

Changes and prejudices

For many years, we used to hang out just the three of us. I loved going to school to see them and even better, having the whole gang come over but when I turned 16, that all changed. My own friends couldn't understand that I was different from them. One day, I asked them to meet me at my place and told them: "I think I like girls". Their faces turned as white as paper. They didn't like what I was saying but I had to be honest with myself.

The days went by and I knew they were trying to avoid me. This was going to be a breakout point in our relationship. I felt isolated and alone. So, I decided to talk to them and confront the situation.

That Friday we met in the usual place at the exit of the school. I was really nervous but I wanted to focus on discovering what I was feeling and not to think about this anymore. Once they showed up, I started talking in rage. Then, Julie tried to stop me but I kept going. Until Adele grabbed Julie's hand in a romantic way and yelled "WE ALSO LIKE GIRLS". I was speechless and ecstatic. How could I have thought that my sisters were rejecting me?

Reading girl

High school is said to be one of the most beautiful times in a teenager's life; but it hadn't been like that in my case. I've always been that kind of lonely girl who spends the breaks reading in the corridor; my classmates used to take advantage of that, they bullied me. I was called "a freak" and since then everything has changed; I started having panic attacks and I wasn't able to read or just "be" in front of other people. Even nowadays, I am still struggling with it.

It's rough. I always want to give up and stop and just end my life. People are always picking on me. I'm the main target and it's always me. Last Monday, during the break I came across Pablo, who is the school council, and he said that he had noticed how my classmates torment me. He offered to talk to them and I immediately begged him not to because things would get worse. Pablo did it anyway and it was a poor decision: the bullying never ended. Maybe, in another life I could be an empowered woman who defends herself from the ones who hurt her, but not in this one.

Checklist

- ✓ Is the narrative structure developed? Can you identify the setting, complicating action and resolution?
- ✓ Are paragraphs well-organised?
- ✓ Is the sequence of events clear for the reader?
- ✓ Is the title linked to the main events in the storyline?
- ✓ Is the passage smoothly included in the storyline?