Lahaina Gatchalian

Mrs. Bunts-Andersen

CO210-01

This I Believe Speech

As I grew up an only child and a handful of close friends, I never saw myself dating or even bear kissing a man who I do not know well enough, or have just met in a short period of time. I was that girl that enjoyed friendship at most, and nothing more or less. I value friendship, as much as I value my family and I believe that friendship is a foundation to a good relationship whether it is intimate or not, despite any misfortune that may occur. It is not until junior high were I had a little of both.

The peer pressure was insane. Friends and peers here and there are dating, as if we were adults. Until one day I met someone who I didn’t even know deeply, and then was instantly my boyfriend. It wasn’t the easiest thing for me to do. But yet even if the peer pressure was there, I found myself wanting to try it out. You can say “I was in it for the thrill” and yes, it definitely gave me one heck of a thrill. I didn’t even know what the word “monthsary” meant. It came to a point where I asked my friends when is my next “monthsary”. Turns out it’s just like an anniversary but monthly. Funny thing also is that I didn’t even know how to be a “girlfriend”. Yet again I had to constantly ask my girl friends what I should do or how I should act. This chapter of my life started my sleepless nights and never ending daydreams caused by one person only but like any other story, it just ended.

The relationship was a beautiful experience with an awful ending and of course it affected me greatly. It just didn’t work out too well. But one thing’s for sure, it was hard to create closure. The phrase “let’s be friends” was said, but it wasn’t fulfilled right away. It was hard to fill in the void in that phrase, especially if one or both is still hurting from the incident. Giving forgiveness and accepting the situation was “easily said than done.” It was difficult to see a person the same way if he or she caused you great pain. But keeping the friendship was the most important factor to me.

As the years have gone by, I thought, why even be holding grudges when this boy was definitely someone I deeply cared for? I believe that you can never stop caring for a person that you once cared for so much; therefore the friendship is necessary in order to continue to look out for each other. It was awkward but I didn’t give up because not only did I lose someone I cared for but a good friend. We started off as friends and that was more important to me than the pain and anger.

This boy is now part of the handful of close friends that I have despite the beautiful nightmare. Maturity allowed us to grow to better individuals and surpass our flawed experience. It took me years to what we are now as friends. There are no longer awkward moments because I have accepted the situation and forgave him and myself. If I didn’t, it will only be a burden to me and I will never go on in life. Time was an essence in our healing but it was also the valued friendship that got us to what we are now. I believe that despite the bad occurrence in a friendship, you will still find that person’s opinion or comfort in everyday life.