

# A HIGHSPEED PHOTOGRAPH

Julie and Myriam have been best friends since Grade 5. They go to Wilson High School, where they're inseparable and always have lunch together at the cafeteria. They share a number of interests, including music, clothes, hobbies and, more recently, boys.

Julie and Myriam both like Maxime, whom Julie has just invited to go to the movies one evening that week. After the date, Julie takes a nude photograph of herself and sends it to Maxime. Because the photographs taken using this particular software disappear after a few seconds, Julie doesn't think there's any risk in sending it. Maxime, however, knows he can take a screen capture on his telephone to save the photograph, and he does this without responding to Julie's message. The following day, most of Maxime's friends have received the nude photograph of Julie. When she arrives at school, everyone stares at her and whispers behind her back. Julie has no idea what is going on.

During the day, Myriam explains to Julie that the photograph she sent to Maxime has been circulated to the entire class. Julie is devastated, but she says nothing to Maxime. Instead, she decides to keep going out with him and pretend nothing has happened. Myriam is jealous and writes a status on *Facebook* about her best friend.



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## Friends



### Myriam

I won't name names, but some **GIRLS** like to show **MORE** than others. **LOL XD.**

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### Lise

I think I know who you're talking about. Check out her muffin top?

THIS COMMENT WAS LIKED BY 10 OF MYRIAM'S FRIENDS.



### Myriam

I **KNOW**. Like go to the gym, why don't you?

THIS COMMENT WAS LIKED BY 5 PEOPLE.



### Tony

Who cares, she's cool. Leave her alone.



### Myriam

Whatever, **@TonyLewis**, you don't understand, in any case **@MariaReyes** certainly agrees.

MARIA REYES LIKED THIS COMMENT.



### Julie

At least I'm not a prude who hides behind her computer!

TONY LEWIS LIKED THIS COMMENT.



### Myriam

At least I'm not a **#!!##:(@!!** who sends **#SEXTS** to guys after the first date!!!!

THIS COMMENT WAS LIKED BY 70 PEOPLE.



**Julie**

Your problem is that you're afraid to go near boys!

TONY LEWIS LIKED THIS COMMENT.



**Yosanda**

Did you do the same thing for the last boy you went out with? Hey, @Stéphane Leclair? Or for the other 31 boys you've gone out with since September, and remember it's only October. Seriously, are you Miley Cyrus or what?

THIS COMMENT WAS LIKED BY 152 PEOPLE.



**Julie**

Pff. You're a loser. Shut up!

TONY LEWIS LIKED THIS COMMENT.



**Yosanda**

Right. I'm not a loser and I don't talk behind people's backs.

THIS COMMENT WAS LIKED BY 80 PEOPLE.



**Maxime**

Does this make me number 32?

MYRIAM LIKED THIS COMMENT.

The following day, Myriam, Julie and Maxime are called into the principal's office. After the meeting, Myriam receives a one-day suspension, as stipulated in the school rules, and Maxime receives a four-day suspension. As for Julie, the principal asks her to attend a series of meetings with one of the school's professional staff members. He also calls her parents and asks them to come to the school. After meeting with the principal, they confiscate Julie's cell phone and laptop, for an unspecified period.

### BE IN THE KNOW!

When young people send nude or partially nude photographs of themselves, this is known as "sexting." Sexting is defined as "sending or receiving sexually explicit photos or videos by telephone" (Hunduja and Patchin, 2010).

The federal government recently announced it may amend the *Criminal Code* to include the sharing of intimate photographs without the consent of the people shown in them.



- How do you think Julie feels?
- Who can Julie ask for help?
- What might Myriam's intentions have been?
- What are the potential legal consequences and social impact of what they did?
  - For Julie?
  - For Myriam?
  - For Maxime?
  - Do you think they were aware of these consequences?
- Why do you think someone would send a nude photograph of themselves over the Internet?
- What do you think of Tony's intervention? Is it constructive?
- In a situation such as this, there are many witnesses, including all the people who saw Julie's photograph on the Internet and read the nasty comments on *Facebook*. What can witnesses do to help avoid this type of situation? Share your ideas with other students in the class or on the "Be cyber cool" platform.