

Chill Out

I wake with a chill as my feet hit the smooth cool floor. As I walk downstairs to get some breakfast, I notice my younger brother Charlie standing with his nose pressed against the window, his eyes as wide as saucers. Still only half awake, I groggily rub my eyes and trudge over to see what he's looking at. Outside, I see a crisp layer of snow sparkling against the grass. It's whiter than a fresh sheet of paper. "Cool!" Charlie exclaims, "let's go play in the snow!" "You comin' sis?" Charlie asks as he heads outside geared up.

"No," I reply, "I'm going over to Sarah's house for our science fair project. After that I'm meeting Chris and Julie for lunch, and going to Laura's party tonight."

"Actually, you're doing none of that," my mom comments, "the roads are covered in snow, like ten inches deep, I can't drive you anywhere."

"What!" I gasp in horror. "I'm going to have to cancel all my plans!" I march up the stairs. When I reach my bedroom, I flop down on the bed. I can feel tears forming in my eyes. This is so unfair!

After I've calmed down, I head back downstairs. My mom glances up from her book, "Sweetie, I'm sorry you have to cancel your plans but you've been really stressed out lately. Life can be hectic, but sometimes it's best to just calm down." She hands me my snow clothes and I put them on. I open the door and am greeted with a cool blast of wind. My feet crunch loudly in the snow. I take a deep breath. All the thoughts going through my head lately, about friends and parties...all that drama disappears. The stress about studying for tests is gone. It's just me and nature. I see a fluffy squirrel climbing up a tree. A delicate snowflake falls from the sky and lands on my tongue. My brother Charlie walks over and we build a snowman. I stick a carrot in for the nose. Then I feel something hit my arm, it's a snowball and Charlie has more ready. "Hey!" I build some snowballs of my own to throw at him. The snowball fight is so much fun! We laugh and I watch my breath cloud up.

Who knew I could have such a fun time with Charlie! I never really hang out with him. Mom comes outside with mugs of hot cocoa. I take a sip of the sweet frothy liquid as warmth fills my body from the top of my head to the tips of my toes. We head back inside and I shower. Then me, mom, dad, and Charlie play Monopoly all cozied up by the warm fireplace. I started the day feeling miserable that the storm had ruined my plans. But the freezing snow ended up melting my stress away.