

Second Place, Prose Grades 10-12, ETTY LAST

A Darker Side

Mark was hanging out with his friends. He was having a great time. They were all sitting together on the couch and talking. The conversation went from telling jokes to talking about sports to athletes, to retired players, to dead players ~~and then to suicide.~~ ~~That night didn't go as expected.~~ Mark, Twain, Bobby and Flay were best friends. The group had grown up together and had become who they were together. They would spend hours playing video games and sports.

"Bobby, pass them chips," said Mark. He reached out with his eyes still glued to the screen and grabbed aimlessly for the bag. Once he got ahold of it, he pulled out a fist full of chips and pushed them into his mouth. The others watched as crumbs fell from his hands and onto the carpet. ~~Mark's face went white as he realized what he had done. He got the carpet dirty.~~ It wasn't a big deal but ~~Mark got scared, the others didn't know that he was scared or why.~~ They just thought nothing of it. The others forgot about what happened seconds later, ~~but the crumbs were added to the list of things Mark did that proved how stupid he was.~~ Mark was a worthless human being. He deserved nothing good and definitely ~~didn't~~ deserve to live.

The boys played sports outside on a sunny day. The skys were bright and blue. ~~The whole world was gray.~~ They enjoyed playing the games on the warm grass and rolling around on the soft ground. Mark ~~had to pull out thorns from his arms and legs, he had to wipe off the dirt and~~ put on a smile. The boys loved to play outside. They had the perfect life. ~~Mark wanted to die.~~ The sun was shining and the leaves were green. Life couldn't be better.