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UCP

One Of Us Is Lying

“One Of Us Is Cracking”

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Based on the novel by:

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Full Pink Draft:

6/1/21

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One Of Us Is Lying

CAST LIST

Addy Prentiss
Cooper Clay
Bronwyn Rojas
Nate Macauley
Jake Riordan
Janae Matthews
Simon Kelleher
Maeve Rojas
Evan Nieman
Keely Moore
Kris Greene
Vanessa
Detective Wheeler
Isabella Rojas
Javier Rojas
Ann Prentiss
Kevin Clay
Brad Macauley
Ellen Macauley
~~Debra~~
Robyn
Alex Ross
~~Mr. Frankel~~
Mr. Camino
Mr. Shapiro
~~Jerk #1~~ *
Student #1
Student #2
Teammate

One Of Us Is Lying

SET LIST

INTERIORS

Addy's House
- ~~Kitchen~~
Bayview High School
- ~~Cafeteria~~ *
- Chem Classroom
- Entryway
- Hallway
- Lockers
- Multipurpose Room
College Dorm
- Kris's Room
Cooper's House *
- Cooper's Bedroom
- ~~Kitchen~~ *
Nate's House
- ~~Brad's Bedroom~~
- Nate's Bedroom
Rojas House
- Bronwyn's Bedroom
- ~~Hallway~~
- Living Room
- Maeve's Bedroom
~~Closed Down Movie Theater~~
~~TBD New Murder Club Location~~ *
Abandoned Water Park *
Diner
Janae's House
- Bedroom
- Stairs/Living Room
Police Station
- Interrogation Room

EXTERIORS

Addy's House
Bayview High School
- Courtyard
- ~~Front Gate~~ *
Cooper's House
- Backyard
- Front Lawn *
Nate's House
~~Rojas House~~
Simon's House
~~Closed Down Movie Theater~~
~~TBD New Murder Club Location~~ *
Abandoned Water Park *
~~Diner~~
Janae's House
~~Parking lot~~
Police Station

One Of Us Is Lying

Revision History

DATE	REVISION	REVISED PAGES
4/20/21	White Production Draft	ALL
5/19/21	Blue Pages	Sets, 2, 6, 8, 27, 30, 31, 33, 33A, 39, 48, 48A, 49, 50, 51
6/1/21	Full Pink Draft	ALL

Major Revisions: Sc 13, 14, 48, 49 -- TBD Location now ABANDONED WATER PARK
Sc 15 is now EXT. Cooper's FRONT LAWN and DAY (D13)
Sc 26 now EXT. BAYVIEW HS
Sc 26 CUT JERKS
Sc 27 OMITTED, combined into Sc 26

TEASER

1 **EXT. POLICE STATION - MORNING (D13)**

1

A black Audi pulls into the parking lot. ROBYN and BRONWYN climb out, approach the entrance. Bronwyn steels herself.

 ROBYN
Ready?

 MR. CAMINO (PRELAP)
Ready?

2 **INT. BAYVIEW HIGH - CHEM CLASSROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK (FBD5)**

2

MR. CAMINO (50s, curmudgeonly) talks to a clearly exhausted Bronwyn, who's working on a very elaborate science project. They are alone.

 BRONWYN
I'm almost done. I need like half
an hour more?

 MR. CAMINO
Miss Rojas, I think we can agree
you've exhausted the potential for
extra credit.

 BRONWYN
I know, but I still wanna get this
perfect or it'll drive me nuts...

Mr. Camino sighs, endeared in spite of himself. Glances at his watch.

 MR. CAMINO
Lemme see if there's a janitor
around. Maybe he can lock up after
you...

Bronwyn smiles... But as soon as Mr. Camino steps out of the classroom, her expression changes. She stares at a ring of keys on his desk...

3 **INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - PRESENT (D13)**

3

DETECTIVE WHEELER sits across from Bronwyn and Robyn. An open laptop next to her. Bronwyn glances at Robyn who gives her a slight nod.

 BRONWYN
Before we start... I know you've
seen the photo of the four of us.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

3

CONTINUED:

3

BRONWYN (CONT'D)

It was a mistake, meeting like that. But I swear we weren't discussing the case. It's just been a roller-coaster. Sometimes you want to talk to someone who knows what it's like.

Bronwyn is poised and earnest. But this was clearly a prepared speech. Wheeler looks over a file. Smiles faintly.

DETECTIVE WHEELER

Five APs this semester alone, editor of the Bayview Herald, mathlete, debate team captain...

BRONWYN

...I like being busy.

DETECTIVE WHEELER

Still, it must take a toll, right?

Wheeler pulls out a copy of the *About That* post about Bronwyn.

DETECTIVE WHEELER (CONT'D)

All I'm saying is: I can understand the temptation to cut corners. Cheating's not something to be proud of, but it's hardly a felony. And to be clear, I'm not your principal. I'm not Yale's dean of admissions. But I do need you to be honest with me, you understand?

(then)

Was it true?

4

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH - CHEM CLASSROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK (FBD5) 4

Bronwyn goes straight for the keys. Fumbles to unlock a drawer in Mr. Camino's file cabinet. Finds a file marked "AP CHEM EXAMS." She pulls out an exam. Reaches for her phone, opens the camera...

5

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - PRESENT (D13) 5

Bronwyn sits up a little straighter.

BRONWYN

I studied hard, that's all.

(CONTINUED)

DETECTIVE WHEELER

According to your peers, Simon
rarely got things wrong.

BRONWYN

Simon didn't post that.

DETECTIVE WHEELER

No. But we have reason to believe
he wrote it. Before he died.

Bronwyn is taken aback -- how can they know that?

DETECTIVE WHEELER (CONT'D)

Any reason he would target you?

6 **INT. BAYVIEW HIGH - CHEM CLASSROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK (FBD6)** 6

Exam time. Bronwyn's filling hers in fast -- too fast. If it
wasn't Bronwyn, people might think there was something fishy
going on. She glances up at the clock and notices SIMON
watching her intently. They lock eyes. Bronwyn puts her pen
down for a second. Is he onto her? Does he know? Bronwyn
tries to calm herself, then keeps going, slower...

7 **INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - PRESENT (D13)** 7

DETECTIVE WHEELER

You two were academic rivals.

BRONWYN

Detective, I'll be the first to
admit I'm competitive when it comes
to my academics. Too competitive.
But the idea that I'd harm someone
just to be valedictorian or
something, it's... preposterous.

Robyn nods, satisfied. Wheeler stares at Bronwyn, pensive.

ROBYN

Are we done?

8 **INT. BAYVIEW HIGH - CHEM CLASSROOM - FLASHBACK (FBD6)** 8

Bronwyn hands in the exam to Mr. Camino, who smiles warmly.
She looks at Simon from the corner of her eye. He's busy with
his own exam, doesn't even look back at her. She was just
being paranoid. She got away with it. We see her face as she
exits the classroom, full of relief but also guilt.

9

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - PRESENT (D13)

9

DETECTIVE WHEELER

I'd like to show you something.

She opens a laptop in front of her with a video cued up. On the screen: Black and white Nest Cam footage of Simon's porch. Simon answers the door and Bronwyn charges at him. There's no sound, but it's clear she's yelling...

BRONWYN

Okay, wait--

ROBYN

(stopping her)

Where did this come from?

DETECTIVE WHEELER

Simon's hard drive. We've recently obtained a copy. Where we also found an unpublished draft of his post about you.

Bronwyn takes this in, stunned. Wheeler eyes the screen.

DETECTIVE WHEELER (CONT'D)

Ring any bells, Ms. Rojas?

ROBYN

I think this conversation's over.

Bronwyn barely moves. On the screen: she's up in Simon's face. Her lips saying something that looks an awful lot like: *I'll fucking kill you...* **SLAM TO TITLE CARD** --

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

10

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - ENTRYWAY - MORNING

10

A crowd of STUDENTS surround a decorated fold-out table, where tickets for the Homecoming dance are on sale. One by one, students turn their heads --

STUDENT #1

Holy shit, is that...?

ADDY struts past them with a new baller pixie cut. A confident swagger. Shocked expressions all around.

STUDENT #2

Damn.

She spots VANESSA, gaping, appalled. Addy doesn't care. She's feeling herself. But as she keeps walking, she notices more smirks and whispers...

VANESSA

(under her breath)

She really needed *more* attention?

And suddenly -- there's JAKE. Damnit. She still cares. Desperately. Even now. He stops in his tracks when he sees her. Scoffs. And blows past her without a word.

A nervous Addy tries to pull her hair... and realizes it's not there anymore. Off Addy, deflating...

11

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKERS - DAY

11

MAEVE grabs a book from her locker when Bronwyn ambushes her:

BRONWYN

(a furious whisper)

The cops have a copy of Simon's hard drive. Was that you?

MAEVE

(guiltily)

Okay, look--

BRONWYN

What the *actual fuck*? We made a decision! What is *wrong* with you?

(CONTINUED)

MAEVE

You made a decision. And I'm sorry,
but we can't be worried about
someone you barely know, even if--

BRONWYN

Jesus, Maeve, I'm worried about *me*!

MAEVE

What? What do you mean?

But Bronwyn just shakes her head, furious. She's not about to explain. She sees COOPER at his locker. Makes a beeline for him, composing herself.

BRONWYN

(whispers)

We gotta meet. You seen Nate?

ACROSS THE HALL -- Jake spots Cooper and Bronwyn whispering. Jake approaches Cooper, just as Bronwyn walks off.

JAKE

Dude, you want to pitch for San
Quentin next year? Why are you
still talking to her, after that
picture?

COOPER

I told you, it was one time.

JAKE

You sound like my asshole dad after
getting caught with his yoga
instructor. Spoiler alert: It
wasn't one time, and he lost half
of everything in the divorce. But
you can lose everything, man. And
for what? Do you think any of those
assholes are your friends?

DOWN THE HALL -- Bronwyn grabs her flip phone from her bag. We see a string of unanswered messages to Nate: "So... we need to talk?" "Why didn't you tell me?" "Are you ok?". She types a new one: *Are you here? Why are you ignoring me?*

INT. DINER - DAY

NATE's flip phone BUZZES. He glances at the message. Ignores it. We see who's sitting opposite him at a booth. ELLEN. She smiles at Nate, who won't make eye contact. She picks nervously at a hangnail.

(CONTINUED)

ELLEN

You're so damn -- tall.

NATE

Why are we here?

ELLEN

Right. Well. I didn't mean to ambush you. At the house. I'd tried calling. You and your father.

NATE

He's not so reachable. Most days.

Ellen nods, taking this in.

ELLEN

Nathaniel, I -- had no idea...

NATE

Well, now you do. And it's Nate.

ELLEN

Right. Well. Listen, I know I owe you -- many apologies. I didn't protect you. From my illness, my -- my symptoms. But that doesn't mean--

NATE

You medicated?

Ouch. Ellen nods, stung.

ELLEN

...Lamictal. It's a new one. I'm living on a commune up in Marin. I have a part time job I do remotely.

A WAITRESS appears with a coffee and a slice of cheesecake. Nate glances down at the cheesecake.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Your favorite, right? You remember we used to make it together? You ever do that anymore?

NATE

I'm not ten.

Ellen nods, suddenly feeling very foolish.

ELLEN

Speaking of. Was that Bronwyn Rojas you were with? Looks just the same.

(CONTINUED)

12

NATE
(hesitates)
...She thought you were dead.

This lands on Ellen.

ELLEN
Is that -- what you told people?

NATE
(quietly)
I liked that version better.

His phone BUZZES on the table. Another message from Bronwyn, to the whole group this time: *Urgent. New spot.* Ellen can feel her time running out.

ELLEN
Look, I've made mistakes. But I
knew I couldn't be the mother you
needed, I know my presence in your
life was -- *harmful*... That's why I
left.
(fights tears)
But it's me again. And right now
you need someone in your corner. I
saw the news and I just-- I wanna
do it *right* this time. If you can
just -- let me try?

*

Off Nate, torn.

13 **EXT. ABANDONED WATER PARK - DAY**

13 *

Cooper finds a side entrance, propped open with a rock.

14 **INT. ABANDONED WATER PARK - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

14 *

Inside, Addy and Bronwyn are waiting.

ADDY
Anyone see you?

COOPER
I was careful. Where's Nate?

BRONWYN
(annoyed)
Probably not coming.

(CONTINUED)

ADDY
So just tell us already. What did
Wheeler say?

BRONWYN
(takes a breath)
The cops have Simon's hard drive.

COOPER
What? Seriously?

ADDY
They found his laptop?

BRONWYN
No, just the hard drive.

COOPER
How's that possible?

The DOOR CLINKS OPEN, startling them. Nate appears.

*

NATE
Nice digs. Spooky.
(notices Addy's hair)
Wow--

ADDY
Don't.

BRONWYN
Glad you're alive.

NATE
'Scuse me?

BRONWYN
You weren't at school. You've been
ignoring my messages all day.

NATE
Yeah, I had shit to deal with.

BRONWYN
It would have been good to know.
But then again, I can think of a
lot of things that it would have
been good to know.

COOPER

Sorry, what's going on?

NATE

I think you're being a bit too intense.

ADDY

(eye-roll)

See, I knew they were boning.

BRONWYN

We're *not* boning.

COOPER

So what's all the weirdness?

BRONWYN

Forget it. It's irrelevant.

NATE

Now you wanna forget it?

COOPER

What's irrelevant? Don't do that.

ADDY

Guys, what the hell is going on?

NATE

(sharp)

My mom's back in town, all right? Happy?

Addy and Cooper are stunned.

BRONWYN

Nate, I wasn't trying to--

NATE

(scoffs)

Right. Sure.

ADDY

Wait, like your *mom* mom?

COOPER

She's *alive*?

BRONWYN

Guys, hold on--

ADDY

Holy shit--

COOPER

You just made all that up?

(CONTINUED)

NATE
(to Bronwyn)
This what you wanted?

*
*

BRONWYN
Why are you lashing out at me?

NATE
Because it's my business. I don't
owe them an explanation. Or you.

BRONWYN
And I wasn't asking for one! But
you can't blame them for being a
little freaked out you could lie
about something this big.

NATE
Oh so we're sharing everything? How
bout who stole Simon's laptop?

A death glare from Bronwyn. Addy and Cooper are gobsmacked.
Nate immediately regrets putting Bronwyn in that position.

COOPER
Wait, what does--

ADDY
What's he talking about?

BRONWYN
Okay, I took it. I didn't steal--

ADDY
Are you fucking serious?!

BRONWYN
I was going to give it back! But
then he... And I realized it was
evidence and I couldn't without
looking suspicious.

*

COOPER
So you didn't look on it?

Bronwyn doesn't answer. Which is an answer.

BRONWYN
Most of it was encrypted but yeah.
Simon knew your real secret. He had
a post all ready to go and someone
changed it.

COOPER

And you thought that *someone* was
me.

BRONWYN

No! I mean at *first*, maybe, but--

COOPER

(heads for the exit)
Jake was right. This is a mistake.

BRONWYN

I called you here to *warn* you!
They're gonna question you too!

Addy follows Cooper.

BRONWYN (CONT'D)

Addy, wait--

ADDY

No, you're a fucking liar. You've
been giving us marching orders for
weeks, acting like we're a team--
(to Nate)

And you *knew* she was manipulating
us the whole time!

*

BRONWYN

Cooper, we got *rid* of the laptop to
protect you!

COOPER

Yeah, except you didn't, right?
'Cause now the cops magically have
the hard drive?

Cooper and Addy storm out.

(CONTINUED)

14

NATE
...The cops have Simon's hard
drive?

BRONWYN
(scoffs)
Try being on time for once.

Bronwyn leaves without even looking at Nate. He is left
alone, wondering why the f*** he came in the first place.

15

EXT. COOPER'S HOUSE - FRONT LAWN - DAY

15 *

A concerned COOPER arrives to his house... To find KEVIN busy
using an old lawnmower on their front yard. *

COOPER
You need to rest. *

KEVIN
I can handle a lawnmower. *

(then)
I got a call from Detective Wheeler
today. She wants us to come down to
the station tomorrow and answer
some questions. That okay with you?

Cooper takes this in -- Shit. *

COOPER
(hesitates)
I just... I hate dragging you into
this. You don't need the stress.

KEVIN
We're a team, Coop.
(off Cooper's look)
I know you blame all this for my
heart, but that's not what
happened... Anyway, you hiding
things from me is gonna give me
more stress than just telling me
what's up.

(CONTINUED)

COOPER

(a beat)

The thing is -- the police may
bring up some random gossip going
around. Something Simon might've
said, before he...

*
*
*

KEVIN

What kind of gossip?

COOPER

Stupid stuff. About me and Keely.
Or -- just me, I guess.

(looks at the floor)

It's not true, but for some reason,
Simon might have thought I was --
into guys. I don't know why.

He can hear his voice shaking. His heart pounding in his
ears. Finally, when he looks up, he can see Kevin is not even
looking at him, lost in thought.

KEVIN

I've had an idea for a while. All
that ugliness in Jackson... That
was not my Cooper. Had a hunch
there was maybe more to that story.
Something you were hiding from me,
and everyone.

Cooper can't believe what he's hearing. His dad *knows*? And
he's... okay with it? But Kevin won't look him in the eye.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

You and Keely... Is that for show?

Cooper nods, even though his dad isn't looking at him. Kevin
struggles for the words. But nothing comes. Finally:

KEVIN (CONT'D)

I'm proud of you, son.

(off Cooper's shock)

Look, we all have our struggles. No
need to let your -- inclination...
ruin your future, your career. And
you haven't. You haven't let this
drag you down. You've been smart.

Kevin gives his son an awkward pat on the shoulder.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

I know I've been tough on you. But
I must have done somethin' right.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

Kevin starts the lawnmower again. Off Cooper, feeling both a wave of relief and a heavy sadness... What the f*** just happened?

*

16 INT. ROJAS HOUSE - NIGHT (N13)

16

*

Bronwyn's being grilled by Robyn and her PARENTS. Tensions are running high.

BRONWYN

It was a group project. He wasn't pulling his weight. I got pissed.

ISABELLA

The video's from mid-August.

*

BRONWYN

It was the first time I'd seen him since the end of the school year, okay? I hold a grudge.

ROBYN

Bronwyn, if you're going to get creative, get better at it.

(a beat)

This is *not the time* to be lying to the police. After these interrogations they're probably going to make an arrest based on circumstantial evidence. Which means what the four of you say now has *major* consequences, you understand? You *have to tell me*.

*

*

Bronwyn shakes her head, defiant. Stands up.

*

BRONWYN

I need to prep for my debate tournament.

*

*

17

EXT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - COURTYARD - DAY (D14)

17

*

Cooper's in his own world as he leaves the school. Addy catches up to him, spinning out.

ADDY

(mile-a-minute)

So what do they think they'll ask you? Does that mean I'm, next? What should I say if the cops ask me about you? Should I know? Should I know Keely knew?

COOPER

Just don't mention Keely, okay? I don't want her dragged into it anymore than she already is. She's only trying to help me.

*

*

*

He moves to go. Something occurs to Addy.

ADDY

But -- wait a sec. Hold on. If Bronwyn's right, if someone *did* change your secret -- to something false. What if that person was trying to *help* you? Protect you?

Cooper's eyes widen. Addy pulls up the post on her phone.

ADDY (CONT'D)

I mean does this sound like Keely? Or -- Keely's version of Simon?

COOPER

It's like two sentences, Addy.

Cooper stares at the post. Shakes his head. But then -- Something catches his eye.

COOPER (CONT'D)

Wait, weren't we at lunch when this dropped?

ADDY

Yeah, she was right there.

COOPER

No, but the time stamp. 3:13pm. That's three hours ahead.

ADDY

...Could she have changed it somehow? To throw us off?

(CONTINUED)

17

COOPER
(over this)
Look, we're being paranoid, okay?
And don't say anything to Bronwyn.
Or Nate. Do not trust them.

He dashes off, leaving Addy wondering...

18

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT (N14)

18

Cooper's in the hot seat. Kevin at his side. Detective Wheeler sits across from them.

DETECTIVE WHEELER
Some of the questions I need to ask
are a bit -- personal, in nature.
If you'd prefer, you and I could
also speak privately first.

KEVIN
He's told me all about this
bullshit rumor that's going around.

Wheeler smiles, calmly. And then looks at Cooper.

DETECTIVE WHEELER
The other day, at your showcase...
Who were you talking to in the
parking lot?

COOPER
(tenses)
Wh-- What do you mean?

DETECTIVE WHEELER
There was a young man you were
with. Six one maybe? African
American. You seemed to be arguing.

Cooper starts to panic. Kevin is caught off guard.

COOPER
I-- I met a lot of people.
Recruiters.

DETECTIVE WHEELER
This was someone your age. Someone
you're involved with maybe?

KEVIN
He just told you, you're mixed up.

(CONTINUED)

DETECTIVE WHEELER
We might need to speak to him.

*

COOPER
Why? What's that got to do with...?

DETECTIVE WHEELER
We've found evidence that before he died, Simon Kelleher intended to out you to your peers.

KEVIN
All right, listen--

COOPER
Dad, calm down. Please--

DETECTIVE WHEELER
We know someone changed the post Simon wrote about you -- *after* his death. Yours was the only one that was altered. And if this was a secret that could jeopardize your future in the major leagues... We're talking millions of dollars. We're talking all of your family financial woes sorted. Forever. That's a very strong motive to do whatever you could to keep it from getting out.

*

COOPER
I would never hurt someone.

Wheeler reaches for a folder. Takes out a photo.

DETECTIVE WHEELER
Really? Because we were able to obtain a court order to unseal your juvenile record from Mississippi.

*

She slides the photo toward Cooper: a TEENAGE BOY in a hospital bed, his face badly bruised and bloodied.

DETECTIVE WHEELER (CONT'D)
Wanna tell me what happened here?

Off Cooper, trying not to look...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO19 INT. NATE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

19

Nate steps out of his room, to find... The whole house has been deep cleaned. A fold-out table is set for three. His father BRAD appears, showered and shaven.

BRAD

...She did some tidying.

20 INT. NATE'S HOUSE - NIGHT - LATER

20

Ellen, Brad and Nate are having dinner. Ellen is mid-monologue. Brad has clearly cleaned up his act for her. And Nate has had enough.

ELLEN

We're talking thousands of pages documenting *decades* of corruption. Officers brutalizing black men, planting drugs, falsifying reports. And all of it *legally* destroyed by the police. Because that's justice in this country. They don't care about facts or, or truth. They care about *convictions*. And we have to face reality. You're not like those other kids, sure. You're white, but the color that really matters? *Green*.

BRAD

I think the kid knows he's fucked.

ELLEN

But he's *not* fucked. We just need to talk seriously about his options. All of them.

NATE

Meaning what?

Ellen exchanges a look with Brad, who's quiet.

ELLEN

I want you to come with me.

(a beat)

Where I've been living, it's -- pretty far off the grid.

*

(CONTINUED)

20

BRAD

If you leave before they issue an arrest, you're technically not a fugitive.

NATE

Running makes me look guilty.

ELLEN

Maybe. But you'll look just as guilty in handcuffs.

BRAD

Woulda thought you'd jump at the chance to skip town.
(off Nate's look)
You're barely goin' to school.

NATE

Someone's gotta make sure we can eat.

Brad knows he deserves that.

BRAD

Maybe this is the kick in the balls I need.
(then)
All I'm saying is... Hell, what do you have to stick around for?

Nate looks at his jacket pocket, at the flip phone he uses to talk to Bronwyn...

21

INT. ROJAS HOUSE - BRONWYN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

21

Bronwyn's looking at the flip phone on her desk... And now puts it in a drawer and shuts it. She tries to focus on her debate notes in front of her. But she's brought back to reality when she hears Maeve behind her.

MAEVE

How was I supposed to know you had threatened Simon... On tape? And why?

BRONWYN

Go away, Maeve.

Maeve shakes her head, leaves. Bronwyn remembers...

22 **INT. ROJAS HOUSE - MAEVE'S BEDROOM - FLASHBACK (FBD12)** 22

The door opens and we see Bronwyn, looking for Maeve.

BRONWYN

Maeve? Can I use your printer?

There is no one there. Bronwyn enters the empty room. Sits at Maeve's computer and logs into her gmail. Finds a paper she emailed to herself. Opens it. But before she can print... An iMessage POPS UP in the corner of the screen. From Simon:
Damn. So hot.

What the hell? Another iMessage: *That first pic still my fav though...* Bronwyn clicks on the chat. CLOSE ON Bronwyn's face -- her eyes go wide...

BRONWYN (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Fucking pervert...

Bronwyn leaves the room as fast as she can...

23 **EXT. SIMON'S HOUSE - FLASHBACK - CONTINUOUS** 23

...Simon opens the front door as Bronwyn ambushes him:

BRONWYN

What the *fuck* is wrong with you?!

24 **INT. ROJAS HOUSE - BRONWYN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - PRESENT (N14)**

Bronwyn shakes off the memory. Returns to her desk. And then, her normal phone BUZZES. A notification from *About That*. Reluctantly, she opens the app, bracing for the worst. To her surprise, there's no text this time. Just a video: black and white security footage. Is that...?

Bronwyn stares at her phone, her stomach dropping...

25 **INT. COLLEGE DORM - KRIS'S ROOM - NIGHT** 25

A seemingly stressed KRIS opens the door to a seemingly very worried Cooper.

KRIS

What's so important? What's up?

Oof. Cooper comes in. He really doesn't want to do this.

(CONTINUED)

COOPER

So, I talked to the police... And
there's a chance they might try
to... talk to you.

*

KRIS

(horrificed)

What?

COOPER

I didn't give them your name, okay?
Apparently someone saw us together
at my game--

*

(a beat)

*

I'm sorry, please don't be mad--

*

KRIS

Christ, you know, I've got midterms
next week, Margot's a low-key
sadist...

*

(points to the laptop)

...this essay that took me a week
to write just evaporated, and now
I've got to worry about cops
banging down my door for an illicit
relationship with an underage *high*
school student who -- by the way! --
happens to be a suspect in a *murder*
investigation. Thanks Grindr!

COOPER

Okay, just -- breathe. May I?

Kris sighs, lets Cooper sit down and work on the laptop.

COOPER (CONT'D)

...I uh -- told my dad. About me.
By the way.

KRIS

(softer)

How'd it go?

Cooper considers. He's barely had time to ask himself.

COOPER

He wasn't actually... surprised.
(MORE)

*

(CONTINUED)

COOPER (CONT'D)

(then)

And he said he's proud of me... For keeping it to myself.

*

Kris takes this in.

COOPER (CONT'D)

You were right. Staying in the closet -- it wasn't just baseball. I guess I was scared of how he'd look at me if he knew. If it would... change, I guess.

*

KRIS

And has it?

COOPER

I dunno. He's not really looking at me at all.

A moment. Cooper points to the screen.

COOPER (CONT'D)

Is that what you were looking for?
(off Kris's look)
Just did a search for .ASD files. I'm good at computers. But this you could have easily googled, if you weren't so busy being all dramatic.

KRIS

(overdoing it)

Me? Dramatic? FUCK YOU!

Cooper laughs, Kris smiles. Cooper stands up. Cooper looks into Kris's eyes, searching for a sign that there may be a chance for them. He gets nothing. Cooper nods, he's about to leave when--

*

COOPER

Are we still up for... The birthday thing?

*

*

*

KRIS

I mean... It is in two days, I already bought you a present. And I don't remember where I put the receipt, so--

*

Cooper smiles.

26

EXT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING (D15)

26

Bronwyn does her walk of shame. She knows EVERYONE is looking at her, watching the video in groups, talking about her. She keeps her head down, and doesn't see Addy and Cooper, a few feet apart from each other, watching her go by. Taking advantage of the moment, Cooper approaches Addy as discreetly as he can.

ADDY

Crazy, huh? Why would Bronwyn do that?

COOPER

When are they bringing you in?

ADDY

Tomorrow.

COOPER

(hesitates)

Okay, they might bring some stuff up. About me. And if they do--

ADDY

What kind of stuff?

Cooper looks around to make sure no one hears them.

COOPER

Just promise you'll let me explain.

ADDY

There's *more* you haven't told me?

COOPER

Look, I can't get into it now. Can you just trust me?

ADDY

I don't know. Can I?

Cooper looks at Addy, perplexed. She has a point, but he doesn't have time for this, people are looking at them, and now he sees KEELY coming their way. He storms off, leaving Addy confused -- and suspicious. She looks at Keely, wheels turning...

And then she hears a voice behind her.

JANAE (O.S.)

You look 30 percent less like an asshole.

(CONTINUED)

26

Addy turns around and sees JANAE. Is she making fun of her?

*

JANAE (CONT'D)

*

I'm not on Insta. Fuck Zuckerberg's
evil empire. So if I wanna comment
I have to do it analog.

*

*

*

*

(off Addy's look)

*

Like, in person? This...? Never
mind. Bye.

*

*

She heads to go. But Addy smiles, touched.

*

ADDY

*

30 percent's generous. I was a
dick. And I'm sorry.

*

*

*

(then)

*

You got plans tonight after class?
I have a new theory. About the
case.

*

*

*

Off Janae, skeptical but intrigued..

*

27

OMITTED

27

*

28

INT. ROJAS HOUSE - BRONWYN'S BEDROOM - DAY

28

*

Bronwyn's timing herself as she mumbles her opening statement for debate... The DOOR OPENS. Bronwyn turns, exasperated.

BRONWYN

I'm practicing--

It's Maeve. She closes the door behind her.

MAEVE

You, yelling at Simon in the video... Was it about me?

Jesus. The *last* thing Bronwyn needs.

MAEVE (CONT'D)

I saw the date on the tape. It was right when he started ghosting me.

(Bronwyn sighs)

I'm not an idiot, Bronwyn. I may not be *you* but I'm not *dumb*.

BRONWYN

(snaps)

Really? 'Cause falling for Bayview's most notorious asshole and sexting him doesn't seem like a genius move.

(CONTINUED)

MAEVE

(stunned)

You went through my phone?

BRONWYN

Guys *always* share that stuff. We've talked about this. And out of all the possible creeps out there, you really had to let *Simon Kelleher* talk you into that?

MAEVE

Who says he talked me into it?

BRONWYN

Oh, right. 'Cause you really wanted those photos out there for some perv to jack off to.

MAEVE

Maybe I did!

BRONWYN

Why?

MAEVE

I dunno, Bronwyn, maybe I was relieved to have something to show off!

(suddenly fighting tears)

I mean have you Googled the list of side effects for pediatric chemo? Delayed menstrual cycles, stunted growth, uterine abnormalities. Believe me, I had plenty of time to kill and it's not a fun deep dive. So yeah, I survived, which is great, but maybe I *liked* being seen as something other than a bald flat chested alien.

Bronwyn's taken aback.

MAEVE (CONT'D)

And for the record? I trusted Simon. He liked me. Which is why it never made sense he just stopped talking to me out of the blue.

BRONWYN

Maeve, I was only trying to--

MAEVE

Protect me, I know--

(CONTINUED)

28

BRONWYN

Not just you! Mom, Dad! They're not as strong as you think. They'd put up a good front in the hospital, then come home and fall apart. They can't handle one more crisis.

MAEVE

How about you going to prison? You think that'll make them happy? You have to tell them the truth!

BRONWYN

It won't change anything! I still threatened Simon. It's on tape. At least this way, they still have one daughter who's not a total fuckup.

29

EXT. COOPER'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT (N15)

29

Cooper and Keely are talking outside, the remains of burgers and fries between them.

*

KEELY

It's gonna be fine. So she saw you with some guy. Why is that even relevant?

*

COOPER

Because she thinks I'm the one who hacked into the app and changed the post. I mean it is weird, right? Who else would do that?

Cooper studies Keely's face. Looking for any tell. But she seems genuinely baffled.

(CONTINUED)

KEELY

Whatever. There isn't a video of you getting in Simon's face and threatening to kill him.

*
*
*

COOPER

It's not just that. Everybody's going to know, Keels. The police are asking questions about me. Gossip spreads faster than fire.

*

KEELY

That's all there is. Gossip. We go to Homecoming, we hold hands, we win king and queen...

*
*

(off Cooper's look)

You need people to see you there, Coop. And so do I.

Keely takes out her phone, and shows him a string of texts from "Zach". All of them very long, all unanswered.

KEELY (CONT'D)

Zach messaged me again. I guess he saw you in the news and wants to save me or something. He got some sophomore to invite him. I need you there. Maybe the fact that people think you've killed someone will come in handy for once. Maybe he'll finally leave me alone for good.

Keely holds Cooper's hand. Looks him in the eyes, playing the part of the loving girlfriend a little too well.

KEELY (CONT'D)

Please. You know I'd do anything for you.

Cooper nods, still conflicted...

JANAE (PRE-LAP)

Okay, but if it was Keely, starting a rumor Cooper's doping isn't exactly without risk.

30

INT. JANAЕ'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

30

Addy and Janae sit together in front of Janae's laptop, scrolling Keely's Facebook photos.

ADDY

Not if she knew he could pass a drug test.

JANAЕ

Why post anything about him at all?

ADDY

Because he was in the room with us. Maybe she thought no post would look even *more* suspicious.

Janae looks a little uncomfortable.

JANAЕ

What'd Cooper say?

ADDY

That I'm being paranoid. Which, like, *obviously* I'm paranoid. We're being *stalked*, I'm about to be interrogated by police officers threatening to arrest me.

JANAЕ

They don't actually think you did it. No one does.

Addy, suddenly a little indignant:

ADDY

And why *is* that?

(off Janae's look)

I mean for the record, I used to be obsessed with that show *Why Women Kill*. And you know how they make us cut up a frog in 9th grade bio? I dissected the *shit* out of it, all by myself, while Vanessa pretended she was gonna puke in the sink.

They're both laughing now.

ADDY (CONT'D)

Seriously though! The fact that everyone writes me off is kind of offensive and definitely sexist. I could *totally* be a killer.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ADDY (CONT'D)

And I'd be the most dangerous kind
'cause no one would see it coming.

She notices a photo of Janae and Simon. Suddenly the reality sinks in. They're talking about Janae's best friend.

ADDY (CONT'D)

Sorry. I didn't mean...

JANAE

It's okay. He'd be laughing too.

A moment. Addy sees the time on Janae's laptop.

ADDY

Holy crap, it's after 11?

JANAE

Oh, no, I keep it on New York time when my dad's there. He gets super pissed if I call after he's in bed.

Addy nods -- that's sweet. And then it hits her --

The time stamp. Three hours ahead. So it was Janae? This whole time? Addy freezes, a chill running down her spine. She is petrified -- and Janae notices.

JANAE (CONT'D)

You good?

ADDY

What? Oh, yeah, no, I'm just tired.
Do you have coffee? I might just need caffeine.

JANAE

We've got French Roast, I think. No pumpkin spice lattes.

ADDY

I actually like it black.
(thinks for a beat)
Or maybe a little cream. And sugar.
Brown. If you have it.

Janae smirks. Leaves the room. Addy immediately goes to the laptop. What can she do? Trying not to make any noise, she looks inside a drawer and *voilà*, there's a thumb drive! She inserts it into a port. She can hear Janae making coffee in the kitchen! Addy starts frantically dragging anything she sees towards the icon...

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

Copy to external drive? She hits ENTER. And then she sees on the screen: *23 minutes remaining...* Shit. She reaches for the thumb drive, YANKS it out -- What is she going to do?

31 INT. JANAЕ'S HOUSE - STAIRS/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

31

Addy, carrying the laptop, walks down the stairs to the ground floor carefully -- she can hear Janae riffling in the kitchen. She needs to walk by the kitchen if she wants to leave the house. Can she make a run for it? She has to try.

Addy tiptoes, trying not to make a sound. She hears Janae finishing the coffee. She crouches behind the kitchen counter. Janae comes out, two cups in hand. Addy sees her walk up the stairs, takes a deep breath, stands up and then sees the sugar on the counter. Janae forgot it, which means...

JANAЕ (O.S.)

What are you doing?

Janae has come back for the sugar. Startled, Addy drops the laptop. Janae goes to grab it and Addy, scared, reaches for a knife in the kitchen. Brandishes it like a weapon.

ADDY

Just so you know, my phone tracks my location so if anything happens, if I were to end up like Simon--

JANAЕ

You think *I* killed him? He was my only friend!

*

ADDY

I know you guys were fighting. And you must have known his passwords. So you posted all our secrets to give us each motive for a murder you committed. But you used your laptop, which is why they all had time stamps *three hours ahead* of when they actually dropped! Let's see what the police think *about that*.

*

*

*

Janae watches Addy, shocked by this rant... and that Addy figured it out.

(CONTINUED)

JANAE

Fine. You're right. I did post them. But *only the first ones*. I wanted the police to know you *had* motive. I was sure one of you killed Simon! We'd barely said two words to each other. I didn't *know* you--

*
*

ADDY

That post ruined my life, Janae.

*

JANAE

Did it? You would have never broken up with that creep otherwise. Or your "friend" Vanessa, who by the way, ran her mouth about the peanut oil in your locker so much that even I found out.

(Addy gives her a look)

I knew there would be consequences, ok? Why do you think I changed Cooper's secret? I wasn't going to out him. That wasn't right.

ADDY

So you settled for something that could just ruin his career. *Nice*.

JANAE

You're bleeding.

Addy checks her hand. She was grabbing the knife so hard and so high, she just cut herself with one of its sharp edges.

JANAE (CONT'D)

I didn't post the photo of the four of you. Or the video of Bronwyn. And I obviously didn't *kill* him! Check the time stamp if you don't believe me!

ADDY

(pushing past her)

Let me go or I swear to God...

Addy opens the door. Janae follows her.

JANAE

Someone else got into the app and locked me out. I tried logging in and the passwords had all been changed and I got this creepy pop up message telling me to back off.

(CONTINUED)

Addy stops, looks at her. *What?*

Ginny King

JANAE (CONT'D)

That means there's *someone else out there* -- whoever's been *following* you guys -- *That* must be who killed Simon! You have to believe me!

Addy stares at Janae. Can she believe her? She's never seen her like that before, pleading to be believed, and really scared. Addy than looks at her own bloody hand. She shakes her head. It's all too much. She takes off...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

32

EXT. NATE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

32

Ellen is on the porch, smoking. Nate pulls up on his motorcycle. Kills the engine. He takes off his helmet and gets off the bike.

ELLEN

We got a call from the detective. They want you to come in for questioning. We're running out of time.

NATE

(shakes his head)
I'm not leaving. I can't.

ELLEN

Is it your dad you're worried about? It'll be *good* for him to stand on his own two feet, it'll make him stronger--

NATE

(hits a nerve)
Oh really? Is that what you told yourself when you skipped out? That you were doing it for *our* sake? You don't run out on the people you love, just 'cause it's easier.

*

He heads for the door. She pleads one last time:

ELLEN

You deserve a second chance, you hear me?

He stops in his tracks. A *second chance*? Then it hits him.

NATE

You think I did it.
(then)
That's why you're so convinced they'll arrest me. Not 'cause they're lazy. Or corrupt. It's 'cause you actually think...

(CONTINUED)

32

Ellen won't meet his gaze.

ELLEN

I don't have the right to ask. I gave that up. But *if* you did something... Then it's my fault, not yours. And you don't need to spend your life punishing yourself. Hell, what do you call the past six years, huh? Why not chalk it up to time served, how about that?

But Nate just stares at his mother, gutted...

33

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - MORNING (D16) 33

Addy accepts a coffee from Detective Wheeler. ANN next to her. We see the band aid on her hand covering the cut from the kitchen knife.

DETECTIVE WHEELER

I like the hair.

ANN

...It's a choice.

Addy nervously sips her coffee.

DETECTIVE WHEELER

What can you tell me about Cooper Clay?

ADDY

(a little surprised)

Cooper? I dunno. He's... nice.

Wheeler pulls out printed copies of the *About That* posts about the four of them.

*

DETECTIVE WHEELER

You recognize these?

Addy nods, her eyes zeroing in on the post about her and TJ.

DETECTIVE WHEELER (CONT'D)

We're in possession of Simon's hard drive. Which allows us to compare these posts with earlier unpublished drafts Simon had saved. Three of them are exactly the same.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DETECTIVE WHEELER (CONT'D)

(then)

Cooper's is not. Which means
whoever got into the app and posted
these decided to rewrite it.

Addy stares at the post. Shakes her head.

ADDY

It wasn't Cooper.

DETECTIVE WHEELER

Who was it, then?

Addy struggles. Looks at the band-aid on her hand. If she's
going to rat out Janae, now's the time. But... She hides her
hand under the table.

ADDY

I don't know.

DETECTIVE WHEELER

(a beat)

Has Cooper ever said anything to
you about Simon Kelleher's laptop?
You ever see him with it?

(Addy shakes her head)

We think that may be how he changed
the post, using the laptop.

*

ADDY

He didn't do that...

*

DETECTIVE WHEELER

Addy, I can tell you're very
trusting. And loyal...

ANN

She really is. Any of those kids
could be playing her like a violin.

DETECTIVE WHEELER

...But you have to understand,
right now these kids are not your
friends.

*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DETECTIVE WHEELER (CONT'D)

One or more of them was responsible
for Simon's death. And that's not
the only crime I have to look into.

(off Addy's look)

Are you familiar with the term
"obstruction of justice"?

Addy nods, bristling -- everyone think she's a moron...

DETECTIVE WHEELER (CONT'D)

Then you understand if you withhold
information pertinent to our
investigation then that means you
have committed a crime. Regardless
of your involvement in Simon's
death.

*

Addy's fighting tears, starting to panic.

ANN

Baby, do you know something?

DETECTIVE WHEELER

We've seen the photo of your little
secret society. Is one of them
coercing you to lie? We know at
least of one violent incident in
Cooper's past-- Did he threaten
you?

*

ADDY

What? No!

DETECTIVE WHEELER

Force you to lie? About the laptop?

And finally -- Addy breaks:

ADDY

Bronwyn had the laptop!

A beat. Ann is stunned. Wheeler leans in.

DETECTIVE WHEELER

You saw her with it?

ADDY

No. But Nate did.

Wheeler nods, satisfied.

DETECTIVE WHEELER

Thank you, Addy. You did the right
thing.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (3)

33

Off ADDY, not sure that's true --

34 **INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - MULTIPURPOSE ROOM - AFTERNOON** 34

A makeshift stage. A banner hanging above: "North American Speech and Debate Association." Two tables for the competing TEAMS, a podium and microphone for the speaker. Rows of fold-out chairs for SPECTATORS, who are still filing in. Bronwyn's at the Bayview table. EVAN sits a few seats down, awkward. One of their TEAMMATES looks out at the crowded audience.

TEAMMATE

Quite the turnout.

EVAN

They're not here for us...

Bronwyn notices several students snapping photos of her on their phones. She spots her parents and Maeve taking their seats in the back. Then -- her PHONE BUZZES: Robyn's calling.

BRONWYN

Uh -- I'll be right back.

35 **INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

35

Bronwyn answers the call, alarmed:

BRONWYN

We're about to compete. What's up?

ROBYN (O.S.)

Afraid this can't wait. Just spoke to a friend in the department. Apparently Addy Prentiss says you and Nate Macauley were in possession of Simon's laptop.

BRONWYN

(stunned)

Wh-- Wait--

ROBYN (O.S.)

We need to have a serious chat, tonight.

*

Bronwyn hears A ROUND OF APPLAUSE...

36

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - MULTIPURPOSE ROOM - DAY -SAME TIME

...As the moderator MR. SHAPIRO (50s) speaks from the podium.

MR. SHAPIRO

Thank you all and welcome.

Bronwyn slips back inside. Takes her seat. Bronwyn's gone very pale.

MR. SHAPIRO (CONT'D)

As always we strive to choose topics with real impact on today's youth. Our first resolution is "Instances of high school bullying are as pernicious as acts of physical violence, and should be penalized accordingly." Arguing the affirmative will be Laguna South High School's Alex Ross. The negative will be argued by Bayview High School's Bronwyn Rojas.

*

A FAINT MURMURING. Bronwyn is clearly the main attraction.

MR. SHAPIRO (CONT'D)

Mr. Ross, the floor is yours.

ALEX ROSS (17, bookish but cocky) walks to the podium.

ALEX

Thank you, Mr. Shapiro.

(speed-talking)

Ladies and gentlemen, the goal of any educational administration is an environment where students are free to grow and express themselves without fear of harm. But we're living in a fast-changing world...

*

Bronwyn looks down at her notes, her mind racing...

37

EXT. SIMON'S HOUSE - DAY - FLASHBACK (FBD12)

37

Simon opens the front door as Bronwyn ambushes him:

BRONWYN

What the *fuck* is your problem?!

(before he can get a word)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

37

BRONWYN (CONT'D)

I don't know how the hell you got her to send those photos, I don't know who else you're targeting, and frankly I don't care. But here's a tip: possession of child pornography is a felony in California, Penal Code 311, and the fact that you're a minor does *not* make you exempt. So unless you want to register as a sex offender for the rest of your life, I suggest you delete them *right now* or I'll have you arrested. And stay away from my sister or I will fucking kill you myself, you understand?

Simon looks shaken, clearly hurt and angry. But he pulls himself together, just as she turns to go.

SIMON

I know you cheated. I was gonna let it slide, you know... Do your whole family a solid.

(smirks)

So yeah, I'll stay away from Maeve. But maybe you should worry more about yourself... And hey -- smile to the camera.

Simon looks at the security camera above their heads, and so does an angry Bronwyn --

38

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL-MULTIPURPOSE ROOM-DAY-PRESENT (D16)

Bronwyn shakes off the memory, as her opponent drones on...

ALEX (O.S.)

...We see time and again, there's no way to draw a line between verbal and physical assault, between emotional and bodily injury. In fact, just two days ago, we saw leaked footage of an incident involving none other than my opponent, Bronwyn Rojas, and her former classmate Simon Kelleher...

Bronwyn SNAPS to attention. Shocked WHISPERS in the crowd.

ALEX (CONT'D)

...whose untimely death is currently being investigated.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALEX (CONT'D)

And while I don't pretend to know whether Ms. Rojas was directly involved, note that once again we see the same pattern: a victim of verbal assault is subsequently a victim of *physical* harm--

MR. SHAPIRO

All right, that's time, Mr. Ross.

No one can believe what just happened. Isabella and Javier are appalled. So is Maeve. Even the moderator looks pretty uncomfortable. Alex returns to his seat -- a smug smile.

MR. SHAPIRO (CONT'D)

Now arguing the negative: Bayview High School's Bronwyn Rojas.

Stunned, Bronwyn slowly climbs to her feet. Makes her way to the podium, notes in hand. Everywhere she looks, kids have their phones out, filming what's sure to be a viral moment.

BRONWYN

Thank you, Mr. Shapiro, I--
(struggling)
Excuse me. Bullying, while no doubt reprehensible...

*

But she's short of breath. Her hands are shaking. The whole room is spinning. And just as she's about to break down--

MAEVE (O.S.)

I'm sorry, you know what?

Maeve is on her feet, addressing the whole room.

MAEVE (CONT'D)

I hate to interrupt but this is bullshit.

Confused glances all around. Bronwyn shoots Maeve daggers.

ISABELLA

(hisses)

Maeve!

Now all the phone cameras are pointed at Maeve...

MAEVE

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Maeve Rojas. That's my sister, Bronwyn.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MAEVE (CONT'D)

Who you probably saw in that video,
otherwise most of you wouldn't be
here. No offense Mr. Shapiro.

MR. SHAPIRO

Uh -- I'm sorry, Miss Rojas--

MAEVE

The thing is, I sent Simon some
pics, okay? Bathroom selfies. Tits
out... We've all done it.

Javier and Isabella are horrified. The students filming on
their phones can barely contain their glee.

MAEVE (CONT'D)

And Bronwyn thought Simon was gonna
post them, 'cause that was sorta
his thing, may he rest in peace.
And she's got this problem where
she thinks she has to protect me
from everything all the time, even
when I don't ask her to. I guess it
kinda makes sense because for a
while it felt like a fucking sneeze
would split me in two.

Bronwyn looks at Maeve. It's the first time she has admitted
that she understands why Bronwyn does what she does.

MAEVE (CONT'D)

What I am trying to say is, my
sister's not a murderer and she
wasn't *bullying* him. I'll give you
that she is fucking annoying: Does
a million extracurricular
activities, gets the best grades,
helps with chores and she still has
time to save me from myself when I
fuck up. She was just scared
everyone would eat me alive. Sorta
like what you're all doing to her
right now? So, Mr. Ross, maybe if
you're gonna throw out clickbait
instead of actual arguments, you
could at least, like, *fact check*?

The adults in the room exchange awkward glances. But the
students can't help being impressed. Bronwyn stares at her
sister, moved in spite of herself...

39

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT (N16)

39

Nate walks in. Takes a seat like he's right at home. Wheeler follows, closing the door behind her.

DETECTIVE WHEELER
...You are entitled to have a
guardian present. So we're clear.

NATE
(shrugs)
Wanna cut to the chase?

*

Wheeler eyes him. His attitude's getting under her skin.

DETECTIVE WHEELER
I have a witness who tells me
Bronwyn Rojas was in possession of
Simon's laptop. Is that true?

A beat. Is she bluffing? He can't tell.

*

NATE
...Not that I'm aware.

DETECTIVE WHEELER
You sure? Same witness insists you
knew she had it.

Nate stares back at her. But he keeps his cool.

NATE
Sorry. It's just not true.
(then)
That it?

But they both know he's lying. Wheeler smiles faintly.

DETECTIVE WHEELER
You know, neurologically speaking,
we shouldn't consider anyone full
grown adults til our mid-twenties.
The adolescent brain is still
deciding which neural pathways it's
going to use. And for that reason
it's actually flooded with *twice* as
many neurons. Which means the
dopamine rush you get -- from high
risk behaviors, illegal substances,
macho posturing for your friends...
At your age, you actually get *twice*
the high.

*

*

(CONTINUED)

39

Nate eyes her, not sure where she's headed...

DETECTIVE WHEELER (CONT'D)
Meanwhile the prefrontal cortex --
impulse control, decision-making,
forethought -- that's still
underdeveloped, especially in
males. Your own brain's hard-wired
to get you into trouble. And maybe
it's not even your fault.

*

She leans in, vaguely menacing.

*

DETECTIVE WHEELER (CONT'D)
But here's the thing. The legal
system? Doesn't care. A kid *died*.
And whoever was responsible *will* be
charged as an adult, whether or not
they've turned eighteen. And I
can't tell you how many of my
colleagues think you did it. So, if
you tell me the truth, you might
get us off your back, and save
yourself. I'll ask you one more
time. Was Bronwyn Rojas ever in
possession of Simon Kelleher's
laptop?

*

*

Off Nate, a bead of sweat forming at his temples...

40

INT. NATE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

40

Nate BURSTS into the house. Bolts for his bedroom.

41 **INT. NATE'S HOUSE - NATE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS** 41

He grabs a duffel bag. Starts throwing clothes inside. Ellen appears in the doorway, relieved he's come to his senses.

ELLEN
...I'll get my things.

NATE
No. I'm leaving. But not with you.

Nate opens his safe. Grabs some cash and his passport.

ELLEN
What do you mean?

But he ignores her. Reaches for a pair of shoes from under his bed, where his gaze lingers on his flip phone...

42 **INT. ADDY'S HOUSE - NIGHT** 42

Addy sits on the couch looking wrecked, scrolling her Instagram. *47 new comments*. She pulls up the photo in question: a selfie with her new hair. She scans the feedback, zeroing in on the haters: *#cryforhelp... dyke... Why not go full Britney lmao...* Addy clenches her jaw, trying hard not to care. And then, she sees a DM from a familiar face -- TJ: *Wow. But he doesn't stop there. There's a string of unanswered messages from TJ. I really like the hair... Or is it a wig? Are you undercover?... Okay I guess undercover Addy isn't feeling me either... What did I do wrong?... I feel like I deserve an explanation ... Wow, okay. Cool cool cool.*

Addy types out a response: *When someone doesn't respond, it usually means you should stop texting.* She stops, considers, deletes it. Instead, she simply BLOCKS him. And then-- The DOORBELL RINGS, startling her.

43 **EXT. ADDY'S HOUSE - NIGHT** 43

Addy opens her front door to REVEAL... Janae, looking uncharacteristically sheepish. A tense moment.

JANAE
...Twelve hours since you talked to the cops and I still haven't been arrested so... Thank you.

ADDY
You're not welcome. You made my life hell. But I just thought that...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

43

ADDY (CONT'D)

what you put us through is nothing
compared to what you've been
through. I didn't want to make your
life hell unless I was sure.

(a beat)

Also, I checked the time stamp.

(CONTINUED)

43

JANAE
(moved)
You know... You are smarter than
people think. You totally could
have killed Simon and gotten away
with it.

Addy looks down. Not in the mood for a tender moment with
Janae. She moves to close the door. Janae stops her --

JANAE (CONT'D)
And there's something else.
(lowers her voice)
About the day Simon died. Something
I didn't think was important at
first... But now I'm not sure.

Off Addy, listening intently...

44

INT. COLLEGE DORM - KRIS'S ROOM - NIGHT

44

Kris and Cooper are sitting on Kris's bed. Kris checks the
time on his phone: 9:28pm.

KRIS
Two minutes to go.

COOPER
I mean 9:30's an estimate. My birth
certificate's still in storage.

KRIS
Well in that case...

Kris retrieves a small wrapped gift.

KRIS (CONT'D)
Happy birthday.

Touched, Cooper slowly unwraps a thin paperback: *Take Me Out*
by Richard Greenberg.

KRIS (CONT'D)
I know you're not a theater kid.
I'm not either really... But it's
about a gay baseball player. His
coming out story. I just figured...
I dunno.

Cooper smiles, moved. And then suddenly, almost without
realizing it... He's fighting tears.

(CONTINUED)

KRIS (CONT'D)

Whoa, hey-- What's the matter?
(Cooper shakes his head)
Right. Like you'll tell me...

*
*
*

Cooper struggles. A decision. He hesitates. This isn't going to be easy.

COOPER

The first time I ever -- messed around. With a guy. Kyle. We were both fifteen. Barely did anything. But I liked him.

*
*

(then)

That weekend, I wanted to see him again, so I texted him. Asked if he wanted to meet somewhere away from everything, like the park, at night. He just said ok. Something was off. But... I went. And then, this older guy shows up. Kind of looks like Kyle. His older brother, who'd seen my text, and blamed me for his little brother being a "pervert". He started punching me. At some point, I just had to punch back. And I did. Hard.

*

KRIS

...Hard?

COOPER

(fighting tears)

I broke his nose. I'd never even been in a fight before. I didn't--
(shaking)

Anyway, he didn't want to admit to the cops what the fight was about. Said I had started it out of nowhere. And I could see how easily the cop believed it. Dude looked like he'd made up his mind about me before he even got out of his car. I knew if I didn't say anything, that would be the story. And if I'm being honest -- that's what I wanted.

*

(a beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

44

CONTINUED: (2)

44

COOPER (CONT'D)

Because in baseball, you can come back from beating guys up, but from kissing them? Not so much. So I took the blame. I never saw Kyle again. And my dad guessed the truth anyway.

(then)

So, if you think about it... *That's* my coming out story. And it's ugly. It's so ugly. And I'm so sorry.

Cooper chokes back tears. Before Kris can say anything -- Cooper's PHONE BUZZES. A message from Addy, to the group: *Need to talk. New info. Same spot?*

KRIS

...You gotta go?

Cooper sets the phone down. Shakes his head.

COOPER

No. It doesn't matter. This is where I wanna be. If that's okay?

Still shaken, Kris gently takes Cooper in his arms. And Cooper starts to cry.

45

INT. ROJAS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

45

CLOSE ON Bronwyn's phone BUZZING. The same message from Addy. PULL BACK to REVEAL the whole Rojas family, mid-argument.

MAEVE

I wasn't going to let people think--

JAVIER

That's enough, Maeve.

A few feet away, Robyn is finishing a call on her cell.

ROBYN

(into the phone)

Alright, thanks. I owe you one.

ISABELLA

What happened? Any news?

(CONTINUED)

45

ROBYN

Well, Maeve's little performance did earn Bronwyn some sympathy, but it also gives her yet *another* motive...

Isabella shakes her head, livid with Maeve. Maeve sighs.

ROBYN (CONT'D)

A bit of good news though. On the laptop front. Bronwyn's story was corroborated.

BRONWYN

(stunned)

It was?

ROBYN

Nate Macauley. Insists he never saw it. So that helps. Unless Addy can tell them where to find it, which she obviously can't, there's nothing to worry about.

Bronwyn can't quite believe it. She exchanges a glance with Maeve. A sigh of relief...

46

INT. ROJAS HOUSE - BRONWYN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - LATER

46

Bronwyn enters, locking the door behind her. She goes to her desk drawer and finds her flip phone. Opens it. Dials...

47

INT. NATE'S HOUSE - NATE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

47

In the dark, Nate's flip phone VIBRATES under his bed...

48

INT. ABANDONED WATER PARK - NIGHT

48

*

Addy waits alone. She checks the time. Are they really not coming? She waits. Exhausted. Frustrated. Pissed.

ADDY

Thanks, guys.

And then -- THE LIGHTS GO OUT. She is in complete darkness. She uses her phone to shine a little light around here, but she barely can see a thing. Her breathing accelerates, she tries to keep calm, when --

A NOISE from the back. Are they here?

(CONTINUED)

48

ADDY (CONT'D)
...Hello?

She points the light at the entrance. The door closes slowly, but there's nobody there. She shines her phone around. But it's quiet. No sign of anyone. She takes a breath.

ADDY (CONT'D)
(to herself)
Ok. Sure. Bye.

WIDE on Addy, alone in the dark, her face lit by her phone. Then, a NOISE. A CHAIR CREAKING. And then... FOOTSTEPS in the dark.

ADDY starts to walk out, looking around frantically. She trips on *something*. Did somebody trip her? No, it's just the leg of a chair. Behind her, we see a SHADOW approaching. And hear the creaking sound of the floor in the distance, and footsteps getting closer...

That's it. She takes off RUNNING, back the way she came...

49

EXT. ABANDONED WATER PARK - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

49 *

She sprints out the side door, slamming it behind her. And as she runs through the alley and out into the street we see...

...a SINGLE HEADLIGHT bearing down on her.

OUT ON THAT.

END OF EPISODE