

“Ryd! Lisanna! Third and last time now, get out of bed!” a voice shouted from downstairs. It was followed by the sound of a door slamming shut.

Lisanna yawned, then stepped out of bed. She rubbed her eyes and managed to pull open the creaking bedroom door. With shuffling feet she made her way to the bathroom.

Ryd woke to the sound of running water. Like a zombie rising from the grave, she sat up straight. She yawned loudly and stretched, then stumbled out of bed. Since her sister still used the bathroom, Ryd started collecting the pieces of her school uniform and the books she’d need that day. She stuffed the books into her bag without ever finding the strength to fully open her eyes. With a nonchalant toss, her bag and uniform flew towards her bed, then Ryd shuffled her way towards the bathroom. “Liz! My turn!”

“Almost done!”

Ryd sighed and leaned against the wall.

The sound of running water stopped and a minute later Lisanna made her way outside, wrapped in a towel while drying her hair with a second. “Your turn.”

“Finally.” Ryd pushed her sister aside and walked into the bathroom, locking the door behind her.

Lisanna made her way back to her bedroom. She grabbed the clothes that she had already put on the back of her office chair the night before. Her bag with the needed books already stood neatly packed next to her desk. In a swift motion, she put it on her back and walked back out of the room. She put the towels in the laundry bin, deciding to keep the lid open for Ryd.

At roughly the same time, Ryd made her way out of the bathroom, holding her used towel in one hand and a small bunch of platinum blonde hairs in the other. “I believe these are yours.” She tossed the hairs towards Lisanna and went on to toss the towel in the general direction of the laundry bin.

“You can have them, I have enough.”

Ryd shuffled back to her bedroom, “Why would I want them? The only thing your hair is useful for is guiding ships safely to shore. They are bright enough for you to get hired as a lighthouse.”

Lisanna laughed and walked downstairs, “You’re just jealous because black hair like yours is not as pretty as my stunning blonde hair.”

Ryd put on her clothes and followed Lisanna downstairs.

Lisanna already sat on the couch, eating a bowl of cereal. “Finally, took you long enough,” she said with a giggle.

Ryd just walked past, taking a brief peek at the clock. “Oh crap! Five minutes left!” She immediately ran to the kitchen, starting to make a sandwich with the bread and toppings her mom used to make their lunches.

Their mother just smiled and shook her head, “For twins, you are as different as people can get. Ryd, I’ll put your lunch in your bag, don’t forget to eat it this time.” She then handed the second lunch package to Lisanna.

The windows started vibrating at the sound of a few loud honks outside, accompanied by the rumbling of the engine.

“Ryd! Hurry up already, will you? The bus is here already,” Lisanna yelled from the hall. She sighed, shaking her head.

Immediately Ryd rushed into the hall, the remaining half of her sandwich clenched between her teeth. She swung the front door open before racing back into the living room.

“Ryd, what are you doing? Come on!” Lisanna shouted while taking her first steps out of the door.

“Forgot my backpack!” Ryd yelled in return, before reappearing in the hall and making her own way outside. She closed the door and rapidly waved towards her mother, who was smiling at the twins

from behind the large window at the front of the house. "Sorry! The.... Bridge was open," she said to the bus driver upon entering the bus, while still munching down on her breakfast.

The man just shook his head with a slight smile, pointing back to the seats with his thumb before putting the vehicle in first gear, "I used to have hopes that I would see you being ready in time, like your sister. I used to. Go take a seat."

Ryd was already halfway through the bus by the time the man finished his sentence, looking left and right to see if she could find an empty seat. Her attention was grabbed by Lisanna waving while sitting on two seats at once. Ryd rushed towards the seat before taking a deep breath.

Lisanna shoved over to the window seat and glanced over at Ryd with her brow slightly raised, "A sandwich, for breakfast?"

Ryd shrugged and continued eating her meal. "Why not? Sandwiches are delicious."

Lisanna shook her head with a soft giggle, "A sandwich isn't a complete breakfast, and won't help you figure out a subject for the assignment either. Have you even thought about it yet?"

"of course not, it is due in two months, why would I be hasty about it? Do you have one already then?"

"Naturally," Lisanna said, smirking. She ran a hand through her hair and tossed some of the hairs up and almost into Ryd's face, "I'm going to write about light."

Ryd raised a brow before bursting into laughing, "You picked light because you have light colored hair? That is one way to find a subject."

"At least I got something to write about, how you think of it doesn't matter."

"Well, maybe I should do it about darkness then," Ryd said while she mockingly ran her hand through her own hair.

"Maybe, but darkness is just the absence of light, so your idea would just be a cheap rip-off of mine. You should write about whatever you think is beautiful." Lisanna struck a pose to show off her body with a slight giggle.

"So, you mean anything but you?"

Lisanna crossed her arms for a second. A frown was painted on her face. "Very original, you should be proud of yourself."

Ryd laughed. "Did somebody ever tell you that you are very vain?"

"I do, all the time yes," Lisanna replied with a giggle. "Anyway, stop drifting from the subject. You could write your paper about stars, at least you get to do something close to darkness then."

"Boring"

"Oh, what about volcanoes?"

"Do I look twelve to you?"

"Sometimes you do look twelve minutes younger, rather than two. Oh! You should write about time!"

"I'll think of something, don't worry."

Ryd got up seconds before the bus came to a halt. She walked towards the doors with her backpack on one shoulder.

Lisanna came to join her as well before anyone else had the chance to stand in line. She playfully wrapped her arm around Ryd. "How about something psychological, that is a science too so it should be allowed... The psychology of twins."

"I told you, I will think of something."

"What about the psychology of Ryd, Chapter one: Why Ryd gets grumpy when her sister tries to help her finding a subj-"

Before she managed to finish the sentence, Ryd jabbed her elbow into Lisanna's ribs.

"Okay, yeah, I deserved that," Lisanna said while rapidly rubbing over the painful spot.

Ryd shook her head and walked out of the bus.

"So, history first. Classroom 205. Kicking the day off with miss Hartley... always a pleasure."

Lisanna sighed with a lowered head.

"I preferred mister Noble. I don't see Miss Hartley bringing weapons to school to show what people used in wars of various ages like he did."

"I don't see mister Noble doing that anymore either, after the incident with the cops last year."