Tattle
TELLIN IT LIKE IT IS

BULLYING – ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Bullying….I am so sick and tired of hearing about bullying and nothing being done about it. All of these tragic stories in the news about kids who commit suicide because they cannot handle the bullying anymore just infuriates me and brings my blood to a boiling point. It just reminds me once again, that this bullying needs to stop and that something needs to be done about it.

When I was younger, I was the subject of bullying, all the way from Grade 4, until graduation. Let me tell you my story. In grade 4, I had a best friend, his name was Ritchie. I was over at his house one afternoon and we were playing Monopoly with his sister. His sister was cheating and they were soon arguing and whatnot. Well, while this was going on, I just happened to remember that I had not asked my mother when she wanted me home for dinner. So I asked my friend if I could use his phone, as I forgot to ask my mom when I should be home for dinner. For some really strange reason, he took offence to that and thought I wanted to go home right then because he and his sister were arguing. He was like "fine, go home then". But I tried to tell him, I wasn't wanting to go home, I just remembered I had to ask my mom when she wanted me home later for dinner. But he wouldn't listen, and instead, put on his shoes, grabbed his basketball and went outside and started shooting hoops.

So I ended up calling my mom to come get me and I went home…..

Well, the next day at school, Ritchie was still mad at me. But not only was he mad at me, but he said things to other kids, and suddenly, a bunch of other kids were talking smack to me and being mean. Well, that was it. From that day forward in Grade 4, the tormenting began and never ended my entire school years.

It is quite shocking when I think about it and look back. Some silly little thing one afternoon, a friend being upset, and suddenly, he gets the all these other kids against me and causes my life to be a living hell in school every since. Not a day passed that I was not called names, made fun of or teased. I felt totally uncomfortable even going to school and hated it. I can't think of a day in my life where I actually wanted to go to school. I never had that many friends, or real friends that is. My weekends were spent mainly at home and not with friends as most other kids did. Thank Gosh I did have my baseball, but even that ended when i was 13 because my coach was such as ass, I just did not want to play anymore. I felt lonely and left out of so many things during my entire childhood.

Kids can be so mean, and unfortunately, there is simply not enough that is done about this. And this means from many respects, whether it mean teachers, school policy, the parents, police, or other ways. It is amazing how I can see how those years of my life has really shaped a large part of who I am today. How I feel about myself, how I fear about what others think of me, how I fear if others will make fun of

me, now I get nervous over things I really should not get so nervous of. It was conditioning, over many years of my life, conditioning which made me feel that I was not adequate or good enough, and it tends to stick with a person in life, even if they are not fully aware it does. In the back of the mind, it often really does and filters out in our lives as adults. In my life now, I find that I often say, I don't give a shit about what others think, and that is very well true, but at the same time, in the back of my mind, I think I do still want acceptance and to be liked, etc. It's funny because other people now look at me as such a strong person who has accomplished so much, is super outgoing and has lots of friends, and would never guess that I have these internal issues still. This lack of self-confidence and worries. I suppose I hide it well. It doesn't hurt me like it did as a child though.

I wish that I could make the kids that are subjected to the bullying realize that things do get better as you get out of school. I remember for me, getting out of school and entering college. I was kind of nervous because I just sort of expected the same thing. But it was different. That kind of shit was not tolerated like it was in high school. Now you are entering the real world, and people that bully and act like that are far less tolerated. Suddenly, they will become the outcast. And as years keep passing by, it is less and less tolerated and accepted by those around you. Suddenly the ones who did the bullying and thought they were cool, end up being the losers and nobody wants to be around them. I wish I could make some kids being bullied realize that things will in fact get better and reverse. It may take time and I know it may be hard at the current time, but things will get better! It is really tough to know that though while you are constantly being subjected to ridicule and taunting on a daily basis. But it will get better!

I have always said to myself, and particularly when I hear stories such as the Amanda Todd story, that I would love to start an anti-bullying group. A watch group sort of thing that is there for kids that are being bullied. A group that can push back and help stand up for the kids being mistreated. I know that sounds a little vigilante, but hey, sometimes it seems we as a society need to take things into our own hands, as it seems like none of the "appropriate" routes seem to work on making a difference and solving the problems. I would love to see a group of people approach these bullies and scare the you know what out of them. Give them a piece of their own medicine. Sometimes, scare tactics can do a lot to change a person or make a difference. It may not work, but at least you are pushing back and not standing by allowing this crap to happen.

Anyway, I call on all people out there, to help make a difference with bullying. Take a stand and do not tolerate this kind of behavior. Stand up for each other and help make a difference. And this also goes for adult bullying, because it can still happen in our adult lives too, though obviously much less, and in different ways. But it can still happen. We as a society need to show that we are not going to tolerate this and let this happen any longer and that we will stand united against it and hold those doing it accountable for their actions.

I pray for all of those being subjected to bullying that they can stay strong and get through it. Like I said, you will get through it and things will get better. So stay strong and let it make you a stronger person in the long run, instead of letting it shape who you are in the future. And please, talk to someone if you are the victim of bullying. Do not let it go and do not try to hide it. Hiding it will not solve the problem and those doing it need to be held accountable. So please make sure you talk to someone so you have some kind of support system! There are people that care about you and want to help, trust me!!!

Tattle