

A Lost Cause or A New Hope?

By: Anthony Badalamenti

In the dark, lifeless town of Bottomsville, there was Will Ford's High School. Will Ford's High School was a very small school. A quiet establishment that was supposed to be the home for 462 students. Inside of this ramshackle of a school, there was Mable Evans. Mable was an average, teenage girl who said what she thought and wasn't afraid of anything. Mable rolled her long, dark hair between her fingers as she thought about what she was going to do later. She was sitting in her Psychology class bored out of her mind, when a kid in the back of the room asked, "Why do girls overreact to everything that has to do with love?" Mable's hand shot up and the Psychology teacher, Mr. Peterson, called on her. "Finally," she thought, "I can finally express myself." The bright, young girl stood up and turned to her classmates saying, "Sometimes people come into your life and you know right away that they were meant to be there, to serve some sort of purpose, teach you a lesson, or help you figure out who you are and or who you want to become. You never know who these people may be, possibly your roommate, neighbor, professor, long lost friend, lover, or even a complete stranger, but when you lock eyes with them, you know at the very moment that they will affect your life in some profound way. And sometimes things will happen to you that may seem horrible, painful, and unfair at first, but in reflection you find that without overcoming these obstacles that you would have never realized your true potential, strength, willpower, or heart. Everything happens for a reason. Nothing happens by chance or by mean of good luck. Illness, injury, love, lost moments of true greatness and sure stupidity all occur to test the limits of your soul. Without this small test, whatever they may be, life would be like a smoothly paved, straight, flat road to nowhere. It would be safe and comfortable, but dull and utterly pointless. The people that you meet who affect your life, and the success and downfalls you experience help to create who you are and who you will become. Even the bad experiences are learned from. In fact, they are the most poignant ones. If someone hurts you, betrays you, or breaks your heart, forgive them for they have helped you learn about trust and the importance of being cautious when you open your heart. If someone loves you, love them back unconditionally, not only

because they love you, but because in a way, they are teaching you how to love and how to open your heart and eyes to things."

The room went silent. Mable, who was still standing up in front of the whole class, pushed the hair back from her face. Mr. Peterson waited for Mable to take her seat, but instead she went over to the tissues and blew her nose. It was too bad that the tissues were over by the door. The room was silent with a cloud of comprehension and awe lingering about the students. A moment or two passed by but it seemed to Mable as if those few moments were minutes of dead silence. Then something remarkable happened. The kid in the back of the room stood up, adjusted his jacket and grinned. His grin was intimidating to Mable, she felt uncomfortable by this awkward, weird grin. The boy took a deep breath and said, "Ya know, she's right. My life does need some bumps, some carelessness, some spicing up." Mable let the breath that she had been holding go and began to say, "Oh! I'm so glad you thi-", but before she could finish the mischievous kid from the back of the room said, "And I'm gonna fix that, right now!" Then he dashed out of the room followed by a few of his buddies. A few minutes later Principal Schnauzer came on the intercom in a very calm tone in his voice saying, "Attention teachers please follow lockdown procedures. I repeat please follow lockdown procedures." Mr. Peterson instructed all students to move away from the windows and doors. Mable instantly thought to herself, "That boy from the back of the room? Could it be him and his buddies? I wonder what they could be do..." Her eyes got watery and her vision went blurry. As she was about to wipe her eyes her whole body went numb and she fell to the floor, unconscious. Before she could open her eyes, she heard someone say in a deep voice, "That's what I think of your speech", and then the room turned dark.