Anna Rose never loved anyone. She did not even like herself. When she was nine years old, she got sick and lost her eyesight, and because of this, she felt like she would never succeed in life. She made sure that people stayed away, even when they tried to be her friend, she just pushed them away and made them dislike her. It was fine with her. She did not need or want any friends. She was mean to anyone who wanted to help her. She would yell at them and tell them to leave her alone.

Her parents tried to help her. They took her to see many doctors in many clinics, but they all said the same thing. An eye transplant could help her, but the donor had to match her tissue type. Her type was very rare and the possibility that a donor having the same type with her would be difficult.

Her parents took her to many therapists to try to help her with her attitude, but she did not change. When she was with them, she would act like a princess, but as soon as she left, she was the same as before. She was still as mean as ever.

She went to a special school to learn to read Braille. She did not like her teacher. She did not make friends, not even in the blind school. She was always a very cruel and angry person. No one liked her and soon they just avoided her.

She only dreamed of what it would be like to see all the colors again. She wanted to see far-off places and travel the world. She wanted to do the things sighted people do. Because she knew she would never be able to do those things, she remained angry and spent most of her time alone.
One day, while she was sitting in the park, she heard a voice talking to her. It came from someone who was sitting on the bench next to her.

“Hello, my name is Mardave. I think you are very pretty,” the voice said.

Anna Rose responded, “You must be blind like me. I’m the ugliest person in the world!”

When she answered like this, it usually made people go away, but Mardave did not leave.

“I’m serious, I think you are very nice. I would like to get to know you,” he said in a kind and gentle voice.

“Won’t you just leave me alone? Can’t you see that I’m trying to be by myself?!” Anna Rose yelled at him.

“No, I don’t want to. I want to get to know you. May I please sit here with you for a little while?” Mardave continued trying to make a conversation with Anna Rose.

“You can do whatever you want. It’s a free country. Just don’t talk to me,” Anna Rose rudely responded.

After a few minutes, Anna Rose asked, “Are you still there?”

Mardave replied, “Yes, I’m still here.”

“Why are you sitting with me? I want you to go away,” she again said in a cruel way.

“I don’t think so. I think I’ll sit here and enjoy the warm sun. It’s a beautiful day. Plus, I enjoy the park, especially when I feed the birds,” Mardave replied.

“Are you serious? Are you just going to sit there?” she asked.

Not waiting for an answer, she continued, “I think I want to move.”

Anna Rose started to stand up.

“Sure, may I help you find another bench?” Mardave asked.

“Will you just leave me alone?” Anna Rose shouted at him again. “Did someone pay you to stay here and talk with me? If so, you can give them their money back. I’m not talking to you anymore,” Anna Rose yelled, as she sat back down and turned her back.
to Mardave.

She tried to ignore him, but she could hear him doing something while he sat close to her. Soon, she could not stand not knowing what it was.

“What are you doing?” she asked.

“Me?” Mardave said, with a smile in his voice.

“Yes, you. What are you doing?” she asked.

“Oh, I thought you weren’t talking to me anymore,” Mardave responded.

“I asked you, what are you doing? You’re making so much noise,” she insisted.

“I’m feeding the birds. I brought some seed to feed them. I do this almost every day. The birds are my friends,” Mardave answered. “I know you come here often and that you like the park just like I do. Since I always see you here, I was hoping you would be my friend.”

“I don’t want any friends. I’m happy being by myself,” Anna Rose stated.

“That’s a bad way to go through life,” he commented on her response.

Before she said something else, he added, “I wish I were as good-looking as you. Then I would have many friends.”

There was a long time of silence and then Anna Rose spoke.

“Do you really think I’m pretty?” she asked in a softer voice.

“Yes, you are very pretty. Hasn’t anyone ever told you that?” Mardave told her.

“No, and I don’t believe you. You are just trying to be nice,” she responded in a mean tone.

“Have it your way. I think you are pretty. You’ll just have to accept that,” Mardave said disagreeing with her.

“I think I’m going to go home now,” Anna Rose said to him.

Then she got up and left.

The next day, when Anna Rose arrived at the park, Mardave was there again.

“Hello Anna Rose. It’s nice to see you again,” he said to her as she sat on her favorite bench.
“You’re here again?” she asked.

“Yep, and I’ll be here every day because I like it here,” he responded. “If you don’t like it, then you can just ignore me, but I’ll be here feeding the birds.”

This happened for many days. Mardave continued to visit the park, even though Anna Rose always tried to make him go away.

Because Mardave was so nice, and because he was always there, Anna Rose soon decided not to be so mean to him.

Eventually, Anna Rose began to talk to Mardave, and they became friends. They enjoyed sitting in the park feeding the birds. It was nice to have a friend, she found out. They talked about many things.

When one of them was not in the park, it was lonely.

When school began, Mardave asked Anna Rose if she would go to a dance with him.

“How am I supposed to go to a dance with you? I don’t know how to dance,” she said to him.

“I can teach you. Then we can be the best couple there,” Mardave laughed.

Anna Rose was surprised at herself when she said yes to him.

Every day they practiced dancing together. At first, Anna Rose stepped on Mardave’s feet many times, but he did not care nor did he complain.

The day of the dance came. Anna Rose’ mother had bought her a new red dress. She looked beautiful when Mardave walked into the house to take her to the dance.

They had so much fun at the dance. Many people came up to Mardave and asked him, “Who is the pretty girl you’re dancing with?”

“This is my friend, Anna Rose,” he said over and over. “I met her in the park.”

His friends told them how well they danced together. Everyone was so friendly to them. Anna Rose was surprised that his friends were so nice to her.

A few years later, Mardave asked Anna Rose to marry him. They had fallen in love.
She said yes, but she wanted to wait for a while. She needed find out what she wanted to do with her life.

Mardave was patient and told her he would wait as long as it took for her to say yes.

She told him that before she would marry him, she wanted to have her eyesight, so she would be able to do the things she wanted, like traveling and seeing the world. Because of this, Anna Rose became sad.

She went to see the eye doctor to find out if there was anything the doctors could do. They told her a transplant was the only thing that could help her. Once again, they checked her name on a list of possible donors, but no one was a match.

They told her not to get her hopes up. Her tissue type was very rare.

Anna Rose did not go out much after that. She avoided seeing Mardave. She stayed in her home very depressed. She became like her old self; very rude and mean.

A few months later, Anna Rose’ parents told her the hospital had called. They said they had found a donor for her eyes. She would have the operation within the next two days.

Anna Rose got excited. She called Mardave and told him the news. He was excited for her.

The day before the surgery, Mardave visited Anna Rose’s room. They talked about traveling the world and seeing the amazing things she had never seen. They talked about their future.

“Anna Rose. Now that you will be able to see, will you marry me?” Mardave asked.

She replied, “I must wait until my bandages are off before I can answer that question. If these eyes help me to see, I will do all the things we talked about. Then we can share all the places we will see. We can do all this together. It will be wonderful. Then we can be married.”

She was excited that she and Mardave would be able to do all these things
together.

Mardave stayed in her room until it was time to go to sleep.

“T’ll see you tomorrow after the surgery. I know it will go well,” Mardave said, as he held her hand.

Then he left the room.

The surgery went well.

She had to stay in the hospital for five days after the operation in order for it to be successful. She had to lie very still until her eyes healed. Finally, the bandages came off her eyes. When they did, the first person she saw was her mother. She looked so different from her memory.

“Mom, you look so different,” Anna Rose commented to her mother.

Her mother answered with a laugh, “It’s been over twelve years since you saw me last. I’m sure I’ve changed a lot since then.”

Anna Rose turned and looked outside at the flowers and the trees as she giggled in excitement.

“Wow! I can’t believe all the colors. It’s so beautiful! I don’t remember them being so bright!” she exclaimed.

She spent the day going from place to place in her wheelchair as her mother pushed her around the hospital. Anna Rose wanted to see everything,

The next day, Anna Rose realized that Mardave had not come to see her.

“What happened to him? Why hasn’t he come to see me?” Anna Rose asked her mother.

“We don’t know. No one has seen Mardave since the last time he came to see you before the surgery. No one knows where he went,” her mother said.

Anna Rose began to cry, “What happened to him? Why hasn’t he come to see me?”

Her mother answered, “Maybe he thought he was not handsome enough for you. I’m not sure. He didn’t say anything to us about his plans. We haven’t seen him either.”
“But just a few days ago, he asked me to marry him again, but now he’s not here. Where has he gone?” she asked her mother.

She did not have an answer.

When Anna Rose arrived home, her mother gave her a letter. She told her it was from Mardave. She set the note on her bed and then forgot about it.

After she was fully recovered, she traveled to all the places and did all the things she always dreamed about. She wished Mardave was with her, and she never forgot him.

A couple of years later, when she was packing the things in her room to move to her own apartment, she found the note. It had fallen under her bed.

She sat on her bed and opened it.

The note said, ‘I’m sorry that I had to leave. You have many things you want to do and I won’t be able to go with you. I hope you have a wonderful life. Please take care of my eyes. I’ll always love you.

Mardave.’
VOCABULARY: (Match the word to its definition)

1. transplant ____  a. counselor, psychologist
2. match ____  b. not beautiful
3. clinic ____  c. talk with others
4. therapist ____  d. the same kind
5. ugliest ____  e. demand, persist, not give up
6. pretty ____  f. replace a body part or organ
7. conversation ____  g. a small hospital
8. insist ____  h. operation
9. ignore ____  i. beautiful, nice
10. surgery ____  j. not respond, to look away

TRUE / FALSE:

1. Anna Rose was a nice person.  
   T / F

2. Anna Rose lost her eye sight when she was nine years old.  
   T / F

3. Anna Rose had many friends.  
   T / F

4. The doctors told her she needed new eyes.  
   T / F

5. Mardave was a kind boy.  
   T / F

6. Anna Rose went to a school to learn how to dance.  
   T / F

7. The students at the dance liked Anna Rose.  
   T / F

8. Anna Rose got a new red dress for the dance.  
   T / F

9. Mardave asked Anna Rose to go to Europe with him.  
   T / F

10. Mardave married Anna Rose.  
    T / F
MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. Why was Anna Rose angry? _____
   a) she hated her parents
   b) she did badly in school
   c) she got sick and became blind
   d) she wanted to be alone

2. Who became her friend? _____
   a) John
   b) Robby
   c) Mardave
   d) George

3. What did the doctors tell Anna Rose? _____
   a) she would be blind forever.
   b) she needed a transplant.
   c) she would die when she was twenty-one.
   d) her eyesight would come back in a few years.

4. Who gave her the new eyes? _____
   a) her mother
   b) her father
   c) a doctor
   d) Mardave
**COMPREHENSION:** (Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)

1. How old was Anna Rose when she lost her eyesight?

___________________________________________________________________________________

2. Who told her she needed a transplant?

___________________________________________________________________________________

3. Who did she meet in the park that would not take no for an answer?

___________________________________________________________________________________

4. What did Mardave do in the park?

___________________________________________________________________________________

5. Why did Anna Rose get a new red dress?

___________________________________________________________________________________

6. Who taught Anna Rose how to dance?

___________________________________________________________________________________

7. What did Anna Rose want to do before getting married?

___________________________________________________________________________________

8. Who was the first person Anna Rose saw when the bandages came off?

___________________________________________________________________________________

9. What did Anna Rose read at the end of the story?

___________________________________________________________________________________

10. Who gave Anna Rose her new eyes?

___________________________________________________________________________________