



# The Digital Shadow

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Maya and Tasha were inseparable, spending every afternoon playing on their shared street under the golden afternoon sun. They were best friends who shared every secret and laughed until their sides ached, thinking nothing could ever come between them.



Everything changed when they started a new school and were placed in different form groups. The hallways felt long and intimidating, and the time they spent together began to shrink as their separate schedules pulled them in different directions.



While Tasha struggled to adjust to the new environment, Maya started meeting new people and expanding her circle of friends. She didn't mean to leave Tasha behind, but the excitement of new friendships and different interests was hard to ignore.



A bright invitation to a Halloween party arrived for Maya, but Tasha was left off the guest list entirely. Tasha's face fell when she heard the news, her eyes filling with a mixture of deep sadness and growing resentment toward her former best friend.



Tasha begged Maya not to go to the party, claiming it wouldn't be fair to their friendship if they didn't go together. Feeling it was unfair to be held back from her new friends, Maya decided to go anyway, dressed in her costume and trying to ignore the guilt.



Soon after the party, the atmosphere at school turned cold and uncomfortable for Maya. Groups of students would stop talking when she walked by, and she frequently caught the sound of muffled laughter and whispers echoing behind her back in the corridors.



In the quiet of the girls' restroom, Maya froze when she saw her own name scrawled in a web address on the stall wall. Her heart hammered against her ribs as she stared at the messy handwriting, a sinking feeling of dread settling in her stomach.



When she finally looked up the website, Maya felt a wave of nausea wash over her as she scrolled through the screen. Tasha had posted their private secrets and added cruel, fake messages that made Maya look like a completely different person to the whole school.



During an IT lesson, the whole classroom suddenly erupted into cruel laughter at a photo on their screens showing Maya asleep on the bus with her mouth open. Unable to take the humiliation any longer, Maya grabbed her bag and ran out of the school building in tears.



Although the website was eventually taken down and Tasha offered a forced apology, the emotional scars remained for Maya. She realized that some things on the internet never truly disappear, and the sense of security she once felt had been changed forever.