

A PERFECT PIER FOR FRIENDSHIP

Natalie was a very lonely person. She always imagined things. Her family was very rich, but that didn't please her.

Natalie asked her Dad, 'Are you going?' 'Yes, but you can't come, darling,' Dad said, concerned. 'But why, Dad, I've always wanted to?' Natalie asked. 'It's because I don't know where I will put you when I'm in a meeting.' Natalie then shuffled her feet; she looked down at the floor, embarrassed. 'OK,' she mumbled. Dad left and went to work. Natalie only lived with her Dad. Natalie's Mum (Thalia) had died when she was 1. Natalie only imagined what her Mum would look like. Natalie's Mum would have very short black hair down to her shoulders, and would usually wear a cuffed dark green top. To match that combination, she would wear a skirt with black leggings underneath or normal jeans.

Natalie stared out the window. She could see her dad putting his bag in a sleek black Ferrari. She heard the car roaring down the driveway. When Dad had gone, she went outside. Even at school Natalie didn't have any friends. It was like she was trapped or even, cornered. She didn't really know the neighbours, but she was determined to meet them, even though she was very shy. Natalie walked across the road carefully. After crossing the road, she spotted a sign saying "North Beach Pier". She thought maybe she could bring her dolls over there: it would be a place where she could play. No one was around and she could do anything she wanted.

But Natalie didn't know that there was another girl at the pier just like her. Her name was Violet. Just as Natalie arrived at the pier...so did Violet. Violet was staring wide eyed at Natalie's clothes. 'What's wrong??' questioned Natalie. She waited for a reply. All she heard was 'Wow'. Natalie thought that Violet must have been abandoned by her mother or she was lost or, even, that she was a tourist and her mother

and father were at a café and had accidentally left her behind. Violet looked like she had been in a fight. She wore a short singlet that was a dapple grey (and was supposed to be white) and had really light black leggings. She had brown messy hair falling down to her shoulders. Natalie had neon green eyes and long black hair (straight) flowing down past her shoulders. She wore a bright green long sleeve top. Her leggings were died in black and red with splatters. Her shoes were bright red pumps. 'So, um,' spluttered Natalie. Violet ignored her. She was walking to the bottom of the pier. Natalie thought that maybe it was bad to talk to people you really didn't know when the only thing you knew about them was their name.

Violet found a sunny spot at the edge of the pier and sat down. She still didn't say a word, so Natalie tried a different tactic. "So, do you know anything about this pier? Do you come here often?" Finally, Violet nodded her head. Natalie said to encourage Violet to talk, "Is this a special place to you?" Violet started talking. She didn't really answer Natalie's question...

“My whole family used to live in North Beach, but when my father lost his business, he found a job far away. He had to travel quite a long way everyday. Then one day, my parents decided that we all should move, so we did. Up in the hills, a long way from here. Now, I only come here every school holidays – I stay at my Grandma’s place. I miss the water and the beach a lot. I come to the pier because I love looking at the waves crashing down on the rocks – it makes such a nice loud soothing sound, water splashes everywhere! I always get wet. I really want to live across the road, at that house”, Violet pointed at Natalie’s house. “I never get that at our new place anymore... all I have will soon be gone - my Grandma is too old to clean the house, has problems with her back, and is selling her house. I would have no contact with this pier at all if not for my memories– this is my most favourite place in the world.” Suddenly feeling more fortunate, Natalie asked, “What do you know about the pier?”

“Well”, Violet replied, “this pier was built in the early 1900’s (1915) by Perth Roads Board, because North Beach was a really

popular seaside holiday town. But it was always getting eroded by the waves. It was demolished in 1966 because it was unsafe, then in 1978 local resident Mr Porter raised \$5000 to rebuild it. They're always trying to raise money to fix it. But all the old pictures I've seen are with happy holidaying people having fun at the beach, so I think we should always keep it to preserve their memories. ”

Natalie couldn't agree more. She really wanted to be friends with Violet, but Violet wouldn't be coming back anymore. Suddenly, Natalie heard a car coming up their driveway across the road – it was Natalie's dad.

Natalie had a great idea! She would ask her dad if Violet could stay for the rest of the holidays with them, and they could visit the pier whenever they wanted. She turned around to ask Violet this, with a big smile on her face– but she couldn't find her. Maybe Natalie had only imagined her, after all.

Since then, every summer school holidays, the girls would meet at the pier everyday, and usually Natalie would bring down her lunch and share it, and have a picnic at the pier.

Sometimes, they'd go fishing, and they would also swim at the beach on very hot days.

When the weather was cold, they would make some hot chocolate and would go back to Natalie's house, sit on the porch, and sketch their favourite pier in the different lights.

Both girls think that if the pier is ever demolished, their friendship may be ruined as well. So, they wished that the pier would stay forever, and then so would their friendship.

**BY LUCY
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**IN THE
DIFFERENT LIGHTS**



NORTH BEACH PIER

