



Why Are You So Quiet?

Story by
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Myra Louise was a quiet girl who loved quiet places.
She loved building forts in her room on rainy days.



A young girl with dark hair and freckles is lying on her stomach on a grey stone floor, reading an open red book. She is inside a yellow tent made of paper or fabric, which is decorated with a string of colorful lights (yellow, pink, white). The background is a soft pinkish-red color. The girl is wearing a light blue shirt and patterned shorts.

She loved listening to the
crickets croon from her
backyard tree at sunset.

She loved the gentle
hum of the dryers at
the laundromat.



In fact, Myra Louise loved quietness so much that even the loudest words she spoke came out slow and soft.

And so everywhere Myra Louise went,
people asked the same question.

Why are you so quiet?





On the school bus, her classmate Jeremy sidled up to her and screeched it.



When she didn't raise her hand in class, Mr. Bellman scrunched up his eyebrows and demanded it.

And when she hid in her room
to read while company was over,
her mom opened the door and sighed it.





And Myra Louise didn't know quite how to answer.

And so Myra Louise started to feel smaller and smaller.

So she thought very hard, because
Myra Louise was a very good thinker.

She thought if she could just find the
answer to their question, everyone
would finally understand.



At the laundromat, Myra Louise sat next to the quietest dryer.
She listened and thought for a long, long time.

Then she whispered,
“Dryer, why are you so quiet?”



For my daughter, Quinn, for my younger self, and for quiet kids everywhere.

—J.D.

For Q, J, and you.

—R.H.



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