

Makeup

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(A young girl walks in to see another young girl standing in front of the mirror in the bathroom at school; the girl has obviously been crying. She's wiping the last of the makeup off her face with a damp paper towel.)

Oh I'm sorry...can I squeeze in and use the mirror? Thanks. *(Beat.)* I don't mean to...um, are you...why are you taking off your makeup? I don't mean to be all up in your business, but...did someone upset you or something? *(Beat.)* I remember when I was in elementary school, my Mom made me put on eyeliner and lipstick for school pictures. I was in the 5th grade. I can't believe I let my mom talk me into that...I told her the eyeliner would probably be too much, you know? But she was all "I bet your friends will all be wearing it...it makes your eyes pop and look soooo beautiful!" But like...is it weird that I didn't think anything was wrong with the way I looked without it? And guess what? When I got to school, my friends weren't even wearing any makeup! I wonder if their moms told them to wear makeup because everybody else would be wearing it. I wonder if their moms told them that, yes, they are beautiful, but makeup *enhances* your beauty. Probably not, because all of their moms were older than mine. If I'm so beautiful, why does my beauty need to be enhanced? Like, what does that even mean?? Then she asked me if I wanted to feel pretty. Is pretty even a feeling? It's just looks. And I think I look fine. I just...I just wanted to go out there, out in the world and be ME. Just me. And I really hate eyeliner...what's the point of it? Like you can't see that I have eyes without me tracing them with black? And you better hope it doesn't rain, or you don't have allergies, or you don't cry! Ugh! *(Remembers that the girl has been crying.)* Sorry, no offense. I mean, I'm not saying that people who wear makeup don't look good with it on. I'm not saying that at all. It's just - I know you don't know me because I'm a couple of years older than you, I think, but I just want to tell you that you're beautiful. Without any enhancement. You don't need anything extra. Do you believe that? I really hope you do. Because you don't have to *feel* pretty. You just have to feel good about yourself.



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