

- 1 the time.
- 2 BRITTANY: If you're trying to make me feel better by lying to
3 me, it's not working.
- 4 ALICE: I'm serious! Everyone slips up once in a while. It's not
5 like anyone's perfect.
- 6 BRITTANY: I know, but that doesn't mean I have to get them. I
7 can be imperfect without the lunch detention.
- 8 ALICE: There will probably be some of your other straight-A
9 friends in there with you.
- 10 BRITTANY: No, there won't be. People probably won't even
11 think I get all As if they see me in lunch detention. Ugh,
12 this is going to ruin my reputation.
- 13 ALICE: Stop freaking out!
- 14 BRITTANY: How can I not? Oh my gosh! Was that the lunch
15 bell? No! Already?
- 16 ALICE: It's OK. I promise it won't be bad.
- 17
- 18 After the Lunch Detention
- 19
- 20 ALICE: So, was it as bad as you thought it'd be?
- 21 BRITTANY: Don't say I told you so, but no. Not even close. I
22 actually did have a few of my all-A friends in there. They
23 had lunch detentions for the same reason.
- 24 ALICE: See? Even you straight-A students forget to do your
25 homework every now and then. No big deal. And it didn't
26 even kill you to hang out with the "bad" kids like me, did it?
- 27 BRITTANY: Sorry about that. You know I was just stressed.
- 28 ALICE: You think? Now go on and get to class. I can't take you
29 getting another detention.
- 30 BRITTANY: *(Runs off, freaking out.)* Oh my gosh! Was that the
31 bell? Oh my gosh, I can't be late. *I can't be late!*

The Never-Ending Gossip Cycle

CHARACTERS

(3 Girls)

Lauren: Girl who likes to talk about her friends behind their backs. First it's Missy, then it's Michaela.

Missy: Girl who dresses uniquely, is sometimes klutzy, and on occasion forgets to stop eating while talking. Lauren and Michaela are "friends" with her but talk about her behind her back. Missy then talks about each of them behind their backs.

Michaela: Girl who also likes to talk about her friends behind their backs. First it's Missy, then it's Lauren.

SETTING

At school in various classes or in a hallway.

1 LAUREN: Oh my gosh! Did you see what Missy is wearing
2 today?

3 MICHAELA: Yes! Did she get dressed in the dark, or what? I
4 swear it looks like her four-year-old sister lent her some
5 clothes to wear. Talk about tight. And short! Not to
6 mention completely mismatched. Hello! Pink and orange
7 do *not* go together. Not on *any* planet.

8 LAUREN: I know. Sometimes she seems like she totally *is* from
9 another planet. Like seriously, what was she thinking? I
10 know this sounds mean, but I really don't want to be seen
11 with her today.

12 MICHAELA: Me either, it'll be so embarrassing.

13 LAUREN: She's always doing stuff like this to embarrass us.
14 Like when she talks really loud at lunch and how
15 sometimes she forgets to stop chewing before she talks.
16 Remember that time she spit chewed-up cracker all over
17 Greg? The hottest guy in class? Then she pointed at me,
18 like I was the one who did it.

19 MICHAELA: How about that time she tripped going down the
20 steps and took me down with her? She totally made me
21 ram into a teacher and I got in trouble. Like it was my fault
22 I'm friends with a total klutz.

23 LAUREN: Oh my gosh, I know. Ugh, I love her and all, but what
24 are we going to do with her?

25 MICHAELA: I'm almost done putting up with her. She's just so
26 embarrassing. Besides, let's get real. We're way too good
27 for her anyway.

28
29 Next Hour
30

31 MICHAELA: Missy, wow! I *love* your outfit today, where'd you
32 get it? I'm totally jealous.

33 MISSY: Oh this? I just threw something together. Totally last
34 minute. I was kind of worried about it. Thought maybe it
35 clashed or something. But now that I know you like it, I feel

1 so much better.

2 MICHAELA: Well, it's really cute. I love it! Don't tell Lauren I told
3 you this, but she told me she hates it. She was going on
4 and on about it this morning. Just goes to show that girl
5 doesn't have an ounce of taste, does she?

6 MISSY: She told you that? Weird. She told me she loved what I
7 had on in first hour. She even asked me where I bought it
8 so she could go get something like it.

9 MICHAELA: Well, that's just what she told me. Would I ever lie
10 to you? You're like my best friend.

11 MISSY: Yeah, I know you wouldn't lie to me. I just can't believe
12 Lauren. She's so two-faced sometimes.

13 MICHAELA: For real. I can't even believe we're friends with her.
14 Did you see her hair today? It's like she totally forgot to
15 brush it. You don't think she's starting to wear dreads or
16 something hideous like that, do you?

17 MISSY: Gosh, I hope not. You know you can't even wash your
18 hair. *Gross!*

19 MICHAELA: Ewww. I definitely do *not* want to be friends with
20 someone who doesn't even *bathe!*

21 MISSY: For real. People might think that we're like that, too.

22 MICHAELA: Maybe we should cut her out of the circle.

23 MISSY: Guess it wouldn't be much of a loss. Who needs friends
24 like that? Talking about you behind your back? Now I don't
25 even think she likes me!

26 MICHAELA: She doesn't. She told me that you embarrass her
27 and that she doesn't know why we're friends with you. I
28 tried to stick up for you though. But she just kept going on
29 and on. I didn't know how to get her to stop. But I tried, I
30 promise.

31 MISSY: Are you kidding me? Well, she just lost me as a friend.
32 What did you say to her?

33 MICHAELA: I told her that you were a great friend and that I
34 would never want to lose you. I also told her that you don't
35 embarrass me. You're just unique, she should realize that.

1 MISSY: Thanks, Michaela, at least I know I can trust you. It
2 means a lot to me that I can always count on you.

3 MICHAELA: You know I'm always here for you, girl!

4

5 Next Hour

6

7 LAUREN: Hey Missy! Want to do something this weekend? We
8 could go to the movies or something. We haven't done
9 anything in like two weeks. I miss hanging out with you. We
10 always have so much fun together.

11 MISSY: You sure I don't embarrass you too bad to be seen out
12 in public with me?

13 LAUREN: What are you talking about? You don't embarrass me
14 at all. You're my best friend. If anything, we embarrass the
15 people around us with how crazy we act.

16 MISSY: Well, Michaela told me that I embarrass you and that
17 you don't want to be my friend anymore.

18 LAUREN: *What?!* I never said that! Missy, we've been friends for
19 as long as I can remember. Do you really think I'd say that?
20 She's making it up. She's always been jealous of how
21 close we are. She's just trying to break up our friendship.
22 That is *so* low of her. Making stuff up like that. You know
23 I would *never* talk about you. You're my best friend. B-f-f-ll

24 MISSY: Well, I don't know who to believe. You both are ... I mean
25 *were* my best friends.

26 LAUREN: She just likes the drama. She talks about *everyone*
27 behind their back.

28 MISSY: Well, she *did* say something about you.

29 LAUREN: What? She said something about me? *Really?* What
30 did she say?

31 MISSY: She said your hair looked like a nest of mice had taken
32 up residence in there. That you didn't seem to know a
33 brush from a pencil ... or something like that.

34 LAUREN: Really? Miss Frizz-Ball had the nerve to talk about *my*
35 hair. That is *so* like her. See. That proves I'm telling you

1 the truth. She is a total backstabber.

2 MISSY: So you didn't say any of that stuff? You didn't talk
3 about my clothes at all? Or how I embarrass you?

4 LAUREN: Not like that! I said that you are so unique that you're
5 like from another planet. You know, mixing pink and
6 orange like that, but that's what is cool about you, Missy.
7 You dress the way you want and then everyone wants to
8 dress like you.

9 MISSY: Really? You think so? I have had several people ask me
10 about it today.

11 LAUREN: That's because it's *so* amazing. Just like you.

12 MISSY: Well, I'm glad I talked to you. My stomach has been in
13 knots ever since Michaela talked to me. I couldn't believe
14 you said that I embarrassed you. That was so hurtful.

15 LAUREN: Come on, you know I would never say that.

16 MISSY: Well, I guess I believe you. But why would Michaela say
17 that kind of stuff?

18 LAUREN: I don't know. But I'm sick of her drama. She always
19 gets us to fight.

20 MISSY: I know! We never fought until we were her friend.

21 LAUREN: Maybe we just shouldn't hang out with her anymore.
22 What a drama queen. I heard she started fights at her old
23 school all the time. I bet that's why her parents sold their
24 house and moved to another school district.

25 MISSY: I thought they moved because they got divorced.

26 LAUREN: Probably a cover up. Who knows with Michaela? You
27 just can't trust her.

28 MISSY: Apparently not. I know I can't now. Things were better
29 without her. In this case, three is definitely a crowd. It
30 would just be so much easier without her being involved.
31 I'm sick of us fighting because of things she says.

32 LAUREN: We don't need a friend like that. Constantly causing
33 trouble. She is *so fake*, isn't she?

34 MISSY: I should've known better than to believe her. Sorry,
35 Lauren.

1 LAUREN: Don't worry about it. I know how convincing she can
2 be. It's over now. And we are *done* with her!

3
4 The Next Day

5
6 MICHAELA: Hey Missy, did you ever talk to Lauren?

7 MISSY: Yeah, I did.

8 MICHAELA: Well, what'd you say to her?

9 MISSY: You lied to me, Michaela.

10 MICHAELA: What? I lied? What in the world are you talking
11 about?

12 MISSY: Lauren never said those things. She told me the truth
13 about everything. How it was *you* who was saying all those
14 mean things.

15 MICHAELA: Why would I make that up? I tell you what's
16 happening behind your back and now I'm the bad guy? This
17 is ridiculous. I should've known better than to tell you the
18 truth. Lauren has suckered you into thinking she's your
19 friend for all these years. I should've known you wouldn't
20 see her for who she really is. I thought you'd actually trust
21 your *real* friend — me.

22 MISSY: Michaela, you aren't my real friend! Why would you try
23 to make me and Lauren not be close anymore? You know
24 we've been friends for as long as we can remember.

25 MICHAELA: Only because you never had someone like me who
26 would tell you the truth about what your "friend" is really
27 saying about you.

28 MISSY: Drop the act. I know you're lying. I'm sick of your
29 drama. Why do you always do this?

30 MICHAELA: I never do anything. I just get caught in the middle
31 of you guys and all *your* drama.

32 MISSY: Lauren and I never have drama unless *you're* involved.
33 We never gossip about each other.

34 MICHAELA: Really? Does Lauren know you were talking about
35 her hair? Does she? Bet she'd like to know that little tidbit

1 of information. Maybe I should give her the four-one-one
2 about that.

3 MISSY: You were the one talking about her hair.

4 MICHAELA: You were, too! You said she probably wasn't
5 bathing and that you didn't want to be seen with her.

6 MISSY: Only because you said she was growing dreads.

7 MICHAELA: Sounds like you are just as two-faced as she is!

8 MISSY: Me? What about you? You were talking about me to
9 Lauren, and then you run to me to talk about Lauren.

10 MICHAELA: Oh, and you and Lauren didn't talk about me?
11 That's funny because a *real* friend of mine heard you guys
12 saying that I had to move schools because of drama that I
13 caused. (*Pauses and gets upset.*) You *know* it was because
14 my parents divorced. How could you guys be so mean?

15 MISSY: (*Puts her hand on MICHAELA's shoulder.*) I'm sorry,
16 Michaela. I shouldn't have listened to Lauren. I know why
17 you moved. (*Pause*) You're right. She is a troublemaker. I
18 should never have stayed friends with her this long.

19 MICHAELA: You're my best friend, Missy. I mean it.

20 MISSY: We are best friends for life! *Real* best friends who would
21 never ever talk about each other! We are done with Lauren.
22 What a gossip.