

I Thought Ellen Was My Friend

By
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I thought Ellen was my friend. We had so much fun together. We talked for hours at a time, about all different things, and we laughed a lot and shared our secrets. She was like a sister and I even told her about the crush I've had forever on Rob Schuman, who lives next door to me. I'd never told anyone about Rob before, but I felt safe telling Ellen because I thought we'd be friends forever.

I was wrong.

A few months ago, Ellen and I tried out for the school play. She got a part and I didn't. I didn't feel too bad. I volunteered to help with props and I spent hours finding all the things we needed and making arrangements to borrow them. I went to all the rehearsals, too, even though the props people weren't required to attend until the last week. It was fun to go and besides, Rob Schuman was in the cast.

One night I went early because it was Rob's birthday and I had a card for him. I planned to leave it backstage, where he would find it.

As I arrived, I heard Ellen calling to the other girls to come because she was ready to take the cake to the boys' dressing room. I hurried backstage and was astounded to see Ellen lighting the candles on a big chocolate cake that said Happy Birthday, Rob. All the girls in the cast were gathering around her and when I joined them, Ellen looked surprised.

Then she said, "This party is just for the cast," and she picked up the cake and marched down the hall to where Rob and the other guys were dressing. I heard her start singing the Happy Birthday song when she reached the dressing room door.

I didn't leave Rob's card backstage. I didn't even stay for the rehearsal. I left the school and walked home, trying not to cry.

At first I was angry. I'd worked as hard on the play as anyone in the cast; why should I be excluded from the party? I was jealous, too, but that didn't last long, because I knew Rob wasn't my boyfriend in the first place, so Ellen couldn't steal him away from me.

In the end, I just felt sad. Ellen was not my friend, after all.