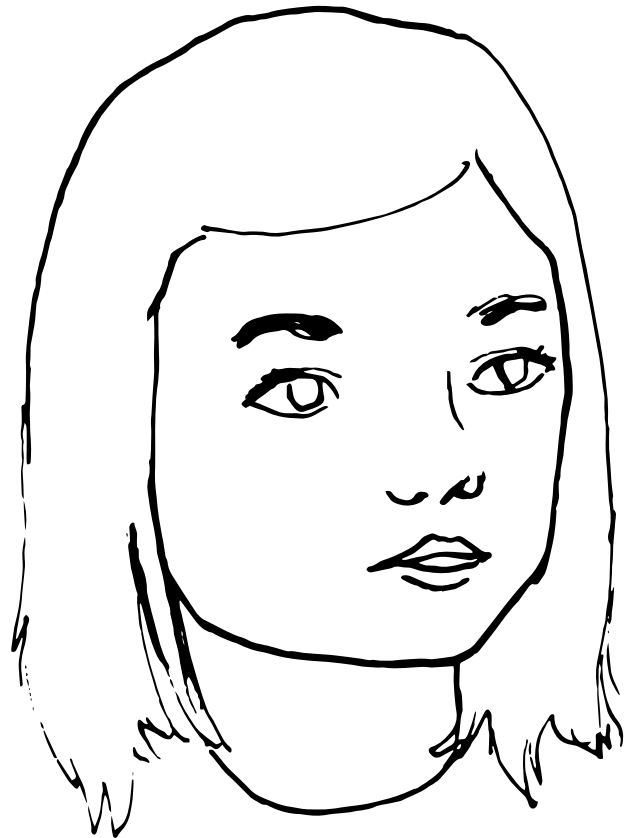


ALISHA



AGE: 16

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

BACKGROUND:

Alisha is an only child. Her mum left when she was small and she can't remember anything about her. Her dad always says that her mum couldn't handle being a parent and left because she was lazy.

Alisha has always been worried about her dad's drinking, especially at the weekends – although sometimes she was glad because he was so out of it she could come and go as she pleased. Even though he was an absent father, she wanted desperately to please him and feel like she meant something to him.

Alisha always felt different from the other girls in school and she dreaded the weekends when she would see them shopping in town with their mums. The boys in school treated her badly because she wasn't girly like the other girls in her year. She found them all childish and immature and hated it so much she gradually stopped going to school altogether. Her dad didn't notice – she was pretty sure he was seeing a woman from his work, so he spent all of his time there during the week.

She had never had a boyfriend before and couldn't ever remember being told she was loved.