

The Girl Who Had It All and Then Lost Everything

"noticed" implies it had already been

happening but girl just realized

perhaps they're just teasing her

confirms they're not serious

teasing = learn to face judgment

ironic twist on traditional fairy tale ending

protagonist's foolish naiveté → fateful & inevitable doom

Once upon a time there lived a girl. She was a fairly normal girl; she wasn't bland or dull, but she related to her peers. During her elementary school years, she found herself to have a fair amount of friends that she played with. Friends were important so she could share her thoughts and have a non-judgmental circle of people to talk to. Things went on like this for quite a bit of time. However, during her high school years, she noticed her friends weren't as nice as they had acted before. "How are you in Geometry?" her friends would teasingly ask. This made the girl quite upset. All she wanted was for her friends to accept her again. Since her friends were in more advanced classes than her, she decided to pray to for a better brain. Over the next few years, her prayer seemed to come true! She signed up for all AAP classes and she passed all of them, with higher grades than her friends. "Better luck next time!" teasingly said the girl. After her senior year, the girl went to college. She was accepted into a highly prestigious and academically aggressive private college. Fortunately, due to the girl's prior prayer, she passed all of her classes and graduated with a 4.0 grade point average. However, her friends went to lesser schools and graduated with lesser grade point averages. To the girl, her friends meant nothing anymore. She left them behind and strived for a magnificent future in the real world.

At the end of it all, the girl died alone, with the exception of her pet cats. Nobody came to her funeral; she was never held in high esteem due to her reputation as a misanthropic cynic. However, her friends lived extraordinary lives with great jobs and loving families. Many came to their memorials, for they were fond of many. And so, while the girl's simple prayer was answered dutifully by whatever force listened; she lost her pleasant jovialness and, most of all, friendship.

Friendship = most important  
↓  
education = career/\$  
friends = happiness

Exact prayer led to exact answer → reputation Karma of the university  
↓  
"intellectual" & "smarter"  
↓  
lesser words  
↓  
lesser status

doesn't ask to be more intelligent → just wants good grades ultimately unfulfilled

Girl's school described w/ elevated diction compared to friends