**Ditched**
by Emily Picha

(Silvia is in her mid teens and has yet to have a boyfriend. She is going through what many of us go through when our friends first start getting boyfriends and we are left in the dust.)

     Great. Carrie is at her boyfriend's house again. I called her last night and she said she could do something today. I swear, if she ditches me one more time I am not going to call her anymore to hang out.

     It's funny. As soon as she met Craig she abandoned all of us. She said that we were still really important to her, but she ditched us without even saying a word. That's spineless. I thought that we were really good friends because we hung out so much when we were both single. We talked about our lives in such detail, and it was so nice having someone to complain to. But look at me now, without anyone to talk to but her busy signals when she's talking to her oh so wonderful boyfriend of two months.

     So I guess I'm jealous. I guess that no one really needed to tell me that. But I'm not jealous for her, I just want someone to talk to. My life isn't easy right now. It 's very stressful with school and all, and it's hard meeting new people at school because everyone is already settled in their social groups. But not me. Sometimes I feel like I'm the only person who has problems with meeting people. I can be such a dedicated friend though, most people never figure that out. I care so much about people once they get to know me and they break my mask. Everyone wears masks at school. We wear them for protection. Carrie doesn't need that anymore because she found someone who would always be there to protect her. I hope someday she learns how to balance out friends and boyfriends. For now, I'll just have to wait.