

Elca Padme

John

Keep
Out
Sam, Penn,
Moms, Dad &

all the
people
that I
know and
don't know



Star Wars

Expressive
Loveable
Cool
Amazing



Elca Padme John, 4th Grader at Greenwood Academy

My name is Elca Padme John and I am 9 years old. I have long straight black hair parted in the middle, pale skin, green eyes and am very skinny since I can't stop playing my favorite game--soccer. I am in the 4th grade at Greenwood Academy and wear a crisp maroon school uniform with a large gold crest on the front. My brother, Samuel, we call him Sam, has dark brown hair with a patch of toe-head blonde at the back of his head, He has grey eyes, and wears the boy's version of our school uniform. He is also 9 but never tires of reminding anyone who will listen that he is 2 seconds older. We are twins but you wouldn't know it from looking at us.

Today was a super odd day for me. I was at school, sitting in the cafeteria and minding my own business, when Sam stuck his head in and screamed loud enough for the whole school to hear, "My lil' sis' has a crush on you Joshua Park!"

Joshua's cheeks lit up bright pink and did so did mine. I felt as if I was going to cry. There was only one solution. I ran to a door marked 'LADIES'. I went to the biggest stall, locked the door, put my back to the door and slid down 'til my butt hit the ground.

I had only been there about 3 seconds when my friend Marcy Hauser came in. She saw my Mary Janes and crawled under the stall door and said, "Since when, Josh?"

"Well... since he came to my house for a sleepover with Sam", I sniffled.

"And when were you going to tell...!" I couldn't listen to Marcy's drama about how I didn't tell her about Josh, I had to get to Mrs. Debbernan's 4th grade pre-algebra class before I got **DETENTION** for being TARDY again! I needed a plan.

THE NURSE.....

Seriously, how could I go to class? I would be made fun of until the end of time! I unlocked the stall door, put water on my face and hair to make me look clammy and put my head under the hand dryer to make my head feel hot. "So", I said to Marcy, "Do I look feverish?"

"Completely", she said. "But put a sick expression on your face to go along with the pink cheeks." So that's exactly what I did.

Marcy took me to the nurse. The nurse said, "Hi. I'm Mary Kay Shiner, what can I do for ya'll?"

"Well my friend Padme here, she doesn't (since I don't like Elca, I go by my middle name Padme!) feel too well ma'am", said Marcy.

"Alright I'll fix 'er on up for you Miss Hauser. You go down to class, and oh, tell your teacher 'bout Elca, um, er, Padme", Nurse Kay said.

So off went Marshay Hauser (Marshay is Marcy's real name).

The nurse leaned in and felt my cheeks and head. But when she got close to me I smelled something horrible! Road kill came to mind. I don't know what she had for breakfast, but her breath was so disgusting that it made me feel wonky. Before I knew what was happening, I threw up all over her. Nurse Kay began screaming! I did not expect that.

About this time, our math teacher, Mrs. Debbenan, marched into the office with Marianna Webber, who had a guilty look on her face. Mrs. Debbenan asked me how I was, and explained that Marcy told her I was "sick". I shrugged and said, "not so good". Nurse Kay, who was still in the process of frantically trying to clean herself up, told me to lay down and be still.

Since Principal Fishbein was busing lecturing my brother Sam about his bad, unacceptable and disruptive behavior in the cafeteria, Marianna was stuck in the sick room with me. That is until assistant Principal Hamillburg, came in to lecture Marianna about pushing Nick Margolis off the swing. He gave Marianna a big talk about bullying, called her parents and sent her back to class. In all the commotion, and despite my best performance ever as a sick kid, I got sent back to class too!

BACK TO CLASS.....

Once I got there Marcy looked at me funny and Dexter Brown made a kissie face. Mrs. Debbenan said, "ENOUGH!", her brown eyes crackling in anger.

I took my seat next to Lilly Pinsley. She passed me a note which said:

Dear Padme,

I know you are having a most difficult day but at 2:00 this afternoon we're going to get a new kid in class! You can finally ditch Marshay and the 3 of us can become become best friends!

Love: Lilly P.

I guess Lilly knew about my drama in the nurse's office with Marcy. She was always in my business trying to "help" me. Sure, I was totally interested in the new kid, but I couldn't just ditch Marcy. I kept my eye peeled on the clock for 2:00. I wrote Lilly back:

Dear Lilly,

How do you know about the new kid?. Tell me absolutely everything you know about her and don't leave anything out!

From: Padme

I crumpled up the letter I was about to send and thought, *'how would I feel if Marcy did or planned this for me-'*.

Just then Mrs. Debbernan stood up, cleared her throat and began speaking, "children this is Parker Ellen Harkins, she just moved her with her family and will be joining our class. Principal Fishbein has assigned Elca John to be her tour guide. Elca, you will spend the day with Parker and accompany her to all her classes. I know you will do your best to make her feel welcome." Parker and I froze. She turned her hawk eyes on me scanning everything I did and stared at my uniform as if I wasn't wearing one. She looked at me like I was wearing jeans with holes in them and a cropped-top. She spoke in a velvet sweet voice, "Where do I sit, Mrs. Debbernan ma'am?" Mrs. Debbernan pointed to the open seat next to me, then stopped and said "Before you take your seat, why don't you tell us abit about yourself!"

"Hi...um...I'm Parker. I'm from Salem, Oregon. Behind our house in Oregon we had a pond and when it froze we'd play hockey and at my Gramma's house we'd play football and baseball and water volleyball...And my Grampa Tim has 2puppies and they are Finn and Charlotte...um I have 4 siamese..uh..cats and my mom makes a good pie and my dad is good with wines because we own a vineyard with horses. My horse is white her name is Cottonball. My sister's horse is black and tan and his name is Nutella. My Dad's horse is the color of dark chocolate and his name is Muddy. Mama's horse is all cream and we call her Marshmallow." Mrs. Debbernen showed Parker some mercy by cutting her off mid-sentencing and exclaiming, 'My how fascinating!'

I spent the rest of the afternoon dragging Parker around to the rest of her classes. She wasn't that great, but being her tour guide was keeping my mind of my Josh troubles-- somewhat anyway. We finally ended up back in Mrs. Debbernan's class since it turns out she is also our choir teacher. "Children get your music because it's time for us to practice our new song", she said. I dug in my desk until I found my exact copy of Anastasia, Journey To The Past, with lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, music by Stephen Flaherty and arrangement by Teena Chinn. I know so much about it because it is my all time most

favorite choir song ever. We all began singing, "Heart don't fail me nnnnnooooowwww", but then the class stopped short never to go again as Parker Ellen Harkins blew us away with her compelling and beautiful voice. Since Parker continued singing, I joined in and so did Charmaine, Claire, Rachel, Emma, Yumi and Riba. The rest of the kids just sat there in amazement. Maybe Parker isn't so boring after all. As soon as we finished, Mrs. Debbernan glanced at the clock and said, "Oops, it's time to go. Pack up or you will be late for your parents!"

I went to my locker, put on a sweater and began to walk home. Sam raced by me trying to pop a wheelie on his new mountain bike, totally oblivious to all the trouble he had caused. As soon as I got home, I went to my room, put on a baggy shirt and a pair of old sweatpants, sprawled out on my bed and began groaning about my awful day at school.

THE TALK... AND TRUTH....ABOUT JOSHUA.....

As I lay there in misery, Mom came in and started to put my laundry away. When she saw the expression on my face, she sat on the end of my bed.

"Elca Padme, sweetheart, what's wrong?"

"Well", I started off... "well, Sam sorta told Josh, and the whole school by the way...that I had a crush on Josh, and then well, I faked being sick and went to the nurse, and that was a disaster, and then..."

"Well sweetie I'm sure that the WHOLE school didn't hear it, and anyway all a boy Josh's age really cares about are his video games and sports and boogers and stuff like that. It's can't be as bad as all that".

"Oh mom, you just don't understand. I can NEVER go back to school". I buried my head under my pillow,

I needed to call Marcy ASAP. She would get it, wouldn't she?

I went to my Dad's office and dialed 412-632-9817. It rang once and then I heard, "Hauser's residence"

"Hi Marcy", I said in my saddest voice.

"Oh hi, 'sup?"

"Today was so awful and now I realize that Josh doesn't even like me. After hearing that I have a crush on him, he didn't even acknowledge me. I will NEVER be able to show my face at school again. This is worse than a natural disaster, it's a hurricane, a tornado and a tsunami all rolled into one", I cried.

"Look, Padme, Josh isn't so great. He chews his food with his mouth open, belches out loud for fun and his personal hygiene has never been too good", she said.

I hung up and didn't feel the least bit better. I listened to some of my favorite Taylor Swift songs, watched a new episode of *Gravity Falls*, ate some chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream, but nothing helped. I crawled into bed and secretly hoped a meteor would hit my house so I would have an excuse not to go to school tomorrow.

I sighed...finally the sun was setting on the most horrible day of my entire life.

HOW CAN IT BE TOMORROW ALREADY...

The next day I tried to talk mom into letting me stay home. No dice. Then I tried dad, but all he said was, "ask your mom". Ugh, this was really happening. I was going to HAVE to go to school, to face Josh, to face Lilly and Dexter and all the rest. When would this nightmare end?

Luckily, as I stepped into school, the first person I saw was Marcy. When I started to rehash the tragic events of yesterday, she interrupted me and said, "Wait I thought your worst day was when we were water skiing and your bottoms flew off?"

"Marcy I'm trying to end my memoir with no more drama about horrible days!"

"Ok, ok", she said.

I walked into class as slowly as humanly possible, kind of like the 3-toed sloth from the *Discovery Channel*. The first thing I noticed was that Parker looked very different from yesterday. She had her hair in a huge, messy bun that made her look like a drowned cat. Apparently, she had watched the new *Cinderella* movie and was trying to look glamorous, but things went way wrong. Lilly, Charmaine, and Riba were huddled in a group giggling about Parker's crazy hair-do. As I passed Josh, all he said was, "Hey Padme. Where's Sam, I need to know if he is up for some Minecraft after school".

"Not sure, but he should be here any second", was all I could manage to say.

Then I passed Dexter, who never even gave me a second glance. He was busy making spit balls that he planned to shoot at Emily Drummond, who he secretly liked. All the rest of the kids were busy planning their week-ends. Nobody paid me any attention whatsoever. Just then it hit me. No one else actually cared about the 'Josh incident'. Not one kid, except me, took any of it seriously. Everyone had already moved on and I had given myself a sleepless night for no reason at all. The plotting, the planning, the heartache, the wishing for a meteor to hit my house, all useless. I hated to admit it, but maybe, just maybe mom was right after all when she said it was just no big deal. But **please**, don't tell her that I said that!

THE END!