

LIFE BACK THEN

It was an icy cold winters morning in the city of Auckland in 1939. The frosts were all around Clevedon School, icicles were hanging off the lightly frosted roofs from the night before and the sunrise was just coming up from the back of the school as Martin walked happily over the valleys. "Aren't I lucky to live somewhere, where the sky is always so beautiful, I wouldn't want to be anywhere else." He smiled. Suddenly Mr Martin received a letter from the war training camp reminding him that he had to leave. He started to look very pale in the cheeks and his palms were dripping with sweat. He forgot that was going to be his last day being a teacher. Mr Martin and the other 3 male teachers had to leave to go and fight in the war.

The next day was a Tuesday and that was the day that Mr Martin, Mr Jack, Mr John and Mr Robert had to leave. Mr John worried who was going to be coming back and teaching the kids. "It will be fine" Mr Martin replied. It was time to go, the bus came right outside to take the men to the camp. As soon as the men left three female teachers and one male teacher that have already retired came off A horse and cart with an evil look on their faces. Ms Dorothy rushed down the steps to greet them as they arrived.

"Hello, my name is Ms Dorothy and I'm one of the teachers that teach here. Sorry for coming in on the late notice." Dorothy apologized.

The first lady to come out of the cart was called Ms Charlotte. "Hi, no worries" she replied and walked off. Then out came another lady called Mrs Mary, " Hel..." Ms Dorothy tried to greet her but she ignored her and walked off into the school. Ms Dorothy had a funny feeling something was going to go wrong while they were going to be teaching but didn't know what. Dorothy wondered with the way that they ignored her what kind of way were they going to be treating the kids. Then lastly the male and the last female walked out" Hello I'm Ms Dorothy and I'm a teacher at this school."

Mrs Linda stopped to talk to her while Mr William kept walking. "Hello, Dorothy I'm Mrs Linda."

Ms Dorothy showed her the entrance to the school. She found the other teachers. Dorothy knew that the 3 other teachers were there just to get a pay rise. Ms Dorothy then showed them around Clevedon school. They were all teachers before but just at different schools around Auckland. The next day the teachers started teaching. Ms Dorothy arrived late because she had an appointment. She heard teachers yelling as she stopped on top of one of the valleys that had strong northeasterly winds. She didn't want to believe that one of the new teachers had already started yelling. "The children aren't even that naughty" she said, as she stopped for breath.

Ms Dorothy decided to run the rest of the way back as the yelling got louder and louder. When Ms Dorothy arrived at the school she decided to go around the back so whoever was screaming she would be able to find out who it would be. She then started to hear slapping. "That's child abuse" Dorothy whispered. Ms Dorothy jumped up to see Mrs Charlotte slapping Bella with a whip. "MRS CHARLOTTE WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!" Ms Dorothy madly asked. Bella then ran over to Ms Dorothy crying. "Are you ok Bella?" Ms Dorothy asked. "Yes," she sobbed. "Charlotte what were you doing caning Bella?!" Ms Dorothy yelled. Bella had bare legs instead of black socks during the war-time so getting caned would have hurt a lot more. "She wasn't listening to what I was saying!" Ms Charlotte shrugged. "It doesn't mean that you can cane her" Dorothy continued. "I just came back from my appointment and then I heard someone screaming" Dorothy. "Yes it was but it wasn't my fault" She added. "Ms Charlotte please wait outside while I get the principal to deal with you" Ms Dorothy continued. As Ms Charlotte walked out Ms Dorothy left Bella in the room with the other students to see if any other teachers weren't doing what they were supposed to be doing. "All fine" Ms Dorothy checked.

Ms Anna walked out to find Ms Charlotte and Ms Dorothy outside her room. "What can I help you with there?" She asked. "Mrs Anna, I just arrived at school and heard someone yelling and slapping noises from the school I went around the back to see what was happening and then I saw Ms Charlotte yelling and caning poor Bella".

"Oh, why did you do that to Bella," Mrs Anna asked.

"She wasn't listening to what I wanted her to do", Charlotte cried.

"Look just both of you go back to your classes," Anna yelled.

"But Mrs Anna this is urgent what happens if she does it to someone else?" Dorothy pleaded.

"Dorothy get to your class I'm sure she won't do it again" Ms Anna continued.

The next day Ms Dorothy thought that it wasn't good enough that Ms Charlotte got to go back to class. What happens if she does it again she wondered.

Ms Dorothy decided to take action and hold a meeting before school while there was a big frost from the night before. The other teachers arrived but Dorothy never invited Mrs Anna and Ms Charlotte. "What's wrong?" Mrs Linda asked.

"Well, I'm here this morning to tell you what happened yesterday during school. Long story short, I went around the back of the school to hear Ms Charlotte yelling at Bella Thorne and landing her with her whip. I told Mrs Anna and she let her go back and carry on teaching." Ms Dorothy spoke

"Oh no what happens if she does it again?", Ms Mary cried.

"That's why I invited you here to see if you would be able to help me protest kids rights around Auckland, Then the word gets spread around and Ms Charlotte won't be able to teach again because of Child abuse" Dorothy continued.

"I'm in", Ms Mary agreed.

"Same am I", Ms Linda replied.

"Count me in", Mr William stuffed.

"Great meet me here on Saturday", Ms Dorothy said with hope.

That Saturday came around really fast. It was pouring down hard with rain but that didn't matter to them. They wanted to get the word out as fast as they could. Later on, after they made their posters they went around Mount Albert in

the Auckland streets to get people to notice their signs that they made. As soon as they started protesting the rain started to stop and out came a rainbow."That must mean good luck!"Ms Dorothy yelled with excitement.

Random people started talking to other people about the signs. "STAND UP FOR CHILD ABUSE AT SCHOOL" The teachers yelled Other people started to march in their protest to support them. At that instant, they saw Mrs Anna walking around the streets window shopping and saw their protest.

"Is that you Dorothy?" she questioned.

They suddenly stopped and turned around to see Mrs Anna.

"Yes, it is Anna. You didn't want to do anything about what Ms Charlotte did to Bella so we did" Dorothy replied.

"Well.... I'm sorry I didn't take action sooner" Anna exclaimed "Mrs Anna you're still letting her work for Clevedon school. What happens if she does it again?"

"I will sort it out now I promise".

The 4 teachers decided to leave the Mt Albert area and go back to their homes. Before long Monday came back around and Ms Dorothy went to see Mrs Anna. Suddenly Ms Charlotte comes out looking sad."Are you ok?" Ms Dorothy asked.

"Thanks to you I lost my job"

"Wait really?"

Ms Charlotte left before she could answer Ms Dorothy."Mrs Anna, what is she talking about?"

"I fired her"

"Wait, really?"

"Yes I did, after I saw you and the others protesting on Saturday I knew from then on I had to do something about it so she won't be able to do it again."

"That's great, but at the same time I feel sorry for her"

"She will be fine"

Ms Dorothy then walked out and told the others."Guys, I have news"

"What is it?"

"Ms Charlotte got fired"

"Really?!"

"Yep"

"That's great she won't do that anymore."

After Ms Charlotte left everyone felt good and the children didn't feel as scared as they were when Ms Charlotte was around. They felt happier and the teachers started to like teaching a lot more. On September 2nd 1945 war ended. Sadly only one of the male teachers returned out of the 4 that left from Clevedon School. When Mr Martin arrived back at school from the war. It was a while since some of the children had seen him. Some kids left during that time and some stayed and got to hear Mr Martin's endless great and sad war-time stories.



-Children at Clevedon School in Auckland in 1940 outside during their lunchtime-

Written by Isabella Mcroy