

KARMA IS A BITCH



BY: ELYSE ROSENBERG

A WEEK AFTER ELLE'S DANCE PERFORMANCE, THINGS WERE NOT GOING AS WELL AS THEY HAD BEEN. ALL BUT ONE OF HER FRIENDS WAS IGNORING HER AND SHE HAD



THAT PERFORMANCE WAS GREAT! I RECEIVED A STANDING OVATION, AND OVER TWO DOZEN PEOPLE SIGNED UP TO BE IN MY CLUB.



SO ELLE DECIDED TO GO TO THE FRIEND THAT WAS STILL TALKING TO HER, THEO.

WELL, LAST NIGHT AT DINNER LYNN HAD A GROUP OF PEOPLE GATHERED AROUND A TABLE TO TELL THEM WHY EVERYONE SHOULD HATE YOU....



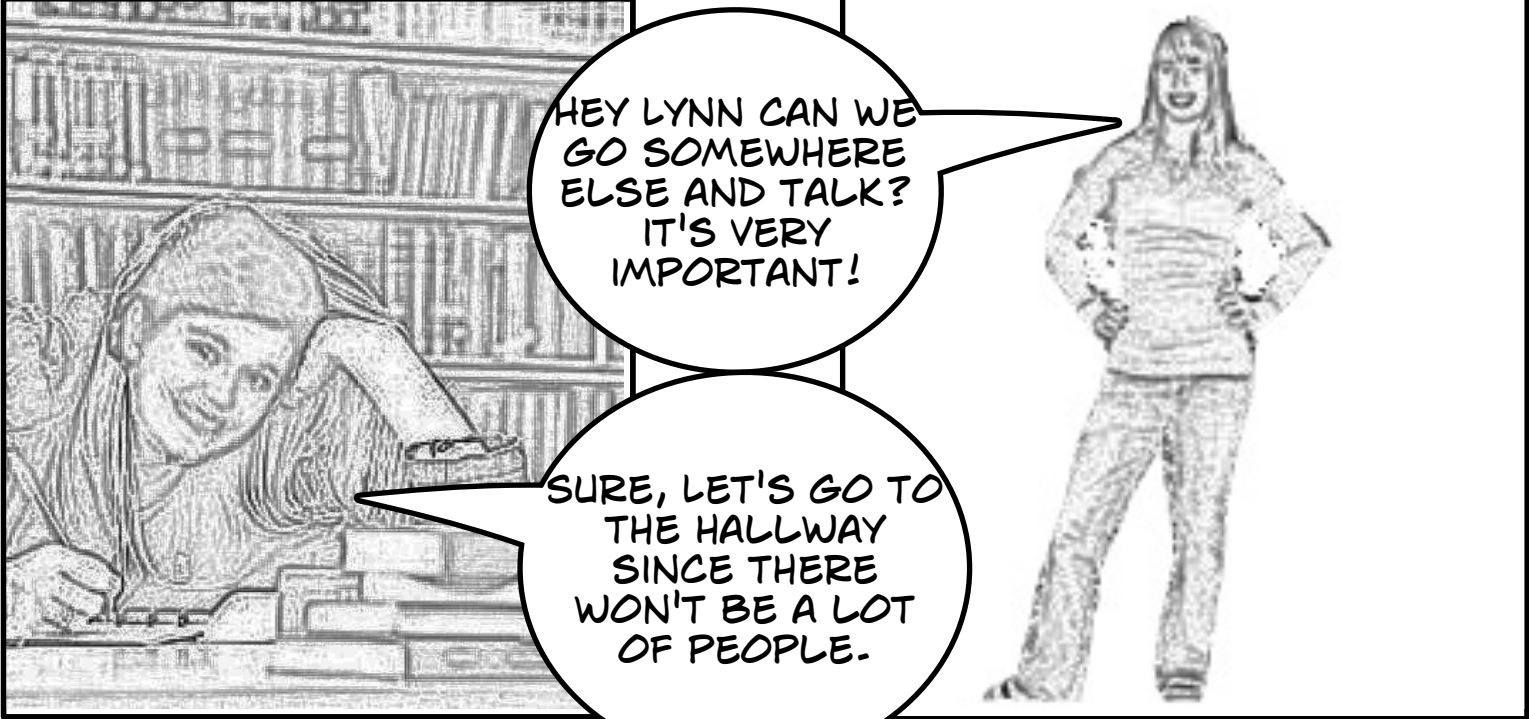
THEO, WHAT'S GOING ON? NO ONE IS TALKING TO ME!

THAT'S ME THERE ON THE RIGHT WITH LYNN ON THE FAR LEFT AND ONE OF OUR OTHER FRIENDS IN THE MIDDLE

I DON'T GET IT!
I THOUGHT WE
WERE
FRIENDS!!



RATHER THAN DRIVE HERSELF CRAZY ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING ON, ELLE DECIDED TO GO ASK LYNN WHAT WAS GOING ON. ELLE FOUND LYNN IN THE LIBRARY AND WENT OVER TO HER, SHE ASKED IF THEY COULD GO SOMEWHERE ELSE TO TALK.



HEY LYNN CAN WE GO SOMEWHERE ELSE AND TALK? IT'S VERY IMPORTANT!

SURE, LET'S GO TO THE HALLWAY SINCE THERE WON'T BE A LOT OF PEOPLE.



WHY WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT ME BEHIND MY BACK?

I WASN'T. EVERYBODY JUST HATES YOU

EVERYBODY HATES YOU!!! YOU'RE A TERRIBLE FRIEND

BUT I'M NOT ASKING ABOUT EVERYBODY, THIS IS ABOUT YOU AND ME

ELLE HAD ENOUGH. SHE LEFT THE HALLWAY WHERE THEY HAD BEEN TALKING AND WENT STRAIGHT TO HER FACULTY FRIEND, GIGI, WHO SHE KNEW WOULD COMFORT AND SUPPORT HER. GIGI COMFORTED ELLE AND ASKED IF ELLE WOULD BE OKAY WITH GIGI REPORTING WHAT HAPPENED TO MS. MICKEY, THE DEAN OF STUDENTS. ELLE GAVE GIGI PERMISSION TO REPORT WHAT HAPPENED TO MS. MICKEY. ELLE THEN WENT HOME.



A FEW DAYS LATER...

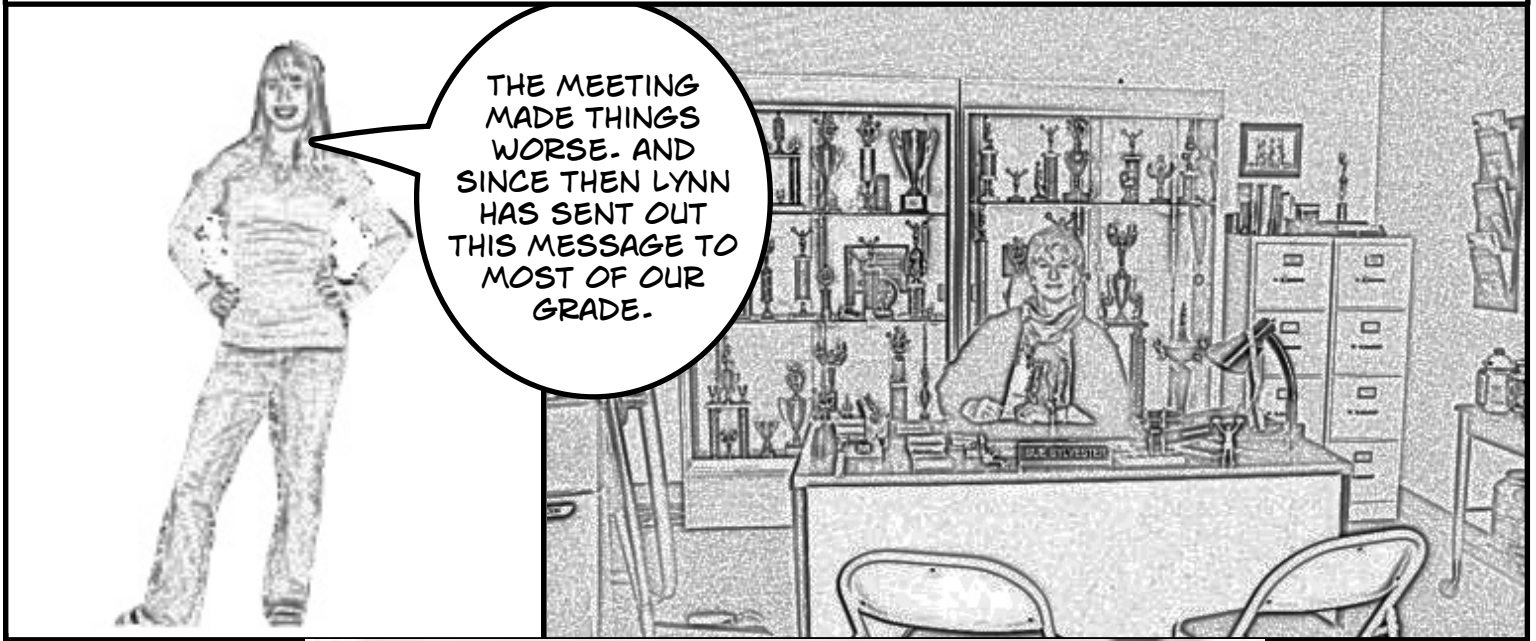
ELLE WAS CALLED INTO MS. MICKEY'S OFFICE WHERE MS. MICKEY DISMISSED THE ISSUE TO THE SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS TO SIT DOWN AND HAVE A MEETING TO SETTLE THE PROBLEM.



I CANNOT TAKE ACTION WITHOUT DISCIPLINING YOU AS WELL, ELLE.

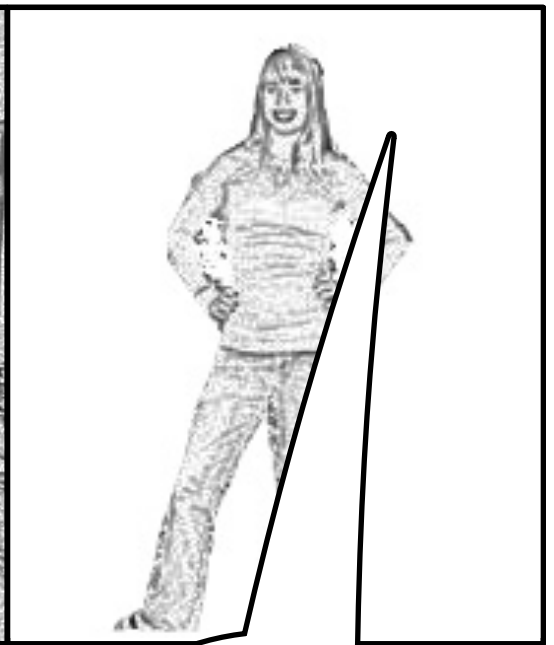
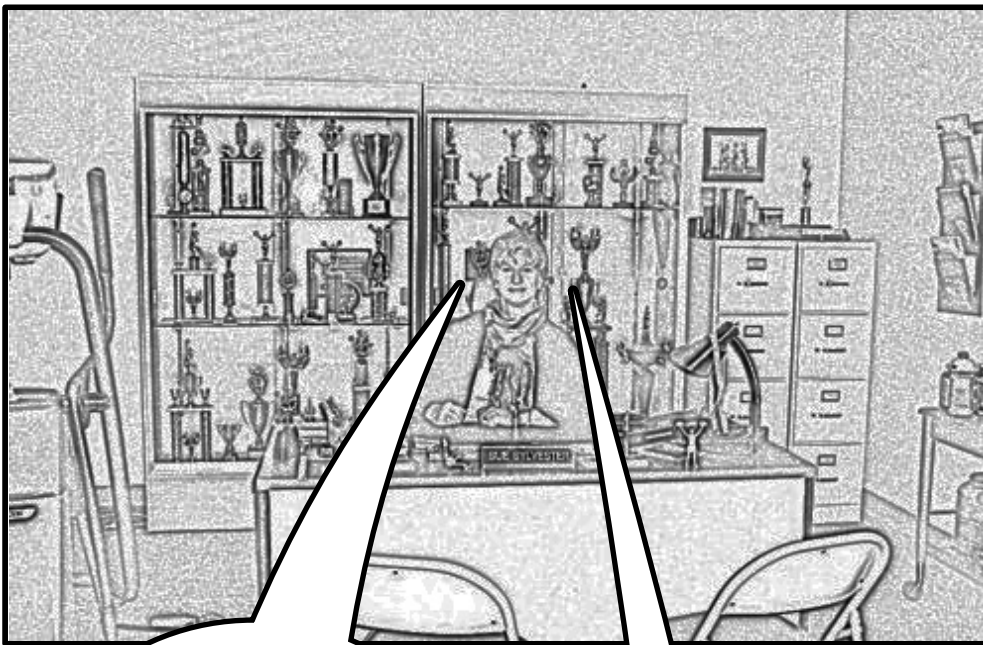


A FEW DAYS LATER ELLE HAD THE MEETING WITH THE GUIDANCE COUNSELORS AND LYNN. THE MEETING MADE THE SITUATION AT SCHOOL FAR WORSE FOR ELLE SO SHE ARRANGED ANOTHER MEETING WITH MS. MICKEY.



THE MEETING MADE THINGS WORSE. AND SINCE THEN LYNN HAS SENT OUT THIS MESSAGE TO MOST OF OUR GRADE.

BY NOW, YOU KNOW ABOUT THE STUPID SITUATION WITH ELLE AND ABOUT THE FIGHT THAT HAPPENED. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GO IN TO TALK TO MS. MICKEY. WE ALL KNOW HOW ELLE IS, AND WE KNOW THAT SHE'LL DO EVERYTHING IN HER POWER TO MAKE ME LOOK LIKE A DRAMA-CAUSING BITCH (WHICH I HOPE NONE OF YOU THINK I AM BECAUSE THEN ASKING FOR YOUR HELP IS POINTLESS...). I MAY, IF SHE TAKES IT FAR ENOUGH, NEED EVIDENCE OF WHAT ELLE HAS DONE TO MANY PEOPLE THROUGHOUT HER TIME AT SCHOOL TO JUSTIFY WHY THE FIGHT EVEN HAPPENED AND WHY I SAID THAT EVERYONE HATES HER. HAS SHE EVER DIRECTLY VICTIMIZED YOU, OR HAVE YOU SEEN HER VICTIMIZE OTHER PEOPLE? THIS WAY I HAVE YOUR NAME TO SHOW THAT THIS ISN'T JUST BETWEEN ME AND ELLE, IT IS BETWEEN EVERYONE AND ELLE.

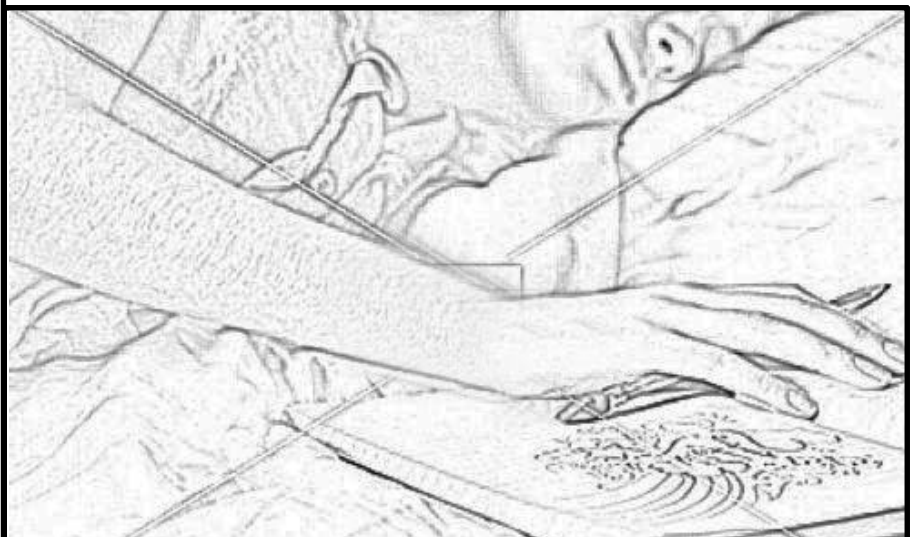


THIS MESSAGE WAS SENT BEFORE THE MEETING SO THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT. GIVE IT SOME TIME, THINGS WILL GET BETTER.

IT CLEARLY STATES IN THE HANDBOOK THAT BULLYING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. THIS ISN'T FAIR! THERE MUST BE SOMETHING YOU CAN DO!

THERE IS NOTHING MORE THAT CAN BE DONE.

AND SO FOR MONTHS ELLE WENT THROUGH SCHOOL FEELING LIKE A ZOMBIE. SHE WENT TO HER CLASSES, NEVER HAD ANYONE BUT THEO ACKNOWLEDGE HER. SHE THEN WOULD GO HOME, EXHAUSTED AND FALL ASLEEP DOING HOMEWORK. DANCE AND HER FRIENDS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL WERE THE ONLY THINGS THAT KEPT HER GOING.



A FEW MONTHS LATER...

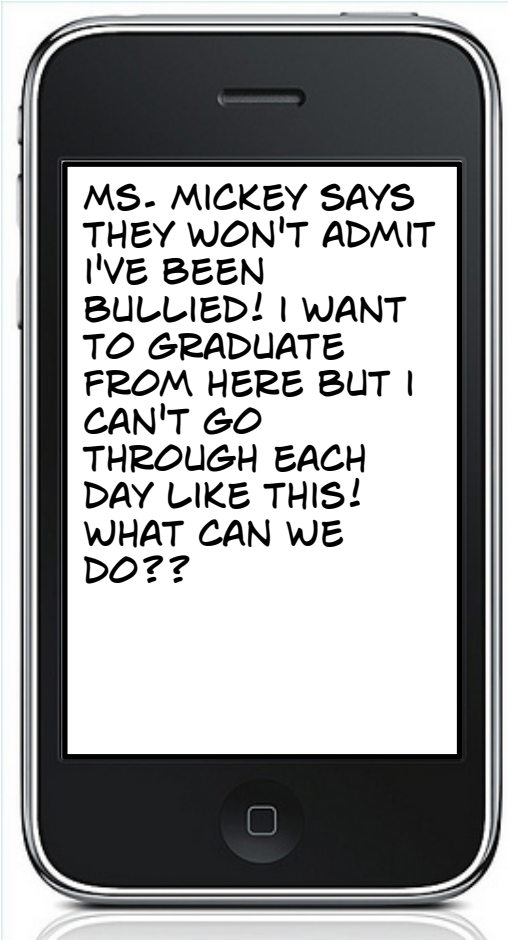


SCHOOL WAS STILL A LIVING HELL FOR ELLE. IN FACT THE SITUATION CONTINUED TO WORSEN; THERE WERE "ELLE BASHING PARTIES" THAT TOOK PLACE AND RUMORS WERE FLYING AROUND. ELLE HAD NOT SLEPT IN MONTHS, THEO REMAINED ELLE'S ONLY FRIEND AT SCHOOL STILL TALKING TO HER AND HER GRADES WERE NOTICEABLY DROPPING. BUT STILL THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT DO ANYTHING.

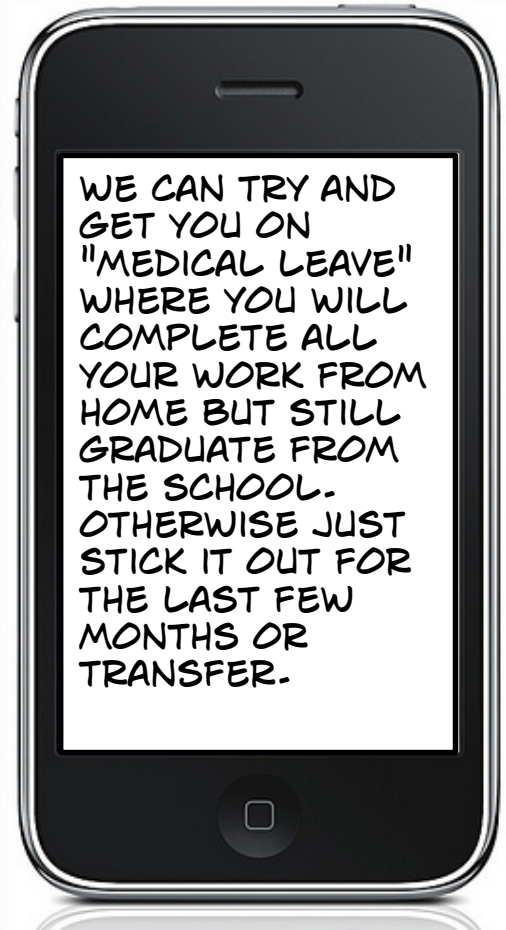
WE WILL NOT ADMIT THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY BULLYING TAKING PLACE THIS YEAR.



SO ELLE DECIDED TO CALL HER MOM AND SEE WHAT HER MOM THOUGHT. IF THINGS CONTINUED THE WAY THEY WERE GOING, ELLE WOULD NEVER MAKE IT TO GRADUATION AT THE END OF THE YEAR. ELLE WONDERED IF THERE WAS SOME OTHER WAY TO GRADUATE FROM THE SCHOOL WITHOUT BEING TORMENTED IN SCHOOL EVERYDAY BEING.



MS. MICKEY SAYS
THEY WON'T ADMIT
I'VE BEEN
BULLIED! I WANT
TO GRADUATE
FROM HERE BUT I
CAN'T GO
THROUGH EACH
DAY LIKE THIS!
WHAT CAN WE
DO??



WE CAN TRY AND
GET YOU ON
"MEDICAL LEAVE"
WHERE YOU WILL
COMPLETE ALL
YOUR WORK FROM
HOME BUT STILL
GRADUATE FROM
THE SCHOOL.
OTHERWISE JUST
STICK IT OUT FOR
THE LAST FEW
MONTHS OR
TRANSFER.



SO ELLE'S MOTHER WENT TO MEET WITH MS. MICKEY TO GET ELLE ON MEDICAL LEAVE.



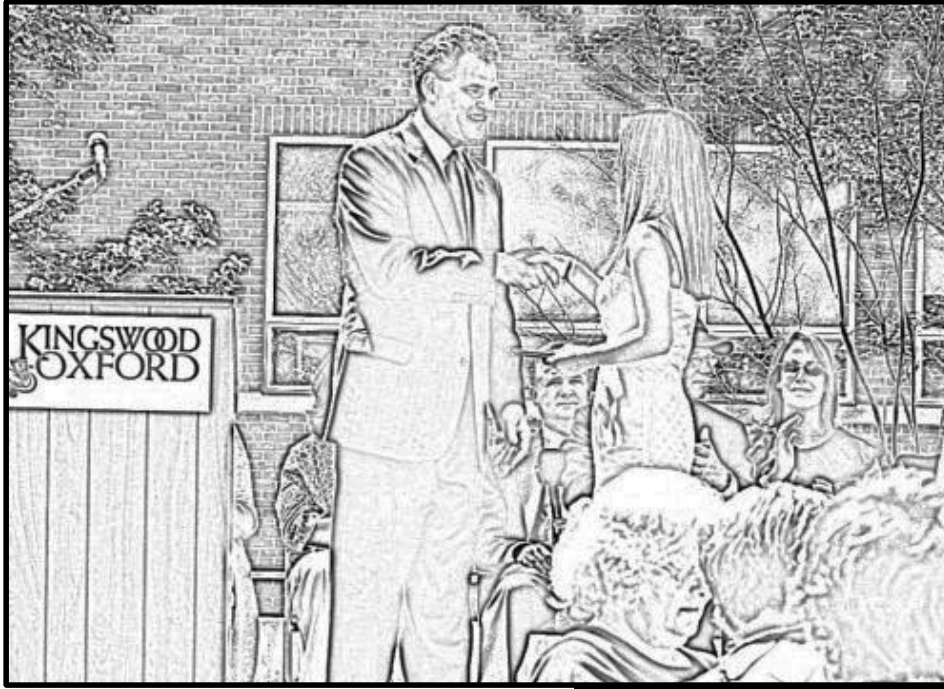
FOR ELLE'S PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH IT WOULD BE BEST IF SHE CONTINUED HER SCHOOLWORK FROM HOME. SHE HAS BEEN AT SCHOOL HERE FOR 7 YEARS, SHE DOES NOT WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE ELSE AND GRADUATE, SHE WANTS TO GRADUATE FROM HERE.

FINE. SHE MAY FINISH HER SCHOOL WORK AT HOME AND GRADUATE IN MAY WITH THE REST OF HER CLASS.



AND SO ELLE WAS ABLE TO CONTINUE HER SCHOOLING AT HOME. SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL EVERYDAY TO ENDURE THE SNEERS, RUMORS, COLD SHOULDERS, AND SCREAMING. EVEN THOUGH THE EXPERIENCE WAS NOT COMPLETELY OVER WITH AND WOULD NOT BE UNTIL AFTER SHE HAD GRADUATED, SHE STILL BEGAN TO FEEL BETTER, LITTLE BY LITTLE. SHE WASN'T CRYING HERSELF TO SLEEP EVERY NIGHT AND CRYING AND BEGGING HER MOM TO NOT MAKE HER GO TO SCHOOL EVERY MORNING. SHE EVEN STARTED FEELING LIKE A PERSON AGAIN, NOT A ZOMBIE GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS WITH A SENSE OF COMPLETE NUMBNESS.

MAY 28, 2010 GRADUATION



AND SO ELLE WAS ABLE TO GRADUATE WITH THE REST OF HER CLASS AFTER HAVING BEEN THERE FOR 7 YEARS. SHE WAS VERY HAPPY TO BE DONE WITH THE PEOPLE AND THE PLACE. ELLE WAS ABLE TO MOVE ON THANKS TO HER MOTTO THROUGHOUT THE YEAR: "I'M NOT ONE TO SEEK REVENGE. MY OPINION IS KARMA WILL BE A BIGGER BITCH THAN I COULD EVER BE." NOW ELLE IS VERY HAPPY AT COLLEGE, A STRONG BELIEVER OF KARMA AND STILL MAINTAINS HER CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH THEO.