

Thank you so much!!!  
From the Crusher of the  
Northern Crusaders,  
Devout of the Third Circle,  
Third of my name...  
KING EWAN OF  
MANDABETH!

*EWAN*

Thank you so  
much for all  
of your support--  
YOU GUYS ARE  
TOP ACES!!

*Kate Hackett*

Classic Alice  
by

Kate Hackett

Thank you so much  
for watching and  
supporting!!  
*Ethan*

WE COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT  
YOU! THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING  
US, YOU ARE THE TOPEST ACE  
I KNOW!

*AA*

Kate Hackett  
Los Angeles  
California

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU! YOU HAVE  
THE HEART OF A TRUE  
OCELOT!!!

*Josh Conroy*

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HOLY SNEAKERS! YOU GUYS  
ARE TOP ACES! NONE OF THIS  
WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE  
WITHOUT ALL OF YOU.  
MANY THANKS!!  
*A.C.E.*

Alice Rackham (20s. Female) sits speaking directly to camera. Behind her, we see the dorm room of a writer -- or at least, half of it is the dorm room of a writer. Papers, books, potted plants; it's very put-together, proper, and studious. The other half... band posters, an obvious "cool girl" kind of vibe.

From off-screen, we hear Andrew (late 20s, male).

ANDREW (O.S.)

You just ...start. You know. Say your name or something.

ALICE

(robotically)

Alice Rackham.

There's a long, awkward pause.

ANDREW (O.S.)

Okay. More than that.

ALICE

It just feels silly. Talking to people without talking to people.

ANDREW (O.S.)

Talk to me.

Alice regroups and starts again.

ALICE

My name is Alice Rackham. I've ... always been good.

LOGO.

I'm respectful. I was a great student. I did-- do -- everything right. All the steps you're supposed to take, I took.

Intercut dialogue with photos of (in order) a young Alice studiously listening, doing homework, graduating with honors, a GPA report, hugging someone, doing charity work.

ALICE (CONT'D)

And it's always... worked. You know, it just -- I worked hard. I studied, I got great grades, I applied to great schools with great writing programs--

(cut)

(MORE)

ALICE (CONT'D)

(Oh, that's what I want to be. I'm a writer.)

(cut)

--and I got in to those great schools. So here I am, Valetton University: English major.

Back to Alice.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I mean, I wasn't ...Miss Popularity, but that's probably no surprise. It didn't bother me, and it didn't matter. I had other things to do.

There is a long, uncomfortable silence. Alice seems reluctant to continue.

ANDREW (O.S.)

Talk about today.

ALICE

Today.

(she pauses and reflects ruefully)

Today... was not good. I got a paper back today. I always--

She breaks and looks at Andrew.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I love Paper Day. I love turning-papers-in-day and I love getting-papers-back-day. It's thrilling, I can't sleep the night before -- not because I'm nervous or whatever, but because I'm super excited. I can't wait to see how well I did, how much the professors loved what I wrote...

(cut)

But today...

She holds up an English paper. She transitions from regretful and embarrassed to angry. It's a slow boil that pulls through her monologue. There is a huge, painful B- written on the front of her paper.

ALICE (CONT'D)

A B minus. He gave me a B minus. I FLUNKED. I *failed* a paper that is in my major. A paper about *writing*.

(pause)

(MORE)

ALICE (CONT'D)

(cut)

I touched on every use of literary devices...

(cut)

and even connected the poem to Hardy's personal life.

(cut)

I should have had an A. But I failed it. And do you want to hear why? Oh, I'll tell you why!

She flips to the back page. Quoting it:

ALICE (CONT'D)

"You didn't identify with the speaker. You seem to have an academic understanding of the material, but little else. At best, this work was sterile -- at worst, your writing is consistently dull and unimaginative. Poetry is visceral..."

She looks back up to camera.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Dull. And un..ima.. I mean. I know poetry is visceral. I understand feelings. I have emotions. I'm a writer, I want to be a writer, I'm going to be a writer; I get ...feelings.

Alice gathers herself.

ALICE (CONT'D)

So. He thinks I don't understand great literature beyond a cursory literary analysis? Fine. I'll show him I understand it. I'm going to *live it*. I'm going to behave with the impulsiveness and passion of characters within classic works!

She stops, clearly waiting for Andrew to say something. He doesn't.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Like. I'm going to use classic novels I haven't read yet to make life decisions.

Andrew remains silent.

ALICE (CONT'D)

So. Whatever a main character does in the novel, that's my action.

Still nothing.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Okay, so like: if I was reading Gatsby or something, I would throw parties to meet a guy I like.

ANDREW (O.S.)

...You know how that book ends, right?

ALICE

It was just an example.

ANDREW (O.S.)

...You've never read Gatsby?

ALICE

An EXAMPLE, Andrew! I'm going to put myself in those situations so I have an actual, real understanding of the characters and the conflicts. And you're going to film it.

ANDREW (O.S.)

I figured that out.

ALICE

Well! What do you think?

ANDREW (O.S.)

Yeah. Sounds ridiculous. I'm in.

Alice, delighted, squeaks and pulls out a big spreadsheet or binder or something organizer-y, a "to do" list, and assorted nerdery.

ALICE

So I figure our first...

ANDREW (O.S.)

When... did you have time to... do all this? And... why?

ALICE

...stop is going to be the library!

ALICE (CONT'D)

And to start, I'm going to live out the classic novel Crime and Punishment, by Dostoevsky.

(MORE)



ALICE

...Do you know... How this begins?

LOGO.

(cut; she's flipping  
pages)

The main character, Raskolnikov, is a student. He's falling apart, he's a mess. So far, I'm kind of with him.

(cut)

And then.

(cut)

He goes to a pawnbroker's.

(cut)

And he "dealt her another and another blow with the blunt side" of an AXE.

Alice lowers the book and stares at the camera for a long while.

ALICE (CONT'D)

He kills her. He kills this woman because he heard some people talking about how awful she is and

...

(cut)

Well, look: I'm not killing anybody.

She addresses Andrew, behind the camera.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I am NOT killing anyone.

ANDREW (O.S.)

That's probably a good idea.

Alice addresses the camera again.

ALICE

So I think some ground rules are in order for this.

(to Andrew)

I know what you're going to say. It's just big-thing-rules - nothing that will take the out emphasis of the experiment, okay?

(back to camera; she reads from a sheet of paper she grabs)

So first, obviously no murdering.

(MORE)

ALICE (CONT'D)

Or kidnapping. Nothing MAJOR, no really major crimes.

ANDREW (O.S.)

Wait, isn't this book "Crime and Punishment"? How are you going to have Punishment with no Crime?

ALICE

Ah!

(wags a finger)

T-T-t-t. I didn't say NO crime - just nothing that will land me in serious jail.

ANDREW (O.S.)

Okay... I am skeptical.

ALICE

I know you are. Calm down. Rule two! Only books I haven't read yet - there are tons of classics I just haven't had time for or weren't in a syllabus, plus the experience will be more authentic.

(cut)

Rule three, I'm not going to force other people to act as other characters in the novel. So I probably won't always just follow the exact same path as the book, but I will share similar emotional experiences.

(to Andrew)

Does that make sense?

We see Andrew's hand pop into frame. He makes a motion as if to say "keep going, keep explaining".

ALICE (CONT'D)

So, like: in Crime and Punishment, there's a character named Marmeladov and his daughter Sonya.

(cut)

They live in terrible conditions and are very poor and, so far, they seem to serve as a kind of conscious or foil for Raskolnikov.

ANDREW (O.S.)

(cuts in)

You're being a dork.

ALICE

(regroups, corrects  
herself)

Right. So what I'm saying is: I'm not going to go out of my way to find someone to serve that function for me. Things have to happen kind of organically outside of my own actions.

(cut)

Rule four, last rule. No interference! That means that I am going to go through this - and it's going to just be me.

(she looks sternly at  
Andrew)

Get it?

ANDREW (O.S.)

Got it.

ALICE

Good.

(cut)

So with those rules out of the way, I need to pick a ...a crime, I guess. Something to do. Raskolnikov obviously premeditates his action, so I've been doing that too.

She pulls out a binder labeled "MY CRIME IDEAS". It's very well put together. And detailed. And big.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I've organized it from largest crime to smallest and I've decided on something that I feel is particularly inspired, something that is going to change the way I think about myself and my world from here on until forever. Are you ready? Here it is.

Alice opens the binder up to a page and shows it to us. Among other details, it says (in giant, glittery letters): STEAL ONE BOTTLE OF NAIL POLISH (TOP COAT ONLY). There are pros, cons, diagrams, spreadsheets...

ALICE (CONT'D)

I'm going to steal a bottle of top coat from the student union!

She clearly thinks this is crazy! Ridiculous! Best idea ever! A long silence follows.

ANDREW (O.S.)  
Alice...

ALICE  
(grinning like a maniac)  
Yes?!

ANDREW (O.S.)  
You can't do that.

ALICE  
Why not?! Too risky? I thought it  
was maybe a little much. Oka--

She starts to turn to an even less-risky crime, at the very back of the binder. Andrew leans into frame and puts his hands over hers to stop her.

ANDREW  
No. No, seriously: you have to do  
something that's a bigger deal than  
stealing a bottle of top coat.  
That's not even a color.

ALICE  
(meekly, knowing this was  
a bad idea)  
I could steal a color?

Andrew adjusts the camera then slips into frame and edges himself into a seat next to Alice.

ANDREW  
Scoot over a little.

She adjusts, he sits in frame. Alice hands Andrew the large binder and he sifts through it for a second.

ANDREW (CONT'D)  
You know what you need to do?

ALICE  
N..o?

ANDREW  
Steal a test.

She immediately starts to protest and he cuts her off.

ANDREW (CONT'D)  
Not the answers, just the test  
itself. From Cutler's class.

ALICE  
He'll kill me.

ANDREW  
Only if he finds out.  
(beat)  
Look, Alice, he's such a tough  
teacher. I don't think I know  
anyone in there who isn't failing.

Alice opens her mouth and he cuts her off.

ANDREW (CONT'D)  
Except you, but even you're  
spending way more time than you  
should studying for him. Early  
American History should consume no  
man's life the way this guy's  
course has and you know it.  
(pause)  
You'd be saving everyone. It'd be  
... Man, it would be a service to  
us all. And you KNOW it.

ALICE  
I .. Could get expelled.

ANDREW  
You said no murder or huge crimes  
like that. That's fine, that makes  
sense. But this? This gives you  
high enough stakes, higher than  
your weird top coat idea anyway.  
You can't wimp out, that's exactly  
what your English teacher was  
saying. You're afraid.

ALICE  
Yeah! Of course I'm afraid!  
EXPULSED. That's worse than jail.

Andrew gets up and moves back behind the camera.

ANDREW (O.S.)  
Knock it off, Hermione. You have to  
embrace the project - just be.

Alice looks nervously into the camera. And nods once. A  
pause. It feels like the episode is over.

ANDREW (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
And we're out. Nice. You okay?



ALICE  
I look stealthy!

ANDREW (O.S.)  
You look guilty.

She frowns at him and waves him off.

ALICE  
Just turn the camera on.

Andrew pretends to turn the camera on.

ANDREW (O.S.)  
And we're rolling.

LOGO.

ALICE  
Hi there. So. You saw the last...  
(beat; to Andrew)  
What are these? Episodes?

ANDREW (O.S.)  
Yeah.

ALICE  
You saw the last episode. And after  
... Some...

A graphic pops up under Alice. It says "A lot".

ALICE (CONT'D)  
Careful deliberation and planning,  
I decided to move forward with the  
plan to purloin a test with the  
express intent of saving everyone  
from the clutches of Robert  
Cronin's "Changes in the Land".

She holds up a copy of the aforementioned book. Cut.

ALICE (CONT'D)  
A good read, but a crazy hard exam.

She puts the book down. Cut.

ALICE (CONT'D)  
I feel absolutely certain that I  
could have aced this exam on my  
own, therefore what I am doing is  
justifiable. I'm doing it for  
others, not just myself; if it's  
not selfish, it's okay.

(MORE)

ALICE (CONT'D)

(cut)

Over the past few days, I've sat down and created a sort of battle plan, if you will.

Alice pulls out a diorama of Culter's office, complete with a fake fern.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I've done a few sessions of reconnaissance over the past week; our best bet seems to be office hours?

Alice gestures for Andrew to move the camera to show the diorama; we pan down and Alice keeps talking while gesturing to the assorted layout.

ALICE (CONT'D)

He keeps material in his office and there are several very large binders on his bookshelves. I'm reasonably certain they're the location of the exams.

(cut to Alice)

I was kind of worried that he'd do everything digitally, but he's older and I guess not with it.

(cut back to the diorama)

So I visit him during office hours, but before I leave... Tape the door so it doesn't latch properly.

Shot of the door; it has a teeny piece of tape on it. Using a Batman action figure, Alice walks us through:

Then I slip in. Grab the binder.  
Find the test.

(cut)

And take a picture--  
(she shows us her cell  
phone)  
--of it.

We pull back out to Alice again.

ALICE (CONT'D)

That way, there's no record of tampering with the actual, physical test so Cutler doesn't suspect anything and doesn't go off and make a whole different exam.

(cut)

(MORE)

ALICE (CONT'D)  
 So that's where I'm off to now.  
 Office hours.

She stares at the camera as if she's waiting for execution.  
 Alice takes a deep, long breath. She stands. We cut to black.

6 FADE IN: INT. ALICE'S DORM ROOM. HOURS LATER.

6

The room is empty. Suddenly, the door bangs open and Alice tumbles inside. Her beanie is askew. Her hair is a mess. Her eyes are glassy and bright as she breathlessly stumbles for her chair and sits down. In her hand... There are papers.

ALICE  
 Oh my god! OH MY GOD. Andrew, OH MY GOD.

ANDREW (O.S.)  
 You got it?

Alice triumphantly holds up the test.

ALICE  
 I had to veer off the plan - the test was like, ten pages long. And there were two "editions".

ANDREW (O.S.)  
 ...Good lord.

ALICE  
 Right?! So I grabbed it and put everything back the way it needed to be. I zipped into the library and -- I'm telling you, I could barely breathe the entire time -- I made a copy of each test as fast as I could.

(cut)  
 No one stopped me. No one even looked.

(cut)  
 I ran back, replaced the tests. And as I was leaving?

(cut)  
 I saw him. I saw him! I saw Cutler. Coming back.

(cut)  
 I ducked into a side hallway and just waited, but my heart was going a mile a minute. It was exhilarating and terrifying and I cannot believe I didn't get caught.

She holds up the exam again.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I figure Marcus, from class, would be the easiest person to give these to and have him spread them around. So I'll make a copy for myself then just slip it under his door later.

(cut)

You know, in the book? Raskolnikov runs away and goes inside and immediately falls asleep right there on his bed. But I feel...

(cut)

I don't know, I feel just so...

She makes a "vroom!" noise and gesture. Cut.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Alive! I'm wired. I don't know how he could fall asleep like that, or make himself sick.

(cut)

I mean, I guess murdering is kinda different.

(cut)

Kinda.

There's a small lull, then suddenly: a KNOCK at the door. Alice goes wide eyed. She looks at Andrew. She looks in the camera. Everything is still. She whispers.

ALICE (CONT'D)

No...

Another KNOCK.

ALICE (CONT'D)

(whisper)

If they question me, I'll... Just tell.

Before Andrew can tell her otherwise, Alice stands and opens the door just enough for us to see. It's the R.A., JOSH (mid-20s). Alice is pale. Andrew is perfectly, perfectly silent. The door, or Alice, obstruct the Josh's view of Andrew & the camera (if that's not possible, pay homage with a quick glance and the following:)

ALT:

ALICE (CONT'D)  
 (notices the RA glancing  
 at Andrew and the camera)  
 It's a vlog.

JOSH  
 Turn it off for a second.

Andrew feigns turning it off.

7 PICK BACK UP:

7

JOSH  
 Hey there.

ALICE  
 H..i.

JOSH  
 Just wanted to let you know that  
 we're holding a seminar on Thursday  
 evening. Women's safety in the  
 dorms.

The guard hands Alice a flier.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
 Make sure your roommate knows about  
 it too.

JOSH leaves. Alice stands, frozen at the door with the flier.  
 She slowly turns and looks directly at the camera.

CUT TO:

8 INT. ANDREW'S DORM.

8

Andrew has set the camera up in his room, which has a very  
 "cool guy" vibe. Definitely a dude's room. He steps into  
 frame and sits, test in hand. The mood is grim.

ANDREW  
 I wasn't sure she'd do it.  
 Actually, I really, really didn't  
 think she'd go and steal a test  
 like that.

He shifts, uncomfortable, and his gaze wanders for a second.  
 Then, Andrew steels himself and gives a little shrug,  
 lightening considerably.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

I mean, I'm glad. I just looked over this thing and it was going to be a fail for everyone. Short essay answers, multiple choice? Kill me, right?

(cut)

I guess I'm saying: this project is going ...better than I expected. It's moving along and I'm pretty pleased. She's definitely curbing the nerd-talk, did you notice that? And I'm sure that as time passes, she'll forget about this ... Little crime.

9 END EPISODE THREE.

9

10 INT. ALICE'S DORM ROOM. EVENING.

10

LOGO.

Alice Rackham (20s. Female) sits speaking directly to camera. She looks awful. She wears a sweatshirt, hair in a cruddy ponytail, glasses on. There's a huge coffee mug next to her and she takes sips constantly.

ALICE

A few days ago, I stole a test from this professor who is just grueling.

(cut)

I'm so tired, but I can't close my eyes because the second I do, my brain starts whirling.

Alice picks up her laptop and opens it up to show us a browser full of tabs. They're all search results for consequences of stealing, academic policies, etc.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I keep Googling it. What could happen to me, what WILL happen to me. I can't stop worrying long enough to sleep or eat.

(cut)

I've been trying to distract myself -- studying.

(cut)

But that didn't work.

(MORE)

ALICE (CONT'D)

I can't sit at a computer and not start frantically looking up how people get caught. And then I start worrying that someone's tracking my searches.

(cut)

And I know! I know that's RIDICULOUS and crazy, but that's all I can think about.

(cut)

I even tried going out, like to a real party.

(cut)

I think I was there for ten minutes and someone asked me to do a keg stand and I ran to the bathroom to look up what a keg stand WAS, but the second I opened a browser app on my phone, BAM.

(cut)

Suddenly I was watching a documentary about prisoners in maximum security holds.

She stares helplessly at the camera.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I wound up having to leave the party because I started hyperventilating.

She holds up a little slip of paper with a phone number on it.

ALICE (CONT'D)

And some gross guy tried to give me his number while I was running off. Please explain why lack of air would ever make any guy want to make out with someone?

She waves her hands around and shakes her head as if to dismiss the thought.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Anyway - my head knows I probably won't get caught, but it's like my stomach keeps second guessing my brain.

(cut)

What if there were cameras?

(cut)

What if someone saw me in the library?

(MORE)

ALICE (CONT'D)

(cut)

What if the library keeps records of every document the machine copies?!

(cut)

A couple of my friends are in pre-law, so I wrote them some emails. Some emails that are absurdly vague?

She pulls out a tablet and reads from it.

ALICE (CONT'D)

"Hey there! I'm doing research for a project...

(she glances up at the camera)

"And I wanted to run something by you. If I found an item in my possession that I hadn't purchased, but managed to stick in a bag and walk out or something, is that a crime? Would I be liable if caught?"

(she puts down the tablet)

The answers back were all "you have to have intent and they have to prove that intent" because stealing is a crime of intent.

Cut. She gestures to the camera.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Everything I've said is proof of intent!

(cut)

I mean - I asked my lawyer friends, I asked some guy I met in civ class once, I even stopped someone on the street who had a sweatshirt from another school's law department just in case our law school isn't up to snuff.

(cut)

It's actually a fairly highly ranked school, sorry for doubting you, law students.

(cut)

We all took the test and. After? People were smiling.

(cut)

That NEVER happens.

(cut)

(MORE)

ALICE (CONT'D)

We're supposed to get our grades  
back--

Alice is cut off two phones with different alerts. Hers and Andrew's. She moves to silence it almost automatically, but Andrew stops her.

ANDREW (O.S.)

Wait, it's an email from the dean.

Alice looks up at him and he reads her the email.

ANDREW (O.S.) (CONT'D)

This is a reminder to all students that our academic integrity policy is strict. It has come to the attention of the dean's office that there may be a problem with a recent exam. If you have any information about any cheating incidents, or know anyone who does, please make sure you come to the dean's office to make a full report.

Alice is left staring at the camera, wide eyed.

ANDREW (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Breathe.

She takes two deep breaths and shakes her head a few times, clearly descending into panic.

ALICE

I can't just sit here. I don't know what to do now. And I'm afraid to throw the test away because what if someone sees me?

ANDREW (O.S.)

You still have it?

ALICE

Yes! What am I supposed to do with it? It's like this hideous beating heart under my floorboards.

ANDREW (O.S.)

Okay, don't mix books, you'll confuse people. You've got to get rid of it.

ALICE

You know. It takes Raskolnikov until part two -- and do you know why? I know why! There's this... Urge to keep what condemns you as close to you as possible. You're safer if it's near you. You can keep track of it.

A long pause.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I can't be in here anymore. I can't just keep sitting here. I'm gonna go for a walk.

Alice stands, jittery, and grabs a jacket. She exits. Andrew comes into frame.

ANDREW

I'm ...beginning to think this was maybe too much of a start. We should've done, I don't know. A happy book. Peter Pan or something.

(pause)

I'm gonna.. Run after her. Make sure she doesn't turn both of us in or anything. I'll be back.

Andrew leans forward to cut the camera, but he misses - it keeps rolling. He zips out, almost as frantically as Alice did a moment before. He's starting to worry - and not necessarily just about himself. The room is empty. Until...

CARA, Alice's roommate (19, 'fun'/cool girl. Math major. Not trouble, but gregarious and life-of-the-party in a confident, girl-power way), enters. She dumps her stuff and glances at the camera.

CARA

What...?

She moves toward it, but on the way, she glances down at Alice's desk. We can't see what she spots, but she shuffles papers for a moment, then slowly pulls the test into frame. Cara sinks into Alice's seat, brows knit.

CARA (CONT'D)

...Whoa. Oh, whoa.

END EPISODE FOUR.

11 INT. ALICE'S DORM ROOM. MORNING.

11

The camera is set up as usual, but there is no Alice. Instead, standing in the background, we see Cara and Andrew. Cara seems unaware of the camera. Cara holds the test in her hand.

CARA

You know, I don't care that you're always in our room. Like, whatever. But this?

(she shakes the test paper at him)

This is huge. This is a big freaking deal, okay?

ANDREW

Yeah. I-- I mean...

CARA

I found them on her desk. She's not very good at hiding whatever this is. And look, if someone found out that these were in our room, who do you think they'd go after?

Andrew says nothing.

CARA (CONT'D)

Exactly. Me. But I didn't do this. This was Alice. Which is pretty unbelievable because why would she cheat? I've seen that girl's grades, she's fine. And this isn't like - you know - some situation where the 'good girl gets overwhelmed'. She has more time management skills than a CEO.

ANDREW

Hey - I know. I know, and I get it, bu--

CARA

Look, you guys are friends. I figure she'll listen to you. You have to tell her to confess. I may not be a superstar academic, but I know right from wrong and this is crap and I don't want to go down for it because of her. If she doesn't...

Andrew blurts:

ANDREW

They weren't hers. They aren't hers.

A beat.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Th.. It's mine. All this stuff?

He glances behind him and gestures to the camera set up.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

The tests, right, they were with all this stuff?

CARA

...Yeah...?

ANDREW

Right, so. They're mine. I did it. So just ...hold off on turning in your roommate for a hot minute, okay?

CARA

Why on earth would you bring them here? What are you, stupid?

ANDREW

Yeah. Exactly. Look, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to -- you know. Get you or her in trouble or whatever.

Cara lets her hands fall in exasperation. The papers hit her thigh. Then she shoves them all at Andrew.

CARA

You have to deal with this. Does she know?

ANDREW

(quickly)

No. No idea. I just left them by accident.

CARA

Seriously. You have this week to deal with it. I'm going home to visit my parents this weekend. If this isn't DONE when I get back, I'm going to the dean. Or Alice is, because you know the second Miss Straight A hears about this, she'll have eight heart attacks.

ANDREW  
More than fair.

She turns to go, then whips back around.

CARA  
I'm juggling an extra differential  
equations class this term - I don't  
want to deal with this nonsense.

Cara grabs her bag and gives Andrew a warning look as she exits. Andrew nods his understanding & stands with the tests in hand for a second, then glances guiltily at the camera.

CUT TO:

12

INT. ALICE'S DORM ROOM. LATE AFTERNOON.

12

Alice is back. She sits very gravely, very seriously, in front of the camera. Although she's somewhat put together physically, she looks like she's being led to the gallows.

ALICE  
It has been three weeks since we  
started this experiment. Three  
agonizing, torturous weeks.  
(cut)

LOGO.

ALICE (CONT'D)  
Three weeks of waiting, watching  
over my shoulder.  
(cut)  
Cutler saw how well everyone did  
and spoke to the dean before we  
even got our results back.

Alice shakily holds up a test with a huge circled A at the top.

ALICE (CONT'D)  
Everyone passed, and with flying  
colors. As and Bs from people who  
hadn't seen a grade above a D from  
Cutler, ever.  
(to Andrew)  
What did you get?

ANDREW (O.S.)  
B-plus.

She looks at the camera as if to say 'see?'

ALICE

So they know. They know something happened and they're on the hunt-- I just don't think I can take it anymore, all the knots in my stomach...

(she gathers herself)

Cutler told all of his sections of this class that we'd be taking a larger final, with harder questions, and that unless the thief was caught, he'd be invalidating these tests.

(cut)

He gave us until next class to come forward.

(cut)

I have to. When I started, I thought this would be okay because I was helping everybody out, but now everyone is in serious danger of failing completely because of me and this stupid 'experiment'.

Alice takes a long breath. She looks away, then back.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I'm going to be expelled. In the book, Raskolnikov talks to Sonya and she convinces him to turn himself in. He does and he's sent to Siberia.

(cut)

I mean, the dean can't send me to Siberia.

(cut)

But I'll probably have to go to... Some third-rate nobody school. Brown.

She shivers at the thought.

ALICE (CONT'D)

But I just can't live with the guilt anymore. I'm going to write a letter to the Dean and read it to you guys in the next episode, before I turn myself in. After I confess, I expect I won't be able to continue this. It'll be over.

Alice pauses.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I'll kind of miss it. Not, you know, the searing guilt. But ... Whoever you are, watching this. And I'm sad that I won't be able to do other books, other worlds, other lives.

(cut)

But I have to make this right.

(cut)

So. This is my penultimate episode.

CUT TO:

13 INT. ANDREW'S DORM. LATE NIGHT.

13

Andrew flicks on the camera and half-heartedly smiles at it.

ANDREW

I can't. I can't let her do that, turn herself in. Ruin her college experience. ...Ruin my documentary.

(cut)

I've been up...

(he glances at a  
clock/watch/whatever)

All night. Just trying to find a solution, a way out, for her and a way to keep this project alive.

Andrew exhales deeply.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

And I have.

FADE OUT.

14 END EPISODE FIVE.

14

15 INT. ALICE'S DORM ROOM. INSANELY EARLY MORNING.

15

Alice is wide awake and ready to go. She has a confession letter in hand.

ANDREW (O.S.)

(yawning)

Alice, it's so early. It's so, so early.

ALICE

I just need to shoot this before I  
turn myself in.

ANDREW (O.S.)

You couldn't have stolen a test  
from a NOT 8 a.m. Class?

She shoots him the angriest of looks. He sighs.

ANDREW (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Go ahead.

LOGO.

Alice takes a deep breath.

ALICE

I wrote this letter to the dean and  
to the professor.

(cut)

"Professor Cutler. Dean Gentry. My  
name is Alice Rackham,  
undergraduate student in the  
English department. It was I. It  
was I stole the exam and released  
it to the students of Cutler's  
Early American History class.

(beat)

"Three and a half weeks ago, acting  
of my own accord, I slipped into  
Professor Cutler's office and  
absconded with his exam.

(pause)

"I am fully aware of the gravity of  
my actions and understand that I  
face suspension, expulsion, or  
worse--"

ANDREW (O.S.)

...Uh.

She ignores him.

ALICE

"I am ready to face the  
consequences. It was I. Signed,  
Alice Rackham."

Alice folds up the letters carefully and leans back in her  
chair. Silence.

ALICE (CONT'D)  
I'll be handing these to the  
professor after class.

Another pause.

ANDREW (O.S.)  
You're sure about this?

Alice begins packing up her backpack, preparing to leave.

ALICE  
Yeah. This was part of the project,  
right? And the rules were that I  
make the decisions based on classic  
novels, right? Well. He confessed.  
And after the month I've had, I  
can't imagine not confessing too.

Andrew shuffles behind the camera. As she prepares to leave,  
he steps into view. He looks pretty tortured.

ANDREW  
Hey, Ali--

She turns and looks at him.

ALICE  
(warning)  
No interfering.

Andrew backs down. He looks into camera, picks up his own  
bag, and stops recording. We

CUT TO:

16 INT. ALICE'S DORM ROOM. A FEW HOURS LATER.

16

Alice has just turned the camera on. She's livid. Furious.  
She sits down.

ALICE  
No interfering - that was rule  
four!

Andrew bursts into the room after her. She whips around.

ALICE (CONT'D)  
NO INTERFERING. That was rule FOUR!

ANDREW  
I--

ALICE

No. No, don't you dare! When we started this, I was really clear about what my expectations were and you've been screwing around with me since day one like a puppet master.

ANDREW

It wasn't--

ALICE

Oh *please*. You knew that book and you egged me on and I let you. God! I'm so stupid, I *let you* convince me that stealing a test was a good idea.

ANDREW

I don't even know what you're angry about! Are you mad that I knew the book and didn't interfere and warn you about it or are you mad that I interfered and pushed you to actually do something?

Alice blusters.

ALICE

YES.

ANDREW

Well, that's ridiculous. You can't have it both ways.

ALICE

I know.

They stand facing each other, mid-fight, breathless and furious.

ANDREW

(trying to calm the situation)  
You didn't get caught, did you?

ALICE

(confused)  
What?

ANDREW

When we got to class. He said...

Andrew gestures to the video camera, which is still rolling. Alice stares blankly at it, then looks at him.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

They don't know what happened. You have to recap.

Alice, having forgotten she even turned it on, looks at it and then waves it off.

ALICE

I don't CARE about that right now!

ANDREW

He said that the culprit had come forward and amends were being made. He said that the class didn't have to worry about having an invalid grade. He said that our final would be the hardest thing we'd ever taken, but we weren't all going to fail the course. That is what he said!

They stare each other down again. Andrew is agitated. Alice is beginning to smell where this is going.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

And do you know why?

She says nothing.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Because I fixed it! You won't get expelled because I fixed it for you.

ALICE

You've neutered the entire point of all of this.

(she gestures to the camera)

You manipulated everything from behind the scenes. And then you swept in and negated every lesson I could have learned. You falsified an out because-- why?

(she stares at him, as if the question suddenly makes sense)

Why?

He has nothing.

ALICE (CONT'D)

(quietly)

I think you should ... Go.

Andrew moves to take the camera and his stuff, but before he does, he very gently takes the letters Alice still holds in her hands. He rips them, ignoring her protestation. He looks at her very intensely.

ANDREW

You can't.

He makes a gesture with the letters, now torn, to say 'you can't confess'. Andrew pockets the letters and turns the camera off.

CUT TO:

17 INT. ANDREW'S DORM ROOM. LATER. 17

Andrew turns the camera on and sits down in front of it.

ANDREW

I don't want to tell her how I got  
her out of it.

CUT TO:

18 INT. ANDREW'S DORM. LATE NIGHT. 18

The same set up as ep. 105 -- the same clothes, etc. Andrew holds up a photo of a stately older man.

ANDREW

This is my dad.  
(cut)  
His name is Jonathan Prichard.  
(cut; Andrew holds up a  
picture of a schamncy  
building)  
This is Prichard Hall.

CUT TO:

19 INT. ANDREW'S DORM. NOW. 19

Back to episode 6 Andrew.

ANDREW

Yeah. I... Got my daddy to get me  
out of trouble. I don't think  
she'll like that, so I'm ... I'm  
not going to tell her.

(cut)

(MORE)

ANDREW (CONT'D)

I mean - I can't let this entire month of footage go to waste, can I? I need her to stick this out.

(cut)

We met with the dean and said I did it. For this, for this documentary.

(cut)

And because of good old Prichard Hall, I skated on by with a pat on the shoulder and a promise to keep "promoting the Valetton University experience" in cyberspace.

(pause; cut)

I guess... I guess I hope that she's not so mad, you know? And maybe she'll keep doing these. I bet there are a billion great book ideas out there.

He trails off, then addresses us with the most honesty he has given us to date.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

And I'll really miss her. Doing this. With her.

He smiles just slightly.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

I guess that's why.