

Alexa and Katie

Pilot Script

Written
by

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COLD OPEN

INT. ROOM - DAY (D1)
(Alexa, Katie)

CLOSE ON TWO 14 YEAR-OLD GIRLS, ALEXA AND KATIE WHO SIT SQUASHED TOGETHER IN A LARGE RECLINER WHILE THEY LOOK THROUGH A MAGAZINE. ALEXA, BRUNETTE, IS AN EBULLIENT TROUBLEMAKER WHILE KATIE, BLONDE, IS AS SWEET AS SHE IS PRACTICAL.

ALEXA

Found it! Our first day of school outfits. (POINTS) You. (POINTS) Me.

KATIE

So you're going to be wearing a Prada skirt and I'm going to be dressed like the dog in the model's bag?

ALEXA

Look at his sweater. Adorable.

KATIE PULLS THE MAGAZINE CLOSER TO HER.

KATIE

Yeah, the sweater's cute, but he's not wearing pants.

ALEXA

Think of the breeze.

KATIE

Think of my mom. (PUTS MAGAZINE DOWN)
I don't care what we wear as long as we go to school together.

ALEXA

Awww, sweet... and so not true. You picked out our first day of high school clothes when we were ten.

KATIE

Nine. Roller skates and Furby tee shirts. (BEAT) We may want to update.

WE WIDEN TO SEE ALEXA AND KATIE ARE IN AN INFUSION ROOM. ALEXA IS GETTING CHEMO.

KATIE (CONT'D)

So, are you worried Dr. Breitwieser won't clear you for school?

ALEXA

Nope. I count on you to do that for both of us. He'll clear me. I'm starting school this Monday like everyone else. (SERIOUS) And I don't want anyone at school to know. I'd hate it if they treated me all weird.

KATIE

I don't want anyone to know either. You already get all the attention.

ALEXA

Can you imagine if Gwenny Thompson knew I'd been sick?

KATIE

Yeah, you guys might start being nice to each other.

ALEXA

Exactly. Four years of plotting, scheming, and warring against my enemy down the drain. My life would lack purpose. (SEES SOMEONE IN THE HALL)
Oh, there he is.

KATIE

Who?

ALEXA MOVES UP TO THE EDGE OF THE RECLINER. SHE HAS AN IV IN HER ARM, BUT PAYS LITTLE ATTENTION TO IT.

ALEXA

The cute volunteer. Push the call button. Quick, he's getting away!

KATIE

Okay, okay. (PUSHES) There.

ALEXA

When he asks me if I need anything I'm going to say, "Your lips on mine."

KATIE

You are not!

ALEXA

Watch me.

THE CUTE VOLUNTEER ENTERS.

CUTE VOLUNTEER

Hi. Did you need something?

BUT HE'S TOO CUTE.

ALEXA

Uhhh...

KATIE "HELPS" ALEXA.

KATIE

(MOUTHS) "Your lips on mine."

ALEXA

A glass of water?

CUTE VOLUNTEER

(SMILES) Like the one on the table
next to you.

ALEXA

Oh, hey. Look at that. No, I, uh,
meant to ask you if you knew what time
it was.

CUTE VOLUNTEER

I don't. But we could check the giant
clock on the wall there.

ALEXA

Oh, right, right. (THEN) I have
cancer!

CUTE VOLUNTEER

That's why you come in for chemo. I
thought you just loved to read
Highlights.

ALEXA LAUGHS AS CUTE VOLUNTEER EXITS.

ALEXA

Did you see that? He is so into me.

KATIE

I must have missed that moment.

ALEXA SETTLES BACK INTO THE RECLINER.

KATIE (CONT'D)

When is the doctor going to actually let you know you're cleared? Did he never have a first day of high school? Doesn't he know what this means to us?!

ALEXA

He's calling my mom today at three.

KATIE

What?! Why didn't you tell me?!

ALEXA

Because I knew you'd go all Katie.

KATIE

Go "all Katie"? (THEN) I'm just saying, why call at three? If he knows, he knows. Why not one? Why not two? Why not-- Ohhhhh. This is "going all Katie." Did you just make that expression up. Or is that like a thing people say? It's a thing, isn't it?

(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)

Is everyone saying it? Oh God! (RE:
WHAT SHE JUST DID) "All Katie" again?

ALEXA NODS. THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND THEN BURST OUT
LAUGHING AT THE ABSURDITY OF IT. A NURSE APPEARS IN THE ROOM.

NURSE

Who's making all this noise?

KATIE

ALEXA

Alexa.

Katie.

NURSE

You two. I should have known. Now find
something quiet to do or Katie won't
be allowed to come next time.

AS THE NURSE LEAVES, THE GIRLS FIGHT OFF LAUGHTER. ALEXA
PICKS UP HER JOURNAL AND STARTS TO WRITE. KATIE FLIPS THROUGH
THE MAGAZINE.

ALEXA (V.O.)

When I got cancer my nurse told me
writing down what I'm grateful for
would help me stay positive. I told
her I'd be grateful if she'd find me a
new nurse. She just gave me this
journal and said, "no such luck,
Sweetie." So I did write a gratitude.
That first day it was for purple
popsicles. And I am still finding
reasons to be grateful. Like Katie.

(MORE)

ALEXA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I've been grateful for my best friend
a lot in this journal. But this time
I'm super grateful for her. You'll
see...

FADE OUT.

INT. COFFEE/COMPUTER CAFE - DAY (D2)

(Alexa, Katie, Reagan, Hannah, Jack, Gwenny)

IN AN ALL PURPOSE LOFT STYLE COFFEE SHOP, KATIE SITS AT A
TABLE AND IS JOINED BY ALEXA AND KATIE AND THEIR FRIENDS
REAGAN AND HANNAH, CARRYING COFFEE DRINKS.

ALEXA

All I know is my locker better not be
anywhere near Sarah Lopez's. She got
crazy pretty.

REAGAN

I know! Did you see her Instagram?!
This summer she turned into a "woman."

HANNAH

I bumped into her last week, and
accidentally called her ma'am. She
called me, "who are you?"

KATIE

Oh, my God, she's known you all your
life.

HANNAH

I know-- What's that around your
wrist?

KATIE HOLDS UP HER ARM. THERE IS A CORD AROUND HER WRIST.

KATIE

(ANNOYED) I'm babysitting my brother.

REAGAN

What?

TO DEMONSTRATE, KATIE PULLS ON THE CORD AND HER BROTHER JACK (9) WHO IS ATTACHED TO IT, GETS YANKED OUT FROM AROUND THE CORNER OF THE COUNTER WHERE HE HAS BEEN STARING AT PASTRIES.

JACK

Hey guys!

REAGAN

You have him on a leash?!

KATIE

It's not a leash. It's a-- No, yeah, it's a leash.

ALEXA

Katie, that's terrible.

KATIE

Easy for you to say. Your brother drives you places and helps you with homework. Mine wanders off and talks to strangers about lizards.

HANNAH

My dog hates his leash.

KATIE

It's either this or he sits at the table with us.

ALEXA/REGAN/HANNAH

It's not that bad./No!/He seems happy.

REAGAN

Hey, first day. Let's dye the tips of
our hair the school colors.

ALEXA/HANNAH

I love that./ Yes!

KATIE

I can't wait for high school. I don't
know what I'm the most excited about.

ALEXA/REAGAN/HANNAH

High school guys./ Guys!/ Guys!

KATIE

Seriously? Name anything else.

ALEXA

Going out for basketball. And theatre.

HANNAH

And pep rallies.

REAGAN

Pep rallies with guys.

ALEXA

Football games!

REAGAN

Football games with guys.

ALEXA

Dances!

HANNAH

With guys!

ALEXA

That's how it usually works.

KATIE REELS JACK TO HER. HE HOLDS A PLATE WITH CRUMBS ON IT.

KATIE

Oh, my God, did you eat all the samples.

JACK

(MOUTH FULL OF SAMPLES) What samples?

(SWALLOWS) I'm weak. You knew that when you brought me here.

JACK WANDERS OFF WITH HIS PLATE.

ALEXA

I'm so looking forward to it all starting.

KATIE

(SYMPATHETIC) Especially after this summer.

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REAGAN

What do you mean?

ALEXA SHOOTS KATIE A LOOK. AT ALEXA'S INSISTENCE, KATIE'S THE ONLY ONE OF HER FRIENDS WHO KNOWS ABOUT HER CANCER.

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KATIE

(TRYING TO SAVE IT) Bacne. She got horrible, horrible bacne. I couldn't even look at it.

*
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REAGAN

Eeyew.

ALEXA GIVES KATIE A "SERIOUSLY?" LOOK. KATIE GIVES HER A "THAT'S ALL I COULD THINK OF!" LOOK.

ALEXA

Yeah. Thanks for sharing that, Katie. *

(GETS A FUNNY LOOK ON HER FACE, A

SIXTH SENSE) Gwenny's here.

SHE TURNS AROUND TO SEE THAT A PRETTY LITTLE 14-YEAR-OLD GIRL HAS ENTERED WITH TWO OTHER GIRLS. IT'S GWENNY THOMPSON AND HER STOOGES. THE-GOOD-THE-BAD-AND-THE-UGLY-TYPE THEME PLAYS.

ALEXA GETS UP AND THEY SLOWLY APPROACH EACH OTHER WITH THEIR FRIENDS HANGING BACK, EACH SIZING THE OTHER UP.

GWENNY

Hello, Alexa.

ALEXA

Hello Gwenny.

GWENNY

Long time.

ALEXA

Not long enough.

GWENNY

Ha. Wit. (THEN) Oh, hey, did they ever figure out what caused that horrible smell in your locker last year?

SHE SMIRKS AT HER FRIENDS. SHE DID IT.

ALEXA

Yeah. They think it was your breath.

GWENNY'S STOOGES LAUGH. SHE GLARES AT THEM AND THEY STOP.

GWENNY

Well, you were smart not to retaliate.
You know you always lose. Come on,
guys. This place isn't cool anymore.

ALEXA

Bye, Gwenny. Oh, I almost forgot to
tell you. (LEANS OVER AND WHISPERS IN
HER EAR) Don't sleep!

A LITTLE UNNERVED BUT COVERING, GWENNY AND HER SQUAD EXIT.
KATIE CHECKS HER PHONE.

KATIE

We gotta go! It's almost three.

ALEXA AND KATIE GATHER THEIR THINGS.

REAGAN

What's at three?

ALEXA AND KATIE LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

ALEXA

Uhh...

KATIE

Dermatologist!

REAGAN

The backne?

KATIE

It's a mess back there.

THEY HURRY OUT.

EXT. STORE DAY - CONTINUOUS (D2)

ALEXA AND KATIE PAUSE OUTSIDE.

(ALEXA, KATIE)

ALEXA

Nice cover.

KATIE

I suck at improv.

ALEXA

What if he doesn't let me go to
school?

KATIE

Now who's the worrier? He will. But
just in case.

SHE SHOWS HER FINGERS CROSSED.

ALEXA

Way ahead of you.

REVEALS HER FINGERS CROSSED ON BOTH HANDS.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

Me, too!

THEY HURRY OFF, BUT KATIE IS STOPPED RIGHT AWAY WHEN THE ROPE
ON HER WRIST GOES TAUT. THEY HEAR A LOUD THUD AS JACK HITS
THE DOOR INSIDE THE CAFE.

KATIE

Oops.

CUT TO:

SCENE B

INT. - ALEXA'S GREAT ROOM/KITCHEN (D2)
(Alexa, Katie, Lucas, Lori)

ALEXA AND KATIE ENTER THE COOPER'S HOUSE. ALEXA QUICKLY
THROWS DOWN HER BAG AND SETS HER MOCHA ON THE COUNTER. *

ALEXA *

Take your shoes off. My mom will be *
home any second and it has to look *
like we've been here for hours. *

ALEXA EFFICIENTLY KICKS OFF HER SHOES AND JACKET AS SHE PUTS *
HER HAIR IN A SLOPPY BUN, THEN PLOPS ON THE COUCH. KATIE *
WATCHES THIS. *

ALEXA (CONT'D) *

Hurry! Kick back! *

KATIE *

I can't kick back under pressure! *

ALEXA *

I told my mom I'd come home and nap *
right after chemo. She makes such a *
big deal of it. *

KATIE *

What?! Why do you do this to me? I'm *
not going to lie to your mom-- *

THE FRONT DOOR OPENS AND KATIE FRANTICALLY PULLS OFF ONE *
SHOE, THEN SITS ON THE COUCH TUCKING HER OTHER FOOT *
UNDERNEATH HER. LORI ENTERS LOOKING AT THE MAIL. *

ALEXA *

(STRETCHING) Hey, Mom. *

LORI *

Hi, honey. How was chemo? *

ALEXA

Good. Lots of laughs. Came straight home.

LORI SENSES SOMETHING'S UP.

LORI

Hi, Katie.

KATIE STILL HOLDING HER SHOE, SMILES AT HER, UNEASY.

KATIE

Hi. We're kicking back.

LORI LOOKS AT ALEXA.

LORI

Did you get a nap in?

ALEXA

Mom. We had an agreement. How can you ask?

LORI CROSSES TOWARD THE KITCHEN.

LORI

Is that your mocha on the counter?

ALEXA

From yesterday.

LORI PICKS IT UP.

LORI

And, yet, it's still warm.

ALEXA

We have a microwave.

LORI

The one you never use?

KATIE

We hung out with friends at Wired!!

(TO ALEXA) She's too good. There was
so much tension in the air.

LORI

Alexa, you know you're not supposed to
get tired.

ALEXA

I'm not even a little tired, Mom. Did
Dr. Breitwieser call?

LORI

Not yet. We'll talk about the nap
thing later when Katie's not around to
hear me yell.

KATIE

We can hear you pretty good from next
door. (REALIZES) Though we try not to
listen.

SHE PUTS HER CELL PHONE ON THE COUNTER AND PICKS UP THE MAIL
AGAIN. THE GIRLS SIT ON STOOLS AND STARE AT THE PHONE.

LUCAS, 16, CROSSES INTO THE KITCHEN.

LUCAS

Hey, guys.

KATIE LOOKS AT HIM, LOVE STRUCK.

KATIE

Great, thanks. (REALIZES) Oh, you
didn't ask. But I am. Great, I mean.

Not to brag, just saying.

KATIE CRINGES.

LUCAS

Good to hear.

LUCAS OPENS THE FRIDGE AND LOOKS FOR FOOD. ALEXA TURNS AND
LOOKS AT KATIE, SHOCKED.

ALEXA

(INTENSE WHISPER) Seriously?

KATIE

(INTENSE WHISPER) What?

ALEXA

(INTENSE WHISPER) You know what.

ALEXA NODS TOWARD THE OPEN FRIDGE, WHICH LUCAS IS BEHIND,
STILL LOOKING FOR FOOD.

KATIE

(INTENSE WHISPER, "NO WAY") Whaaat?!

ALEXA

(INTENSE WHISPER) Lucas? Really?

Gross. You've known him since you
were five. Now suddenly...

ALEXA DOES A "LOVE SICK" FACE.

KATIE

(INTENSE WHISPER) I don't know what
you're talking about.

ALEXA

(INTENSE WHISPER) You know he farts.

KATIE

(INTENSE WHISPER) He. Does. Not!

LUCAS STANDS UP, SHUTTING THE FRIDGE DOOR.

LUCAS

We're out of milk.

KATIE

(TO LUCAS, SINCERE) Oh, no. Milk is really important.

SHE CATCHES ALEXA'S LOOK OF DISBELIEF.

KATIE (CONT'D)

...Or whatever. If you're into that.

(TRAILS OFF) ...Water's also good...

LUCAS LOOKS BACK IN THE FRIDGE. ALEXA TURNS TO KATIE.

ALEXA

(INTENSE WHISPER) My best friend likes my brother. That makes me want to hurl more than chemo.

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LORI HOLDS UP A LETTER SHE JUST READ.

LORI

Alexa, look at this. The principal sent us a note. She says she's aware of your situation, and we can count on her for any help and support we need.

ALEXA

The principal is writing me notes.
That's so lame.

LORI

Well, I think it's pretty cool.

ALEXA

Mom, you've clearly lost touch with
what cool means. Because it's not
being besties with your principal.

LUCAS LOOKS AT THE NOTE.

LUCAS

Principal Trugly is horrible. I got *
detention for a week just for skipping *
home room. No one can stand her. They *
call her Ugly Trugly.

ALEXA AND KATIE LAUGH.

LORI

Oh, that's awful.

THEY STOP LAUGHING.

ALEXA

It's mean.

KATIE

Juvenile.

BUT LORI CAN'T KEEP A STRAIGHT FACE. SHE LAUGHS.

LORI

We used to call her the same thing.

ALEXA

How old is she?

LORI

Well, not your father. She loved your
dad. He was such a suck-up. (TO LUCAS)
Let's go back to you skipping class.

*
*

CELL PHONE RINGS. ALEXA LOOKS AT KATIE.

LUCAS

I'd love to, Mom, but that sounds
important.

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ALEXA

Doctor Breitwieser!

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THEY JUMP OFF THEIR SEATS, AND ALEXA GRABS HER MOM'S PHONE.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

(RE: PHONE) Ugh, Dad.

LUCAS

Tell him we need--

ALEXA

(RE: PHONE) Ignore.

SHE HITS A BUTTON AND THE PHONE STOPS RINGING.

LUCAS

--milk.

THE HOME PHONE RINGS. ALEXA QUICKLY CROSSES THE KITCHEN TO
GRAB IT. SHE NOTICES THE CALLER ID.

ALEXA

Ugh, Dad, again. Can't we just block
him?

LORI

Don't hang up, just tell him--

KATIE

Lucas needs milk!

ALEXA PICKS UP THE PHONE.

ALEXA

Waiting-for-Doctor-Breitwieser's-call-
Lucas-needs-milk-don't-call-again-see-
you-when-you-get-home-love-you-bye-
seriously, don't call again!

ALEXA HANGS UP. LORI'S CELL PHONE RINGS. SHE PICKS IT UP,
THEN LOOKS AT THE GIRLS.

LORI

Dr. Breitwieser. (THEN, INTO PHONE)

Hello...

AS LORI PACES, WE FOLLOW THE CONVERSATION ON THE GIRL'S
FACES.

LORI (CONT'D)

(ON PHONE)...good... okay... yes...

THE GIRLS LOOK HAPPY.

LORI (CONT'D)

(ON PHONE)...no, no, I understand...

THE GIRLS LOOK TROUBLED.

LORI (CONT'D)

(ON PHONE)...oh, good...

THEY BRIGHTEN.

LORI (CONT'D)

...no, no, of course not...

TROUBLED AGAIN.

ALEXA

(FIERCE WHISPER) You're killin' me,
Mom. Yes or no?!

LORI

(INTO PHONE) Oh, sorry, doctor... (TO
ALEXA) Yes.

THE GIRLS SCREAM LOUD AND LONG, THRILLED. ALEXA BREAKS INTO A
SORT OF ENDZONE DANCE.

ALEXA

(LIKE "IT'S MY BIRTHDAY") That's
right, that's right. Going to high
school. Starting Monday.

SHE STOPS DANCING AND GOES BACK TO CASUAL.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

Not that I was ever really worried
about it.

KATIE

You have a little spit on your chin.

LORI

(ON PHONE)...yes, I'm still here...

LORI EXITS, STILL ON THE PHONE. ALEXA SEES LUCAS CHECKING HIS
HAIR IN THE REFLECTION OFF THE TOASTER. *

ALEXA *

It's poofy in the back. *

LUCAS *

Where? Where? *

HE CHECKS. *

LUCAS (CONT'D)

No, it's good. It's good.

KATIE

It's perfect.

LUCAS

(TO ALEXA) We don't joke about the
hair.

ALEXA

I don't know what I was thinking.

HE SMILES THEN PUTS HIS ARM AROUND HER.

LUCAS

Hey, congratulations, Lex. I knew
you'd get in. And any weird freshman
who likes my little sister is going to
have to deal with me.

ALEXA

But you'll leave the cute ones alone?

LUCAS

No, them, too. Same goes for you,
Katie. Any guy bugs you at school,
just come find me.

KATIE

I will! Where? Where should I find
you. Where are you usually? Like where
do you hang out between classes? So I
know where to find you.

LUCAS

(BEAT) We'll work it out.

LUCAS EXITS.

KATIE

Well, I should go. I have to crawl
into a hole and die now.

LORI ENTERS HOLDING A SHEET OF PAPER WITH NOTES ON IT.

LORI

Good news, huh, hon?

ALEXA

Yeah, but what's that?

LORI

Let's take a moment to take in the
good news.

ALEXA TAKES THE LIST.

ALEXA

Come right home when school ends... no
extracurricular activities...

LORI

It's just a few precautions.

ALEXA

No physical activities... That means
no basketball.

LORI

You could be the team manager. Make
the roster... do manager stuff.

KATIE

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(TRYING) You could glitter your clipboard! (OFF ALEXA'S LOOK) That, um, would be one option.

ALEXA

This also means no pep rallies or dances. All that leaves is going to class - the worst part of school.

LORI

Or the most important part of school - oh, who am I kidding. It sucks, honey, but it's only for right now. You're getting better and we don't want to do anything to risk that.

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ALEXA

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I know. I just thought once I started school things would go back to normal.

LORI

You're on your way, honey. In no time at all you'll be lying to me about skipping homework instead of skipping naps.

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ALEXA

*

God, I hope so.

*

LORI KISSES ALEXA ON THE HEAD AND EXITS.

KATIE

You'll be able to do all those things
really soon.

ALEXA

Yeah. I guess I'll just have to come
up with other reasons for getting Cs
while I don't have after-school stuff
to blame it on.

*

KATIE LAUGHS AND GIVES ALEXA A BIG HUG.

KATIE

We're starting high school together!

ALEXA

What if people notice I'm not doing
any after school stuff and think
something's wrong with me?

KATIE

Who are these people who are standing
by and carefully watching your every
move?

ALEXA

They do, Katie. They just do.

KATIE

Come on, let's celebrate!

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ALEXA

Yes! Let's do something our moms will
hate.

CUT TO:

SCENE C

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER (D2)
(Alexa, Katie)

ALEXA AND KATIE COLOR THE BOTTOM FEW INCHES OF THEIR HAIR WITH SCHOOL COLORS PURPLE AND GREEN. KATIE EXAMINES HERS.

KATIE

This is so cool! Now help me put it in a bun so my mom can't see it.

ALEXA HELPS KATIE WITH HER HAIR.

ALEXA

Cleared for school, colored hair. Now all that's left is to buy some clothes, take down Gwenny, and I'll be officially ready to start high school.

KATIE

Seriously? Are you going to keep that stupid feud going in high school?

ALEXA

What choice do I have? I'm just supposed to let her win?

KATIE

It's an endless revenge cycle. Do you really think anyone's ever going to win?

ALEXA

Yeah. Me. (THEN) Hey, let's FaceTime Hannah and Reagan and show them our hair.

KATIE

Good idea.

KATIE DIALS HER PHONE. ALEXA BRUSHES HER OWN HAIR THEN SUDDENLY STOPS.

ALEXA

Katie, wait! Uh, let's just surprise them when we see them.

KATIE

Okay.

KATIE'S PHONE BEEPS.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Oh, that's my mom. Better go. I'll call you later.

KATIE EXITS. AFTER A BEAT, ALEXA OPENS HER HAND AND LOOKS DOWN, TEARY-EYED, AT A CLUMP OF HAIR THAT CAME OFF HER HEAD.

INT. KATIE'S KITCHEN - NIGHT (N2)
(Katie, Jennifer, Jack)

KATIE, JENNIFER, AND JACK ARE FINISHING DINNER. JACK RUMMAGES THROUGH A COOKIE TIN.

JACK

C'mon, c'mon. Where are you?

KATIE

Are you seriously going to touch every cookie?

JACK

Why does every cookie only have a single chocolate chip?!

JENNIFER

(HER LITTLE JOKE) Because you have a single parent. (NO RESPONSE) Nothing?

JACK

I hate being poor!

JENNIFER

Hardship builds character.

JACK

I hate character.

JACK GETS UP FORM THE TABLE.

JACK (CONT'D)

I'm going next door. They've got Milanos.

JENNIFER

Bring me back one.

JACK EXITS OUT THE SLIDING GLASS DOOR. JENNIFER AND KATIE PICK UP DISHES OFF THE TABLE AND BRING THEM TO THE SINK.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

How's Alexa feeling about school starting?

KATIE

She's ready.

JENNIFER

High school is a big change, and she's already going through a lot.

KATIE

Mom, she's good. Alexa and I
practically read each other's minds.
I'd know if she were worried.

KATIE'S CELL PHONE BEEPS ON THE COUNTER.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Like right now. That's her texting.

JENNIFER PICKS UP KATIE'S PHONE AND LOOKS AT IT.

JENNIFER

You're right.

KATIE

I can even tell you what it says.
"Don't watch Project Runway without
me."

JENNIFER TAPS ON THE PHONE AND READS THE TEXT.

JENNIFER

Close. It says, "Meet me in the tree
after you know your mom's asleep."

JENNIFER HANDS KATIE HER PHONE.

KATIE

Oh. (TEXTING) And I'm obviously
telling her, "sorry, I'll be asleep
myself then."

KATIE SMILES AT HER MOM AND SETS DOWN THE PHONE.

FLIP TO:

SCENE E

EXT. TREE - LATER (N2)
(Alexa, Katie, Jack)

ALEXA SITS IN A BIG TREE WHICH IS LOCATED IN THE BACKYARD DIRECTLY BETWEEN HERS AND KATIE'S HOUSES. WORDS, HEARTS, ETC SCRATCHED IN THE TREE INDICATE THEY'VE BEEN MEETING IN THIS TREE FOR YEARS. ALEXA WEARS DARK CLOTHES AND A DARK SKI CAP.

KATIE CRAWLS OUT HER WINDOW AND SHIMMIES TOWARD ALEXA.

ALEXA

What took you so long?

KATIE

Don't you mean, "Katie, thanks so much for meeting me when you're supposed to be in bed, even though I know how uncomfortable it makes you doing things you could get in trouble for"?

ALEXA

It must be exhausting being you.

KATIE

You have no idea.

ALEXA

Okay, I need you to grab some dark clothes and as many rolls of toilet paper as you can.

KATIE

Good night.

KATIE TURNS AND STARTS BACK TOWARD HER HOUSE.

ALEXA

Katie, wait! It's important.

KATIE STOPS AND LOOKS BACK AT ALEXA.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

I need to toilet paper Gwenny's house.

KATIE

(TURNS BACK) Good night.

ALEXA

C'mon, Katie. Do you really want to look back at your childhood one day and know that you never t.p.'d anyone's house?

KATIE

I'd like to look back on my childhood and know I never went to prison. What is going on with you? You're kinda losing your mind.

ALEXA

How often do I ask you to do things?

KATIE

Constantly.

ALEXA

(SERIOUS) I really need this right now. It's a good distraction from everything else. (THEN) Pleeeeeease.

KATIE

Oh, my gosh, fiiiine. I'll do it.

JACK (O.S.)

This is going to be fun!

THEY TURN TO SEE JACK, IN PAJAMAS, SHIMMYING HIS WAY TO THEM.

KATIE

Jack! What are you doing?

JACK

I don't want to look back on my
childhood and never have t.p.'d a
house.

KATIE

Go to bed. And keep this to yourself.

JACK

What if I go with you and keep it to
myself?

KATIE

What if I don't strangle you and you
keep it to yourself?

JACK

Pleeeeeeease.

KATIE

Oh, my gosh, fiiiine. I hate you both.

JACK

(EXCITED) I'll get the toilet paper!!!

KATIE

SHHHHHHH!

ALEXA

Jack, c'mon, the yelling -- not
helping your case.

JACK

(WHISPERS) I'll get the toilet paper!!

AS THEY ALL START TO CLIMB OUT OF THE TREE...

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD - LATER (N2)
(Alexa, Katie, Jack)

ALEXA AND KATIE APPROACH A HOUSE WITH A NICELY MANICURED FRONT YARD. KATIE PULLS A WAGON FILLED WITH T.P. AND JACK, STILL IN HIS PAJAMAS. JACK CLIMBS OUT AND GRABS A ROLL.

KATIE

How did you know where she lives?

ALEXA

How would I not know where my enemy lives? It's scary how little you know about retaliation and vengeance.

KATIE LOOKS AT THE HOUSE HESITANTLY.

KATIE

Are we really doing this?

SUDDENLY A ROLL OF TOILET PAPER STREAMS ACROSS THEM LOOPING OVER A TREE AND LEAVING A TRAIL OF T.P. BEHIND IT. JACK DOES A HAPPY DANCE ON THE SIDEWALK.

ALEXA

Oh, we're doing it. Nice arm, kid.

JACK GRABS ROLLS OF T.P. AND HEADS INTO THE YARD. ALEXA GRABS A COUPLE ROLLS AND HANDS ONE TO KATIE. SHE STOPS, THEN SITS IN THE WAGON FOR A SECOND.

KATIE

Are you all right?

ALEXA

You know I hate that question. As my best friend, you have to not ask me that ever again.

KATIE

As my best friend you have to not do
things that wear you out.

BEHIND KATIE, WE SEE JACK JUMPING FROM TREE TO TREE, LEAVING
A T.P. TRAIL AS HE GOES. HE'S HAVING THE TIME OF HIS LIFE.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Wow. He's like an artist who works in
toilet paper.

ALEXA

Okay, I'll sit here for a minute,
until I feel--

KATIE

Better?

ALEXA

Noooo. Inspired. Go do the shrubs.

AS KATIE CROSSES OFF, JACK RUNS UP TO ALEXA AND SHE LOADS HIM
UP WITH MORE TOILET PAPER.

JACK

This is the best night of my life.

ALEXA

You really get it, Jack. I hope I
marry someone like you when I'm older.

JACK

Why would you say that? Married is
gross.

JACK HURRIES OFF WITH HIS TOILET PAPER. KATIE COMES BACK FOR
MORE TOILET PAPER. ALEXA GETS UP. KATIE STARES AT HER HEAD.

ALEXA

I'm ready. Stop looking at me like that.

KATIE

I'm looking at my ski cap. I knew that was mine.

ALEXA

Oh, my gosh, I'll give it back to you. Now will you focus.

THEY CROSS TO THE SHRUBS AND WRAP PAPER AROUND THEM.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

This feels right.

KATIE STEPS OVER TO THE MAILBOX AND STARTS WRAPPING IT.

KATIE

You making me do something stupid and me being irritated by it?

ALEXA

Yes.

SUDDENLY KATIE STOPS. SHE STARES AT THE MAILBOX.

KATIE

Alexa, this isn't Gwenny's house.

ALEXA

Huh?

KATIE

It says, Trugly. Ohmygosh, ohmygosh, ohmygosh. This is our new principal's house.

KATIE RUSHES INTO THE YARD AND TRIES TO GET JACK'S ATTENTION.

KATIE (CONT'D)

(WHISPERS) JACK! JACK! WE GOTTA GO!

ALEXA STARTS PUTTING THE UNUSED T.P. BACK IN THE WAGON. *

KATIE (CONT'D) *

Leave it! *

ALEXA *

I'm almost done. *

SUDDENLY THE FRONT PORCH LIGHT COMES ON, THE DOOR OPENS AND PRINCIPAL TRUGLY STEPS INTO THE YARD, FURIOUS.

PRINCIPAL TRUGLY

What do you think you're doing?

KATIE AND ALEXA JUST STAND THERE, CAUGHT.

PRINCIPAL TRUGLY (CONT'D)

I'm calling your parents. This will
not end well.

BEHIND THE PRINCIPAL, JACK COMES INTO FRAME HANGING UPSIDE
DOWN FROM A TREE.

JACK

Please don't tell my principal about
this.

AS HE FALLS INTO THE BUSHES, WE...

CUT TO:

INT. - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE WAITING ROOM DAY (D3)
(Alexa, Katie, Lori, Dave, Jennifer)

ALEXA, KATIE, LORI AND JENNIFER SIT ON CHAIRS. DAVE PACES.

DAVE

I just hope Principal Trugly doesn't remember me. I was always such a model student. I hate to let her down.

LORI

This is about Alexa, Dave.

DAVE

Right, right. Of course.

LORI

I just don't understand what would make you do something like this, Alexa.

JENNIFER

And with Jack! This is not like you, Katie.

LORI

(TO JENNIFER) I'm so sorry Alexa dragged Katie into this.

JENNIFER

No, no, Lori. I don't feel that way at all. Katie's in charge of her own behavior.

LORI

We can deal with the girls ourselves,
but I think it's important we present
a united front in front of Trugly--it
was a case of mistaken identity, an
innocent prank. We don't want the
girls starting off with a bad
reputation at school.

JENNIFER

Absolutely.

LORI

I know Trugly can be intimidating--

JENNIFER

I'm not afraid of her.

PRINCIPAL TRUGLY OPENS THE DOOR.

PRINCIPAL TRUGLY

Alright-

JENNIFER

It was all her daughter!

LORI

(WHISPERS) Jennifer!

JENNIFER

(WHISPERS) Sorry! She still scares me.

PRINCIPAL TRUGLY

Please come in. Parents first. Then
I'll speak to the girls.

AS LORI, JENNIFER, AND DAVE FILE IN, DAVE TRIES TO LOOK AWAY AND HIDE HIS FACE AS HE GOES BY.

PRINCIPAL TRUGLY (CONT'D)

David?

CAUGHT, DAVE LOWERS HIS HAND FROM HIS FACE.

DAVE

Yes, Principal Trugly.

PRINCIPAL TRUGLY

One of the perpetrators was yours?

DAVE BRIEFLY CONSIDERS DENYING IT, BUT REALIZES HE HAS NO RECOURSE.

DAVE

I'm so, so sorry.

INT. ALEXA'S GREAT ROOM/KITCHEN - AFTERNOON
(Alexa, Dave, Lori, Katie, Jennifer, Jack)

ALEXA, KATIE, LORI, DAVE, AND DONNA ARE SITTING IN THE GREAT ROOM.

ALEXA

Suspended for three days! It's so unfair!

DAVE

It was just one day at first. But then she called you little felons and your mom took exception. Words were exchanged. So the way it worked out, you got three days, and your mother is banned from school for a month.

LORI

A month! It's so unfair!

KATIE

School doesn't start until Monday. How can we be suspended?

JENNIFER

You'll start on Thursday.

KATIE

(FIGHTING TEARS) This can't be happening. We're never going to have a first day of high school.

ALEXA

This is so over the top. Trugly is crazy. Is this what we're going to be dealing with for the next four years? (THEN) I have an idea! Why don't Katie and I go to Crawford High instead?

KATIE

That's across town. We don't know anyone there.

ALEXA

Perfect. We can start on Monday, and nobody there knows we got in trouble.

LORI

We're not doing that.

ALEXA

Okay, then, what about this? Mom, you could home school Katie and me.

KATIE

You mean, we wouldn't even go to high school?! That's crazy.

ALEXA

Home schooling is really big right now. And, we can learn in our pajamas.

KATIE

But we've been waiting to start high school since we were ten!

LORI

And I have a job.

ALEXA

I know, but, this summer whenever I played you in Words With Friends, you played words like right away. I don't think they'll miss you.

LORI

That was when I was-- I don't have to defend myself to you. Alexa, what's going on?

*

*

*

DAVE PULLS A PIECE OF PAPER OUT OF ALEXA'S JACKET.

DAVE

Did you know that was Trugly's house?

ALEXA

How would I know where the principal
lives?

DAVE HOLDS UP THE ENVELOPE FROM THE NOTE TRUGLY MAILED TO THE
HOUSE.

DAVE

By having her address in your pocket?

KATIE GETS UP AND TAKES THE ENVELOPE FROM DAVE.

KATIE

You lied about Gwenny. You *wanted* us
to get in big trouble. *Why?*

ALEXA SAYS NOTHING. SHE TURNS AND HURRIES OUT OF THE ROOM.
THE MOMENT HANGS IN THE AIR. THEN...

JACK (O.S.)

You're out of toilet paper! Hello!
Little help?

CUT TO:

SCENE K

INT. KATIE'S BEDROOM - DAY (D3)
(Katie, Jennifer)

KATIE IS LYING IN HER BED STARING AT THE CEILING. THERE IS A KNOCK ON HER DOOR.

KATIE

Go away, Alexa.

THE DOOR OPENS AND JENNIFER ENTERS, CARRYING KATIE'S SKI CAP.

KATIE (CONT'D)

(DISAPPOINTED) Oh, it's you.

JENNIFER

Hoping it was the person you just told to go away? (THEN) Lori brought your ski cap back. She said Alexa was really upset.

KATIE

Good. She should be.

JENNIFER

Why don't you go talk to her?

KATIE

No way. She should be coming to me!

JENNIFER

So, you're going to put pride before friendship?

*

KATIE

She lied to me!

JENNIFER

Alright. Suit yourself. Here.

JENNIFER HANDS HER THE CAP AND EXITS. KATIE, UNHAPPY WITH HERSELF, FIDGETS WITH THE HAT. SUDDENLY SHE REALIZES THERE IS A BUNCH OF ALEXA'S HAIR IN THE CAP. KATIE HOLDS THE HAIR IN HER HAND TRYING NOT TO CRY.

KATIE

...Oh, Alexa.

CUT TO:

INT. - ALEXA'S GREAT ROOM/KITCHEN - A MOMENT LATER (D3)
(Alexa, Katie, Lucas, Lori, Dave)

ALEXA IS ON HER BED, STARING AT THE CEILING. KATIE COMES STORMING IN.

KATIE

(TO ALEXA) Why didn't you tell me?

ALEXA

Tell you what?

KATIE

My ski hat?

ALEXA

I gave it back. Let it go.

KATIE

No, I saw a lot of your hair in it. A lot.

ALEXA

...Oh. Why are you so mad? I'm the one losing my hair.

KATIE

I'm mad because you lied to me! I'm your best friend.

(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)

You should have told me what was going on. Like I would care if you have hair or not.

ALEXA GETS UP.

ALEXA

All right. I don't want my stupid hair to fall out. And all of a sudden it is. Just as school is starting.

KATIE

That's why you wanted us to get suspended.

ALEXA

Actually I was going for expelled. I don't want to go to school like this. But I don't want to not go to school without you.

KATIE

That's... sweet. And really awful. It's swaful.

ALEXA

I'm sorry. I got out of the hospital, got through all those treatments, got okay'd for school, then... this.

ALEXA MOVES SOME OF HER HAIR AND REVEALS WHERE A LOT OF HAIR HAS COME OUT.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

And as much as losing the hair sucks,
it's more about--

KATIE

People knowing. So what if they know?

ALEXA

Then I'm the sick girl. I want things
to be like they were. I want to go out
for basketball, and not keep things
from my friends, and take Gwenny down.
Just be my normal awesome self. But
now, when school starts instead of
seeing me everyone's going to see
cancer. Everyone is going to know me
as the sick girl. And I'm so much more
than that.

KATIE

They'll figure it out. You'll do
something really funny and dumb and
wrong, and they'll get to know who you
really are.

ALEXA

...Yeah. It's just sometimes it
really, really sucks. And when the
hair started coming out I panicked.
And I took you down with me.

KATIE

I have an idea.

KATIE EXITS. ALEXA STARES AFTER HER CONFUSED. A MOMENT LATER SHE RETURNS WITH AN ELECTRIC RAZOR.

ALEXA

You think I should just go for it and shave it off? Then everyone will definitely notice.

KATIE

What if you're not the only one they're noticing?

ALEXA

You've always hated how I get more attention. Ever since Ms. Papadakis moved me to the front row in kindergarten.

KATIE

She moved you from the back because you were making fun of her mustache.

ALEXA

Come on. She could twirl that thing.

KATIE

This time I'm going to share the attention with you, Alexa.

KATIE PLUGS IN THE RAZOR AND STARTS IT UP.

ALEXA

Okay, Katie. Put it away. I get it.

You are the best friend anyone could--

KATIE BRINGS THE RAZOR TO HER HEAD, SHAVING OFF A HUGE CHUNK OF HAIR.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

Oh my gosh, Katie!

ALEXA STARES AT HER.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

(AMAZED) You just did that.

KATIE

As long as you're my best friend,
you're never going through anything
alone.

ALEXA

(TEARY) Seriously?

KATIE

Yeah, I'm kind of committed now.

ALEXA HUGS HER. KATIE SHAVES ANOTHER BIG CHUNK OF HAIR.

KATIE (CONT'D)

How do I look?

ALEXA

So, so bad.

ALEXA TAKES THE ELECTRIC RAZOR FROM KATIE AND SHAVES OFF A BIG CHUNK OF HER OWN HAIR.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

How about me?

KATIE

You look ridiculous.

THE GIRLS START TO GIGGLE. THEY CONTINUE TAKING TURNS BUZZING OFF THEIR HAIR AS:

KATIE (CONT'D)

If you promise to tell me how you're feeling about things, I promise I'll personally take Gwenny down for you.

ALEXA

Oh, that's a deal. (THEN) You know, I can really pull off this no hair look thanks to my boobs.

KATIE

What boobs?

ALEXA

You've never noticed because I've always had such great hair.

LAUGHING, ALEXA OPENS THE CLOSET DOOR THAT HAS A MIRROR HANGING ON THE BACK TO CHECK OUT THEIR HAIR. AS THEY STEP IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR...

KATIE

AHHHHHHHHHH. What have I done? *

ALEXA HUGS HER AND THEY BOTH SORT OF LAUGH AND CRY, AS THEY CONTINUE TO LOOK AT THEIR HEADS IN THE MIRROR. *

ALEXA (V.O.) *

I have the best friend in the world. *

I've always wondered if I would've *

done the same thing for her. *

(MORE)

