Name

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Modern Dilemmas

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Polar Opposites

I am a twin. As soon as I tell somebody this information, they immediately revert to the ordinary questions. Are you guys identical? Is having a twin like having an automatic best friend? Are you inseparable? And every time I answer these questions, I can see the slight disappointment in their eyes. I guess you could say we’re non conventional, we do not fit into the image most people expect. We do not look anything alike, and never have. I am taller than average, she’s shorter than average, with a difference of around seven inches. She has blond curly hair and green eyes, while I have straight brown hair and brown eyes. She seems to go with the flow, and I play out all the possible endings before I do anything. And if you ask anyone, they’ll tell you we fight, a lot. Despite being almost polar opposites, we have one major similarity; we share a birthday. We share a childhood, memories, and almost all the same experiences. For this reason, we’re able to look past the fighting most days. We have an automatic bond stronger than any friends could have, and just knowing that someone is out there that has shared the same hardships, joys, and birthday presents is what brings us closer than we appear.

When we were younger, [my twin] and I were together 24/7. Not that we were inseparable or always needed to be together, but logistically we lived in the same room, so did everything the same. We had the same clothes, the same bedtimes, and the same preschool. Going into first grade was a monumental turning point for us. We had to decide if we wanted to be in the same class, or in different classes. Our mom asked us our opinions, in a loving way so we could understand. We both glance at each other, shrug, and say “I don’t care”. After each of us got different teachers, I think we felt a little relieved and excited. It was the first time either of us had been on our own. It was liberating. Although having different elementary teacher seems like a minor, possibility irrelevant detail, it was immensely important. Without being able to express our individuality, our lives could have turned out much differently.

Similar to being twins, Anna and Kate feel as though they have a connection that’s stronger than a simple sibling relationship. They share a DNA and the same blood. Anna is Kate’s savior; she is the reason Kate’s alive. Yet, Anna needs Kate to be her best friend, and her second half. At one point, Anna describes their relationship as Siamese twins, proving they are so important to each other in order to complete themselves. In biology, the term for the relationship when two species either mutually benefit, or are mutually dependent on each other is a symbiotic relationship. Kate and Anna have a symbiotic relationship. [My twin] and I have a symbiotic relationship. Although we aren’t best friends, we still depend on each other. We embraced our differences. We did not stay on a path that forced both of us into the same activities. We used our childhoods to individually express ourselves, a trait most twins struggle expressing. Although some people are surprised we were not best friends as kids, and still aren’t best friends today, [My twin] and I know the effect we have had on each other. It’s the gift of learning to be independent. And for that reason, despite all the bickering, we always will share a bond that cannot be broken.