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UCP

One Of Us Is Lying

“One Of Us Is Not Giving Up”

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Based on the novel by:

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White Production Draft:

5/3/21

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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
Kris Greene
Vanessa
Ms. Avery
Detective Wheeler
Isabella Rojas
Javier Rojas
Kevin Clay
Ellen Macauley
Perry Egan
Hunter
Judge
Prosecutor
Clerk
Interviewer's Voice (V.O.)

One Of Us Is Lying

SET LIST

INTERIORS

Addy's House
- Addy's Bedroom
Bayview High School
- Hall/Ms. Avery's Classroom
- Hallway
- Locker Room
- Ms. Avery's Classroom
- ~~Principal Gupta's Office~~
College Dorm
- Kris's Room
Cooper's Car
Cooper's House
Rojas House
- Bronwyn's Bedroom
- Living Room
Court Room
Jail
- Conference Room
- Nate's Cell/Visiting Room
Jake's House
- Jake's Bedroom
Ms. Avery's House
- Front Entrance
- Living Room
Police Station

EXTERIORS

Addy's House
Bayview High School
- Courtyard
- Parking Lot
- Track
Beach
Cooper's Car
Cooper's House
Jake's House
Laguna High School
- Parking Lot
Ms. Avery's House
- Front Door
Streets
Streets of Bayview

One Of Us Is Lying

Revision History

DATE	REVISION	REVISED PAGES
5/3/21	White Production Draft	ALL

Major Revisions: No Major Revisions

TEASER

1

INT. COURT ROOM - NIGHT (N18)

1

NATE, handcuffed and still in his homecoming outfit (106), is standing at the defendant's table. Nate eyes the JUDGE (50s, not white) reviewing her notes with an unreadable look. A PROSECUTOR (30s, sharp pantsuit) looks serious and intimidating at her own table. Then, *THWAP!* A harried MAN in an ill-fitting suit drops a stack of files on the table.

PERRY

I'm Perry Egan, your court-appointed attorney.

NATE

Hey, I'm --

PERRY

I know who you are, Nate, everyone does. And that doesn't help. So: guilty or... no?

Nate looks from Perry to the judge, he knows he's fucked. And yet... He shakes his head.

NATE

No. Not guilty.

Perry raises an eyebrow, *ya sure?* Then, the CLERK calls the hearing to session.

CLERK

Case #52392, State of California
versus Nathaniel Macauley -- charge
is murder in the first degree.

Perry stands. Nate starts to follow suit, but Perry puts a hand on his shoulder, presses him back to sitting.

JUDGE

How do you plead?

PERRY

Not guilty, your honor. We request
my client be released to his
parents until the trial.

PROSECUTOR

State requests defendant be held
without bail. He has two strikes on
his record already.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

PROSECUTOR (CONT'D)

And the victim's life-saving epipens that were stolen from the school's nurse's office were found in his possession, along with cash and his passport. He's clearly a flight risk. Need I go on?

PERRY

He's a minor, your honor.

The judge is unmoved. She looks Nate over, picks up her gavel --

JUDGE

Defendant is remanded to state custody to await trial. Bail is set at \$500,000.

The Judge bangs her gavel. And just like that, it's over --

PERRY

I know that sounds like a lot, but you just need 10%.

NATE

...just?

But Perry's gone. As the BAILIFF escorts Nate out of the room, he looks back -- but there's no one there to help him.

2

INT. ROJAS HOUSE - BRONWYN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

2

BRONWYN sits on her bed and scrolls through SOCIAL MEDIA feeds: photos, clips, and reactions to Nate's arrest. *Killer caught! Figures it was the dealer. The hot one's always a murderer.* Her door opens and her mother ISABELLA peeks in. Bronwyn quickly closes her tabs.

ISABELLA

I have good news.

Bronwyn looks at her mom, hopeful. Could it be about Nate?

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

Principal Gupta called. The disciplinary committee has finished their investigation into the cheating accusation and didn't find any wrongdoing.

Bronwyn is shocked by the news, it should be a relief but all she can think of is Nate.

(CONTINUED)

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

This is great news, Bronwyn. We can put this behind us and focus on your future. How's the personal statement coming? Do you want me to read it?

BRONWYN

It's um. Not really ready yet.

ISABELLA

The early action deadline is Saturday.

BRONWYN

I know. I've been a little distracted.

ISABELLA

Honey, I know. And I know Nate's arrest is difficult for you. I'm sorry he isn't who you wanted him to be.

Bronwyn sighs, tired of having to defend Nate to people who won't listen.

BRONWYN

He didn't do it!

ISABELLA

It's time to move forward. Everything you've worked so hard for is still in your grasp, if you focus on getting back on track... And that starts with your personal statement.

Bronwyn can't believe what she's hearing, but she knows better than to argue with her mother.

BRONWYN

(sighs, nods)

I know. You're right.

Isabella smiles, she's getting through. She gives her daughter a hug.

ISABELLA

I'm really so proud of you.

(CONTINUED)

She goes, closing the door behind her. When she's gone, Bronwyn opens a Word Doc with the Yale Admissions question at the top: "Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?" Bronwyn stares at the question. Then, she opens the tabs about Nate up again.

BRONWYN

Fuck this.

She closes her computer, pulls out her phone, and sends a text to Cooper and Addy, *I can't be home right now. Can we meet?* Before going to her window and climbing out.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

3

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

3

ADDY, COOPER, JANAE, and Bronwyn are piled into Addy's bedroom recounting the events of Homecoming.

ADDY

...What I don't get is why someone put one pen in my locker and all the rest on Nate's bike.

JANAE

Maybe it was a distraction? Or they were trying to frame you too.

Cooper looks at Janae, he still doesn't trust her.

COOPER

So are you one of us now?

JANAE

It was my best friend who was murdered. So yeah, I'm pretty invested in finding who did it.
(off Cooper, unsatisfied)
And Bronwyn invited me.

BRONWYN

We need to get Nate out, and we need all the help we can get.

They all look at Bronwyn, she's so obviously exhausted and desperate, but trying to hide it under her proactive personality. Addy summons all the positivity she can.

ADDY

Right. Absolutely. So, what's the plan?

BRONWYN

Ms. Avery. The cops weren't looking at her because they thought she didn't have motive. But now we know she did. Simon had something on her.

ADDY

Do you think she was sleeping with a student?

COOPER

Who would she possibly...?

(CONTINUED)

ADDY

Just saying, that's always the teacher's secret.

BRONWYN

Whatever it is, we need to get her talking. We bluff. Tell her we know what she did and then record her response.

ADDY

Who's going to do that?

BRONWYN

(looks at Janae)

Someone who could believably have heard about it from Simon...

COOPER

Ohhh that's why she's here.

JANAE

Sorry what?

BRONWYN

Do you want to find out what really happened to Simon?

All eyes on Janae as she considers.

4

INT. JAIL - CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING (D19)

4

Nate sits in a cold, windowless room in an ill-fitting prison jumpsuit. With a BUZZ, the door opens and his mother, ELLEN, comes in. She takes a seat across from him.

NATE

Where's Dad?

ELLEN

He couldn't make it.

Nate knows what that means. He nods, hiding any emotion as the door BUZZES again -- Perry enters, harried as ever.

PERRY

Sorry I'm late. Not used to the whole media circus thing, I could barely get out of my car.

Perry sits, trying to find the right folders in his caseload.

(CONTINUED)

PERRY (CONT'D)

My boss says this shirt is bad for camera. Something about the stripes.

NATE

Should we trade outfits? Wouldn't want you to look bad.

PERRY

Haven't lost your sense of humor. That's good.

He pushes papers toward Nate.

PERRY (CONT'D)

And I have more good news. They're offering you a plea deal... If you plead guilty to taking the epis, they'll reduce the charges to involuntary manslaughter.

Nate stares at the paper, devastated.

ELLEN

What's the sentence for that?

PERRY

Six years -- with good behavior, he could be out in four.

ELLEN

(trying to be helpful)
Just like college.

PERRY

It's a good deal. If we go to trial you could end up with life.

NATE

(worried)
What about the others? What will happen to them?

ELLEN

Baby, you need to worry about you.

PERRY

You sign this, the case is closed. We go to trial, go through discovery... who knows what else the police will drag up about them.

Nate takes this in. He looks from Perry to Ellen.

(CONTINUED)

NATE

Can I think about it?

PERRY

What's there to think about?

(off Nate, uncertain)

We have 72 hours to respond, then
the deal goes away. So: think fast.

5

INT. COOPER'S HOUSE - MORNING

5

Over breakfast, KEVIN slides Cooper a stack of sports
magazines with post-its sticking out.

KEVIN

Tagged all Rob Calhoun's articles.
I want you to read them, see what
kind of questions he asks so you're
prepared for the interview.

COOPER

You don't think we should postpone?
With Nate and everything... what if
that's all he wants to talk about?

KEVIN

Hell no. This guy's a king maker.
He writes a profile on you, scouts
pay attention, we're not giving
that up.

(off Cooper, worried)

And he knows you're only there to
talk about baseball. He tries to
ask you about anything with Simon,
you just tell him that's not part
of the deal. The sooner you start
distancing yourself from all that,
and get people talking about your
fast ball again, the better.

COOPER

You're sure?

KEVIN

This is your moment, Cooper. Don't
let anyone take it away from you.

Cooper takes a breath and smiles.

6

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - HALL/MS. AVERY'S CLASSROOM - DAY 6

Janae stands outside Ms. Avery's room. She watches MS. AVERY through the door: She's absorbed in grading papers, absentmindedly clicking the red pen in her hand. Janae looks back to the far end of the hallway, where Cooper, Addy and Bronwyn pretend to be studying on the floor, but in fact, they are keeping guard. Janae takes a deep breath and pushes the door open. She approaches Ms. Avery --

JANAE

Hi, Ms. Avery. Do you have a few minutes to talk?

MS. AVERY

Regarding?

JANAE

Simon.

MS. AVERY

Have a seat.

Janae takes a seat across from Ms. Avery, carefully angling a phone, hidden in her sweatshirt pocket, towards Ms. Avery.

JANAE

So they arrested Nate, but I don't--

MS. AVERY

You don't think he did it. You made that pretty clear at the Homecoming dance.

JANAE

Yeah. But the thing is-- I have information that could help Nate. But if I go to the police with it, I may be hurting someone else.

MS. AVERY

Who?

JANAE

You, Ms. Avery.

Ms. Avery tenses up. She stares at Janae, trying to not give anything away.

JANAE (CONT'D)

I know that Simon was going to write about you. Which means you had as much motive as anyone else in the room.

(CONTINUED)

MS. AVERY

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

JANAE

I could just go to the cops, but I wanted to give you a chance to explain. You've always been one of my favorite teachers.

Ms. Avery clenches her jaw, all repressed rage.

MS. AVERY

Are you giving me a chance to explain? Or are you fishing for me to say something because you have an outlandish theory and nothing to back it up?

JANAE

Oh, I can back it up. Simon texted me about it.

MS. AVERY

Can you show me?

Janae was ready for this. She pulls out her phone (a different one) and pulls up a text message, she holds it out for Ms. Avery to see. Ms. Avery squints at it: *Simon: Moving on up, going after a teacher for the first time this year. Janae: OMG who? Simon: Ms. Avery, turns out the strictest teacher broke some rules herself.*

Ms. Avery goes pale, she tries to take the phone from Janae.

MS. AVERY (CONT'D)

May I take a closer look?

JANAE

I may not always get straight A's, but I'm not stupid.

MS. AVERY

But you think I am. Why should I believe this was really from Simon?

JANAE

Because it is.

Ms. Avery's eyes settle on Janae's sweatshirt pocket: The other phone is peeking out. She frowns, on to her.

(CONTINUED)

MS. AVERY

Nice try, Janae. But I think we're done here. Close the door on your way out.

Janae slinks back into the hall, dejected: the plan failed. But as Janae leaves, STAY ON MS. AVERY'S FACE --

7

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH - MS. AVERY'S CLASSROOM -DAY-FLASHBACK(D1)

Ms. Avery stares across her desk in that very same classroom on the first day of school, blinking at SIMON.

MS. AVERY

I could lose my job. My teaching license. My whole life...

Ms. Avery's voice breaks. Simon has never seen her like this, probably nobody has. He gulps, tries to keep going.

SIMON

I know--

MS. AVERY

And you don't care?

SIMON

If I didn't care, I would have posted it by now. But--

MS. AVERY

I have a confession, Mr. Kelleher. I have some grudging respect for what you do. I understand why you want to expose the hypocrisy around us. In my mind I've justified that you took a hammer to your fellow students' lives, because some of them deserve it, and all of them have so much time ahead of them to glue the pieces back together.

(broken)

I don't. And what I did doesn't make me a hypocrite. What I did may be illegal, but I don't deserve this. So, why are you doing this to me?

SIMON

(shaken)

Just do something for me in exchange, and nobody has to know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MS. AVERY

So you're blackmailing me.

SIMON

I'm giving you a choice. I thought you of all people would appreciate that. Choice.

Ms. Avery stares at him, full of anger, fighting back tears.
We RETURN TO --

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL-MS. AVERY'S CLASSROOM -PRESENT(D19)

Ms. Avery clicks her red pen, obviously distressed.

INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Janae, ashen, finds Bronwyn, Cooper, and Addy in the hall, waiting for her. Janae pulls Addy's phone out of her pocket and hands it to Addy, defeated.

JANAE

She knew the text was fake. And I think she saw that I was recording.

COOPER

Seriously?

JANAE

I'm sorry, guys.

ADDY

It's not your fault. She's smart. Smart enough that she could plan the whole thing.

BRONWYN

But we still don't have proof.

Then, *SLAM* -- Ms. Avery's door opens and shuts with a bang. Ms. Avery hurries down the hall, phone to her ear.

MS. AVERY

(panicked)

I don't know if she was bluffing.

(then)

Okay. I'll see you there.

She rushes out a side entrance of the building. Cooper, Addy, Janae, and Bronwyn all look at each other. Jaws dropped.

(CONTINUED)

JANAE
Did you hear that?

BRONWYN
We have to follow her.

ADDY
(to Cooper)
Where's your car?

COOPER
We -- what? No --

Off Cooper, outnumbered --

INT./EXT. COOPER'S CAR - DRIVING - DAY

Addy, Cooper, Janae and Bronwyn tail Ms. Avery through the streets of Bayview -- Cooper grips the steering wheel, trying to remain calm:

ADDY
Left, she's going left --

COOPER
I see that --

JANAE
You're too close! I think you're supposed to be three cars back when you tail someone.
(off their looks)
No one else saw *Drive*?

COOPER
What, exactly, is the plan here?

BRONWYN
We need to see where she's going.
Who she's meeting.

JANAE
It has to be her accomplice.

COOPER
Great, so we're not just trailing one murderer but two?

ADDY
Stop! She's parking!

Cooper slows to a stop and they watch as Ms. Avery parks her car next to her house.

COOPER
Seriously, what now? There's nowhere to park.

JANAE

This never happened in *Drive*.

They watch as Ms. Avery goes into her house.

COOPER

Now what?

BRONWYN

Now we wait.

COOPER

Sure. A car double parked with the four of us in it doesn't look suspicious at all.

BRONWYN

There's nobody around to see.

COOPER

Yet.

ADDY

Shh! Somebody's coming!

They all crouch.

JANAE

Who?

ADDY

I don't know...

They slowly rise so they can see... There's someone knocking at the door. Someone they recognize.

COOPER

Is that--

Mouth agape, Bronwyn uses her phone to take a picture of... VANESSA, looking around before entering Ms. Avery's house.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

11 INT./EXT. COOPER'S CAR / ADDY'S HOUSE - DAY

11

Cooper and Addy pull up to Addy's house.

COOPER

Do you think you could get Vanessa to talk to you?

ADDY

I don't know if you've noticed but we're not exactly friends anymore.

COOPER

I know. I just thought out of all of us you'd have the best chance.

Addy shakes her head, *nope*. Then:

ADDY

I knew she was a bitch but I didn't know she was actually evil.

COOPER

We don't know how involved she was.

ADDY

She took that picture of us at Homecoming. And has been like, *gleefully* posting about us being murder suspects. Maybe it was all to cover her own ass.

They're quiet for a beat, trying to make sense of it.

ADDY (CONT'D)

Do you think they're having an affair?

Cooper busts out laughing.

COOPER

Not everyone's gay, Addy.

ADDY

It's always the teacher's secret!

COOPER

And either way do you really think Vanessa would go for Ms. Avery?

(CONTINUED)

ADDY

I mean, no. Not really. But I feel like I don't know anybody anymore. It turns out everyone has been hiding all these different sides of themselves the whole time.

COOPER

And you don't do that?

ADDY

There are other sides to me, but I wasn't hiding them -- I didn't even know they were there.

(then, wry)

Guess that's one upside to all this.

COOPER

I think it really is. I like these new sides of you.

Addy smiles, thinks for a beat.

ADDY

I'll try talking to Vanessa. Maybe there's a side of me that knows how to get her to spill.

Cooper nods. Addy opens the door but before she goes, she looks at him one last time.

ADDY (CONT'D)

I like the new Cooper, too. He seems happier.

He watches Addy as she gets out of the car, thinking about what she's said...

12 **INT. ADDY'S HOUSE - ADDY'S BEDROOM - DAY**

12

Addy steps into her bedroom and is startled to find JAKE sitting on her bed.

ADDY

What are you doing here?

JAKE

Your mom let me in. I wanted to talk to you.

ADDY

You could've called.

(CONTINUED)

JAKE

This is too important. I needed to see you.

(deep breath)

I wanted to finish the conversation we started at Homecoming. I really am worried about you. I know you've been going through a lot, and I haven't been there for you--

ADDY

You asked if I did it.

JAKE

I know. I'm sorry. That was awful of me. It's just that... You were my whole world, Ads. The love of my life. The person who I knew I could trust no matter what. So to find out you... with one of my best friends... I was just so hurt.

Addy's new resolve is no match for vulnerable Jake.

ADDY

Jake. I never wanted to hurt you.

JAKE

I know. I really do know that now. And now that Nate's in jail, it feels like we can finally wake up from this nightmare and go back to normal. You can stop hanging out with those freaks--

This pulls Addy back to earth.

ADDY

What?

JAKE

Your mom said you're still hanging out with Bronwyn and Janae. You know some people still think your "murder club" did it together? You need to stay away from them.

ADDY

But we didn't!

JAKE

Of course I know that. I know it was just Nate but--

(CONTINUED)

ADDY

What? No. Nate didn't do it. And we're going to prove it.

JAKE

What are you talking about? Of course he did. You said so yourself!

ADDY

That was before I knew him. I can't just pretend the last two months never happened.

JAKE

Why not? Would that be so bad?

Addy takes this in, she looks at him...

JAKE (CONT'D)

I miss my Addy.

His pleading eyes, his big arms ready to wrap her up and protect her... she wants to go to him, but...

ADDY

I miss you. But I don't miss her. I've actually been doing better, Jake. My world ended when we broke up. Losing you was my worst fear. And then I didn't just lose you. I lost my friends. Not to mention the whole watching someone die and being a murder suspect thing. I mean it's been awful. Terrifying. But I also realized... I can handle it. I don't have a choice, right?

(a beat, then)

I guess I'm stronger than I thought. I haven't even had to take Xanax in... I don't know how long. That's good, isn't it?

Jake smiles. He steps toward her, takes her hand. He speaks gently, more supportive and kind than we've ever seen him.

JAKE

It's great. I'm really proud of you, Addy. And, don't get me wrong. I like this new you too. She's hot. A little intimidating, but I could get into that.

Addy laughs. She really does miss him.

(CONTINUED)

ADDY

Yeah?

JAKE

Hey... I'm not the same guy I was
two months ago either. He would
have never gotten us tickets for...

Jake pulls two tickets out of his pocket. Addy smiles.

ADDY

The ice cream pop-up? How--

JAKE

You know it's our anniversary
tomorrow? Four years.

This hits Addy, how had she forgotten?

ADDY

But you didn't wanna go...

JAKE

But you did. And it sounds fun.

Addy is quiet, torn. After a beat --

ADDY

Can I think about it?

Jake is surprised, a little hurt, but tries not to show it.
He smiles, squeezes her hand.

JAKE

Of course, babe.

He starts to go but turns back, a pleading look in his eyes:

JAKE (CONT'D)

I really hope you say yes.

He goes. Addy stares after him, tears in her eyes, torn
between the strength of her new life and the comfort of her
old one.

13 INT. COLLEGE DORM - KRIS'S ROOM - NIGHT (N19)

13

KRIS opens the door, and finds Cooper -- he looks angry?
Nervous? Kris takes it in: there's something *different*.

KRIS

Everything okay?

(CONTINUED)

Cooper enters, takes a deep breath and then launches into:

COOPER
I've been thinking. About all these
different sides of myself that I've
been trying to keep separate.

Kris starts to worry, *where is this going?*

KRIS
Yeah... ?

COOPER
Like there's Baseball Cooper, and
School Cooper, and At Home Cooper,
and Murder Suspect Cooper, and Goes-
to-his-stupid-Homecoming-Dance-with-
Keely-but-wishes-he-was-with-you
Cooper...

KRIS
Okay...

COOPER
But there's only one Cooper who's
happy. The one who's with you.
(a beat)
I want to be with you. Outside of
this room, too. I want to be all
those Coopers at the same time.
(a beat)
Well, minus the murder suspect, but
you know what I mean.

KRIS
Outside this room Cooper sounds
fun... Can we do something in this
room first though?

Kris goes to his computer, puts on a slow song. He holds out
a hand to Cooper who takes it, a little embarrassed. Kris
pulls Cooper into his arms and starts to slow dance with him.
Cooper smiles, and whispers in Kris's ear.

COOPER
This is unbelievably cheesy.

KRIS
I know. But if you're going to be
in my life for real, you need to
know I'm really fucking cheesy.

Cooper pulls his head back to look Kris in the eye, then goes
in for a kiss, and it's a good one.

14 **INT. JAIL - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT**

14

Nate sits with Perry, who holds a phone out for Nate to see.
A VIDEO plays: Nate's mom being interviewed on local news.

ELLEN

(on the video)

...Nate's not perfect. He's got a lot of problems. But who doesn't? Personally, I suffer from bipolar disorder, and I didn't always have it under control, and that wasn't easy for Nate. What I'm saying is, how he is, it's not his fault. It's mine. He didn't have a stable home. It's no wonder he turned to dealing drugs, he had to support himself --

NATE

Turn it off.

Perry mutes it. He looks at Nate, genuinely sorry for him.

PERRY

I'm sorry, kid. You were screwed yesterday, but today you're fucked. You should take the plea.

Nate stares down at his mom's face on Perry's phone and we
MATCH CUT TO--

15 **INT. ROJAS HOUSE - BRONWYN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

15

-- The same interview on Bronwyn's phone. Bronwyn and MAEVE watch, both clearly upset by what they're hearing.

INTERVIEWER'S VOICE (O.S.)

We've heard the prosecution has offered your son a plea deal --

ELLEN

(on video)

Well, we still have a couple days to consider the offer --

Bronwyn stops the video, shook.

BRONWYN

I need to talk to him, he needs to know we're close with Ms. Avery.

MAEVE

...But are we?

(CONTINUED)

BRONWYN
We will be.

COOPER (PRE-LAP)
Avery's not here today.

16 **EXT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - COURTYARD - DAY (D20)** 16

Cooper is talking to an alarmed Bronwyn.

COOPER
She's literally never had a sub
before. She knows we're onto her.

BRONWYN
We have to find her.

COOPER
What, just like, show up at her
house? And you're gonna cut class?

BRONWYN
(shocked herself)
I guess I am?

Off Bronwyn, determined...

17 **EXT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - TRACK - DAY** 17

It's PE class: KIDS are stretching and prepping to run track.
Addy sees Vanessa by the side of the track, tying up her
hair, stretching. *Time to do this.* Addy jogs over to her.

ADDY
We need to talk.

Addy holds out her phone with the pic of Vanessa and Ms.
Avery. Vanessa just raises an eyebrow, unimpressed.

VANESSA
What about it?

ADDY
I wanted to give you a chance to
explain before I show the police.

VANESSA
I needed help with Physics.

(CONTINUED)

ADDY

I know you don't care about grades.
And if you did your parents would
hire you a private tutor that works
at NASA or something.

Vanessa glares at her. Gets in her face.

VANESSA

You don't know me nearly as well as
you think... So how about you and
your little Nancy Drew friends stay
the fuck out of my business?

And with that, Vanessa steps onto the track and takes off
running. STAY WITH VANESSA --

18 **INT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY - FLASHBACK (D1)** 18

A BELL RINGS. The hallway empties as KIDS go to class. Simon
leaves the nurse's office to find Vanessa charging toward
him.

VANESSA

We had a deal, asshole.

SIMON

Why the past tense?

VANESSA

You weren't supposed to come after
me or my friends! Good luck on
finding someone else to bring you
dirt. Hope you enjoy trying to hack
into their DMs, genius.

SIMON

I wouldn't use your name--

VANESSA

But you'll use Ms. Avery's?
(then, emotional)
You know what? Go ahead and post
about me. Just don't take her down
with me.

SIMON

I won't. I just need her to do
something for me in exchange.
(off Vanessa's face)
I have other deals going, you know?

Vanessa looks him in the eye, *is she going to hit him?*

(CONTINUED)

VANESSA

Wow. Look At you. Started so holier-than-thou and now... you're basically the bastard child of a TMZ hack and a mob intern... Can't wait for one of your victims to wipe that fucking smirk off your face forever.

But then... something changes. Simon smiles, enigmatically. Vanessa has no idea that's exactly his plan. He goes, leaving a confused Vanessa behind. RETURN TO --

19 **EXT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - TRACK - DAY - PRESENT (D20)** 19

Vanessa feels Addy, running after her, and speeds up. Addy does too. Both girls are flying when, suddenly, Vanessa stops. She whirls around.

VANESSA

Get off my back!

But Addy can't slow down in time. She SLAMS into Vanessa, they both skid across the track.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

What the FUCK?

Then, Vanessa looks at Addy's leg, she goes pale. Addy looks down. Her knee is gushing blood.

ADDY

Ahhh fuck. That hurts. It didn't hurt until I saw it but-- oh god.

VANESSA

You need to go to the nurse.

Addy shakes her head. She pulls off her t-shirt and wraps it around her knee, tying it tight.

ADDY

Look. I don't think you killed Simon. But I know he had something on Ms. Avery, and I know it had something to do with you.

She gets down on her knees. It hurts like hell.

ADDY (CONT'D)

You have no idea how painful this is right now. But I am literally on my bloody knees begging you...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ADDY (CONT'D)

I know we're not friends anymore,
but Nate is my friend now. And he's
about to go to prison for something
he didn't do. If you know what Ms.
Avery did, you have to tell me.

Vanessa looks down at Addy, sees the desperation and
determination in her eyes. She sighs.

VANESSA

Get off your knees. People already
think you're a slut.

PRE-LAP: the DING-DONG of a doorbell.

20 **EXT. MS. AVERY'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - LATER** 20

Bronwyn and Cooper get to the house. Ms. Avery's car is
parked outside.

BRONWYN

At least we know she's not already
in Tijuana...

COOPER

Not yet...

Bronwyn joins Cooper, who is peeking through a window and
seeing at the end of a hallway, Ms. Avery's bedroom. The door
is ajar, and an open suitcase on top of the bed.

BRONWYN

Is that...

And then, a FIGURE appears in close-up and opens the window,
startling our duo. MS. AVERY stares at them.

MS. AVERY

May I help you?

21 **INT. MS. AVERY'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE/LIVING ROOM-MOMENTS LATER** 1

Ms. Avery's hand LOCKS THE DEADBOLT on the front door. *Yikes.*

Bronwyn and Cooper sit side-by-side, their hearts beating out
of their chests. Ms. Avery brings a tea cart from the side of
the room and without asking any questions, serves her guests.

MS. AVERY

Can I offer you some tea?

(CONTINUED)

Bronwyn and Cooper gulp and exchange a glance, *fuck no*. Ms. Avery drinks a sip of tea and looks straight at them.

MS. AVERY (CONT'D)
So sending Janae after me didn't work, and now you're trying your hands at it?

Ms. Avery smiles, a cruel smile. Bronwyn pulls up the picture of Ms. Avery with Vanessa.

BRONWYN
Give us one good reason we shouldn't show this picture to the police.

MS. AVERY
Other than they won't care?
(shakes her head)
You really have no idea what you're doing, do you?

BRONWYN
We know exactly what we're doing. We know you killed Simon so that he wouldn't tell anyone about you and Vanessa. You thought nobody would suspect you because you weren't in his post...
(eyeing her suitcase)
But now that we're onto you, you're running away...

MS. AVERY
Well. That's quite an elaborate hypothesis but I fear you haven't properly tested it. Not very scientific of you. I see why Chemistry was so difficult for you.

COOPER
Then why the suitcase? And what was Vanessa doing at your house?

MS. AVERY
So you admit you don't know?

Off Cooper, *shit*.

Addy sits next to Vanessa in the locker room. A large bandage on her knee.

VANESSA
She was just helping me.

ADDY
Right. With physics?

Vanessa takes a good look at Addy before spilling the truth.

VANESSA
I had an abortion, Addy.

ADDY
What?

VANESSA
And Ms. Avery was there for me because she's a good person. She's like, the opposite of a killer. Unless you're my parents. If they ever found out they'd say I'm a baby killer and she's my accomplice.

ADDY
Vanessa, I'm so sorry.

VANESSA
She caught me trying to skip. I told her I had a doctor's appointment and she thought I was lying. Because I usually am. She said she had to call my parents to check my story, and I panicked. I broke down and told her everything.

INTERCUT WITH:

23 INT. MS. AVERY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME 23

Ms. Avery talks to Bronwyn and Cooper in more vague terms, still not wanting to give Vanessa up:

MS. AVERY
I'm not going to tell you Vanessa's business. It's not my place. All I can tell you is that she had nothing to do with what happened to Simon.

IN THE LOCKER ROOM:

(CONTINUED)

VANESSA

By the time I was done explaining there was no way I was going to make my appointment. But I guess that was for the best because the clinic I had booked at was honestly kind of shady. So she helped me make a new appointment with a better doctor. And then she drove me there, she *held my hand while I waited*. She even paid for it, so my parents would never know.

ADDY

We're talking about the same Ms. Avery, right?

VANESSA

Even total bitches have feelings, Addy. You should know.

At MS. AVERY'S:

MS. AVERY

I know what you all think of me. I'm an uncaring bitch, right? The teacher everyone's scared of. I get it. I'm strict because it's the best way I've found to make you kids pay attention. But I'm not a monster. I do care about my students. And I helped Vanessa when she needed it. But in doing so I violated school rules.

BRONWYN

What school rules?

MS. AVERY

I'm not telling you that.

IN THE LOCKER ROOM:

ADDY

You could have talked to *me*.

VANESSA

Are you kidding? You had your head so far up Jake's ass you didn't even notice I was going through anything.

Addy takes this in, she *has* been a shitty friend.

(CONTINUED)

VANESSA (CONT'D)

I'm not ashamed of what I did. I just don't want Ms. Avery to be punished for being nice to me. She could get fired. She could lose her teaching license. It's not fair.

AT MS. AVERY'S:

Ms. Avery composes herself. She looks back up to them.

MS. AVERY

But Simon found out what I did. He came to me and told me he knew... But he wouldn't post about it if I did something for him.

Bronwyn and Cooper lean in.

MS. AVERY (CONT'D)

He had me give all of you detention that day. He wanted to be alone with you. I never imagined Nate would hurt him, or I wouldn't have--

BRONWYN

Nate didn't do it.

COOPER

How do we know you didn't use the opportunity to kill him yourself? Make sure your secret and job were safe?

MS. AVERY

How could I? I wasn't even in the room. I was dealing with the streakers. There's one thing you got right though: I was running away. I feared this moment would come. Now my destiny is in your hands... I hope you make better use of it than I did.

Off Ms. Avery, stoic --

IN THE LOCKER ROOM:

ADDY

I won't ask about the father...

VANESSA

You just did, bitch.
(Addy smiles)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Why would I tell you? You've been the worst best friend ever.

ADDY

I've been? What about you? You've treated me like shit. Humiliated me in front of everyone. Called me a murderer!

VANESSA

I was just trying to keep the spotlight on someone else. And as far away from Ms. Avery as possible.

(a beat)

You can't tell anyone about her.

Off Addy's face --

ADDY (PRE-LAP)

I don't think she did it, guys.

24 **INT. ADDY'S HOUSE - ADDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (N20)** 24

Bronwyn, Cooper and Addy debrief. Addy seems uncomfortable with having told the others the truth about Vanessa, but did she have any other choice?

COOPER

Even if Vanessa is telling the truth, doesn't mean Ms. Avery is. She could have totally got the peanut oil into his cup and then left. Easy.

ADDY

But how could she know the streakers were going to be there at that exact moment?

BRONWYN

Is it possible that they were supposed to be there? Like it was part of the plan?

(puzzling it out)

...If she got us all into detention so she could kill Simon and blame it on us -- it makes sense that maybe she orchestrated the streakers to be there too. So she'd have an alibi. We have to go to the police... Maybe they can find the streakers.

(CONTINUED)

ADDY

But... What if Vanessa is right?
What if Ms. Avery is innocent?
We'll be ruining both their lives
for nothing!

BRONWYN

(considers, sighs)
Do you guys know anyone at Laguna
that could help us track them down?

Addy shakes her head. Cooper shifts, clears his throat.

COOPER

I have a friend who went there. He
graduated last year but he might be
able to help.

Bronwyn considers it... and then, she gets a text and her
face lights up.

BRONWYN

I'm going to see Nate! Hopefully I
can stop him from signing that
deal.

(to Cooper)

But we need to move fast...

Cooper nods, takes out his phone. But Addy just looks at him,
wheels turning...

ADDY

What friend? Do I know him?
(off Cooper blushing)
Wait. Is this a boyfriend?!

COOPER

No! He's just a friend. Or not just
a friend but we're not official...
But I don't think I'd have gotten
through all this without him... So,
yeah, maybe a boyfriend? Only he
doesn't know it yet.

Addy and Bronwyn look at a bashful Cooper, excited for him.

BRONWYN

That sounds confusing... But good.

COOPER

And actually... Things were rough
for a while and it was Nate who
kind of brought us back together.

(CONTINUED)

Bronwyn takes the info in, missing Nate more than ever, more determined than ever to free him.

ADDY
Nate's met him?! No fair.

COOPER
Nate's his dealer.

ADDY
Oh. Ok. I mean, whatever works.

Cooper smiles as he takes out his phone and texts Kris. Then, Addy's phone buzzes. It's a message from JAKE: *Happy anniversary. Maybe next year.* She checks the ticket on her desk. Shit. She forgot. She sits down to reply... But doesn't know what to say.

25 **INT. JAIL - NATE'S CELL/VISITING ROOM - NIGHT** 25

A UNIFORMED GUARD escorts Nate from his cell to the visitor's room, and to a seat. He looks up and is surprised to see, on the other side of the glass partition, Bronwyn.

Bronwyn's heart breaks to see him like this, but she stays strong -- gives Nate a smile, mouths *hi*. They pick up their phones to speak. But just look at each other for a beat... so bittersweet.

NATE
Little bit different from our flip phones, huh. What are you doing here?

BRONWYN
Your mom gave me her spot. It was really nice of her.

NATE
She was really nice to that reporter too. Great interview.

BRONWYN
You can't sign the plea deal, Nate. You didn't do it. And we think we know who did.

Nate looks up at her, suddenly hopeful.

BRONWYN (CONT'D)
Ms. Avery had a motive this whole time. It was her.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BRONWYN (CONT'D)

Now we're just trying to get proof.
Cooper and I went to her house and--

NATE

(interrupting)

You think she's a murderer and you
went to her house? Bronwyn--

BRONWYN

We had to confront her! And we got
another lead so now Cooper's going
to Laguna because we think the
streakers were part of her plan--

NATE

(harsh)

Stop.

Bronwyn stops. She looks at him, hurt.

NATE (CONT'D)

Sorry. I just don't want you to get
hurt. It's not worth it.

BRONWYN

How can you say that?

NATE

The plea is only four years with
good behavior. If I take it, it's
over. For all of us. You can go
back to your life--

BRONWYN

I don't want to!

(then)

What if we could make bail?

NATE

Don't even think about it.

BRONWYN

I could find a way. I'm serious,
Nate--

NATE

I'm serious too.

He looks at her, straight in the eye.

NATE (CONT'D)

Remember the fourth grade Nativity
play at St. Pius?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NATE (CONT'D)

You were playing Mary, but that same morning Baby Jesus disappeared and you had to carry a bag wrapped in a blanket for the entire thing? That was me. Sorry I stole Jesus from you.

BRONWYN

(smiles, moved)

Why did you do it?

NATE

Cause I wanted you to see me. Even if that meant you'd be angry at me. But then I saw how angry you got, and I never confessed. I just wanted you to like me, but I only ruined the thing for you. I don't want to ruin anything else for you. I'm not worth the trouble, Rojas. Go get ready for the Ivy league and -- I'll be doing whatever the opposite of that is.

He hangs up and stands to leave. Bronwyn screams.

BRONWYN

All I'm asking for is... Give me some time! Please!

We see Nate looking at her. Has he heard her? He turns around and she watches him go, heart in her throat, more desperate and determined to save him than ever...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

26 EXT. LAGUNA SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY (D21) 26

In the student PARKING LOT, Cooper and Kris are staring at the streakers' getaway CAR. It sits in the parking lot of the imposing LAGUNA SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL.

KRIS

When you said you wanted to make me more a part of your life, this isn't exactly what I imagined.

COOPER

No? Hanging out in your old high school parking lot isn't your dream first date?

KRIS

You'd better not be considering this our first official date. I expect much more from that: Wined, dined, flowers, not feeling like I might end up dead... I'm very high maintenance.

COOPER

I'll take that under consideration. And you're not going to end up dead. We're just asking him a simple question.

KRIS

...About his involvement in a murder. I'm starting to wish I had lied and said I didn't recognize the car. Hunter isn't exactly someone I was hoping to ever see again. Total asshole.

COOPER

I really am sorry to drag you into this. But I'm also really glad you're here.

Kris looks around, nervous. He sees TWO STUDENTS staring.

KRIS

I think you've been recognized.

COOPER

Shit.

(CONTINUED)

KRIS

Here, just -- let's maybe move...

They turn away from the school. Kris pretends to take selfies of them -- so, in the screen, they can see the car.

KRIS (CONT'D)

Just act like a totally normal, yet excessively cute couple taking selfies while actually being sexy secret agents staking out this ridiculous car.

Kris keeps taking selfies.

KRIS (CONT'D)

You gotta sell it, Coop.

Kris gives Cooper a peck on the cheek to make him smile, loosen him up a bit. Kris quickly snaps a picture.

KRIS (CONT'D)

That one was actually good.

Then, in the phone we see HUNTER (17, jock) walking toward the car.

COOPER

Is that him?

KRIS

Ohmygod. Yes.

COOPER

You're sure?

KRIS

Unless someone else was driving his car that day.

Cooper frowns, he hadn't considered that...

COOPER

Wait here.

Cooper jogs toward Hunter.

COOPER (CONT'D)

Hunter?

Hunter sees Cooper and stops dead in his tracks.

HUNTER

Oh, fuck.

(CONTINUED)

Suddenly terrified, He turns and BOLTS. Cooper looks back at Kris for a split second, then takes off after Hunter. Kris sighs then starts running too.

27 **EXT. STREETS - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

27

Cooper leaves Kris in his dust and races after Hunter: he dodges a CAR -- zig-zags through a GANG OF SURFERS -- gaining on Hunter. Finally he reaches out and GRABS HUNTER'S SHIRT. But they both lose their equilibrium and fall to the ground. Cooper has it worse... He's clearly in pain. He stares up at a sweaty, dirty Hunter who has regained his footing and looms over Cooper. He presses his foot against Cooper's right hand.

HUNTER

Don't move.
(Cooper doesn't)
You're the star pitcher, huh?
(stepping harder on his
hand)
If you wanna keep it that way,
you'll leave me the fuck alone--

KRIS

You leave him the fuck alone--

Cooper and Hunter look up: an out of breath KRIS is pointing at Hunter with his pocket pepper spray. Hunter lets go of Cooper, who immediately grabs his hand, as if it were a family member he was really close to seeing die in front of him. He can breathe again. Cooper looks at Kris, surprised.

KRIS (CONT'D)

Never leave the house without
pepper spray when you're hanging
around Hunter. A tip from all the
girls I went to school with.
(a beat)
For the record, I wasn't slow, I
was just waiting for my moment.

HUNTER

(to Kris)
What the fuck is happening? I
didn't do anything! He's the
dangerous one.
(to Cooper)
You killed that kid and now you're
covering your tracks, right?

COOPER

What? Covering my tracks how?

(CONTINUED)

HUNTER

I swear I haven't said a word. And I won't. You can have your money back too. I just don't want to be part of this.

COOPER

...Hunter, did someone pay you to streak on the first day of school?

HUNTER

It wasn't you?

COOPER

No. And I think whoever it was killed Simon. So I really need you to tell me who hired you.

HUNTER

We answered a Reddit post, first Day of School prank, they paid us on Venmo... I never got a name...

Hunter pulls out his phone and holds it out to Cooper.

HUNTER (CONT'D)

That's the payment. That's all I know. I swear.

Cooper looks at the phone showing the transaction username:
@lone_elm_shriek

JANAE (PRE-LAP)

Oh my god.

28 **INT. ADDY'S HOUSE - ADDY'S BEDROOM - DAY**

28

MATCH CUT TO THE USERNAME, on Cooper's phone: he shows a photo he took of it to Bronwyn, Addy, Janae and Maeve.

JANAE

It's Simon.

COOPER

Simon?

JANAE

Lone elm shriek. It's an anagram of his name. He used it for gaming.

(CONTINUED)

BRONWYN

So... Simon wanted us all in detention. And he hired the streakers?

ADDY

Why would he want to create a distraction?

COOPER

To get Ms. Avery out of the room. She was telling the truth.

BRONWYN

(lightbulb in her head)

The cup. He left his cup on the table and went to the window... And that's when one of us could have put the peanut oil in it.

ADDY

What?

BRONWYN

Without the streakers, none of us could have had access to that cup. The streakers helped frame us.
(a beat)
Maybe his plan was to frame us?

COOPER

Why would he do that?

BRONWYN

Because he hated us.

JANAE

Not all of you.
(to Addy)
He actually felt bad for you. Thought that even you deserved better than Jake.

Addy's not sure how to take that, so she ignores it. Moves on --

ADDY

But if he orchestrated the whole thing that means...

An uncomfortable silence falls over them... *Could Simon have died by suicide?* Janae clocks Bronwyn and Addy trading uncomfortable glances...

(CONTINUED)

ADDY (CONT'D)
Janae do you think... Did Simon
ever talk about killing himself?

JANAE
(angry, adamant)
No. Never. That is not Simon. I
knew him better than anyone. And I
know he wouldn't-- There's no way.

The others exchange looks... all the pieces seem to add up.

BRONWYN
If there's any chance Simon did
this to himself... We have to go to
the police. Nate can't be in jail
for murder if it wasn't murder.

Angry tears come to Janae's eyes as she turns to Maeve.

JANAE
You knew him. You know he wouldn't
do that, right?

Maeve freezes. She doesn't know what to say...

SIMON (PRE-LAP)
Maeve? Maeve. Say *something*.

29 **EXT. BEACH - DAY - FLASHBACK (FBD9)**

29

Simon and Maeve lean against driftwood, huddling over Simon's
phone looking at A KELLEHER FAMILY PHOTO for his mom's
mayoral re-election campaign: Simon in a suit and tie, hair
combed to the side, an overly-enthusiastic SMILE plastered
across his face. He looks like a total dweeb.

MAEVE
(trying not to laugh)
Okay. Umm. How does it feel to be
the new poster-boy for Bayview's
conservative youth?

Simon looks down at his mother's "perfect" smile.

SIMON
And this is just the beginning:
There are going to be tv ads,
campaign events. So much smiling
for the camera and playing the
perfect son to the perfect mayor in
this perfect town. But it's all a
lie -- My mom's career.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SIMON (CONT'D)

This whole fucking town. Hypocrisy
is a *disease* and they're all
infected.

He looks out at the vast ocean, the waves rolling in.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I can't wait to get away from it
all. Disappear and never look back.

Maeve nods, understanding.

MAEVE

I get that. But I actually *had* a
disease. So I try not to wish time
away, even when things are shitty.

SIMON

You trying to guilt me by playing
the cancer card?

MAEVE

It's literally the only card I
have. And I'm sure there'd be
things you'd miss.

Simon looks at Maeve in the eyes, and just smiles.

SIMON

Maybe. But I hate most things.

MAEVE

Then you'd miss hating them. Hating
on things can be a lot of fun. Like
-- I hate the beach. Way too sandy.

Simon laughs. It makes Maeve smile.

SIMON

I hate ripped jeans.

MAEVE

Top 40 music.

SIMON

Really hate white people who think
they're "woke" because they put a
black square on Instagram.

MAEVE

Ohmigod, yes.

(CONTINUED)

SIMON

I don't hate hating things with you
though. I would miss that.

Maeve looks at Simon and smiles...

30 **INT. ADDY'S HOUSE - ADDY'S BEDROOM - DAY - PRESENT (D21)** 30

Maeve looks into Janae's pleading eyes. Then she looks to her
sister: Bronwyn is stone-cold serious.

MAEVE

I think that... I don't know. Maybe
I didn't really know him like I
thought I did.

Tears stream down Janae's face -- she can't even look at
Maeve she's so hurt.

MAEVE (CONT'D)

Janae --

Maeve reaches to comfort her, but Janae brushes Maeve's hand
away and recoils.

JANAE

Fuck you.
(to all of them)
Fuck all of you.

She storms off. Addy, filled with guilt, calls after her;

ADDY

Janae -- *Janae!*
(shakes her head)
Fuck.

Bronwyn puts an arm around Maeve, looks to Cooper and Addy.

BRONWYN

We have to go to the police.

Addy reluctantly nods. Off her worried face --

31 **INT. POLICE STATION - DAY** 31

Bronwyn, Cooper and Addy sit across from DETECTIVE WHEELER.

BRONWYN

...So it was all a set-up, you can
confirm with Ms. Avery--

(CONTINUED)

DETECTIVE WHEELER
We definitely will.

ADDY
Will she be in trouble?

DETECTIVE WHEELER
There will be civil consequences
I'm sure. And Vanessa's parents
could definitely sue.

BRONWYN
But... Is it enough to free Nate?

DETECTIVE WHEELER
Is it enough to free Nate?

It stings Bronwyn to have her naive words spat back at her.
She tries to regroup --

BRONWYN
If Simon killed himself --

DETECTIVE WHEELER
We've ruled out suicide. You may be
surprised to hear this, but there
are parts of this case that even
you don't know about. We have
officers working around the clock
on this. We do not need your help.

Wheeler shakes her head, growing impatient with these kids.

DETECTIVE WHEELER (CONT'D)
All you've accomplished with your
digging is getting your teacher
fired. Or worse.

BRONWYN
What about Nate?

DETECTIVE WHEELER
If he's smart, he'll take the plea
deal. And if you're smart, you'll
stand back and let me do my job
before you cause any more damage...
Or get charged with obstruction of
justice, or accessory after the
fact. We're done here.

Off Bronwyn, Addy and Cooper -- crushed.

32

EXT. BAYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY

32

Addy, Cooper and Bronwyn get out of Cooper's car just in time to see: Ms. Avery, carrying a box of her belongings, being escorted out by a SECURITY GUARD. STUDENTS whisper as they see her do her walk of shame towards her car. Amongst them is VANESSA, glaring at Addy with a deep, dark vengeance.

ADDY

That's our fault. Detective Wheeler's right, we're making things worse.

Bronwyn folds her arms, catching herself before she gets emotional. She looks around, mind racing: *she can't give up.*

BRONWYN

Maybe we can figure out who was stalking us? That has to be the person who framed Nate.

ADDY

...The police said there are things we don't know. What if they have more evidence against him?

BRONWYN

Are you serious?

ADDY

We've been wrong before! A lot of times at this point.

COOPER

I don't want to be charged with obstruction.

Bronwyn can't believe what they're saying. Then, Cooper gets a text from his DAD: *Traffic looks bad, we should leave early. I'll pick you up in ten.*

COOPER (CONT'D)

Shit! I have to go.

BRONWYN

Seriously? You're just gonna leave? Now?

COOPER

What else do you want me to do? Hunter almost broke my hand today. I got lucky, but this is my whole fucking future. Is that not enough for you?

(CONTINUED)

BRONWYN

You think I don't know what it is to put everything on the line? I'm skipping classes, missing exams... I have a fucking personal statement for Yale to hand in and I haven't even started!

Cooper shakes his head, truly sorry as he says:

COOPER

Well maybe you should start... We've done everything we can, Bronwyn. I'm sorry.

Cooper heads off. Bronwyn stares after him, helplessly angry. Addy looks at her, tears in her eyes.

ADDY

Didn't you say it yourself? That Nate doesn't want us to throw everything away for him?

Addy walks towards the school, leaving Bronwyn alone.

33 **INT. ROJAS HOUSE - BRONWYN'S BEDROOM - DAY** 33

Bronwyn sits at her computer staring at her blank essay page. She considers for a beat, then starts to type.

34 **INT. ADDY'S HOUSE - ADDY'S BEDROOM - DAY** 34

Addy lays in her bed, staring at her phone. She's apologizing to Vanessa via text, but the reply comes fast and furious:
"Fuck off."

Addy sits up, looking around the room, lonely and lost. She sees the ticket from Jake lying on her nightstand... It makes her heart drop. Trying to shake the feeling, she grabs her bike helmet and heads out...

35 **EXT. COOPER'S HOUSE - DAY** 35

Cooper pulls into his driveway where he sees his dad waiting for him, he looks *pissed*. Cooper jumps out of his car, breathless, heads toward his dad's car --

KEVIN

You're too late.

(CONTINUED)

COOPER
What? We have a half hour.

KEVIN
Traffic's too bad. I already canceled.

COOPER
Dad I'm so sorry. We can reschedule right?
(off his dad's silence)
I was playing basketball with some of the guys. I lost track of time.

KEVIN
Playing basketball? Is that where you've been?
(a beat)
When are you going to stop lying?

COOPER
What?

KEVIN
Is this who you were playing basketball with?

Kevin holds his phone up for Cooper to see -- it's an Instagram post: *the post: Kris kissing Cooper. Fuck.*

KEVIN (CONT'D)
He tagged you in this. Everyone who follows you can see it. Recruiters, college teams... Probably this reporter you were supposed to meet.

COOPER
Is that why you canceled? Not the traffic?

Kevin ignores the question.

KEVIN
Just when all this Simon stuff starts to go away, just when we can start focusing on baseball again... you want to pull this?

COOPER
Dad, I'm sorry. I didn't know--

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

We are *this* close, Coop. But you need to keep your head in the game. That is, if you still want it.

COOPER

Of course I still want it. More than ever.

Kevin nods. He interprets his son's silence as compliance. But Cooper is just thinking how to say what he's about to say. It's a big deal to him.

COOPER (CONT'D)

But I want to be myself too.

KEVIN

I'm not telling you not to be yourself, Coop. I'm telling you *how things work*. Now, tell your friend to take that photo down. Please.

Cooper looks his father square in the face. He's almost begging. Cooper doesn't want to break his heart. But...

COOPER

He's not my friend. He's my boyfriend. And I'm not telling him to take it down. This is where I stop lying. I want to play baseball, and I want to be out while I do it. I think I'm that good.

KEVIN

Nobody is that good.

COOPER

I guess we'll find out.

Cooper turns and heads into the house, blinking back tears.

36 **INT. ROJAS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (N21)**

36

JAVIER and Isabella are on the couch, sipping wine when Bronwyn comes down the stairs holding a sheet of paper.

BRONWYN

I finished my personal statement. Do you want to hear?

ISABELLA

Of course we do!

(CONTINUED)

Bronwyn raises the paper, starts to read:

BRONWYN

Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

(smiles at her parents)

In eleventh grade I faced one of the biggest challenges I could imagine at the time: AP Chemistry. Schoolwork has always come easily to me, but this course was different. No matter how hard I worked, how much I studied, I still found myself with a C. For as long as I can remember I have defined myself by my academic success. If I wasn't a straight-A student, I didn't know who I was. I'm ashamed to admit that I was so desperate to maintain my identity as the perfect student, and so scared of failure, that I stole exam questions from my chemistry teacher. And it worked. I got an A! So what did I learn from this experience? I learned that it wasn't worth it. No matter what my transcript says, I know I'm not really a straight-A student. I also learned how dangerous it is to define yourself so rigidly. There are more sides to me than just being a good student. Some of them, like being a liar and a cheater, I'm not very proud of. But some of them I am. I'm brave, and determined, and I stand up for the people I believe in, like my friend Nate who is currently in jail for a murder he didn't commit. Maybe if I had recognized all of these parts of myself sooner, I wouldn't have been so desperate to protect my image as the perfect student, and I wouldn't have stolen those test answers. I know admitting all of this probably means I won't be accepted to Yale, but I've also learned that there are more important things, like getting Nate out of jail.

Javier and Isabella look at her with horror and confusion.

(CONTINUED)

JAVIER ISABELLA
Bronwyn? Is this a joke?

BRONWYN
No. It's the truth.

ISABELLA
Well you can't send it!

BRONWYN
That's too bad, because I can't
focus enough to write anything else
while I know Nate is sitting in
jail. Maybe if we bailed him out...

Javier stares at her, shocked, as he realizes this was her
plan all along.

JAVIER
Is that what this is about?

BRONWYN
You only have to put up 10 percent
of the total bail. I know you have
a lot more than that sitting in my
college fund.

JAVIER
We're not gambling with your
college fund.

BRONWYN
It's not a gamble! We'll get the
money back.

ISABELLA
Think about how it would look.
There are still those who think the
four of you worked together. It's
still important to keep your
distance, Bronwyn.

Bronwyn takes this in, working hard not to show her anger.

BRONWYN
You raised me to fight for what I
want, to never give up. They're
qualities you seemed to admire when
what I wanted was to go to Yale.
But the most important thing right
now for me is helping Nate. Because
I love him. And because it's the
right thing to do.

(CONTINUED)

Off Bronwyn, unflinching, waiting for their response...

37 **EXT. STREETS OF BAYVIEW - NIGHT** 37

Addy rides her bike through the dark neighborhood streets. She's going faster, and faster, and faster --

38 **EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT** 38

Addy drops her bike on the lawn of the house and runs to the door. She knocks until -- Jake opens the door. Addy stands there, on the verge of tears.

ADDY
Hi.

JAKE
Are you okay?

Addy shakes her head, tears start to fall.

ADDY
I'm really sorry we missed the ice cream pop up.

JAKE
I'm just glad you're here.

ADDY
Me too. I missed you.

JAKE
Does this mean you're done with all that Scooby doo stuff?

Addy nods, and tears start to fall. Jake pulls her to him.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Shh. It's all going to be okay.

39 **INT. JAIL - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT** 39

Nate sits at the table, alone. Ellen comes in and goes right to him, takes his hands in hers. Nate nods, stone-faced.

ELLEN
You're making the right decision, Nate. This deal is good. It's for the best.

(CONTINUED)

Nate doesn't reply. Just offers a defeated smile. Perry comes in, a mess of papers in hand as usual.

PERRY
Good evening. How are we doing?

NATE
Amazing. I'm about to sign a deal admitting to a crime I didn't commit.

Perry looks at him strangely.

PERRY
So that means you don't want to accept bail?

Nate and Ellen aren't sure they heard him correctly. *Bail?*

ELLEN
Sorry, what?

PERRY
They didn't tell you? You made bail.

NATE
Shit.

PERRY
Not the reaction I was expecting, but...

ELLEN
Who paid?

PERRY
(looks over papers)
Let me check...

NATE
Fucking Rojas...

PERRY
I think that's not her first name? But yeah, you're right. Anyway, deal's still on the table, regardless. Do you wanna sign it, or do you wanna fight this?

Nate considers for a long beat. Ellen and Perry wait anxiously for his answer. And then... He just smiles.

(CONTINUED)

NATE
Fucking Rojas...

40 **INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - JAKE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

40

Addy and Jake snuggle, basking in their reunion hook up.

JAKE
I'm so happy you came over.

Addy nods and looks up into his eyes, full of love. He strokes her head, kisses her. Then --

JAKE (CONT'D)
Cool if I play RDR a bit?

ADDY
Cool if I fall asleep while you play?

JAKE
Only if you drool on me.

ADDY
You missed it, admit it.
(a beat)
So you think we could get tickets for some other time?
(he looks at her)
You wanted to see it too, right?

JAKE
Of course. Soon.
(he kisses her)
I'm the luckiest guy in the world.

He grabs his video game controller as Addy slips into her usual position, her head on his lap. She watches as the system boots up and -- as Jake scrolls and clicks to log in to a new game -- his IN-GAME CHAT HISTORY flashes across the screen for a moment -- Addy sees *SOMETHING* that startles her. But then the screen changes, Jake's game loaded.

Addy blinks: did she really just see what she thought she saw? She shakes it off, watches Jake's shoot 'em up game and wonders *was it all in her head???*

41 **INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - JAKE'S BEDROOM - LATER**

41

Quiet. Addy and Jake sleep -- he's the big spoon to her little one. BUT... Addy's eyes open. *She's awake.*

(CONTINUED)

Careful not to disturb Jake, Addy untethers herself from his arms, crawls to the end of the bed, and picks up the game controller. She presses a few buttons. *How do I turn this on?* Jake makes a NOISE. *Fuck.* She freezes. *Is he waking up?* He rolls over, sound asleep. *False alarm.*

She presses the buttons again, and this time: the screen lights up. Squinting at the screen, she finds the chat history -- and scrolls through to find... lone elm shriek. Simon's username. She did see it. It wasn't in her head.

She clicks on the name and A LOG of all the times they chatted pops up. *Every day, multiple times a day, sometimes for over an hour, for two weeks, all leading up to the day Simon died. What the fuck?* Addy quickly turns off the TV. In the dark, she looks at Jake: What isn't he telling her?

END OF EPISODE