



Drug Abuse

By Emily L. Ferden

MY FRIEND from elementary school, Janie, has had a hard life because of drug use. Her older brother got involved in a gang that supplied drugs to people. He finally decided to get out of the gang and go to the cops about the drug deals. The only problem was that he had to get evidence first. He chose to wear a recording device and go with a few other guys to drop off some marijuana. The dealer noticed the wire he was wearing and ended up killing Janie's brother.

Janie was devastated by her brother's loss. They had four other siblings besides him that needed to be taken care of. The town pitched in to help out with the costs for her family to go bury her brother in Texas where they were originally from. The cops did find out who the guy was that murdered her brother, but that wasn't enough for Janie. She started to drink and use drugs to get her brother off her mind. We told her that her brother died trying to stop this kind of behavior and that she should stop, but it was too late; she was already too addicted to the drugs.

Today, Janie is in rehabilitation and not living the life she would have wanted. I learned from Janie's experience not to get involved in drugs. It can only make things worse to be involved in drugs. I also learned that drugs are addictive and can make people do things they wouldn't normally do just to get that high.

Others can learn from this experience by the choices Janie's brother and Janie chose. Getting involved in drugs and the dealing of drugs can only have a bad outcome. Janie's brother realized what he was doing was wrong, but it was just too late to get out of his situation. Drug dealing can have that effect on people; they get too involved and they are not able to get out of it. Janie's family fell apart after her brother's death, and that could have had some input to why she started using drugs as well. She has to live in a rehabilitation center because of how badly she got addicted. Nobody should have to live that way. People can learn from her experience just how bad drugs can be for not only yourself, but the ones you love.

I believe that Janie dealt with her brother's death the wrong way. She should have gone to a grief counselor or even just talked to her friends more instead of getting involved in drugs. I think she chose the wrong thing also because her brother died because of drugs and if I was Janie I would have chosen to stay away from drugs just because of him. He died trying to end the trafficking of drugs to teenagers like her, and then she goes and gets herself addicted to drugs. I am still friends with Janie, but I think she handled her situation wrongly. I think another reason she got involved with drugs is because her father died only a few months after her brother, and she just couldn't handle the losses. That doesn't excuse her choices, but you can see how she was truly grief stricken.

Janie is not the only one I know that has been involved in drugs, but her story is definitely one of the sadder ones. There are lots of teens who are involved in drugs and alcohol in today's society. For whatever reason they think that it is cool to be high or drunk. I disagree with their thinking; you don't have to be drunk or high to have a good time. I can honestly say I have never been drunk or done any sort of drugs in my life. I know many of my fellow peers have, and they don't understand why I wouldn't even try it. Whenever I am asked to try something along the lines of drugs or alcohol, I think of people like Janie who are suffering from their choice of using it. I hope teens start to realize that using drugs and/or alcohol is not cool, and that it can have life changing consequences. 🚫

ALERT SCHOLARSHIP

Emily Ferden is a high school senior from McIntosh, MN. *Alert Magazine* congratulates her for winning the Alert Scholarship and we encourage her in the pursuit of her academic goals. We would also like to encourage future seniors to participate in our scholarship program.