Finding a Friend
By Zoe H
Tessa woke up to the sound of bustling cars on the street, the honking of horns, and the occasional siren. These were not sounds she was used to. She had grown up on a small but homely farm in Tennessee. It was only recently that she had moved to New York City, after the passing of her parents. She was now living in a tiny, cramped apartment with her grandparents. It was weird not waking up to roosters crowing and hens clucking every morning. Everything was different now. When she moved, she left her best friend Katie behind, as well as all the other people she’d known her whole life. In her small town in Tennessee, everyone knew each other. Now, Tessa hardly knew anybody, and she felt swallowed up by the large city streets and sounds. She had lost her family about a month ago, due to Covid. It was quite sudden, and Tessa wasn’t sure how her parents had caught it. All that mattered now was that they were gone, and it felt like her heart was being shattered like glass, into a million little pieces. She had no one to confess her deepest, sorrowful feelings to except her grandparents.

However, a change to her life was just around the corner. It happened in writing class, when her teacher decided to partner students up for a writing assignment. The pair had to find something they had in common and write about it. Tessa groaned inside her head because she wasn’t the most social person around new people, or even in general. The teacher partnered everyone up, and Tessa got stuck with a girl named Maddie. Mostly everyone in the class knew each other, so it was easy for all of them to find something they had in common. It was the opposite for Tessa. Tessa didn’t know anything about Maddie, but from what she could tell Maddie was a quiet person as well. Tessa felt awkward and clueless, but Maddie suggested they write about hating the coronavirus. The girls came up with reasons why they hated it when they found out that they both had lost relatives to it. Turns out, Maddie lost her mother and her infant sister. Tessa felt for Maddie in a way only she could understand. And Tessa finally found someone who understood the loneliness and devastation she was feeling. They started eating lunch together and even hung out at Maddie’s apartment twice. They became best friends, and Tessa learned to open up around other people and even started liking her new city and home. She realized that it only takes one person to change your life.