

From Host Rachel Martin: *Morning Edition's* High School Reunion Series

Four stories airing August 15-18

It's been 25 years since I graduated from high school. And about a year ago I got a message on Facebook from someone I was friends with back then. She was going to try to put something together back in our hometown, Idaho Falls, Idaho, to mark the occasion and wanted to know if I would come. Several months later she got back in touch to say her life had gotten busier and she wasn't going to be able to do the legwork necessary to put together a reunion, so it was off.

I found myself strangely disappointed. There were so many conversations I wanted to have. But the more I thought about it the more I realized that the kinds of questions I had were not really the stuff of reunion cocktail hour small talk anyway. High school was complicated for me. I did well academically. I wasn't the most popular kid but I had enough friends. But especially in my junior and senior years I felt increasingly isolated and just wanted to get the hell out.

I wanted to understand how other people thought back on those years. How did they thrive or survive? What kind of stories did they tell about themselves? How did their place in high school shape the kind of adults they became?

So we've put together four conversations with people who were part of my high school experience. And yes, this is personal and particular but at the same time, they reveal something universal about those years and the kind of isolation so many people feel.

In the end I hope these are conversations that you can connect with in some way. Maybe they remind you of who you were back then. Maybe they spark a memory of someone you had forgotten, someone you might feel compelled to reach out to now. Or maybe they just remind you of all that has changed in your own life.

Thanks for listening.

Rachel