

Contra

Written By

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INT. MRS. TOBEY'S OFFICE

MRS. TOBEY sits at her desk across from two girls. Her hands are clenched together on the top of her desk while she regards them sternly.

MRS. TOBEY

We take cheating very seriously at this school.

The girl who sits to the left of Mrs. Tobey scowls and fiddles with a cheap gold ring on her finger. This is DAKOTA.

DAKOTA

I'm telling you the truth. I wasn't the one who cheated.

MRS. TOBEY

Mr. Cashman saw Jane hand that cheat sheet to you. And then he saw you look at it while you were taking the test.

DAKOTA

Only because I didn't know what it was. I did not use it to cheat.

MRS. TOBEY

Regardless, you should've brought it up to Mr. Cashman the second you got it.

DAKOTA

I honestly did not think it was a big deal. What Jane does is her own business.

JANE glares at Dakota and shakes her head.

JANE

No, we were both in on it. We worked on it together and we were both going to use it. She knew exactly what it was.

DAKOTA

I don't cheat. I never have.

Mrs. Tobey sighs, clearly at a loss. She leans back in her chair and thinks for a beat. Then, after making up her mind, she looks back up at the girls.

MRS. TOBEY

Listen, I don't know what the truth is here. All I know is that either way, some form of cheating took place, and I can't tolerate it. But Dakota, since you have a perfect record, I'm going to give you the benefit of the doubt.

Dakota gives a small smile.

MRS. TOBEY (CONT'D)

But Jane, you were the one who *did* cheat either way, so we will have to take disciplinary action. Dakota, you're free to go.

DAKOTA

Thank you.

Dakota stands and gathers up her backpack. Before she leaves she catches sight of Jane glaring at her pointedly, and she smirks down at her. Jane is still glowering as Dakota leaves the office.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Dakota makes her way through the downstairs hallways and heads up to the English wing. The hallway is sparsely filled with students packing up their things to head home.

INT. ENGLISH WING - CONTINUOUS

Dakota opens her locker and takes off her backpack. Before she can take anything from her locker, someone aggressively brushes past her from behind, causing her to stumble forward slightly. She looks up to find that it is Jane, who throws a scathing look at her over her shoulder. Dakota laughs quietly to herself.

Another girl walks up to Dakota and stands next to her, raising her eyebrows. This is ABIGAIL.

ABIGAIL

Yikes.

DAKOTA

I know, right? You should've seen her face when she let me walk.

ABIGAIL

You got away with it?

DAKOTA
I didn't cheat.

ABIGAIL
You didn't?

DAKOTA
Of course I didn't, are you kidding me? Jesus Abigail, you really think I would cheat?

ABIGAIL
I know, I know. It just seemed pretty incriminating, is all.

DAKOTA
Yeah. I thought I was done for a second there. Anyways, you're coming to the dress rehearsal tomorrow, right?

ABIGAIL
Yeah.

DAKOTA
Cool. See you there.

Dakota closes her locker and heads in the direction of the auditorium. Abigail stays for a beat, and then walks off down the stairs.

INT. AUDITORIUM - THE NEXT DAY

The drama club consumes the auditorium after school. A frenetic energy is present as everyone prepares for their dress rehearsal.

Dakota sits on the edge of the stage in costume, concentrating on the script in her hands. On stage behind her, other members of the drama club are busy setting up props.

Dakota's attention is pulled away from her lines when a commotion is heard backstage.

GIRL 1
(yelling)
What the hell is this?

Everyone on stage and in the surrounding area hurries backstage to see what is going on. A girl stands in shock as she looks at a pile of debris in front of her. Dakota weaves her way through to the front of the crowd to get a better

view.

In front of the drama club lies a pile of backdrops and props, completely destroyed.

A boy near Dakota shakes his head and runs his fingers through his hair.

BOY 1
Goddammit guys, I *told* you to be careful with the--

DAKOTA
(calmly)
Does that look like an accident to you?

There is a beat of almost complete silence as the drama club stares at the wreckage, clearly at a loss.

BOY 1
The show is tomorrow. There's no way we remake all of this.

As people begin to discuss what to do, Dakota leaves the backstage area. She walks up the aisle to the light booth and taps on the window. From inside, Abigail slides it open and rests her elbows on the edge, placing her chin on her palms.

ABIGAIL
What's going on back there? Did someone replace Julia's lotion with mayonnaise again?

DAKOTA
God, I wish. No, some idiot completely trashed all of our props.

ABIGAIL
You're joking. Everything?

DAKOTA
And then some.

ABIGAIL
What are you guys gonna do? The show's *tomorrow*.

DAKOTA
Yeah, I know. There's not really much we *can* do.

ABIGAIL
You could go to Imbusch.

DAKOTA
What's he gonna do? Give them an hour? One hour for all the hours spent on those props?

Dakota shakes her head hopelessly and watches the cast and crew despondently throw out what remains of their props.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)
(angrily)
I'll bet you anything it was Jane.

ABIGAIL
You think so?

DAKOTA
I know so. She was so pissed that Tobey let me go.

ABIGAIL
Well you didn't do anything, right?

DAKOTA
No, I didn't. She shouldn't have cheated if she couldn't handle the punishment. It's not my fault she got caught. This is my goddamn senior year play. She can't be serious.

They are silent for a beat. Dakota seems to grow more and more angry as the seconds pass.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)
(quietly)
I'm gonna ruin her.

Shaking her head, Dakota walks back to the stage. Abigail shuts the window to the booth.

INT. HALLWAY - THE NEXT DAY

The English hallway is lined with lethargic students lingering by their lockers before homeroom. Dakota stands in front of her own locker lazily piling books into her bag.

Abigail walks up to join her.

ABIGAIL
Good morning.

DAKOTA

Is it?

ABIGAIL

Probably not.

Dakota shuts her locker and leans her back against it. Before she can say anything to Abigail, another girl who we saw discover the wreckage of the props, JULIA, joins them. She ignores Abigail as she talks to Dakota.

JULIA

Hey. Can I talk to you for a second?

DAKOTA

Yeah, what's up?

JULIA

Not here.

Before Dakota has time to respond, Julia is making her way down the hallway. Without missing a beat, Dakota follows her.

The two girls make their way to the English wing bathroom.

INT. GIRLS' BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Julia and Dakota burst into the girls' bathroom. Julia hurriedly checks the stalls to make sure they're empty. Once she is satisfied, she turns back to Dakota.

DAKOTA

What's going on, Julia?

JULIA

Listen, I don't care about the whole cheating thing. I really don't.

DAKOTA

What are you talking about?

JULIA

I know you think Jane Daniels wrecked the set because she's mad that you got away with cheating with her. But she didn't do it.

DAKOTA

I didn't--

JULIA

Cut the crap. I know you did it.
Like I said, I don't care.

Dakota inhales sharply and wrings out her hands, looking uncomfortable.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Jane didn't do it. Mike Adams did.

DAKOTA

What? Why?

JULIA

Who knows. But it doesn't matter. I know you're upset about the props because it's your last year in drama and everything, but you can get them to take care of it.

DAKOTA

What the hell are you talking about? Who's *they*?

JULIA

They're the ones you go to when people pull crap like this. Do you remember last year when Leslie Good vandalized that senior's car?

DAKOTA

Yeah...?

JULIA

She didn't. They just made it look like she did. She ruined one of my friends' art projects last year because she thought it was better than hers or something, only the teachers never found out it was her. My friend knew, though. So she went to them and they framed her for vandalism to punish her.

Dakota looks at Julia for a beat, thinking. She isn't fully convinced.

DAKOTA

And how would I get them to work for me?

Julia pauses ever so slightly before responding.

JULIA

First you have to get proof. And it can't just be a hunch. You have to get physical proof, something you can show them.

DAKOTA

How the hell would I do that?

Julia takes out her phone and holds it up in front of her to demonstrate.

JULIA

Record his confession.

DAKOTA

(sarcastic)

Oh, of course. Easy.

(mimicking)

Hey, Dakota. If you couldn't already tell, I was the one who destroyed the props.

Julia rolls her eyes and puts her phone back in her pocket.

JULIA

Listen, my boyfriend Ben is friends with Mike, but he's been getting on his nerves lately so he's agreed to help you out. Tomorrow in your study hall he's going to get Mike to confess. Just make sure you're ready.

There is a beat.

DAKOTA

Alright, suppose I get his confession. Then what happens?

JULIA

Put it on a flash drive and write a note with your name on it and everything explaining what happened. Leave it on the bottom shelf of the second bookshelf from the wall in the English work room, after the fourth book from the left. Don't let anyone see you.

DAKOTA

And then?

JULIA

And then you wait for their instructions.

Dakota nods slowly and looks away from Julia, weighing her options. After a beat she makes up her mind.

DAKOTA

And you're sure this is a real thing?

JULIA

Positive. I saw it all happen last year. It's wild. They don't screw around, though. They mean business. Just make sure you know what you're getting yourself into.

DAKOTA

Alright. Thanks for letting me know. Tell Ben I'm in.

Dakota leaves the bathroom.

INT. STUDY HALL - THE NEXT DAY

A study is scattered with students who are either studiously bent over homework, goofing off, or some combination of both. We see two guys sitting next to each other near the back of the room. The guy on the left has his feet up on the desk and a pencil dangling from his mouth, leaning back in his chair nonchalantly. This is MIKE.

His friend next to him lazily contemplates the worksheet in front of him, but he doesn't appear to be very invested in it. This is BEN.

MIKE

I'm telling you man, it was insane. Five Kick-Starts in five minutes. You should've been there.

BEN

Dude, that stuff's only funny the first time.

MIKE

We'll have to agree to disagree on that one.

There is a beat.

BEN
Is that why you were late on
Friday?

Behind the two boys, we see Dakota sitting alone. She is doing something on her phone underneath her desk. She holds it in a position that indicates she's recording.

MIKE
What?

BEN
You were late to my house on
Friday. Is that why?

MIKE
Nah. Oh, I guess I didn't tell you.

BEN
Tell me what?

Mike grins and takes his feet off the desk, sitting up straight in his chair. He removes his pencil from his mouth and looks around. Dakota suddenly shoves her phone face down on her lap and stares down at her work.

Satisfied, Mike turns back to Ben and talks in a slightly hushed tone.

MIKE
I wrecked the drama set.

BEN
You did what?

MIKE
I ruined the set for the play. All
of it.

BEN
Why the hell would you do something
like that?

MIKE
It's--

Mike stops abruptly and turns his attention to the row of desks behind him. Dakota quickly shoves her phone out of view behind her in her seat. She throws a look Ben's way, and he nods ever so slightly in reassurance. Dakota nervously cracks her knuckles.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Hey, what are you doing?

DAKOTA
Uh, my work?

MIKE
Do I know you?

DAKOTA
I don't know. Do you?

Mike gives a stupid smile.

MIKE
Not yet. But I hope to--

BEN
Ew, dude, cut it out. Focus, man.

Ben turns Mike away from Dakota with a hand on his shoulder. He and Dakota exchange a look.

BEN (CONT'D)
Anyways, why exactly would you do something like that?

MIKE
It's senior year. Now or never, right?

His voice trails off as our attention is drawn back to Dakota, who breathes a sigh of relief.

As she puts her phone away, her gaze settles on something to the right of her. We discover that she is looking at Jane, who sits alone on her phone with her headphones in, clearly tuned out from her surroundings.

Dakota sighs slightly and looks away. She looks guilty as she forces herself to work on the homework in front of her.

INT. DAKOTA'S CAR - LATER

Dakota sits in the driver's seat of her car, and Abigail sits in the passenger's side. Mike's taped confession is just coming to an end as Dakota shows it to Abigail on her phone.

ABIGAIL
Wow. I can't believe all of that.

DAKOTA

I know. I don't know if I really believe it all either. But it's all I've got. And I want him to pay.

ABIGAIL

I really thought it was Jane.

DAKOTA

You're telling me.

ABIGAIL

Maybe you should apologize?

DAKOTA

For what? She doesn't know I thought it was her.

ABIGAIL

Still. And anyway, it might not be a bad idea considering the whole cheating thing...

Dakota blinks.

DAKOTA

I have nothing to apologize for.

ABIGAIL

I guess you're right.

There is a beat.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

So, are you gonna do it?

DAKOTA

Yeah, I think I am.

ABIGAIL

It's dangerous.

DAKOTA

(dismissive)

Getting out of bed in the morning is dangerous. Are you in?

ABIGAIL

I don't know...

DAKOTA

C'mon. Live a little. Do you really want to leave high school knowing

(MORE)

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

you never got away with anything?

Abigail stares at Dakota, saying nothing.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

That you never got back at anyone?
C'mon, Abigail.

Abigail chews her lip, undecided. After a beat she gives a nervous nod.

ABIGAIL

Alright, fine. But if you do something stupid get me into trouble I swear to God, Dakota--

DAKOTA

Relax. We are the last people anyone would look to. I'll drop everything off tomorrow and you can check the day after to see if they left anything.

Abigail looks very unsure and nervous.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

Stop looking at me like that. We'll be fine.

Dakota puts the car in drive and exits the parking lot.

INT. ENGLISH WORKROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Dakota walks into the English workroom, checking over her shoulder before she enters.

She walks over between the bookshelves with a flash drive and piece of paper clenched in her hand. She crouches down, wedges the two items in between the books, and stands back up. She walks cautiously to the door and looks both ways before she exits.

INT. LIBRARY - THE NEXT DAY

Dakota sits at one of the tables in the library working on her homework. She jumps slightly when Abigail clumsily slides into the seat next to her.

ABIGAIL

We got mail.

DAKOTA

Say it a little louder, I don't
(MORE)

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

know if Imbusch got all of that.

Abigail nods and looks around. She turns back to Dakota and leans in, speaking in a hushed tone.

ABIGAIL

Look.

Abigail puts a sheet of printer paper on top of the homework Dakota has been working on. It reads in typed font:

153 Washington Street. 5:00 PM. Tuesday.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Why do you think we're supposed to go there?

DAKOTA

To meet them, probably.

ABIGAIL

They also left these.

Abigail lays two tickets for the winter ball in front of Dakota.

DAKOTA

The winter ball is this week?

ABIGAIL

Yeah, on Friday. Didn't you know that?

DAKOTA

They really need to do a better job of advertising that if they actually want people to show up.

ABIGAIL

Yeah.

There is a beat.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

(anxious)

Dakota, what if we get caught?

DAKOTA

We won't get caught. And even if we did, we could get away with it. Look what happened with Jane. I could probably burn this school to the ground and walk away with a

(MORE)

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

clean record at this point.

ABIGAIL

That's a little bit of a stretch,
don't you think? Don't let the Jane
thing go to your head, you're still
a student and they're still
teachers.

DAKOTA

I know. But trust me, we'll be
fine. I'll pick you up tomorrow
night so we can meet them.

Abigail nods again. Dakota gathers her things and leaves the library.

EXT. PARKING LOT - THE NEXT DAY

Dakota and Abigail pull into the parking lot of the old industrial mill on Washington street. The parking lot is mostly empty save for a few nondescript cars.

Dakota parks her car and looks around. Abigail is chewing her lip nervously.

INT. DAKOTA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Dakota and Abigail sit in silence for a beat, waiting.

Suddenly, a car pulls up into the space next to them. Both of them jolt when they see the person inside.

Inside the car a guy sits in the driver's seat wearing a disturbing mask that covers his whole face. Slowly he turns his head to face them, and beckons with one hand for them to get in.

Dakota and Abigail look at each other with trepidation for a second, but then they both move to get out of the car.

INT. OTHER CAR - CONTINUOUS

Dakota gets into the passenger's seat with Abigail in the back. Without saying anything, the guy reaches down to the floor in front of Dakota to retrieve a bag. He places it in her lap.

Dakota looks down at the bag and then abruptly back up to the masked guy, waiting for instruction. He motions for her to open the bag. Dakota does so.

She pulls out a camera.

DAKOTA

I don't get it.

The guy hesitates before he replies. When he does, his voice is terse and gruff, purposefully lowered to hide his identity.

BOY 2

Break it.

Dakota moves her hands in a position that indicates an attempt to break the camera. The masked guy reaches out quickly to stop her.

BOY 2 (CONT'D)

No! Not now.

He pulls out a folded piece of paper from his pocket and hands it to Dakota. She puts down the camera and slowly unfolds the paper to reveal another typed note. She unfolds it to read, but the boy motions for her to stop.

BOY 2 (CONT'D)

Read it later.

Dakota nods and starts to get out of the car, but before she can do so, the boy grabs her by the arm abruptly, causing her to jump.

BOY 2 (CONT'D)

(very seriously)

Don't get caught.

Dakota gulps and nods mutely. She and Abigail get out of the car. The boy wastes no time in speeding off out of the parking lot.

After pausing for a second to watch the car go, Abigail and Dakota get back into Dakota's car. Before she gets in, Abigail looks back at the other car for a second.

INT. DAKOTA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Dakota puts the camera bag into the back seat and shoves the note into Abigail's lap. She puts the car into drive and exits the parking lot.

DAKOTA

What does it say?

There is a pause as Abigail examines the note.

ABIGAIL

Apparently this is one of the journalism cameras that the photographers are going to use to take pictures at the winter ball. In order for it to seem like Mike broke one, we need to have the security cameras catch him in a couple places, like leaving the winter ball and going into Cashman's room where they keep the cameras. It says it doesn't matter when because they'll just switch the dates to make it look like he did it during the winter ball.

There is a beat while Dakota takes this information in.

DAKOTA

So we need to get him in a suit going in and out of Cashman's room, and we need to get him physically in and out of the winter ball.

ABIGAIL

Yeah. How the hell are we gonna do this?

DAKOTA

I have no idea.

There is a beat. Suddenly, Dakota's eyes light up.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

Actually, yes I do.

INT. STUDY HALL - THE NEXT DAY

We arrive in the same study hall room as before, and at first glance nothing appears to be out of the ordinary. But then we see Dakota sitting next to Mike.

DAKOTA

Did you really down five Kick-Starts in five minutes?

MIKE

I would never lie about Kick-Starts.

Dakota laughs. We can't really tell if it's real or fake.

DAKOTA

Hey, what are you doing for the winter ball on Friday?

MIKE

I don't know, I'm probably just going to end up going with a few of my friends or something.

DAKOTA

Well, what about if we went together?

MIKE

Really?

DAKOTA

Sure.

MIKE

Yeah, okay!

DAKOTA

Awesome. Listen, have you gotten your suit yet?

MIKE

No, I was going to go get it today, actually--

DAKOTA

Don't bother, my older brother has one you can borrow. They're so expensive these days, and it's only for one night.

Mike looks a bit taken aback by the strange offer.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

You remember my brother, right? He graduated last year. You two are practically twins. And besides, that suit goes with my dress.

MIKE

Yeah, okay. Cool. Are you gonna bring it to school or something?

DAKOTA

I have to stay after for drama tomorrow, how about if you come in after school and try it on so we can see how it fits?

MIKE
Yeah, sounds good.

DAKOTA
Awesome, I'll see you then.

Dakota suddenly rises and exits from the room. Mike turns to Ben, looking very pleased with himself.

MIKE
What did I tell you, man? Everyone
loves a bad boy.

Ben just shakes his head, saying nothing.

INT. LOBBY - THE NEXT DAY

Mike enters the lobby after school to meet Dakota, who is standing there waiting for him with a tux draped over her arm.

DAKOTA
Here you go.

Dakota hands the suit to Mike.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)
I have to run back up to the
auditorium real quick, can you meet
me in the cafeteria after you put
it on?

MIKE
Yeah, sure.

Dakota nods and disappears up the stairs while Mike heads to the boys' bathroom in the lobby.

INT. CAFETERIA - MOMENTS LATER

Mike walks into the cafeteria in his suit, but Dakota is nowhere to be found. He looks around for a second, and then pulls out his phone when it buzzes in his pocket. A text from Dakota pops up on his screen:

*Sorry, I don't have much time to get down to the cafeteria.
Can you come up to Cashman's room?*

Mike puts his phone back into his pocket and cuts through the picnic table area into the art wing. He goes up the stairs and into the English wing.

INT. CASHMAN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mike sighs as he finds Cashman's room empty as well. He sits on a desk, taking out his phone to type a text to Dakota:

Where are you?

There is a beat while he waits for Dakota to respond. She doesn't take long:

Sorry, they sent me downstairs to get something. Cafeteria?

Mike stands up to exit Cashman's room.

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

Mike comes back into the cafeteria, and this time Dakota is waiting for him inside.

DAKOTA

Hey, sorry for the wild goose chase. That fits really well. Do you like it?

MIKE

Yeah, your brother and I must be the same size.

DAKOTA

Perfect. Thanks for coming. I'll see you tomorrow.

MIKE

No problem, I'll see you then.

Mike grins at Dakota as he passes her. Something passes over his face once he is out of Dakota's sight. When he leaves the cafeteria, Abigail enters from outside. She holds a pad of sticky notes and a pen, writing something down.

ABIGAIL

3:32 PM. I'll leave this in the bookshelf.

DAKOTA

Cool. What time is the ball at again?

ABIGAIL

Eight thirty. Did you take care of the camera?

DAKOTA

Yeah, it'll be in my locker. I broke it last night. Before all of

(MORE)

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

the journalism kids get there, just say you're going to the bathroom to set it up. Once they get there I'll send Mike out to get something from your locker in the art wing.

ABIGAIL

Whatever you say, boss.

DAKOTA

Yeah.

Dakota leaves the cafeteria. Abigail stands there for a beat, and then walks out.

INT. FOREIGN LANGUAGE WING - THE NEXT DAY

The foreign language wing is decorated with twinkled lights and tinsel. At the end of the hall, a table is set up with two stucco kids sitting behind it and collecting tickets.

Dakota and Mike enter and present their tickets, with Abigail and one of Mike's friends trailing behind them. After they hand over their tickets, they make their way down the hallway into the cafeteria.

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

Inside the cafeteria, it is very dark and many different colored lights flash rapidly, making it hard to see what exactly is going on. However, we can see that there aren't many people there.

DAKOTA

Doesn't look like a lot of people came.

ABIGAIL

You know how it is, no one really comes to these things on time. And like you said, poor advertising.

DAKOTA

Yeah.

Mike's friend leads Abigail to the dance floor, and Dakota and Mike follow.

In fragmented shots, Dakota dances along with the rest of the students in the middle of the floor.

Abigail leans in to say something to her newly found date. He nods and she exits the crowd. She and Dakota exchange a

look of confirmation.

We follow Abigail as she leaves the crowd. We see her leave the cafeteria and wander up the dark hall towards the English wing.

Back in the cafeteria, students continue dancing, and so does Dakota, albeit reluctantly. After a moment, Dakota spots a group of kids come in who we assume to be the journalism photographers. She turns to Mike.

DAKOTA

Hey, do you mind doing me a huge favor? I left my wallet in my locker today at school, and I need it for this weekend. Could you go get it for me? I would, but I have to find the other drama kids to take a picture for the yearbook.

MIKE

Uh, yeah, sure. Which one is it?

DAKOTA

It's in the art wing, first one on the left going up to the stairs. Thanks so much.

Mike heads towards the doors and leaves the cafeteria. Dakota watches him go for a second, and then turns back to the entrance to the cafeteria. She cranes her neck to see better, and then furrows her brow. She turns to face the guy Abigail was dancing with.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

Abigail hasn't come back yet, has she?

When the guy shakes his head, Dakota awkwardly shoves through the crowd. Not many people move out of her way. When she successfully escapes, she goes to stand in the door frame.

After a moment passes and Abigail still fails to reappear, Dakota exits the cafeteria.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dakota enters the bathroom to check for Abigail, who is not there. She is just about to leave when Jane emerges from one of the stalls.

JANE
 (sarcastically)
 Nice date.

DAKOTA
 (coolly)
 Yeah. Where's yours?

JANE
 Don't need one.

Dakota rolls her eyes and leaves the bathroom. Jane smirks as she washes her hands.

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

Dakota anxiously looks around the cafeteria, but she does not see Abigail nor Mike anywhere. All the color seems to drain from her face. Frustrated, she crosses the room, heading for the doors to outside.

Near the exit, a girl in a green dress sits at one of the high tables eating a lollipop. Her eyes follow Dakota as she gets closer to the doors.

GIRL 2
 Hey, where are you going?

DAKOTA
 Um, outside to get some air.

GIRL 2
 Be careful. It's cold out there.

DAKOTA
 Yeah, thanks.

The girl watches Dakota open the doors and leave the cafeteria. As soon as she leaves, the girl gets up from her table and heads back towards the crowd.

EXT. PICNIC TABLES - CONTINUOUS

Dakota immediately wraps her arms around herself against the cold winter air. We can see her breath leave her mouth in fleeting puffs as she breathes nervously. The door shuts loudly behind her, and she looks around.

To her right, the camera lies broken on the ground.

DAKOTA
 (quietly)
 What the...?

Dakota walks over to the destroyed camera, looking at it in confusion. She kneels down and picks up one of the fragments, turning it over between her fingers. On one of her fingers we can see a faint green ring-shaped stain. A few seconds pass while Dakota examines the wreckage. Suddenly she lets the piece fall when red and blue lights flash behind her.

Dakota stands up and squints against the harsh lights. A cop car pulls up a few yards away from her and two officers get out.

COP

Are you aware you just set off the school alarms? What are you doing here?

DAKOTA

Uh, it's the winter ball?

COP

What are you talking about? There aren't any dances this year.

DAKOTA

But look!

Dakota turns around to the doors to show the cops everyone inside, but the cafeteria is bare and devoid of people. Dakota's jaw drops.

COP

Look, I don't know what's going on here, but we're going to have to bring you in for questioning. There was no reason for you to be in the school this late.

Dakota opens her mouth to object, but at that moment Mrs. Tobey and Mike, who is now dressed in plain clothes, appear.

MRS. TOBEY

That won't be necessary. I can take it from here.

Dakota and the two cops look equally as confused. After a short stalemate, the cop nods.

COP

Okay, if that's what you want to do.

MRS. TOBEY

It is.

The cops get in their car and drive away. Mrs. Tobey turns to Dakota, looking furious.

MRS. TOBEY (CONT'D)

You have some serious explaining to do.

DAKOTA

I have no idea what's going on.

MRS. TOBEY

That won't work. I got this in my e-mail this afternoon.

Mrs. Tobey pulls out her phone and opens a video. Dakota gasps when she sees herself appear on his screen in the English wing girls' bathroom.

DAKOTA

(from the video)

If you couldn't already tell, I was the one who destroyed the props.

The video stops and Dakota visibly shakes.

MRS. TOBEY

And then after school today, Mike told me you had one of the cameras and were planning on breaking it like you did the set. Obviously I'm too late.

She nods toward the wreckage by Dakota's feet. Dakota looks as though she's about to be sick as everything clicks.

MRS. TOBEY (CONT'D)

Now I don't know what possessed you to do something like this, but you will absolutely need to be punished. Come with me.

Dakota's face is frozen as she allows herself to be lead by Mrs. Tobey away from the scene.

MRS. TOBEY (CONT'D)

Mike, if you could do me a favor and clean this up first, you're free to go.

MIKE

Of course.

Mike turns away from Mrs. Tobey and Dakota, smirking. He bends down to clean up the broken camera.

EXT. HOUSE

A car we don't recognize pulls into the garage of a house we have never seen before. Once it gets in the garage, the door closes behind it.

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

The car stops, and its lights turn off. Jane gets out of the passenger's side, smiling. We hear someone get out of the driver's side, but the car blocks them from our view.

Jane opens the backseat door to reveal messy piles of the decorations we saw at the winter ball. She begins unloading them and tossing them into a large trash barrel.

Suddenly, Abigail emerges from the other side of the car. She helps Jane clean out the decorations.

JANE

That might be the best thing I've ever done.

ABIGAIL

I can't believe we pulled it off.

JANE

I know.

There is a beat.

JANE (CONT'D)

I wonder if they were there with us.

ABIGAIL

They must've been somewhere. After all, someone had to have tampered with the alarm codes for it to work.

JANE

Yeah, you're right. It could be anyone.

ABIGAIL

I guess we'll never know.

JANE

Guess so.

Jane's phone buzzes and she pulls it out, presumably reading a text on the screen.

JANE (CONT'D)

I gotta go. Mike's outside. This was awesome, I'm so glad you could be a part of this tonight. I'm sorry it had to be your best friend and all, though.

ABIGAIL

That's alright, she got what she deserved. She shouldn't have let you take the fall for cheating. I'll see you on Monday.

Jane exits the garage. Abigail continues cleaning out her car.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

(very quietly, mimicking)
Whatever you say, boss.

After she finishes throwing away the decorations, she goes back to her car to retrieve one last thing from the back seat. We see that is is the flash drive from before and the note. She throws those away as well.

Abigail enters her house, shutting off the lights.

INT. ABIGAIL'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Abigail walks into her room, turning on the lights and throwing her phone on the bed. We see it going off erratically as texts come in rapid fire from a group message. Many of them are from names we recognize; Mike, Julia, Jane; amongst other unfamiliar ones.

Abigail comes back to her bed with a notebook. She opens it to the latest page to reveal a list of names followed by dates. A few names up from the last one is *Leslie Good*, the girl mentioned by Julia earlier.

Underneath the last name she writes *Dakota Sinclair*, followed by the day's date. Abigail then closes the notebook.

A few feet away we see a very familiar mask lying on her bed.

THE END