



**I Won't
Ever Leave
You.**

By Maya

I Won't Ever Leave You

By Maya P

Chapter one: The Beginning.

I threw the ball as far as I could. Daisy sprinted after it, leaving a trail of dust behind her. Her long, pink, tongue flapped in the wind. It was a hot summer afternoon. The scorching sun beat down on the dry grass, causing everything in its sight to shrivel down into, the dry dirt.

Daisy picked up the ball, tossed it in the air, and caught it again. She trotted over to me and dropped the ball by my feet.

"I wish it wasn't so hot out," she panted.

"I know," I replied, wiping my sweaty forehead. I picked up the ball and bounced it.

"Let's go home now, I'm hungry. We've been at the park almost all day. I'm tired," she panted heavily. We starting walking to our house, which was almost a mile away. The sun was starting to set. The field around us turned into a rosy pinkish color.

The sky was smeared with orange, purple, pink and blue. Life was good with Daisy. And this is our story.

Chapter two: Late

"What are you doing home so late, missy?" My mom was squealing like a pig and was angry like a bull.

"I lost track of the time," I mumbled.

Daisy walked over to her bed and flopped down.

"Next time you stay out that long you're gonna be in big trouble."

I don't know why but I just got so mad that I glared at my mom and screamed,

"WHY DO YOU CARE SO MUCH?!" I felt tears streaming down my face. Mom jolted back in surprise.

I started sobbing and stomp-ran up to my room. I flopped down on my bed and buried my face in my pillow. Daisy trailed in after me and jumped up on my bed. She laid down by my side. I was so mad but I didn't know why.

Chapter three: Mom

A couple hours later, I got up to get a snack. As I walked down the hall, I heard these sobbing noises in my mom's room. I stopped and listened. It got silent. I opened the door. The bathroom door was closed with the light on. I walked over to the door and knocked. Nobody answered, so I opened the door.

There she was, crying, sitting on the rim of the bathtub.

"Mom," I said. She ducked her head down so I couldn't see her eyes. I sat down next to her on the bathtub and hugged her. She hugged me back.

"I'm sorry," she sobbed as she started crying even more.

"Mom, its ok" I said. My eyes started watering and I got a lump in my throat. "I should be the one apologizing."

I put my head on her shoulder. She got up and walked over to her bed. I followed her. I felt bad for my mom. Daisy, my mom and I were the only ones that lived in our small house, in the middle of nowhere, in Small Rock,

Georgia. Life was lonely here. But this is how we lived until I started going to public school.

Chapter four: Public school

Summer was beginning to end. The leaves turned red, orange, and yellow and the geese began to gather all their friends to fly south for the winter. The bear got ready to hibernate and give birth to her soon-to-be cubs. The squirrel stocked up on his nuts and stored them in his little tree house.

The racoon got fat on all the fish in the river and ate berries and plants. All the animals knew that winter was almost here. Their gut tells them. They know what's going to happen before it even happens. That's what I wish I had so that I knew I was going to start middle school at a real, live, public school this year.

"I'm WHAT"?! I screamed when my mom told me I was going to public school. I was sitting at the table eating a grilled cheese sandwich.

"Don't talk with your mouth full." She got an apple and started slicing it up.

"I promise it'll be fun. You'll make lots of friends. You seem so lonely".

"I'm not lonely," I snapped. "I have Daisy!" I gobbled the rest of the sandwich up and put the plate in the small, white sink.

"You've been acting so different since your dad died, and I just thought it would be nice if..." She stopped in the middle of her sentence. Outside was a light blue pickup parked on the dry grass. Someone was inside the truck.

Chapter five: Leo

I walked over to the window. A tall, skinny girl about the age of 20 stepped out of the truck. She had brown, wavy hair and blue eyes. Her skin was a caramel color, and she had freckles.

"Leo!" My mom screamed and sprinted outside. She went up to "Leo" and gave her a giant hug.

Then I realized something. That girl was my sister. I remember. Five years ago, she had ran away. She took a plane to Los Angeles, California and spent her life there. She had wanted to stay away from us as far and long as possible. Why was she here? Daisy came into the kitchen and looked out the screen door.

"Who's that?"

"My sister."

"I didn't know you have a sister." Daisy looked at me with her brown eyes.

"She's here for a reason, but what?"

Chapter six: Why She's Here

Mom walked Leo into the house. The second she saw me, she beamed and her eyes started watering. She walked over to me very slowly and stopped right in front of me. Then she gave me a huge hug.

"I've missed you, Sunshine." Nobody's called me that in years. I buried my face in her shoulder.

"I've missed you too." She let go of me and looked at my mom. She was crying.

"Welcome back Leo." Now I'm crying. Daisy is sniffing Leo's shoe with curiosity. Leo squats down and lets Daisy smell her hand.

"You guys are probably wondering why I'm here," she says, wiping her eyes.

"As a matter of fact, we are." says Mom. Leo stands back up.

"I'm here because of what happened to Daddy."

I could tell by the look in mom's eyes that she understood. A week after Leo had ran off, my daddy was diagnosed with leukemia in the brain. He had died a year later. The doctors couldn't do anything to save him. There has been so much that has happened to my family. Too much. Way too much.

Chapter seven: Nighttime

"So I hear you're going to public school this year," Leo said as we sat down for dinner.

"Yup," I said. "Im absolutely and completely terrified." She laughs and says, "Don't worry it'll be good for you." That's what I like about Leo. She thinks the best about the worst things.

She passes Mom the mashed potatoes. "You'll make so many friends. They're gonna be jealous that you have such a great dog." Daisy, who's sitting under the table begging for treats, hears what Leo says and barks, "I bet they will." Everyone laughs. I spoon some green beans onto my plate and give one to Daisy. She gobbles it up in less than a second.

"We're so glad you're back, Leo," my mom says. And we are. After we finish dinner, we all help clean up the kitchen and jam out to music while doing the dishes.

After a half hour of that, my mom goes into her room to give Daisy a bath that she very much needed. Me and Leo go into my room. She sits on my bed.

“Are you nervous about public school?” she says with a smile.

“You have no idea.”

“When I first went to middle school, I was really nervous. But then a wonderful girl named Hope came up to me and asked what my name was and we became best friends.”

“Hope? The one that moved to Washington D.C. last winter?”

“That’s the one” she said with a weak smile. She clutched the brown and black teddy bear that was sitting on my bed that Hope gave me before she moved and patted its soft, velvet-like belly.

“I miss her so much,” she says quietly. I sit down next to Leo and lay my head on her shoulder.

Leo puts the teddy bear back on the pillow and sighs. I know how she feels, but this how life is, and we can’t change it. But it’s ok. We have each other and Mom and Daisy. And Daddy. We just can’t see him anymore, but that’s okay. Leo lies down on the pillow. I lay down right beside her. She hugs me. And we fall asleep.

Chapter eight: The Start of a New Beginning

A month later...

BEEP BEEP BEEP! Today is the first day of public school in a real, live middle school. I groan and throw my blanket over my head.

“Get up sunshine!” Leo walks into the room and flops onto my back. My lungs deflate like a balloon.

"Ughhh!" I am so not ready for this. Leo pulls me out of bed.

"Get up, im supposed to drive you to school today." She drags me onto the floor. I sit up and stretch.

"Let me guess, you're picking out my clothes for today."

"Yup!"

She goes out of the room and comes back ten seconds later with a pair of white and black Adidas Champions, a pair of black leggings with holes in the knees, a super cute black long sleeve shirt with rips near the shoulders and waist, and a white Nike hoodie. My jaw drops.

"Did a little shopping yesterday" she says with a laugh.

"How did you know this is what I like?"

"Because I'm a big sister. I know everything." I stand up and grab the clothes. Then I run to the bathroom to put them on. When I come back, I look at myself in my mirror.

"I look fierce!" I say. Leo laughs.

"You sure do." I run downstairs with my backpack and set it on the counter.

I sit down to a breakfast of biscuits and gravy on the table that looks absolutely amazing.

"You hungry? Because if you aren't I will gladly eat you're amazing breakfast for you." Daisy barks from under the table.

"Oh, don't worry, I'm very hungry," I say with a laugh.

"Darn it," Daisy loudly whispers.

"Maya it's time to go!" Leo yells from upstairs. I gobble up the rest of my breakfast and grab my backpack.

"C'mon Daisy!" I hiss at the bottom of the table. Daisy comes out from under her table castle with her tail wagging and follows me outside the screen door to Leo's truck.

Leo comes out right after us with her keys in one hand and her toast in the other. She gets in the truck and slams the door.

"Lets go!" She jams the key into the old, rusted up lock cylinder and the truck starts up with a stutter and a cough of smoke. We pull out of the front yard and onto our lonely road that leads us to town, four miles away.

I fumbled with the radio station until I found the station I wanted. "Sunshine" is playing. The next thing I know, all three of us: Me, Leo, and Daisy are singing, howling and dancing to the music. "You are my only sunshine, ohhh ohhh ohhhhhh, ohhh ohhh ohhhhhh my beautiful sunshine, beauty as you are, you're mine and only miiiiiiiiine," we sing.

The sun was starting to rise. The frost on the snow started to melt, leaving every cold, dead plant damp with water. The bare trees were all sound asleep for the winter. All around us was land and trees. The blue-green sky reminded me of Daisy's toys. Finally after a half- hour of driving we arrive at Westerson Middle School.

"Goodbye, Leo." I give her a huge hug. I turn to Daisy and look into her endlessly brown eyes. I lean over and whisper into her ear, "I love you. Don't get into any trouble at home. You may not see me but I will be with you no matter what and you won't be lonely. You can snuggle with the teddy bear that Hope gave me so you won't feel sad."

She looked at me and nodded. Then she licked me on my nose. I gave her a big hug. "Bye you guys!" I stepped out of the truck and onto the

yellow striped sidewalk. "Here I go," I whispered, and I started walking to the entrance of my new school holding surprises I never imagined before.

Chapter Nine: Jazzy, Riley, and Macy (and Cole)

As I stepped into the strange place, I had a feeling of nervousness. Where is my class? How do I find the bathroom? How often do I raise my hand? Is this even the right school? Who is that girl? My head was whirling with questions. I pulled my map out of my backpack. "6d," I whispered. I walked down the hallway buzzing with kids. I found my locker and put my backpack inside, then grabbed my math folder and notebook. I slammed my locker door shut and looked back at the clock on the wall. "Seven-thirty tw-," I hit my head and fell to the ground. My books fell to the floor. I closed my eyes and rubbed my head.

"Oww..." I moaned.

"Are you ok?"

I opened my eyes. An outstretched hand was right in front of me. I looked up. Standing there was probably the cutest boy I had ever seen in my entire life. I grabbed his hand and he pulled me up. He had dirty blonde hair with a quiff cut and a really dark tan. His eyes were more blue than the ocean. I have to admit, I had a little crush on him. I blushed and smiled.

"Are you ok?" He asked again.

"Oh, yeah i'm fine." I bent down and picked up my notebook and folder.

"Im Cole, by the way." He was super tall.

"Im Maya." The bell rang.

"I'll catch you later?" He said as he started walking to his class.

"Ya," I said, smiling. He smiled back, then ran off. I started jogging to my class. It seemed like everybody was in such a rush. I finally found 6d and walked in. Inside, there was five, round tables with a variety of seats around each one of them. All around the room there were little paintings on the walls and books on the tables and everything was so organized and bright. There was a desk near the window that had a little sign on the desk that read, "Ms. Oxenberg." There was a vase of poppies near the sign. All the other kids came in behind me. I found a table to sit at, and I kind of just sat there staring at everyone else. Then this Asian girl with straight, dark brown hair and really light skin came over and sat down at the same table across from me.

"What's your name?"

"Im Maya."

"You're new here, aren't you."

"Yup." She had a super small nose.

"Well since you seem lonely, I'm gonna be your first friend for the school year. Im Macy by the way." She shook my hand. Just then, somebody clapped their hands extremely loud.

"Class, class!" Shouted Ms. Oxenberg.

"Yes, yes!" Everyone yelled back.

"I want everyone to find a seat and read quietly until further instructions". She said with a huge smile. Ms. Oxenberg had big, yellowish teeth. I kind of giggled when she smiled, but I don't think she noticed. At least I hope she didn't. Right then two other girls came to where me and Macy were sitting, and they sat down.

"Hey Macy" They both said.

"Hey guys," she said kind-of quiet. "This is my friend Maya." I waved at them.

"Hi," I said kind of nervous. One girl was short with dark brown skin and black, frizzy hair. She was super pretty. The other girl had blonde hair like me and her hair was curly. Her skin was a beige color, and she had aqua-green eyes. I wish I had her eyes. The color of water you would see in Hawaii or Brazil.

"Hi, im Jazzy" the girl with frizzy hair said.

"I'm Riley." The other girl said. There was a short silence.

"So, do you have a crush on anyone here?" asked Jazzy.

"Actually, I do" I laughed.

"Who!?" They all screamed. Ms. Oxenberg looked at our table and said, "Hey girls, keep it down". She said in a stern voice. I leaned my head into the middle of the table, and Riley, Macy, and Jazzy did the same thing.

"Ok, so his name is Cole and he's super nice and I think he likes me. He bumped..."

"Cole Samuels!?" Riley scream-whispered.

"I think so" I whispered.

"Cole is like probably the most popular guy in our school" Macy gasped.

"Alright, class! Everyone take out you're pencils! We are going I take a test to review what we learned last year!" Everyone groaned. "This is how the day is going to be," I thought.

Chapter ten: Lunch

Three hours later....

RRRRRIIIING!!!!!! The recess bell goes off. Everybody goes inside to have lunch. As we are in the lunch line waiting to get our food, Macy comes up to me. "We're gonna be sitting at that table over there, okay?" She points at a table near the water fountain. Riley and Jazzy are already sitting there, and they wave at us.

"Ok thanks" I say. I finish getting my lunch and go over to the table and sit down.

"Maya, Cole is staring at you!!" Riley screams excitedly. I looked back and saw Cole looking at me. He sees me and smiles, then grabs his lunch tray, comes over to where we are sitting, and sits down. Two of his friends come with him. They sit down.

"Ummmmmmmm..." Macy mumbles. It was a really awkward lunch. Me and Cole just talked to each other the whole time about Daisy and each other's families and Tucker (Cole's dog), and what our favorite flavor of soda is, and then we set up play date for Daisy and Tucker and stuff like that. Everybody else didn't say a word the whole time. But I felt like we really got to know each other and now we are super close. And that's awesome.

Chapter eleven: Home

Leo picked me up a little early because she wanted to take me to DQ to get ice cream. As soon as Leo came I opened the truck door and gave Daisy a HUGE hug. She licked me all over my face and then I gave Leo a big hug too.

"So, how was your first day of school?" Leo asked as we were sitting on the bench outside right next to Dairy Queen.

"It was really fun. I met these girls named Macy, Jazzy, and Riley, and we all are like best friends now. I also met this kid named Cole and he's

really nice. We were talking about setting up Daisy and his dog Tucker on a playdate." Daisy, who was lying under the bench heard this and perked up. She hit her head on the bottom of the bench. "Ow!" She yelped. Me and Leo laughed. "It's not funny," she growled. We laughed even harder. I licked my ice cream cone.

"Cole sounds pretty cool," Leo said between licks of her ice cream cone. "Do you like him?"

"Well, kind of" I mumbled.

"Ooh la la!" Daisy barked.

"Shut up," I snapped. Leo giggled. "Let's go home now. Mom's probably wondering where we are," she says. Daisy comes out from under the bench, and we walk to the truck. I open the door and let Daisy in and then go after her and slam the door shut. Leo hops in and starts the truck. We pull out of the parking lot and get on the highway. Daisy is babbling on and on about me and Cole, and about how he probably thinks I'm really pretty and how we should get married and how cute our puppies would be.

"Do you mean kids? It's not puppies for humans, its kids." I say.

"No, because that's what baby goats are called!"

"Humans are called kids too."

"They should be called puppies; it sounds cuter," she grunts. Leo starts laughing hysterically.

"What's so funny??" Daisy yaps.

"You guys are having the dumbest argument," she says, wiping a tear from her eye. I started laughing. We WERE having the dumbest argument! Daisy just sits there for a second, but then she starts laughing too. Ten minutes later, We pull into our driveway. Leo stops the truck, and we all pile

out. I opened the door. Mom was sitting on the couch watching tv and she looks back at us. "Hey guys. You're dinner's on the table. I put paper towels over them so they wouldn't get cold."

"Thanks, mom." Leo says as she sits down. Daisy's doggy bed is sitting by my chair. The teddy bear that Hope gave me is inside it. I sit down and take of the paper towel, then I start munching on my spaghetti and meatballs with the salad on the side. Leo was so hungry that she literally ate her food in two minutes. After she eats, she goes over to the couch and watches football with mom. After I'm done, I put my plate in the sink and go upstairs with Daisy to do my homework. On my bed, Daisy snuggles up with me and "helps" me with my homework. When I say help, she drools all over my paper and tries to eat my pencil, and she tries to type on my computer. After two hours of that, I finally finish. I get my pajamas on and brush my teeth, then I go to bed.

Chapter twelve: Drama

Three days later..

Leo parked the truck in front of the school. I grabbed my backpack and jumped out.

"Love you guys!" The bell rang. I ran even faster. "Byeeee Maya!!!!" Daisy howled as Leo drove off. I dashed inside the school. The last of the kids were running to their classes. I sprinted into my completely empty hallway and grabbed my books. Then I sprinted to my classroom. Halfway there, the janitor yelled at me for running in the hallways, so I had to speed walk to my class. I dashed in right when Ms. Oxenberg was in the middle of a sentence.

“Sit down, missy,” she said in a stern voice. I crept over to my table and slithered down into my chair.

“Why the heck did you come so late?” Macy whispered.

“Our toaster lit on fire!” I whispered back. I could feel Ms. Oxenbergs eyes burning into the back of my head.

That morning, Leo was making toast and forgot that she was actually making toast. The timer went off, but she didn't hear it b cause she was in the bathroom. Our toaster is one of those toasters where the timer will go off, but it keeps going until you turn the actual toaster off. And then it lit on fire. Ms. Oxenberg's eyes were burning through my head and into my soul. Surprisingly, after class, she didn't talk to me. And another thing that surprised me was that I didn't realize that Jazzy or Riley didn't sit with us for the whole class until after Macy told me after class.

“They're mad at me because they think that I spend more time with you then I do with them.”

“Oh.” Right then, Jazzy and Riley passed us and gave Macy a dirty look.

After they were out of hearing range, I put my hand on Macy's shoulder and said, “Come over after school today, okay?”

“Ok,” she replied. After school Macy called her mom to ask if she could come over to my house, and she said, “Yes.” Macy came home with us, and we played outside with Daisy until it was time for dinner. Then after that, Macy's mom took her home.

Chapter thirteen: Sick

Daisy was diagnosed with cancer. She had gotten very, very, sick. We had went to the vet a month after Macy came over because Daisy was throwing up. I had stayed home from school to keep her company today. She was lying in bed asleep with the teddy bear that Hope gave me. I was lying on the floor right next to her bed, listening to her breathe. Leo was watching tv in the living room. Mom was cooking stew for Daisy to eat later. The room was breathlessly quiet except for the annoying commercials on tv and moms wooden spoon banging against the metal pot mixing the stew. Daisy woke up to the sound of mom pouring the stew into a bowl. I put my head on her grey, slender nose and kissed her cheek. Then I got up and grabbed the bowl of stew and put it on the floor next to her bed.

“You have to eat, Daisy,” I whispered into her ear. She reluctantly leaned over and started slurping up the warm stew, but she only ate half of it. I got up and put the bowl on the counter then came back to my perch and lied down.

“Maya, my time is almost over.” She whispered so that no one else but me could hear. “I’m going to leave this place soon and go to heaven and see daddy. I know you’re gonna miss me but remember, I love you. Don’t get into any trouble at home. You may not see me but I will be with you no matter what and you won’t be lonely. You can snuggle with the teddy bear that Hope gave you so you won’t be sad.” That’s exactly what I said the first day of school when I had to leave her. I look into her cloudy, brown eyes and nodded. She closed her eyes and took a deep breath. Then she stopped. I sat up and kissed her head.

"Mommy, she's dead now." I have tears in my eyes. Mom looks back at Leo and says, "Its time." She's crying. Leo gets up and gives my mom a hug. My baby is gone. But she gets to see daddy, and I'm happy for that. Like she said, even if I can't see her, she's still here, wagging her tail and so young, happy, and content. I pick up Daisy very gently and carry her limp body outside. Leo goes into the garage to get a shovel. I set Daisy on the cold, wet dirt. The sky is cloudy and dark, like its about to rain. Leo starts to dig the hole that Daisy is going to be buried in. Mom takes off her collar of her neck. I lay my head on Daisy's motionless neck and cry and cry. I'm gonna miss her. I'm gonna miss everything about her. There's something about her that makes her so special. She's amazing. I love her with all my heart, and I have to love her enough to let her go. I sit up and pet her side. Then I stand up, run inside, and come back with the black and brown worn out teddy bear and set it next to Daisy. Leo puts the shovel onto the ground, picks up Daisy, and lays her down in the dusty pit. She sets the teddy bear by her paws. My mom is crying. Leo piles the dirt onto Daisy. It starts to rain. "I love you, Daisy" I whisper. After we went inside, it started pouring. I just sat there staring at Daisy's grave. I was gonna miss her A lot. But i've been strong my whole life and I need to stay that way. And I will, because I know that Daisy, Leo, Mommy, Daddy, and Macy are by my side. And they always will be.

The End.

In memory of Daisy Mauree Pfeffer

