

No Surprises  
A Play in Two Acts  
by EMMA WORTHGE

Emma Worthge  
emmaworthge@gmail.com

## Cast of Characters

DARIN: 21, Computer Science Major, wannabe teacher's pet

MAE: 20, Business Major, loves attention

LYDIA: 20, Nursing Major, second in command of her own life

AUDREY: 19, Film Major, soft talker

FORD: 21, student athlete, SAE golden boy

FIREMAN #1: 40s, burly

FIREMAN #2: 40s, thin

ACT IScene 1

LIGHTS UP ON: The second floor of the library. A clock is ticking loudly on the wall, then rings four times. It is 4pm. There is a door to the lower floor on SR and to the upper staircase on SL. In the middle of stage sits three tables while a comfy chair sits on SL, near the staircase door. Near the door on SR, the librarian help desk with a "GOT QUESTIONS? ASK ME!" sign sits. There are large cases of books behind the furniture. The scene is plain, with faded motivational posters hung lazily on the walls. A bucket full of water, from the dripping ceiling, sits on a cart near the help desk, along with stacks of returned books. An ancient pay phone sits on the wall next to the staircase. There is dust on every surface.

AT RISE: AUDREY sits at the SR table, taking notes from a large leather book. She is half-mindedly and very loudly munching on carrots. At the SL table sits MAE & LYDIA, who are whisper gossiping about people they know. They have identical drinks on the table, without a single book or laptop open. DARIN is stationed on a bar stool behind the help desk, picking at his fingernails. This pattern continues for a few minutes, until MAE & LYDIA laugh loudly.

DARIN  
Shhh!

MAE  
Whatever...

LYDIA  
Just ignore him. So, what did you do?

MAE  
I left! It was crazy, I've never had someone try to steal my underwear before.

LYDIA  
That is so gross.

MAE  
Yeah. I mean...I steal something from every person I sleep with, so I get it a *little* bit. But it's always small, like a pen or a pack of gum.

LYDIA  
Totally.

MAE

The worst part is, he wasn't even slick about it. I watched him take my underwear off the ground and put it in his drawer.

LYDIA

He didn't try to hide it at all?

MAE

No. After I left I got a weird DM too, it said "I'm watching you" with the big eyes emoji. It's some rando account, so I figured it was just him trying to scare me into coming back inside.

LYDIA

That's so creepy, it makes me never want to sleep with a man ever again.

MAE

He's been sending me those cute little stalker messages everyday.

*LYDIA glares at MAE.*

MAE (CONT'D)

Whatever...I am totally going to his house after this. He might be really weird, but he is pretty hot.

LYDIA

I can't stand you.

*The girls laugh, talking quietly. Attention shifts to AUDREY, whose pen runs out. FORD walks in from downstairs, sitting in the comfy chair.*

AUDREY

(to self)

Crap.

*AUDREY searches in her backpack, then walks to DARIN at the help desk. He ignores her at first, playing on his phone, she rings the desk bell.*

DARIN

(covering ears)

Ow.

AUDREY

Do you have another pen?

DARIN

We're not allowed to give school supplies to students. Sorry.

AUDREY

I see one sitting on your desk, can I just borrow it?

*DARIN slides the pen off the desk into his hand, putting it in the drawer beneath him.*

DARIN

Sorry, I don't know what you're talking about.

*DARIN taps on his phone as AUDREY walks to her seat, putting her face in her hands. After a few moments, FORD walks up behind her.*

FORD

Hey!

AUDREY

(jumping in her seat)

Ah!

FORD

Sorry...I didn't mean to scare you. I overheard, just wanted to offer you a pen. Hope you don't mind it's a different color.

AUDREY

Oh, thank you! I'm sorry, I didn't want to make it a big deal.

FORD

No worries, thought I'd help out.

AUDREY

I'm stressed, I have a test tomorrow...You didn't need to know that. Sorry.

FORD

The Media in Society test?

AUDREY

That's the one.

FORD

I think we have that together. You always sit in the back corner.

AUDREY

Yeah, I guess I do. Obviously, I have a lot of studying to do.

FORD

No worries. I'll leave you to it.

*FORD walks to his seat.*

AUDREY

(shouting)

Thank you again!

DARIN

Shhh!

*AUDREY and DARIN exchange glares. Attention stays on DARIN, who gets a call.*

DARIN

(on the phone)

Hello? Hey Mary. Rory called out? With what this time. Mono? Again? Either she's going to die or-- You're right, sorry. You want me to stay later? Fine, I guess I have nothing better to do. Yes, I know that's why I'm your favorite. Bye.

*Attention shifts to MAE & LYDIA.*

MAE

Anyway, I should head out soon. I need to eat something before I go over to Grant's, so I don't carbo-crash like last time.

LYDIA

Did you finish your essay? It's due tomorrow and you didn't even open your book.

MAE

Don't pin this on me! You didn't open it either.

LYDIA

I thought you were trying to get your GPA up this semester.

MAE

I'll be fine, it's a business paper. I'll use buzzwords like 'synergy' and 'organizational mindset', then they basically have to give me an A.

LYDIA

Fine, just text me when you're done with Garrett or whoever he is.

MAE

Grant, and I will. Love you.

LYDIA

Love you too.

*MAE & LYDIA share an air kiss as MAE collects her things, walking downstairs. A loud BANG is heard outside.*

MAE

(stopping)  
What was that?

DARIN

Probably some frat bros throwing a party again.

AUDREY

It's Wednesday.

MAE

And? What's wrong with that?

AUDREY

Nothing...I guess.

*Two more loud BANGS are heard.*

FORD

It must be some dudes setting off fireworks. We do that all the time at SAE.

LYDIA

You're a brother?

FORD

You know it, when I'm not playing basketball.

*FORD takes off his jacket to reveal an SAE hoodie. MAE walks back to the desk.*

MAE

A brother and a basketball player? Why don't I know you?

FORD

I transferred in last semester.

LYDIA

Good to know.

MAE

Maybe I'll stay for a little longer. Could be dangerous out there, we don't know.

LYDIA

Could also be a good time to write your biz-law paper.

FORD

Business law? I took that at my old school, I could try to help out a little bit.

MAE

I would love that.

FORD

So the first thing you need to understand is synergy--

*MAE and FORD talk quietly to each other as LYDIA opens up a Nursing Textbook. Attention shifts to AUDREY.*

AUDREY

(to self)

Cinema Verite...Cinema Verite is documentary filmmaking to show truth behind reality.

*AUDREY's pen runs out.*

AUDREY (CONT'D)

You're kidding me.

*AUDREY bangs the pen against the table. No ink.*

DARIN

Shh! This is a library, could you try to be considerate of others?

*They exchange glares again. AUDREY walks over to MAE and FORD, who are loudly conversing.*

AUDREY

I'm really sorry, I think I used all the ink in your pen.

FORD

No worries, I got plenty of them.



FORD (CONT'D)

Oh... This is...

AUDREY

Audrey.

FORD

Right. We have class together. And this is--

MAE

Mae Stanley. Sigma Pi Sweetheart.

FORD

No way, I didn't know that.

MAE

Yeah it's kind of crazy. I didn't even run, they just voted for me.

FORD

Wow. Pretty sweet, right Audrey?

AUDREY

Oh, yeah. I'm sorry I don't really know what that means.

MAE

Well it's fine, you were just about to leave, right? You said that.

AUDREY

Oh well I don't know--

MAE

I could have sworn. Well, we really should be getting back to this biz-law paper.

AUDREY

Got it, well thanks...

FORD

Ford. Ford Walsh.

AUDREY

Thanks, Ford.

FORD

Of course. Anytime.

MAE

Bye Aubrey!

*AUDREY walks to her seat. Water drops heard.*

FORD  
I'm gonna head to the bathroom, I'll be right back.

MAE  
Sounds good, don't keep me waiting.

FORD  
I won't, I promise.

*FORD walks to DARIN.*

FORD (CONT'D)  
Sorry, I'm new here. Where's the bathroom?

DARIN  
On the third floor, take those stairs up.

FORD  
Thanks dude.

*DARIN mouths "dude" to himself as FORD walks off SL. MAE takes the book out of LYDIA's hands.*

LYDIA  
Some of us like to actually read our textbooks.

MAE  
Whatever. Ford is totally hot.

LYDIA  
I guess, if you're into that.

MAE  
Tall, tan, basketball player in a frat? Yeah, because that's not everyone's type.

LYDIA  
He's cute. You're right. So what.

MAE  
Forget Garrett or whatever his name is, Ford is next.

LYDIA  
You make it sound like some conquest.

MAE  
I'm gonna make him take me to formal. Our photos would look so good.

LYDIA

Your photos always look good.

MAE

You're right, but they could look even better. Like get on the sorority instagram level better.

LYDIA

Remember that time they posted a group photo and cropped you out? That was so funny.

MAE

We don't talk about that. I almost burnt the house down.

*LYDIA snickers, catching herself.*

MAE (CONT'D)

But...with the best photographer ever on my side, I'm gonna be the new campus 'it-girl'. Even better than that girl Emily who has like a million followers.

LYDIA

I love her vlogs though. I thought I saw myself in one once but it was just some other girl wearing a black puffer.

MAE

Not the point.

*MAE pulls a compact mirror and powder out of her bag.*

MAE (CONT'D)

I just need to impress Ford and everything will go to plan.

*FORD walks on stage. He stops by AUDREY's desk.*

FORD

You're right, you study really hard.

AUDREY

(jumping in seat)

Ah!

FORD

I've got to stop scaring you.

AUDREY

Sorry, I get pretty zoned in.

FORD  
What are you listening to?

AUDREY  
What?

FORD  
In your headphones? Unless they're just for show.

AUDREY  
Oh, no. It's a little embarrassing...I was listening  
"April Come She Will" by Simon & Garfunkel. It's dad  
music.

FORD  
I've never heard of them, but sounds cool. I'll check  
them out.

AUDREY  
You haven't heard--It doesn't matter, you really  
don't have to.

FORD  
Why not? I could use some of that focus you were  
talking about.

*FORD walks over to MAE and LYDIA.*

FORD (CONT'D)  
What'd I miss?

LYDIA  
Well actually--

MAE  
Nothing! We were just trying to figure out how best  
to use the word 'innovative'.

FORD  
That should be an easy one, usually I use it--

*Another loud BANG can be heard outside, closer.*

DARIN  
There it is again. I should call Campus Safety.

MAE  
Don't do that, they're just having a little fun.

AUDREY  
Disruptive fun.

MAE  
What was that?

AUDREY  
Nothing.

FORD  
If they're really bothering you, call them.

MAE  
Well...I guess you're right.

*LYDIA glares at MAE.*

DARIN  
I'll just send a *kindly* worded email to--

*A loud ALERT goes off on all of their phones.  
Everyone looks.*

LYDIA  
A RAVE alert?

AUDREY  
(reading)  
Possible gun sighting on campus. Lockdown.

MAE  
What?

LYDIA  
I think those sounds we heard were...gunshots.

MAE  
No, no no no. This can't be happening.

DARIN  
It's happening.

MAE  
Ford? Is this some sort of frat prank or something?

FORD  
I don't think so?

DARIN  
We're locking down. Now.

*DARIN pulls a set of keys out of his desk,  
running to lock both staircase doors. Beat.  
Water drips heard.*

AUDREY

What did you just do?

DARIN

It's standard procedure in the Library Handbook. When I did the training it said "In case of an active shooter, lock staircase doors and hide."

LYDIA

So you locked us all in here?

DARIN

Just until we get the "All Clear" from Campus Safety. These events usually only last 20, 30 minutes max.

MAE

(hyperventilating)

Oh my god.

DARIN

So we should probably all hide.

*They all quickly crouch under the desks. AUDREY & LYDIA by themselves, DARIN joins FORD and MAE. Beat.*

FORD

Look, I know that this is an emergency. But could you give us a little space?

DARIN

Oh, sorry.

*DARIN moves to the other side of the desk.*

FORD

Even more.

*Darin gives him a glare, moving to the empty desk next to AUDREY.*

LYDIA

I have to pee. I should have peed before. My mom always told me to pee before big events.

AUDREY

It's not like you really could have planned this.

LYDIA

You're right. But now I'm gonna die having pissed my pants.

AUDREY

No one is going to die, we don't even know where the guy is--

*A closer BANG is heard outside.*

MAE

Oh my god, we're going to die.

FORD

Like Audrey said, we'll be fine. We just need to calm down a little bit.

MAE

You're right, you're right. I know it sounds dorky, but I'm going to sing a little song to soothe myself.

*MAE sings "This Little Light of Mine" to herself, terribly. AUDREY and LYDIA chuckle.*

MAE (CONT'D)

Don't laugh! My mom sang that to me as a baby.

LYDIA & AUDREY

(in unison)

Sorry.

LYDIA

Crap, laughing made me really have to pee.

*LYDIA gets up from underneath her desk.*

AUDREY

What are you doing?

LYDIA

If I don't get up right now I'm going to pee under that desk.

DARIN

Lydia's right, we need to establish a pee corner.

MAE

That's disgusting.

LYDIA

I am not peeing on a library carpet. Can't you just give me the keys and I can run up to the bathroom?

DARIN

No can do. We do not open the door until I get a call

from Campus Safety.

LYDIA  
I will pee on you.

DARIN  
That's a risk I'm willing to take.

LYDIA  
Ew.

MAE  
Freak.

*AUDREY chuckles. DARIN gets up and moves the library help desk.*

DARIN  
Here. The desk will cover you, no one will look.

AUDREY  
If you really have to go, I'll make sure he doesn't look.

DARIN  
Like I would want to.

AUDREY  
I'm not so sure about that.

*DARIN goes back to underneath his desk.*

LYDIA  
Mae, can you come with me to the pee corner?

FORD  
I think she's a little busy.

LYDIA  
Really? Fine. Whatever your name is, you can be my look out.

AUDREY  
Audrey. My name is Audrey.

LYDIA  
Lydia. God, this is so embarrassing.

*LYDIA and AUDREY walk to the corner. LYDIA crouches behind, peeing. AUDREY and DARIN glare at each other the whole time.*



LYDIA (CONT'D)

There's no toilet paper. I'm just gonna have to use my underwear.

AUDREY

Coast is clear.

*AUDREY motions "I'm watching you" to DARIN.*

LYDIA

I guess I'll survive crouching under a desk without them.

*LYDIA throws her underwear in a garbage can by the desk. DARIN types on his phone.*

MAE

If we even survive.

FORD

Stop saying that. I have something that might help. My therapist says that when you're freaking out, you should look to a moment in the future.

MAE

What?

FORD

Future you will look back at this moment and realize that being scared is a natural reaction. We'll be okay.

AUDREY

I think future me is saying to 'get out from under the desk or you'll break your back'.

DARIN

It's been a few minutes and we've heard nothing.

AUDREY

I guess we can get up.

LYDIA

Well, I feel much better now.

MAE

I'm sure you do.

*They get up, sitting on top of their desks.*

FORD

What do we do now?

AUDREY

I guess we could continue studying?

LYDIA

No way. I'm not going to spend my last possible moments studying for a o-chem exam.

MAE

I think I'm starting to feel better.

FORD

That's great!

MAE

You helped so much, if we get out of here alive I'm going to *have to* take you out for coffee.

FORD

It's a date!

*AUDREY and DARIN sit in their respective seats.*

MAE

I love a man who's in therapy, isn't like so introspective and hot Lydia?

LYDIA

Yeah, I guess.

FORD

Thanks. I started going a while ago, after my brother passed. It was a lot of help.

MAE

I could so use that.

AUDREY

(to self)

Yeah, you could.

*LYDIA chuckles softly.*

MAE

I guess I should tell my mom that I'm in lockdown.

FORD

We should probably tell all of our parents. And turn our ringers on, in case Campus Safety calls.

DARIN

Good idea for once.

*They take out their phones.*

MAE

Oh my god.

LYDIA

What's wrong?

MAE

I didn't see it before, I got another stalker message.

FORD

What?

MAE

I was telling Lydia earlier, I've been getting these weird messages from a guy I was hooking up with.

AUDREY

That's not good. Have you thought of not hooking up with him anymore?

LYDIA

That's what I was telling her.

MAE

They were harmless, but this one is really weird.

FORD

What is it?

*Everyone but DARIN groups around MAE's phone. While no one is looking, DARIN takes LYDIA's underwear out of the trash and puts it in the help desk drawer.*

MAE

(reading)

'Hope you're safe, that sweater looks great on you.'

AUDREY

I guess that's not too bad.

MAE

But I haven't seen him yet today and this is a brand new sweater.

LYDIA

That's super creepy.

FORD

Maybe it isn't him then?

MAE

Then who could it be?

LYDIA

Some other weirdo on campus who's in love with you.  
There's tons of them.

MAE

I guess. That put a really bad taste in my mouth.

FORD

I have some gum if you'd like.

MAE

I would love some.

*FORD gets the gum out of his backpack, giving it  
to MAE. LYDIA and AUDREY walk to their desks.*

LYDIA

Oh my god, there's so many videos of people in  
lockdown on the campus snap story.

AUDREY

Is anyone hurt?

MAE

I don't think they'd really post that on there.

LYDIA

You're right, but everyone is super scared.

FORD

I'm getting a million messages from the frat group  
chat.

DARIN

Maybe we should just put our phones away and stop  
freaking ourselves out. Read a book for once, there's  
a ton in here.

*A loud BANG is heard outside. Water drips heard.*

LYDIA

I swear they're getting closer.

AUDREY

I think you're right.

FORD

We don't know that for sure, the sound could be bouncing off the walls or something.

DARIN

That's not how that works.

FORD

Doesn't matter, we just need to sit tight and not freak out.

*A door opens downstairs, then loud footsteps.*

MAE

Did you just hear that?

AUDREY

I think someone just walked into the library.

*DARIN motions "Shh!" to the group, they all slowly cower beneath their desks. DARIN moves to the SR door.*

DARIN

(whispering)  
Someone's coming up the stairs.

*The sound of running footsteps can be heard.*

DARIN (CONT'D)

No one make a sound.

*DARIN stands by the SR door. The footsteps stop in front of the door. Labored breathing is heard.*

MAN (O.S.)

Hey! Let me in!

*LYDIA moves, causing a squeaking noise. DARIN motions "Shh!" again.*

MAN (O.S.)

Is anyone in there? I was in the basement of the business school and didn't get the alert. Please, let me in.

AUDREY

(whispering)  
Maybe we should let him in?

MAE

(whispering)  
Are you crazy? What if he has a gun?

LYDIA

(whispering)  
Do you think he'd try to trick us?

MAE

(whispering)  
If he is trying to kill us, yes!

DARIN

(whispering)  
Everyone shut up! We can't let him know we're in here.

MAN (O.S.)

I can hear you in there! Please!

*The MAN jiggles the door handle as DARIN grabs the door handle and pulls it shut. A phone rings.*

MAE

Shit!

*MAE cries. The MAN pounds on the door.*

MAN (O.S.)

I can hear you in there assholes!

DARIN

(whisper yelling)  
Everyone! Give me your phones now.

*DARIN collects the phones, throwing them in the bucket of water. The phone stops ringing.*

MAN (O.S.)

Fine! Fuck you whoever's in there!

*Rapid footsteps are heard. The MAN has left. Beat.*

DARIN

I think we're safe.

*They emerge from under the desks.*

MAE

Oh my god, I really thought that was the end.

FORD

It's okay, we're safe now.

*MAE and FORD hug.*

LYDIA

Safe? Derek drowned all our phones, now we can't contact anyone.

DARIN

My name is Darin, it's literally on my name tag.

LYDIA

Whatever.

DARIN

I saved us. I didn't have time to tell which phone was ringing, thought it was better to dump them all.

FORD

It's annoying, but he is right. He probably just saved us.

DARIN

Thank you.

*DARIN sits down at the help desk. AUDREY pulls the phones out of the bucket, trying to turn them on.*

AUDREY

Maybe they're not all dead? They weren't in there for that long.

LYDIA

Really?

AUDREY

Actually no, they're toast.

LYDIA

Thanks Devin.

DARIN

It's Darin!

*AUDREY sits at her desk. Beat. Water drops heard.*

AUDREY

What if he wasn't the shooter?

FORD

What do you mean?

AUDREY

What if we just sent that guy to be killed?

MAE

That's not our fault.

AUDREY

We didn't let him in.

DARIN

One of the main rules of active shooter training: never let anyone into the room after it's locked. By the way, if we don't want that to happen again, we need to barricade the doors.

MAE

With what?

DARIN

Tables, chairs, anything heavy we can find. Audrey and Ford, use your desk and chair to block the downstairs door. Lydia and Mae, use the empty desk to block the upstairs door. Go.

*They move their respective tables. DARIN sits down at the help desk.*

MAE

What are you doing?

DARIN

Supervising.

AUDREY

Why don't we use the help desk to block the door? It weights a lot more.

*MAE and LYDIA finish barricading their door. AUDREY tries to move the help desk, DARIN stops her, putting his hand on hers. She yanks it away.*



DARIN

The help desk stays here.

AUDREY

Why?

DARIN

To hide the...pee corner. Don't want people looking, right?

MAE

I hope no one has to use it again.

AUDREY

Fine.

*AUDREY and FORD move the desk in place, high-fiving after. Only MAE & LYDIA's desk is left, the other space is empty. Everyone (but DARIN) stands in the empty space.*

LYDIA

I still feel bad for him, even if we thought he was trying to kill us.

MAE

I don't, it's his own fault if he couldn't find a place to hide.

AUDREY

(to self)

You say that because you didn't have to find one.

MAE

Do you have something you want to share?

AUDREY

No.

MAE

That's what I thought.

AUDREY

Well--Well actually we didn't have to find a place to hide, we just happened to be here! You wouldn't be saying that if you were in his shoes.

MAE

Maybe! But we're not, are we? We're all stuck here together until someone comes to rescue us.

AUDREY

(quietly)  
Doesn't mean we all have to be bitchy about it.

MAE

You did not just say that.

LYDIA

Uh-oh.

*MAE walks angrily towards AUDREY with LYDIA attempting to stop her. FORD grabs MAE.*

DARIN

Now this is some entertainment. Who needs phones now?

FORD

(to DARIN)  
Shut up.

LYDIA

Audrey, you should probably walk away.

AUDREY

To where? We're trapped here, she said it.

FORD

Let's calm down.

MAE

Calm down? A man with a gun tried to break down our door and I have to calm down?

FORD

We *all* need to calm down.

*FORD places MAE at the remaining desk.*

FORD (CONT'D)

I think we should do a therapy exercise.

DARIN

Not this crap again.

FORD

Hey! It works. Therapy tools can be very helpful in high stress scenarios, like right now.

DARIN

I never thought frat dudes could be so contemplative.

FORD

And I never thought nerds could be such a pain in my ass. Everyone, sit down.

*They all sit on the carpet.*

FORD

Okay, we're all going go around and name five things we're all thankful for.

AUDREY

I don't want to do this right now.

LYDIA

Me either. I'm not in a very thankful mood.

DARIN

I'm with them.

FORD

We all need to be reminded of the things we appreciate, it'll help ground us.

LYDIA

This isn't thanksgiving.

FORD

No, but I guarantee you can think of at least a couple things you appreciate about your life.

LYDIA

Right before we're about to lose ours.

FORD

That is the kind of negative talk that we don't need right now.

MAE

C'mon everyone, I think this sounds like a great idea.

LYDIA

Really?

*MAE nudges LYDIA.*

MAE

Doesn't it? We're all stuck here, might as well learn a little bit about each other.

LYDIA & AUDREY  
Fine.

FORD  
Now everyone, think!

*Beat. Water drops heard.*

FORD (CONT'D)  
Does anyone want to go first? If not, I can go.

*Silence.*

FORD (CONT'D)  
Okay. Five things I'm thankful for: my parents, my frat, my therapist Shondra, my brother, and the chance to transfer to a new school.

DARIN  
Bet you're not so happy about that one right now.

FORD  
If you're going to be a jackass, at least you can go next.

DARIN  
Fine. I'm thankful for my DnD group, the few friends that I have here, my job at the library, my Mom, and the tv show Degrassi.

FORD  
See how easy it is?

LYDIA  
(chuckling)  
You're kidding me, right?

DARIN  
I don't get what's so funny about that.

MAE  
You love Degrassi? Wasn't Drake on that when we was like really young?

DARIN  
Yes he was, actually. A lot of famous actors came from Degrassi.

AUDREY  
That's hilarious.

DARIN

What is wrong with loving Degrassi? It is a poignant and touching Canadian teen soap opera about the trials and tribulations of growing up in a difficult transition period between being a tween and young adult during the rise of social media. Not to mention it accurately shows depictions of abuse, eating disorders, addiction, mental illness, the list goes on. I'm a diehard Degrassi-head.

FORD

Sorry.

AUDREY

I didn't think anyone liked that show that much.

DARIN

Well none of you know that much about me. There's a lot of us out there.

MAE

Yeah okay, Devon.

DARIN

My name is Darin! I wear a goddamn name tag.

LYDIA

Sorry...

DARIN

Do any of you even remember me?

FORD

From what?

DARIN

We've all had classes together. I've introduced myself to each of you about a hundred times.

AUDREY

I've only ever seen you in the library.

DARIN

You are all the most inconsiderate people I have ever met.

MAE

While *Darin* is having a hissy-fit or whatever, I will go.

*DARIN brings his knees to his chest, turning*

*away from the group.*

MAE (CONT'D)

I am thankful for my sorority and how much they love me, I am thankful for Lydia, my best friend. I am thankful for...my parents, who love me the most, since I'm their only child. I'm thankful for spray tans & facials for keeping me hot. Oh, and my personal trainer Alfred, for also keeping me hot. That's it.

AUDREY

Wow. Deep.

MAE

Why don't you go then.

*AUDREY balls up. Silence.*

MAE

Now you don't want to talk. That checks out.

FORD

Mae...

MAE

Sorry, that was just my observation. She's been feeling the need to comment on everything I do, thought I would return the favor.

AUDREY

I--I need to leave.

MAE

Where are you gonna go?

*AUDREY sits down on the other side of the room, turned away from the group. MAE nudges LYDIA.*

LYDIA

I guess I could go.

FORD

Go ahead.

LYDIA

I am thankful for Mae, my best friend. For my major, which will let me hopefully become a nurse one day. For terrible parents, who helped me realize that you don't need to settle for the bad things in life. For nature or whatever, and living, hopefully we can

continue with that one.

*Beat. Water drops heard.*

FORD

Wow.

MAE

That was sad.

FORD

Maybe we can be done with the exercise.

DARIN

I agree.

*DARIN pulls his phone out of his pocket.*

LYDIA

Wait, you still have your phone?

DARIN

Yes. It's been in my pocket the whole time.

LYDIA

You didn't drown it with the others?

DARIN

No, it wasn't ringing.

LYDIA

That's not fair!

DARIN

What's not fair?

MAE

You wreck all our phones but you get to keep yours?

DARIN

Mine's too valuable to lose.

*AUDREY stands, facing the group.*

AUDREY

Why?

DARIN

Reasons. What if we need to call someone?

FORD

There's the pay phone.

MAE

What are you hiding on there?

LYDIA

I bet it's weird porn he doesn't want anyone to see.

DARIN

Yes, because people keep porn downloaded on their phones.

MAE

You didn't deny it.

DARIN

I'm not looking at anything weird, I just thought one of us should have our phones in case of emergency.

AUDREY

Let us use it then. We should check in and see if anyone's hurt.

*AUDREY and MAE stand over DARIN.*

DARIN

No way. You are not touching my phone.

AUDREY

Why not? You hiding something worse?

MAE

You talking to the shooter or something?

DARIN

That's insane, you really think I'm 'in on this?'

MAE

Maybe. Give us your phone.

DARIN

No.

FORD

I'm with them on this. If you're not hiding anything, you'll let us see it.

DARIN

That's an insane logic jump.



LYDIA

I agree with them.

*FORD and LYDIA stand over DARIN. The group is looking down at him on the floor.*

DARIN

You're all insane. I don't have to take this.

MAE

You're the one that locked us in here.

DARIN

I have to go pee so if you'll excuse me, I'm going to use the corner.

*DARIN stands, putting his phone in his back pocket. He walks to the pee corner, unbuttoning his pants.*

MAE

Fine.

*They all stare at DARIN, then MAE motions to FORD. He reluctantly agrees, motioning "Shh!" behind him. He tiptoes to DARIN, taking the phone from his back pocket.*

DARIN

Hey!

FORD

Okay, now let's see.

AUDREY

We can't get in without a password.

MAE

Tell us.

DARIN

No.

LYDIA

When did the first Degrassi episode come out?

DARIN

October 14, 2001. If you're counting the "New Generation" as the first episode.

LYDIA

Try 10-14-01

DARIN

Dammit! I can't resist Degrassi trivia.

FORD

We're in.

DARIN

This is a criminal invasion of privacy! Give that back.

*DARIN tries to steal his phone back, but is weak compared to FORD. DARIN hits FORD on the back as he goes through the phone.*

FORD

Ow, I guess. Okay, Instagram. Let's see if anyone posted...Oh no.

LYDIA

What?

AUDREY

What happened?

FORD

No it's not...Mae, you have to come look at this.

DARIN

No, no!

MAE

What?...Oh my god.

AUDREY

What is going on?

MAE

You've been sending me the stalker messages?

LYDIA & AUDREY

(in unison)

What?

MAE

It's him. Darin sent them. It's his account, I can see them all right here.

LYDIA  
Show me.

*LYDIA grabs the phone out of FORD's hands.*

LYDIA (CONT'D)  
You're right.

AUDREY  
Darin, you are fucked.

DARIN  
You cannot prove that I sent any of those!

MAE  
Oh really? Last month you sent the first "I'm watching you" text, I even flirted back because I thought you were Grant.

LYDIA  
Ew, Mae.

MAE  
I didn't know! Here, two days after that you sent, "You looked beautiful walking on Park Ave today."

FORD  
That's creepy.

MAE  
And just last week you said, "Your ass is legendary, I love watching it bounce up the stairs."

AUDREY  
Disgusting.

DARIN  
I did not say it like that! My message was way better, you misquoted my words!

FORD  
So they are your words.

DARIN  
Well, no...That's not what I meant exactly--

MAE  
Lydia, get 911 on speed dial, because I'm going to seriously make him regret ever texting me.

LYDIA

I'm pretty sure they're already on their way, with the shooting and all.

MAE

It was for dramatic effect.

*MAE lunges after DARIN, who runs away as she chases him around the library. The groups gets out of her way.*

MAE (CONT'D)

Bet you wish you didn't lock the doors now!

*As MAE is about to catch up to him, FORD steps in and grabs her.*

MAE (CONT'D)

Just let me hit him!

FORD

We all know he deserves it, but I think it's best I stop you here.

*DARIN collapses in front of the help desk, catching his breath. MAE stops fighting. Beat.*

FORD

Maybe we should use some of that calm we worked on earlier.

LYDIA

Calm? We just found out Mr.Degrassi has been stalking my best friend for weeks!

DARIN

(catching breath)  
I wasn't stalking her!

AUDREY

What do you mean?

DARIN

I just see you everywhere! We go to small school, it's kind of hard to avoid people.

LYDIA

Doesn't mean you can send her those creepy messages.

DARIN

Mae, I've had the biggest crush on you since we met

during Freshman Orientation. I'm sure you don't even remember me.

MAE

I don't.

DARIN

Exactly. Did you know we've also had at least one class together every semester for the past three years?

MAE

Nope.

DARIN

I tried messaging you myself, but you never answered. So I made a fake account thinking you might respond, and you did.

AUDREY

That's still awful.

DARIN

I know. But at least you finally talked to me.

*DARIN stands, taking a pen and paper from the help desk.*

DARIN (CONT'D)

I also slipped a note under the door of your room, I live down the hall from you. See?

*DARIN writes on the paper, handing it to FORD who passes it to MAE.*

DARIN (CONT'D)

That's my handwriting.

MAE

You were the creep who wrote "You're hot" and slipped it under my door, then ran away.

LYDIA

We could hear your footsteps and heavy breathing.

MAE

It was pretty embarrassing.

DARIN

I know! I never claimed to be suave or charming.

AUDREY

You're anything but.

DARIN

Thank you, Mr.Obvious.

LYDIA

You can't blame her for not responding, she gets a ton of those messages.

MAE

It's true, I get at least one declaration of love in my DM's daily.

FORD

Damn, impressive.

MAE

Thanks.

DARIN

I know but...I just wanted you to remember who I was. At least a glimmer that someone here cared about me.

AUDREY

So let me get this straight, you thought the best way to get into Mae's pants was to send her creepy anonymous messages? Great plan.

DARIN

I'm done talking about this.

*DARIN sits at the help desk. LYDIA taps on his phone. FORD consoles MAE.*

LYDIA

Well you can have your phone back, I went ahead and deleted your "anonymous" account.

DARIN

Fine. Whatever.

*LYDIA walks to the desk, DARIN yanks the phone out of her hands and shoves it in the desk drawer. Her panties fall out.*

LYDIA

What?

MAE

What now?

AUDREY

Isn't that your underwear from earlier?

MAE

You're not wearing underwear right now?

FORD

Respect.

*Everyone looks at him.*

FORD (CONT'D)

Okay, maybe not the time.

LYDIA

Well I...used them earlier and thought it would be better to just throw them out.

AUDREY

Then what are they doing in the help desk drawer?

LYDIA

That's a great question, would you care to elaborate Darin?

DARIN

You finally got my name right.

LYDIA

That wasn't the question!

DARIN

Listen...They were in the trash and I didn't want the janitorial staff to have to deal with them.

*DARIN stands slowly from his chair holding a pen, backing away from LYDIA who has been joined by MAE behind her.*

DARIN (CONT'D)

So...I thought that it would be in everyone's best interest if they were kept in the drawer until we could all leave. I was going to give them back to you.

AUDREY

We're in lockdown and this is what you think of?

*AUDREY has joined the group. LYDIA, MAE and AUDREY all stand in a line walking towards the cowering DARIN.*

MAE  
Of course not, all he thought about was taking your panties home with him. He's probably creaming over the thought of sniffing them in bed.

LYDIA  
That's the grossest thing I've ever heard.

MAE  
At least we both have panty stealing stories now.

LYDIA  
Not the time!

AUDREY  
I'm so glad I was right about hating you all along.

MAE  
Ford, can you help us here?

FORD  
Already on it.

*DARIN walks backwards into FORD, then starts running. FORD grabs him, holding his arms behind his back. LYDIA, MAE and AUDREY all stand in front of DARIN.*

LYDIA  
Doesn't feel so good now, does it?

DARIN  
Audrey, please help. I never did anything to you.

AUDREY  
Yeah, but I just hate you. This is for not giving me a pen earlier when you clearly had one.

*AUDREY is raising her hand to slap DARIN as a loud BANG is heard from outside.*

FORD  
What was that?

MAE  
It sounded close.

*FORD loosens his grip on DARIN, allowing his arms to wriggle free. DARIN stabs FORD in the leg with the pen.*



FORD  
Ahhh!

DARIN  
Ahhh--I'm sorry!

*FORD lets out a series of anguished screams as blood starts pouring down his leg, causing him to fall to the ground. DARIN repeats his screams.*

MAE  
What the fuck?!?

AUDREY  
(to Darin)  
Why are you yelling?

DARIN  
It was the only way I could get out of that!

AUDREY  
There are so many other ways you could've gotten out of that!

*DARIN drops the bloody pen on the ground, staring at his hands. AUDREY grabs it, they fight as she throws it to LYDIA, who is in shock.*

LYDIA  
Oh my god...Oh my god...

MAE  
Someone help Lydia, she faints at the sight of blood!

AUDREY  
You want to be a nurse and you're scared of blood?

LYDIA  
I was hoping it wouldn't come up that much.

*AUDREY runs to help LYDIA to the ground as DARIN darts around the room, looking for a way out. MAE applies pressure to FORD's leg.*

MAE  
Audrey, the keys!

*AUDREY runs over to the help desk, grabbing the key ring before DARIN can get it. She throws it*

*to MAE, who catches it perfectly.*

MAE (CONT'D)  
Nice work.

AUDREY  
You too.

LYDIA  
We need to call someone!

AUDREY  
Who? You said the police are already on their way.

LYDIA  
The Fire Department?

FORD  
I could really use anyone right now.

MAE  
He's not losing that much blood, so that's a good sign right?

AUDREY  
I think so.

LYDIA  
Don't even mention blood.

*LYDIA gags as she stands, running to the pay phone.*

DARIN  
It doesn't work!

LYDIA  
Do not tell me what works and doesn't work right now, you psycho!

*LYDIA tries calling on the pay phone while AUDREY corners DARIN by the help desk, stopping him from running.*

FORD  
I'll be okay, just please try to call someone. This really hurts!

LYDIA  
It doesn't work.

DARIN

I told you!

*MAE stands on a desk. She produces an ear-curdling scream. Beat. Water drops heard.*

FORD

Are you trying to hurt me more?

MAE

Now that I have everyone's attention, I am now locking us in here.

AUDREY

Weren't we already locked in?

MAE

Yes, but now I hold the keys. Audrey, take the phone cord out of my backpack and tie Darin's hands together. We're keeping him in the pee corner.

DARIN

Ew!

MAE

You don't get to have an opinion right now.

*AUDREY takes the cord out, doing as MAE said. DARIN agrees begrudgingly and sits down in the pee corner.*

MAE (CONT'D)

Lydia, get Darin's phone and call 911. I know they're already on their way, but we need to tell them to come to the library.

LYDIA

Can do.

*LYDIA runs over, grabbing DARIN's phone from his back pocket.*

LYDIA (CONT'D)

What's his passcode again?

FORD

Try 1-2-3-4?

DARIN

You think I'm that dumb?

FORD  
I forgot it.

LYDIA  
Great job, Ford.

FORD  
Sorry, I'm kind of busy!

*FORD lets out another anguished groan.*

LYDIA  
(to Darin)  
Tell me.

DARIN  
Like I would ever.

LYDIA  
Fine. I'll make an emergency call then.

*LYDIA and DARIN stick their tongues out at each other. FORD screams again.*

MAE  
Ford, just please try to not bleed out on the library carpet.

*FORD flashes a smile and a thumbs-up, then winces in pain.*

LYDIA  
The reception sucks in here. I don't think I can get any on this floor.

AUDREY  
Then what do we do?

MAE  
I guess we wait.

*MAE and LYDIA sit down next to FORD, who's writhing on the floor. AUDREY sits down in front of DARIN, locking eyes with him.*

**LIGHTS DOWN - END OF ACT 1. INTERMISSION.**

ACT IIScene 1

AT RISE: Positions are the same as the End of Act 1. MAE and LYDIA comfort FORD as he bleeds onto the carpet in CS. AUDREY and DARIN lock eyes, his arms tied with a charging cord on SR. Silence fills the room.

DARIN

I could get out of this so easily.

MAE

Try it, see what happens.

*MAE bites at DARIN, he flinches.*

DARIN

Just saying.

AUDREY

Don't underestimate me. I can get real crafty with a pair of scissors.

DARIN

Okay, psycho.

LYDIA

Oh she's the psycho now? You stalked the most popular girl on campus and stole *my* panties.

MAE

I'm not the *most* popular girl.

LYDIA

Yes you are, don't lie.

MAE

I'm not!

LYDIA

You were literally just talking to me about going to formal with Ford and being the hottest and most popular--

*MAE elbows LYDIA.*

LYDIA

Ow!

FORD

Ah!

*FORD winces, bleeding more.*

MAE

Sorry.

LYDIA

What about me?

MAE

We have a bigger problem right now.

*Beat.*

LYDIA

(gagging)

The bleeding hasn't stopped.

FORD

Is there anything else you can do?!

LYDIA

I think I have an extra headband in my bag, we could tie it around for compression.

AUDREY

There might be a first aid kit in the desk.

DARIN

Every desk has a first aid kit, it's required.

EVERYONE

Shut up!

MAE

Get it!

*AUDREY looks through the desk, not taking her eyes off DARIN. She pulls out the First Aid Kit.*

FORD

Why didn't you think of this sooner?

LYDIA

Sorry, I was freaking. And puking.

FORD

You're gonna be a *great* nurse.

AUDREY

Don't say that, she's the one taking care of you right now.

LYDIA

No it's okay, I think I need some more emergency training.

*AUDREY hands them the kit, comforting LYDIA.*

AUDREY

Don't worry, it'll come. That's not really something you can learn in a textbook.

FORD

This is cute but can someone *please* help me?

AUDREY

Sorry.

*MAE takes the gauze out, bandaging his leg.  
LYDIA puts a bandaid over it.*

FORD

Nice touch.

*MAE and LYDIA help FORD sit up.*

LYDIA

We have to get you to a chair, you have to elevate the wound.

FORD

Isn't that for broken ankles?

LYDIA

I've heard it works for stab wounds too.

MAE

It couldn't hurt.

AUDREY

Okay, then we just...lift him?

LYDIA

I guess.

MAE

Everyone get around him. Lydia and I will take each arm and Audrey can grab the good leg.

AUDREY

I don't know how much help I'll be.

LYDIA

Me either.

DARIN

I can help!

*DARIN stands up, hands still tied.*

MAE

Do not move a muscle out of the pee corner, piss boy.

AUDREY

We'll deal with you in a second.

*DARIN slumps back down.*

MAE

Come on girls we can do it. On three.  
1...2...3...Lift!

*MAE, LYDIA & AUDREY barely lift him, practically  
throwing his body onto a chair.*

LYDIA

We did it!

FORD

Ow...

MAE

It'll be okay!

*MAE comforts FORD.*

MAE (CONT'D)

You can just stay there until the police or firemen  
or whoever it is comes. Someone is coming, right?

*The three girls lay down on the floor,  
exhausted.*

AUDREY

What did 911 say when you called?

LYDIA

Nothing, I couldn't get through.



MAE

So we're really stuck here until they show up.

LYDIA

I guess.

AUDREY

I mean...Not really anymore.

*MAE sits up.*

MAE

What do you mean?

*AUDREY sits up.*

AUDREY

You have the keys now. Darin isn't locking us in anymore. We could get out.

*MAE pulls the keys out of her pocket.*

MAE

And do what?

AUDREY

If we unlock the door we could all go back home, I guess?

MAE

But isn't that dangerous?

AUDREY

That's a risk we have to be willing to take.

MAE

We could get Ford some actual medical treatment.

AUDREY

And report Darin to the campus police.

DARIN

I don't like this plan!

MAE

Of course you don't.

*MAE walks to the SR door, AUDREY following her.*

LYDIA

Wait!

*LYDIA stands up.*

LYDIA (CONT'D)

This is a bad idea!

MAE

What's wrong?

LYDIA

Are you kidding me? There's a shooter outside. We're safe in here, let's just stay until they come.

AUDREY

Ford is obviously very hurt and Darin could kill us all! We should leave.

LYDIA

The shooter will kill us first! You heard the guy that pounded on the door earlier.

MAE

Ahhh! I don't know.

*MAE runs over to FORD.*

MAE (CONT'D)

How badly are you hurt? Could you possibly wait a little while till they show up?

FORD

I'm feeling better now, I think I could--

*FORD tries to stand up, then falls.*

FORD (CONT'D)

That was my own fault.

AUDREY

See!

LYDIA

I can't believe you would even consider this. Mae, you know what you have to do.

AUDREY

She just needs to think it through, logically.

LYDIA

I'm your best friend! Listen to me.

MAE

I think we have to...

*AUDREY and LYDIA lean closer to MAE.*

MAE (CONT'D)

Leave.

AUDREY

Yes!

LYDIA

No!

MAE

I'm really sorry Lyds, Ford is in bad shape. You don't have to come with us.

*FORD face down on the ground, gives a thumbs up.*

LYDIA

We're all going to be in bad shape if you leave. Please stay.

AUDREY

We'll be okay, the police probably got the guy already.

LYDIA

We just happened to conveniently miss the sirens and swarms of police then, right?

AUDREY

Maybe...

MAE

I think we just have to risk it.

*MAE and AUDREY move the barricade from the door.*

MAE (CONT'D)

You ready?

AUDREY

Yep.

*MAE moves to unlock the door.*

LYDIA

I'm sorry Mae, I can't let you do that.

*LYDIA lunges at MAE, grabbing the keys. They fight, pulling hair and elbowing. MAE bites LYDIA'S hand.*

AUDREY

Oh my god.

FORD

They fight dirty.

DARIN

I love it.

LYDIA

Ow!

*MAE grabs the keys, throwing them to FORD, who surprisingly catches them.*

MAE

I'm giving the keys to Ford.

*MAE and LYDIA catch their breath, LYDIA sits.*

MAE (CONT'D)

He got hurt, he gets to decide what we do.

FORD

Can I get some help here?

*MAE and AUDREY run over to help FORD back in his chair.*

FORD (CONT'D)

I vote we stay.

LYDIA

Yay!

AUDREY

Really?

FORD

We still don't know what's happening out there. The safest place we could be is stuck in here, even with him. I'll be fine.

AUDREY

Fine.

LYDIA

Maybe you're okay after all, Ford.

FORD

Thanks I guess?

MAE

(mouthing to Ford)  
Thank you.

DARIN

For the record, I was also voting to stay.

*AUDREY sits across from DARIN.*

AUDREY

But this means I am keeping my eyes on you.

DARIN

Fine. But I'm gonna make ugly faces while you do it.

*DARIN makes a series of ugly faces.*

AUDREY

I notice no difference from your normal face.

DARIN

Ouch. Hurtful.

*Silence. Everyone picks at the floor or their clothing.*

MAE

I want to play a game.

AUDREY

Right now? After all of that?

FORD

I don't think I can play anything right now.

MAE

Not with everyone, just with Darin.

AUDREY

Be my guest.

*AUDREY and MAE switch spots.*

MAE

So since you're my little stalker--

DARIN

I didn't stalk you.

MAE

Fine, since you're my creepy secret admirer...I'm going to quiz you.

DARIN

About what?

MAE

Me, obviously.

AUDREY

Are you sure about this?

LYDIA

I'm down. Panties boy.

*LYDIA stands next to MAE. They hug.*

MAE

Now...I want to see if he did he research.

AUDREY

I guess there's nothing better to do.

DARIN

Fine.

MAE

If you're gonna stalk me, might as well be good at it.

*They put battle faces on.*

MAE (CONT'D)

Question 1: Where was I born?

DARIN

Easy. Weymouth, Massachusetts.

MAE

Correct.

LYDIA

Creepy...

MAE

That was a softball. I've told everyone that. Next question, who did I go to sophomore year homecoming

with?

DARIN

Johnny Derringer. That was on your Instagram.

MAE

Good.

LYDIA

I don't know if I like this game.

MAE

You already know all this stuff Lydia, it should be easy for you.

LYDIA

Just creeps me out thinking of him researching all this stuff about you in his bed.

AUDREY

He probably did a lot worse than that.

*Silence.*

AUDREY (CONT'D)

That was gross, sorry.

FORD

It was a little funny.

MAE

Final question! This is a tough one.

DARIN

Try me.

*DARIN and MAE get closer to each other.*

MAE

Where do I go on my yearly family vacation? I never post this on Instagram because I get sunburnt every time.

DARIN

Acapulco. But you didn't go in 2018 because of your nose job.

*MAE and LYDIA gasps.*

LYDIA

You got a nose job?

MAE

He...He couldn't have known that one. I never told anyone.

LYDIA

You've been bragging about your genetically perfect nose for years and it's a lie?

AUDREY

Ouch.

MAE

Yes, but I didn't think anyone would ever find out!

DARIN

I worked in the health office, we get access to a *lot* of files.

FORD

That is so illegal.

DARIN

I know, but you get some really good info. Like how Lydia had to repeat the second grade so she's actually 21 now.

MAE

What?! But I've seen your ID!

LYDIA

I got a fake to seem younger.

MAE

You could have been buying us alcohol the whole time?

LYDIA

Yes...

MAE

I cannot believe you.

*MAE and LYDIA walk away, having a whisper fight.*

DARIN

Or that Audrey was in the hospital for a month last year, it didn't say what for, but it was involuntary so it painted the picture pretty clearly.

*AUDREY pulls DARIN up by his shirt collar. MAE and AUDREY come back.*



AUDREY

I'm going to kill you.

DARIN

Go ahead, I've said my piece. You'll have to explain it to the EMTs though.

*AUDREY releases him, slapping him across the face.*

DARIN

Ow.

LYDIA

You deserved it.

DARIN

I can accept that.

FORD

Looks like I'm in the clear. Transferred in, no records.

DARIN

Yes, I just don't like you.

FORD

When I regain all the blood in my body and can walk again, I'm going to find a way to permanently harm you. I'm planning it in my head now.

AUDREY

You should actually be scared of that one.

*DARIN sits. The rest follow, MAE and FORD next to each other. Silence.*

LYDIA

Maybe we could talk--

MAE

Not right now. Silence.

*Shots are heard outside. They all shudder. Silence.*

LYDIA

Oh my god I am sick of this.

MAE

We all are!

*LYDIA stands up, pacing.*

LYDIA

Why aren't the police here yet? Do they not care?  
Have they given up on us?

FORD

Maybe they're just in a different part of campus. We  
would know if Degrassi-head over there didn't drown  
our phones.

AUDREY

Don't we have his?

MAE

There's barely any service in here.

AUDREY

Someone must have put something on social media.

*MAE walks to DARIN.*

MAE

Give me your phone.

DARIN

You're so hot when you're demanding.

FORD

You have no shame.

*MAE takes the phone out of DARIN's pocket.*

MAE

You don't have anything besides Instagram?

DARIN

I'm not going to let the government track me.

MAE

They already do, idiot. You have a cell phone.

*MAE taps on DARIN's phone.*

LYDIA

What did people say on Instagram?

MAE

I wouldn't know, you deleted his account. I tried  
making a new one but the internet doesn't seem to be  
working.

AUDREY

Damn. Perfect timing.

LYDIA

I am done! I want to go home, I want to watch the Bachelor, I want to get in fuzzy pajamas and read my romance book and *not* be worried that some psycho is going to shoot me.

FORD

Or stab you with a pen.

LYDIA

Or that!

MAE

We can't do anything, we tried.

LYDIA

Yes we can. I'm taking control.

FORD

What does that mean?

AUDREY

How are you going to control this?

*LYDIA walks to the fire alarm.*

LYDIA

By doing this!

*LYDIA pulls the fire alarm, cueing a screeching pitch and the sprinklers.*

MAE

(shouting)  
Why did you do that?

LYDIA

It'll make the firemen come faster!

MAE

No it won't! It'll just tell them someone pulled the fire alarm. They're already on their way.

LYDIA

Oh...

*They cover their ears, AUDREY and MAE push LYDIA out of the way to turn it off.*

AUDREY

How do you turn this thing off?

MAE

No idea!

DARIN

I know!

AUDREY

Really?

DARIN

It was in a training--

MAE

Whatever, just get over here!

*DARIN runs over, hands still tied. The ringing and sprinklers stop. Beat.*

DARIN

Can I be untied now?

MAE

Fine.

*MAE unties DARIN, he shakes out.*

DARIN

*Much better.*

MAE

Ugh, now we're all wet.

AUDREY

And still stuck here.

*LYDIA slumps to the floor.*

LYDIA

I'm really sorry everyone.

FORD

I really want to say it's fine...

LYDIA

But?

FORD

It's not. We just have to wait in wet clothes now.

*LYDIA cries.*

MAE  
Oh, Lyds...

*MAE comforts LYDIA.*

LYDIA  
I don't want to be here anymore. If we make it out alive, I am never coming to the library again!

AUDREY  
That'll be pretty hard as a nursing major.

LYDIA  
Not like I make a good one anyway...

MAE  
Hey, it'll be okay. We're wet, we can get dry. And--  
*MAE feels her hair and face. Product is dripping off of her.*

MAE (CONT'D)  
Oh my god. No one look at me!

AUDREY  
What?

MAE  
All my makeup is coming off. I'm going to look horrible!

FORD  
I'm sure you look--

*MAE forces a smile at FORD.*

FORD  
Great. You look great.

MAE  
No, no. This can't be happening.

*MAE turns away from the group, DARIN touches her.*

DARIN  
You look as amazing as always. If you want to take it off you could always use the bucket water.

MAE

Do not touch me right now! And ew.

DARIN

Sorry.

LYDIA

I ruined everything!

*LYDIA sobs, AUDREY comforts her.*

AUDREY

No you didn't. We're all going a little stir crazy.

*MAE glares at the girls. FORD winces, then gives a thumbs up. DARIN looks through the books.*

DARIN

The books...They're all ruined.

AUDREY

I'm sure the school can get new ones.

DARIN

(mocking)

I'm sure the school can get new ones.

*AUDREY stands.*

AUDREY

I would try being a lot nicer right now. You're lucky we didn't lock you out there.

FORD

We still have the option!

DARIN

I will shut up. Sorry.

AUDREY

Finally.

FORD

I hate to be the one to say this, but we probably shouldn't stay in these wet clothes.

LYDIA

Why not?

FORD

I learned in my physio class that it'll give you a

cold.

AUDREY

I think that'd been debunked. It's an old wives tale.

FORD

I think it's still true. And anyway, we shouldn't risk infection with everything going on.

AUDREY

(to self)  
Infection?

MAE

(still turned away)  
I'm down!

DARIN

For stripping? I'm okay with taking my clothes off.

AUDREY

Woah, let's slow down. I don't think we have to do this.

LYDIA

If it'll help...

AUDREY

Have you all lost your minds?

LYDIA

Yes. Obviously.

AUDREY

I am not going to take my clothes off.

FORD

Why not?

MAE

Are you religious or something?

AUDREY

No.

MAE

Then you should be fine with it.

LYDIA

I don't think you have to take them off if you don't want to.

MAE

But then you'll be the only one with clothes on.  
That's weird.

FORD

She's right.

DARIN

I'm down for whatever.

*FORD, MAE & DARIN start taking their clothes off. MAE is wearing a matching set, FORD is wearing tight boxer briefs, and DARIN is wearing tall socks and tighty-whiteys.*

MAE

See...That's not so bad.

FORD

I feel better already.

MAE

You look better too.

*FORD winks at MAE.*

LYDIA

Well I'll take mine off too.

*LYDIA takes her clothes off, leaving on her bottoms. She's wearing a bright pink bra.*

MAE

I forgot you're not wearing underwear. Gross.

LYDIA

I wasn't wearing good ones anyway, it's laundry day.  
Oh crap, my clothes are still in the washer.

FORD

I'm sure no one has moved them.

AUDREY

You can all get naked and lose your minds, I'm going to sit over there.

*AUDREY sits in the SL corner.*

MAE

(to Lydia)  
What's her problem?



LYDIA

Don't look at me! I barely know her.

FORD

I don't get what the big deal is.

AUDREY

I can hear you all!

DARIN

For the record, I said nothing.

AUDREY

Gold star for you, Darin!

DARIN

Thank you.

*MAE walks to AUDREY.*

MAE

I just don't understand what her problem is...

*MAE touches AUDREY, she flinches.*

MAE (CONT'D)

Jeez.

LYDIA

Maybe we should just leave her alone.

FORD

It's not a big deal, we're all naked.

AUDREY

Maybe not to you!

MAE

Here, I can help you--

*MAE touches AUDREY again, she jolts up.*

AUDREY

Fine! I'll take my clothes off.

MAE

Good.

*AUDREY takes off her clothes rapidly. She's in a black sports bra & underwear which reveal burn marks and SH scars.*

AUDREY

Is this what you wanted to see?

*Beat.*

MAE

Oh...

LYDIA

Audrey, we had no idea.

AUDREY

You asked me to take my clothes off, I did. Now you all get to see why I was in the hospital last year.

FORD

Did you get in an accident or--

MAE

Obviously she didn't.

AUDREY

If you count an accident with kitchen scissors and cigarettes.

*LYDIA nervously laughs.*

LYDIA

Sorry, I--

AUDREY

Don't know what to say?

MAE

What happened?

AUDREY

I don't know. One day you're eight, playing tag and everything is fine. Then suddenly you're twelve, and you hate every single thing about yourself.

MAE

That never happened to me.

AUDREY

Obviously it didn't, you're perfect.

MAE

I am not--

AUDREY

Don't bother yourself with that fake modesty crap. We all know you think so.

MAE

That's so rude. Lydia, can you--

*LYDIA nudges MAE.*

LYDIA

I don't think this is the time.

MAE

Fine.

FORD

But you didn't get all *that* by just hating yourself. We all deal with insecurities.

AUDREY

Insecurities sure, but I looked in the mirror everyday and heard an echo of every mean thing that'd ever been said to me.

LYDIA

I understand that feeling...

AUDREY

I was a stupid pre-teen. I grew up chubby, tried to cut the fat off. It *clearly* worked. Got the scars to prove it.

LYDIA

You did that because you thought you were fat?

AUDREY

No, I knew it. People loved to tell me. Concerned parents, kids on the playground, Old Navy workers, my own mom. So I did something about it.

*FORD reaches out to AUDREY.*

FORD

Audrey, I'm so sorry--

AUDREY

I don't need you to feel sorry for me. I tried every diet and fad under the sun, heard cigarettes kept you skinny so I tried those. Hence--

*AUDREY flashes burn marks.*

MAE

God...

AUDREY

Yeah. Not so fun.

DARIN

Definitely not.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Guess we wouldn't have had to do *this* if Ms.Delta Nu Sweetheart here had kept her clothes on for once.

*Beat. Water drops heard.*

MAE

Oh, boo-hoo.

LYDIA

What?

*AUDREY sits on the floor.*

MAE

She got sad in middle school and now it's everyone else's problem?

LYDIA

We *did* make her take her clothes off.

AUDREY

I didn't say it was anyone else's problem.

MAE

No one made her do anything. Peer pressuring is one thing, forcing is completely different.

LYDIA

Where is this coming from?

MAE

I'm so sick of being called a villain. So I like my body. So I like pink and lip gloss and getting drunk at frat parties. That doesn't make me a bad person.

FORD

I can't argue with that.

LYDIA

This is obviously a sensitive time for her. Maybe you could be nicer about it.

MAE

So she gets to slut-shame me and everyone moves on from that? What, because I'm the mean girl?

LYDIA

You don't have to comment on her body.

MAE

I never did! It's the sob story I have a problem with.

DARIN

Fight! Fight! Fight! Fight!

MAE & AUDREY

Shut up!

DARIN

Sorry...

*AUDREY stands to meet MAE in CS.*

AUDREY

Let's hear your sob story then.

MAE

Me? I don't have one. I grew up rich and privileged. I did well in school, both academically & socially. I get six treatments a week to look like this, but I love it. I always know when people talk shit about me, and I make their lives hell for it.

AUDREY

Guess we can't all be like you.

MAE

No, you can't. And that's fine. The world would be boring if everyone was like me.

LYDIA

Damn.

MAE

But I'm not going to hide behind quiet sarcastic quips and feed into your individuality complex. Get a grip, we're in college.

*AUDREY tears up.*

MAE

Yes, cry. Make everyone think I'm a horrible person,

they already do.

DARIN

I don't think you're a horrible person.

MAE

That's because you want to get into my pants. You probably find this hot.

DARIN

Correct.

MAE

Okay, then the rest of them do. If I'm being cast as the mean girl, I might as well play the fucking part.

*AUDREY runs to the SL corner, crying.*

LYDIA

I cannot believe you right now.

*LYDIA consoles AUDREY. MAE stares at FORD.*

FORD

I don't know what to say.

MAE

Of course.

*MAE sits on top of the remaining desk. Attention shifts to the floor.*

LYDIA

Audrey...I'm-I'm so sorry.

*Silence.*

LYDIA (CONT'D)

I'm sure she didn't mean--Actually, I'm pretty sure she meant that all. She can be really mean sometimes.

AUDREY

(quietly)  
That wasn't mean.

LYDIA

(leaning closer)  
What?

AUDREY

She wasn't being mean.

LYDIA

You're right, it was horrific--

AUDREY

No, she's right. She is telling the truth.

LYDIA

I don't get it.

AUDREY

I've always hated the sorority-types, thought they were shallow and air-headed.

LYDIA

A lot of people do.

AUDREY

Yeah, but I tried so hard to be different that I just became a *different* mean girl.

LYDIA

I think I did too...

AUDREY

I'm just a bitch.

LYDIA

I don't think so, you've obviously gone through a lot.

AUDREY

I can still be mean, even if I've dealt with some terrible stuff.

LYDIA

I guess you're right...She was a little rude though.

AUDREY

That I agree with.

*They sit side by side.*

AUDREY

We've been talking so much about me, what about you?

LYDIA

What do you mean?

AUDREY

Well, what's your sob story?

LYDIA

I don't really think I have one. Bad stuff happens to everyone, you just gotta learn how to deal with it. I actually go to the same therapist as Ford, but I really didn't want to say that earlier.

AUDREY

That's hilarious.

LYDIA

Shondra's my girl.

AUDREY

Guess you'll have to give me her number.

LYDIA

You could have mine too while we're at it.

*Beat.*

LYDIA (CONT'D)

This clearly isn't the time, I'm so sorry--

AUDREY

No, I liked it. I think I have to get a new phone though.

LYDIA

Me too. I hope I can keep my number.

*Beat. Their hands slowly move, touching pinkies.  
DARIN walks up.*

DARIN

Audrey, I just wanted to say that I think you're very beautiful and you shouldn't do...*that* anymore.

AUDREY

I don't actually. But thanks, I guess?

DARIN

No problem.

*DARIN walks away, then doubles back, sitting on the floor.*

DARIN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, but this totally reminds me of an episode of Degrassi. Fiona finally kisses Imogen after like a whole season of--



*DARIN stops himself.*

AUDREY  
Of what?

DARIN  
Usually someone stops me at this point.

AUDREY  
I'm probably going to regret it, but go on.

*DARIN motions "yes!" to himself.*

DARIN  
Well Fiona finally kisses Imogen after like a whole season of build up, and everyone just forgets that she kissed her twin brother for attention last season. And that Imogen got Eli addicted to Adderall.

AUDREY  
This show sounds insane.

DARIN  
Oh, it is.

*DARIN lingers. Beat.*

AUDREY  
You can go now.

DARIN  
Oh, yes.

*DARIN leaves, slicking his hair back, tripping as he walks.*

AUDREY  
I still don't like him.

LYDIA  
I'm totally getting a campus restraining order against him once we're out of here.

AUDREY  
I like you saying "once we're out of here".

LYDIA  
I suddenly have a lot more hope.

*Beat. They look down to their touching hands.*

AUDREY

Can I kiss you?

LYDIA

Yeah, I think I'd like that.

*They kiss. MAE walks up, FORD behind her.*

MAE

You go from slut-shaming me to kissing my best friend?

AUDREY

I guess so.

*AUDREY and LYDIA stand.*

AUDREY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have that about you earlier. Actually, I probably should have kept my mouth shut for most of today.

MAE

It's fine. But if you're going to say bitchy stuff, you at least have to own it.

AUDREY

Deal.

*AUDREY extends a fist-bump, MAE returns awkwardly.*

MAE

I'm sorry.

*Beat.*

MAE (CONT'D)

I don't really say that a lot, so I don't know what usually comes after that part.

AUDREY

It's okay.

MAE

(to Lydia)  
I'm sorry to you too.

LYDIA

I accept. Something pretty good came out of it.

MAE

(to Ford)  
I'm sorry to you too.

FORD

For what? I loved it. It was really sexy seeing you take charge like that. I just didn't know how to say it earlier.

MAE

You did?

FORD

Yeah. Obviously I'm into you dude, I would've left a while ago if I wasn't. I probably wouldn't have gotten very far though, with the stabbing and all.

MAE

How is it?

FORD

Terrible, if I think about it too long I *will* start crying.

*MAE helps FORD onto the desk. LYDIA nudges MAE.*

LYDIA

Nice!

FORD

Well come here!

*MAE sits down, FORD puts his arm around her. They kiss.*

DARIN

This is just *great*.

AUDREY

What's wrong nerd boy?

DARIN

I came in here alone and I'm leaving alone. All you coupled up.

LYDIA

You won't leave empty handed though. I'm getting a restraining order.

MAE

Me too!

AUDREY

I'll see if I can get one, just for fun.

FORD

Oh, you'll definitely be seeing me.

DARIN

I hate it here. Worst lockdown ever.

*DARIN sits at the help desk.*

FORD

Hey, we haven't heard shots in a while.

LYDIA

I guess you're right.

AUDREY

We were pretty busy.

MAE

Should we put our clothes back on?

*AUDREY checks the pile of clothes.*

AUDREY

They're all still sopping.

LYDIA

I am really sorry about that.

MAE

It's fine, I don't mind seeing Ford in his underwear.

FORD

I could say the same.

DARIN

Do you guys like mine? My mom embroidered my name in all my socks & underwear so no one could steal them from the washing machine.

AUDREY

How would you know if someone stole a pair? Not like you see anyone in their underwear.

DARIN

Hurtful, I catalogue my underwear. And I see all of you right now.

MAE  
Doesn't count. If you tell anyone you saw me like this I will deny it.

LYDIA  
We all will.

*Beat. Water drops heard.*

FORD  
If we haven't heard anything, I guess we can just leave. Seems like no one is coming for us.

MAE  
You're right.

AUDREY  
I think so too.

LYDIA  
I guess.

DARIN  
Fine.

FORD  
Look at Darin, agreeing with me for once.

DARIN  
If it will get me out of here faster. I am calling Mary and quitting my job the second I get out of this building.

AUDREY  
Good idea.

LYDIA  
I'm going to tell the school never let you near important documents ever again.

MAE  
Or give you access to social media.

DARIN  
Can we *please* leave now?

FORD  
Okay.

*FORD moves towards the door. A faint BANG can be heard. He freezes.*

LYDIA

You okay?

MAE

Is your leg acting up?

FORD

No, everyone be quiet for a second.

*Silence.*

FORD (CONT'D)

Weird. I thought I heard something.

*FORD puts the key in the door. A loud BANG is heard.*

MAE

Oh my god.

LYDIA

Really?

AUDREY

It sounded like a gunshot.

*Another BANG is heard downstairs.*

FORD

That came from inside the library.

DARIN

Everyone, put the barricade back up!

*Everyone works together quickly shoving the desks to the doors.*

FORD

We have nowhere to hide.

LYDIA

What do we do?

AUDREY

Get ready to fight?

MAE

We don't stand a chance. Our best bet has a handicap.

DARIN

I am sorry about that.

FORD

Thank you, man.

MAE

Apologies can take place later!

*A loud BANG and yelling is heard downstairs.*

LYDIA

That's the voice from before.

AUDREY

Are you sure?

LYDIA

Maybe? I'm freaking out.

*LYDIA sits, AUDREY comforts her.*

MAE

We sit.

FORD

What?

MAE

We sit down. All together. We can't run, hide or fight.

DARIN

Those are the only options in the training.

MAE

Exactly. We can't do any of those, so we sit.

FORD

Really? That's it?

AUDREY

She's right.

MAE

We pray that the barricade keeps him away. If we go, we go together.

LYDIA

This can't be it.

MAE

Unfortunately Lyds, it might be.

*LYDIA cries. MAE grabs FORD's hand, sitting. LYDIA sits next to MAE, grabbing her hand. AUDREY follows. DARIN sits next to FORD, at a slight distance.*

FORD

You can scoot in for this one.

*DARIN moves closer to the group.*

AUDREY

Any last confessions?

MAE

I think I spilled all of my secrets.

AUDREY

Me too.

FORD

I never really had any.

MAE

Good.

DARIN

Yeah, mine are definitely out in the open now.

*Beat. Multiple BANGS heard. MAE cries.*

LYDIA

I love you all.

MAE

I love you all too. Not Darin.

LYDIA & AUDREY

Yes of course, not Darin.

DARIN

I accept this.

FORD

I just met you all, but I guess I love you too.

*Loud footsteps and more BANGS are heard.*

MAE

That's him.



AUDREY  
Yep.

LYDIA  
This is really it.

MAE  
I'm glad I could spend my last few hours with you guys.

LYDIA  
Don't say that, you're going to make my cry more.

AUDREY  
Cry as much as you want. It doesn't really matter now.

*The footsteps stop at the door. Heavy breathing, then louder BANGS as someone breaks down the door. The group winches, holding hands.*

MAE  
Goodbye everyone.

*The door breaks open, desks are thrown to the side as two FIREMEN burst into the room.*

AUDREY  
Please don't hurt us!

LYDIA  
We're good people!

MAE  
Kind of!

DARIN  
Not all of us!

*The two FIREMEN hold a hose, ready to spray.*

FIREMAN #1  
Are you all okay?

FIREMAN #2  
We thought you were all trapped in here. We tried pounding on the door downstairs, but you didn't answer.

*The group opens their eyes, letting go of each others hands.*

FORD

What?

MAE

We were trapped in here. I mean, we trapped ourselves.

LYDIA

(pointing at Darin)  
Well really, he trapped us first.

FIREMAN #1

Why on earth would you do that?

AUDREY

We made a barricade, there's a shooting.

DARIN

To protect ourselves, it's in the training.

FIREMAN #2

A shooting? You mean the false alarm?

FIREMAN #1

Some frat bros were shooting off fireworks at different buildings, it was a hazing prank.

LYDIA

Oh my god. We were right.

FORD

Really?

FIREMAN #1

Yes. They got in big trouble. You should have gotten a text.

AUDREY

(pointing to Darin)  
He drowned our phones.

FIREMAN #2

Why would you do that?

DARIN

We thought we were about to die!

FIREMAN #1

No one is going to die.

FIREMAN #2

Was there a fire? We got an alert saying someone pulled the fire alarm on this floor.

LYDIA

That was my fault. I wanted you all to come quicker.

FIREMAN #1

Well we're here.

FIREMAN #2

And there's no fire.

LYDIA

Sorry.

MAE

So what now?

FIREMAN #1

Everything is clear so...go home.

FIREMAN #2

You should probably put your clothes back on.

LYDIA

They're wet.

FIREMAN #2

I don't think I want to ask how that happened.

MAE

Probably not.

FIREMAN #1

Take them with you then.

FORD

Got it, thank you.

*The FIREMEN move desks away from the doors, clearing a path.*

AUDREY

I guess we all leave then?

MAE

Lydia you wanna go...back to our dorm?

LYDIA

Not really.

MAE  
Me neither.

FORD  
We could get something to eat?

AUDREY  
I'm down.

LYDIA  
We will probably have to change.

FORD  
You're right.

MAE  
Meet at the dining hall in fifteen?

LYDIA  
Sounds good.

*They pull their clothes from the pile. FIREMAN  
#1 walks to the pee corner, sniffing it.*

FIREMAN #1  
Dear God, what is this?

LYDIA  
A pee corner?

FIREMAN #2  
I need you all to leave now.

FORD  
Thank you...Firemen?

FIREMAN #1  
Goodbye.

*They slowly walk towards the door.*

MAE  
You should be the one to open it.

AUDREY  
Me?

LYDIA  
Yeah, you.

AUDREY  
Why?

MAE  
I'm not sure. Just do it.

*FORD nods. AUDREY pulls open the door, they all leave. Beat.*

FIREMAN #2  
Your friends left without you?

DARIN  
They weren't my friends.

FIREMAN #1  
Damn. Well we're done here. Have a nice night.

DARIN  
You too.

*The FIREMEN leave. DARIN pulls out his phone, standing on his chair.*

DARIN  
(on phone)  
Finally, cell reception. Hey, Mary it's Darin. No, not Devon, Darin. Yeah, I'm okay, the false alarm was crazy. The library? Oh, well...Everything is in order here.

*DARIN looks out at the giant mess.*

DARIN (CONT'D)  
You were trying to call me? I couldn't get reception until now. I was actually trying to call you because-- I'm fired? Why? Because I'm generally unlikeable and incredibly creepy, got it.

*Beat.*

Yeah...yeah I'll give back my name tag. You need me to stay till closing? Fine. Yes, I'll clean up. Thanks Mary. Bye.

*DARIN rubs his face, staring ahead. Beat. He gets up and cleans up.*

**LIGHTS DOWN - THE END**