

## Impersonation - Party to the Offence

I **never fathomed** I would ever be in the predicament that I am in currently; however, after **several poor decisions** and the inability to recognize the **importance of coming forward** with the complete truth, I have been provided with some insight that I never thought I would require. **This is my story. Do not let it be yours.**

In the most important year of my life to date, I made countless errors in the short span of one month, which have **jeopardized my dream** of becoming an educator. In my last weeks of completing my Bachelor of Education I **assisted someone on completing a test**, one which they did not attend. To make matters worse, when I had the opportunity of coming forth and admitting my own involvement in the situation; I did not. Instead, **I lied and allowed another party to take full blame**. By doing so, I not only assisted in cheating, which I know is wrong, but I lied, which made those around me question my ethics and dedication to the profession. This to me was and still is the most difficult aspect to accept and deal with, because I am dedicated to the profession of teaching, regardless of what my careless actions reflect. It has been my life's ambition to teach and shape the youth of our province, and my actions over the course of one month almost shattered these dreams forever.

As the year progressed I found myself becoming closer and closer with a few members of my class. We became a family, or so I thought. All of my classes in the Faculty of Education required some kind of group work and I found myself working with these same friends over and over again. Needless to say, our relationships intensified as we were constantly at school together and the majority of us were hours away from home. As the end of the school year approached we became increasingly excited and eager to complete the year. Prior to one of our last tests, a friend of mine was forced to address some personal issues. The morning of a test, she informed me that she might not attend class and asked me to write the test on her behalf. I said "No" and brushed her off. **When the time came to write the test, I wrote her name on a paper** but could not answer any of the questions. I knew this was wrong. I **turned to another friend** and explained that I could not write the test and **asked if they would instead**.

When the Professor became aware of the incident I denied knowing anything and being a part of it. **This was wrong** and should never have happened. I again did not come forward when I had the opportunity to and continued to deny my involvement. The guilt of my actions kept me up all night. I was unable to eat, unable to socialize, unable to focus. I became distraught and depressed as the **weight of my guilt** increased. I lied to my family and two Professors, whom I greatly admired. I was overwhelmed and consumed by the error of my ways but I was **too frightened to stand up and speak the truth**. I thought I was helping a friend; but in retrospect I realize that I put in question my integrity and dedication to the program and the beliefs and values it represents.

I have learned that "friends" would never put each other in situations that would compromise their **integrity or values**. I have learned that a **reputation**, which **takes years to build**, can be destroyed in one minute, over one act. This experience has broken my soul and spirit and it is through living through it that **I am becoming a better person**. I will not take anything for granted and will now attempt to rebuild a reputation that was once flawless. My integrity is what counts; not the act of me "helping a friend". **Honesty is what matters**; not half truths and misleading facts. Through this experience I have learned many things that I know will better me and **strengthen me for the future**. I will strive daily to regain my identity as a student and hopeful educator. In the future I **will listen to my own intuition** and not disregard it because I **know what is right and wrong**. I will not feel obligated to help someone if it goes against my own values and most importantly I **will always tell the truth**, the whole truth.

**MY ADVICE TO YOU READER:** Do not take your education for granted. Do not jeopardize it because of good intentions. You know what is right and acceptable. **Work hard and be honest.** This is the key to success.