

A true friend

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Tuna and Nangula were best friends, the two had been friends since the first grade. They did everything together, they were always there for each other and really got along so well. Despite the fact that Nangula's family was really poor and lived in Ombili, whereas Tuna's family was financially stable and lived in town, they still treated each other like complete equals and had the outmost respect for one another, little did they know their life was about to change.

When the news broke out that they both got accepted to the same university, the girls were so thrilled. The first year of varsity went pretty well for them, they constantly studied together and assisted each other with assignments, but when the second year came, everything changed. Tuna started distancing herself from Nangula, she would ignore her calls, cancel most of their plans and avoid her at school, even in class. Nangula was not having it, she eventually decided to confront her about her sudden behavior to which she explained *"I just don't think we must hang out so much anymore, don't you want to make new friends? I have known you all my life and I am really bored, I want to try new things"* To which she replied *"...but Tuna, why can't we make new friends and try new things together?"* Tuna scoffed, looked at her and said, *"Look, we are just not of the same class anymore, and I can't spend the rest of my life tied down to a charity case"*. The words rolled off her tongue before she knew it. Unable to fathom this painful statement, Nangula walked away.

Tuna started hanging out with a group of girls. Although a part of her knew they were bad news, she felt excited to have so many friends. They would skip classes and go partying, she even started consuming alcohol. Despite how bad she was treated, Nangula cared about Tuna, and would always do assignments for her. It went as far as making excuses for Tuna when she started missing classes, but not once did she get as little as a "thank you".

Tuna was on her way to class when one of the girls called her back, *"Hey, want to have fun?"*, to which she explained that there was a test and that

they should all go write first and go out afterwards, *“Oh you are so boring, just like that nerdy Nangula”*. When Tuna heard that comparison, she decided to forget the test and go out with her new friends. If anything, she did not want them thinking she was boring.

A few months later and Tuna was pregnant! She was scared and didn't know what to do, the following day she told the group of girls on campus and asked them to help her to get rid of it, but nothing prepared her for their reply. *“We will not help you, No one sent you to get yourself pregnant! In fact, we think you should stop hanging out with us”* said one of the girls, surprised by this response she said, *“Why not? I thought you guys are my friends, you-...you told me to have fun”*. Then another girl said *“Fun sweetie... we said have FUN, not go get pregnant! Also, we never said we were friends, just because you joined our clique that does not make us friends. Good luck with your bundle of Joy”* they walked away laughing at her. Tuna could not contain the pain in her chest, she walked home with tears rolling down her face like a waterfall.

At this point everyone in class had found out about Tuna's pregnancy, including Nangula, who decided to go to Tuna's place. She found Tuna sitting behind the house crying, she went over to her and hugged her, comforting her. After a while Tuna finally calmed down and said, *“I am so Sorry Nangula, I have been such a fool. I-...what was I thinking?”* before she could continue, Nangula stopped her and said *“Its ok, I have already forgiven you, remember I told you that no matter what happens, I will always be here for you, even if you push me away. Look, we will get through this together and I will help you where I can, okay?”* With a smile on her face Tuna finally realized she had made the greatest mistake of her life by throwing away her friendship, she finally realized that Nangula was, and will always be her true friend.

The moral of this story is, friendship should never be based on how rich or poor people are or how cool or not people are. This story also teaches people about loyalty and the importance that is associated with being loyal to someone. A true friend will always be a true to you regardless of whatever situation you are in. Learn to appreciate the people that have been with you through rough days. Don't forget them the minute a new offer comes around.