

# *April and Jan*

*by*

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Cast of Characters

APRIL:

Teens

JAN:

Teens

Place

Library

Time

Early afternoon

Setting: The High School Library.

At Rise: Jan enters the school library and sits beside April.

*Jan enters the library and sits beside April.*

**APRIL:** Hi, Jan.

**JAN:** What are you doing in the library?

**APRIL:** Doing some research.

**JAN:** Please, don't tell me there's an assignment due.

**APRIL:** There isn't, chill. I'm doing research for something I'm working on.

**JAN:** ...Okay.

**APRIL:** It's for writing, I'm doing a story.

**JAN:** A story? What kind of---

**APRIL:** A short story...I'm thinking about writing a short story.

**JAN:** Since when did you become a writer?

**APRIL:** I'm just interested, curious or whatever.

*Jan looks at the book April is holding.*

**JAN:** (trying to pronounce) Dostoy...Dostoyev---

**APRIL:** Dostoyevsky...he's a writer, a great writer, from Russia.

**JAN:** April, are you alright?

**APRIL:** Yeah, why?

**JAN:** Since when have you ever talked about Russia?

**APRIL:** I'm not talking about Russia, I'm talking about a writer, a novelist from Russia.

**JAN:** Can I be honest?

**APRIL:** What?

**JAN:** You haven't been acting like you.

**APRIL:** How do you mean?

**JAN:** You seem different. Like, you aren't hanging out as much and you've become more quiet and now you're reading strange books.

**APRIL:** It's Russian literature, there's nothing strange about that.

**JAN:** Yeah but, how do you go from hanging out at the mall to reading Dostoyshy---

**APRIL:** Dostoyevsky! (beat) Stop being weird.

**JAN:** I'm not the one being weird. You're changing...what's going on with you?

**APRIL:** Nothing's going on with me. I've always liked reading. Maybe if you opened your eyes you would know that...when you come to my house aren't there books all around?

**JAN:** I thought those were like your dad's or something.

**APRIL:** Some of them are my dad's or my mom's and some are mine.

**JAN:** Oh.

**APRIL:** You don't read?

**JAN:** Read what?

**APRIL:** Stories.

**JAN:** What kind of stories?

**APRIL:** Stories about life, people, feelings.

**JAN:** Yeah, that's not my thing.

**APRIL:** It doesn't have to be.

**JAN:** But why are you acting so distant?

**APRIL:** I'm just being me. I want to be more real in my life. I've gotten tired of trying to fit in and be accepted by everyone else. I've always felt like I'm lying to myself. If people don't accept me for me, for who I truly am, then I don't want to be friends with those people.

You're right, I have been distant. I've been distant because I realize there are certain people I don't want to know...people that don't have anything in common with me and I used to think that was a bad thing, I used to think that I had to be accepted by everyone all the time and because of that I've been hiding who I truly am and I guess eventually, finally, it's caught up to me and I've made the decision to be me and ever since I've had the courage to be me, it's like this burden has been lifted and I can breathe again...

I feel more at ease with myself, calm, not like I used to be all the time when I felt so nervous or stressed out over stupid things, things that actually don't even matter.

It's taken me a long time to get over myself and have the confidence to be genuine and I know I may seem different to you and other people but this is who I really am and I can't apologize for it.

**JAN:** So, is this new you or the you that you are now showing...what does this have to do with reading and writing?

**APRIL:** It's what I like to do and I'm focusing on it...I'm reading all these great writers and they just blow me away, I can't imagine myself ever being half as good as them. I mean, they are real writers...me, I don't know, I write and I enjoy it but I don't think I'm...I couldn't ever be as good as them.

**JAN:** Don't say that. I'm sure you're good.

**APRIL:** Eh, what do I know?

**JAN:** Well, you know you like to write, which I had no idea and in all honesty I think that's pretty cool.

**APRIL:** You think writing is cool?

**JAN:** I think YOU writing is cool. I can't. Besides, I need a smart friend to keep around.

**APRIL:** I'm not that smart.

**JAN:** Smarter than me, that's for sure.

**APRIL:** Don't say that, Jan.

**JAN:** How many books have you read?

**APRIL:** I couldn't even count. Been reading since I was little.

**JAN:** You see? I've never been that way. But listen, I want to say something...you can be you with me and I'm glad you told me your deal because I was beginning to think I did something to you or I don't know what I was thinking...just don't forget that even if you don't have a lot of things in common with someone, like me, we can still be friends because everyone has life in common, no matter how different we all are.

**APRIL:** I didn't think of that.

**JAN:** I don't ever want to lose you as a friend, April.

**APRIL:** I didn't know you cared about me that way.

**JAN:** Well, I mean, we know one another our entire lives and I have a ton of awesome memories with you that I wouldn't trade for the world.

**APRIL:** You know what? You're right. Neither would I.

**JAN:** There you go. (beat) Listen, I'm heading over to the pizzeria, just to hang out, do you want to come with?

**APRIL:** Umm, I think I'm gonna finish up what I have going on here but maybe I can meet up with you after?

**JAN:** Yeah, let me know, I'll be around.

**APRIL:** Okay, see you later.

**END OF PLAY**