

The cat and mouse.

It was a Friday morning and I was getting ready for school. I hated going, but it was just one more day until we break-up for the summer holidays, so it would probably be quite a gentle and relaxed day (or so I thought until the assembly).

I wasn't looking forward to the assembly, no one ever did. We always talked about the same thing every single time, 'values and expectations' - things like that. But unexpectedly, today was different. There was a student joining the school. That was something that we rarely ever heard of in our school. It was completely in the middle of nowhere, because not many people went to our school.

It was always very peaceful, but it also got very lonely. I was never good at finding friends. I was a very awkward kind of person, and to be honest, I treasured my alone time very much. In a way, I was hoping to get to know this new student a bit, but when I saw her, I changed my mind. As she walked up on the stage, in the assembly hall, you could not even see her face. Her sleek, greasy hair hung like a curtain. At first, I thought that she was just very shy and didn't want people to see her (it must be hard moving schools I guess), but I felt uneasy. She was just here for a taster day, I suppose, because why would you come to school on the last day of term, there was no point really?

The next thing I noticed was her clothes, they were all torn at the bottom and very, very dirty. I was confused, she wasn't in uniform. Our headteacher introduced her to everyone, Siobhan. She just stared down and didn't say a word.

The first lesson of the day was Maths and that just put me in a worse mood. It wasn't too awful because the lesson seemed pretty short. After that, we had Science but the new girl wasn't in Maths and she hadn't arrived in Science yet, so I was wondering if she was having a tour or something. I did not see her until lunch. She was sat in the corner of the field.

Alone.

I thought that maybe she needed some company, but I didn't want to over crowd her. She seemed very stressed. I don't know what she was doing, but I found myself just staring at her. I couldn't help notice all the little details about her. Her hair was in knots and tangles, dripping in grease and her face was as pale as a sheet. Her eyes were jet black. I tried not to

make a sound. But then suddenly she stared right at me. It wasn't a friendly look. Instead she gave an ice-cold glare. She made me feel uneasy, like I didn't belong here.

I thought I should go, but I just couldn't. It was like a magnetic force, pulling me towards her, like a rope pulling painfully round my neck. I didn't know what to do. I just kept being dragged. I was now right up close to her, with our noses almost touching.

I don't know but it felt like she was going to do something to me - like attack me. It felt very unsafe. I tried to scramble free, but her grasp was too powerful. Then suddenly, she let go of me. She acted like nothing ever happened. She just stared straight at me, so I ran.

We still had two more lessons left, until the end of the day, but I couldn't wait that long.

Needing to escape, to get away from whatever this thing was, I made my way home.

Usually, I'd take the school bus, but obviously it wasn't here yet. So, I decided to walk home instead. I didn't really know the way, but my house was only a short distance away, so I'm sure it wouldn't take too long. I was wrong, again. The bus takes the same route every day, through the village, past an old railway track and finally through a small wood.

At first my journey was going well. I had just made it through the railway station and I was just about to enter the woods, but in that minute the world seemed to shift. I felt lost and dizzy, light-headed and unreal.

Turning round I heard a scream and the girl leapt from a tree, pouncing like a cat on a mouse.