



Tina and Karen both looked at Kyme, and then looked at each other. Kyme frowned and walked away. Karen felt very sorry, but Tina didn't have a clue about what was happening. Karen suddenly blurted out

*"I'm sorry Tina"*

*"Sorry about what?"*

*"Since you always hit me, I got really mad at you, so I started ignoring you completely!  
I'm sorry..."*

*"Oh. I never knew! How come you never told me that you didn't like it when I pushed at you. Didn't you know I was just kidding around!"*

*"I didn't want you to feel bad. You thought that we were very good friends. I just didn't want to tell you that we weren't."*

*"You mean we're not friends?"*

*"We are friends, but not best friends."*

With that, Tina gave Karen a hug, which Karen returned. They both realized that not being honest about their relationship was hurting Kyme, and neither of them wanted that.

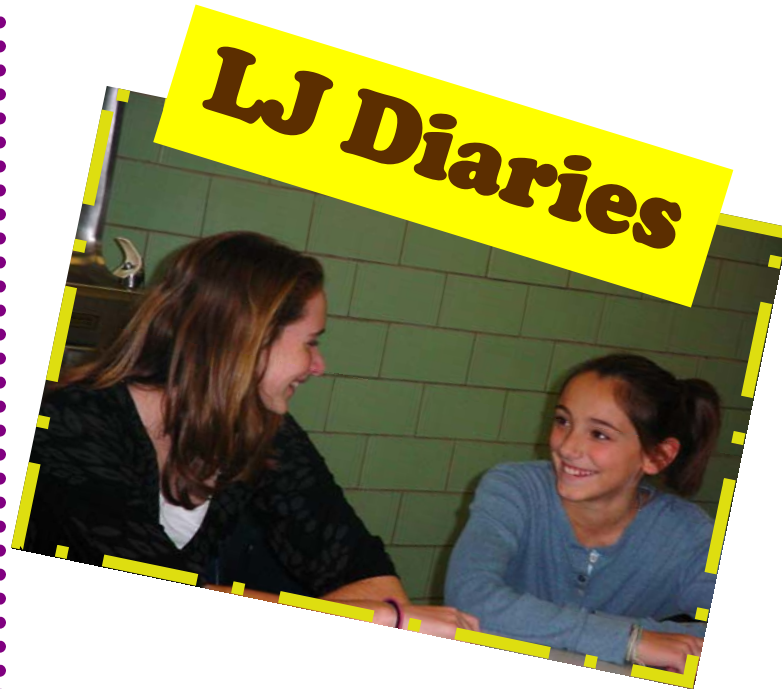
**Tina and Karen are still friends...not best friends, just friends.**

**Tina still likes to tell Karen her rather cheesy jokes, and Karen laughs at them. But she does keep her distance.**

**They are both happy about the deal that they made.**

**Since Tina and Karen are happy, Kyme is too. Kyme is probably the happiest one of all.**

***It's always good to know where you stand in a relationship.***



## *Sticks, Stones, and a Really Bad Joke*



*Produced by  
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**Multimedia Productions  
Luther Jackson Middle School**





Tina and Karen were good friends. Well...that's what Tina thought. One day they were sitting in the cafeteria, eating and talking. Tina just loved to talk. Karen just sat there. She didn't really listen to Tina, she just smiled and nodded. Tina suddenly started laughing,

**“So, the other day I heard this awesome joke!  
Wanna hear it?!”**

**“Sure!”**

**“Okay, why did the chicken cross the road?”**

**“Wh-”**

**“Whatever...to get to to the other side!”**

Suddenly, Tina hit Karen. Hard. Tina hit Karen all the time, not because she was mean, but because she didn't know it annoyed and hurt Karen. She usually could not control herself when she was exited or when she was laughing. Sadly, this wasn't all “harmless fun” like Tina thought. Karen was starting to get a few bruises on her back. She was starting to get really annoyed with Tina. All Karen said was

**“Ouch.”**

Karen decided to ignore Tina for a few days, just to see if she would stop being aggressive. Every so often, while she was walking in the hall, Karen would hear....

**“Karen! Hey! Kaaarennnn!”**



She told herself to ignore Tina. But Tina ran up behind her. Karen kept walking. Tina began to tell one of her corny jokes.

**“Hey. Karen. Have you heard this one?  
So there was this guy, and he walked  
into a restura-”**

Karen turned around and stalked off to English class with a smug look on her face.

Later, Karen saw Tina coming down the hall, so she looked for anyone and just started talking to him.

**“So. What's our English homework again?”**

**“Umm...you have to answer the questions  
on pages 73 and 74.”**

**“Thanks! Watcha doing for the holidays?”**

**“I'm going to my grandma's house.”**

**“Oh, wow, me too! I like turkey.**

**Do you like turkey?”**

All this time Tina was trying to get Karen's attention, but failing to do so.

While this is happening, Kyme (who just happened to be the friend of both Tina and Karen) was watching with a pained expression on his face. This is because he was the one who was in the most pain. He hated to see this friendship in trouble.

