packed with children playing in the sand, teenagers surfing, swimming and sunbathing, parents running after their children and of course as she predicted "couples". Bethany wore her two piece pink bikini. She made her way down to the sea to have a swim. She could feel the sand and the water soaking her feet and going between her toes.

While Bethany enjoyed this moment on the beach she took advantage of her surroundings. So what if she was single. So what if her friends had boyfriends. She knew in her own mind that life doesn't come with instructions. Also couples don't always stick together do they? Bethany knew that the right person would enter her life when the time is right.

The beach quietened down a bit by now. Everyone was packing up getting ready to go home for the evening. The only sounds Bethany could hear now were the "cawing" of the seagulls, the "gushing" of the tidal waves, the cool summer breeze and unexpectedly the "pitter patter" of footsteps coming up behind her.



Who was this person standing behind Bethany? It was an attractive person anyway. ‘‘Lovely day at the beach’’ this person said to Bethany. ‘‘We have the weather for it’’ Bethany answered. Bethany took advantage of this moment. She spent longer on the beach getting to know this person. They exchanged interests, gossiped, joked together and then you never guessed what-they exchanged phone numbers!!!

The two of them called it a day and promised to keep in touch. They even made plans for the summer together. They couldn’t wait for it to begin. They both went home to their own houses after a wonderful, eventful and an unforgettable day at the beach.

That night Bethany lay in bed. She thought to herself was this going to be the summer of her dreams? Was her summer predication about to become a reality? Was this going to be the summer where she would meet the love of her life? She said to herself that taking baby steps would answer all of her questions.

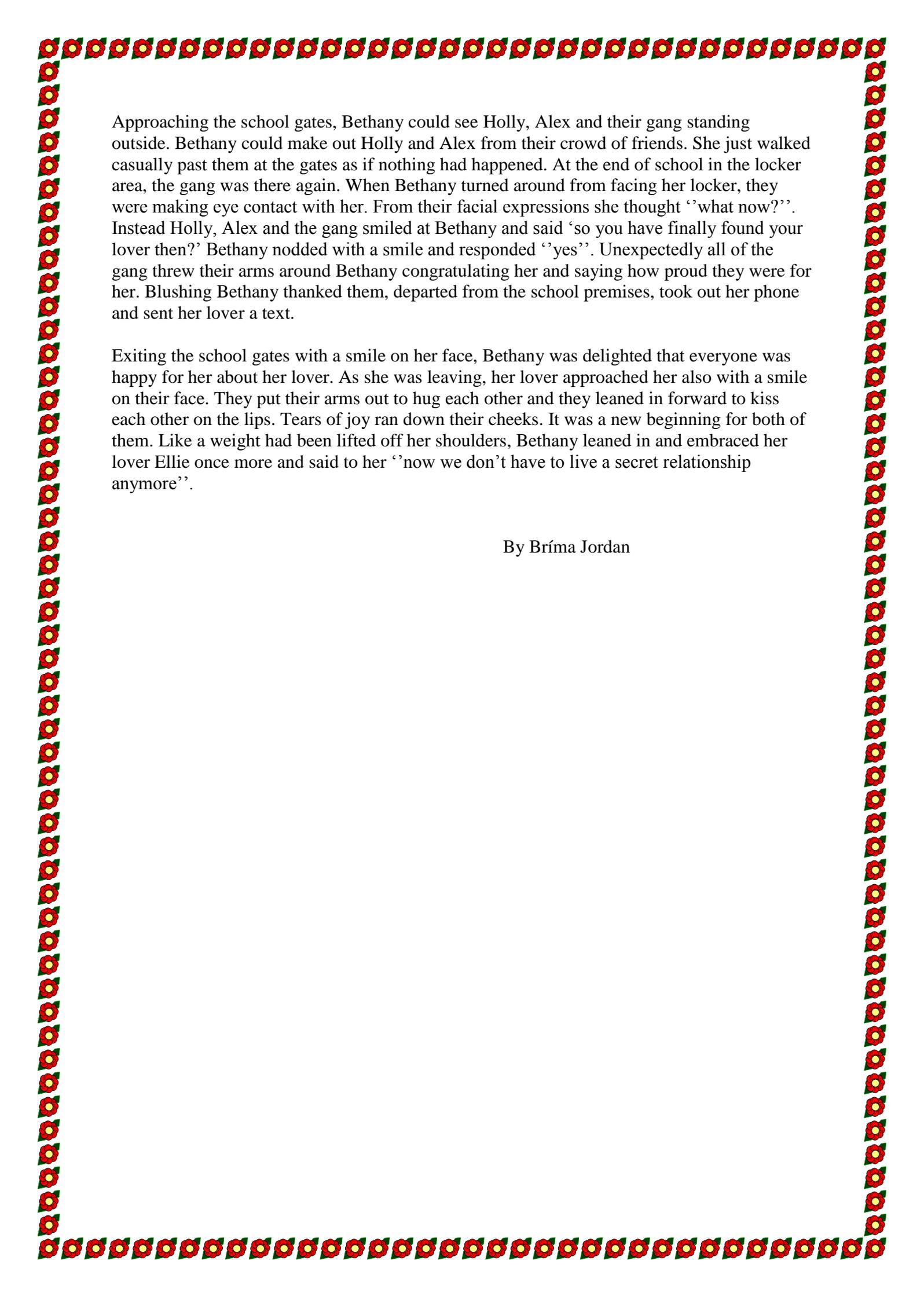
During the summer holidays Bethany and her new friend adhered to their new summer holiday plan. They went out to dinner together, went to the cinema together, went to the park together and even to the beach together again. The more they did, the more they enjoyed each others’ company. The more they wanted to be together, the more they never wanted to be apart. Bethany and her friend looked into each other’s eyes, smiled and then leaned in forward for a kiss. Is this the answer to all of Bethany’s prayers?

After their kiss on the beach, Bethany’s friend offered to walk her home. As they approached Bethany’s house, the two of them kissed goodbye and promised to keep in contact with each other to meet up again. As Bethany walked up to her front door, she noticed a group of teenagers down the road from her house, staring at her as her new friend walked home. It was Holly, Alex and their gang of friends from Bethany’s school.

Only one more day to go for the summer holidays to end. It was the start of a new school year for Bethany, but she had butterflies in her stomach. Not because of the upcoming year becoming an exam year but how her schoolmates were going to retaliate to her new lover? Before, all Bethany heard about a relationship were ‘‘he isn’t my type’’, ‘‘he’s not attractive enough for me’’ and so on. Therefore she was worried about what they were going to say about her lover.

The summer holidays were over and the first day of a new school term began. Bethany struggled to get dressed into her navy pinafore uniform. She styled her hair and put on her make-up to the best of her ability. After breakfast she kissed her parents and younger brother goodbye. She then told them that after school she was going to meet up with her love life. When her parents agreed to where she was going, she grabbed her school satchel in the hallway and made her way to school.

The windy autumn breeze brushed against Bethany’s face, as she walked to school. Her mind was racing with thoughts about what her schoolmates would say about her lover. Will they change their personality against her? She thought that now wasn’t the time to jump to conclusions. She just wanted to live in the present moment and then see what the future will hold for her.



Approaching the school gates, Bethany could see Holly, Alex and their gang standing outside. Bethany could make out Holly and Alex from their crowd of friends. She just walked casually past them at the gates as if nothing had happened. At the end of school in the locker area, the gang was there again. When Bethany turned around from facing her locker, they were making eye contact with her. From their facial expressions she thought ‘what now?’. Instead Holly, Alex and the gang smiled at Bethany and said ‘so you have finally found your lover then?’ Bethany nodded with a smile and responded ‘yes’. Unexpectedly all of the gang threw their arms around Bethany congratulating her and saying how proud they were for her. Blushing Bethany thanked them, departed from the school premises, took out her phone and sent her lover a text.

Exiting the school gates with a smile on her face, Bethany was delighted that everyone was happy for her about her lover. As she was leaving, her lover approached her also with a smile on their face. They put their arms out to hug each other and they leaned in forward to kiss each other on the lips. Tears of joy ran down their cheeks. It was a new beginning for both of them. Like a weight had been lifted off her shoulders, Bethany leaned in and embraced her lover Ellie once more and said to her ‘now we don’t have to live a secret relationship anymore’.

By Bríma Jordan