

REAPROPIANT-NOS de les nostres vides

JUAN

The treasure of friendship

Back in high school, I used to be angry with myself and everyone else. In a way, I always knew I was gay, but I certainly did not know what being gay actually means. The only thing I knew for sure was that I was not normal. As I was not able to talk about relationships or love interests, I was not capable of making good friends either: I just could not feel comfortable around people, let alone with myself. I felt that I would never be friends with anybody and... of course... that no one would ever be interested in having me as a boyfriend.

Not even straight girls, who are usually a big support for boys like me, would make me feel better. Actually, their rejection made me feel I was too ugly to deserve any kind of love. I asked myself: "Why don't they like me if I have always been nicer to them than the other guys?"

After struggling for a long time, I finally found the right place and the right people. I joined COGAM, Madrid's LGBTIQ+ Association, and everything changed. I had just turned twenty. Suddenly, a bunch of cute guys were interested in me, both as a friend and as something else... Thanks to them, I felt attractive for the first time ever and, most importantly, I learned this one thing: even if you cannot be liked by everyone, you can for sure be liked by some if you are true to yourself.

On my very first day in COGAM's youth group, I met the first guy I ever fell in love with. He was also the one that would give me my first kiss. And, by the way, he broke my heart, but that is another story. Anyway, that is not the point. What really matters is that this "little me" was not happy because of feeling ugly, awkward and uninteresting. I basically felt like that because I was not being myself. Isn't it ironic?

I do not think I have run into the love of my life just yet, but ever since I came out as gay, I have made so many friends I cannot even count them: people of all ages, genders, nationalities and sexual orientations that have given me the strength to cope with this somehow cruel world. To me, they are the greatest of treasures.



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