**Insecurities and Failures**

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664 words.

I have experienced a conflict in which both sides were against each other. Me and my ex-friend were very close in the past, we told each other stories, gossip and other things that are meant to be only between us. One day, when my other friend got with my ex-friend in a romantic relationship everything went downhill...

Out of jealousy and insecurity, she decided to copy my style. The way I dress, the way I carry myself, and even the way I talk and carry out my sentences. I didn't really mind since I thought it was just a normal thing between close friends, but I was immediately wrong. She started using my name as an excuse to go out with her lover; she only did this because I was liked by both her and her lover's parents. When she started doing this, I was immediately having thoughts about how this wasn't right, how this was the wrong thing to do; because of this, I started distancing myself from both her and her lover.

Everything was becoming a regret.

After about a year, I ignored them whenever they tried speaking to me. Eventually, she started using what I liked against me. I didn't care since my parents never minded the fact; I do this because I tell them the truth. After a while, she turned her attention to another close friend and started doing the same thing. My other friends noticed this and tried to warn her lover, but he was too madly in love with her. This was just puppy love, considering we were only in our first years of high school. Everything started escalating once she started talking trash about our friend. We immediately jumped on the defense and started telling her lover everything she did; her lover realized this as well, so he started by distancing himself more. The problem with this tactic was that she started clinging to him even more, jumping into conversations that didn't need her involvement. She even started returning her attention to me when her lover decided to talk to me again.

On January 15, 2024, this was the day of my birthday and also the day when I lost my patience. Me and my friends were talking about how we were gonna celebrate my birthday but suddenly, she started joining in on the conversation, cutting me off and deciding to join my birthday feast without an invite, I didn't really care because as long as I wasn't offended or insulted during my big day then I was fine. After we all went home, I checked my phone for any chats and decided to go to sleep. A notification on my phone woke me up. When I checked it, the lover of my ex-friend sent me a screenshot of a conversation they had. The screenshot showed a chat of my ex-friend saying how I was “so dramatic for acting like the day was all about me”. I was shocked, flabbergasted, and even betrayed. I treated her with kindness and respect and even loved her like a little sister to me. I was furious.

I told my mother and father everything about what she's done to me; I told them how she decided to use my name for personal gain, stealing my style of clothing, and even trying to use the things I loved against me just so she could be the only woman in her lover's life. I didn't tell anyone about this, but I secretly decided to private chat with her parents, sending them screenshots and evidence of her intentional assault on my life with no remorse.

I learned that I should always stand my ground when needed, love myself and respect my body and never intentionally make someone insecure about themselves. Honestly, I'm enjoying life now that she's gone. I can go to sleep without worrying about how people think of me. I love myself and will never care about anyone's opinion of me.