

Shay in the Middle

Written By: Xiomara Monroy



I was on the bus ride to Monster Middle School for the very first time in my life! I'm going to try out for the cheer team after school today. I've always wanted to be a part of the Titans cheer team ever since my older sister was head cheerleader of the team. I hoped my teacher would be nice. Anyway, my bus came to a halt and I looked up at the big, beautiful building in front of me: Monster Middle School. As soon as I enter, I whip out the piece of paper that has my name and room number on it. "Room 305," I said to myself, "great, the third floor." *This is gonna be fun* I thought staring up at the stairs.

"Shay!" a familiar voice yelled. Before I can turn around I am suddenly tackled to the floor by my best friend Medusa. "Nice to see you too, M." I say rubbing my elbow. "See ya later!" She says over her shoulder, "Byeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!" *Okay, now to find class.*

Once I finally made it up the stairs, I searched for my classroom. *Ah, here it is. 305, finally.* I walk in and to my surprise, find Medusa, Peaches and Carrie in my classroom. "Hiieeeeee!" I happily said, "Hiieeeeee!" they excitedly responded. "Yay! We have homeroom together!" exclaimed Medusa. "Wait, I completely forgot to ask you what your room number was when we ran into each other earlier. Literally." Carrie, Peaches and I started laughing. I had missed Medusa's weird habit of making us laugh. "Hello fellow students! I am Mr.

Roarbeck.” said a sudden voice from the doorway. A tall man entered and walked across the front of the room. Wait. *MAN?* “ In case you were wondering, no, I am not a regular human. I am a werewolf. And we are going to have a fantastic year together.”

Once Medusa and I got to cheerleading tryouts, the teachers gave us a routine to follow in order to try out. *Oh my frickin’ god! This routine is harder than concrete!* I thought. We then practiced the routine three times all together. The one thing I kept horribly failing at was the ending one handed cartwheel and splits. *I’m gonna fail!* When we finished practice, they called us in in groups of three. I was with Medusa and a girl named Jenna who looked just as nervous as I did. “You may begin now.” said one judge, startling all three of us. We did the cheer first so next came the dance. Which meant for us one-handed-cartwheel-ended-with-the-splits time. I did the first part of the dance perfectly. Then it came. *I can do this. Just step, twist, glide and... SPLITS! I did it! I actually did it! And so did the other girls!* I was so proud of myself and the other girls! Now all we had to do was find out if we made it or not.

I got home and went straight to my room to work on as much homework I could before dinner. As soon as I got out my assignment notebook, I realized that I had a lot of homework. *Oh great. I need to work this whole cheerleading and schoolwork thing out.* I had gotten done with two things before I was called to dinner. At dinner nothing exciting really happened. It was just your usual first day of school dinner where the conversation goes a little something like this: “So how was your first day of school?”

“Good.”

“Did anything exciting happen?”

“BFF’S in same classroom, other usual first day of school crap.”

Then that’s when you leave. I try to finish all the hard stuff first so at the end I can just zip through the easy stuff in less than 15 minutes before I go to bed. When I finally finished, it was 8:15 pm. So I changed into my pajamas, brushed my teeth and went to bed waiting for the second day of school to come the next day.

I woke up to find my little brother digging through my bedroom trash can. “No, Cy! That’s dirty!” I said rushing to grab him before he starts to chew on something. “Dirty!” He repeats. Anyways, after I jumped off my bus I rushed to meet my friends but then I hear a big, “YAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAY!” coming towards me. “We got in! We got in! Not only that but we both got head cheerleader!” Exclaimed Medusa. “How is that even possible? Oh who cares?! YAAAAAAAAAAAAAY!” I say excitedly. At lunch, Carrie was starting to get annoyed because Medusa and I wouldn’t shut up about cheerleading, but Peaches was just staring into space. Again! “So I guess you guys have to prepare for the

upcoming game, and the pep rally and party in October,” said Peaches, finally out of his daze, “You have any ideas?”

“Well-”

“NO! DON’T YOU DARE RESPOND! Shay, Medusa, I am very proud of you guys, I am. But take a breath! I just want a normal conversation with little bits of cheerleading happenings mentioned in between. Please.” shouted Carrie.

“Sure.”

“Sorry.”

“Gaaaah!” yelled Peaches.

“But do us a favor, please don’t explode like that ever again. People are staring.” I said while standing up to leave.

“Agreed.” said Medusa following.

“Byeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!!!!!!” I said over my shoulder.

That recess, we were spending it by jumping off of high places. The highest we jumped off of was the mini balcony that hangs off our school right next to the playground. We got scolded from one of our school’s eighth grade teachers who told us to take a look at how nicely her class was doing but honestly, they looked more tortured than tamed to me. I rolled my eyes at her even though she was probably looking right at me at the time. When it comes to defending myself, or facing a “know it all” teacher, I don’t bite my tongue when I feel like saying or doing something to anyone or anything.

After school, Medusa and I had hung up posters for the big “Monstober Halloween Party” all over school. All we do is show up, dance, and have fun! Halloween is like a big day for us monsters. It is the day that all the humans honor us by putting up the most amazing decorations that we later compare ourselves to as we hide in places pretending to be a fellow human dressed in a costume.

Apparently, they don’t want to think that us monsters really exist.

We then continue the party back at school until it ends at 12:00am. That’s when we all go home.

The next day, as Peaches, Carrie, Medusa and I walked outside to go climb up on top of the monkey bars, Peaches got hit in the head by a soccer ball.

“GAAHHHHHH!” shouted Peaches as he crumpled to the floor.

“Peaches! Oh my god! Are you okay?!” I said worriedly while Carrie and Medusa followed me as we rushed over to him.

“He’s bleeding! We *need* to take him to the nurse!” Carrie screeched not knowing what to do.

Medusa was in shock so she didn’t say much. Anyway, as we were heading to the nurse I turn to see Audrey and Alienoid standing with a smirk on their faces.

Audrey and Alienoid, brother and sister. In other words our worst enemies.

When we got to the nurse, Peaches had finally woken. I remembered seeing Alienoid standing with a ball under his arm. Then I remembered the ball that had hit Peaches. It was the same red ball. *Aud and Al strike again!* I thought to myself.

“Hey, Shay, why’d you stray?” said Medusa, awfully proud of her rhyme.

“Funny. Anyway, I was thinking about Al and Audrey-”

“Shay, don’t let them get to your head. They just want to-”

“Wait, let me finish! Peaches, *they* are the reason you are here. You got hit by the ball on purpose! They are, once again, trying to get us into trouble.

“Alright. Will two of the three of you go back outside while one of you stays here with Peaches and me?” said the nurse sweetly as she entered the room.

“I’ll stay. You guys go, I’ll keep Peaches company.” said Medusa.

“Come on Shay, let’s go back outside.” said Carrie as she stood up.

“Yeah I guess so.” I replied.

We were walking down the hallway when Audrey- somewhat shorter than me, because, well, I’m 6 feet tall- stopped us cold.

“So. How’s Stitches n’ String doing?” she rudely asked with a smirk on her face.

“It’s Peaches n’ Creme, know it all. And how do you think he’s doing? I saw Alienoid with that soccer ball, and I also know him kicking it at my friend wasn’t an accident.” I replied rather annoyed.

“You are pretty clever if you noticed that. But not clever enough to know that we were really trying to get you and instead, it chose Peaches so, we’ll take what we can get.”

“What did she ever do to you? You are so lucky she hasn’t turned you into stone. I don’t know why, because I would have done it the second I saw you!”

I just took Carrie and left because it was time to head back to class. We ran into Medusa and Peaches on our way up. I was, again, lost in thought at the moment but I wasn’t sure if I was angry, annoyed or confused. Maybe all three? After school all I did was go home even though I had cheer practice. *I’m sure Medusa can handle it.* I thought to myself. *I have a lot of homework anyway.*

On Saturday, Peaches and Medusa came over to my house. Medusa had asked why I had missed practice and I told her that I had a lot of homework to get done that day. And of course she didn’t believe me.

“Come on Shay, we know you better than anyone! We all know that you are hiding something when you start playing with your ‘hair’.”

That’s when I *had* to tell them what had *really* happened when Carrie and I had walked out of the nurse’s office.

“Why would she do that?” questioned Peaches.

“I honestly don’t know.” I replied.

Why would she have wanted to hit me? I thought. Was she still mad about- No. she can’t possibly still be mad about that. Can she?

“Earth to Shay!” said Medusa while shaking me.

“Sorry.”

“What were you thinking of? You seemed really lost in thought.” asked Peaches while rubbing the side of his head where the soccer ball had hit him.

“Halloween, Fifth grade.” I said slowly.

“Can she seriously still be mad about that? I mean it wasn’t even your choice!” Exclaimed Medusa.

Oh! I forgot to tell you. So in fifth grade, we had Halloween Queen elections, and Audrey and I were two of the people in the running. I had won and after that, Audrey had been left by her friends because they wanted to be my friends. I have to admit, I liked the attention, and anyone who hung out with me were considered the “cool kids”. Yes I am a little self absorbed, but I am also a very nice person. So, as you may have guessed Audrey is probably still mad about not winning Halloween Queen.

The next day, the gang and I ran into Audrey and Alienoid, once again. I was in a really bad mood, so we almost had two more statues in our school.

“What do you want now?” I said, quite annoyed.

“Stop trailing us, we will never surrender!” exclaimed Medusa.

“We will never listen to you. Unlike all the other monsters, we’re smart, and know not to listen to you. EVER!” shouted Audrey.

“We are smart! We aren’t dumb!” chanted Alienoid.

“Well, unlike other monsters, you are also impractically big, and if you are really that smart, why do you get F’s on your report card?” I shot back.

“How did you-” began Alienoid.

“Shush! You don’t know anything about that. I don’t know why you go walking around all confident Shay, because you have no reason to. Especially after this coming Halloween.” taunted Audrey as her, and her brother began to walk away.

“Why are you still going back to that? You said you moved on. Forgive, forget, Audrey.” I yelled after them.

“There is no such thing, Shay.” she whispered back. Then they left.

On Halloween, I was getting dressed in my best outfit. I then received a text from my sister that said: Hurry up. I’m driving you to school today. So I grabbed a bagel, grabbed my backpack, and got into her car.

“So I hear you set up the Halloween party this year, my little head cheerleader!” said my older sister, Brooklyn. I nodded, too busy to speak because I had taken a bite out of my bagel. We didn’t talk much because we still live in the same house together so nothing is really new. I stepped into the bathroom to either fix my hair, or just to look in the mirror, when I heard what sounded like a sob coming from one of the stalls. I realized who it belonged to when this happened:

“Hello?” I said, worried.

“Go away!” said the voice. I then saw Audrey sitting on the floor with her knees to her chest, covered in what looked like leftovers from the cafeteria. She looked up at me and sobbed another time.

“Go ahead. Laugh.” she said looking down.

“No. In fact. What happened?” I asked.

“M-My ex-friends, th-threw l-leftovers f-f-from the lunchroom at m-m-m-m-me!” cried Audrey as she burst into more tears. I never thought I could ever feel so bad for Audrey. She then looked at me expecting me to die laughing but no matter how cruel she has been to me and my friends, no matter how many tricks she tried to pull on us, I just couldn’t stand to see her die of embarrassment like this. That’s when I stuck my hand out to help her up. She stared at it for a moment and then accepted it.

“Th-th-thank you, Shay. But, why?”

“Because, no matter the person, I would never leave them to die of humiliation.” I replied. But I meant it. Yes, I wasn’t exactly Audrey’s BFF, but no one should ever have to suffer like this.

“Now come on. Help me set up the decor.” I suggested.

“But, I can’t go to the party like this!”

“I might have have something you could wear at my locker.”

Later at the party, there was an announcement that Audrey had requested to say in front of the whole school. She went up but didn’t say a word. Then then that’s when she said it.

“Hi guys. I originally wanted to say something not very nice to our fifth grade Halloween Queen. But after earlier this morning, I have changed my mind. Shay, you are the nicest most talented monster I know, and I’m sorry, to you, Medusa, Peaches and Carrie. I’m sorry that I have caused most of your problems that you’ve had to deal with ever since fifth grade. You truly deserved to be Halloween Queen and I didn’t see that. So Shay, I am sorry.”

I almost burst into tears hearing her say that. We all hugged, and danced together. In the middle of dancing to a fun song, that’s when the lights went black and Audrey disappeared...