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**People Can Change and Sometimes They Don't**

Alicia Stewart

Molly's Bakery on a warm, sunny day in the small summer resort town of Charlotte, Rhode Island. The bakery is simple: one counter backed with red swivel stools, a small glass display case, and an old, overused cash register on the counter. The bakery is empty except for two girls. Michelle Potter works at the bakery as a summer job, and is wiping the counter. Renee Chambers chats as she munches on a doughnut. She and her family are visiting the town on vacation, and she has just run into her old friend whom she has not seen for years. They are just becoming reacquainted. They are both in their teens. The year: 1989.

Scene I

Michelle (Wiping the counter with a white rag): We always had so much fun together! It's too bad you couldn't make it up here all those years.

Renee: I know. My mom was having all of those complications, so my dad rented out our cottage for five years.

Michelle: How is your family?

Renee (thoughtfully): Well, my mom's a lot better, and my dad's fine. Travis broke his leg skiing last winter, but he's fine now.

Michelle: Oh, my gosh! I forgot all about Travis! Is he still that same small, scrawny geek he was five years ago?

Renee (laughing): He's not small & scrawny any more.

Michelle: But he's still a geek?

Renee: Remember how he used to wear glasses, and every time he got embarrassed he'd push them up on his nose?

Michelle: Yeh.

Renee: He's got contacts now, and he still tries to push them up! He looks like he's trying to squash a bug or something! (Both laugh.) He hasn't changed. He's still a geek.

Michelle: Remember how he always tagged along wherever we went because he didn't have any friends?

Renee: He still doesn't!

Michelle: He looked like a lost dog - well, mutt - following us around everywhere. He had those big, sad eyes...

Renee: That you always made black and blue because he wouldn't do what you wanted him to!

Michelle (smiling slyly): Like when we dressed him up in my clothes and tried to make him my sister.

Renee: After you hit him I wasn't allowed to play with you for a whole week! And Travis got so bored and he whined and complained so much that he promised he'd never tell again.

Michelle: It's hard to believe he's only a year younger than you. And you're half a year older than me. I've never thought of him as my age before.

Renee: That's because he was always so immature. He still is. Only the outside of him's changed.

Michelle: Hopefully for the better.

Renee (with humor): Because you'd want to go out with him, right? (They both laugh.)

Michelle (choking to catch her breath): Yeh! Or maybe I'll marry him! I just love those kind of guys who shave three times a year and have a head bigger than the rest of their body.

Renee: Well, his body's changed some.

Michelle: But a body doesn't make a person.

Renee: True. He's still a nerdy little pest on the inside. (She pauses and thinks, then checks her watch.) I told him to meet me here at two, and it's a quarter after.

Michelle: He probably got lost. (They both laugh. Michelle continues to buff the counter while they both chatter on. After a few minutes Renee spots her brother from the bay window at the front of the shop. He's headed toward the bakery.)

Renee (pointing out the window): Here he comes! (Michelle's eyes grow wide and she clutches Renee's arm.)

Michelle: God bless puberty!

Renee (in horror): Michelle!

Michelle (in a state of solemn awe): He sure didn't look like that five years ago!

Renee (skeptically): I thought you said "a body doesn't make a person."

Michelle: Oh, man! His body sure does! (Renee's good-looking brother stumbles across the step and stands awkwardly in the doorway.) Travis! (Michelle bounds out from behind the counter and hugs him)

Travis (pushing on his nose where his glasses used to be): Hi!

Michelle (ecstatically): How are you? I haven't seen you in so long! You've changed so much! Oh! I can't believe it! Just look at you! Changed from cute to handsome just like that! (She snaps her fingers. Renee falls silent and shakes her head at Michelle.)

Travis (embarrassed): Thank you. How've you been?

Michelle: I'm not too bad. I have to work at this God-awful place, but it's better now that you two are here. (She casts a long sweet smile at Travis.)

Renee (in a low voice): A body doesn't make a person! (She casts a long, stern look at Michelle. Michelle tosses her head.)

Michelle: I bet you think I'm such a hormone talking like this...

Travis: A what?

Michelle: I just mean that I'm not glad to see you only because you look different. I just miss all of the fun we all used to have together. (Renee keeps silent.)

Travis (very surprised): Oh...

Michelle: I've embarrassed you, haven't I? I'm sorry. You just get here, and I get all carried away with emotion.

Renee: That's an understatement.

Travis: It's o.k. You didn't expect my looks to have changed so much.

Renee (sarcastically): I think it's the personality change myself.

Michelle: Time changes a person's opinions. I've changed, too. I've realized what a waste it was picking on you all of those years when we could have become great friends.

Travis: You'd really want to be seen with me now? You never did before.

Michelle: Of course I'd want to be seen with you! You've got a great personality! I like you.

Travis: You do?

Renee (sarcastically): I hear wedding bells.

Michelle (glares at Renee): Travis, there's a party at Mervin's tonight. A lot of my friends from town will be there. Would you like to come with me and meet them?

Travis: Renee, do you want to come, too?

Renee: That's o.k. I promised Mom I'd take her down the quay. You two go. (Travis' eyes bulge. He has never been on a date before. Some customers walk in and Michelle has to leave her friends.)

Michelle: Hey! I'll pick you up at around 8:30, o.k.?

Travis: O.k. Bye!

Michelle: Bye, now!

Renee (pointing at Michelle with a vicious look in her eye): We need to talk.

Michelle (with a sticky smile): Thank you, have a nice day! Please come again! (Travis and Renee exit.)