

# Different Today

CARRIE (18) (with an eerie detachment)

I'm different today... Different than I was yesterday...Different than when I laid down last night.

Last night when I went to bed, I was scared. I was depressed. I saw my entire life like this tiny race car hurtling straight toward a big, concrete wall, and there was nothing I could possibly do to stop that terrible crash. I cried and prayed and cursed and cried again.

But I'm different now. Now that Brianna is gone...

I should be happy. This is what I wanted. It's what I hoped for, without saying it. But now I don't know what I feel. It's not happiness or relief...It's just...I don't know...different.

I wanted her gone so bad. I knew Jason couldn't handle it. It was too soon. But now that she's gone, there's this big emptiness... right here in my chest. It's dark. And it's cold. (a deep breath)

When I first found out about Brianna, I was pissed. I blamed Jason, without even telling him. She was just this...this thing that would screw up our lives. And there were so many demands and pressures on me already....what with college and marriage and Jason getting laid off last month...Getting laid off again...