

Diamond Studded Shoes
"Walk a mile in someone else's shoes"

Grace has a great life. She is treated well, gets what she needs, and she has a close relationship with her family and friends. But she doesn't realize that. She is always jealous of the girls in her class who seemed to be better than her. She wishes that she could travel the world over breaks like Lilly, or do all those crazy tricks like Karie. But most of all, she wishes she could be like Evelyn. Everything about her seems to be perfect. She has perfect clothes, perfect hair, perfect manners, perfect everything. If she doesn't know how to do something one day, she can do it perfectly the next day.

One day Grace was at her grandmother's house. Usually, she is listening to her grandmother's stories of when she was a little girl. But today, she was thinking about how she wished she could be just like Evelyn. When her grandmother realized she was not listening, she asked what was wrong. "Oh nothing" said Grace. "It's just that I wish I could have the same life as Evelyn, a girl in my class who seems to be better than me in every way." "Why Grace, you have a great life," said her Grandmother. "Don't compare yourself to this Evelyn. But do have something to give you!" Then she went into her room and retrieved a small box. "Grace, I want you to have this." And she took a pair of beautiful shoes out of the box. They were decorated with diamond studs. It was gorgeous! "Grandmother! This is amazing!" Grace exclaimed. "Yes, and it has amazing powers too." said Grandmother. "Touch the tongue of the shoe and concentrate hard on the person. If you do it correctly, you will become that person for a day. Now run along dear, your mother is probably waiting for you." "Thank you so much," said Grace on her way out the door. She ran all the way home, looking forward to going to school and trying out her new thing.

The next day Grace tried them on. They fit perfectly. They also seem to shine even brighter. She ran all the way to school, and when she got there, she could not find Evelyn. So she hung around with her friends waiting for class to start. She tried to be part of the conversation, but there was this weird feeling deep down inside her. It seemed to be coming from the shoes. When the bell finally rang, Grace quickly got to class and found her seat. Then, when Evelyn sat down, Grace touched the tongue of her shoe, and concentrated on Evelyn. Then she saw a stream of light come towards her. Grace wanted to run, but the light was coming too fast. Then she blacked out.

When Grace woke up, she looked around. Everyone seemed to act like nothing happened. The teacher was handing out tests. Then Grace looked down at her desk. But wait- this wasn't her desk. It was Evelyn's! Then she looked to the right. She almost freaked out. Grace saw her actual body, sitting at her desk! Then the teacher slapped a test on her desk. Grace peeped at the name. It said Evelyn. Grace smiled. The shoes actually worked! Now she gets to see what Evelyn's life was like! Grace began her test. Most of it she understood, but she still did not understand Dividing Fractions. Her Mom says to try your best, then afterwards, find your mistakes, and try to use them to help you with your next test. So she tried her best, finished the test, and handed it to the teacher. When she got the grade back, she made a 90 getting the Dividing Fractions one wrong. Oh well, she thought. I'll figure out what I am doing wrong later.

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When it was time to go home, Grace was picked up by Evelyn's mom, who was actually her Mom for the day. "What did you make on your test today honey?" She asked. "A 90" Grace responded. Evelyn's mom's face darkened. "What? You got an answer wrong! That can ruin our reputation! When you get home, you better start reading all those books your dad sent you when you made a 80! Oh and why is there a CRUMB on my dresser? I thought-" and she started ranting on and on about all these little things that usually don't matter. If Grace's mom thought something was out of place, she would just fix it herself, or nicely ask her to fix it.

When they got home, Evelyn's mom made Grace do some of the strangest things as chores. Like turning the lamp a third of an inch, or fluffing the pillows exactly 11 times. She also made her iron all the clothes in the house! Even though some was already iron the day before, her mom insisted that Grace ironed them so there wasn't a single wrinkle in all the clothes. After she finished all the chores, she asked if she could go relax, or take a walk around the block. But Evelyn's Mom said "No! In this family you don't relax! Only LAZY people relax!" So Grace got to work on the books. There were five books that were 500 pages long! And she had to read through all of them! "Now don't move from your spot until you figure out how to solve a simple math problem!" she said. Grace was up until 10:30 trying to figure out how to divide fractions. And whenever Grace asked Evelyn's mom for help, she just would say that she was too busy. But when Grace looked in her room she did not look busy! She was either painting her nails, reading a magazine, or scrolling through Tik-Tok! Then it struck Grace- Evelyn might seem perfect and happy, but she wasn't. Her Mom treats Evelyn as if she was her servant! Grace had seen Evelyn fall asleep during class a couple of times, and she does seem depressed. And her father seems to never be around! But in Grace's family, she knows her mom would never give her such strict chores, and not lift a finger to help! Of course she has chores, but still! And her father would never go away for work even if he wanted to! It struck Grace that nobody has a perfect life, and she should be grateful for the parents she has.

When Grace woke up she was in her own bed. Which was a relief, because she did not want to know what Evelyn's morning routine was like! Her stomach growled. That's when Grace realized that Evelyn's Mom did not feed her dinner! So Grace got ready, gobbled up a big breakfast, and got to school. When she arrived at school, she went up to Evelyn, hugged her and said "You look great today!" Evelyn grinned ear to ear. "Really!? Do you really think so? My necklace isn't crooked or my shirt doesn't have a wrinkle?" "Even if it did, you still would look great!" Grace said back.

After school, Grace went to her grandmother's house and gave back the shoes. "I don't think I need these anymore." "I don't think so either." Her grandmother said. Then she winked, and closed the door. Grace left her grandmother's house feeling more grateful than ever.