

From Outsider to Friend

Silvana lived in the south of Argentina, in a beautiful and quiet town called Bariloche. She lived there with her mother, her little sister and her brother. Her father worked about two thousand kilometers away, in Buenos Aires, the capital city of the country.

Life went on peacefully in Bariloche for Silvana, but on January 28th, 2007, her life - and that of all her family - changed forever. They all moved to Buenos Aires to live with their father.

Being only fifteen and starting a new life was not easy. It was like being born again, in a totally different place to the one she belonged to. About one month after settling in Buenos Aires, she began school. At the beginning, it was a nightmare! She didn't know anyone, and suffered a lot, especially because everybody in the class where she entered had known each other since they were in kindergarten. She was the new one, the outsider...

Things were getting hard. She did not feel at home in a city full of buildings, traffic and people! There were so many new neighbours and school mates that she found it difficult to remember all their names.

Gradually, things began to change for Silvana. She started getting used to living in such a big city and many of her school mates turned into friends. They were interested in her origins, and asked everything about her old school and friends, how she dealt with winter (it snows quite a lot in Bariloche, while it hardly ever does in Buenos Aires), how she felt in a new city, and things like that. Talking about her life and all the things she missed so much, Silvana realized that she was starting to feel "at home" among these people.

So far, she has been in Buenos Aires for more than a year, and she is very happy. She has already made new friends and she has returned to her home town for the summer holidays, which filled her with joy.

I can tell you all about this outsider who turned into a friend because I am Silvana, and this is my story.