

The Cost of Peer Pressure

By

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1. Sun rays strike my eyelids
2. A new day has begun
3. How invisible will I be today?-
4. The shower injects life
5. Into my soleless body-
6. Wiping away some fog from the mirror
7. Who is this person?
8. Why do they look so unhappy?
9. Why must their face appear locked?
10. I let the fog cover the entire mirror again.-
11. Situated in the single rear seat
12. Of the bus I see clearly out the back
13. Clouds have now stolen the sun-
14. A pencil flings off my forehead
15. Laughter erupts and just like that
16. Everyone is back doing their own thing
17. I guess that's what I am to people
18. Semi important for a few seconds
19. Then seemingly forgotten for eternity-
20. The School Bell blisters the ear drums
21. The teachers do their fair share of yapping
22. The bullies hawk eye me at every chance
23. The girls laugh and point
24. And wouldn't you believe it?
25. *In what felt like the blink of an eye*
26. School was over the day-
27. My Mom picks me up
28. Her smile, almost believable
29. "How was your day Sweetie?"
30. Despite all the things I could say
31. "Fine" is that only word that wiggles
32. It's soft monotonous way out.

33. A graveyard of silence
34. Follows the rest of the way home-
35. My bed reaches out for me
36. I allow it to do so
37. Of course, I can't fall asleep yet
38. My real home, dreamland
39. Will have to wait a little longer-
40. *Ring ring ring*
41. A phone call? For me?
42. Probably a scammer
43. One of the closer types of people
44. That I have in my life
45. As they actually talk to me-
46. "Hey Its Rose, is this Harry?"
47. Rose is the most popular girl
48. In School so why oh why
49. Does she want to speak to me?-
50. Stuttering, I manage these words
51. "What ever joke this is,
52. I don't wanna be a part of it"
53. It is so quiet I hear the washing machine
54. Running all the way down in the basement
55. "I think you're cute and I want to go
56. With you to Tate O'Leary's party tonight"-
57. Could my dreams really be coming true?
58. Could I finally have a sense of belonging?
59. Could this be the key to my locked face?
60. Or was it yet another sick trick
61. To humor others for a few seconds?-
62. I felt too empty at that point
63. To care if it was just another prank so
64. I figured, why not just play along
65. "Sure" I say, to with that she replies
66. "Sweet, I'll pick you up around Eight"
67. I can't even say goodbye before she hangs up.-
68. Due to the fact I never go out

69. My parents had no complaints
70. When I mentioned I was "going out"
71. If anything, they were relieved for me-
72. I picked out my best pair of clothes
73. Watched the hands on the clock
74. *Tik-Tik-Tik-Tik*-
75. 7:55 PM finally comes around
76. My stomach feels displeased
77. Life was coming out of my body
78. I was starting to sweat
79. My heart beat like I had just ran a marathon
80. The unfamiliar sensations were magical
81. I had to pinch myself just to be sure
82. That this was not just another dream-
83. I was putting on more deodorant when I heard
84. A car beep twice outside the house
85. Rose had arrived, she actually came-
86. Her car smelled like dragon fruit
87. She looked completely flawless
88. Ocean Blue eyes met my own
89. Then she smiled at me
90. With glistening white teeth
91. If it were a fake one, then she would
92. Have no competition in Broadway-
93. Like The Creation Of Adam
94. She softly reached her hand out for mine
95. When ours connected with one another
96. A new feeling came about
97. Was this happiness?
98. Was this belonging?
99. My thoughts were interrupted as
100. We arrived at Tate's home-
101. I stepped out of the car
102. With a smile on my face
103. Not even the people's stares or
104. Whispers turned it upside down

105. I was finally freed from the lock-
106. This joy was short lived as
107. Rose and I were handed alcoholic beverages
108. My parents would kill me if they saw
109. What was in my hand
110. Was this what fitting in looked like?
111. Should I let my parents down?
112. The only ones who were by
113. My side from day one?
114. And confide into the pressures and
115. Be like everyone else here?-
116. "It's okay Harry, See?"
117. Rose said as she sipped
118. From her Red Solo Cup-
119. I finished the first drink
120. And before I knew it
121. Somebody else had offered me another
122. Less people were staring at me now
123. I finished the second drink
124. Even less eyes tracked me
125. I had to have more
126. By six cups, all eyes were off
127. Of me except Rose's-
128. "My parents want me home but
129. I feel so tired, Would
130. You please drive me home"
131. Rose said as she handed
132. Me the keys to her Ford Focus-
133. I felt like I could do anything
134. Even drive, despite the fact I hadn't Completed
135. My Behind The Wheel practice yet
136. I took ahold of the keys
137. She smiled at me again
138. Surely I made the right decision.-
139. The backroads seemed bendier
140. Than I remembered them to be earlier

141. The stars danced in the night sky
142. The moon swayed like a baby in a cradle
143. I was so lost in the dreamy trance that
144. I didn't hear her scream until the Deer
145. Was so close it felt as though I
146. Could reach out and pet its fur-
147. I cranked the steering wheel to the left
148. I felt the Deer hit the side of the car and
149. Suddenly I watched the world flip around and around
150. The car barreled into an open field
151. I watched as Rose and the car shrank
152. From my sight as my loose fit seat belt
153. Released my body like a cannonball
154. From the drivers window and into the field
155. Then there was darkness-
156. I awoke to the sound of sirens
157. I shot up and felt immense pain on one side
158. My left leg and shoulder were not where they should be
159. There was blood oozing down my forehead
160. My vision was blurry but I could still make out
161. The giant fire that engulfed the car in the distance
162. I tried to scream, but nothing
163. Would come out and so
164. I sat there frozen-
165. The firemen arrived first
166. Then the police and finally
167. The medical team
168. I watched Rose's lifeless body get
169. Pulled from the now extinguished car-
170. Thunder began to roar a few miles away
171. I laid down in the field
172. Closed my eyes and prepared
173. To let Thanatos take me-
174. A shower of rainfall made its way to me
175. Shortly after, two medics arms
176. Wrapped around me lifting me up from the ground

177. As I was then brought to an ambulance-
178. Why couldn't it have been me?
179. Why did she have to go so soon?
180. Why couldn't the rain have touched her?
181. Why did I give into peer pressure?
182. Numbness corroded my body and
183. Would continue to do so for years to come-
184. Let This be a lesson to all
185. That no one should ever feel left out and
186. Forced to fit in because
187. When that happens
188. Peer pressure will configure
189. Even when people don't mean
190. For it to, and the cost-
191. Will never-
192. Be worth it.