

Gossip Loop

Written By

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Draft Five

Address
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INT. HALLWAY (ENGLISH WING) - DAY

The hallway is busy with kids at their lockers and walking about. Camera closes in on a conversation between two characters. They are Charlie and Natalie. They are talking indiscreetly.

CHARLIE

I know I don't really know her--

NATALIE

You don't know her at all.

CHARLIE

Regardless, I really like her--

NATALIE

You. Don't. Know. Her.

CHARLIE

Yeah, but her hair...it's just so... Look! There she is!

Cut to a girl walking down the hallway. Her hair should be exaggerated. Slow motion shot of her from the perspective of Charlie, as her hair is blown by a fan.

Cut back to Charlie and Natalie. Charlie is so distracted by her beautiful hair that he walks into an open locker and starts a chain reaction of people bumping into each other and falling down. This should be a visually comprehensible series of crashes (oner?).

NATALIE

Charlie stop drooling, you look ridiculous.

CHARLIE

I don't know...It's stupid. I don't want to say something weird. Oh my God she's coming over here, act natural!

ELIZABETH

Hey Natalie! Do you have the math homework from yesterday?

NATALIE

No, sorry I didn't do it, I'll send it to you tonight.

ELIZABETH

Thanks!

Elizabeth notices Charlie intently staring at her.

ELIZABETH

Oh... hey Charlie

CHARLIE

Did you know a newborn Chinese water deer is so small it can be held in the palm of a hand.

ELIZABETH

Oh, alright. See you later then.

Elizabeth walks away leaving Natalie and Charlie at the lockers.

CHARLIE

I'm so stupid!

NATALIE

Charlie, what was that. How are you ever going to be able to ask her out if you can't even talk to her?

CHARLIE

I don't know. Every time I try to talk to Elizabeth I end up making myself look stupid.

NATALIE

Charlie, you're a catch! Have some confidence and ask her out!

CHARLIE

I don't know...I have to go to the bathroom. I'll meet you before lunch in a few minutes at our lockers.

NATALIE

Okay.

They part ways in the hallway, as Charlie goes into the bathroom.

INT. HALLWAY (HISTORY WING TO ENGLISH WING) - DAY

Charlie emerges from the bathroom. He has toilet paper coming out of the bottom of his pant leg. He walks down the

stairs to the ENGLISH WING. Charlie stops to say hi to Cashman. A member of the Gossip Loop sees the toilet paper coming out of his pant leg. She pulls out her phone, takes a picture of Charlie, and immediately starts texting. A chain reaction occurs with everyone checking their phones, laughing, and texting. Charlie finishes talking to Cashman and walks around the corner. The wig club president quickly approaches him, this is Wayne.

WAYNE

Hey Charlie! I just want to let you know, you have toilet paper coming out of the bottom of your pant leg.

CHARLIE

Oh, crap. Thanks.

The boy starts to walk away.

CHARLIE

Wait, how did you know? You came from the other direction?

WAYNE

Everyone hall was talking about it. I heard and came over to tell you. Look...

Wayne pulls out his phone and shows Charlie a picture.

CHARLIE

But I just came out of the bathroom...

WAYNE

Well, I guess information travels fast around here. I've got to get to Wig Club. Stay hairy!

Charlie is clearly confused and watches Wayne walk into a room labeled "Wig Club".

CHARLIE

Oh, okay. Th-thanks. See you.

Charlie walks over and glances down the hallway. He appears baffled. He turns the corner, walking toward Natalie's locker. Natalie is at her locker, emptying her backpack and switching out binders. She looks up to greet Charlie.

NATALIE

Hey.

Natalie can see the wheels turning in his head.

NATALIE

You okay?

CHARLIE

(his thought is
interrupted; very
short-spoken, brisk,
urgent)

How did they know so quickly?

Natalie is focused on her task, kneeled over, not looking at 2
Charlie.

NATALIE

What?

CHARLIE

How did everyone know I had toilet
paper stuck in my pants?

NATALIE

Oh yeah I heard, that's
embarrassing!

CHARLIE

How did everyone know so soon? It
was only in my pants for a few
minutes.

NATALIE

Well I heard from the Gossip Loop
and I bet everybody else did too--

CHARLIE

Wait, what's the Gossip Loop?

NATALIE

Oh, c'mon, you know. The Gossip
Loop. That group of people who seem
to be everywhere, see everything,
and know everything. They're
basically in charge of the flow of
information at this school. They're
the eyes, ears and mouth of this
place.

CHARLIE

Are you serious?

NATALIE

You really don't know about them?

CHARLIE

I've never heard of them before.
What do they do? How does that even
work? The *Gossip Loop*?

NATALIE

Wow, I was right; you are clueless.

CHARLIE

Natalie, please!

Charlie catches Natalie's attention here. She jerks her head
over and stands up.

NATALIE

God, sorry. They find out
everything that happens--or doesn't
happen--and then if they find it
interesting, they pass it on, and
soon enough everyone knows. How did
you think gossip spreads?

CHARLIE

I-I don't know. I've never really
thought about it.

Natalie turns away and finishes packing her bag up.

NATALIE

Why are you so interested?

CHARLIE

I don't know. It's just a weird
concept, I guess.

Natalie zips and picks up her backpack.

NATALIE

Can we go to lunch now? I'm
starving.

CHARLIE

Oh, yeah, let's go.

Follow Charlie and Natalie as they walk down to lunch. They
pass a group of sciency-posters. One is about Mercury
Accumulation in fish/food chain. At first they walk past it,
but Charlie quickly returns and stares at it.

CHARLIE

This is it! I know how I'll tell
Elizabeth!

Natalie back-peddles.

NATALIE
What are you talking about?

CHARLIE
I'll just start a rumor! I'll tell
the Gossip Loop--

NATALIE
No. No. No.

Natalie starts to walk away.

CHARLIE
Let me finish! I'll just tell them
that I like Elizabeth--

Natalie continues walking.

NATALIE
No.

CHARLIE
It's genius! I don't have to make a
fool of myself and try talking to
Elizabeth but she'll know--

NATALIE
It doesn't work like that. You
can't just *start* a rumor. The
Gossip Loop twists and contorts
everything until there's no
semblance of truth left.

A couple of students walk by. They look at Charlie, who
still has the toilet paper in his pant leg.

STUDENT 1
That's the kid. He was on that show
"My Strange Addiction" for eating
toilet paper.

STUDENT 2
Damn! Walk faster! I have tissues
in my backpack!

The students scurry away.

CHARLIE
(shouting after them)
Hey! I was never on "My Strange
Addiction!"

Natalie gestures with her hands so as to indicate "I told you so." Charlie looks annoyed and violently pulls the toilet paper from his pant leg.

NATALIE

You're just going to ruin your chances with Elizabeth.

They continue down the hall toward the Cafeteria.

CHARLIE

This is the only way I'll be able to tell her, though! I have to give it a shot!

NATALIE

You're so ridiculous. Just ask her out.

CHARLIE

I can't. You saw what happened the last time I tried talking to her. I'm going to do this whether you like it or not.

Natalie hesitates, subtly stumbling.

NATALIE

Well, I'm not on board, but I'm not going to let you flounder.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Natalie and Charlie are sitting together eating lunch in the corner of the cafeteria. They are slightly isolated.

NATALIE

(quick paced)

Okay. I'm going to give you a crash course on the Gossip Loop.

Charlie tries to interrupt, but Natalie plows right through him.

NATALIE

If you're going to do this you have to do it right. You have to have the right attitude.

Charlie again tries to speak but Natalie continues talking.

NATALIE

Walk over there with your head held
(MORE)

NATALIE (CONT'D)

high. Don't let them see any fear or weakness in your eyes. Once you get over there, speak directly and clearly. Don't leave anything up to interpretation. Be certain that no matter what, you do not, under any circumstances, say anything other than that you like Elizabeth. Anything else you say--any word, syllable, sound--they will take and distort into some horrible, ridiculous rumor, so don't add anything!

CHARLIE

Okay, okay, I won't.

Charlie gets up clearly annoyed and nervous.

NATALIE

Charlie! Wait! You still have toilet paper in your pant leg!

Charlie frantically stops and bends over to find that he does not have toilet paper in his pant leg. He scowls up at Natalie.

NATALIE

(laughing)

Charlie, relax. Just remember what I said. You'll do fine.

Charlie turns away, shaking his head back and forth. He storms through the doors of the teacher's lounge. The Gossip Loop turn, in unison, towards Charlie and he freezes.

CHARLIE

(whispers to himself
while walking)

It's okay. I can do this. Be confident.

Charlie straightens his back and lifts his chin.

CHARLIE

Be direct. And don't add any information.

Charlie approaches the table. The whole group is wearing purple and there is turbulent whispering and texting. Charlie trips and falls down, landing right at the head of the table. OTS angled up of the Gossip Loop girls, who

become silent and glare at Charlie. Charlie is terrified.

CHARLIE
(whispering to himself)
Crap.
(to the Gossip Loop)
H-Hi there.

He starts to stand up, dusting himself off. The girls, expressionless and silent, stare at him. ECU pan across each of their blank faces.

CHARLIE
So, I have some gossip for you
guys. You'll really like it.

Nothing.

CHARLIE
Prepare yourselves!

Nothing. Crickets.

CHARLIE
Are you ready?

Nothing.

CHARLIE
I like Elizabeth Murphy.

Nothing.

CHARLIE
You know, *like-like* her.

Nothing.

Charlie starts to panic.

CHARLIE
Uhh-umm-

The girls start to look away, annoyed.

CHARLIE
Her hair! I like her hair a lot.
The Gossip loop lights up. They close their circle and there is a burst of whispering. Charlie is shut out. He's confused, but then he figures the Gossip Loop is starting the rumor to tell Elizabeth.

Charlie saunters back to his and Natalie's table, smiling to himself, clearly content with what he did.

As he walks back, the gossip visibly travels through the room. It reaches Natalie and she looks horrified. Natalie gasps. Several other students give him weird looks. Charlie starts to get nervous and quickens his pace back to the table.

CHARLIE

Natalie, what's wrong? Why are you giving me that look?

Natalie holds her head in her hands, nodding with disapproval. Charlie sits down, beginning to freak out.

NATALIE

You didn't follow the rules.

CHARLIE

What do you mean? Yes I did! I followed every rule!

NATALIE

What exactly did you say?

CHARLIE

I said, "Hi, I like Elizabeth," and came back here.
Oh, and I might've mentioned that I like her hair.

Natalie nods, knowingly, and puts her head back in her hands, shaking in disapproval.

CHARLIE

How do you even know something is wrong? It might all be fine!...Right??

NATALIE

Everyone knows!

CHARLIE

Knows what? That's impossible! It just happened! Not even a minute ago!

NATALIE

Charlie, don't you get it?! The Gossip Loop is in control of the whole school! The second the words came out of your mouth and went into their ears, the whole school knew.

CHARLIE

I feel sick. What are they saying about me?

NATALIE

They're saying you're obsessed with Elizabeth's hair.

CHARLIE

What?! I didn't say that! I just said that I like her hair!

NATALIE

It's not that bad, I mean, it could be much worse.

Charlie's head sinks into his arms.

CHARLIE

(muffled with his head down)

Elizabeth will never like me now.

The bell rings, signaling the end of lunch. Everyone begins to file out. [A lot of natural noise of students talking.]

HALLWAY (MAIN HALL) - CONTINUOUS

Natalie and Charlie walk together. Charlie is upset. Natalie is trying to console him.

NATALIE

Don't worry about it. Elizabeth probably won't even hear about it and no one will remember it tomorrow.

CHARLIE

Oh god, I hope you're right--

A group of girls walk by, pointing and talking about Charlie.

GIRL 1

That's him! Watch out, Sarah! He's obsessed with blonde hair!

Sarah looks over and breaks into a sprint. The rest of the girls follow her and give Charlie dirty looks.

CHARLIE

Oh, jesus!
(yelling to the group)

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I'm not obsessed with blondes! I don't even like your hair!

Sarah whips around, clearly offended.

NATALIE

Way to go, Mr. Smooth.

Sarah runs over to Charlie.

SARAH

How dare you!

Sarah slaps him. Charlie is shocked and holds his face.

SARAH

I have beautiful hair!

CHARLIE

I'm so sorry. Your hair is like a dream of gold.

Natalie smiles and shakes her head in disapproval.

NATALIE

(to Charlie)

Overcompensating.

SARAH

What kind of a sicko says something like that?!

Sarah slaps him again. Charlie holds his face again. Sarah storms back over to her friends. The whole group screams profanities at Charlie.

Charlie and Natalie resume walking down the hall. More people are staring at and talking about Charlie.

CHARLIE

This is out of control! I've got to go find Elizabeth and talk to her before she hears and thinks I'm some weirdo!

Charlie runs off before Natalie can reply.

NATALIE

(yelling after him)

It's too late, Charlie! She already knows!

HALLWAY (MAIN HALL) - CONTINUOUS

Charlie is running through the hall. He hears side conversations about himself.

Conversation 1:

EXTRA 1

...well I heard he has some sick obsession with hair...

Conversation 2:

EXTRA 2

...yeah, I guess he wants to cut off all of Elizabeth Murphy's hair to satisfy some twisted fantasy he has...

Conversation 3: Extra 3 has wild hair.

EXTRA 3

...it kinda makes sense, though, because remember when I got my hair cut? He noticed!

CHARLIE

Oh god! What have I done?! I hate the Gossip Loop!

He finally arrives to Elizabeth, who is at her locker. He slows down and is breathing heavily. After trying to compose himself, he heads toward her, but when he gets close, he is hit by someone opening his locker and falls on her. It appears like he is reaching for Elizabeth's hair.

Elizabeth and Charlie are on the ground. Elizabeth screams and many people crowd around, some of them taking pictures and videos on their phones.

ELIZABETH

Get off of me, you freak! Help!
Help! Charlie is trying to rip out my hair!

Charlie jumps up and offers a hand to Elizabeth. Elizabeth kicks his hand away and gets up.

CHARLIE

I'm really sorry! I wasn't trying to rip out your hair--

Elizabeth walks away, ignoring him completely.

Charlie turns to a locker and starts slamming his head

against it. A few strange-looking students wearing matching wigs come out of a nearby locker and approach Charlie as he slams his head against a locker. They encircle him. Charlie stops slamming his head.

CHARLIE

Umm...Can I help you?

WAYNE

(in a weird, whispering voice)

Do you want to join *Wig Club*? We have blonde wigs...

The members all pull out wigs and start rubbing them on each other's and Charlie's faces. Charlie is disgusted. He pushes away from the group.

CHARLIE

Oh, umm...No. I really do not want to join *Wig Club*...Bye!!

WAYNE

Oh, you don't like hair? We just heard from the *Gossip Loop* that you did.

CHARLIE

No! They twisted my words.

WAYNE

Oh, not again. The same thing happened to us.

Wayne looks off into the distance, Charlie stands there looking confused, and flashback scene is shown with Wayne's still telling the story in the background.

FLASHBACK INT. ST. MARTIN'S CLASS

Mr. Saint Martin is looking sadly into a hand-held mirror on his desk, running a hand through his balding head of hair. A unknown figure walks into the classroom and drops a wig in front of Mr. Saint Martin whose face lights up. Mr. Saint Martin, Wayne, and the rest of *Wig Club* proudly walk through the hallway wearing outrageous wigs, as members of the *Gossip Loop* look at them rapidly typing away on their phones and other students give them weird looks. Cut to a wig club meeting in the large conference room where Mr. Imbusch barges in and yells at the club members signaling for them to get out. The club sadly packs up their wigs into various boxes and move their things into the pub room. While all

this action takes place, Wayne narrates what is going on.

WAYNE

A few years back, the wig club and I reached out to a balding friend in need--Mr. Saint Martin. Saint Martin was struggling with the loss of his once luscious locks and as the wig club we felt we needed to step in. We supplied St. Martin with various wigs, and the Gossip Loop saw this act of kindness and changed it into something malicious. They spread a rumor that we had shaved Saint Martin's head so that he would be forced to join our club and once Mr. Imbusch caught wind of this things turned ugly. Imbusch took away the Wig Club's privilege of using the large conference room as our place of worship, and we had to resort to using the pub room for our daily meetings. This one rumor the Gossip Loop spread about us ruined our reputation at this school.

HALLWAY (MAIN HALL)

The flashback ends. Charlie stands there looking at Wayne slightly confused, but also obviously still angry at the Gossip Loop.

CHARLIE

Wow, that's um... Awful.

WAYNE

I know, the club still has not recovered from the incident to this day! That is why we want to help you take down the Gossip Loop, AND get you your sweetie!

Wayne winks at Charlie.

CHARLIE

You mean Elizabeth? How are we supposed to do that?

WAYNE

Well...I was thinking that since the gossip loop has always been the

(MORE)

WAYNE (CONT'D)

main source of information at Walpole High School, we need to take over and spread some rumors of our own that will shred the Gossip Loop into pieces! Anyway, I'll catch ya later! And don't forget, always stay hairy!

Wayne walks abruptly when Charlie stops him.

CHARLIE

Wait a second, Wayne! That might just work! But how are we going to pull this off?

Wayne turns around. He looks at Charlie in a menacing way.

WAYNE

Pub room. Tonight. Be there, or be square!

Wayne suddenly is overcome with extreme excitement. He walks away happily.

Charlie looks at Wayne as he leaves with complete confusion.

INT PUB ROOM - NIGHT

Charlie comes up the stairs and begins to walk nervously toward the pub room.

He knocks on the door.

Charlie waits for while outside the door, but no one comes to answer it. Finally, Charlie decides to go in himself.

Charlie is in the lair of the wig club. Hair paraphernalia lines the walls, and Mr. Saint Martin is braiding a wig on Wayne's head. Soft barbershop quartet-like music is playing. Several other members are lounging around in wigs. Wigs range from colonial powdered wigs to dread locks.

WAYNE

Greetings, Charlie. So I see you decided to come! Didn't think you'd show!

CHARLIE

Umm.. where am I?

WAYNE

This is where all the magic happens, baby!

Charlie glances over with disgust at a group of members trying on new wigs.

WAYNE

Would you like to try on a wig? I bet you'd want to try on this amazing 18th-century replica of George Washington's REAL hair! Feel it! I know you want to! Isn't it so soft!

Wayne caresses the wig against his face. He later shoves the wig in Charlie's face, and Charlie is overcome with anger.

CHARLIE

Wayne, no! I don't want to try on your stupid wig! I don't have time for this! What even is this club?

The same group of members who Charlie glared at earlier easily become offended at Charlie's comment and give him the dirtiest looks.

WAYNE

Oh Charlie, the Wig Club is no joke! We take our wigs extremely-

CHARLIE

Wayne! I need your help, please!

WAYNE

Oh, right. Sorry, wigs make me so excited! Anyway, the gang and I talked about how we can take down the clan of gossip loopers, and it might just be the best idea in the history of amazing ideas!

Wayne looks at Charlie in a menacing way, and is overcome with excitement.

CHARLIE

I swear if this "amazing idea" has to do with wigs I'm going to-

WAYNE

Surprisingly it has nothing to do with wigs, Charlie! It's even better than wigs!

CHARLIE

(sarcastically) And what could be

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

better than wigs?

WAYNE

Absolutely nothing! Meet me tonight at the stroke of midnight, not a minute later in front the large conference room. dress appropriately. We're going to be scamming tonight.

INT LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM (NIGHT)

Wayne (dressed in all black) sits alone in the dark staring at the clock, the clock strikes 12 and a few moments later Charlie (also dressed in all black) strolls in.

WAYNE

You're late.

Charlie rolls his eyes, looking at the clock which says 12:01.

CHARLIE

Sorry, I had trouble sneaking past Jeff. So what's the plan?

Wayne pulls out two flashlights and hands one to Charlie. He points over to some big boxes of manila folders and important looking papers in the corner of the room.

WAYNE

I was looking around while I was waiting for you and found some suspicious papers in those boxes, I think we should look through those first.

Wayne and Charlie search through the boxes and find a bursting folder titled CLASSIFIED. Wayne and Charlie look at each other with excitement and open the folder, the first paper on top is copy of Charlie's transcript. It has a picture of him, his grades, etc. They flip through the papers and see other familiar faces (Natalie, Sarah, Wayne, etc.).

CHARLIE

How did they get these? These are classified files. No student is allowed to have access to these, Imbusch would NOT be happy about this.

Anthony does a creepy, menacing smile, with a chuckle.

WAYNE

I think we found what we were looking for, this is pure gold.

CHARLIE

This is perfect! Nobody will trust the Gossip Loop now once they know how they have stole from the school, including Imbusch.

Wayne and Charlie smile at each other and high five.

INT HALLWAY (ENGLISH WING)

People in the hallway are in small groups whispering gossip to one another.

The Wig Club and Charlie all walk in the hallway with wind blowing in their faces in slow-motion. They all have grins on their faces and feel extremely proud.

The Gossip loop enters form the other side of the hallway and are immediately overcome with confusion and frustration, due to the fact that everyone in the hallway is whispering and glaring at them.

The Wig Club makes eye contact with the Gossip Loop, but they pretend not to see the wig club.

The Wig Club in the Gossip Loop meet in the middle of the hallway in a showdown type fashion. Classic cowboy music plays and some tumble weed rolls between the two groups.

Charlie holds out the folder of files to the Gossip Loop.

CHARLIE

Do these look familiar?

The members of the Gossip Loop frantically look at each other for a minute but quickly then try to play it cool.

GOSSIP LOOP MEMBER 1

We have no idea what you are talking about.

Imbusch walks out from behind the wig club. The faces of the Gossip Loop members immediately drop.

MR. IMBUSCH

Oh, I think you do. These incriminating files were found by the honorable members of the wig club in the large conference room.

(MORE)

MR. IMBUSCH (CONT'D)

I want to thank the wig club for shining a light on the corruption that lies within our school because of the Gossip Loop.

Imbusch looks at the Gossip Loop

MR. IMBUSCH

You all abused your privilege of using the large conference room, and on top of that you stole classified school files. Because of the Gossip Loop's disappointing behavior, you can no longer use the large conference room, that space will be given to the Wig Club.

Mr. Imbusch smiles at the Wig Club and glares at the Gossip Loop before walking away. The members of the Wig Club smirk at the devastated Gossip Loop members. The members of the Gossip Loop all scatter off in different directions. Charlie and Wayne remain in the hallway with the rest of the Wig Club.

CHARLIE

Hey, thanks for all the help Wayne. The Gossip Loop needed to be stopped.

WAYNE

No problem Charlie, it was my pleasure. Now the Wig Club can finally take back its rightful place in the large conference room, I cannot wait to move out of the Pub room. See you around man, and feel free to stop by anytime. We could always use more members! And don't forget, stay hairy!!

Wayne and the rest of the club walk away, leaving Charlie smiling, standing in the middle of the hallway. Natalie walks up to Charlie.

NATALIE

Charlie! Wow, I'm impressed. I never knew you had the guts to take down the Gossip loop!

CHARLIE

Yeah, I guess I just had to grow a pair.

Natalie rolls her eyes at this comment, but smiles at him like she is proud of what he accomplished.

NATALIE

So, does this mean you're finally going to talk to Elizabeth?

Elizabeth walks over to Charlie and Natalie.

ELIZABETH

Hey guys! Charlie, what you did was amazing! The Gossip Loop wrecked the school.

Charlie looks at Elizabeth with shock at the fact that she is actually talking to him.

CHARLIE

Ugh...um... Hey, hi! Yank thou!
What? Thank you!

Elizabeth looks at Charlie and laughs at him stumbling over his words.

CHARLIE

Hey, I'm really sorry about the rumor that was spread about your hair. I mean you obviously have really nice hair, but I don't WANT your hair!

ELIZABETH

Charlie, relax! A lot of people are jealous of my hair! It's okay!

Elizabeth pats Charlie on the shoulder, and walks away smiling.

NATALIE

Charlie! What the hell, are you not going to ask her out!

CHARLIE

Nah, I'm over it. I don't really know her anyway.

Charlie walks away, and Natalie is left alone in the hallway. She looks at Charlie as he walks away with a perplexed expression upon her face.

EXTRA SCENE

The Wig Club with St. Martin deciding on a wig.

Cashman stuffing his face with cookies.

Imbusch trying to speak in an Irish brogue

Wig Club dressed like Gossip Loop.

1 Set up a superficial aspect to this crush

Tom Brown Oct 8, 2015 7:50 PM

2 Be careful with headroom; remember what we talked about with "Mudd" and eyeline.

Tom Brown Oct 15, 2015 11:05 PM

3

Tom Brown Nov 11, 2016 5:58 PM