

A person I envied

It was Mr Paul's maths class. A tall, simple man in his fifties could be said to be very efficient in maintaining order and discipline in his class. This class was an exception, the reason being the presence of a tomboy, Charlotte.

It was a bright Monday morning. The bustling little school was filled with active and energetic children. There was no necessity for Mr Paul to demand attention from his students except for a bunch of party animals, Charlotte and her friends!

I am a usual backbencher. I had to admit my inability to attract friends. I enjoyed viewing classmates from my seat. As usual, Charlotte was dozing off right in front of me. One roar from the teacher awakened all her friends. The teacher's glare would have chilled the bones of all students but Charlotte dozed off as if nothing mattered. The deep gaze of Mr Paul frightened her friends who tried their utmost to wake up Charlotte. She tried her best to be normal maintaining a cold face at the smiling classmates. I envied her self-possession and the timely composure.

The teacher continued the class. Within few minutes, he called on Charlotte with a question on the present topic and as usual, her best friend passed her the answer note and she started reading. Mr Paul was furious but he didn't punish Charlotte. It could be due to her influential family that many didn't dare to offend them. I envied her protecting aura.

Charlotte's best friends Amy, Carol, Sophie and Pam were very loyal to her. They were an inseparable gang popular among all the students. Teachers were aware of Charlotte's talents. Apart from her excellent sportive skills, if she glued her eyes to books with seriousness, she was definitely an 'A' student. In that case, together with her looks, she would be our school's 'Ms. Beauty with Talent'. I envied her gifted nature.

Many students longed to be friends with Charlotte. Mr Paul was aware of Charlotte's character. She would do anything for her friends. She would go out of her limits to help anyone. She would never push anyone into trouble, let alone her friends. So Mr Paul made the correct move. He threatened to punish her friends if they allowed her to sleep in class! She didn't give it a second thought. "I

will never doze off in your class again,” was her instant reply. A true and devoted friend was a rare gift to anyone. She was a person I envied. I longed to be in her gang of friends.

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