

BEAUTIFUL IN AND OUT

CYNTHIA AYUMA

FORM TWO

Joining Moi Girls High School-Eldoret was an achievement. I joined the school feeling courageous and confident about myself. I was okay physically, mentally psychologically when joining. It's not that I had the perfect skin or body but I loved myself a lot. I loved how I looked and always looked at myself in the mirror and encouraged myself.

With all the self-confidence and high self-esteem, I had in me, I became friends with a certain girl in form four. Though it is stated that none is perfect, to me she was perfect. She is a pretty light skinned girl who is tall and since she had participated in the miss. Moige competition in schoolmate earned fame and most pupils considered her the most civilized girl in the school. She portrayed a good and mature character in school and being her friend, most moigeans say you must be pretty and rich as she is. With all my self-confidence, it did not matter to me, I became her friend through a dare. A friend of the well-known Andati Marie.

We became very good friends and we talked a lot. I was always free with her until when my esteem and self-confidence was lowered by some form three and four girls who always talked ill about me and most of all laughed at me for a reason I didn't know until I was told that it is because that they thought I wasn't pretty and rich enough to vibe with Marie. I felt really bad and soon begun distancing myself and stopped looking at myself in the mirror. I even begun hating myself.

Whenever Marie came to check up on me at night before I slept like she always did, I would always ask her to leave or if she insisted on talking to me, I would not look her in the eye like I always did before, thinking she will also judge just like the others. I avoided her for long and even brought up an excuse of telling her that she is a candidate and she should concentrate on her studies not me.

She persisted in keeping our friendship of which I personally did not understand the reason why. One night she found me sited on the grass under tree crying. Quickly I wiped my tears and pretended to be okay but I could not help it. Without a word, she sat next to me raised my chin so I could face her and she saw all the tears from me. I was still crying and to comfort me, she gave me a tight hug and consoled me. She did that for long until I stopped crying.

She gently broke the hug and raised my head to face her again and she asked what the problem was. I found it hard to tell her but this is what she said "You can trust me" and I looked at her with an "are you sure look" and she nodded to assure my thoughts. I told her about the group of girls who talked ill about me and made me feel low.

It then came to my realization that the two of the girls were her best friends. Being a good person that I am, I asked her not to scold them since it would break her friendship and might fight leading to a suspension yet she is a candidate.

"I choose my friends, I choose who I want to talk to, walk and spend time with and you are one of my choices. You are pretty and let none tell you otherwise. It is my choice to be your friend and spend time with you so if they have a problem with that then they should ask me and not to do that. I have to stop them. It is my responsibility to protect you and ensure your happiness as a good friend." she said.

I asked her one last question that night. "Why do you insist on keeping this friendship? No matter how many times I pushed you away and avoided you, you still want us to be friends." I asked.

"Because in you, I found something I never Found in all my friends ever since I was young. In you, I found this hilarious funny and crazy sister I never had. I found myself a baby sister in you and during those times you pushed me away; it is when I learnt that I am used to your company and came to know that I found myself a baby sister for free so if it's okay with you, call me big sister." she said<Marie>

With her friendship and reputation at risk, she went after the girls and scolded them just to correct them. She became so mad especially on her best friends that one of them became angry and choose to break the relationship while the other one apologized. After all the drama she came to apologize to me on behalf of the other friends and assured me of our friendship actually, sisterhood and with her help, I was able to rebuild my confidence and self-esteem within a short period of time. I chose to write her because with her act of kindness, she made an impact in me and she taught me to appreciate myself and she risked her friendship and reputation for me. I also came to know that she is beautiful both in and out and she left me with one thing I always remind myself. You are pretty you are so pretty at the moment you shut your ears to what people say, then you will all the hidden treasures in you and how beautiful you are just like I found sisterhood in you. Just like I saw all the good in you.