

Isaury Espinal

03/12/2022

College Writing

I remember this vividly because it was my first time really dealing with how ignorant people can really be without knowing proper information. This happened when I was in the 10th grade. This was my fifth year at a school in the South Bronx named The Laboratory School of Finance and Technology also known as MS/HS 223, that I had been attending since the 6th grade with the boy that spread a very disrespectful rumor about me. His name was Miguel Rodriguez, he also liked to go by Mikey, I didn't really talk to him that much solely because he tried to always tear me down for the certain things I liked. I really liked Anime at the time and he always called it nerdy and always tried to beat my friends down for liking Anime.

At the time, my hair was severely damaged at the time from the amount of times that I dyed and bleached it. At the time the tips of my hair were really really damaged, so I had made the decision to cut my hair into a really short cut in order to let it grow out healthy. I was nervous about what people would say about the short hair and I was terrified of getting bullied again just because I had basically a boy cut. The day this happened, it was about a week or so after I had gotten the haircut and everyone really liked it for me and told me that it was really good for making my hair get healthier. Before I had cut my hair, the tips of my hair basically felt like doll hair and all of my friends knew the real reason why I had cut it but not everyone else. I just told them I was trying a new look.

I had done my normal morning routine. Wake up, Shower, Brush my teeth, Get dressed for School and head off to school. I never really had time to eat breakfast so I would just go off

to school without breakfast. I got into the school and went to my first class of the day which was English class with Mr.Fox and Mrs.Drame. I had this class with Mikey and I did what I did normally, sit down, get my school work done, and then finish the period going to my next class. Nothing else changed but today was different, I kept hearing little laughs and giggles behind me. I sat in this class with my best friend of 5 years Matthew Ayala and our friend Daniel Orellana. I looked behind me to see the source of the laughter and it was Mikey and his friends laughing about something that I couldn't hear so I decided to ignore it.

The class ended and I went to my next class which was with another of my best friends of 5 years, Natalie Carrasquillo. She was a sweet girl and usually heard a lot of things due to her being quiet. She came to where we sat and she looked towards me and said "Isaury, I have something to tell you" I looked at her confused and kind of nervous, so I just responded with "What is it?" Then what she said afterwards shocked me as well as made me extremely angry because of the pure ignorance that I was hearing. She said to me "Mikey spread a rumor that the real reason you cut your hair is because you're transgender and transitioning into a guy" I looked at her and just couldn't say anything.

A million and three thoughts were racing through my head, all of them being thoughts of anger and just annoyance. This wasn't true but for some reason this boy who doesn't know me at all was spreading a false rumor about me. I was furious and couldn't remain in the class, excusing myself to go to my counselor's office. I went into the office and started going off about how ignorant this boy was to even think such stupidity. Just because a girl cuts her hair into what could be classified as a male haircut doesn't mean she wants to become a boy. At the time I was known for standing up for the rights of LGBTQIA+ youth and was always against ignorance within the school even starting the GSA(Gender and Sexuality Alliance) but that doesn't have to

do with anything regarding my hair. I was heated and was ready to go off on Mikey but my counselor managed to calm me down and explained to me that people like Mikey can't be educated and sometimes to be educated and think things like this was a joke and nothing I say will make him regret what he said. He also told me that expressing the fact that I'm angry will make my classmates believe it's true and would cause further drama that I didn't really need. I listened to him and calmed down but I still was extremely annoyed with Mikey and refused to talk to him like I used to and sort of decided to ignore him the remaining years that we were in high school.