

Agree to Disagree

by Joseph Arnone

JoJo: Look, you don't have to be...you don't have to agree with me all the time, in order for me to like you more. I see what you're doing and I just want you to know that you don't need to try so hard for me to like you or for anyone else to like you. Be you. I already like and care about you as a friend and that's why I'm telling you this, okay? We're friends and if we are going to be good friends than I'd rather know the real you and not the you that you seem to put on. You get what I'm saying? I used to do the same thing and then I realized I care more about being true to me, than having someone like me more.

There's more to like when we all stop trying to front and just be true to ourselves. You may not agree with me but that is my whole point. And if someone doesn't like you for you, well, then they weren't worth having in your life to begin with.

Ask Her Out

by Joseph Arnone

DANIEL: Yo, I gotta talk to you about something man. We've been boys since we were little kids...you're family to me and that comes first...but, I want to tell you the truth about something because it matters and I want things to stay right between us always.

I like your sister man. I think she's beautiful and I like her...not like her in the sense of how we roll with other girls but I care about Emma. It's different. I'm serious about asking her out but I don't want to hurt our friendship, so it's kind of awkward for me cause I'm in this weird place but I need to tell you first and make sure we're good because I want to talk with her and see what's up.

Are we cool?

Bad Look

by Joseph Arnone

EMILY: I'm telling you that's the only thing I don't like about her. It's that stupid rat face she makes when she laughs. (*imitates the friends face when she laughs*) Like that! She scares me! And no air comes out of her mouth, either. It's like she's frozen in time!

Maybe I should tell her something about it. But how does one go about telling someone that when they laugh, they look strange? I don't want to hurt her feelings but what's going to happen when we start going to parties? SHE'LL KILL THE PARTY.

Usually she does it when she's laughing really hard...her face changes into this weird rat smile, cause she has those sharp fang teeth. I know, I sound horrible, talking trash about one of my friends but seriously, I'm telling you because I don't know if I should say something to her. Maybe I should before someone else does. She needs to fix that. It's bad, a *really* bad look.

Bubble World

by Joseph Arnone

Alex: Pink dress, purple dress, white dress...that's all I hear. Brown shoes, white shoes, yellow shoes. On and on and on. Me, me, me, me, me...You are so wrapped up in your little world, Jess. You're in this bubble that you need to break out of and realize that there are things in life other than having your face constantly in your phone. Becoming a zombie.

We never hang out like we used too. And whenever we do hang out you are either text messaging someone or calling someone else or hanging up posters on your bedroom wall. It's like the only time we can go anywhere or do anything is if it revolves around something just you want to do. God forbid I suggest something YOU don't like.

(beat)

We used to always do things together. I feel like we don't click anymore. For once it would be nice for you to call me and ask what I'm up to, do something I like doing for a change. I want us to hang out more and I want us to have fun again. Don't you?

I Liked Her First

by Joseph Arnone

SERGIO: Bobby knew I liked Debbie first. He's a traitor. He said he was my best friend. If he was my best friend he never would have kissed Debbie. He did it behind my back and I hate him for it. He lied to me. He said that he was going to the gym to play basketball after school but what he really did was took Debbie to the ice cream parlor like a sneak.

I don't ever want to talk to him again! He can have his stupid video games back and stupid comic books back. I would throw them out but I can't throw out Batman or Iron Man...

I hope he never tries to be my friend again. And I don't ever want to look at Debbie again. I don't want to know them anymore for as long as I live!

I'm Not Dumb

by Joseph Arnone

Nat: I try my hardest in school but I am always just passing by the skin of my teeth. I feel like I am dumber than the other kids. I don't know why I am not smart like they are. I study when I go home. Sometimes I stay after school for extra help. I always do extra credit. Why am I not smart enough, Mrs. Gardner? I want to have a good future. I know I am young but what I do now will mean something later in my life, I just know it. My parents are immigrants who came to this country and I want to make them proud. But how can I make them proud when I am stupid?