

THE LOCKER NEXT 2 MINE

A full-length drama by
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Draft 1.5

CAST OF CHARACTERS

TV REPORTER, Cyndi Jackson, an adult, could also be male
BRADY, 17, former high school TV news reporter
ALISA, same age, new student
HEADLINE, a boy who speaks in news headlines
BUY BOY (aka Tanner), the school's resident wheeler-dealer
LUNA, female, not a real-time character and revealed in the end
to be Beth
MARNE, female, high school senior and leader of the M squad
MIRANDA, female, and perhaps the most cutthroat member of the M
squad.
MELISSA, female, third member of the M squad
DALTON, male, varsity lacrosse player
CHUCK, male, barely a JV lacrosse player
QE, female, Beth's younger sister
SABRINA, female, friend of Jeremy
HABIT, female, friend of Jeremy
LEGOLAS, male whose real name is Aloysius, friend of Jeremy
SUBSTITUTE TEACHER, either gender
MARIO, male
WENDY, aspiring actress
PAM, female
GIGGLING GIRL
ROXANNA, female, student council president
FIRST NEEDY STUDENT, either gender
SECOND NEEDY STUDENT, either gender
THIRD NEEDY STUDENT, either gender
FOURTH NEEDY STUDENT, either gender
SECRETARY
DR. COPPERFIELD, male but could be female
HYACINTH KROY, female, student TV reporter
CAR KID, male but could be female
VANESSA, female, Beth's best friend and a lacrosse player
CHORUS OF STUDENTS, could be a separate group of students or
double cast with students in featured roles
CHORUS OF MASKED TEACHERS, can be played by students
LOU, female, a shortened version of Louise
DANIELLE, producer for the student TV station (this character
could also be Daniel, male)

To keep cast size down, many roles may be doubled. While
Miranda's last name is mentioned as Conway, it could be updated to
reflect the actress' ethnicity (Martinez, Chang, etc). Ditto the
last names of Marne and Melissa.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Locker Next to Mine was commissioned by Wantagh High School
Theatre Department (Wantagh, NY) in the sincere hope that no
school will ever again have a Pluto problem.

SCENE 1

A dark stage. Out of the darkness comes a CHORUS OF STUDENTS, with no one voice speaking two lines in a row.

CHORUS OF STUDENTS

We miss you, Elizabeth.
We'll never forget you.

TV REPORTER

The scene is grim here on this poorly lit back road-

CHORUS OF STUDENTS

We love you, Beth.

TEEN REPORTER

Beth Turner, lacrosse co-captain-

CHORUS OF STUDENTS

First in our hearts.

TV REPORTER

Police tape and flowers and teddy bears mark the spot-

CHORUS OF STUDENTS

We dedicate this game-
We dedicate this season-
This year-
This forever...

TV REPORTER

The irony of a lacrosse star-

TEEN REPORTER

I don't think I can do this.

CHORUS OF STUDENTS

You'll always be-
Always-
First in our hearts-

TV REPORTER

The car coming to a stop a mere 1000 feet from a field-

TEEN REPORTER

We report on dances and mystery meat-

CHORUS OF STUDENTS

Always-
First-
Always be with us.

TEEN REPORTER

I'm sorry.

TV REPORTER

Just like the one that was home to some of her greatest triumphs.

TEEN REPORTER

Somebody else has to do this.

CHORUS OF STUDENTS

Now-
Always-
Forever-

(Becoming softer:)

Always...
Always...
Always...

The lights slowly come up on a school hallway. ALISA, high school junior, tries to open a locker. It's not easy, because she is squeezed on one side by a sprawling shrine of teddy bears, flowers, sports trophies and other hardware in front of the locker directly next to hers. Beat. HEADLINE, male and a year younger, observes her struggles, gradually moving closer.

HEADLINE

New Student Arrives at Washington High School.

(Beat.)

New Student Battles the Shrine.

ALISA

(Losing hold of her books:)

What?

HEADLINE

Shrine Wins! Shrine Wins!

ALISA

Who are you?

Enter BUY BOY, Alisa's age, and the guy you go to when you need to buy or sell pretty much anything.

BUY BOY

That's how he talks.

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HEADLINE

(Helping pick up Alisa's
books:)

Knight in Shining Armor Saves the Day!

BUY BOY

I got it.

Buy Boy competes with Headline
for Alisa's books.

HEADLINE

Superhero Rescues Fair Maiden in School Hallway!

BUY BOY

I said I got it.

ALISA

(Pulling the books away from
them:)

I've got them.

BUY BOY

Just trying to help.

ALISA

Thanks. I'm OK. It's just this...

She gestures toward the shrine.

HEADLINE

Shrine Claims Next Victim.

ALISA

(To Headline:)

Can you stop that?

BUY BOY

(Making a move toward
Headline:)

Headline, stop being a freak.

Headline retreats.

HEADLINE

Hero Vows to Return!

Headline exits.

BUY BOY

Sorry 'bout that.

ALISA

What's wrong with him?

BUY BOY
Last year, he just started talking like that.

ALISA
Not all the time.

BUY BOY
All the time.
(Holds out his hand:)
Tanner. But you can call me Buy Boy.

ALISA
Why?

BUY BOY
You want to buy, I'm sellin'.

ALISA
Buy what?

BUY BOY
Anything.

ALISA
Are you a narc?

BUY BOY
I'm not a dealer. Not that kind.

ALISA
Good to know.

BUY BOY
You need anything, I take cash or credit. Gimme your name
and I'll even give you the friends and family discount.

ALISA
That's OK.

BUY BOY
Negotiation - I like it.
(beat)
How about I'll give you the friends and family discount, and
you think about giving me your name?

ALISA
(Beat.)
Alisa.

A BELL RINGS.

BUY BOY
I'll see you later, Alisa.

The hallway floods with STUDENTS.

ALISA

(Gesturing toward the
shrine:)

What about this...?

But he's gone. Lights dim on the pack of students in the hallway, and up on LUNA. She is alone and in her own light, but she should be lit in such a way that her face is somewhat hidden. It's an out of time moment.

LUNA

Pluto was officially discovered in 1930. It became the ninth planet, and the farthest from the sun. What a lot of people don't know - no, what pretty much everybody doesn't know, is that its orbit crosses Neptune's, the eighth planet, but the two planets don't ever come close to each other.

(Beat.)

So Pluto's always been this lonely little planet, and it's cold. Really, really cold. Like negative 230 degrees Celsius cold. People couldn't live there.

(Beat.)

I'm pretty sure most people don't spend a lot of time thinking about Pluto. Why would you? Pluto doesn't get you an A in English or pay your car insurance or keep your mom from aiming a half full coffee mug at your dad's head on the last night you pretended you had a functional family.

(Beat.)

But then it happened. Pluto got demoted. In 2006. One day it's a planet, and the next day it's not. They come up with this new category for it: a dwarf planet. Sure, Pluto, you're separate but equal. Right. And finally people take notice. Harvard students stage a sit-in at University Hall, in Berkeley they burn a revised map of the solar system and protestors take to the streets of Manhattan to stand up for Pluto.

(Beat.)

I made that last part up. Outside of a few astronomers, nobody really cared, and after a few weeks, people stopped talking about it. Nobody ever stands up for the Plutos of the universe. At least not in my universe.

(Beat.)

Our high school has a Pluto problem.

Luna disappears back into the crowd of passing students as the stage begins to transition into the cafeteria.

WENDY, the class drama geek in a non-geeky way, slips in just ahead of MARNE [pronounced Mar-nee], MELISSA and MIRANDA, a trio of popular girls nicknamed "The M Squad," who know just how popular they are. They wear T-shirts emblazoned with "Elizabeth Turner - Always in Our Hearts." They have Beth's picture on the front. Marne carries a bag of T-shirts. They accost students heading into the cafeteria, passing out flyers.

WENDY

Get your Shake on this Saturday and Sunday! That's right - fall hard for the Bard as girls play boys and boys play girls in our revolutionary new version of Richard II.

MARNE

Friday night vigil.

(Shoving a flyer into a student's hand:)

Be there. There's gonna be food trucks.

MELISSA

One-year anniversary. Better be there.

Miranda shoves a flyer into the hands of DALTON, wearing a lacrosse jersey over his otherwise preppy attire.

MIRANDA

You *will* be there.

DALTON

You know I never miss.

MELISSA

Except that one time.

MIRANDA

Show love, Dalton.

DALTON

Can I show *you* love?

MIRANDA

(Nuzzling up to him to tease:)

I would love you more stylin' the new all-black.

CHUCK, not nearly cool enough to be Dalton's friend, makes the mistake of chiming in:

CHUCK
All-black would mean black letters too.

MELISSA
Chuck!

MIRANDA
Don't be stupid.

MELISSA
Don't be an ass.

MIRANDA
Stupid ass.

MARNE
How many T-shirts you own, Chuck?

CHUCK
I think I got one last year.

MELISSA
You think?

MIRANDA
Better be sure.

MARNE
When I *think* about it, don't remember seeing you at a vigil.

CHUCK
I've been.

(Pause.)
Dalton, tell 'em I've been.

DALTON
How much for the all-black?

MARNE
Fifteen.

Dalton forks over the cash. They hand him a T-shirt. As they do, lights up on QE (pronounced Q.E.), Beth's younger sister, standing across the cafeteria.

MARNE (CONT'D)
(To Chuck:)
Go tell QE you don't want to buy a shirt.

CHUCK
 No, it's not that-

MIRANDA
 What is it?

MARNE
 Dalton, put that shirt on.

CHUCK
 Things are just a little tight right now.

MARNE
 Beth is dead.

CHUCK
 I know.

Dalton takes his jersey off and
 puts the shirt on.

MARNE
 And if you cared about her-

MELISSA
 Like Dalton.

MIRANDA
 You'd be puttin' on that all-black.

CHUCK
 I care. I'm just tapped.

MARNE
 Sacrifice a freakin' latte.

CHUCK
 What about those buttons? I have enough for a button.

MARNE
 Sold out.

MIRANDA
 You look hot, Dalton.

MELISSA
 Red hot.

MARNE
 (To Chuck:)
 Go tell QE you hate her sister.

CHUCK
 But I don't-

Or we will. MELISSA

I get paid next Friday. CHUCK

Next Friday's really far from this Friday. MIRANDA

Like another country. MELISSA

And the vigil's *this* Friday. MARNE

Everyone, can I have your attention? MIRANDA

Listen up, people, Chuckie's got something to say. MELISSA

The cafeteria starts to go quiet.

Why are you doing this? CHUCK

Because we can. MARNE

QE, you'll want to hear this. MELISSA

OK! CHUCK

Hear what? QE
(From across the cafeteria:)

Nah - it's all good, QE. We love you, girl. MIRANDA

Marne gestures for people to go
back to what they were doing.
The noise level returns.

Let me see that AJ. MARNE
(To Chuck:)

It's 15, right? CHUCK

AJ. MARNE

But- CHUCK

Did she stutter? MELISSA

CHUCK
(Beat - indicating the
cafeteria:)
That's all I got for the week.

MIRANDA
Tell that to QE.

Chuck digs for money and pays off
Marne. Beat.

CHUCK
Hope you're happy.

MARNE
It's not about me.

Miranda or Melissa gives Chuck a
T-shirt, or rather tosses it at
him. The lights shift to focus
on QE.

QE
I'm used to being on the other end of those looks. Those
poor QE looks. Those "insert name here" Beth's sister looks.
I run from memorial to vigil to dedication to fundraiser.
It's like all Beth, all the time. Nobody even knows me.
Well, everybody knows me. I'm Beth's sister.

(Beat.)
After they had Beth - Elizabeth - they had *Queen* Elizabeth.
Seriously? It's what you name your toy poodle. But nobody
says a thing. It took my sister dying to make my lifetime
humiliation of a name cool. And how am I supposed to change
it now? How am I supposed to change any of this?

QE melts into the crowds of the
cafeteria. Alisa looks for a
table. Headline comes up to her.

HEADLINE
Beautiful Princess Sits with Charming, Handsome Prince.

He pulls out a chair for her, offering the seat, brushing off the table at the last minute when he realizes it's dirty. Buy Boy intercepts Alisa.

BUY BOY

You don't want to sit there.

ALISA

And you know this because...?

Alisa turns away from both of them. Lights up on the outcast table, populated by SABRINA, perhaps a goth; LEGOLAS, whose real name is Aloysius, and HABIT, short for nothing and often quiet. In between them sits a burger with ketchup and relish, alone on a plate. They each raise a glass.

SABRINA

To Jeremy.

Habit tips her glass in the direction of the burger.

LEGOLAS

To J-Bird.

SABRINA

He hated that name.

LEGOLAS

No he didn't.

SABRINA

Yes he did.

LEGOLAS

(To Habit:)

Tiebreaker?

Habit nods and gestures to Sabrina, tipping the vote to her.

LEGOLAS (CONT'D)

(Beat.)

He never said anything.

SABRINA

Kinda had other stuff.

LEGOLAS

(Quietly:)

Yeah.

(Beat - to the burger:)

Sorry, Jeremy.

SABRINA

Not like he spent days on end saying, "Oh my God, will Legolas stop calling me J-Bird?"

LEGOLAS

(Beat.)

He didn't say that, did he?

SABRINA

I just said, "It's not like he did."

LEGOLAS

So that's a no?

SABRINA

Doesn't matter now.

LEGOLAS

Can't you just give me one straight answer?!

SABRINA

No! He said it once and that was it.

LEGOLAS

What did he say?

SABRINA

I didn't write it down.

LEGOLAS

Was he like really angry?

SABRINA

He said, "I'm only killing myself because I can't kill Legolas."

LEGOLAS

That's not funny.

SABRINA

Sorry. Just tryin to be a moodlifter. Memorial Cheeseburger Wednesday.

LEGOLAS

Yeah, they do get kind of downer.

SABRINA

(Beat.)

You get your paper done?

LEGOLAS

Almost. Worked on it all last night.

SABRINA

Isn't it due tomorrow?

LEGOLAS

One more all-nighter should do it.

(Beat.)

So what did he say?

SABRINA

You're still on that?

LEGOLAS

I just need to know.

SABRINA

(Beat.)

I don't know. It was something like, "Why does Legolas call me that stupid nickname?"

LEGOLAS

He said it was stupid?

(Beat.)

I would have stopped. I would have stopped in a second.

SABRINA

I know.

LEGOLAS

Why didn't you say something?

SABRINA

(Mostly to herself:)

Why didn't I say something about a lot of things?

Habit steps out of real time.

HABIT

I know a lot of people who are into a lot of things. Dalton beats the crap out of his liver every Friday and Saturday night. The M Squad likes shopping, gossip and gambling in that order. Perfect little Marne had an urgent vomiting to stay perfect one afternoon, and she left herself logged in to a lost hand of video poker. Every study hall, she's got one tab open to some fashion page and the other to sneak-a-peek poker. Tanner, Buy Boy, whatever his name is - is always makin' a deal and scratchin' out an extra buck, and his mom and dad have his and hers Porsches.

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HABIT (CONT'D)

And I know he's not cut off. He just can't help it. It's a habit.

(Beat.)

You notice habits are mostly bad? Like silence. That's mine. And it's mostly bad.

Habit steps back into the scene just as Marne's posse approaches her table...

MIRANDA

Listen up, freakazoids.

MARNE

Leave it.

MIRANDA

Why?

MARNE

You know why.

MIRANDA

Not really.

MELISSA

The three little freakies ought to get with the program.

MIRANDA

She wears all black anyway.

MARNE

Let's just go. I want a latte.

MIRANDA

You hate lattes.

MARNE

Whatever. A cappuccino.

Beat. Melissa and Miranda exchange a look between them, while Marne has just a moment of connection with Habit, Legolas and Sabrina. The M Squad moves on.

LEGOLAS

You ever wonder about the cheeseburger?

SABRINA

I wonder if it's dog.

LEGOLAS

Aside from that.

SABRINA

What am I supposed to wonder about? You shouldn't think about things too much.

LEGOLAS

Well, like we never eat it.

HABIT

I'm a vegetarian.

LEGOLAS

Yeah, but if you weren't.

HABIT

But I am.

SABRINA

What are you wondering about?

LEGOLAS

If we eat the cheeseburger, is that like at communion when they eat the body of Christ?

SABRINA

You mean like Jeremy is the cheeseburger and if we eat it, we're eating his body?

LEGOLAS

Symbolically.

HABIT

I'm only eating him if he's tofu.

(Beat.)

I shouldn't speak.

SABRINA

This conversation is so messed up.

HABIT

Dumb things come out when I speak.

SABRINA

No - this is *all* so messed up.

LEGOLAS

Just like every single day.

They do not eat the burger, as the lights dim on them and up on Alisa, trying to find a seat at last.

She finds an open seat by Brady,
the Teen Reporter from the first
scene.

ALISA

Is anyone sitting here?

He shakes his head. She sits.

ALISA (CONT'D)

Hi. I'm Alisa.

BRADY

Brady.

ALISA

Nice to meet you.

BRADY

You too.

ALISA

I brought my lunch. Didn't know if the food was good or...

(Beat.)

Seems like everybody at this school...either you can't shut
them up or they hardly talk at all.

BRADY

Sorry.

(Looking up from his lunch:)

How are you? How's that?

ALISA

Good.

BRADY

You're good, or I'm doing good?

(Corrects himself:)

Well.

ALISA

Don't worry about it.

BRADY

What am I not worrying about?

(Beat.)

Too much now?

ALISA

You're doing well. Mid-year transfers suck but other than
this crazy shrine next to my locker that I'm going to trip
over really, really soon and the two guys hitting on me in
front of it, in the caff and everywhere else they see me, I'm
great.

BRADY
Don't worry. I won't hit on you.

ALISA
Gay, or just not your type?

BRADY
No confidence.

ALISA
Oh.

(Beat.)
Well, maybe you could borrow some from one of these guys.
They have way too much.

(Beat.)
Not that I'm telling you to hit on me. That came out wrong.

BRADY
It's cool. I think I know what you meant.

(Beat.)
I used to have it.

ALISA
What happened?

BRADY
Bell's about to ring. Better beat the herd.

He gets up abruptly and exits as
the BELL RINGS. Alisa finds
herself thrown into a three-ring
circus. Each of these lines
should be delivered by a
different speaker, so that no one
delivers two lines in a row.

CHORUS OF STUDENTS
Welcome to Washington High School, where we offer a wide
variety of sports and clubs.
Activities.
There's marching band, newspaper, animals rights and
recycling, P.E. leadership, Varsity Key Club-
Of course, if you arrive in the middle of the year, your
options are limited.
You've missed fall sports.
Winters's going, going gone.
You'll probably be such a mess academically that you won't
have time to participate.
Or have a social life.
But if you do, things are kinda set already.
Debate partners are picked.
The fall play is over.
The spring play is practically cast.

A student posts a cast list.

CHORUS OF STUDENTS (CONT'D)

Model UN, done.
 Math club, done.
 Science Olympiad, check;
 Geekdom organizes way early.
 Technically, those are nerds.
 And if you find a club that you can get into, everybody's
 known each other for a thousand years.
 You're on the outside looking in.
 You wish you were that close.
 Let's face it - your life is a total cluster-
 Beep!

The throng of students disperses,
 and we're left with Alisa trying
 to get at her locker. She
 measures her path, but doesn't
 quite have the coordination for
 success. Beat. She gives the
 closest parts of the shrine a
 nudge, trying to buy herself some
 breathing room. Enter Marne,
 Miranda and Melissa. Alisa stops
 her efforts, but too late.

What's up?	MARNE
Not much.	ALISA
Pretty amazing, isn't it.	MELISSA
What?	ALISA
This.	MIRANDA (Indicates the shrine:)
Yeah.	ALISA
So what are you doing?	MARNE
What do you mean?	ALISA
We're not blind.	MELISSA

ALISA
I almost fell.

MIRANDA
Do you know what this is?

ALISA
I barely touched it.

MIRANDA
I said do you know what this is.

ALISA
I can't get to my locker. What am I supposed to do?

MARNE
You're new here, right?

ALISA
Yeah. I'm A-

MARNE
You should figure out what's what before you start messing with things.

ALISA
I'm not trying to mess with things. I'm just trying to get to my locker.

MELISSA
Who gave you the right to touch things?

ALISA
If they moved it six inches...
(Trying to lighten the mood:)
I'm just not that coordinated.

MARNE
Maybe it's you that needs to move.

MIRANDA
Hate to see something bad happen...

ALISA
What?

MELISSA
Did she stutter?

ALISA
Are you threa-

MARNE
(As they sweep off:)

Leaving.

They exit, leaving Alisa shaken.

SCENE 2

A classroom. A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER passes back aptitude tests. Half of them are already in students' hands. Dalton leans over to Chuck.

DALTON
Sub. We should blow this off.

CHUCK
Dude, you totally hosed me.

DALTON
Come on. It's a sub.
(Beat.)
You're not seriously still mad about the shirt.

Chuck holds up his hand, as in "talk to the hand," and ignores him. Across the room, MARIO holds up his results in disbelief.

MARIO
I'm going to be a non-union plumber.

WENDY
You're what?

Wendy grabs them out of his hand.

MARIO
It says I'm best suited to be a non-union plumber.

WENDY
An aptitude test can tell you that?

MARIO
Why am I not good enough to be in the union?

WENDY
Maybe you're not a joiner.

MARIO
But non-union plumbers don't make near as much money.

PAM chimes in.

PAM
It says I should be a veterinarian.

WENDY
You're gonna make a lot more money than Mario.

MARIO
Shut up.

WENDY
Seriously, it's a good gig.

PAM
But I'm allergic to cats. And dogs.

MARIO
(To Wendy:)
What'd yours say?

WENDY
Actress.

MARIO
No way.

WENDY
Well, basically.

PAM
What'd it say?

WENDY
Waitress. But that's such an obvious stepping stone to
actress... I'm thinking of inviting their entire advisory
board to see me play Henry this weekend.

ALISA
(To Brady:)
Should I ask-

BRADY
Don't.

ALISA
(Beat.)
These things mean nothing.

BRADY
Tell that to my parents. You're lucky you don't have one.

ALISA
So far, the only good thing about being new.

BRADY
Hey!

Almost only thing.

ALISA

Jeremy Reiner.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER
(Pronounced rhine-er)

The class goes silent.

Oh man...

MARIO
(Uncomfortably:)

How's he still on the roster?

CHUCK

You talking to me now?

DALTON

Is Jeremy absent?

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

He's not in this class.

BRADY
(Beat.)

I'm sure Ms. DeSoto-

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

It's Mrs.

DALTON

I'm sure *Mrs.* DeSoto will get the results to Jeremy when she's back.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

There's a long and terribly awkward silence. A barely stifled GIGGLE comes from somewhere in the back.

Not cool.

SABRINA

Sorry...I'm not like laughing at him.

GIGGLING GIRL

Then why are you laughing?

SABRINA

I'm not. This is just like super freaky.

GIGGLING GIRL

CHUCK
Your laugh is super freaky.

GIGGLING GIRL
I get nervous.

CHUCK
That laugh makes me nervous.

DALTON
I know, right?

SABRINA
It's not funny.

CHUCK
I'm still pissed at you.

GIGGLING GIRL
I'm not trying to laugh.

DALTON
Dude, what is your problem?

SABRINA
Then try harder not to.

CHUCK
You.

BRADY
Shut up! All of you - just - shut - up!

He storms out, leaving the
classroom silent in his wake.
Beat. Legolas steps out of the
scene, and draws the light.
During Legolas' monologue, Alisa
exits.

LEGOLAS
Six years ago, my uncle moved to a different apartment in his
building. And so they start sending his disability checks to
the new address, which is what you expect, right? And then
suddenly two months ago they start going to his old address.
Lucky it's in the same building, but what's up with that?

(Beat.)

People think I'm weird. I'm OK with that. Tiny Tim, the
little gimpy kid from Christmas Carol, says maybe people will
see him and feel better cause they're not him. I think I'm
something like that kind of weird. But not crazy. Not like
"we flew our own planes into the Towers" crazy.

LEGOLAS (CONT'D)

And I say that the check suddenly going to my uncle's old address, or Jeremy's old aptitude test coming back, that's not an accident.

(Beat.)

I just hope - I hope it makes things better.

The lights dim on the classroom, where all freeze. The lights come up on a hallway, where Brady sits on the ground by a locker in the hall. Alisa finds him.

ALISA

I'm in the bathroom.

BRADY

What's wrong with me?

ALISA

Can I get back to you on that?

Alisa sits next to him.

BRADY

(Beat.)

I barely know you.

ALISA

What - you wanna blow your stranger danger whistle?

BRADY

No. Not that. I just shouldn't dump all this stuff on you.

ALISA

It's OK. Dump away.

BRADY

I can't.

ALISA

(Beat.)

What if I dump first?

BRADY

And then I do?

ALISA

A dump for a dump. If you want.

(Beat.)

You don't have to decide now.

(Beat.)

I told you I have this shrine by my locker.

BRADY
Beth. It's a shrine to Beth.

ALISA
Who's dead.

BRADY
Who's dead.

ALISA
And I told you how I can barely get my books.

Brady nods.

ALISA (CONT'D)
I try to move it one tiny bit, and like they can smell that something moved, those three-

BRADY
The M Squad.

ALISA
The what?

BRADY
Popular, more popular and most popular.

ALISA
Great. First day and I'm screwed.

BRADY
Buy a T-shirt.

ALISA
A T-shirt...?

BRADY
It's like an offering.

ALISA
A what? I'm confused right now.

BRADY
Wish you could take that dump back?

ALISA
Wish I could take back the word dump.

BRADY
They're like the gods - goddesses of popularity. You buy a shirt, it's like sacrificing a goat.

ALISA
Brady, you're so weird.

Good weird? BRADY

Weird. ALISA

Thanks. BRADY

ALISA
(Beat.)
What kind of T-shirt?

BRADY
The newest one's the all-black. But they have pretty much
all of the good colors.

ALISA
Great.

BRADY
Fifteen dollars is cheap not to be the goat.

ALISA
Fifteen dollars doesn't solve the problem.

BRADY
Just for now.
(Beat.)
You should probably get back.

ALISA
I'll tell her there was blood involved.

BRADY
TMI.

ALISA
Yeah. So much worse than sacrificing a goat.

BRADY
That was a metaphor.

ALISA
(Beat.)
Your turn.

BRADY
For...?

ALISA
To dump.

BRADY
You're not done yet.

ALISA
You said it was solved for now.
(Beat.)
I'll dump more later. Or spill. Spill's a better word.

BRADY
You said if I wanted.

He gets up.

BRADY (CONT'D)
I don't.

ALISA
But-

He walks away, leaving her there
as the lights dim on her.

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