

TINA

I wanted to go to a certain music festival in summer. But it would be difficult to get there and move around in the wheelchair. I knew that the bunch of people, which I wanted to go with, won't be able to help me all the time. And maybe, they even wouldn't want to. Another bunch of friends went to another festival and offered me to go with them. I wasn't much excited about going to this second festival. But it was clear to me that this bunch of people are willing to help me during the second festival, and that I even won't need that much assistance thanks to the festival's wheelchair accessibility measures. So, in the end, I at least went to the second festival. But it bothers me because that way, I didn't see the bands I wanted to.

It's difficult for me to find new friends, with whom I could share my interests, just like that. I need assistance in some situations, and that's why, sometimes, I have the feeling I should repay the others for their friendship. I have the feeling that I'm not any good for these people to be friends with me just like that. To be asking for help can create an imbalance in a relationship, and, especially, to demand help from someone because I need it right now when this was not arranged beforehand. In an instant, a friendship becomes the subject of exchange, plainly one thing for another, and I should be giving something in return. It's as if I couldn't have normal relationships because I am often relying on the help of others. And, to need help is not considered normal. My disease gets gradually worse which means that I need increasingly more assistance. That's the reason I can allow to be myself less and less in relationships with others.