

01.02

Goodbye
Beach



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By Julian Moore

I don't want to move. I like my life as it is by the beach. My parents think it will be a great opportunity but me, no. I love to live by the beach and be able to swim every day and jump off the rocks. I know all of the fish and sea creatures in my part of the world and love to build sandcastles. The beach has been my only home that I ever lived in. I learned to swim before I could even walk.

Before I go on, let me tell you a little bit about myself. My name is Samantha and I am 12 years old in about 6th grade. I say "about" because I've been homeschooled my whole life. I'm an only child so sometimes I am really lonely. I only have a couple of friends that live on another part of the beach so I don't know that many people. My parents want to be around nature mostly so we live on the beach where the only thing that surrounds us is water, sand, and trees. Now they are choosing to move because they think it will be good for me to be with other kids. I would like to have more friends but the thought of going somewhere where there are so many people scares me.

Last night I was reading a book and just like me the girl in the book was moving but she was happy I am not. I've always loved the salty air and the sounds of waves crashing on the shore. It will be a big change once I actually do move away from the beach where I've always lived. The city seems like a crowded place that is dirty and polluted. Nothing like the beach.

The next morning I went down to the beach for one of the last times in my life. I breathed in the nice salty air and remembered the last time I went to the city and how I felt. 3 years ago I was sitting on the exact same rock I am sitting on right now. I reached for a seashell and I fell in the water. My stomach turned upside down as I fell. My parents rushed out of my house on the beach as soon as they heard my cry. We had to drive through the big forest to the city because I had trouble breathing. There were many people and cars bustling around the streets. I was really scared. In the hospital I was actually more scared of all of the people around me than almost drowning hours before. I've never really been around that many people since I've lived at the beach for all 12 years of my life. The doctors said that I should be fine.

I heard the rumbling wheels of a moving truck approaching and I knew it was time to go and start our new life. I was nervous and I was thinking about what life would be like away from the beach. Big, new, loud & maybe even fun?

Our new house was small and felt really cramped inside. When I got in my new room it felt and sounded weird because there was a lot of noise that filled my room from the cars driving down the bumpy street. I wondered if everyone's day in the city was like this. All I wanted to do was relax but the only thing I couldn't do was relax because of all of the noise.

Later in the day my dad came up to my room and told me to come downstairs and get ready for school supply shopping. Uh Oh I totally forgot about school. It was starting just next week and I was dreading it. I went to the store with him and it felt like a new place with all the aisles and the different foods I have never tried before. There were many toys that I have never seen before

Driving to school was horrible. I've been dreading this moment for the whole week. Walking into school and being in the middle of all the chaos. At school everyone already knew each other except me. Some of the mean kids even laughed at me because I was acting so shy and nervous. But it was true I was hiding away from other kids in my book.

At my first class my table partner Anna introduced herself and said that she had been at this school for her whole life so the principal told her to show me around. So after math class, which is my least favorite class so far, she showed me the principal's office, nurses office, lunchroom, supply room, gym and soccer field. After seeing all of that I realized the school was really big. She showed me the pool where there was a swim meet. Anna said, "The swim team is really important and all of the swimmers are really good, maybe you could join." The sound of the water splashing brought me back home.

Driving home I realized school wasn't actually that bad and I thought I had made a really good friend who doesn't think I'm weird. I thought about what Anna said about the swim team. Maybe I could join. I am really good at swimming because for my whole life I swam every day.

At school the next day the first thing I did was go to the office and sign up for a swim team. I thought I would be good for the team because I have so much experience. The whole day I pretty much only talked to Anne and stayed away from other kids at recess. I waited for the bell to ring so I could try out for the swim team. At the end of math the time was here. I have been waiting for it the whole day. I ran to the pool and bumped into a kid named Everett. He dropped all his stuff on the floor. I helped and he said, "I'm new too. I am really nervous around other kids sometimes but since you're new too I don't feel that nervous." "Thanks" I said. "I've got to get to my swim club because this is my first try out." "Bye".

At the pool the only person there was my coach and I felt like it was a really big place. It sounded like home. I just wanted to jump right in. The swim teacher said, "Okay let's get started, jump in at the edge and swim all the way across. All 50 meters. If you can swim across the pool in 45 seconds you are in the team." I jumped in, the chill of the water rushed up my blood. I swam as fast as I could only thinking about getting to the opposite edge of the pool. My arm slammed on the edge of the wall before the timer beeped and my happiness drowned out the pain. "You have made it onto the swim team and you swam at record time!" said the swim teacher "Congratulations!" "Thanks!"

That evening at home my mom happened to make my favorite dinner. Goopy cheesy pizza with bubbling sauce and warm crust. I told my parents all about my day. "Mom! Dad! I made the swim team and I was so happy. The coach told me to swim 50 metres and guess what... I broke the school record!!!" I went to bed thinking about the swim team and all the swimmers on the team when I am going to meet them. I might be nervous but I think I will fit in perfectly

At the first practice I met all of my teammates. I stayed back a bit and once I knew that Everett was also on the team I felt like I wasn't the only new kid. Our first practice was butterfly strokes for half the pool length I finished way faster than all the other swimmers. "Great job everyone, Samantha also swam faster than a school record in the tryouts for 50 meter freestyle and also won the practice race today. Everyone cheered!!! I kinda felt embarrassed because I was the center of attention. I took a step back. I got tired and went up to my water bottle and the coach asked me if I could represent our school in the school swim championship. She said many new kids aren't really the main lead in the championship but you are really good at swimming. "No" "I don't want to" I said because I didn't want to be the main person in a new school. "I will give you some time to think about it, I think you will change your mind."

I told Anna all about the swim team the next day. "You should totally try to be the captain." "I don't know why you're holding back?"

Next practice after thinking about being a person representing our team I told the coach I will try because I think it will be a great opportunity to make more friends and it will be fun. Coach said the first meet will be in 2 weeks so I'd have to prepare a lot before. I swam every day at the pool and spent hours practicing.

When the time finally came I jumped out of my seat almost up to the ceiling. I was so excited I rushed out the door of my classroom when the bell rang. I'd gotten to know some kids more but the majority of people were still really unfamiliar. The first meet was in my school's pool so I could just run there. My parents walked over

to me on the deck of the pool and wished me good luck. When I finally changed into my swim suit it was already time to start. I stood on the starting point and looked at the other 2 people. 3! 2! 1! I jumped in and swam. I only looked ahead. By the time I reached the wall the kid from P.S 38 had already beaten me. They were in the lead.

You had to score 2 points to win that game so P.S 38 was up by one so far. I stood on the starting point and again, jumped in and darted to the other side. This time the stroke was freestyle so I was pretty good at it and won that race. Everyone in the audience cheered. It felt weird but I kept going on. My school and P.S 38 were tied. If either of us got another point the person who got it would win. I repeated the same thing and that time I won!!! The only feelings I could feel were excitement and happiness. When celebrating, a kid on my team named Jay even fell in the water.

The next day at school everyone was being more nice to me since I won and I felt like I fit in more with the kids. I started talking to people at lunch and Hanging out with others in the next week.

I think showing my talents and who I truly am helped me find more friends.