

My friend Anna



Everyone (1)_____ (have) that one friend he/she

(2)_____ (consider) a "BFF". Having one close friend

(3)_____ (be) important to our health. Recent research

(4)_____ (show) that it not only (5)_____ (increase) our physical health, but also our mental resilience.

Up until a year ago, I (6)_____ (have) a BFF named Anna. We first (7)_____

(meet) each other when we (8)_____ (be) in 3rd grade. I (9)_____ (like) her

immediately. Back then, Anna (10)_____ (be) a popular girl whereas I (11)_____

(not be). But that (12)_____ (not bother) her. She basically (13)_____ (take) me under her wing.

Throughout elementary school and junior high, we (14)_____ (remain) the best of

friends. We (15)_____ (help) each other with homework, (16)_____ (eat) at

cafés together and (17)_____ (gossip) about anything and anyone. We (18)

_____ (stroll) through the local shopping mall and (19)_____ (try on)

expensive clothing. I (20)_____ (think) that our friendship would last forever.

But all of that (21)_____ (change) as soon as high school (22)_____

(begin). Suddenly, Anna (23)_____ (stop) talking to me. She (24)_____

(find) a new group of girls to hang out with. I (25)_____ (feel) lonely and isolated. I

(26)_____ (not want) to go to school and I (27)_____ (not have) the

energy to do any of my homework. My grades (28)_____ (start) to go down.

One day, I (29) _____ (get) a phone call from Anna. Even now, when I (30) _____ (think) about it, it still (31) _____ (give) me chills.

Anna (32) _____ (ask) me to come down and meet her at the mall. I (33) _____ (be) excited. "Finally," I (34) _____ (say) to myself, "my best friend (35) _____ (return) to me!"

I (36) _____ (take) the bus and headed to the mall. I (37) _____ (meet) Anna at one of the department stores and she (38) _____ (decide) that we should go and try on new clothes - just like before. I (39) _____ (be) thrilled!

We (40) _____ (go) to one of our favorite stores and (41) _____ (pick) out a few outfits. We (42) _____ (take) them into the dressing rooms. I (43) _____ (try) on a cute black dress, when I suddenly (44) _____ (notice) something reflected in the mirror of the dressing room. In the corner of the dressing room, in a crack (45) _____ (form) by the curtain, I (46) _____ (spot) a cell phone. Frightened, I (47) _____ (throw) on some of my clothes and (48) _____ (pull) the curtain open. It was then that I (49) _____ (see) Anna holding a cell phone, aiming its camera at me. Behind her, (50) _____ (be) her new friends. Tears (51) _____ (run) down my face. I (52) _____ (feel) humiliated. To this day, I (53) _____ (not feel) so degraded. Apparently, Anna (54) _____ (call) me on a dare. To win it, she (55) _____ (need) to succeed in filming me getting undressed.

I (56)_____ (look) at Anna through the tears. She (57)_____ (not seem) to care about my humiliation. I (58)_____ (run) out of the store, ashamed of how trusting I was.

I (59)_____ (tell) you this story because I still (60)_____ (feel) betrayed - betrayed by my own former best friend. Sometimes, I (61)_____ (dream) about Anna. In my dreams, she always (62)_____ (have) that great smile she used to smile and she often (63)_____ (run) towards me and (64)_____ (hug) me. I wake up and for a split second I feel happy, but then I remember the awful truth about Anna and my heart (65)_____ (sink).

I still (66)_____ (see) Anna everyday at school. She (67)_____ (not look) at me at all since the incident and a part of me (68)_____ (want) to believe that deep down, she (69)_____ (be) sorry for what she has done.

Life (70)_____ (be) usually hard for me these days. I (71)_____ (be) always afraid that someone will stop me to show me that video of me undressing. I (72)_____ (not know) if Anna had sent it, or if she intends on sending it to others in the future. This fear (73)_____ (change) everything about me and how I relate to other people. It (74)_____ (become) hard for me to trust others.

My parents (75)_____ (notice) my decline, but they (76)_____ (not understand) the cause of my depression.

Thankfully, my father (77)_____ (received) a promotion which will allow us to move to another city next month.

I really (78)_____ (hope) that there, I will be able to find a true friend and that I may experience happiness again.

The lesson that I (79)_____ (learn) is harsh. We (80)_____ (want) to trust those around us and we (81)_____ (pray) that they will not "sell us out" just to advance socially.

Anna (82)_____ (be) the example of someone who is unable to be a true friend, a person who (83)_____ (use) the belittling of others in order to get ahead.

Beware of Annas in your life!