

PURITY



BY [CHILDBOOK.AI](https://childbook.ai)

Alex walked through the crowded hallway with confidence. Everyone waved and called his name. Then he saw her. Trinity sat alone in the library corner, reading a book upside down and humming softly. Her clothes were mismatched, and she wore rain boots even though it was sunny outside. The other kids whispered and pointed. Alex felt something strange in his chest. He couldn't stop watching her peaceful smile as she turned another page.



The next day, Alex found Trinity feeding birds behind the school. "Hi, I'm Alex," he said nervously. Trinity looked up with bright eyes. "I know. You're the popular one. I'm Trinity, the weird one." She laughed cheerfully. "Want to help? Birds don't care about popularity." Alex sat down beside her. As they scattered seeds together, Trinity told him about her love of poetry and rainstorms. Alex found himself genuinely smiling for the first time in weeks.



At lunch, Alex's friends called him over to their usual table. He saw Trinity sitting alone, writing in a purple notebook. His friends started making jokes about her. Alex's stomach tightened. He stood up, grabbed his tray, and walked across the cafeteria. "Can I sit here?" he asked Trinity. She grinned. "Always." Behind him, the cafeteria grew quiet. Alex didn't look back. He felt lighter than he had in years.



Weeks passed, and Alex and Trinity became best friends. They read books together and made up silly songs. Alex stopped worrying about being popular. One afternoon, Trinity asked, "Why did you choose to sit with me that day?" Alex thought carefully. "Because you're genuine. You're brave enough to be yourself." Trinity smiled. "You're brave too, Alex. Being kind takes more courage than being popular." They bumped fists and headed home, two true friends walking side by side.



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