The Death of a Best Friend

“Oh my gosh. I got an idea!” Janessa, a girl of 13, said. “Let’s go to that carnival that just opened a few blocks away.”

“I don’t know, Nessa. We can’t sneak out tonight. My mom would find out easily.” Sophia, the best friend, who is 13 as well, said. She frowned, “Besides, I don’t have any money. I’m the poor one, remember?”

“I’ll pay for you. Don’t worry.” Janessa encouraged, “It’s worth a shot. It’s going to be really fun.” She pouted. Her eyes pleading. This convinced Sophia and she nodded. “Yay.” Janessa cheered, “I knew I could talk you into it.” And the planning started.

The carnival was brightly coloured and really crowded. The girls succeeded in sneaking out and they have finished riding a rollercoaster. “That was amazing!” Sophia exclaimed. She looked at her watch and read the time aloud, “Two thirty.”

“Man,” Janessa sighed, “Time goes by real fast when you’re having fun. Let’s get going.” Sophia nodded in agreement and they started walking home.

They reached Janessa’s place and stood in front of the door. “Come in for a snack?” Janessa said to Sophia in a questioning manner.

“Uhm,” Sophia hesitated but replied, “Sure.” Janessa smiled widely and took out her keys to unlock the door. The door swung open and an angry woman appeared.

“Mom.” Janessa gasped. Sophia gulped. Her mom was behind Janessa’s.

“Where have you two been?” Sophia’s mom spoke. Her voice angry and fierce with a thick Spanish accent.

No one replied.

“Don’t make her ask again.” This was Janessa’s mom.

Sophia spoke up, “We went for a w-walk.”

“To where?”

“Just along the block.” Sophia lied and looked down.

“Do you think we’re stupid, Sophia?” Her mom scolded and walked towards her. She forced Sophia’s head up.

“N-no.” She stammered.

Janessa gulped, “We went to the carnival.”

“I knew it,” Janessa’s mom sighed, “Who’s idea was it?”

Once again, silence filled the air.

“Do I have to repeat my sentence, young lady?”

“It was Sophia’s…” Janessa said quietly.

Sophia turned to face her. Her eyes full of sadness, tears filling her eyes. She gave Janessa a look as if she’s saying “How could you?”

Sophia’s mom started shouting in Spanish. Scolding Sophia. Then she slapped her. Sophia cried in pain. Her mom pushed her out the door. Before her mom started to scold her again, she apologised to Janessa’s mom, “I’m sorry my daughter dragged your daughter into this. It won’t happen again.” Then she left, closing the door behind her.

“Go to your room, Nessa.” Janessa’s mom said. She obeyed and made her way to her bedroom. She let her tears start to flow. Her head full of regret, guilt and sadness.

“Mom, I have something to confess.” Janessa said the next morning.

“You can tell me anything, honey.” Her mom gave her a small smile.

“I’m…” She gulped, “I’m the one who convinced Sophia to go to the carnival with me. I’m sorry, mom. I’m really sorry. Please don’t kill me.”

Her mom gave her a knowing smile, “I figured. I was really disappointed but I’m glad you told the truth. How about today we apologise to them and maybe we could all go to the carnival?”

“That would be great, mom. I’m really sorry.”

“I can tell. I will give Sophia’s mom a call to tell her the news.”

“Okay. I’ll go get ready.” She smiled.

“I can’t wait!” cheered Sophia when her mom told her the plan for that day. They were on their way to meet them. Sophia was really happy that everything will be fine again. She was so happy she went faster than her mother. When she was crossing the road, she didn’t notice the car that was about to run over her. The car driver was frantically beeping the horn. Sophia didn’t hear it. Two days later, she was pronounced dead from a car crash.

“The last thing I did to her was lie about her.” Janessa cried. Her eyes swollen. It was the funeral.

“People make mistakes, Nessa.” Said her mom. “We should always cherish our time with our beloved because you never know when they’re going to leave your side forever. Honesty is the first step to do that. You’ve known Sophia since you were really young but God has decided to take her away to make her your new guardian angel. She’ll be with you forever. Watching and guiding you. Always remember: Honesty is the best policy.”

Janessa smiled weakly and hugged her mother. Then she repeated, “Honesty is the best policy.”