

Susan

11:45

YOUNG ADULT: *SCHIZO* BY ELFEN BRIDGER

Summary: A story of a 15 year old schizophrenic girl named Sylvania Corpsman. She was diagnosed at a very early age, but doesn't know that since she can't remember much of her past. However, there is something even stranger about her. Somehow (unlike other people with schizophrenia), she can live life & interact with others as if nothing was is wrong...the only problem is that except her hallucinations are able to make noticeable physical contact with anyone at their own will, and she can't control it. But on her 16th birthday, Sylvania starts getting terrible headaches...along with memories from her past & abnormal behavior from her hallucinations. Dealing with this change, she goes on with her life. But how long will she last?

Comment [SD1]: Meaning she has no long term memory?

For the broken

Live on, the people around you will forever have a hole in their hearts if you don't.

Chapter I: My Friends are Weirdos

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Sylvania's First Self-Journal Entry, dated January 3rd, 2016:

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Hi. My name is Sylvania Corpsman, ~~&~~and my friends are weirdos. They're weirdos in every single possible sense of the word. Sometimes they drive me a little bit crazy, but I secretly love them for that. It makes life more interesting, and super fun! But, to start, I'm guessing that you want to know a little more about myself. Well, I'm 15 years old, soon to turn 16 (Yaysies!). I go to Navy Yard High School, ~~&~~and I'm in 10th grade. Most kids at school avoid me because they think I have some sort of screw loose. Pfft! What do they know?

On the outside, I look like a shy, quiet nerd...but my weirdo friends know that I'm really a fun-loving party animal who cares for everyone. I live in a town called Caskville.

Comment [SD2]: Watch usage-you used "but" 9 times in 3 pages; something to keep an eye out for during the editing process (not first draft)

I think that's everything you need to know. Wait...no, I'm lying to you. There is one thing.

YOUNG ADULT: *SCHIZO* BY ELFEN BRIDGER

I forgot to say that I'm amnesiac.

Heh...that was kinda funny.

Anyways, I don't remember much. I know my dad died when I was real young, though no one knows how. It's been a mystery, and I'm pretty sure it'll stay unsolved. My mom's still alive, but she isn't home often, if at all, since she works really long hours. That leaves my weirdo friends and I alone most of the time, to take care of ourselves.

Back to my freaky friends. I have four. They're names are weirdly somehow connected to their personalities, which totally makes no sense whatsoever.

Knife was my first friend. He's pretty sharp (in a sadistic sort of way), and pretty cynical, too. He seriously knows how to give off the creeps. His skin is grey (I have no idea how), he's always armed with a portable weapon, has some kind of monster teeth, and all other sorts of strange things. He scares people easily like that.

The next one is Snow. She's real shy, pale and delicate as a snowflake, and real sensitive. She also has a trail of frost always following her, no matter what the weather is (I don't know, but I think I could've lost my mind when I was young!).

Third is Ratel. She's very ~~instinct~~ instinct-based and aggressive, like a wild animal. Trust me, if you tick her off, you do NOT want to be locked in a room with her. If you are? Well...may God have mercy on your soul. She has these fanged teeth, and these animal ears on her head, too. I checked, (which almost got me killed, by the way, so don't do it), and they're not fake. She reminds me of a Neko. You know, those anime and manga trope characters that look like humans with cat-like features which show up a lot? Yeah. I'd bet she could be one, if Nekos weren't so cute and cuddly, and instead they just want to rip your insides out if you messed with them, like Ratel does (Please don't tell her I said that! I don't want to die!). She's also kinda

Comment [SD3]: important sentence-let it stand on its own, not as part of another paragraph

YOUNG ADULT: *SCHIZO* BY ELFEN BRIDGER

short, and a bit stubborn at times. There is one sweet thing about her, though. She has this sense of protectiveness inside her, and stands up for those who can't stand up for themselves. She doesn't like it being ~~brung~~brought up, though, and will most likely hurt you REALLY badly if you do.

Fourth is my last friend. His name is Note. He likes to clarify the fact that it's based off of the Post-It Note, not the music note. He's full of fun (and cool, albeit pointless) tidbits that he enjoys telling. He's also a real help, since he remembers a ton of things that I need to do, and reminds me when I forget. I don't know where I'd be without him, but don't tell him that. He's pretty smart and serious, so he's my go-to person if I need help on something. He also says that his eyes are mismatched to represent different pen colors, and I find it cool. I wish my eyes would be like that, although it would be kinda freaky.

Right now I'm on Christmas Break. School starts back up soon, though. I think it starts up again tomorrow, actually. I did all my homework, so I'll be fine. No big deal. As for the future, I have a feeling that everything will be just fine. Tomorrow will be great, as will the next day. The sun will shine bright in a clear sky, and the moon will be glowing, stars surrounding it. I just know it, and I can't wait for what's ahead!

"...And done." Alone in her room, Sylvania dropped her pencil on her desk, reading over what she wrote in her journal. After finishing, she let out a sweet little giggle, bookmarked her page, closed her journal, and stretched, leaning back in her chair as she did so. With a smile on her face, she looked up towards the ceiling. With a light in her eyes, she continued to gaze happily at the ceiling.

"....I just know it."

Comment [SD4]: That was a surprise!

YOUNG ADULT: *SCHIZO* BY ELFEN BRIDGER

You did a nice job of surprising the reader, and I've got a good sense of voice for the main character (of the book within the book☺). If you want to write a book within a book, though, I think you should open up with a specific scene in that inner book. Although the voice is good, it's a lot of telling. You'd be better off showing a piece of their lives within a scene (through dialogue and body language and interject thoughts from the narrator). We could then learn that Note is smart and Ratel is caring through their dialogue and actions, rather than because the narrator is telling us they're like that. Give the scene another shot. Maybe they're between classes at school, fooling around at the lockers. Something like that. Try it and see how it goes.

Keep writing!

YOUNG ADULT: SCHIZO BY ELFEN BRIDGER

Elfen-

The young girl in this story sounds like an interesting kid. But, at this time, she shows no indication that she's schizophrenic. If you want the reader to accept that she's an exceptional person, she has to show in thoughts or actions that she's odd. Right now, she looks totally normal. If the basis of the story is her mental illness, the reader has to see and understand the difficulties she's going through – and early on. You don't have the luxury to say, Just wait a few chapters. No writer has that luxury.

Her weirdo friends- there is an excessive amount of the story in TELLING about her friends. You have to show them being weird if you wish for an active readership. I noted a longer comment after all the friends were listed. Try to stay away from lists of things you think you need to explain. Have the list appear in a natural way – say, follow the main character through a day and have her run into her friends during the day, one-by-one and spread out.

As an opening to a story, the most difficult thing to establish is interest in the reader. Your main character shows some potential, but you have to get her doing something.

Good luck

Dave

Summary: A story of a 15 year old schizophrenic girl named Sylvania Corpsman. She was diagnosed at a very early age, but doesn't know that since she can't remember much of her past. However, there is something even stranger about her. Somehow (unlike other people with schizophrenia), she can live life & interact with others as if nothing was wrong...the only problem is that her hallucinations are able to make noticeable physical contact with anyone at their own will, and she can't control it. But on her 16th birthday, Sylvania starts getting terrible headaches...along with memories from her past & abnormal behavior from her hallucinations. Dealing with this change, she goes on with her life. But how long will she last?)

STARTED the story here ↗

For the broken

Live on, the people around you will forever have a hole in their hearts if you don't.

Chapter I: My Friends are Weirdos

Sylvania's First Self-Journal Entry, dated January 3rd, 2016:

~~Hi. My name is Sylvania Corpsman, & my friends are weirdos. They're weirdos in every~~

single possible sense of the word. Sometimes they drive me a little bit crazy, but I secretly love

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This is her own journal

On the outside, I look like a shy, quiet nerd... but my weirdo friends know that I'm really a fun-loving party animal who cares for everyone. I live in a town called Caskville. I think that's everything. Wait... no, I'm lying to you. There is one thing. I forgot to say that I'm amnesiac.

Heh... that was kinda funny.

Anyways, I don't remember much. I know my dad died when I was real young, though no one knows how. It's been a mystery, and I'm pretty sure it'll stay unsolved. My mom's still alive, but she isn't home often, if at all, since she works really long hours. That leaves my weirdo friends and I (*me*) alone most of the time, to take care of ourselves.

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Third is Ratel. She's very instinct based and aggressive, like a wild animal. Trust me, if you tick her off, you do NOT want to be locked in a room with her. If you are? Well... may God

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(The first page and a half is a list with no action. We're being told about the friends but now watching them in action to show how weird they are. Think about how you get information. Would you rather read about someone weirs, or would you rather watch them being weird – in other words, they are interesting in action but deadly dull in just description. Use that as a guide when you're writing.)

Right now I'm on Christmas Break. School starts back up soon, though. I think it starts up again tomorrow, actually. (Three sentences that say the same thing) I did all my homework,

YOUNG ADULT: *SCHIZO* BY ELFEN BRIDGER

so I'll be fine. No big deal. As for the future, I have a feeling that everything will be just fine. Tomorrow will be great, as will the next day. The sun will shine bright in a clear sky, and the moon will be glowing, stars surrounding it. I just know it, and I can't wait for what's ahead! *(an optimistic outlook. How refreshing!)*

(The following is a change in Point Of View from first person (I) to third person (she).

You can do it, but you have to give the reader some kind of heads up. Otherwise, readers get lost.

Who is talking? Where are we? Things like that.

"...And done." *(No idea what's done or why it's important.)* Alone in her room, Sylvania dropped her pencil on her desk, reading over what she wrote in her journal. After finishing, she let out a sweet little giggle, bookmarked her page, closed her journal, and stretched, leaning back in her chair as she did so. With a smile on her face, she looked up towards the ceiling. With a light in her eyes, she continued to gaze happily at the ceiling.

"....I just know it."

Jen's Comments

YOUNG ADULT: *SCHIZO* BY ELFEN BRIDGER

Great Voice
Keep Going!

Summary: *A story of a 15 year old schizophrenic girl named Sylvania Corpsman. She was diagnosed at a very early age, but doesn't know that since she can't remember much of her past. However, there is something even stranger about her. Somehow (unlike other people with schizophrenia), she can live life & interact with others as if nothing was wrong...the only problem is that her hallucinations are able to make noticeable physical contact with anyone at their own will, and she can't control it. But on her 16th birthday, Sylvania starts getting terrible headaches...along with memories from her past & abnormal behavior from her hallucinations. Dealing with this change, she goes on with her life. But how long will she last?*

Comment [PHS IS1]: Why?

but it's really her right?

For the broken

Live on, the people around you will forever have a hole in their hearts if you don't.

Chapter I: My Friends are Weirdos

Sylvania's First Self-Journal Entry, dated January 3rd, 2016:

Hi. My name is Sylvania Corpsman, & my friends are weirdos. They're weirdos in every single possible sense of the word. Sometimes they drive me a little bit crazy, but I secretly love them for that. It makes life more interesting, and super fun! But, to start, I'm guessing that you want to know a little more about myself. Well, I'm 15 years old, soon to turn 16 (Yaysies!). I go to Navy Yard High School, & I'm in 10th grade. Most kids at school avoid me because they think I have some sort of screw loose. Pfft! What do they know?

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Heh...that was kinda funny.



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Anyways, I don't remember much. I know my dad died when I was real young, though no one knows how. It's been a mystery, and I'm pretty sure it'll stay unsolved. My mom's still alive, but she isn't home often, if at all, since she works really long hours. That leaves my weirdo friends and I alone most of the time, to take care of ourselves.

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Comment [PHS IS2]: How far back can she remember? From when she was 6?

Comment [PHS IS3]: Doing what?

Good hint but do you want to reveal this yet?

Comment [PHS IS4]: Do you want to reveal this yet?

Comment [PHS IS5]: Be more specific. Wolf ears? Cougar ears?

YOUNG ADULT: *SCHIZO* BY ELFEN BRIDGER

protectiveness inside her, and stands up for those who can't stand up for themselves. She doesn't like it being brung up, though, and will most likely hurt you REALLY badly if you do.

Comment [PHS 1S6]: Do you mean 'summoned' or do you mean brought up in conversation?

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~~is that what~~
in what way?

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Comment [PHS 1S7]: Can you give a hint here about what might have gone wrong in the past and what might have happened to make her hopeful that things will be different.

"...And done."

Comment [PHS 1S8]: Maybe put journal entries in italics to separate it from the narrator.

Alone in her room, Sylvania dropped her pencil on her desk, reading over what she wrote in her journal. After finishing, she let out a sweet ~~little~~ ^{little} giggle, bookmarked her page, closed her journal, and ~~stretched~~ st ~~leaning~~ ^{stretched} back in her chair as she ~~did so~~. With a smile on her face, she ~~looked up towards the ceiling~~ ^{and}. With a light in her eyes, she ~~continued to gaze~~ ^{gazed} happily at the ceiling.

"....I just know it."

YOUNG ADULT: SCHIZO BY ELFEN BRIDGER

in what sense?
- clinical: mental illness, reality
- cultural: multiple personalities

Ed
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I like the voice. It's light + energetic.

For the broken

Live on, the people around you will forever have a hole in their hearts if you don't.

Chapter I: My Friends are Weirdos

Sylvania's First Self-Journal Entry, dated January 3rd, 2016: necessary?

I like the voice but you'd better explain her quirks
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felling
On the outside, I look like a shy, quiet nerd...but my weirdo friends know that I'm really a fun-loving party animal who cares for everyone. I live in a town called Caskville. I think that's everything. Wait...no, I'm lying to you. There is one thing. I forgot to say that I'm amnesiac.

Heh...that was kinda funny.

- L-felling
- You have a terrific "unreliable narrator". Leverage this by:
 - no felling
 - show us scenes that illustrate what the character is like.
 - let the reader make the discoveries: thrilling

YOUNG ADULT: *SCHIZO* BY ELFEN BRIDGER

Anyways, I don't remember much. I know my dad died when I was real young, though no one knows how. It's been a mystery, and I'm pretty sure it'll stay unsolved. My mom's still alive, but she isn't home often, if at all, since she works really long hours. That leaves my weirdo friends and I alone most of the time, to take care of ourselves.

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The next one is Snow. She's real shy, pale, and delicate as a snowflake, and real sensitive. She also has a trail of frost always following her, no matter what the weather is [I don't know, but I think I could've lost my mind when I was young!].

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Why the shift in POV
"...And done." Alone in her room, Sylvania dropped her pencil on her desk, reading over what she wrote in her journal. After finishing, she let out a sweet little giggle, bookmarked her page, closed her journal, and stretched, leaning back in her chair as she did so. With a smile on her face, she looked up towards the ceiling. With a light in her eyes, she continued to gaze happily at the ceiling. redund

"...I just know it."

YOUNG ADULT: SCHIZO BY ELFEN BRIDGER

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doesn't know she's a schizophrenic!

- Inserted: -
- Inserted: she's a schizophrenic
- Inserted: because
- Comment: Be careful about labeling schizophrenia as "strange."
- Inserted: Worse still
- Comment: Clarify language/clunky
- Comment: How is this different from the physical contact her hallucinations make noted above?
- Comment: Throwaway line - make it more enticing, dramatic.

She can't remember

think: movie trailer of your bk.

What would voice over say? What words would be used to hook you?

For the broken

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Chapter I: My Friends are Weirdos

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Comment: How many senses of the word are there? This sentence sounds like an adult trying to mimic a child's voice. Forced, inauthentic.

Inserted: me

Comment: Info dump. Why would she write this in her diary? She already knows how old she is and what school she goes to. Need to find more natural way to relay this info to readers.

On the outside, I look like a shy, quiet nerd...but my weirdo friends know that I'm really a fun-loving party animal who cares for everyone. I live in a town called Caskville. I think that's everything. Wait...no, I'm lying to you. There is one thing. I forgot to say that I'm amnesiac.

Think back to your own diary days: when you complained about a sister or brother, or you didn't identify Lily or Sam as your sibling - bc you already knew who that person was.

Comment: Ditto.

Heh...that was kinda funny.

are all the journal entries?

YOUNG ADULT: SCHIZO BY ELFEN BRIDGER

Anyways, I don't remember much. I know my dad died when I was real young, though no one knows how. It's been a mystery, and I'm pretty sure it'll stay unsolved. My mom's still alive, but she isn't home often, if at all, since she works really long hours. That leaves my weirdo friends and I alone most of the time, to take care of ourselves.

Comment: Why are details unknown? Disappearance? Unsolved crime?

Inserted: me

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Comment: Expos.

show us, don't tell us.

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no need to describe all chars

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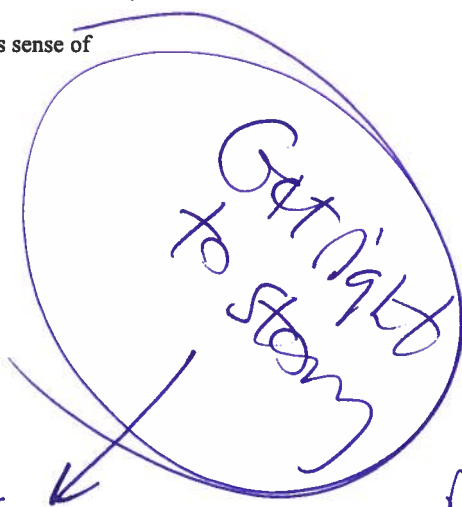
Comment: Rattle??

in adv. we'll meet them through

Third is Ratel. She's very instinct based and aggressive, like a wild animal. Trust me, if you tick her off, you do NOT want to be locked in a room with her. If you are? Well...may God have mercy on your soul. She has these fanged teeth, and these animal ears on her head, too. I checked, (which almost got me killed, by the way, so don't do it), and they're not fake. She reminds me of a Neko. You know, those anime and manga trope characters that look like humans with cat-like features which show up a lot? Yeah. I'd bet she could be one, if Nekos weren't so cute and cuddly, and instead they just want to rip your insides out if you messed with them, like Ratel does (Please don't tell her I said that! I don't want to die!). She's also kinda short, and a bit stubborn at times. There is one sweet thing about her, though. She has this sense of

Inserted: ed

course of story we'll see how tra Match names.



to v. little + audience's attention

YOUNG ADULT: *SCHIZO* BY ELFEN BRIDGER

protectiveness inside her, and stands up for those who can't stand up for themselves. She doesn't like ~~it being brung up~~, though, and will most likely hurt you REALLY badly if you do.

Inserted: anyone to mention it

Fourth is ~~my last friend. His name is~~ Note. He likes to clarify ~~the fact that it's based off~~ of the Post-It Note, not the music note. He's full of fun (and cool, albeit pointless) tidbits that he enjoys ~~telling~~. He's also a real help, since he remembers a ton of things that I need to do, and reminds me when I forget. I don't know where I'd be without him, but don't tell him that. He's pretty smart and serious, so he's my go-to person if I need help ~~on~~ something. He also says that his eyes are mismatched to represent different pen colors, and I find it cool. I wish my eyes would be like that, although it would be kinda freaky.

Inserted: that he's named after

Inserted: sharing

Inserted: with

Inserted: were

don't you see it?

Right now I'm on Christmas Break. School starts back up soon, though. I think it starts up again tomorrow, actually. I did all my homework, so I'll be fine. No big deal. As for the future, I have a feeling that everything will be just fine. Tomorrow will be great, as will the next day. The sun will shine bright in a clear sky, and the moon will be glowing, stars surrounding it. I just know it, and I can't wait for what's ahead!

"...And done." Alone in her room, Sylvania dropped her pencil on her desk, reading over what she wrote in her journal. After finishing, she let out a sweet little giggle, bookmarked her page, closed her journal, and stretched, leaning back in her chair as she did so. With a smile on her face, she looked up towards the ceiling. With a light in her eyes, she continued to gaze happily at the ceiling.

Comment: Need to show move away from journal entry to narrative.

"...I just know it."

how old?
15?

Shouldn't she know if school starts tomorrow or not?

JULIE

YOUNG ADULT: SCHIZO BY ELFEN BRIDGER

Summary: A story of a 15 year old schizophrenic girl named Sylvania Corpsman. She was diagnosed at a very early age, but doesn't know that since she can't remember much of her past. However, there is something even stranger about her. Somehow (unlike other people with schizophrenia), she can live life & interact with others as if nothing was wrong...the only problem is that her hallucinations are able to make noticeable physical contact with anyone at their own will, and she can't control it. But on her 16th birthday, Sylvania starts getting terrible headaches...along with memories from her past & abnormal behavior from her hallucinations. Dealing with this change, she goes on with her life. But how long will she last?

Corpsman, Caskville - not so subtle.

For the broken

Live on, the people around you will forever have a hole in their hearts if you don't.

Describe Sylvania first, then friends. More physical description: hair color, eye color, glasses, clothing.

Chapter I: My Friends are Weirdos

Sylvania's First Self-Journal Entry, dated January 3rd, 2016:

Hi. My name is Sylvania Corpsman, & my friends are weirdos. They're weirdos in every single possible sense of the word. Sometimes they drive me a little bit crazy, but I secretly love them for that. It makes life more interesting, and super fun! But, to start, I'm guessing that you want to know a little more about myself. Well, I'm 15 years old, soon to turn 16 (Yaysies!). I go to Navy Yard High School, & I'm in 10th grade. Most kids at school avoid me because they think I have some sort of screw loose. Pfft! What do they know?

On the outside, I look like a shy, quiet nerd...but my weirdo friends know that I'm really a fun-loving party animal who cares for everyone. I live in a town called Caskville. I think that's everything. Wait...no, I'm lying to you. There is one thing. I forgot to say that I'm amnesiac.

Heh...that was kinda funny.

Have her reveal herself organically - in 12 years.

don't write in journal

That can't be everything

- too conversation

Julie

YOUNG ADULT: *SCHIZO* BY ELFEN BRIDGER

Too conversational
redundant

Anyways, I don't remember much. I know my dad died when I was real young, though no one knows how. ~~It's been a mystery, and I'm pretty sure it'll stay unsolved.~~ My mom's still alive, but she isn't home ^{much} often, if at all, since she works really long hours. That leaves my weirdo friends and ^{me} alone most of the time, to take care of ourselves. (Now introduce friends.)

~~Back to my freaky friends. I have four. They're names are weirdly somehow connected to their personalities, which totally makes no sense whatsoever.~~

Knife was my first friend. He's pretty sharp (in a sadistic sort of way), and pretty cynical, too. He seriously knows how to give off the creeps. His skin is grey (I have no idea how), he's always armed with a portable weapon, has some kind of monster teeth, and all other sorts of strange things. He scares people easily like that.

Too vague
Delete or delete

The next one is Snow. She's real shy, pale and delicate as a snowflake, and real sensitive. She also has a trail of frost always following her, no matter what the weather is (~~I don't know,~~ but I think I could've lost my mind when I was young!).

1/

Elaborate

Third is Ratel. She's very instinct-based and aggressive, like a wild animal. Trust me, if you tick her off, you do NOT want to be locked in a room with her. If you are? Well...may God have mercy on your soul. She has these fanged teeth, and these animal ears on her head, too. I checked, (which almost got me killed, by the way, so don't do it), and they're not fake. She reminds me of a Neko. You know, those anime and manga trope characters that look like humans with cat-like features which show up a lot? Yeah. I'd bet she could be one, if Nekos weren't so cute and cuddly, and instead they just want to rip your insides out if you messed with them, like Ratel does (Please don't tell her I said that! I don't want to die!). She's also kinda short, and a bit stubborn at times. There is one sweet thing about her, though. She has this sense of

JULIE

YOUNG ADULT: SCHIZO BY ELFEN BRIDGER

protectiveness inside her, and stands up for those who can't stand up for themselves. She doesn't like it being ~~brung~~^{brought} up, though, and will most likely hurt you REALLY badly if you do.

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SEGUE

Right now I'm on Christmas Break. School starts back up ~~soon, though. I think it starts~~
~~up again tomorrow, actually.~~ I did all my homework, so I'll be fine. No big deal. As for the future, I have a feeling that everything will be just fine. Tomorrow will be great, as will the next day. The sun will shine bright in a clear sky, and the moon will be glowing, stars surrounding it. I just know it, and I can't wait for what's ahead!

tighter up

~~...And done,~~ ^{Sylvia announced to an empty room.} Alone in her room, ^{she} Sylvia dropped her pencil on her desk, reading over what she wrote in her journal. ~~After finishing,~~ ^{as} she let out a sweet little giggle, bookmarked her page, closed her journal, and stretched, leaning back in her chair as she did so. ~~With a smile on~~
~~her face,~~ ^{she smiled} she looked up towards the ceiling. With a light in her eyes, she continued to gaze
happily at the ceiling.

redundant

What?

"...I just know it."

ARE HER FRIENDS REAL — OR ARE THEY HER PERSONALITIES? IF THE LATTER, SHE WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT THEM. SOMEONE ELSE WOULD HAVE TO DESCRIBE THEM.
KNIFE AND SNOW ARE SHORT. EXPAND TO LENGTH OF RATEL AND NOTE ONES.
HOW DOES THIS MOTLEY CREW "MAKE HER LIFE MORE INTERESTING AND SUPER FUN!" ?
MAYBE HAVE HER WRITE JOURNAL ENTRIES AS FOUR "FRIENDS" AND SYLVANIA. HAVE HER DISCOVER HER SCHIZOPHRENIA THAT WAY, BY RE-READING THE ENTRIES.