

**FIRST PRIZE**  
**\$100**  
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## **One World Two Sides**

**By Ashley Redmer**

### Chapter 1

Everytime I hear that alarm my body jumps with excitement. Even on a Saturday I still set my alarm to 6 A.M just so that I can have the chance to talk to **him**. Most people would think that “him” is the person that I love, but no “him” is my best friend, my other half. Okay, maybe that’s a lie. Maybe I think that he might be becoming something more, but it’s way too complicated. Let me go back, to the day that I met **him**.

**August 15, 2023** the day feels weirdly like it was just yesterday. I got a call on Discord, the blaring sound of the ringtone through my headphones made me jump. I contemplate joining because it was early in the morning, the clock read 7:30 A.M. I ignore the call and go back to watching my favorite movie, The Perks Of Being A Wallflower. I love that movie; as I’m watching it I’m thinking about how this boy that is completely lost in life falls in love with this beautiful girl, and she completes his life. Now the incoming message beep travels to my ears through my headphones. I look at the two messages one from BQU and one from **onixeptable**, no that’s not their actual names but she goes by Rain and he goes by BQU. Both messages read the same thing:

*“Void get on this call, there is someone I want you to meet.”*

No my name isn't Void; my name is Luna Cadere. On discord though, I go by Void. I like it- it brings me comfort, no one knows the real reason why that's my discord name and I intend to keep it that way for a while. I put my stubbornness aside and decide to join the call, I can't help but let curiosity control me. I joined the call to hear Rain's calm voice, "Luna, this is Hero."

The first time I heard his voice, I felt different. His voice was deep making me question how old he was. But it carried a hint of nervousness, making it soft and sweet.

"Nice to meet you I'm Hero.." his voice stuttered and I giggled a little.

"Nice to meet you too, the name is Luna." I don't know why but I had a grin on my face as I spoke those words. I join the game they were playing and start spectating them, everytime he speaks I smile. Something about him is different, his voice is mesmerizing. Rain and BQU left, so now it was just me and Hero; Hero and I.

"I think I'm the youngest here, I'm 17" he breaks the silence. All I can bring myself to do is laugh a quiet laugh, knowing that he is not the youngest, I am. I'm 16 years old, my birthday is October 3, 2006. Yet I don't tell him that.

After talking for what seemed like hours, I eventually left the call. Time goes on and through the months we gradually start talking more.

**October 27, 2023**

I've been talking to Hero all day long, the past few weeks we have been talking almost everyday. I guess you could say we became friends. I'm growing tired even though it's only 7 P.M, and I'm sitting here admiring Hero's voice.

“Lu? You there?” I snap out of my deep thoughts. “Wha- what? Hi I’m here.” I reply stuttering pretending that I wasn’t lost in thought. I hear him sigh “As I was saying, I’m gonna invite you to this group. There’s this girl Ellie and she’s really annoying but y’all seem kind of similar.”

I start sounding like a little kid “Oo. Oo. Let Me meet her!”

He laughs that laugh that I am very familiar with at this point. He broke out of his nervous shy phase, and now it’s like we’ve known each other our whole lives; except every once in a while he will slip into a stutter when he’s nervous. We joined a game called Among Us, this girl joins the call. I’m guessing it’s Ellie, her voice sounds like she is 12. “Hi new girl!” her voice sounds cheery and welcoming, she sounds like a girl that likes to help people. Sweet and caring but like there is much more going on in her mind, I don’t know. That was the day that I met my online best friend.

### **March 8, 2024 (present)**

“*Pstttt pstttttt*” I rub my eyes and slowly open them, being blinded by the sunlight shining through the blinds. I jump up remembering that I just heard a voice, confused I notice that my phone is on. I look at the bright screen, and I see Hero’s face displayed on the screen. “Oh hey.” I say in my quiet squeaky morning voice, and start bursting out laughing as my face turns bright red. I look at the screen, Hero’s face is slowly turning redder by the second. Staring at the screen, looking at my best friend I just stare. “Hey Lu, good morning.” I giggle and start ranting about the crazy dream I had. I’m going on and on talking about how in my dream I was dating Hero. “I know right! it was so crazy!” I say this dying of laughter.

“Yeah totally crazy” he looks down at his desk, shakes his head, and spins around once in his chair. He always did that when something was off, “what’s wrong?” I turn my head squinting at

the screen. “Nothing.. Nothing is wrong, anyways that was one crazy dream you had.” “Hero Cooper! Come eat dinner!” His mom yells from the background....