

Backstabbing

By: Shamil Fattakhov/Ian Reed
Place: Russia
Date: 1994
Topic: Backbiting and gossip
Message: *Backbiting and gossip are usually distorted truth and unjust, and are destructive to relationships. If you need to know the truth, go to the source itself.*
Characters: Sally, John, Tanya, Cameron
Setting: Living room

John is in the living room. Sally enters.

Sally: Hey Joe!

John: Hey Sally!

Sally: What's up? Guess what I've heard about Christina and Cameron? Cameron was dating this girl named Mary, and before her he was dating this girl named Linda!

John: Come on stop it! Hey, have a seat; let me tell you about my trip to Arizona!

Sally: **Who** did you go with?

John: Well, let's see, I went with Carl, me, Tanya and Jenny.

Sally: Tanya? Oh, guess what I heard about her? When she was in the ninth grade, she got caught stealing in the store. I heard that she stole some flowers and got caught.

John: No way! Tanya stealing? Come on Sally stop it! Don't make up garbage like that!

Sally: It's not garbage! You need to check your buddy too – Carl. I heard that he do drugs. And the girl he was with – I heard that he just **lied to** her and he said that he was going to marry her, and he didn't **follow through with that**.

John: Why are you telling me all this staff! It's just a bunch of garbage. What are they saying about me?

Sally: Well, you know... It is a lot of **stuff** going around...

John: Like what?

Sally: Well...let's just say... how should I put this...

John: Oh, now you can't even say it to my face!

Tanya and Cameron enter.

Tanya: Hey everybody! How is it going?

Sally: What's up Cameron!

John: Hey, what's this about Mary and about Linda? You were supposed to be dating them.

Cameron: Oh, that's an old rumour. Me and Linda live next door to each other, and I used to give her **rides** home after school. And then, Mary and I just danced at the party once. That's about it.

Sally: That's not what I heard!

John: And Tanya? Everybody's talking about lies, they're saying you are a thief!

Tanya: Oh, when my father died, my mother sent me to the store for flowers. And I was so **distraught** that I forgot to pay for it. But when I got to this door, the security guy stopped me. So I paid, but I was really crying and I was very upset...

John: And what about Jenny and Carl? And **that he is** supposedly on drugs?

Cameron: Carl? Never! No way! He would never do anything like that! You should not listen to these vicious rumours! It's just... **You can start believing them yourself!** Man, I don't want even to be a part of this! This is a really bad conversation! I'll see you guys later.

Cameron leaves.

John: Oh, now I get it! Sally you're just a liar!

DISCUSSION

Sally: No I'm not a liar! This is what I heard. How do you know these things are not true, anyway?

Tanya: Calm down, John! Get a grip. You know, all these things people say don't have to be true. **You need to impose a horse with the**

source. (☺) That's how lies and rumours get started. And people's feelings get hurt. So don't listen to everything everybody says to you. Backbiting can be like a deadly poison. Sometimes people call it gossip, and when they drink that tea, you can hurt a lot of people.

John: Just like if someone were to stab you in the back.

Tanya: By the way, about Carl and Jenny. They were planning to get married when they were eighteen, but by the time they got to be eighteen, these rumours started and everybody got upset, and they decided not to marry each other. Sometimes backbiting hurts. It's like deadly poison, it hurts, doesn't it, Sally?

Sally: I am sorry John, I'm sorry, Tanya! I didn't know the lies would break up Carl and Jenny.

John: That's all about in and out. Delete this line.