

# MUCP and Me

By: Sedona Kessler

Monster University College Prep was written in big, sharp, black letters above the school doors. I couldn't believe that it was my first day of high school. I'm Medula. Yeah my name is a lot like my mom's. I'm a direct descendant of Medusa the Greek god. I even inherited her power to turn people to stone, but I don't have to wear a blindfold all the time or anything because the power isn't as potent in me. I can only turn people to stone if I get really mad or I am very calm and I have absolute focus. I live in Transylvania. It's not how humans make it look on TV, but I can talk about that later. I'm 14 years old, and going into high school. I am mean sometimes. Ok a lot, but I am going to try to be nicer in high school so I can have more friends. I walked into the school, and saw all the classroom numbers, and I tried to find my homeroom. The first classroom I saw was number 2074. My room is number 2068, so my homeroom must be nearby.

I found my homeroom and sat down at a random desk. A dragon girl sat down beside me. She had beautiful shiny glistening scales. She peered over at me and when she saw that I was looking at her as well she smiled and said "Hi." I replied with a simple "Hi." as well. As I looked at her I just had to ask "How do you keep your scales so shiny, but not slimey looking?" She answered and we kicked up a conversation. She told me her name was Dragonia and I told her my name. I was happy and relieved to make a friend. It was actually easier than I thought, I guess if you're nice to people then they'll like you and be your friend. Then the teacher came in. He told us this was our homeroom and that we would be here for fifteen minutes in the morning and fifteen minutes at the end of the day. He told us some other basic first day of school teacher stuff. He was cut off by the bell, and we all grabbed our bags and went to our various classes.

The rest of the day was pretty good. I had Dr. Octo for undersea aquatic life study, Mrs. Vimporia for history, Professor Wowl for English and Miss Gnomma for Subterranean Earth Study or as most people call it S.E.S. I received homework for each of my classes, but it wasn't very much and it didn't look too hard.

After school was over I headed over to the Screamball field for cheerleading tryouts. I saw a very large group of girls standing in front of a table of girls with black, orange and purple cheerleading uniforms. I then realized I would have a lot of competition. As I approached the group of girls I saw one of the cheerleaders sitting in the middle of the table holding a

clipboard. She must be the head cheerleader. When she saw me slither over to the tryout area she said in a truly disguised voice "Ewh. Look at tha tail, it's going to be hard to cheer with that *tail* and no legs." I looked around for a moment, and then I painfully realized that she was talking about *me*. She then separated us into 2 groups. She said that the group I was in could leave. I was mad, but I restrained myself and asked "Why? The tryouts haven't even started." She looked at me like she was thinking, do I really have to spell it out for you? Then she said in a snobby better-than-you for-your-information kind of way "Actually they have, and some of you are just not cheerleader material. Take you for example. You can't do all of the cheers with that *tail*." I was so angry, but I really wanted to be on the cheerleading team. It was the most fun thing I did in middle school. So I calmed down and I slowly morphed my scaly tail into slightly scaly legs. The head cheerleader looked at me and talked as you would to a 5 year old and said "Good job! Now you have legs, but you still can't be on the team." I frowned and said in a confused voice "Why?" That evil cheerleader said in an isn't it obvious kind of way "You're kinda ugly." Then I exploded and all my anger poured out "What does that have to do with anything! You should at least let me try! What if i'm a great cheerleader! What if I could do ten backflips in the air, but you would never know because you won't let me try! This is completely unfair." Then she replied without a hint of sympathy in her voice "Well that's too bad."

Then I lost it. I stared at her and all my anger came out at once, and I turned her to stone.

I was sent to the principal's office for turning that cheerleader to stone. I found out her name was Linda. When they turned her back they made me apologize. It was hard, but I did. Now i'm in detention, and I better get used to it because I have it for the next month. The whole experience wasn't completely bad though. While I was in the principal's office I got permission to start my own cheerleading team. GRRRIINNG! Oh there's the bell! I can leave!

It's tuesday now. Second day of school and I already have an enemy. Well now I know how aggravating it is when someone won't even give you a chance. I promise myself I will always give people a chance, because I don't want everyone to hate me again. GRRRIINNG! Oh! It's time for lunch

I walked into the lunchroom and saw Dragonia. I walked over to sit by her. I said "Hi." She replied with "Hey." I started eating my mouse crispy treat, and the idea hit me. Dragonia should be on my cheerleading squad! Her wings would make it really easy to do a lot of the acrobatic stuff. So I got up and said "Dragonia i'm starting a cheerleading team and I want you

to be on it.” She reluctantly said “Sure.” But she had something else to add. “But if i’m on the team then Jackle is on the team. He’s super flexible because he’s mostly just bones. He’s also really good at acrobatics, but he won’t show off his awesome skills because he’s too shy.” For the first time I realized a pumpkin headed boy sitting with us. He was wearing all black and had bare bone hands sticking out the end of his long black sleeves. I couldn’t think of any reason not to let him join the team, and I didn’t want to be like Linda and not give monsters a chance. So I said “Sure. why not.”

After lunch I had gym, and right when I walked in I saw *her*. Linda was in the middle of the gym surrounded by a crowd of girls. I couldn’t understand why she was so popular. I inched around the edge of the gym, avoiding the mob of girls. I was halfway around the gym when I heard a loud FFWWEEEE! I looked around for the cause of the loud noise, and it was our gym teacher. He was blowing a whistle. Our gym teachers name was Mr.Phantomlest, he’s a ghost. In life he was the head of a large toy and confectionary company apparently. “Stand single file on the half court line everybody!” He yelled. Once we were all in line he told us that the first unit we would be doing would be on gymnastics. “Everyone to the balance beam!” He barked. As we walked over to the balance beam Linda saw me. She came really close and said to one of the members of her entourage loud enough so I could hear “I’ll bet that snake girl can’t even do one flip on the balance beam.” “Yes I can!” I blurted out.

Linda smirked evilly and said “So you can do one flip. That’s easy. I can do two.” “Yeah. Well I can do three.” I immediately regretted saying that. I technically wasn’t lying because I had never tried to do three flips. So I don’t know for sure that I can’t. I know I can do two, and what’s one more? Then Linda said “Well I can do three to. Why don’t we both prove it.” And she flashed that evil smile again.

When we reached the balance beam Mr.Phantomlest said “I will asses each of your abilities so that I know where to start teaching from.” Linda went first. For a moment I hoped she would mess up, but she didn’t. She did three perfect flips and landed on the purple with her arms up. Now it was my turn now. I repeated the sentence, I can do it, I can do it, I can do it, in my head over and over. I climbed onto the balance beam and bent over and I did one two thr-, and my foot slipped when I tried to finish the third one. It hurt, but not as much as Linda’s laughter as she said “I guess you really aren’t cut out to be a cheerleader. Oh wait I already knew that.” I choked back my tears and asked to be excused. Halfway down the hall hot tears started forming, and I couldn’t stop them. I made the decision then and there running down the hall crying to never lie again.

It's Wednesday, and after that gym class I wanted to show Linda that I could be a good cheerleader more than ever. During our free period Dragonia, Jackle, and I went around the whole school to make sure everyone heard about our team. We wanted to get as many members on our team as possible. I guess it was inevitable that we would run into *Linda*. We were on floor negative 28, when I saw that girl's high blond ponytail. "Hmph. Begging people to join your little dork squad?" She said. "It's not a dork squad, and for your information lots of people want to join our team." I retorted. "Yeah a bunch of losers." Linda snorted. "Yeah." said one of the two girls following Linda. As I was about to respond the intercom sounded. "Linda Gwich and Medula Slitherbelenstienanstsnake to the principle's office please." Yeah, I know I have a ridiculous last name. At first I thought I was in trouble, but as I slithered to the principle's office I couldn't think of anything I had done wrong since the first day of school.

The principle had us sit in two chairs across from him as he told us how the school board said that there could only be one cheerleading team. He said there was a big basketball game on Friday and the crowd would decide at half time which cheerleading squad would stay. As Linda and I left the office she said "Ha! Now your little game of pretend must come to an end. Boo-hoo. Now you won't be able to pretend to be a cheerleader anymore." Then she sashayed away before I could say anything.

I was angry, but now I'm going to do something about it. I'm not just going to show her I can be a cheerleader. I'm going to show her that I can be a better cheerleader than her.

Finally the day of the big game. Dragonia, Jackle and I have been practicing non-stop with the rest of our team. Stella, Twislight, Twilight, and Blippi. I think our routine is awesome, and I know everyone's been putting in 217%, but I'm still really nervous. GRRRIINNG! Oh! Class is over so that means the big basketball game is in half an hour!

I don't know whether to be excited or scared. After the bell rang I went to the girls bathroom, and changed into the cheerleading uniform Blippi made for me. I jogged over to the gym. The game was about to begin! I guess I took longer to get ready than I thought. I sat down on the cold metal bleachers next to Dragonia. By halftime our team was winning by a score of 27-8. I didn't really care though, what I do care about is Linda's squad's cheer. They started by running in place, and then they started moving their arms in a circle. The rest of their routine was centered around Linda. It was amazing. They scored in the orange zone on the crowd-o-meter. The highest score you could get was in the red zone.

Our team got into formation and started cheering: Come on team you can do it! Come on team power through it! Come on team yes we can! Come on team let's make a winning plan! Then we did our finishing move. Twiclight, Twislight and Stella grabbed Dragonia and Bippli's feet when they flew up into the air forming the base of a human pyramid. I did a backflip onto the top of the pyramid, and Jackle jumped and did the splits in front of the pyramid! I looked over at the crowd-o-meter. We were on the edge of yellow almost in orange! We lost. My heart sank. I lost my balance and fell over. I started somersaulting through the air, and I started freaking out! I didn't scream, but my stomach was churning. I seriously thought I was going to die for about 2 seconds. Then Jackle caught my feet! I swayed, but didn't fall. The crowd went wild! I peered over my shoulder at the crowd-o-meter. It was in the red zone! We won! We won! Then I saw Linda crying on the bleachers. Even though I hate her I knew what I had to do.

I walked over, and she was bawling and blubbering. I don't like her, but she's still a monster. So I just blurted out "The school board says there can only be one cheerleading team, but they never said how many people could be on each team. Dragonia must have overheard because she came over and said "Oh no. We worked so hard to take her down. She was so mean to everyone." "I know but look at her, and if we exclude people we're no better than she was. I used to be the mean one and i've learned that you can really hurt people's feelings." I said. Dragonia replied with a sigh and a "I suppose you're right. Fine." So I turned back to blubbering Linda and said "Well what i'm trying to say is do you want to join our team?" "No! I'll never join your dork squad!" She yelled, and then she ran out.

A lot of the girls that used to be on Linda's team joined ours. We worked around everyone's schedule and found a time for us to practice. It was a crazy first week, and after that first week Linda didn't really talk to us anymore. Now I feel like I can handle anything this school throws at me.