

## Mush's Girl

I was 13 when I became an orphan. My dad killed my mom and then he ran off with another girl. I couldn't afford to stay in our house so I started to wander the streets. I was in the alleys of Harlem, sleeping under newspapers and eating out of garbage cans. I was a regular poor girl and I couldn't live like that any longer. Today was my 15th birthday and I decided to see the different cities of New York. I walked from Harlem to Manhattan. It wasn't as great as everyone thought it was. I got into a bundle of fights that I could handle on my own and I usually won, but one day I tried to steal some food and I didn't expect the kid to go after me but when I looked back I realized he was hot on my trail. I ran as fast and as far as I could, but I hit a brick wall. The kid came up behind me and started throwing punches all over the place. I guess he was a poor orphan too. By the third swing I blacked out completely.

"Hey Race, I'se gonna takes a walk" said Mush, a curly brown haired boy.

"Kay, don' stay out to longs, itz gettin dark" said Race

Mush walked down the stairs of the lodging house and out the door. As he walked around the streets, he went through some alleys. He almost stepped on something that he thought was an animal. When he took a look closer he realized it was a girl. He tried to shake her awake but it didn't work. It was starting to rain and he knew he couldn't just leave her in that alley. Mush rolled her over and picked her up. He carried her back to the lodge and paid for her to stay the night.

"Hey fellas, I founds a goil in an alley she looks like she gots soaked by some other newsie." Mush said

"Well, whys are youse bring her in heres." said Race "Heya Jack come heres"

"What is it Race, I'm tryings to sleeps"

"Mush got a goil heres, can she stay the night?"

"She staying no matter what, I already paid for her to."said Mush "She can sleep in my bed tonight I'll sleep on the floor and I'll check on her in the morning, now go to bed."

Mush laid her down on his bunk and wrapped her in a blanket. He grabbed the other blanket and found a comfortable stop on the floor.

I started to wake up, but I couldn't get up I was to sore. I managed to role over and I heard voices. I opened my eyes to see a boy with brown, curly hair staring at me, I jumped up and hit my head on the bed frame.

"Hey fellas she's waking up!"

"Where am I? How did I get here? Who are you?" I said holding my head.

"You're in the newsboys lodging house, I found you last night in an alley. My name's Mush."

I looked around. Boys of all ages were staring at me. One came up to Mush and looked at me. Others gathered around the bunk to get a better look at me. I just stared at them confused and scared.

"You've got a name, goil?" said the boy next to Mush

"Yeah it's Rachel" I said, my words slurred.

"Nice to meet you, I'm Race, but everyone calls me Race. This is Jack, Kid Blink, Dutchy, Specs, Skittery, and Bumlets."

"We're the Manhattan newsies."

"Nice to meet you all."

"You've got a place to stay? And a job?" said Jack

"No, but I need both." I said, looking at Mush.

There was something about him that I loved. I don't know if it was his curly brown hair and smile or the fact that he saved my life. I liked him and just by looking at him I could tell he was thinking the same thing.

"I've got an idea!!" said Mush, "She can stay here and become a newsie."

Everyone quickly agreed. Kloppman came up the stairs to wake everyone up, but he just walked over and said good morning to everyone. I just looked at him, I could tell he didn't care if I stayed there or not. Mush helped me down off of his bunk and gave me some clothes to change into. I went into the washroom with him behind me. He told me that he would be showing me how to become a newsie and that meant selling papers too. I got dressed and we went to the distribution alley. When it was my turn in line I realized that I didn't have any money.

"50 papers for me and 30 for my friend here." said Mush

"Thanks, I'll pay you back as soon as I can." I said

"Nah, you don't have to do that, I'm your friend and friends help each other."

I looked in his eyes and that's when I knew I truly loved him. We went to his selling spot and sold all of our papers before anyone else was finished. We went for a walk through central park, as we walked by the lake, he started to move closer to me as if he were scared of the water. Suddenly he picked up my hand. I stopped and looked at him. Our eyes were beaming and we just stood there looking in each other's eyes. He pulled me close and our lips met. We stood there for a while and then I pulled back. Mush looked kinda embarrassed, like he did it on accident. I kissed him again and pulled back and we both just started laughing. We walked hand - in - hand to Tibby's to have dinner and meet

up with the other newsies. The second we walked into Tibby's, Kid Blink yelled loud enough for everyone to hear.

"Heya Mush, Youse gotts yourselfs a goil?!?"

I looked at him and I knew he knew exactly what I was thinking, *well do you?*, he leaned forward and kissed me on the forehead.

"Yeah, I thinks I do."

When he said that, the biggest smile spread across my face. we made our way to where Jack and Sarah and David and Les were sitting. We ordered our food and started talking.

"So are you gonna be a newsie for a while?" Sarah asked me

"Yeah I think so, or until I find something else to do." I said in return

"Well, you know if you don't want to be on the streets all day you can come and work with me, I'm sure Ms. Campble would be more than happy to give you a job, I'll ask her if you want me to."

I looked at Mush, I know he would be happy with any job I was in but I think it would make him happier if I stayed and sold papes with him.

"Umm... Well, I think I might stay and sell papes with Mush here, so we can be together."

"Oh I see, well if you ever want to change jobs just have Jack let me know and I'll put in a good word for you." said Sarah.

"Thanks. I'll do that, okay well I'm kinda tired I think I'm gonna go back to the lodge and sleep some. You coming Mush?"

"Yeah, sure."

When we got back to the lodge I realized that there were no empty beds open. Mush saw the look on my face.

"Hey, don't worry, we's can shares a bunk, after all youse are my goil."

I just smiled at him I didn't think it was a big deal. I went into the washroom and changed into my nightshirt. It was already nine -o - clock and I was really tired. I climbed into bed and Mush climbed in after me. It felt so right for us to be together and I don't think any of the other newsies saw it differently. They would never try and steal me from Mush because they know that if they tried anything stupid Mush would soak 'em. It had been two month since we have been together and everything is still the same as when we first got together. When Kloppman came to wake all of us every morning, he got used to seeing us together in Mush's bunk. He would just wake us up as normal and none of the other newsies didn't seem to care to much that him and I were sleeping in the same bunk and always holding hands. I think they grew to know that as long as we were together,

that we would always be like that. Today was my 16th birthday and I was in the best mood I had ever been in. We got dressed and headed for the alley to get out papes and this time I had enough money to buy my papes and Mush's papes. We headed over to Tibbys and began hawking headlines. While we did that I think the public began to realize that we were in love because people would give us quarters and say "Good Luck You Love Birds" and they would look at us funny.

"You think the public knows that we are together?" I asked Mush

"Yeah I think they have known for a while considering that we are getting all kinds of money."

I laughed at him. One we finished we went into Tibby's and everyone was in there. I found that very odd since we always finished before everyone else got done. Something was going on and I couldn't figure out what. I followed Mush to a booth that Jack and Sarah and Racetrack were sitting in I sat next to Racetrack and Mush sat next to me. Mush and Jack started talking about how long we had Mush and I had been together and I heard him tell Mush that I was a keeper and that if he did anything to screw our relationship up, Mush would be the one in an alley. We all laughed knowing that Jack was only kidding.

"Okay Mush, can you do this already, I wanna get down to the races today - I got a hot tip." said Racetrack

I had no idea what he was talking about so I looked at Mush. He could tell I wanted to know what was going on right then. Jack stood up on the booth and everyone quit talking.

"Everyone I needs you to listens to me. Mush has something very important to say so shut up!"

Everybody's eyes were on me and Mush, and I had no idea what to expect. Mush got up and dug around in his pocket. He pulled out a black box. He pulled me to my feet and got down on one knee. I was so nervous I just started at him.

"Rachel, I am so happy that wes are together and this took me a long time to gets up the courage to say this, but... Rachel, I love youse and I hope you love me just as much back. Which is why I wants to give youse this..."

He opened the box and in it was a heart necklace. It was so beautiful. I couldn't believe that this was happening. I just looked at him; I felt tears coming down my face.

"Mush, it's beautiful. I love it and I love you so much."

He stood up and took the necklace out of the box and put it around my neck. My eyes were glowing and I know Mush's were too. When he finished, he came to my face and kissed me right there in front of everyone. Everyone cheered and screamed and hooted. When we stopped I asked him the only question on my mind.

"Mush? How could you afford this?"

"Well the public was giving us money because they knew we were together and Jack and David told everyone what I wanted to get for you. So the public started giving us donations and in the end I didn't have enough so everyone gave some of their money in and Kid Blink and Les went out and bought it today and when we finished selling I took youse into Tibby's and Blink snuck it to me and yes, this whole thing was planned. I wanted to get youse something special for your 16th birthday."

"Well it is beautiful and I LOVE YOU!!" I said to Mush

"I LOVE YOU TOO!!"

We kissed once more and everybody cheered again. After it was all over, we all headed back to the lodging house and when I walked in the door I saw there were gifts from all the newsies for me. I opened everyone and Kloppman even baked a cake for me. We all enjoyed the cake and I thanked everyone for everything. I went into the washroom to get changed and when I came out I saw that Mush was already getting comfortable in our bunk I climbed over him and laid down next to him. He looked at me and I stared at him.

"G'night and I love you so much, you mean the world to me." said Mush

"Right back at ya." I said

Right when all the lights went out, all the newsies said in a whisper.

"Happy Birthday, Rach."

"Thanks Guys, and G'night."

**! THE END!**

Newsies is a Disney movie I don't own it. I own Rachel and that is it. Please don't copy this story or her character.